

Westside Improvement Association Inc.

"Pointing Westward"



Outlaw
Westside
Litter

Volume 16 - Issue 5

www.westsideimprovement.org

May, 2011

I'm a Yogi Berra fan and especially his Yogi-isms. He once said "It ain't over till it's over." Looking at the weather maps "It ain't over yet." Hopefully by the time you read this we'll be having some sunny rain-free days. Through all of this bad weather we hope you stayed safe and dry. Our thoughts and prayers go to those not that lucky.

One of my goals this year was to increase WIA's visibility. Last month I mentioned making a presentation to the Westside Optimists. Today I want to sincerely thank Westside AARP members for their hospitality and invitation to speak with them recently about land use – zoning and rezoning. I was a little apprehensive about the subject since I've often put people to sleep talking about land use and zoning issues. But the group of about 50 was attentive and after the presentation many good questions and much discussion took place lasting longer than the presentation. It was a lively group. I've had some favorable feedback and thoroughly enjoyed being with them. You can access my presentation on our web

site, www.westsideimprovement.org and clicking on news.

If you would like a speaker for a group please let me know and we'll make arrangements to provide one.

I'd also like to thank the many WIA members who spent considerable time and effort planting evergreens and sprucing up the gardens at our Adopt-A-Spot at West Maryland and St. Joe. A special thanks to the firemen from Station 5 who worked very hard along with us and added greatly to the project. And much credit to our Adopt-A-Spot Chair, Dot Berning, for her leadership of the project.



Fred

From the President *by Fred Padgett*

WIA also jointly observed and co-sponsored an Earth Day event at Mesker Zoo recently with the Evansville Engineering Department's Storm Water Coordinator, Karan Barnhill; County Surveyor Bill Jeffers, and Brenda Jeffers. Many youngsters enjoyed making their own rain sticks and enjoyed hearing the "rain." It was a great day. You can learn more about rain sticks at www.ehow.com/about_5367730_history-rain-stick.html.

An upcoming event to note is the 2nd Annual Walk and Roll Week organized by the Evansville-area Trails Coalition (ETC) and co-sponsored by many local businesses and organizations. It will take place from May 15-21. A schedule of events is at www.walkandrollweek.com. You can

(Continued on page 3...)

General Membership Meeting

See page 4
For details

Fred Padget on Land Use Planning, Part XXV

Today we'll continue to look at Complete Streets, what some states are doing, Indiana's plan and some of our local trails.

Let's first look at Indiana's plan. During 2006 the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Indiana Department of Transportation and the Trails Plan Steering Committee put together a \$200 million plan called "Hoosiers On The Move." Its goal is to provide an easily accessible trail within 15 minutes or 7.5 miles of all Indiana residents by 2016. The plan is very detailed. By 2010, 350 miles have been added to the Indiana trails network for a total of 2,348 miles of off-road trails. It would be interesting to know how many miles of roadway have been marked for bikers and other accommodations made for walkers, joggers and those with disabilities. I was unable to find that information but would be interested if anyone knows of a source. You can view the entire "Hoosiers On The Move" plan at www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/files/trailsplan2006.pdf.

The Complete Streets Policy Analysis 2010 reports the number of new Complete Streets policies has nearly doubled in each of the last three years. Twenty-three states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia and more than 200 regional and local jurisdictions now have Complete Streets policies. To date, 47 states have at least one Complete Streets policy. Suburban communities of fewer than 30,000 make up the largest percentage of those having policies when looked at by size.

The report also lists 10 elements of ideal Complete Streets policies:

- Includes a vision for how and why the community

wants to complete its streets.

- Specifies that 'all users' includes pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit passengers of all ages and abilities, as well as trucks, buses and automobiles.
- Encourages street connectivity and aims to create a comprehensive, integrated, connected network for all modes.
- Is understood by all agencies to cover all roads.
- Applies to both new and retrofit projects, including design, planning, maintenance, and operations, for the entire right of way.
- Makes any exceptions specific and sets a clear procedure that requires high-level approval.
- Directs the use of the latest and best design criteria and guidelines while recognizing the need for flexibility in balancing user needs.
- Directs that complete streets solutions will complement the context of the community.
- Establishes performance standards with measurable outcomes.
- Includes specific next steps for implementation of the policy.

It also lists states and cities with the best policies including New Jersey; Louisiana, Lee County, FL; Tacoma, WA; the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and the Bloomington/Monroe County, IN, Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The Bloomington/Monroe County policy's opening statement is "This

Complete Streets Policy is written to empower and direct citizens, elected officials, government agencies, planners, engineers, and architects to use an interdisciplinary approach to incorporate the needs of all users into the design and construction of roadway projects funded through Bloomington and Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization." That is good philosophy and you can read it all at www.bloomington.in.gov/media/media/application/pdf/4425.pdf.

As I mentioned previously, Mayor Weinzapfel has given approval for a Complete Streets Policy and our Metropolitan Planning Organization keeps that philosophy in mind in the planning process. I'd like us to go that next important step and adopt a Complete Streets policy for both Evansville and Vanderburgh County.

I want to again mention a great source of information concerning local walking, running and hiking trails. That is a booklet "Evansville in Motion" available at the Vanderburgh County Health Department or you can access it at www.evansvillegov.org/Index.aspx?page=1594.

Material for this article came from the National Complete Streets Coalition with 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. If you have comments, we'll include them in upcoming articles and if you have any questions feel free to contact me at fcpadget@aol.com or 428-2529.

Land use update *by Fred Padget*

We didn't publish a report last month primarily because very little rezoning or requests for zoning variances were happening within our boundaries. There has not been a request to rezone within our boundaries since January and there are none planned for the May APC meeting. Two requests for zoning variances were heard at the April BZA meeting.

The first was to reduce the required rear-yard setback from 25 feet to 10 feet for construction of a barn at 6611 New Harmony Road. This would be on a 2.5 acre agriculturally-zoned lot that has been established for farm use with pasture and a cattle barn. The second was at 10303 Middle Mt. Vernon Road to allow an accessory structure larger than the residence for construction of a pole barn. This is a three-acre lot. The building would be used to store vehicles, ATV's, trailers and tools. No other storage structure exists. Both were approved. The agenda for the May BZA meeting is not yet available.

Although not in the Westside Improvement area, we have been follow-

ing with great interest the Overlay Zoning proposal and related subjects taking place in the Evansville Arts District. In our October 2010 newsletter we reported at length about the project including designation of the redevelopment area, creation of a Tax Increment Financing district and design guidelines for a zoning overlay district. The first two elements of the plan were previously approved and the APC heard the overlay zoning proposal at the April meeting.

Although the redevelopment and TIF area was quite extensive, the overlay zoning area is much smaller consisting of only a few blocks around Haynie's Corner. This proposed zoning code change is to encourage investment, support the arts, promote interest in and create revitalization of that area. The overlay zone would allow for a residential live/work area, a residential transition area and a commercial core area. The proposed commercial core is mostly zoned for commercial already. One of the major changes is the live/work area where six commercial art associated businesses would be allowed in occupied

homes. The second major change is the residential transition area. Here 19 commercial uses in addition to those allowed in the residential live/work area would be allowed with some restrictions. Additionally, there are requirements concerning parking, signage, placement of public art as well as current building, safety and other standards. This proposed amended ordinance will be heard by the City Council at its May 9 meeting.

WIA's interest in this proposed overlay zoning ordinance is simply because it's a new concept for this area. We may see more of this type of zoning if this project is successful. All of the lengthy proposed ordinance is available at www.evansvilleapc.com/textdoc/artoverlay.PDF including a map of the area.

We will keep you updated on these and other events. Agendas and minutes for the APC and BZA including Staff Reports can be viewed at www.evansvilleapc.com along with the zoning codes and other information.

From the President . . . *(Continued from page 1)*

also learn more about ETC at www.evansville-areatrailscoalition.org.

And Burdette Park is getting ready for one of its "wurst" events ever. The annual "Wurst Ride" bicycle ride will be held Saturday, May 21. It starts at 9:30 a.m. at the Burdette Park Campground next to the BMX track. It has been voted "Wurst Ride" in Indiana four years straight. Steve Craig and his staff at Burdette will again provide a free lunch of bratwurst and hot dogs. In fact, everything is FREE! This ride is fit for cyclists of all ages and abilities so bring your entire family and invite your friends and neighbors. Ride lengths range from 6 miles to 33 miles. The Fifth Wurst Bike Ride is an official event of the Evansville-area Trails Coalition's 2011 Walk 'n Roll Week. More information is at www.gerwc.com/races/5thWurstflyer.pdf.

Continuation of the City/County Reorganization process includes a series of joint workshops between County Commissioners and City Council members beginning Thursday, May 5, with additional meetings each Thursday through June 9. The workshops will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Room 301 of the Civic Center. State law requires both bodies approve identical bills for the proposal to go to public referendum. This is an effort to iron out differences between the groups and, hopefully, respond to citizen concerns. The plan is to allow public comment at the end of each workshop. And, whether you're pro, con or undecided on the issue, I'd encourage you to attend the meetings since this is a very major decision for both the city and county.

Until next month, as always, be involved.

**WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEETING
Thursday, May 19**

**WHERE: Shelter House #13
Burdette Park**

REFRESHMENTS AT 6:00 P.M.

BUSINESS MEETING 6:30-7:00 P.M.

PRESENTATION OF

Paul Harper Scholarship – Mater Dei High School
Farmer Family Scholarship – F. J. Reitz High School

PROGRAM BEGINS AT 7 P.M.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Jane Buthod

*Disaster Response on a Personal Level
Are You Ready?*

Emergencies, natural disasters, and life's assorted disruptions can throw daily lives into chaos if not prepared. How to make a plan, get ready, and survive a disaster is the purpose of learning about disaster response on a personal level.

The speaker, Chairman of the Disaster Preparedness Committee for United Neighborhoods of Evansville, will discuss what supplies one needs, the skills to acquire, and the safety of loved ones. No matter what role a person leads, everyone needs to be ready for the unexpected.

Learn how to get ready on a budget, manage in a tight space, and start right now. Join us for this important and timely conversation.



Phase I completed at our Adopt-A-Spot "Park"

By Dot Berning

Seeing the new plantings at our WIA Adopt-A-Spot, its hard to imagine what it took to accomplish the end result.

A total of 10 board-member volunteers, four trucks and two tillers were used. Two firemen watching the activity volunteered to do the tilling . . . much to the relief of all present. Work included planting 15 evergreens (emerald green arborvitae) along the fence bordering the firehouse. Tilling the grassy area and getting the bed ready for plantings took quite an effort.

Work that day included reworking the gardens in front of the stone gates. In both areas, the ground was tilled and compost with cow manure was worked in.

All perennials in the gardens were lifted and held until the



areas were reading for replanting. The replanting allowed space for a red knock-out rose bush to be added to each bed. By the time you read this we hope to have the roses planted. With the evergreens and perennials planted, a good blanket of mulch was added.

Dot

During the following week, three Autumn Blaze maple trees were added to the "park." These additions conclude our Phase I. WIA is now working on Phase II beginning with getting electric power reinstalled for the area.

As with all of us, activity in the garden was delayed by all the wet weather. But we look forward to rest of this Spring.



CALENDAR FOR 2011

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, 6 p.m. Thursday, Burdette Park, Shelter House 13
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. 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.

Welcome New members

Mike & Melissa Short
Shaun Short
Stuart & Dawn Mosby
Joyce Waters
Mt. Auburn Neighborhood Association
Vanderburgh County Surveyor's Office

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.

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 424-8042

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