

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

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

A Publication of United Neighborhoods of Evansville

Volume 9 Issue 5

20 N.W. Fourth Street, Suite 501, 47708

May 2009

Website: www.unoevansville.org

Email: unoe1@msn.com

Phone 812-428-4243

2009 Preservation Week

May is Historic Preservation month.

Annual Banquet—The Preservation Banquet is set for Wednesday, May 20th at 6:00p.m. at Kirby's Private Dining at 1119 Parrett Street. The cost of the banquet is \$28.00 per person. Reservations are necessary. Please call the Department of Metropolitan Development at 436-7823 regarding reservations. Cash bar provided.

Speaking this year is Evansville's Historic Preservation Officer, Dennis M. Au. Mr. Au's presentation, "Introducing the New Edition of Evansville's Premiere Architectural History: Reflections Upon a Century of Architecture" presents the highlights of the new edition of the Evansville architectural history Reflections Upon a Century of Architecture.

Au's presentation follows the banquet and brief preservation awards. The talk begins at 8:15 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

Walking Tours

Modern History of Angel Mounds, 1890 - Present

Saturday, May 9, 2:00 p.m.-4:00p.m. Presentation at the Angel Mounds Interpretive Center, 8215 Pollack Ave.

Riverside North

Saturday, May 16, 2:00p.m.-3:30p.m. Tour originates at the Reitz Home, corner of S.E. First and Chestnut Streets. This walk covers the heart of the Riverside Historic District.

The Lutheran Cemetery: A Window on Evansville's German Past

Sunday, May 17, 2:00p.m.-3:30 p.m. Located on St. Joseph Ave. a quarter mile south of the zoo, park along Bismark Ave. on south side of the cemetery.

Historic West Franklin Street

Monday, May 18, 6:30p.m.-8:00p.m. Walking tour departs from the front of the West Branch Library at 2000 West Franklin St.

Washington Avenue, Views of its Splendid Past and Tour of What Remains

Tuesday, May 19, 6:00p.m.-8:00p.m. Tour starts at Old St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 430 Washington Ave. (Park in rear.)

Reflections Walking Tour

Saturday, May 23, 2:00p.m.-3:30p.m. Tour departs from corner of S.E. First and Mulberry Streets.

Many other special exhibits and events. Call the UNOE office for information.

Evansville Area Earthquake Hazards Mapping Project

Evansville Area Earthquake Hazards Mapping Project has been completed for Henderson and Evansville. On Tuesday, June 2nd at 1:00 p.m. in the Browning Room of the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library, the scientists who made these maps will be showing their final products. The event is free and open to the public. Copies will eventually be available to community leaders and the public.

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

LOOK INSIDE FOR....



- ~ 2009 Preservation Week
- ~ Evansville Area Earthquake Hazards Mapping Project
- ~ Land Use Planning, Part II
- ~ Bank on Evansville Program
- ~ Disaster Preparedness Information
- ~ 2008 Neighborhood Sparkplugs
- ~ Summer Camp at cMoe
- ~ Announcements
- ~ Did U.N.O.E?

Upcoming Dates.....

- May 12th — UNOE Finance Mtg.**
- May 20th — UNOE Board Mtg.**
- May 28th — UNOE General Membership Mtg**
- May 30th — FREE First Aid & CPR Training**

Fred Padget on Land Use Planning, Part II

Last month we looked at how our Comprehensive Plan originates under state code, is adopted by our local legislative bodies and, yet, is not required to be followed. Today we'll look at some of the general guiding principles for the Comprehensive Plan and later in this series get into the many specifics of the plan. I will copy and paste liberally from the plan, not because my keyboarding is slow which it is, but because the wording in the plan is concise, well thought out and expresses the many principles much better than I can.

To begin with, the Area Plan Commission staff is the lead group in putting this document together but gathers input from most city and county departments, the school system and universities, neighborhood organizations and citizens of the area as well as many others. Public participation is very important to this process and a series of public hearings were held in an effort to gain a broad range of community input and support. From my count, at least 8 current WIA members were involved although not necessarily representing the WIA. I was pleased to be a member of the citizens group and did represent the WIA.

One of the first orders of business involved establishing a Citizen's Vision Committee to develop a Vision Statement for Evansville and Vanderburgh County. After several meetings, and more discussion and debate than I know how to quantify, the group agreed that "We envision Evansville and Vanderburgh County as a prominent regional center that offers prosperity, growth, and a quality place to live, learn, work, invest and visit" as a vision that represents the area.

"The Comprehensive Plan for Evansville and Vanderburgh County is the guide for land use decisions and the framework for the ongoing land use planning process. The intent is to guide growth in a manner that supports and reinforces the community qualities important to City and County residents. These qualities include employment and housing opportunities, safety and security, quality schools, neighborhoods with a strong sense of community, and a healthy environment. All these amenities create and enrich our quality of life."

State code requires that a comprehensive plan contain:

- A statement of objectives for the future development of the area,
- A statement of policy for the land use development of the area, and
- A statement of policy for the development of public ways, public places, public land, public structures, and public utilities.

Additionally, the Evansville/Vanderburgh County Comprehensive Plan includes studies of current conditions and future growth along with several other subjects including:

- History, population, and physical site conditions,
- Air and water pollution,
- Public utilities and other services,
- Parks and recreation,
- Land utilization, including agriculture, forests, and other uses,
- Conservation of resources, and
- Other physical, economic, and social factors.
- Blighted areas,
- Flood control,
- Transportation, including rail, bus, air and water,
- Education, including location of schools & universities,

Based on these and other studies, goals and objectives are determined for many strategic areas of planned growth along with policies to help accomplish those goals and objectives. The goals and objectives established include:

- Land use,
- Quality of life,
- Parks and recreation,
- Transportation,
- A plan for implementation.
- Economic development,
- Environmental quality,
- Hazard mitigation,
- Utilities, and

As I said last month, this is a very comprehensive plan of 251 pages with many additional pages of tables and exhibits. I felt it important to tell you about the many subjects and aspects of the plan in order to set the stage for our continuing series. And, although we'll concentrate primarily on land use, it is important to know that smart growth and good land use involves nearly every aspect of our lives and those needs and desires need to be taken into account.

The complete version of the Comprehensive Plan can be viewed at www.evansvilleapc.com and at most local libraries. And, if you have any comments or questions, please contact me at fcpadget@aol.com or 428-2529.

Can You and Your Loved Ones Survive a Disaster? Want to Try!

(Part 1)

Being prepared for either a natural or man-made disaster should be crucial to your everyday life. Mostly we procrastinate and “blow-off” disaster preparedness. If our community did not have an Emergency Management Department that has as its responsibility to have in place a “Master Plan” for warning and assisting with survival on a major scale, we would be demanding that our local government put one in place immediately.

The Emergency Management Agency “Master Plan” can only assist and coordinate all of the community wide public services to deal with a disaster. The individual citizen has the obligation to also have a family or even a neighborhood “Master Plan” for their own survival.

The United Neighborhoods of Evansville has an obligation to try to assist each family in each neighborhood in being prepared. We can offer workshops and even program speakers for the neighborhoods through their regular meetings and/or special meetings, through the churches, schools, service agencies and any other opportunities.

This is the first of a series on Disaster Preparedness for individuals on how to make their own Family Disaster Safety Master Plan. Where possible the entire family should be involved in the process. In neighborhoods, the neighbors should develop a “Neighborhood Disaster Preparedness Master Plan”!

Available Services to Assist You in developing your “Master Disaster Plan”

There are three (3) major services to assist you with planning. They have free information to assist you:

Southwest Indiana Disaster Resistant Community Corp.

Christine Martin, Executive Director

318 Main Street Suite 207

Evansville, Indiana 47708

Phone: 812-425-8401 E-mail drc@swidrcc.org

~Their purpose is to advocate and educate on mitigation planning.

Evansville- Vanderburgh County Emergency Management Agency

Sherman G. Greer, Director

Adam C. Groupe, Deputy Director

708 Stanley Avenue

Evansville, Indiana 47711

Phone: 812- 435 6020

American Red Cross

Matt Bertram, Executive Director

29 South Stockwell Road

Evansville, Indiana 47714

Phone: 812- 471-7200

E-mail mbertram@arcswin.org

The insert found in this newsletter can be found in your most recent April 2009 AT&T phone book on page 27 immediately following the Zip Codes. Both are an excellent resource provided by the **Southwest Indiana Disaster Resistant Community Corporation and AT&T**. (More next month!)

SUMMER CAMP at cMoe!

cMoe is proud to offer a full schedule of summer camps with exciting themes to spark the minds and imaginations of children ages 4-13.

Full-Day camps for children ages 6-13 include offerings in science, art, journalism, history, drama and health. Children ages 4-6 will let their imaginations soar with our Half-Day "Let's Pretend" Camp.

NEW this year - cMoe welcomes the popular Tales & Scales Camp Imagination to our summer schedule!

Each cMoe camp offers hours of fun, exploration and discovery including time each day in the interactive cMoe exhibit galleries.

Tjho!vqlgsl!blxf f l !ps!bol!f ouj sf ltvn n f slpgf yqpsbj po"

Extra, Extra - June 1-5 Full-Day, Ages 6-11

Everyone will want to "read all about it" when we team up with staff from the Evansville Courier & Press to produce the cMoe Gazette. This popular camp returns with plenty of opportunities for budding reporters, writers and photographers to learn about what it takes to get the presses rolling while putting together their own newspaper.

Science Sleuth - June 8-12 Full-Day, Ages 6-11

Grab your magnifying glass and get ready to solve the mysteries of science! Creating chemistry concoctions, exploring the tiniest germs through the magic of microscopes and exploring the world of forensics are just a few of the hands-on activities that will make this week one of the highlights of your summer.

On With the Show - June 15-19 Full-Day, Ages 6-13

cMoe is pleased to team up again with Evansville Civic Theatre as they bring their popular Basic Actor Training (B.A.T.) Camp back to the Museum! Campers will explore improvisation, mime and clowning, basic stage movement, character development and voice projection while becoming some of their favorite storybook characters.

Let's Pretend - June 15-19 Half-Day, Ages 4-6

Fantasy and imagination are the focus of the week in this camp for children ages 4-6. Each day brings a new adventure including castles, dragons and princesses, life under the sea, search for pirate treasure and a visit to the prehistoric world of dinosaurs. Bring your imagination and join us for a fun-filled week!

Fit & Fun - June 22-26 Full-Day, Ages 6-11

Couch potatoes beware - being healthy has never been this much fun! Dance, play and move your way through this active week with Yoga for Kids, games from around the world, dance parties, healthy snack ideas and more! Trips to local walking destinations and a chance to work out with Evansville Otters players will make this week one you will build on for a lifetime of health.



Camp Imagination - June 29-July 3 and July 6-10

Full-Day, Ages 6-11

cMoe is excited to host the always popular Tales & Scales Camp Imagination where campers are invited to explore their creativity and become storytellers themselves! Campers will develop their own unique musictales while participating in games and activities led by Tales & Scales artists incorporating storytelling, theater, music and creative movement. Campers will share their week-long experiences by performing for family and friends on the last day of each session. No prior experience with the performing arts is necessary, and campers may attend either session or both!

Art Smart - July 13-17 Full-Day, Ages 6-11

Create like the masters while working with area artists in a variety of mediums. Try your hand at pottery, mosaics and recycled toy sculptures and experiment with unusual painting techniques with "no brushes allowed." An exhibit of your art and an artists' reception round out this week of creative exploration.

Time Traveler - July 20-24 Full-Day, Ages 6-11

Get ready for a week of adventure as you travel through history in the cMoe Time Machine! Explore mummies in Ancient Egypt, compete in medieval tournament games, experience Native American life in the Old West and even take a trip to the future as we set our time coordinates for some of the world's most exciting dates in history.

This & That - July 27-31 Full-Day, Ages 6-11

Back by popular demand, this diverse week tackles a different theme each day. Join us for Sensational Science, Awesome Art and Fun with Food. Campers will spend time getting a behind the scenes look at cMoe and have a hand in the planning as they choose their own ending to the week.



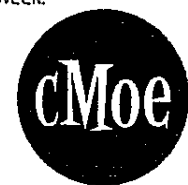
Don't Forget!

Registration must be submitted three weeks prior to the camp you wish to attend.

To register please contact Karen Cox, cMoe's Reservation Specialist, at 812-464-2663, ext. 230 or kcox@cmoeekids.org.

	Full-Day / Half-Day	2nd Child (siblings only)	3rd child (siblings only)
Member	\$135.00 / \$90.00	\$101.25 (full) / \$67.50 (half)	\$67.50 (full) / \$45.00 (half)
Non-Member	\$150.00 / \$100.00	\$112.50 (full) / \$75.00 (half)	\$75.00 (full) / \$50.00 (half)
Extended Care	\$25.00 per week		

Please note: Full-Day camp is from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Half-Day camp is from 9 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Extended care is available only for Full-Day campers from 7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at \$25 per week.



KOCH FAMILY
children's
museum
OF EVANSVILLE
P.O. Box 122
Evansville, IN 47701

Knowing What To Do Can Save Your Life

Disasters can happen anytime day or night;
you & your family members could be at work, home, school, in a car or out of town

When Disaster Strikes

- DO **NOT** call 911 for information.
- Listen to your radio/TV for information & instructions.
- Fire & medical services will not be able to respond quickly.
- Following a disaster - up to 3 days or longer - individuals, households, & neighborhoods may be cut off from outside help & may need to rely on each other for immediate life saving care & daily necessities of: **Food - Water- First Aid- Shelter- Sanitation**

How To Prepare

1. Make a *Plan* of what you will do;
2. Make a *Kit* of Emergency Supplies;
3. Stay informed & know how to Shelter-in-Place or Evacuate.

MAKE A PLAN

- Decide where each member would go, where to meet & what to do for Fire, Earthquake, Tornado, etc.
- Select an out-of-state contact to call & report your conditions & locations (memorize the number).
- Have children memorize their whole name, address & phone number.
- Don't forget to plan for your pets.
- Do an actual run through of your plan.
- Know where, how & when to shut off electricity, gas, & water at the main switches & valves. Check with local utilities for instructions & keep required tools near gas & water shut-off valves.

Don't risk explosion - If you turn the gas off, a "professional" must turn it back on.

MAKE A KIT

- In an easy-to-grab box or backpack
- **Food & water** - 3 day minimum - water (1 gallon/person/day), food that won't spoil & a can opener;

- First Aid Supplies - include prescription medications;
- Clothing/Bedding - 1 change of clothing & shoes, 1 blanket/sleeping bag/ person;
- Tools - Emergency Supplies - A battery-powered radio, flashlight & plenty of extra batteries; extra set of car keys, extra eye glasses, a credit card, cash or traveler's checks;
- Sanitation Supplies - toilet paper, wet wipes, hand sanitizer, personal hygiene items, & disinfectant;
- Special Items for infant, elderly or disabled family members & your pets;
- Sturdy shoes & work gloves;
- Copies of important papers and a list of your medications/dosages in a plastic freezer bag.

Know How to:

SHELTER-IN-PLACE

- Go inside;
- Close all windows & vents, turn off all fans, heating or cooling systems;
- Take family members & pets to a safe above-ground room with fewest windows & doors (not the basement as some chemicals are heavier than air, & may seep into basements.)
- Seal windows & doors with wet towels or plastic sheeting & duct tape;
- Listen to local radio/TV or a NOAA Weather Radio for instructions;
- Take your *Kit* with you;
- Stay in the room & listen to your radio/TV until told all is safe, or you are to evacuate.

DON'T go outside to see what happened

EVACUATE

- Be ready to get away promptly;
- Know your destination & how to get there (also consider alternate routes);
- Take your *Kit* with you;
- Follow directions from officials - no wandering about.



Earthquakes

**DROP, COVER, &
HOLD ON!**

BEFORE

- Hold earthquake drills.
- Know the safe places in each room of your home & work.
- See if your workplace, children's school, church or social club have a Preparedness Plan.
- Strap your water heater.
- Secure tall furniture/bookcases to the wall studs with "L" brackets.
- Anchor overhead light fixtures.
- Secure cabinet doors with latches.
- Secure pictures, mirrors, hanging plants & table/shelf ornaments.

DURING

- **KEEP CALM**, expect the earthquake to last a few seconds to a few minutes. Remember, most injuries are caused by falling objects.
- **IF INSIDE**, stay there. Take cover in a doorway, under a sturdy desk or table, or kneel against an interior wall. Avoid shelves or heavy objects that may fall. Keep away from windows, mirrors & outside doors.
- **IF OUTSIDE**, stay there. Get away from buildings & watch for chimneys, overhead wires, poles or other objects that might fall.
- **IN A CAR**, pull over & stop away from bridges & overpasses. Stay in your vehicle & turn on the radio.

AFTER

- Gather everyone in a safe place.
- If someone is missing, look for places where the person could be trapped, but **do not** risk your safety.
- Attend to injuries.
- If the house is damaged, collect your *Kit* & seek a safe place outdoors.
- Check for damage using a flashlight (turn off BEFORE you enter), do not use matches or candles & do not turn on light switches until you have checked the gas, electricity & water lines for damage. **Continued** →

Knowing What To Do Can Save Your Life



Continued

Tornado

TORNADO WATCH

Conditions are right for tornadoes to form.

- Keep an eye on the sky.
- Tune to your local radio/TV station for storm updates.
- Know where you would go if a Tornado Warning was issued.

TORNADO WARNING

A tornado was sighted by spotters or on radar & is happening or about to happen.

- Seek shelter in the lowest level of your home.
- If there is no basement, go to an inner hallway, a small inner room, or closet.
- Keep away from all windows.
- Take your *Kit* and turn on your battery-powered radio for storm updates.
- Put your pet on a leash or in a carrier.

MOBILE HOME OR VEHICLE

- Leave it immediately & take shelter in a strong structure, or lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area.
- Cover your head & neck with your arms.
- Avoid large-span roof areas such as school gymnasiums, or shopping malls.
- Do not get under an overpass.

AFTER THE TORNADO PASSES

- Watch out for fallen power lines, stay out of damaged areas & listen to the radio for information & instructions.
- Check for gas leaks, turn off your gas if needed.
- A **professional** will need to turn it back on to avoid an explosion.



Flooding

- 80% of flood deaths occur in vehicles due to drivers trying to navigate through flood water.
- 6" of rapidly moving water can knock a person down.
- 2' of water can float a large vehicle – even a bus.
- 1/3rd of flooded roads & bridges are so damaged by water that a vehicle trying to cross has only a 50% chance of making it to the other side.

FLOOD WATCH

High flow or overflow of water from a river is **possible** in the given time period.

FLOOD WARNING

Flooding conditions are actually occurring or are **imminent** in the warning area.

FLASH FLOOD WATCH

Flash flooding is **possible** in or close to the watch area.

FLASH FLOOD WARNING

Flash flooding is actually occurring or **imminent** in the warning area.

WHAT TO DO

- Listen to local radio/TV station to get updates on conditions.
- Collect your *Kit*.
- Call your family's emergency contact to report your plans.
- Keep children & pets indoors.
- Make sure you have cash & your car has a full tank of gas in case you must evacuate.
- Obey advisories promptly.
- If on foot, do not attempt to walk through flood waters; go to higher ground.
- If you are in a car, NEVER try to drive through flooded areas.
- If your car stalls, immediately abandon it & climb to higher ground.
- Look out for animals - especially snakes. Animals lose their homes in floods too & may seek shelter in yours.



Emotional Impact

Disasters may strike quickly & without warning. These events can be frightening for adults, but they are traumatic for children if they don't know what to do. A children looks to you and other adults for help. How you react gives them clues on how to act. If you react with alarm, a child may become more scared.

Children's fears also may stem from their imagination, and you should take these feelings seriously. A child who feels afraid is afraid. Your words & actions can provide reassurance.

When talking with your child, be sure to present a realistic picture that is both honest and manageable. Having them participate in the family's recovery activities will help them feel that their life will return to "normal".

Be aware that after a disaster, children are most afraid that:

- the event will happen again.
- someone will be injured or killed.
- they will be separated from the family.
- they will be left alone.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Knowing what to do will help you better COPE with disaster.

Any questions should be addressed to the:

DRC at (812) 425-8401

AT&T Advertising & Publishing is pleased to provide you with this information as a public service in conjunction with the Southwest Indiana Disaster Resistant Community Corp. (DRC)

Announcements

- **Recycle Day**— Saturday, May 2nd, 8 a.m.—12 p.m. at the old Wal-Mart West. For more information, call the Solid Waste District at 436-7800.
- **Master Gardener Plant Sale**—Saturday, May 2nd, 8 a.m.—5 p.m. and Sunday, May 3rd from 10 a.m.—2:00 p.m. located at Vanderburgh County 4-H Center, Boonville-New Harmony Road, Evansville, IN.
- **UNOE Parks/Trees/Beautification Committee Meeting**—Thursday, May 7th, 4 p.m. at the UNOE office.
- **UNOE Finance Committee Meeting** - Tuesday, May 12th, 9:30am at the UNOE office.
- **South Sector Citizens Meeting**— Thursday, May 14th at 6:00pm located at 315 Taylor Avenue. For more information, call South Sector at 435-6037.
- **Recycle Day** — Saturday, May 16th, 8a.m.—12 p.m. at the 4-H Center. For more information, call the Solid Waste District at 436-7800.
- **East Sector Citizens Meeting**—Tuesday, May 19th at 6:00pm located at 4900 Shamrock Drive, Suite 105. For more information, call East Sector at 485-3055.
- **UNOE Board Meeting**—Wednesday, May 20th, 4:00pm at the UNOE office.
- **West Sector Citizens Meeting**—Thursday, May 21st, 6:00 p.m. located at 401 E. Columbia Street. For more information, call West Sector at 435-6135.
- **UNOE General Membership Meeting**—Thursday, May 28th from 6:30—8:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the Red Cross Center on Stockwell Road.
- **FREE First Aid & CPR Training** - May 30th, 8:00am-5:00pm at the Red Cross Center at 29 S. Stockwell Rd. Call the UNOE office to register. 428-4243.
- **UNOE Sparkplug Banquet**—Friday, November 6th at 6 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Community Center. Mark your calendars!!!



Everyone is welcome.

Bank on Evansville Program

Today Everybody can get a bank account!

The **Bank on Evansville** in the community is off to a great start. Presentations have been made at many locations.

The financial institutions – Banks and Credit Unions – that are participating now have their promotional materials and identity posters and other symbols in place. Look for the Bank on Evansville logo at the institution nearest you. This includes the main banking locations and their area branch offices.

Here are the ways banks and credit unions are ready to help you:

- Open a free or low cost checking account – keep more of your money!
- Keep an account open with no minimum balance!
- Open an account even if you have had trouble with an account before!

Learn to make the most of your money

Visit www.BankOnEvansville.org to find out how we can help you:

- Stay on a budget
- Manage a checking account
- Improve a credit rating
- Pay off debt

Money saving tip of the month: Food Purchased at Markets

You can save hundreds of dollars a year by shopping at lower-priced food stores. Convenience stores often charge the highest prices.



2008
"Neighborhood
Sparkplugs
of the year"



Betty Baumgartner from CHAIN Neighborhood Association was recognized as the Sparkplug from her neighborhood.

"Betty has been a member and supporter of CHAIN N.A. for many years. She is the current treasurer of the association. CHAIN received a grant through Deaconess Family Practice and the Susan G. Komen Foundation, for women in the neighborhood to get free mammograms; she jumped on board and became the neighborhood mentor. Hundreds of women in the neighborhood have received free mammograms because of her efforts. Thank you Betty, for taking the time to educate people about breast health."

~Linda Jones, CHAIN Neighborhood

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.?

Lawmakers work to reach compromises in final weeks of a legislative session

In the final two weeks of the session, conference committees will dominate the legislative process. These groups will attempt to settle differences between lawmakers and reach compromises that can allow work to be completed by the end of the legislative session.

In a conference committee:

- Two representatives and two senators meet to discuss the differences between the House and Senate versions of a particular bill.
- If they agree on a compromise, they sign a conference committee report containing the preferred language.
- The House and Senate then must approve the report before it can go to the governor for his signature.

There are several things to look out for at this time of year. First, keep in mind that any bill that has passed one chamber is eligible for consideration during the conference committee process.

In addition, you will hear the word "germaneness" a lot. Language from one bill can be incorporated into a conference committee report on another bill as long as those two bills share the same general subject matter. In other words, the bill that is added must be germane.

That is the ideal that legislators strive for when there still are two weeks left in session. As we get closer to the end of session, the definition of germaneness gets looser and looser until it seems that the only link between two bills in one conference committee report is that legislators want them in the report and the bills need to pass.

There are generally around 100 bills in a long session that end up in conference committees.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

May 28th, 2009

Thursday 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Red Cross Building—29 S. Stockwell Road

Program: Mental Health Awareness Month –
Crisis Intervention Team, Mental Health Associates

