



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

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

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From the President

UNOE is a supporter of the 2010 Census. Some of our neighborhood members will be working on collecting data.

The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race and other relevant data.

The Census data will be used to allocate more than \$300 billion in federal funds every year, as well as determine a State's number of Congressional representatives. Households are actually required by law to respond to the Census Bureau's request for information.

During the U.S. Census, households will be contacted by mail, telephone or visited by a U.S. Census worker who will inquire about the number of people living in the house. Unfortunately, people may also be contacted by scammers who are impersonating Census workers in order to gain access to sensitive financial information such as Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers. Law enforcement in several states have issued warnings that scammers are already posing as Census Bureau employees and knocking on doors asking for donations and Social Security numbers.

The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? BBB offers the following advice:

- If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.
- Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census. While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, it will not ask for Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers nor will employees solicit donations.

Have a safe summer!

David Ballew, UNOE President

WWW.UNOEYANSVILLE.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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Upcoming Dates.....

July 15th— UNOE Board Mtg.

July 23rd— UNOE General Membership Mtg

Land Use Planning, Part IV

By Fred Padget

As you know, this series is an overview of the Evansville/Vanderburgh County Comprehensive Plan for land use. We've previously looked at the requirement of Indiana Code for a comprehensive plan if a jurisdiction has adopted a zoning code, the general guiding principles of the plan and; the goals, objectives and policies of the plan that provide guidance for land use decisions. Today we'll focus on some of the specifics contained in the plan regarding residential development and related concerns.

First of all, there are several factors which influence where residential development occurs including:

- Accessibility to the area;
- Availability and capacity of water and sewer utilities;
- Proximity of quality of life factors like schools, recreation, shopping, employment, etc;
- Cost of land; and
- Physical site features.

At the time the plan was put together, residential use accounted for nearly 25 percent of the total county land area. In order to develop goals, objectives and policies for residential land use many statistics were looked at in order to determine past residential growth and project future growth and the patterns of growth. As a general strategy, cooperation and participation between public and private sectors in providing housing should be continued and expanded. Improving the quality of housing and maintaining an adequate supply of safe, affordable, aesthetically pleasing housing with a variety of housing types for **all** citizens must be a major consideration. There should be continued emphasis on preserving existing housing, aiding neighborhoods in retaining their viability and encouraging new affordable housing. Policies should include the encouragement of preservation and general neighborhood character as well as in-fill housing within the city core which promotes neighborhood stability and eliminating spot zoning which, in turn, helps to preserve the character of the neighborhood.

Other considerations include extending the minimum performance standard in the housing code to the entire county and enforcing it in a fair and equitable manner. When doing so, available assistance programs to aid those who cannot afford the improvements should be used. Abandoned and dilapidated structures unsuitable for rehabilitation should be removed quickly. Non-profit, religious, private and government groups should be encouraged to continue providing affordable housing. We should preserve the neighborhood environment by minimizing negative impacts and exclude incompatible uses that would alter the character of the area or not serve the residents. Multi-family housing should be viewed as an appropriate buffer between single family homes and commercial development.

Another important item is the suggestion to investigate changes to the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances that would require rezoning from Agricultural to Residential prior to platting major residential subdivisions. Currently, land zoned agricultural can be developed into a residential subdivision of any size with no approval by a legislative body. It only takes the approval of the APC which they are required to do if the development meets the standards of the Subdivision Code.

Of special interest to the local Smart Growth Group and the newly organized Evansville-area Trails Coalition would be a couple of other considerations. First, subdivision design should provide connecting streets in new developments to enhance safety and link neighborhoods. Subdivision design should be sensitive to and minimize impact on natural features and provide for common open space, bicycle and pedestrian ways; and encourage the construction of sidewalks in new residential subdivisions.

We've covered plenty for today. Next month we'll look at some considerations for commercial development. And, as I said in the beginning of the series, I've copied liberally from the Comprehensive Plan because it expresses the planning considerations much better than I ever could. 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.

Transportation and travel choices

Gas prices are creeping back up, and I am beginning to cringe at what I know will be an expensive summer driving vacation to the cool shores of Lake Superior. Why are gas prices rising? Under normal circumstances, increased demand leads to increased prices - simple economics - and in summer tens of millions of North Americans take driving vacations, so gas prices rise. On top of that we have less economically recoverable oil available, as we have been burning it as fast as we can pump it. The geologic process of converting plants to something we can make fuel from takes many millions of years, whereas we are adding new humans to the planet at the rate of about 225,000 per day. So, there is little doubt that fossil fuels are going to continue to get more expensive, which might cause you to reconsider how badly you want to live 25 miles from where you work or where your kids go to school, or where you are willing to drive for a vacation.

The pain we feel from increased travel costs will at some point affect our behavior. Reducing our personal fuel consumption though, is only one solution to a large problem. If we have other transportation options, as a society, we can realize lower costs for fuels and also have less pollution, less traffic congestion, and more choices. Good transit options, bicycle paths and on-street routes, good sidewalk networks, and pedestrian-oriented property development and street designs will all help to bring our individual travel costs down and provide better accessibility for all members of society. Those of us of us who drive often forget that a lot of people – more than one third of Americans – cannot drive because they are too old, too young, or have disabilities.

It is encouraging to see recent, local efforts improve our transportation options, including the recent announcement of the formation of the Evansville Trails Coalition to raise funds and advocate for additional bicycle and walking paths; Recovery Act funding for the Pigeon Creek Greenway and the Rivertown Trail in Newburgh; the focus on transit by Congregations Acting for Justice and Empowerment, which brought 900 people to St. Benedict's Cathedral in April for a public "action" concerning

local-regional bus service; and the beginning of a "healthy communities" initiative by the Welborn Foundation, which will encourage improvements in many facets of our community, including enhancements for active (muscle-powered) transportation.

I haven't forgotten about gas-electric cars or nitrogen-powered vehicles, and the like. But if we continue to design our communities and lives around cars, we will be wed to sprawl development and all its ills, including poor health outcomes of driving everywhere, landscape loss and habitat destruction, air pollution, traffic congestion, and loss of time and income to driving. My family is able to get by on one car because we live close enough to my work place and a bus route, that I can take the bus to and from work. Sometimes I ride the three miles on my bike, and I occasionally walk. Over the past five years this has freed up a lot of earnings that have gone to better uses than maintaining a car for commuting purposes. I'm not sure that we won't have to get another motor vehicle at some point, but I can hardly fathom the cost of another car, but maybe a scooter.

I'm not disparaging anyone's choice to live in the hinterlands; I lived in some pretty remote places and some subdivisions during my bachelor years. This is just food for thought. And although "alternative" transportation is often perceived as a strictly urban issue, there are a lot of rural residents who use paratransit services and many more who use fixed-route buses where there are park and ride facilities. On rural roads that have large shoulders (such as much of Wisconsin), bike commuting can be safe and efficient. And even if there are no nearby attractions, sidewalks in suburban subdivisions encourage people to walk and provide safety to those walking.

Have a nice summer, and go out and enjoy a walk around your neighborhood.

*By Dave Rockwood, Transportation Committee
~Courtesy of Westside Improvement Association, Inc.
June, 2009 Newsletter*

Neighborhood Association Presidents Opportunity!

Time Sensitive!

Workshop sponsored by the Indiana Resource Network:

“Communicating Your Mission- Gaining Support of Public Officials”

“You will learn how to work through the maze of public officials to gain legislative support critical to your mission and to the communities you serve. Take advantage of this valuable time with Lucinda Nord, who can guide you through the process of advocating and succeeding! From the smallest Indiana agencies to our largest, you can advocate – legally, safely, and on a shoestring.”



Wednesday, July 29th 11:15 am – 2:00 pm

Visiting Nurse Association, 610 E. Walnut Street, Evansville

Cost: \$10.00, includes lunch and materials

To register call June Miller at (812) 421-7482 or south@inrn.org.

This will be an outstanding session. Lucinda Nord, is Vice-President of Public Policy, Indiana Association of United Ways. We encourage you to send a person from your neighborhood association that can share the information with your officers and members.



Bank on Evansville Program

Today Everybody Can Have a Bank Account

The Bank on Evansville's tag line is **“Everyone is Welcome”**. We want to give accounts to people who have had a bad experience in the past but feel like they are ready to take responsibility. It can make your life simpler and your financial life more affordable, but you have to take on the responsibility to live within your means and balancing your account. When anyone is outside the financial mainstream, you have no ability to build a credit rating or have an affordable car loan or even a home loan. The **Bank on Evansville Program** will assist you in building your financial future.

Look for the **Bank on Evansville** poster and symbol at the financial institution nearest you, walk in and get started. For more information dial the 211 help line at United Way of Southwestern Indiana.

Money saving tip of the month:

New Credit Card Laws Will Help Consumers

The law restricts credit card practices and eliminates sudden increase in interest rates and late fees. The measure prohibits double-cycle billing and retroactive rate hikes. Double-cycle billing eliminates the interest-free period for consumers who move from paying a full balance monthly to carrying a balance. It also prohibits companies from giving credit cards to anyone under 18.

The rate-notice rules take effect in August 2009 and the other changes in February 2010. Credit card companies will be required to give customers a 45 day notice before their interest rates are increased.

The following article is informational only and does not reflect any official position of UNOE as an organization.



Transformational:

- This is exactly the right time for a new arena. It will create 670 jobs during construction and an estimated 530 jobs to support the arena, vendors and surrounding businesses
- A new downtown arena will transform our entire community. The heart of our City will continue to grow and evolve, attracting developers, business owners and residents to downtown
- The arena will also help employers attract and retain young professionals because it shows we are investing in our future and quality of life in Evansville. A state of the art facility will attract more prestigious and visible events.

Financing:

- Your property taxes will not increase to build a new downtown arena
- Funds will come from downtown TIF (tax increment financing) revenues, gaming receipts, and the existing Food and Beverage Tax
- While downtown TIF payments do come from the property taxes paid by downtown landowners, the use of these funds for the arena will not increase the amount of taxes paid by those landowners
- TIF Funds can only be used for downtown capital projects like the arena, and may not legally be used to cover other governmental expenses
- Neither the Food and Beverage Tax nor gaming revenue may be used for general operating expenses like employee salaries and benefits.
- The financing does not touch the current allocation of revenue for existing capital projects and will also allow for other future investment throughout the city.

Roberts Stadium

- Roberts is more than 50 years old. It has already been renovated once and it continues to have many problems which render it functionally obsolete as a modern sports and entertainment venue
- The docking area is too small and is not adequate to turn around multiple shows at once. The overhead rigging is inadequate for most tour groups. Roberts is not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. There are not enough restrooms in the facility and the current restrooms are not up to code. The floor is too small for hockey and many ice shows.

- It would cost about \$17 million just to keep the doors of Roberts open. It would take about \$90 million to fix its deficiencies and make Roberts competitive
- There is no TIF at Roberts Stadium so those funds may not be used at the site. As a result, we would need a \$60 million property tax **increase** to build a new arena at the Roberts site
- Roberts is landlocked with park land to the north, neighborhoods to the east and the Lloyd Expressway to the south. Therefore, there is no opportunity for future economic growth in adjacent areas.

Parking and Traffic:

- Downtown Evansville has more adjacent parking opportunities than Roberts Stadium. Between parking garages, street parking and private lots, there are 5,300 parking spaces available downtown all within a five minute walk of the recommended arena site. There are only 3,000 spaces at Roberts
- There will be ample parking for those with disabilities
- Several changes to the downtown traffic flow – such as changing most one-way streets to two-way streets, reversing the direction of traffic on Main Street, and creating left-hand turns onto and off of Riverside Drive at Main Street and Walnut Street- will help ease traffic issues
- At Roberts Stadium, all traffic must funnel into and out of the parking lot at two points. By contrast, traffic can access downtown Evansville and the recommended arena site from many directions: Lloyd Expressway, Walnut Street, Lincoln Avenue, Washington Avenue, Riverside Drive, Fulton Avenue and North Main Street.

Safety:

- According to the Evansville Police, most types of violent and/or serious crimes- including arson, burglary, homicide, murder, robbery, shoplifting, and vandalism- occur **less** frequently downtown than they do in other parts of the City
- As the number of people who live and work downtown continues to increase and the “neighborhood” atmosphere of the area grows, the safety level will improve even more
- There are already regularly scheduled evening events at The Centre, The Victory, Casino Aztar, Old National Bank, and Vectren headquarters. People by the thousands come downtown for the Freedom Festival. These events all take place without major safety issues.

Please monitor www.evansvillearenaproject.com for future updates on the Evansville Arena Project.

Announcements

- **UNOE Parks/Trees/Beautification Committee Meeting**—Thursday, July 2nd, 4 p.m. at the UNOE office.
- **Recycle Day**— Saturday, July 11th, 8 a.m.—12 p.m. at the old Wal-Mart West. For more information, call the Solid Waste District at 436-7800.
- **South Sector Citizens Meeting**— Thursday, July 9th at 6:00pm located at 315 Taylor Avenue. For more information, call South Sector at 435-6037.
- **Recycle Day**— Saturday, July 11th, 8 a.m.—12 p.m. at the old Wal-Mart West. For more information, call the Solid Waste District at 436-7800.
- **UNOE Finance Committee Meeting** - Tuesday, July 14th, 9:30am at the UNOE office.
- **UNOE Board Meeting**—Wednesday, July 15th, 4:00pm at the UNOE office.
- **West Sector Citizens Meeting**—Thursday, July 16th, 6:00 p.m. located at 401 E. Columbia Street. For more information, call West Sector at 435-6135.
- **East Sector Citizens Meeting**—Tuesday, July 21st at 6:00pm located at 4900 Shamrock Drive, Suite 105. For more information, call East Sector at 485-3055.
- **UNOE General Membership Meeting**—Thursday, July 23rd from 6:30—8:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the Red Cross Center on Stockwell Road.
- **Recycle Day**— Saturday, August 1st, 8 a.m.—12 p.m. at the old Wal-Mart West. For more information, call the Solid Waste District at 436-7800.
- **National Night Out**—Tuesday, August 4th from 6—9 p.m. at Akin, Garvin, and Lorraine Parks.
- **UNOE Board Meeting**—Wednesday, August 19th, 4:00pm at the UNOE office.
- **RNNC**—September 17th—19th in Decatur, IL, Call the UNOE office for more details.
- **UNOE Sparkplug Banquet**—Friday, November 6th at 6 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Community Center. Mark your calendars!!!

Lamasco Neighborhood Association Meeting

Tuesday, July 7th at 7:00 p.m.
Franklin Street Library



Lamasco Neighborhood Association

will also be holding a **neighborhood picnic** on
Sunday, July 12th from 12:00—2 p.m. in the Nut Club Park

Goosetown Festival 2009 Rescheduled

Friday, July 31st

11 a.m.—7 p.m.

and Saturday, August 1st

11 a.m.—10 p.m.

Location: At the Fountain on Haynie's Corner
(Downtown Evansville at the intersection of 2nd, Washington,
and Adams Streets). Proceeds go to the Culver & Lincoln PTA's.
For more information, call the UNOE office.

Neighborhood Association Program Idea

In September, this program will be available for neighborhoods:
"The 2 most important things a parent can do for dog bite prevention"
"The 2 most important things children need to know to prevent dog bites".

If your neighborhood is interested or for more details, please call the UNOE office at 428-4243.

2008

**"Neighborhood
Sparkplugs
of the year"**



David Ballew from Culver Neighborhood Association was recognized as the Sparkplug from his neighborhood.

"David Ballew has served two, five-year terms as the Culver Neighborhood Association President. He has worked to improve the neighborhood by collaborating with South Sector Police officers, city departments and neighborhood residents. David has actively participated and taken the lead in a number of initiatives including: Alley Clean Ups, Tire Removal and Recycling, Rummage Sales and Neighborhood Picnics, Chaired the Committee to write the ordinance on drug houses for the City of Evansville, and many other activities. For all of his hard work – Thank you and we appreciate you."

Christie Baker ~Culver Neighborhood

Neighbor to Neighbor

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Did U.N.O.E.?

New Indiana License Plates



The purchase of the Indiana license plates **"To Your Health"** benefits the Indiana AIDS Fund programs, including HIV/AIDS Education, emergency financial assistance to victims and the Youth Education initiative. These plates may be purchased at any license branch.

Habitat and Old Vehicles

Habitat for Humanity of Evansville is now accepting all types of motorized vehicles, including cars, trucks, RV's, boats etc, **running or not**, to raise funds. **To donate call (812)423-5623 or visit their web site: www.evansvillehabitat.org.** This may be a way to clear or neighborhoods of abandon vehicles and/or those cluttering yards!



—Also—

Habitat for Humanity of Evansville seeks retirees to join our regular volunteer crew to help on construction sites. No experience is necessary. Construction managers and core volunteers are on hand to instruct new volunteers. Our core group of volunteers works from 7 to 11 a.m. and from noon to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. You can help as much or as little as you wish, whatever fits your schedule.

We also are seeking volunteers to help in the office with filing, answering the phone, etc., at various times.

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please call Lydia Johnson, community relations director, at 423-5623, ext. 21.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

July 23rd, 2009

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

Red Cross Building—29 S. Stockwell Road

Program: **Karan Barhnill, Storm Water Coordinator, City Engineer's Office**
and a Neighborhood Workshop: **"Do UNOE where to go for info?"**

