



Whether appropriate or not, I'm sitting here writing this article on April Fool's Day and with my good friend, the Google Search Engine, I wanted to know more about the day's history. One bit of information, true or not, that I found was that the earliest recorded association between April 1 and foolishness can be found in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales written in 1392. I remember from high school that was a reading assignment but to this day I've not finished it. Another thought is that it began around 1582 in France with the reform of the calendar under Charles IX when the Gregorian Calendar was introduced, and New Year's Day was moved from March 25 - April 1 (New Year's week) to January 1. When this happened there were some who refused to acknowledge the change and continued to celebrate on the last day of the former celebration, April 1. These individuals were labeled "fools" by the general public, were subject to ridicule and sent on "fool errands." They were sent invitations to nonexistent parties and had other practical jokes played upon them. Let your imagination run with that thought.

A couple of famous, or infamous, pranks pulled on the public over the years include the spaghetti caper. The BBC in 1957 announced that because of a very mild winter and the virtual elimination of the dreaded spaghetti weevil, Swiss farmers were enjoying a bumper spaghetti crop. It accompanied this announcement with footage of Swiss peasants pulling strands of spaghetti down from trees. Huge numbers of viewers were taken in and the BBC received many calls wanting to know how they could grow their own spa-

ghetti tree. The BBC diplomatically replied, "place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best." I don't know if that would work with sauce from the tomatoes Bill Jeffers has taught us to grow in his recent articles but maybe.

Another quite famous prank took in much of Philadelphia and the country when in 1996 Taco Bell announced it had bought the Liberty Bell and was renaming it the Taco Liberty Bell. Hundreds of outraged citizens called the National Historic Park in Philadelphia where the bell was housed to express their anger. A few hours later Taco Bell revealed that it was all a practical joke. But it did cause a reaction from the White House press secretary who responded to a question concerning the Taco Bell purchase by saying the Lincoln Memorial had also been sold and would now be known as the Ford Lincoln Mercury Memorial.

On a more serious note, I'd like to sincerely thank the Westside Optimist Club for their hospitality and invitation to speak with them recently about the Westside Improvement Association, our mission and community involvement. I enjoyed the time with the group, hopefully helped to inform

From the President *by Fred Padget*



Fred

them of our many activities and provided satisfactory answers to their many questions. We had much discussion about land use and some of the recent rezoning requests, the University Parkway extension, the overpass near USI and other mutual interests and concerns. It was a "feel good" day for me and hopefully a good day for the Optimists. You can access my presentation on our web site, www.westsideimprovement.org and clicking on news.

On a similar note, I've been asked to speak with the local AARP organization this week and am looking forward to it.

And I'd like to thank Sara Anne Corrigan for presenting a History of Westside Taverns at our recent General Membership meeting. You can read more about that later in this newsletter and access the presentation on our web site.

Spring is here and litter is in bloom. It seems like it's everywhere. An area that always catches my attention is the north east corner of Red Bank and Pennington at the end of Hathaway and northward on Red Bank. It is just plain shameful. And it's an area where we've had several complaints from drivers because of vegetation blocking the driver's view especially for those wanting to turn left onto Hathaway

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Fred Padget on Land Use Planning, Part XXIV

Today we'll continue to look at complete streets and more specifically what a complete street might look like and some of the physical aspects of complete streets.

As we've said before, complete streets are designed and operated for the safe use of every one of all ages and abilities including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transportation users. Complete streets make it easy to cross the street, walk to shops, and bicycle to work. They allow buses to run on time and make it safe for people to walk to and from destinations if they wish. A sidewalk without curb ramps or poorly maintained is useless to someone using a wheelchair. Streets with poorly placed public transportation stops or without safe crossings are dangerous for riders. A fast-moving road with no safe space for cyclists will discourage those who wish to use bicycles for transportation. Older adults and children face particular challenges as they are more likely to be seriously injured or killed along a roadway. Automobiles are an important part of complete streets as well, as any change made to better accommodate other modes will also have an effect on personal vehicles. Likewise a road with heavy freight traffic must be planned with those vehicles in mind. In some cases the installation of curb bulb-outs and other design concepts can help to improve traffic flow and the driving experience.



There is no single design prescription for complete streets; each one is unique and responds to the specific community's needs, resources and desires. A complete street may include: sidewalks, bike lanes (or wide paved shoulders), special bus lanes, comfortable and accessible public transportation stops, frequent and safe crossing opportunities, raised crosswalks, median islands, accessible pedestrian signals, audible pedestrian signals, sidewalk bulb-outs, curb extensions, narrower travel lanes, roundabouts, and more. A complete street in a rural area will look quite different from a complete street in a highly urban area, but both are designed to balance safety and convenience for everyone using the road.



Much of the material for this article came from the National Complete Streets Coalition with their permission and can be viewed in its entirety at www.completestreets.org. Pictures are from their Facebook page or Flickr.

If you have comments, we'll include them in upcoming articles if you would like and if you have any questions feel free to contact me at fcpadget@aol.com or 428-2529 anytime. This series of articles as well as previous land use articles dealing with a variety of issues can be found on our web site at www.westsideimprovement.org.



Visual Samples Of Complete Streets



Home grown

Still time to start tomato seeds indoors

By Bill Jeffers

By now you should have nice little tomato starts, if you have been following our tomato growing articles. If not, there is still time to start some tomato seeds, and the time is right now.

For those who have your sprouts up and under lights, keep the lighting strong and constant with the florescent tubes as close as possible to the top of the seedlings without actually touching the leaves. Your lighting should remain on at least 16 hours a day with a brief dark period no longer than eight hours per 24-hour cycle. I leave my lights on 24 hours at a time when I cannot cycle in a dark down time for one reason or another. But most experts recommend a short “nighttime” rest for young seedlings.

It is very important to keep the peat moss grow mix damp but not overly wet. Think of the potting mix as a sponge. When you press your finger onto the potting mix, you want to feel the dampness, but not squishy or sappy wet. And you certainly do not want a puddle of water left in your fingerprint. In fact, if the potting mix dries out a bit at the surface, that is much better than if you see algae or mildew blooming.

Always water your seedling trays from the bottom. When you see the surface of the peat moss darken, it is wet enough, and you can pour off any excess water remaining in the tray. Too much water will only drown the roots and cause damping off or rotting.

The little seed petals that first emerge on the sprout are called cotyledons, and look like small, narrow willow leaves. These cotyledons are the sprout’s initial source of nutrients, and the seedlings do not need additional fertilizer until the cotyledons begin to yellow, wither, and fall off. Too much fertilizer early on will only encourage rampant growth and leggy transplants. When the cotyledons begin to yellow, that is your cue to add a very small amount of water soluble plant food to your watering can. However, at the seedling stage, use only one teaspoon of blue crystals to each gallon of water. That dosage is about 25% of the strength recommended on the package, so I am saying be very careful not to over fertilize young plants regardless of what the package advises. And only apply this weak dose of fertilizer maybe once or twice before the plants go into the garden.



Bill Jeffers

Too much fertilizer will damage the young plants. The only reason to apply more fertilizer before transplanting your seedlings is if due to weather or other problems, you have to hold the transplants so long that they begin to show yellowing foliage (chlorosis) which signals a need for nitrogen or other nutrients.

At some point near the middle or end of April, your seedlings probably need to be potted up to larger containers. The small seed starting cells are sufficient for seedlings up to maybe five or six inches tall. After that, you need to pot up to 3-inch or 4-inch transplant pots. Sixteen ounce plastic drink cups with holes punched in the bottom also are great holding containers. When you pot up, you are going to need to rethink your holding arrangement and your lighting set-up. Again, the clear plastic totes from Dollar General or Walmart work just fine for me, and hold about 24 drink cups filled with potting mix. And the shop lights just rest right atop the tubs spanning two totes lined up end to end.

When the weather is warm and sunny you can begin taking your seedlings outdoors for fresh air and natural light. But you must be very vigilant at first to keep the tender young seedlings in a sheltered environment, in the shade, and away from harsh, dry, hot winds. If you see whitish, tan, or crispy blotches on your seedling leaves, you have exposed them to too much sun or wind too soon. Ease into the outdoor exposure. Put the plants in a sheltered, shaded spot for a few hours each day for two or three days. Then slowly increase the time they spend in dappled sunlight, until after a week or so of tender care, you can expose them to partly cloudy conditions for a few hours each day. This process is called hardening off, and is essential to prepare your seedlings for transplant into the garden.

In summary, keep the lights close to the tops of the plants, water only sufficiently to keep the potting mix damp but mellow and breathing, fertilize only when the leaves show a need due to yellowing, hold your plants indoors until the weather and garden soil is warm. Before transplanting, spend a week or so slowly hardening off the seedlings to acclimate them to outdoor conditions.



WIA members, guests reminisce about West Side landmark taverns

Westside Improvement members celebrated St. Patrick's Day at the Old Mill Restaurant. Sara Anne Corrigan gave an appropriate St. Patrick's presentation, *History of Westside Taverns*. Sara spoke to a packed house, which enjoyed the food, drink, and the rustic atmosphere of the venue.

The group enjoyed reminiscing about the fried chicken dinners at the Dogtown Tavern and other establishments of today and yesterday.

Several members had humorous stories, which have been passed down through the years, about patrons of our area's popular eating and drinking spots.

WIA board member Jane Buthod presents certificate of appreciation to Sara Anne Corrigan who spoke at our general meeting.

From the President . . . continued from page 1

from northbound Red Bank especially during summer and fall.

Keep Evansville Beautiful, who by my count just celebrated their 39th birthday, identifies the seven sources of litter and recommends solutions.

Litter is Generated by Seven Sources:

- **Pedestrians**, please find a receptacle today.
- **Motorists**, you can insert a small trash bag (it doesn't take up that much space) in your vehicle to prevent throwing litter onto highways and streets.
- **Households**, overloaded and/or uncovered containers and loose materials placed beside the containers can create litter throughout entire neighborhoods.
- **Commercial**, businesses should periodically check to see if trashcans and dump-

sters are overflowing and make sure secure lids are intact.

- **Construction Sites**, in some communities, as many as three out of four construction projects were producers of litter in the form of residue and personal worker discard.

- **Uncovered Vehicles**, please cover your vehicles when hauling because a fifth of litter along roadsides is generated from uncovered trucks and trailers.

- **Loading/Unloading Operations**, these areas, such as commercial dumpsters and loading docks, mainly concern waste-hauling professionals when emptying.

If all of us would follow these relatively simple suggestions, our city, county and region would benefit tremendously. Only we can make it happen.

And as always, be involved.

Rummage Sale Planned

The Hilltop Neighborhood Association will hold its annual rummage sale Saturday, June 11, in the parking lot at Pine Haven Rehab, starting at 7 a.m. Spaces are available for rent (for \$10). For more details or to reserve your space call Brenda at 401-4992 or Betty at

Meet Your Legislators

The last in the current series of Meet Your Legislators meeting will be held Saturday, April 16, in the Browning Rooms at the Central Library downtown. Everyone is invited.

CALENDAR FOR 2011

Sat., Apr. 9, Recycle Day. Old Wal-Mart West. 8 AM - Noon (Detailed information at <http://vanderburghgov.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=6687>)

Sat., Apr 16, Meet Your Legislators. Central Library-Browning Rooms. 9:15 AM

Wed. Apr. 27 WIA Board Meeting, 4 PM, Red Bank Branch Library

Thu., Apr. 28, UNOE General Membership Mtg. American Red Cross Center. 6:30 PM

Sat., May 7, Recycle Day. Old Wal-Mart West. 8 AM - Noon (Detailed information at <http://vanderburghgov.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=6687>)

Sat., May 14, Electronics Recycle Day. Civic Center Parking Lot. 8 AM - Noon (Detailed information at <http://vanderburghgov.org/Index.aspx?page=469>)

Thu. May 19 General Meeting

Sat., May 21, Fifth Annual Wurst Bike Ride, 9:30 a.m. Burdette Park.

Thu., May. 26, UNOE General Membership Mtg. American Red Cross Center. 6:30 PM

Sat., Jun 4, Recycle Day. Old Wal-Mart West. 8 AM - Noon (Detailed information at <http://vanderburghgov.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=6687>)

Wed. Jun 22 WIA Board Meeting, 4 PM, Red Bank Branch Library

Thu., Jun. 23, UNOE General Membership Mtg. American Red Cross Center. 6:30 PM

Sat., Jul 9, Recycle Day. Old Wal-Mart West. 8 AM - Noon (Detailed information at <http://vanderburghgov.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=6687>)

Wed. July 27 WIA Board Meeting, 4 PM, Red Bank Branch Library

Thu., Jul. 28, UNOE General Membership Mtg. American Red Cross Center. 6:30 PM

Sat., Aug 6, Recycle Day. Old Wal-Mart West. 8 AM - Noon (Detailed information at <http://vanderburghgov.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=6687>)

Wed., Aug 24 WIA Board Meeting, 4 PM, Red Bank Branch Library

Thu., Aug. 25, UNOE General Membership Mtg. American Red Cross Center. 6:30 PM

Sat. Sept 17, **General Membership Picnic.** Burdette Park Shelter No. 13, Noon.

Sat., Oct. 27, UNOE Sparkplug Banquet. Aztar Executive Conference Room 6 PM. Call UNOE at 428-4243 for reservations.

Fri., Nov. 16, **Annual Banquet Meeting.**

If you are aware of events of interest to WIA Members, please let us know and we'll add them to the calendar. Another reference of events can be found at the WIA Web Site: www.westsideimprovement.org. Westside Improvement Association practices an "Open Door Policy." Guests are always welcome.

Announcements Welcome

West Side neighborhood associations and others are invited to submit announcements of general interest for publication in this our Pointing Westward newsletter.

Items may be emailed to Mel Runge at mmrunge@wowway.com or to Fred Padget at fcpadget@aol.com. Suitable items will be included as space is available.

No West Side rezonings

The Land Use Update by Fred Padget that regularly appears in our newsletter has been omitted this month because no zoning petitions are scheduled to be considered this month by city and county governing bodies.

Join us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Westside-Improvement-Association/141710375839566> or go to our web site at <http://westsideimprovement.org> and click on the Facebook link in the contacts and links page.

I WANT TO HELP WIA

- General** - Apply my donation where it's most needed.
- Adopt-A-Spot** - Apply my donation toward flowers, plants, and mulch.
- Fall Festival Booth** - Apply my donation to help maintain our booth.
- Memorial for Shirley James** - Apply my donation to this project.
- Scholarship** - Apply my donation to the scholarship fund.

Please send your donation to:

P.O. Box 6172, West Wabash Station, Evansville, IN 47719-0172

Your contributions are tax-deductible

Membership Application

Individual—\$10/year	Full-time Student—\$5/year	Corporate/Organization—\$25/year
Household—\$15/year	Century—\$100/year	

Your yearly dues includes all issues of our newsletter and a voice in what happens to the West Side. Mail checks to: Westside Improvement Association Inc., P.O. Box 6172, W. Wabash Station, Evansville, IN 47719-0172

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Exerting influence upon public and private sectors to accomplish those objectives which will enhance the natural environment of the west side of Vanderburgh County and serve the common good of the residents.

Westside Improvement Association officers

President	Fred Padget	428-2529 or fcpadget@aol.com
Sr. Vice President	Brenda Jeffers	402-5084 or bjjeffers@vanderburghsurveyor.com
Jr. Vice President	Carolyn Stagg	491-3627 or catsaald@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Paul Farmer	963-5153 or wileyfox603@gmail.com
Secretary	Linda Cleek	422-4288 or elcee@insightbb.com
Membership secretary	Dot Berning	424-8307

Standing Committee Chairs

Adopt-A-Spot	Dot Berning	424-8307
Environment	Dave Rockwood	Daverockwood@yahoo.com
Fall Festival	DeAnna Outlaw	589-1657 or dpoutlaw@aol.com
Land-Use	Mike Lockard	401-5249 or mlockard@wowway.com
Transportation	Bill Harty	424-1501 or wfharty@wowway.com
Membership	Scott Anderson	scott@boehncamp.com
Newsletter	Mel Runge	425-4633 or mrunge@wowway.com

At-large Board of Directors

Jayne Buthod	Joyce Moers
Don Day	Ava Nix
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