

Carolyn Stagg, junior vice president and Scholarship Committee chairperson, presents this year's scholarships to Michelle Kimmell of Reitz and Matthew Beach of Mater Dei.

Scholarship winners recognized

By Brenda Jeffers

The May general meeting at Burdette Park was a celebration for the 2011 scholarship recipients. Each student received a \$1000. Michelle Kimmell, Reitz High School, received the Farmer Family award and Matthew Beach, Mater Dei High School, received the Paul Harper award. Both recipients exhibited academic accomplishments and extensive experience in community service here and abroad.



Brenda

Following the awards, the Shirley James Memorial was discussed. The site will be at Burdette Park displaying a monument of Shirley's dedication to a people-friendly environment. Some type of seating arrangement for guests visiting the memorial was also discussed.

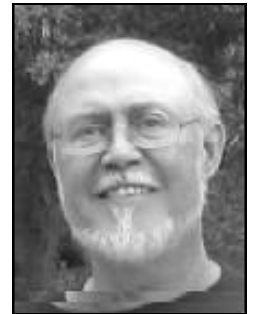
Carolyn Stagg announced that United Neighborhoods of Evansville will help neighborhoods interested in organizing their own neighborhood associations.

Dot Berning announced that 15 arborvitae and three Autumn Blaze trees were planted at our Adopt-A-Spot at St. Joe and Maryland streets.

The meeting concluded with Jayne Buthod, chairman of the Disaster Preparedness Committee for UNOE, discussing disaster response on a personal level.

From the President

by Fred Padget



Fred

I was gratified to learn of Westside Improvement's founder and long time President, Shirley James, being included in the recent YWCA of Evansville's "100 Years, 100 Women" list. I'm sure you were also. The YWCA created this list to honor women who made significant community contributions over the past century. As quoted in the Courier-Press "Working with Westwood Garden Club and Operation City Beautiful, she (Shirley) organized the Westside Improvement Association in 1976, which today remains a powerful advocacy group for wise development." You can see more about Shirley and all the honorees at <http://www.courierpress.com/photos/galleries/2011/may/26/ywcas-100-women-evansville/20074/>. (As a side note I make reference to a lot of web site links. Some are lengthy and a pain to input. An easier way is to go to our web site, access the newsletter article you are viewing and just click on the link. This may be helpful especially if you want to view several referenced links.)

As Charleen Williamson, President-Elect of United Neighborhoods of Evansville, reported recently, two other neighborhood leaders are on the "100 Women" list. They are Lucy Williams, President of the Greenwood Neighborhood Association and Donna Leader of the Timber Park Neighborhood Association.

(Continued on page 4 . . .)

Fred Padget on Land Use Planning, Part XXVI

Last month we looked at the Complete Streets Policy Analysis 2010 as well as the increasing number of states, regional and local jurisdictions adopting such policies. Today we have breaking news.

Since our last writing Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui representing California's Fifth District which is centered in the metropolitan Sacramento area introduced House bill H.R. 1780, "The Safe and Complete Streets Act." She said, "I have used Sacramento's Blueprint plan as a model as I advocate for a Federal Complete Streets plan that would ensure our roadways are designed with all users in mind – including bicyclists and pedestrians, children, seniors and the disabled." The bill would require state and metropolitan planning agencies to implement a complete streets initiative and to develop projects accordingly. The bill was co-sponsored by Congressman Steven C. LaTourette who represents Northeast Ohio's 14th District.

And in the Senate, Sen. Tom Harkin introduced Senate bill 1056, "The Complete Streets Act of 2011." In his press release he noted that a study, *Dangerous by Design*, released by Transportation for America shows that designing streets with pedestrians in mind reduces pedestrian risk, often through low cost methods. The study shows that the elderly and children are most at risk and finds that 67 percent of all pedestrian fatalities in the last 10 years took place on federal-aid roads. The Senate bill is currently cosponsored by Senators Thomas Carper, Frank Lautenberg, Mark Begich, Patrick Leahy, Carl Levin, Sheldon

Whitehouse, Bernard Sanders, Al Franken, Jeff Merkley, Amy Klobuchar and Benjamin Cardin. Harkin introduced similar legislation in 2009 and 2007.

Like the House version, the Senate bill would require states and metropolitan planning organizations to craft and adhere to complete streets policies. It goes further than the House bill, however, in that it also requires agencies to consider cyclists, pedestrians, and transit when building roads with federal funds. Both bills have been weakened from a previous incarnation in that they no longer carry penalties for non-compliance.

Currently, 25 states and more than 200 local jurisdictions have adopted Complete Streets policies. Every state except Maine, Nevada, Alaska and South Dakota has at least one city or town that has enacted a Complete Streets policy, according to the National Complete Streets Coalition.

The *Dangerous by Design* study found that in the last decade more than 47,700 pedestrians were killed in the United States, the equivalent of a jumbo jet full of passengers crashing roughly every month. Additionally, more than 688,000 pedestrians were injured over the decade, a number equivalent to a pedestrian being struck by a car or truck every seven minutes. The study also shows that from 2000 to 2009, the number of motorists and their passengers who have died in traffic crashes dropped a remarkable 27 percent while pedestrian fatalities have fallen at only half the rate of motorists, dropping by just over 14

percent. In many places, including 15 of the country's largest metro areas, pedestrian fatalities have actually increased, even as overall traffic deaths fell. While it's gratifying to see a significant reduction in traffic deaths, it appears pedestrians are not looked at with the same emphasis. And the costs are staggering. Although I've not been able to verify the numbers, the National Safety Council estimates the comprehensive cost including both economic costs and diminished quality of life for each traffic death at \$4.3 million, up from \$3.1 million in 2000. Multiplying those figures by the 47,740 pedestrians killed nationwide from 2000 to 2009 this equates to a cost of \$180 billion.

In my March 2011 article I indicated how home values, the local economy and other economic factors benefit by walkable communities. The *Dangerous by Design* study indicates that houses with above average walkability command a premium of about \$4000 to \$34,000 over houses with just average levels of walkability. Similarly, an analysis of office, retail, apartment and industrial properties found higher values for properties in more walkable areas. Walkable communities not only improve safety and encourage physical activity helping to improve our health but also help restore local tax bases and boost local economies.

We'll watch with great interest both bills dealing with complete streets and, hopefully, report a successful outcome.

(Continued on page 3 . . .)

Land use update by Fred Padget

Again there were no rezoning requests within our area for May and the June APC meeting is cancelled because no rezoning petitions were filed. The Board of Zoning appeals heard two requests for Zoning Variances and one Special Use request at its May meeting that did involve our area.

The first was a request by Forest Hills Wesleyan Church on Claremont Avenue for relaxation of the required front, rear and side yard setbacks as well as relaxation of the maximum lot coverage from 40% to 82% for construction of a new church. This church was severely damaged by a fire in December and subsequently razed. In 1984, the church had constructed a fellowship hall and paved parking lot to the south across Claremont Avenue while the rest of the surrounding properties are a mix of light retail and residential.

There was some discussion about parking requirements and availability since this new, larger church would require more parking facilities. Lin-Gas, a business adjacent to the church property, had for years allowed church parking on its lot and would continue to do so if not during its normal business hours which helped to resolve the parking issue. One nearby neighbor did have a concern about the possibility of the church using a lot bordering his property for parking. The representative for the church said it would con-

tinue to only be used for a children's playground.

The Special Use request involved the Forest Hills Wesleyan Church and came about at the request of the Area Plan staff to provide more flexibility in possible future use of the site. The Special Use 2 classification allows "Churches and church-operated incidental/accessory facilities (on same site), including Sunday schools, child care, preschools, adult day care, offices, soup kitchens, shelters, and similar uses" which was not included in the previous zoning.

Both the Zoning Variance and Special Use request were approved. And as you may remember, the BZA has final approval over both Zoning Variances and Special Uses.

The second Zoning Variance request was at 5800 Middle Mt. Vernon Road for relaxation of the front yard setback to accommodate an existing pole barn "as built," meaning after the fact. Although the owner had a permit issued in 2000 for construction of the building, he did not have approval for building within the required 25-foot setback.

This request took an interesting twist before being ruled on.

During questioning by the board, it was stated the pole barn was being used to house trucks used in the own-

ers business and later in the testimony that maintenance was also being performed on these trucks at that location. It was quickly pointed out that the property was zoned Agricultural, not approved for Commercial operation and that the owner was also in violation of the zoning code in that respect. After much discussion, it was suggested and more or less agreed that the owner would try finding another place to perform the maintenance or come back to the Area Plan Commission with a request to appropriately rezone within 30 days. With the surrounding area being zoned Agricultural and used for only residential and agriculture, approval of a Commercial zoning would probably be unlikely. But back to the original variance request to allow the pole barn "as built" within the setback area. It was approved.

Last month we reported on the proposed Overlay Zoning taking place in the Evansville Arts District and particularly around Haynie's Corner which the APC heard in April and recommended approval. The City Council approved the Overlay Zoning request last month.

We will keep you updated on these and other events as they occur. Agendas and minutes for both the APC and BZA including Staff Reports and other information can be viewed at www.evansvilleapc.com.

Planning . . . (Continued from page 2)

Much of the material for this article came from the National Complete Streets Coalition with its permission and can be viewed in its entirety at

www.completestreets.org. The Complete Streets Policy Analysis 2010 can be viewed at www.completestreets.org/webdocs/resources/cs-policyanalysis.pdf.

You can read the entire House bill at <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h112-1780> and the Senate version at <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/>

billtext.xpd?bill=s112-1056. The study Dangerous by Design can be found at <http://t4america.org/docs/dbd2011/Dangerous-by-Design-2011.pdf>.

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.

From . . . (Continued from page 1)

While we are speaking of Shirley, the committee to plan our memorial to her has been active. A site has been determined on the Burdette/USI pathway which will be a conversation and garden area with some benches, some history of Shirley and other amenities. We are trying to get a conceptual drawing to let you know more specifically what it will look like. In the meantime, I'd like your help. In the history of Shirley we want to include several comments that most represent her. In that regard, I'd appreciate you letting me know the key things about Shirley in your opinion. We'll pick the

most representative and include them in the memorial.

Congratulations to our recent scholarship winners. Michelle Kimmell, a F. J. Reitz High School student, won the Farmer Family Scholarship and Matthew Beach, a Mater Dei High School student, won the Paul Harper Scholarship. Both are excellent students and we wish them great success with their education and a successful future. Our scholarship committee chaired by Carolyn Stagg and members Marty Runge and Linda Singer deserve much credit for their work and excellent choices. As a point of interest the Paul Harper Scholarship was first awarded in 1993

and the Farmer Family Scholarship award began in 1998.

We thank Jayne Buthod for her excellent presentation at our recent General Membership meeting for timely presentation of "Disaster Response on a Personal Level-Are You Ready?" And we thank Brenda Jeffers for putting all the pieces of our General Meeting together.

And, make it a point to visit our Adopt-A-Spot at Maryland and St. Joe. It's looking good thanks to our Adopt-A-Spot chair, Dot Berning, and her "gang" of hard workers.

CALENDAR FOR 2011

Wed., Jun 22	WIA Board Meeting, 4 PM, Location to be announced
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.
Thu., Oct. 27	UNOE Sparkplug Banquet. Aztar Executive Conference Room 6 PM. Call UNOE at 428-4243 for reservations.
Fri., Nov. 18	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.

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. For more details call Brenda at 401-4992 or Betty at 424-8042

Announcements Welcome

West Side 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 mrunge@wowway.com or to Fred Padget at fcpadget@aol.com. Suitable items will be included as space is available.

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.

Welcome new members

Al Lindsey
Tucker Publishing Co.

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		
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
John Dillingham	Phillip Outlaw
Blake Foerster	David Robinson
Wayne Gerteisen	Marty Runge
Matt Hanka	Linda Singer
Gene Hollencamp	Sam Wentzel
Bill Jeffers	
Bonnie Kolb	