

*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,

This month I would like for us all to focus on the upcoming 2010 United States Census. It is truly in our hands! The United States Census counts every resident in our country and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years.

"The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of 10 years, in such manner as they shall by Law direct."

– Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution of the United States.

By our active participation in the 2010 Census, we will ensure that our community receives its fair share of the more than \$400 billion in federal funds that are tied to the data collected within our city. These funds are put toward things like Hospitals, Job Training Centers, Schools, Senior Centers, Public Works Projects, and Emergency Services. Additionally, the 2010 Census information will help to determine our representations in the US House and is used in the drawing of state, local, district and precinct maps. All of the items mentioned above are tied to you and your neighborhood's active participation within the 2010 Census.

In March of this year, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico. When you receive yours, just answer the 10 short questions and then mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a census taker, who will ask you the questions on the form. The majority of us will receive English-only materials; however, Spanish-speaking residents may receive a bilingual form. Finally, any personal data that you provide is protected under federal law.

For additional information, please contact the UNOE office or visit the United States Census 2010 website at www.2010census.gov. I ask that we all do our part to help to get the word out about the Census to our neighbors who reside in our neighborhoods. If you would like someone to speak to your association or are in need of information or materials to share with your members, please visit the website listed above or contact the UNOE office for assistance. There will be other events upcoming leading up to National Census Day on April 1st, 2010. We will keep you updated on all 2010 Census related events both in this newsletter and via our website at www.unoevansville.org.

Chris Cooke, President
United Neighborhoods of Evansville

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

LOOK INSIDE FOR...

- ~ From the President
- ~ Land Use Planning, Part X
- ~ 2010 UNOE Meeting Schedule
- ~ Jazzing Up Your Neighborhood
- ~ Announcements
- ~ KEB News
- ~ Traveling City Hall Program
- ~ 2009 Neighborhood Sparkplugs
- ~ Did U.N.O.E?

Upcoming Dates.....

- February 6th— Recycle Day**
- February 6th— Meet Your Legislators**
- February 17th—UNOE Board Mtg.**
- February 18th—West Sector Mtg.**
- February 25th—UNOE General Membership Mtg.**

Land Use Planning, Part X

By Fred Padget

Previously in Part IX, we looked at how the Comprehensive Plan is supported by our educational and cultural environment and some of those facilities. Today we'll continue that effort by briefly looking at some environmental quality aspects as well as parks and recreational opportunities.

The Comp Plan's general goal regarding environmental quality is to provide a quality environment which is ecologically sound, healthful, safe, and aesthetically pleasing with the objective to preserve natural physical features and open space in both urban and rural areas which are important for maintaining environmental quality. Air quality is a major environmental concern with much of the responsibility to regulate and monitor it resting with the Evansville Environmental Protection Agency (EEPA). The EEPA not only regulates air quality for the City of Evansville but also 4 miles beyond the city's corporate limits but not outside of Vanderburgh County. More can be learned about the EEPA from their web site at www.evansvillegov.org/Index.aspx?page=52 and you can sign up for daily air quality forecasts and alerts.

The Comp Plan also spends considerable time discussing water quality, specifically surface and ground water as well as wetlands. Vanderburgh County has significant surface water with the Ohio River, Pigeon Creek and watershed tributaries as well as lakes and wetlands. Surface and ground water pollution is quite well understood but not controlled nearly enough by the general public even though many groups and much effort go into protecting water quality. Wetlands provide many benefits such as habitat for a wide variety of plant, animal, bird and aquatic life. They help to improve water quality, store floodwaters, help with erosion control and provide many outdoor recreational opportunities. Unfortunately Indiana has lost much of its wetland acreage during the past 100 years. In fact, over the last 100 years Indiana has lost 85% of its wetlands and ranks 4th among the 50 states in proportion of wetland acreage lost. Of course some of that was with good reason but only in recent years have we started to understand the real importance of wetlands.

One area of the environment we seldom think about is light pollution. The Comp Plan addresses this subject saying that light pollution is becoming an increasing source of conflict between neighbors and businesses, and urban and rural residents. The Plan goes on to state that the first principle of good exterior lighting is to illuminate only what is desired to be seen and that light pollution must be addressed and a strategy to promote sensible outdoor lighting is needed.

Another area of great benefit to the area and included in the Comp Plan is parks and recreation. One of the objectives of the Plan in this regard is to provide sufficient open space and natural areas to meet present and future needs of City and County residents and locate these resources to serve the populated areas. The National Recreation and Parks Association standard recommends that 25 acres of parks/open space be provided per 1,000 people. Based on the U.S. Census Bureau 2008 estimate of population for Vanderburgh County, we are nearly 600 acres short of meeting that standard. We have a ways to go in that regard.

Currently Burdette Park is the major county park while the City of Evansville Parks Department coordinates and oversees the operation of 65 parks and 21 special facilities encompassing more than 2,300 acres of land. Additionally, we have several state facilities nearby including Harmonie State Park, Hovey Lake and Blue Grass State Fish and Wildlife Areas as well as Audubon State Park. Closer by we have, of course, the Mesker Zoo, Wesselman Woods and the Clem Frank Nature Preserve.

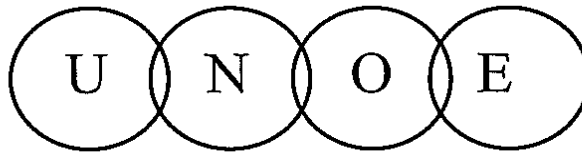
The Clem Frank Nature Preserve is a great study in what a neighborhood association can do. Under the leadership of President Sam Wentzel, the Western Terrace Neighborhood Association with some donated land and assistance from the Four Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Area created a land trust to preserve this 3 acre nature area. Shirley James and the WIA also assisted in making this happen. It was a significant achievement.

One goal of the Comp Plan is to consolidate the city's park resources and connect them together with a highly visible and accessible web of open space corridors sustaining the image of a "City Within a Park". Of course the Pigeon Creek Greenway is an effort in that direction as is the newly created Evansville-Area Trails Coalition. A couple of other policies of interest are to make greenway and park connections by including them in plats for new development and develop incentives or other mechanisms that would encourage easements for trails and greenways, where appropriate, to be granted in new developments.

This series of articles can't possibly cover everything in the Comp Plan but maybe can wet your appetite for more. If so, the complete version of the Comprehensive Plan can be viewed at www.evansvilleapc.com and at most local libraries. Next month we'll look at some additional attributes for good planning contained in the Comp Plan. And, you can view all parts of this series of articles at www.westsideimprovement.org/landuse.htm and my previous series on our Zoning Ordinances at www.westsideimprovement.org/zoning_101.htm. If you have any comments or questions, please contact me at fcpadget@aol.com or 428-2529.

United Neighborhoods of Evansville, Inc.

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



United Neighborhoods of Evansville 2010 General Membership Meeting Schedule

General Membership Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of the month for the months of January through October. The meetings are held at the Red Cross Center, 29 South Stockwell Road, from 6:30-8:30 pm.

January 28 th	February 25 th	March 25 th
April 22 nd	May 27 th	June 24 th
July 22 nd	August 26 th	September 23 rd
October 22 nd – Sparkplug Banquet (No Meeting at Red Cross)	November – No meeting	December – No meeting

*These dates are subject to change; please call the UNOE office for meeting verification.


United Neighborhoods of Evansville 2010 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are held at 4:00 pm at the United Neighborhoods of Evansville office on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.

January 20 th	February 17 th	March 17 th
April 21 st	May 19 th	June 16 th
July 21 st	August 18 th	September 15 th
October 20 th	November 17 th	December 15 th

*These dates are subject to change; please call the UNOE office for meeting verification.

Jazzing Up Your Neighborhoods



1) The process can be more important than the end product. Sometimes a "bottom up" planning approach that empowers study area stakeholders to help plan their future, open up a dialogue among competing interests, and achieve a consensus can be more valuable than the substance of a planning document.

2) Hold meetings where people will go. Successful revitalization benefits from broad public support. Many neighborhood stakeholders will not attend meetings in governmental buildings, but are comfortable in community centers, churches and similar venues.

3) Give proposed new places a name. Rather than using generic terms such as "park," "plaza," or "amphitheatre," naming such places after local historic figures or other locally significant symbols will give inanimate objects a soul that allows them to take on a life of their own and become a reality.

4) Tell an interesting story: "edutainment." The public's attention and interest cannot be captured in today's high-tech world of video games and special effects by using traditional historic markers. Interpretation must be more than simply educational; it must also be entertaining.

5) A picture is worth a thousand words. In order to vigorously support physical planning concepts related to revitalization, many people must be able to "see" the goal they are striving toward. Most people lack the ability to vividly envision a revitalized neighborhood district, so visual aids are critical to painting a picture of success.

6) An effective congressman is worth more than any pretty picture. Neighborhood commercial district revitalization often requires the injection of public funds in order to attract and leverage private sector dollars. There are many governmental funding sources available for revitalization. Although securing them can be a competitive venture, supportive elected officials can heighten the odds of success.

7) Turn your critics into allies. Winning

over every adversary encountered in neighborhood revitalization is unrealistic, but a pointed effort should be made to convert as many detractors as possible into supporters.

8) Employ good urban design - commercial streetscapes. Preserve worthy historic buildings, develop compatible new buildings, locate parking lots behind buildings, and design attractive and functional streetscapes.

9) Employ good urban design - residential infill. Design buildings that are sympathetic to the neighborhood's historic fabric with respect to heights, setbacks, roof forms, facade openings, porches, materials, and similar considerations.

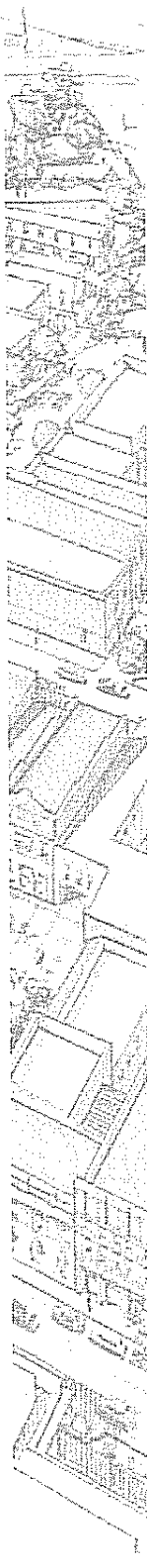
10) Create destinations and attractions that draw people. Good urban design is important, but new sidewalks will not attract consumers to commercial districts. Market analysis should be followed by vigorous business retention, expansion and recruitment efforts.

11) Focus initially on a small geographic area with high odds of success, and let market forces take over from there. In both commercial and residential districts, avoid random and dispersed investments. Instead, focus on smaller targeted areas to insure measurable returns.

12) Implementation: start off with the "low hanging fruit." Strategies such as code revisions and volunteer clean-up programs can have big impacts with only limited expenditures.

13) Appeal to multiple market segments, but particularly the local market. Businesses that focus on tourists typically attract only tourists. On the other hand, tourists will usually learn of businesses that please locals, such as a good restaurant.

14) When it comes to tourism, remain faithful to authenticity. In a world of chains, franchises, and generic development, there is strong market demand for places, products and experiences that are genuine and reflect the unique identity of their context.



Announcements

- **Recycle Day**— Saturday, February 6th from 8 a.m.—12 p.m. at the old Wal-Mart West. For more information, call the Solid Waste District at 436-7800.
- **Meet Your Legislators**— Saturday, February 6th, 9:15am in the Browning rooms, Central Library in downtown Evansville
- **UNOE Board Meeting**—Wednesday, February 17th at 4:00pm in the 3rd floor conference room of the Hulman Building.
- **Traveling City Hall Program**—Thursday, February 18th, 5:30-7:30pm, at Kissel Center, 413 Eighth Street
- **West Sector Citizens Meeting**—Thursday, February 18th, 6:00 pm located at 401 E. Columbia Street. For more information, call West Sector at 435-6135.
- **UNOE General Membership Meeting**—Thursday, February 25th from 6:30—8:00 pm. The meeting will be at the Red Cross Center on Stockwell Road.
- **Recycle Day**—Saturday, March 6th at old Wal-Mart West. More information at SWD at 436-7800.
- **Meet Your Legislators**—Saturday, March 6th at 9:15am in the Browning rooms, Central Library in downtown Evansville.
- **UNOE Finance Committee Meeting**—Tuesday, March 9th, 9:30 am at the UNOE office.
- **UNOE Board Meeting**—Wednesday, March 17th at 4:00pm in the 3rd floor conference room of the Hulman Building.
- **UNOE General Membership Meeting**—Thursday, March 25th from 6:30—8:00 pm. The meeting will be at the Red Cross Center on Stockwell Road.

Keep Evansville Beautiful News

Keep Evansville Beautiful still has dozens of GOOD NEWS postcards, postage-paid. These are sponsored by Steve Hahn of State Farm Insurance.

If you want to spread some compliments to neighbors with tidy lawns, great holiday décor or who do good things for the neighborhood, stop by KEB office, 223 Main Street, and pick up a bundle of postcards.

It is always the right time to say something nice!

TRAVELING CITY HALL PROGRAM

Thursday, February 18th, 2010
Kissel Center
413 Eighth Street
5:30—7:30 pm

The Traveling City Hall Programs give the public the chance to ask questions and voice concerns, one-on-one outside the normal business hours, of the Mayor and City Department heads.



2009
"Neighborhood
Sparkplugs
of the year"



Rosie Rexing from Business 41 Neighborhood Association was recognized as the Sparkplug from their neighborhood. Rosie is our secretary and treasurer. She prepares our report for each meeting and does a great job. Rosie has been a member over 8 years. She and her family run a business on Fares Avenue, Tri-State Bearing. It is a nice well-kept business and an asset to our area. Thank you Rosie!

~ Greg, Stillwell, Business 41 Neighborhood

Larry & Ada Piper from CHAIN Neighborhood Association were recognized as Sparkplugs from their neighborhood. They have been a important part of our neighborhood for many years. They are members of Asbury Methodist Church where we hold our meetings. They are an essential part of the food pantry, King's Clothing Closet, and Super Saturday events where dinner is served to neighborhood residents. They are the first to sign up for our other activities also. We are glad to call them ours!

~ Linda Jones, CHAIN Neighborhood

Neighbor to Neighbor
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Did U.N.O.E.?

The Red Cross is offering a class in

PET FIRST AID

Saturday, February 6th, 9:00am—2:00pm

Red Cross Center, 29 S. Stockwell Road

Cost is \$35.00 which includes training book and DVD.

Registration is due February 5th. Call 471-7200,
ask for Mandy to register or with any questions.

Another class will be offered May 8th if you cannot attend this one.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

February 25th, 2010

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

Red Cross Building—29 S. Stockwell Road

Program: Shawn Dickerson, City Arborist

