

Westside Improvement Association Inc.

"Pointing Westward"



Outlaw
Westside
Litter

Volume 17 - Issue 1

www.westsideimprovement.org

January, 2012

From the President by Fred Padget

I'm writing this as the old year ends and a new year begins. I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas or Happy Holiday and that you have a successful, satisfying New Year.

Before getting into the New Year, I'd like to close out the old with a few thoughts. Although our annual banquet/meeting held at the Old Mill Restaurant was well attended, very successful and mostly old news by now, I do want to again acknowledge our award winners. Karan Barnhill, the storm water coordinator-inspector for Evansville, was presented the Westside Improvement Association's Outstanding Public Service Award by Bill Jeffers. Karan has teamed up with us and the county surveyor's office for several years in the community's a National Night Out Celebration and the Earth

Day celebration at the Mesker Park Zoo as well as serving the community in a very professional manner. Karan is well deserving of this award.

Our Good Neighbor Award was presented to three individuals from the Evansville Fire Department Hose House 5 for their invaluable help with our Adopt-A-Spot at West Maryland and St. Joe. The awardees were Mark Goebel, Tom Harvey and Jim Morrow. They did a lot of the "heavy" work in preparing and maintaining our Adopt-A-Spot. The award was well-deserved and presented by Dot Berning.

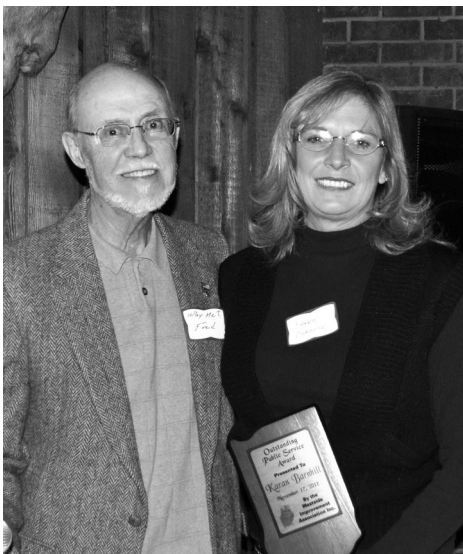


Fred

The Outstanding Service Award for outstanding service to the WIA was presented to our past-president and food booth chair, DeAnna Outlaw. DeAnna was our president for four years and continues to be chair of our food booth for more years than she may want to remember. As you know, our food booth operation at the West Side Nut Club Fall Festival is, by far, our largest fund-raiser each year and without it we could not do the many things we do. DeAnna has put many years of hard work into the success of the WIA and I was very pleased to present the well-deserved award.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Roberta Heiman, president of the

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Across the pictures from left, Fred Padget, Karan Barnhill, Dot Berning, Roberta Heiman and DeAnna Outlaw



Award Winner Update

by Fred Padget

Over the years the WIA has awarded many individuals for their outstanding contributions to the community and I'd like to give you an update about one of our award winners albeit a dog.

In 2009, I was privileged to present EVIE SUE with the WIA "Pick of the Litter" award for her litter prevention practices and educational programs. As many of you know, the story began with a children's book titled "Retrieving with EVIE" written by Susan Harp and illustrated by Jon Siau with EVIE as an acronym for **Every Volunteer Is Essential**. Shortly after the book was published EVIE, a golden lab, adopted her human parents Susan and Steve Harp, and it's been a wild ride for the Harps ever since.

EVIE is a mascot of Keep Evansville Beautiful where "the EVIE anti-litter education program focuses on education of our most impressionable citizens by encouraging them to assume responsibility for their environment".

There is a recent article in The American Dog magazine telling of EVIE's many recent accomplishments including visiting with 15,000 children in our local and surrounding communities.

EVIE's Litter Prevention Program has won first place twice from Keep America Beautiful while her web game created by our local public TV station, WNIN, won first place at the Keep America Beautiful National Conference in Orlando, FL.

As reported in the American Dog Magazine, Keep Sevier Beautiful, located in the heart of the Tennessee Smokey Mountains, has recently shared EVIE's book with 65 classrooms in its community this past summer, leaving an autographed book in each room. EVIE was also the featured "star" at Dollywood Theme Park and Dollywood Splash Country this past July at the Kidsfest Eco Awareness Event. She has been honored by USA Today as one of the five dogs nominated for the Hero of the Year in 2010. EVIE has also been honored by the Red Cross as a hero and recognized by the Indiana governor and by state legislators for her efforts. She has received other local awards and national recognition. EVIE also has some authority being sworn in as an Honorary Vanderburgh County Deputy Sheriff.

EVIE recently learned that most community fire departments don't have oxygen masks specifically for animals and is working to raise funds to purchase pet oxygen masks for all area stations. Each kit is about \$75. You can make a donation at any Fifth-Third Bank. Just mention EVIE's pet oxygen mask program or Susan Harp.



You can pick up a copy of the American Dog Magazine winter addition at most book stores, I got mine at Barnes and Noble.

You can also access the article by going on the computer to www.theamericandogmag.com, click on past issues, scroll down and click on winter 2011 digital edition, click on "to read" and go to page 52.

EVIE is very active on Facebook. You can become her friend at www.facebook.com/EvieSue. And you can learn much about Keep Evansville Beautiful at www.keepevansvillebeautiful.org.

EVIE is working hard to change how a culture views litter and is truly a valuable community asset.

Land use update *by Fred Padget*

Since we did not have a December newsletter as is our practice, we do want to bring you up to date starting with some November items within our area.

The November Area Plan Commission agenda had one rezoning request within our area. This was a request to rezone a 1.5 acre portion of a five-acre residential site at 13900 Saint Joseph Ave. from Agricultural to Commercial C-4 with a use and development commitment.

This property is on the west side of St. Joseph Avenue at the intersection with Steinkuhl Road and within the town of Darmstadt. As expressed by the petitioner's attorney, this is not a new use but is to bring the business operating there for 35 years into compliance with the Zoning Code. It is a small construction business with two employees. The two employees are a carpenter and a carpenter's helper who work solely on site for their construction projects and not at this facility. They do store some equipment there including two dump trucks, a backhoe, a backhoe trailer and sometimes a grade-all. The petitioner talked with all the neighbors and adjoining property owners and received no objections. The petitioner also talked with the Town Board of Darmstadt since it would have final approval and no objections were stated. As I understand the Town of Darmstadt did subsequently approve this petition. It was also stated in testimony that since the three family members operated the business

from their home they would also need a home occupation approval.

I wish the zoning and U&DC had been set up to run with the owner and revert back to the original zoning if the property was sold but was unable to attend that meeting to express my thoughts. Overall, it's not a bad outcome since it had been in existence for 35 years.

The November Board of Zoning Appeals' agenda included a large number of requests due to the October meeting being cancelled. In fact there were six Requests for Variance and one Special Use request within our boundaries.

Three of the variance requests were to allow accessory structures larger than the residence for construction of pole barns. They were for properties at 8202 Upper Mount Vernon Rd., 2115 Selzer Rd. and 3337 Orchard Rd. All were approved.

Also heard was a request from Home Depot on Pearl Drive to relax the number of permitted signs from two to four and from 300 square feet to 457 square feet. Part of this is to get signage around the Garden Center into compliance and to improve the image. Overall it should be better than it currently is and the request was approved.

Relaxation of the minimum side yard setbacks at 3407 Marion Ave. was approved after much discussion and finally relaxation

of the requirement for a six-foot fence around a swimming pool at 4901 Orchard Rd. was also approved after some discussion. This latter approval was interesting because of the layout of the pool, the proximity to the house and the natural terrain.

The one Special Use within our area involved the recently converted Banterra Bank at North St. Joe and Delaware Street. It was a request for an electronic message board which was approved.

Just an interesting side note, the minutes for this meeting took 47 pages.

The December APC agenda contained no items within our area, however, the December BZA did contain a variance request for relaxation of the number of required on-site parking spaces from 63 to 40 for construction of a new 12,480-square-foot Dollar General store. After some discussion about possible effects on surrounding businesses and limiting parking to only Dollar General customers, it was approved. The January APC agenda contains no items within our boundaries and the BZA agenda is not available at the time of this writing.

We will continue to keep you advised of land use issues throughout the New Year. Best wishes for a great New Year for all of our readers.

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Evansville-area Trails Coalition. Roberta told us about the Trails Coalition and presented the initial public viewing of Blazing Trails, a video describing the beautiful trails of Evansville, Vanderburgh County and surrounding areas. It is an awesome video and you can see it at www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZE8G79gyA0 or go to youtube.com and search for Evansville-area Trails Coalition. It will be time well spent.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention a great piece in a recent Evansville Courier-Press West Side edition (Friday, Nov. 25) put together by Roberto Campos. It was a four-page spread in addition to the cover page titled "Making a Difference". It featured our Adopt-A-Spot along with some of our other accomplishments. Thanks to Roberto and the Courier.

I could continue with our many accomplishments from last year but they've been reported and are available in the newsletter section of our web site. The New Year will bring many challenges and opportunities to the Westside Improvement Association and I'd like to focus on our future.

We'll continue with our scholarship program awarded each year to a senior from Reitz High School and a senior from Mater Dei High School. As you may recall, our board recently approved increasing the amount of each scholarship to \$1500. We'll also continue our support for the Burdette Summer Day Camp. Recently we've sponsored five

youths to be able to attend the camp. Our Adopt-A-Spot will continue to receive attention with some great plans for the future as finances and other things fall into place. And we'll continue to strive for the betterment of the entire community and especially the west side of Evansville and Vanderburgh County.

In that regard, our recent planning sessions identified several areas where we could (should) be involved including helping to improve West Side parks, sidewalk issues, University Parkway land use, improving housing conditions and increasing membership along with other issues.

Since then one of our members along with some United Neighborhood representatives met with the Evansville Parks director and had some suggestions that we might be able to implement at our West Side parks. We'll follow-up on that at our January board meeting.

A project I and others are very excited about is the progress being made on the WIA's tribute to Shirley James which has been in the works for quite some time. We've told you about the site on the Burdette Park/USI Pathway we've chosen for the memorial and presented a conceptual view of what the memorial area would look like at our annual meeting. Charlie Stocker, one of our members, put together the plan for plantings around the monument. Although the cost amounts are not finalized, the value of the plantings and labor will be about \$5000 of which about \$800 will be donated by Charlie. The board

approved \$4500 with knowledge we may ask for an additional \$3000 for signage to tell Shirley's history. Burdette is contributing the location and two benches where visitors can sit, contemplate and enjoy the scenery. All of this is being coordinated with USI. Currently we have past donations of about \$1600 specified for the Shirley James Memorial. If you would like to contribute to the memory of our founder and very special West Side advocate, it's not too late to do so. Checks can be made payable to the Westside Improvement Association, Inc., indicating it's for the Shirley James Memorial and mailed to our treasurer, Matt Hanka, at our address in this newsletter or mail to me. Since we are a 501-C-3 contributions can be deductible.

Speaking of Burdette Park, it is receiving 50 trees as is USI for mitigation of some recent work done on the levy. Some of these may be planted on or near the memorial as well as along the pathway and other parts of the park and USI property. By the way, Burdette is looking for summer employees especially life-guards, EMT's and day camp counselors. If you or anyone you know might be interested contact Burdette Park at 435-5602.

We have a lot of exciting projects on the table for this year. Together we can make things happen for the betterment of the West Side.

Until next time as always, be involved.

Welcome to a night with Evansville IceMen at Ford Center

How about a night with the United Neighborhoods Of Evansville watching the Evansville IceMen and the Fort Wayne Komets play some hockey at the new Ford Center?

This is a special event organized by the United Neighborhoods of Evansville for all member neighborhoods to attend and will be held Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 7:15 p.m.

You don't need to be a neighborhood association member to attend, so invite some friends or

neighbors and join us for a great night out.

We'll be sitting near court, hear the Coach's Chalk Talk, maybe get some high fives from the IceMen but mainly have an exciting Fan Experience supporting one of our local teams and get to see the new Ford Center if you haven't already.

The IceMen's record at the time of this writing is 15 wins and 7 losses while the Komets are 18 and 7.

Tickets are \$10. Reservations need to be made prior to Thursday, Jan. 26. You can make reservations by e-mailing adeak@evansvilleicemen.com or by sending a check, money order or credit card information to the Evansville IceMen, 530 Main St., Evansville, IN., 47708, or call the UNOE office at 428-4243 and make your reservations through the office staff.

They'll be glad to help you.

Hope to see you at the game. Go IceMen.

Dues Reminder

Annual Dues are due on March 1

The Westside Improvement Association, Inc., is a nonprofit organization [501 (c) (3)] which exists solely to act for the betterment of the west side of Vanderburgh County which includes this newsletter, scholarship programs, sponsorship of kids for the Burdette Summer Day Camp, Adopt-A-Spot, advocacy in land use issues, social functions and special awards.

Full-Time Student - \$5/year
Individual - \$10/year
Household - \$15/year

Corporate/Organization - \$25/year
Century - \$100/year

Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Home Address: _____ Business Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Membership Type: _____

Send to: WIA, P.O. Box 6172, West Wabash Station, Evansville, IN 47719-0172

CALENDAR 2012

Sat. Jan. 14	Meet Your Legislators. Central Library-Browning Rooms. 9:30 a.m..
Wed. Jan. 25	WIA Board Mtg. <i>Location to be determined.</i> 4 p.m.
Wed. Jan. 25	Reservations are due for the UNOE sponsored Night with the Icemen hockey game. Call UNOE at 428-4243 for reservations at \$10 each.
Thu. Jan. 26	UNOE General Membership Mtg. C.K. Newsome Center. 6:30 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 4	Recycle Day. Old Wal-Mart West. 8 a.m.- Noon
Sat. Feb. 4	Meet Your Legislators. Central Library-Browning Rooms. 9:30 a.m.
Thu. Feb. 23	UNOE General Membership Mtg. C.K. Newsome Center. 6:30 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 25	Meet Your Legislators. Central Library-Browning Rooms. 9:30 a.m.
Tue. Feb. 28	VC Soil & Water Conservation District annual meeting. 4-H Center Dining Hall. 6 p.m. For more information or tickets call (812) 897-2840 Ext 6 or e-mail bonnie.bittner@in.nacdn.net
Wed. Feb.8	UNOE and the Icemen at the Ford Center. 7:15 p.m. Reservations needed by Jan. 25. Call UNOE at 428-4243.
Sat. Mar. 10	Recycle Day. Old Wal-Mart West. 8 a.m. - Noon
Thu. Mar. 22	UNOE General Membership Mtg. C.K. Newsome Center. 6:30 p.m.
Sat. Apr. 14	Recycle Day. Old Wal-Mart West. 8 a.m.- Noon
Sat. Apr. 21	Tire Recycling. Civic Center Parking Lot. 8 a.m. - Noon
Sun. Apr. 22	Earth Day
Thu. Apr. 26	UNOE General Membership Mtg. C.K. Newsome Center. 6:30 p.m.
Sat. May 5	Recycle Day. Old Wal-Mart West. 8 a.m.- Noon
Sat. May 12	Electronics Recycle Day. Civic Center Parking Lot. 8 a.m.- Noon
Sat. May 19	WURST Bicycle Ride. Burdette Park. 9:30 a.m. Free Lunch
Thu. May 24	UNOE General Membership Mtg. C.K. Newsome Center. 6:30 p.m.
Sat. Jun. 2	Recycle Day. Old Wal-Mart West. 8 a.m.- Noon
Sat. Jun. 2	National Trails Day
Thu. Jun. 28	UNOE General Membership Mtg. C.K. Newsome Center. 6:30 p.m.
Sat. Jul. 7	Recycle Day. Old Wal-Mart West. 8 a.m.- Noon
Thu. Jul. 26	UNOE General Membership Mtg. C.K. Newsome Center. 6:30 p.m.
Tue. Aug. 7	National Night Out at Akin. Garvin and Lorraine Parks
Sat. Aug 11	Recycle Day. Old Wal-Mart West. 8 a.m.- Noon
Thu. Aug. 23	UNOE General Membership Mtg. C.K. Newsome Center. 6:30 p.m.
Sat. Sep. 8	Tox Away Day. Location to be determined. 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Sat. Sep. 8	Recycle Day. Old Wal-Mart West. 8 a.m.- Noon
Thu. Sep. 27	UNOE General Membership Mtg. C.K. Newsome Center. 6:30 p.m.
Sat. Sep. 29	Electronics Recycle Day. Civic Center Parking Lot. 8 a.m.- Noon.
Mon. Oct. 1	West Side Nut Club Fall Festival begins and continues through Sat. Oct. 8.
Sat. Oct. 6	Recycle Day. Old Wal-Mart West. 8 a.m.- Noon
Sat. Oct. 20	Tire Recycling. Civic Center Parking Lot. 8 a.m. -Noon
Sat. Nov 3	Recycle Day. Old Wal-Mart West. 8 a.m. - Noon
Sat. Dec. 8	Recycle Day. Old Wal-Mart West. 8 a.m. - Noon

If you are aware of events of interest to WIA members, please let us know. 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 at our meetings.



Join us on Facebook

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

Announcements Welcome

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

Items may be emailed to Mel Runge at mmrunge@wowway.com or to Fred Padget at fcpadget@aol.com.

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

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 Westside. Mail checks to: Westside Improvement Association Inc., P.O. Box 6172, W. Wabash Station, Evansville, IN 47719-0172

Name:	Occupation:
Home Address:	Business Address:
City/State/Zip:	City/State/Zip:
Home Phone:	Business Phone:
E-mail:	Membership Category:

Westside Improvement Association Inc.

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**Return Service
Requested**

To enhance the natural environment of the west side of Vanderburgh County and serve the common good of its residents by exerting influence on public and private sectors

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	Matt Hanka	mjhanka@usi.edu
Secretary	Linda Cleek	422-4288 or elcee@insightbb.com
Membership secretary	Scott Anderson	867-2104 or scott@boehncamp.com

Standing Committee Chairs

Adopt-A-Spot	Dot Berning	424-8307 dot.berning@yahoo.com
Environment	Bill Jeffers	435-5117 or cell 568-0757
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	Amy Musia
Don Day	Ava Nix
John Dillingham	Phillip Outlaw
Paul Farmer	David Robinson
Blake Foerster	Marty Runge
Wayne Gerteisen	Linda Singer
Gene Hollencamp	Chuck Weisling
Bonnie Kolb	Sam Wentzel
Joyce Moers	