

*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

Well we made it through another year. It has been full of challenges and great accomplishments.

Again I want to commend the Sparkplug committee for doing an outstanding job on this year's dinner. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as we did.

It has been a fun two years. We have added new neighborhoods and continue to help work with others. As the next year progresses, I hope we can learn from the decisions of the past. We have to be able to make sound choices in how we develop our ideas to improve our neighborhoods. But most importantly is that the residents are involved in the decision making process. Stay involved, stay informed and you can make a difference.

I would like to give a special thank you to my board and office staff. Our organization is so strong because of the efforts of every one of you. We make good sound decisions at our meetings because we always look for the fairest and most diplomatic solution for the situation.

Good luck to Paul Farmer on his retirement. He has ALWAYS been there when I needed him. He has been a mentor and friend for many years and I owe him for teaching me so much about being involved in community organizations.

Also best wishes to Lori, you have been a good friend and as the winds of change blow your direction, you will undoubtedly come out on top as you always have. Thanks again for all your help and expertise in the office. Big thanks go out to Janice and Martha as well for all they do too! You all make a great team!

I will continue to do my part and help UNOE to grow. It is one of the finest organizations Evansville has to offer and I am proud to be a part of it.

Happy holidays to all and may the 2010 year bring you success and happiness.

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
- ❖ Habitat for Humanity of Evansville
- ❖ Keep Evansville Beautiful
- ❖ Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage
- ❖ Vanderburgh County Assessor

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Upcoming Dates.....

December 5th— Recycle Day
December 17th—West Sector Mtg.
January 20th—UNOE Board Mtg.
January 28th—UNOE General Membership Mtg.

Land Use Planning, Part VIII

By Fred Padget

In the past several articles, we've looked at many of the functional land use policies contained in the Evansville/Vanderburgh County Comprehensive Plan. Today we'll look at some of the economic development considerations contained in the Comp Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan devotes considerable time to economic development and, although some may not want economic development in an effort to keep the status quo, most would agree that good, sound economic development is not only desirable but critical to the future of the area. The primary focus of efforts for good economic development is to encourage existing businesses to expand and new business development. Without economic growth an area tends to deteriorate over time. From personal experience, I can tell you of many small towns based on one or two businesses, primarily coal mines, that suffered very difficult times when the mine depleted its' coal reserves. The example may be kind of a microcosm, but unless an area diversifies and grows its' economy, it not only will have bad times, it will deteriorate and may become non-existent. Good economic development helps to provide professional and technical jobs, hopefully keep more of college graduates here and help to expand the tax base as well as providing many other benefits. Good land use policies help control how and where this necessary economic development takes place.

The Evansville area has many positive attributes recognized in the Comprehensive Plan:

- Central location within a short distance of major markets in Indianapolis (176 miles), Louisville (126 miles), Nashville (156 miles) and St. Louis (174 miles);
- Good transportation access and intermodal capability provided by I-64, U.S. 41 and, hopefully soon, I-69, the Ohio River, railroads and the Evansville Airport;
- Low cost of living and doing business both of which are below national averages based on recent surveys;
- Available and skilled workforce (experts consider this area to have a good work force noted for hard working people that take pride in their strong work ethic);
- Excellent education opportunities;
- Good mix of affordable and attractive housing;
- Strong entrepreneurial climate;
- Good health care provided by regional hospitals and other providers;
- Low crime rate as compared to other large urban counties in Indiana;
- Park and recreational opportunities with nearby National Forests and State Parks, and an extensive local park system; and
- Generally a moderate, 4-season climate with an average daily temperature of 30.1 F for January and 78.4 F for July.

Individually, these attributes are appealing to both corporations and families seeking to relocate to the Evansville area. Together, these attributes represent major marketing advantages that the community should use in a proactive approach to seeking sound, beneficial development for the benefit of the entire area.

The overall goal of the economic development action plan is to improve the local economy through long-term growth and to upgrade the standard of living for all citizens of Evansville and Vanderburgh County. While the general objectives are to:

- Reduce unemployment and underemployment, especially in those areas which are the most economically depressed, and promote the education and training of a qualified workforce;
- Provide incentives, including a sufficient number of suitable industrial and commercial sites in attractive locations, for expanding operations and new employers to ensure an expanding economy and tax base;
- Upgrade and improve community facilities and services that will enhance the community's growth potential and quality of life;
- Develop and implement a coordinated, long-range economic development planning Process;
- Take advantage of the increased globalization of the marketplace to attract foreign capital to the Evansville area;
- Intensify recruitment efforts that emphasize the community's positive attributes to retain and attract new professional and technical jobs in the Evansville area.

Once again, I've liberally cut and pasted from the Comp Plan. The complete version of the Comprehensive Plan can be viewed at www.evansvilleapc.com and at most local libraries. You can view all parts of this series of articles at <http://westsideimprovement.org/landuse.htm> and my previous series on our Zoning Ordinances at http://westsideimprovement.org/zoning_101.htm. As a side note, the current Comp Plan is in the process of having minor updates with a complete update after the 2010 census information becomes available. We'll try to keep you informed of significant changes.

Next month we'll start to look at some of the community services and facilities that support the Comprehensive Plan. And, if you have any comments or questions, please contact me at fcpadget@aol.com or 428-2529.



14th Annual United Neighborhoods of Evansville Sparkplug Banquet



On behalf of the officers and board of United Neighborhoods of Evansville, we would like to thank everyone who helped to make the 14th Annual Sparkplug Banquet a success! A special thank you goes out to our keynote speaker, Jeff Lyons from 14 WFIE and also to Jane Annakin who gave us the "Sparkplug" history. We would also like to thank the many elected officials who were in attendance for our annual event.

In 2009 we pushed for more advertisers and donors for this annual event. Through these efforts we raised more money than in the past which lead to more neighborhood grants given out during the evening. We would like to thank our advertisers and door prize sponsors. Without them and their contributions, we would not have been able to hand out as many neighborhood grants as we did. Everyone needs to thank Spark Plug Committee Member, Carolyn Stagg, as well. She sold the most advertisements and rounded up the most door prizes with a combined value of over \$500 .

Finally, we would like to thank the most important members of our team, The Sparkplug Dinner Committee; Marlin Beck, Fred Cook, Janet & Joe Coleman, Joette McKasson, and Carolyn Stagg. Also, thanks to Janice Ricketts, Lori Gardner, and YOU, the neighbors who make up our member associations!

Be sure to check this newsletter early in 2010 for details about the 15th Annual Spark Plug Banquet. If you would like to join the committee and help out with this event, please contact any current member of the Spark Plug Dinner Committee, visit www.unoevansville.org, or call the office at 812-428-4243. We look forward to another successful event in 2010 with your continued direction and support!

Chris Cooke
UNOE President Elect
2009 Spark Plug Committee Chairman

2009 Sparkplug Award Winners

Stan Wheeler, Jan Rhodes - Akin Park
Rosie Rexing - Business 41 Improvement
Larry & Ada Piper - CHAIN
Randy Clark - Culver
Hilda Swan - Diamond/Stringtown
Jimmy Sharp - Eastview
Mr. & Mrs. Shirley Williams - Glenwood
Justin Knight - Goosetown
Robert Head - Helfrich
Carolyn Stagg - Hilltop

Monte Jones - Lorraine Park
John Cartwright - Mt. Auburn
Marjorie Logan - North Country Club
Carol Albin - Oakhill
Del & Dorothy St. Clair - South Lincoln Park Dr.
Beverly Kempf - STAR
Charlie Lee - Tepe Park
Ernestine Graves - University South
Ollie Schapker - Western Terrace

Congratulations to all of you!!!

exercise your rights as a citizen of Indiana

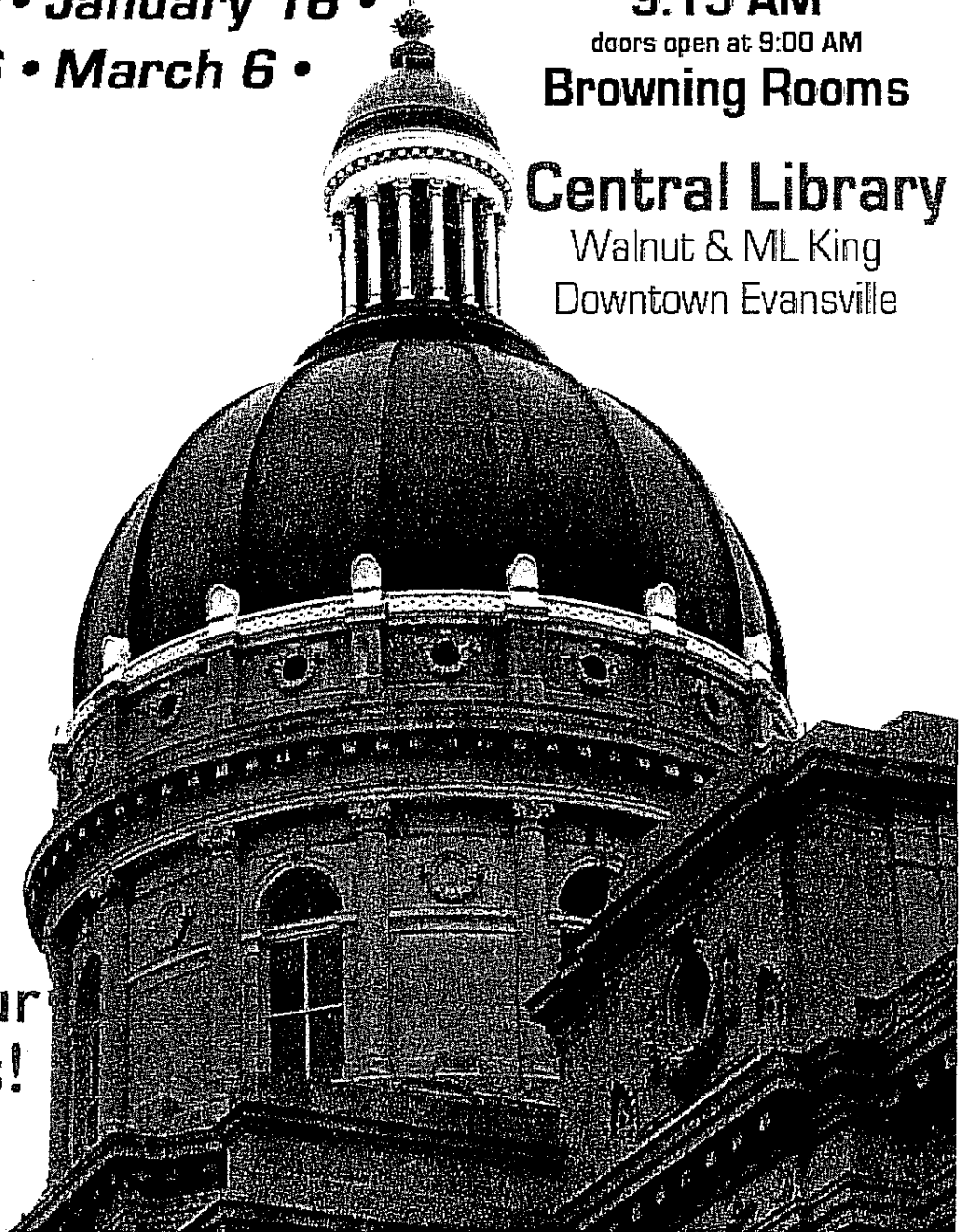
Meet *your* **Legislators**

• *November 21 • January 16 •*
• *February 6 • March 6 •*

9:15 AM
doors open at 9:00 AM
Browsing Rooms

Central Library
Walnut & ML King
Downtown Evansville

4 chances to
influence your
state officials!



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!

2009-10 HEATING ADVICE TO STAY SAFE AND SNUG AND SAVE MONEY

It's great to be warm and cozy indoors when the cold winds blow outdoors.

But there's a price to pay. We pay for costly fuel to heat our homes. 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.

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 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 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-efficient improvements. CAPE also can help with heating bills. CAPE has income limits. Phone 425-4241.

Handyman Program will change furnace filters, install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, provide fire extinguishers, make some windows and doors weathertight, repair storm doors and outer doors and pump out flooded basements. Handyman serves homeowners who are 60 or older or who are disabled. 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.

You've earned it.



Why not keep it?

Have your taxes prepared FREE!

WALK-IN SITES

WorkOne

Opens Tuesday, January 26th and every Tuesday thereafter, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
700 E. Walnut Street
Evansville, IN 47713

YMCA

Opens Wednesday, January 27th and every Wednesday thereafter, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
222 N.W. 6th Street
Evansville, IN 47708

YMCA Caldwell Community Outreach Center Vectren Live Smart

Opens Thursday, January 28th and every Thursday thereafter, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
1930 S. Garvin Street
Evansville, IN 47713

SITES BY APPOINTMENT

Legal Aid Society

Opens Monday, January 25 and every Monday thereafter, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Call 435-5173 to schedule an appointment.
1 N.W. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Room 105
Evansville, IN 47708

NOTE: A family of three or more could earn up to \$5,000 through the Earned Income Tax Credit.

If you are unsure if you qualify, or for a list of what to bring for tax return preparation, dial 2-1-1 or 812-421-2800.

United Way
of Southwestern Indiana



Announcements

- **Recycle Day**— Saturday, December 5th, 8 a.m.—12 p.m. at the old Wal-Mart West. For more information, call the Solid Waste District at 436-7800.
- **Traveling City Hall Program**—Wednesday, December 9th from 5:30—7:30 p.m. at Hebron Elementary School, 4400 Bellemeade Avenue.
- **West Sector Citizens Meeting**—Thursday, December 17th, 6:00 p.m. located at 401 E. Columbia Street. For more information, call West Sector at 435-6135.
- **UNOE Board Retreat**—Saturday, January 9th from 9 a.m.—2 p.m. in the 3rd floor conference room of the Hulman Building.
- **UNOE Finance Committee Meeting** - Tuesday, January 12th, 9:30am at the UNOE office.
- **South Sector Citizens Meeting**— Thursday, January 14th at 6:30 p.m. located at 315 Taylor Avenue. For more information, call South Sector at 435-6037.
- **East Sector Citizens Meeting**—Tuesday, January 19th at 6:00pm located at 4900 Shamrock Drive, Suite 105. For more information, call East Sector at 485-3055.
- **UNOE Board Meeting**—Wednesday January 20th, 4:00pm at the UNOE office.
- **West Sector Citizens Meeting**—Thursday, January 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, January 28th from 6:30—8:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the Red Cross Center on Stockwell Road.

Zoning Issues For Neighborhoods

During the month of November, the Wheeler Drive Neighborhood was involved in a re-zoning of the Historic District. With the guidance of Fred Padget and Westside Improvement, and with the help of our attorneys, Tim Dodd and Fred Folz, we were able to get 7 no votes before Area Plan. Our neighborhood will go before the City Council and we are hopeful that we will get a favorable vote for no spot zoning in the Historic District.

We were successful, because a neighborhood supported another neighborhood. Thanks to Fred Padget.

~Charleen Williamson, Wheeler Neighborhood

UNOE Neighborhood Associations Services Coordinator Position Available

UNOE is currently seeking out applications for our Neighborhood Services Coordinator position. This position is 10 hours per week, \$10 per hour. Job Description for example includes: working directly with the neighborhoods and attending neighborhood meetings, grant writing, assisting with reporting to the city, writing for the Neighbor to Neighbor Newsletter, and representing UNOE when directed by the UNOE President or Board of Directors to public officials in the city and/or county offices/departments.

If you or someone you know is interested, please call the UNOE office for more details and to pick up an application or visit our website at www.unoevansville.org for a complete job description and application.

Food for THOUGHT for the Holidays



An apology is the superglue of life.
It can repair just about anything.

We've been all the way to the moon and back but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor.

We don't know who we are until we see what we can do.

Forget past mistakes. Forget failures. Forget everything except what you are going to do now, and do it.

Stop spending your energy wishing for a better yesterday.

How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?

Scratch a dog and you'll find a permanent job.

I've reached the age where the "Happy Hour" is a nap.

The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.

Happy and Glorious Holiday Season to You all!

~Paul

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.?

Bank on Evansville, A Money Saving Idea – All are Welcome



Bank on Evansville is a program aimed at helping families save money and better manage their personal finances. The concept is based upon national research on the high cost of living for lower income individuals. Part of that picture is financial services, because if you don't have a checking account and the only option to get your own money, the money that you have earned, for you to be able to use it, you have to take that paper check somewhere and convert it to dollars so that you can use to pay your bills.

Part of the goal of Bank on Evansville is to offer checking accounts that are affordable. We made sure that that any type of fees that are going to be involved are cheaper and more affordable for people than going and using alternative financial services.

These second chance accounts most importantly give that second chance That is why the tag line is "Everyone is Welcome". Bank on Evansville want to give an account to people who have had a bad experience in the past but feel they are ready to take on the responsibility. It can make your life easier, it can make your financial life more affordable. You must take responsibility for living within your means and balancing your account. When you are outside the financial mainstream you have no ability to build a credit rating or have an affordable car loan or home loan. You have got to build that track record. **Over 600 successful new accounts have been opened within the first few months of Bank on Evansville.**

If you have anyone in your family or neighborhood that you know that can use a second chance to save money and become financially responsible, please do them a big favor and tell them about Bank on Evansville. More details can be had by calling 211 to get the full story and learn how to become involved in making a brighter financial future.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

January 28, 2010

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

Red Cross Building—29 S. Stockwell Road

Program: Election of Officers & other portion of program TBA

