

# Westside Improvement Association Inc.

## "Pointing Westward"



**Outlaw  
Westside  
Litter**

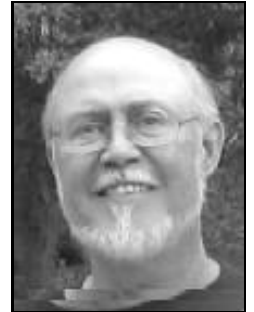
Volume 16 - Issue 9

[www.westsideimprovement.org](http://www.westsideimprovement.org)

September, 2011

## From the President

*by Fred Padget*



**Fred**

Last month I mentioned it was hot and dry. As I write this it's still hot and dry but by the time you read this it will be mild with some rain, hopefully. With all the extreme weather across the country this year, we've been quite fortunate all things considered. And we keep our fingers crossed for good weather for the upcoming Fall Festival.

You'll read more about the WIA's participation in the Fall Festival later but let me make my pitch for help with our food booth. We do have many who have volunteered to help us and we very much appreciate it. We need more. If you can help, please let DeAnna Outlaw or myself know. Or go to our web site at [www.westsideimprovement.org](http://www.westsideimprovement.org)

and scroll down the page where there is a link that will take you to a schedule showing when we need help. While there you can also look at some photos and facts from previous Fall Festivals. Who knew that in 2005 we averaged selling a potato every 83 seconds for the entire week!

Also our annual membership picnic is coming up soon on Saturday, Sept. 17, at Burdette Park. More specific information is also in this newsletter, on our web site and on our Facebook page. I hope you can attend. It's a good time and good food with great people. I would also encourage you to bring a guest and prospective new member or several.

Another upcoming event our Board of Directors recently approved is a retreat/planning meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 4 p.m. The location is yet to be determined but it will be for both board members and general members. The premise for the meeting will be to review the things we've done, both good and bad, determine what we want to continue with or change, develop some overall goals and set a strategic vision for the future of the WIA. A little like deciding what we want to be when we grow up. We will have an outside facilitator to direct the meeting and again you all are welcome to attend. Just drop me an e-mail or phone call if you'd like to attend. We'd love to have you there.

Although mentioned in our calendar, I'd also like to emphasize Tox Away Day on Saturday, Sept. 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Roberts Stadium parking lot and the Electronics Recycle Day on Saturday Sept 24 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Civic Center parking lot. Of course the normal Recycle Day at the old Wal-Mart West is Saturday, Sept. 10. There is a link in our calendar where you can learn more.

Another item recently approved by our Board of Directors was to support in writing to our state legislators a change in state law requiring a prescription for drugs containing pseudoephedrine which is in most over the counter cold medicines. Pseudoephedrine is used in the manufacturing of methamphetamine (meth) and statistics show meth cooks, troopers and innocent bystanders are getting hurt by meth labs at an alarming rate not to mention the harmful effects on the user. As I understand it the tablet form of the drug is what is used for making meth not the gels or liquids and we'll point that out in our letter to the legislators after confirming it. The reason for taking this position is

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### Join us at Fall Festival

#### By DeAnna Outlaw

Right around the corner is the second largest street festival in the United States. The Westside Nutclub Fall Festival is the first full week in October which this year is Oct. 3 – 8. Our Fall Festival Food Booth is the only fund raiser for WIA. Come join us, have a good time with friends and family. If you can volunteer for a shift, please email or call — [doutlaw@aol.com](mailto:doutlaw@aol.com) or 812-589-1657

The shifts that we really need volunteers are mornings and afternoons.

## Fred Padget on Land Use Planning, Part XXIX

We've spent quite a bit of time in several of these articles discussing Complete Streets and their benefits, what they look like, progress being made in this area and other related information. Today I want to discuss energy. Not my lack of energy but some thoughts about more efficient use of energy.

As recently reported in the Courier Press (Aug. 20, 2011), Vectren's residential customers pay higher rates for electricity than anyone else in the state, and the gap is growing. Based on 1000 kilowatt hours of electricity a month, a residential customer in July would have paid \$155.10 while the state average is \$100.58 per month. The second highest rate in the state for an equal amount of electricity is \$110.37. This got me thinking not only about my bill but the greater impact of energy generation and its impacts, financially, environmentally and otherwise.

Many cities and states are requiring large commercial buildings to post energy ratings on their buildings or report to a national data base where the information could be found. As reported at [www.theenergycollective.com](http://www.theenergycollective.com) web site, "Rating and disclosure policies require building owners to measure their properties' energy consumption and disclose it, either to the government or the general public (or often, both). Similar to MPG ratings on cars, building energy ratings give the market a way to compare the energy use of buildings to buy or rent. Having this information helps consumers make more informed and cost-conscious real estate investments, and helps drive up demand for energy efficient buildings and retrofits." I'd go one step further

and suggest that all commercial buildings of any type should display energy certificates in a prominent area as well as on a public accessible data base. The web site goes on to say that while rating and disclosure requirements are entrenched in the European Union as recently as five years ago, not a single policy existed in the U.S. Does that mean we may have some opportunity in this county and even locally? I think so.

For the first time, the public as well as businesses and others would be able to know a building's energy performance data and make decisions as to whether to live in those apartments, be a business tenant, purchase from those businesses, etc.

As long as we are discussing energy efficiency, another article I was reading in the Governing magazine may be a little off-the-wall but let's think about it. An article titled "Driving On Sunshine" in the November, 2009, issue mentioned that the U.S. has more than four million miles of paved roadways. Does this represent a potential for some more energy efficiency? Could the roadways be used to generate electricity? I don't know, I'm an accountant. But the thought is fascinating and much of the world is looking at the prospect of doing so. The article mentions that "A company in Japan is trying to capture the vibrations from traffic driving over a bridge and convert the energy to electricity. Engineers in Israel are testing

a method of producing power by embedding special crystals in asphalt. (The pressure from passing cars causes the crystals to vibrate and produce tiny electric fields.) A researcher in Houston has proposed capturing the tailwind behind cars using rows of small turbines housed in roadside Jersey barriers." And what if we went one step further as suggested in the article and paved our roads with solar panels. If the four million miles of paved roadways we currently have were paved with solar panels they could produce three times the amount of energy we currently use. This may seem a little off-the-wall but there is a prototype for the process and the company doing this did receive a small federal grant to continue the research. Is this just all pie-in-the-sky stuff? Maybe, but maybe not. Even if it worked, it would be very expensive to retrofit or build new but as new technologies are developed that could change. It would take years to accomplish but just think of the benefits.

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](mailto: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](http://www.westsideimprovement.org).



## Land use update *by Fred Padget*

At the August Area Plan Commission meeting two rezoning requests were heard that fall within the WIA boundaries. One was a request to rezone eight-tenths of an acre at 3901 N. St. Joe from Residential, R-1 to Manufacturing, M-2. This is an older area of mixed zonings and uses including other manufacturing and residential properties. The petitioner has an existing M-2 business adjacent to the property to be rezoned. The expressed use of the property was for a storage yard for existing business. The M-2 zoning would allow 330 possible commercial, service, storage, recreational, and industrial uses. It was recommended that adequate buffering and screening be utilized to mitigate the impact on surrounding residences. The petition was recommended for approval by the APC and will be heard by the County Commissioners on Sept. 13. The APC will hear a Subdivision proposal of this property at their September meeting since it involves three lots, one of which will be used as buffer between the business and nearby residential.

The other petition involving the WIA and which I told you a little about last month was to rezone 130 square-feet from Residential, R-3 to Commercial, C-1 for a sign at Eagle Village at the edge of the Lloyd Expressway. The current zoning allows a sign but not the electronic message board which Eagle Village desires to install. This is the reason for the requested rezoning and a Special Use would also need approval by the Board of Zoning Appeals for the electronic message board. As I mentioned last month, we, along with nearby neighbors did meet with the project engineer prior to the APC hearing and expressed our concerns about the intensity of the message board light as well as the scrolling or flashing, the speed at which the sign changes and hours of operation. At the APC meeting much discussion took place con-

cerning the conditions of use. Several on the APC felt that any restrictions should be handled with a Use and Development Commitment which would be part of the rezoning process. Most felt that it would be inappropriate for them to approve the rezoning without a U&DC and depend on the BZA to get the appropriate restrictions added to the Special Use permit. After considerable discussion, the request was tabled until a future hearing.

After the APC meeting, we again met with the project engineer and nearby neighbors. Several representatives of the owner were also present. The neighbors and WIA again presented our concerns and a great deal of discussion took place with the owner's representatives listening very intently. We all know Eagle Village got off to a bad start and much distaste remains with the public because of that. In fairness, I need to mention these owners have been good to work with in the past when Eagle Village requested some rezoning for basketball and volleyball courts as well as a community center. Subsequent to the meeting and just a couple of days ago, I got a call from the owner saying they would abandon the request for the electronic message board. There will still be a sign along the Lloyd as currently permitted as well as one along Schutte Road.

Because of the Land Use Committee's involvement with this and other proposed rezonings, many comments from others and just general observance, the committee has come up with 13 criteria which should be addressed before approval of any electronic message board. It's a little lengthy to include here but I can get you a copy if you wish. Just e-mail me at [fcpadget@aol.com](mailto:fcpadget@aol.com) or Mike Lockard at [michael.a.lockard@gmail.com](mailto:michael.a.lockard@gmail.com). This information has also been sent to the

APC which is currently working on zoning requirements for electronic signs. As a further note, we are not totally opposed to electronic signs depending on location and other concerns I've already mentioned. Many are neater than some of the signage we see. In some cases they might improve on safety since they are generally computer controlled, changing gas prices in a rain or wind storm for example.

One item of interest to the WIA at the August BZA meeting involved a five-acre Agricultural zoned property at 2423 N. Posey County Line Rd. The request was to relax the zoning code to allow an accessory structure larger than the residence for construction of a new detached garage. The current residence is 1200 square feet while the accessory structures (two sheds and a 24' x 24' garage) will be 1440 square feet. Again, accessory buildings in Agricultural districts may not be used as dwellings and only for personal use. Any retail, service, and storage uses not for the residents require commercial or industrial zoning classification. The request was approved.

The September agenda for the APC contains the Eagle Village request since it was continued from last month but will most likely be removed since they have decided not to pursue the electronic message board.

The BZA agenda for September includes a request for relaxation of setbacks and a Special Use for 315 Hess Ave. just off St. Joe. This is the property being converted by Wes Brown, DDS, to accommodate his dental practice as discussed in our August article. And, you guessed it; we finish our article with yet another electronic message board. This is a request by the Super Service Center at 3111 Mt. Vernon Avenue. These will be heard at the Sept. 15 BZA meeting.

**Continued from page 1**

that current law is not working effectively. Currently the law requires consumers to show identification and sign a log book recording their purchase. In theory, this was supposed to keep anyone from buying more than 100 pills, or 3 grams, per week as stipulated by the law. But, because pharmacies' log books are paper and not part of a computerized system, the logs between pharmacies are not linked. This allows meth cooks to circumvent the law in a practice called smurfing where a meth cook moves from pharmacy to pharmacy buying their 100 pill allotment at each store. Cooks also hire other people to smurf, loading up a van of runners to drive between towns, and even across county and state lines pur-

chasing pseudoephedrine at each stop. Officials with the Indiana State Police say there have been over 400 meth labs statewide in the first quarter of this year alone and at this rate 2011 will reach a record number. Looking back at some history I found that in five of the last six years Indiana ranked second highest in the entire United States for meth labs ranging from 739 in 2008 to 1339 in 2009. If the 2011 trend continues we'll hit near 1600. In 2006, the State of Oregon returned pseudoephedrine to a prescription drug, as it was prior to 1976. The results have been impressive, with meth lab incidents dropping from 190 in 2005 to 12 in 2010. In early 2010, Mississippi enacted a similar law, and has also seen encouraging results. Additional states such as Alabama,

Missouri, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Tennessee are considering returning to a prescription-only status to reduce meth production within their borders.

Although it is important to consider the public health benefits of convenient public access to cold medicines such as pseudoephedrine, domestic meth labs pose serious health and safety risks to the public, law enforcement, and children forced to live in or near such toxic environments. That is why our board felt it necessary to approve this action. Our letter will be presented to the board for its final approval at our next meeting.

Until next month as always, be involved.

## **Calendar 2011**

- Sat., Sept. 10 Tox Away Day. Roberts Stadium Parking Lot. 9 AM - 2 PM\*
- Sat., Sept. 10 Recycle Day. Old Wal-Mart West. 8 AM - Noon\*\*
- Sat. Sept 17 General Membership Picnic. Burdette Park Shelter No.13, noon.
- Thu., Sept. 22 UNOE General Membership Mtg. American Red Cross Center. 6:30 PM
- Sat., Sept. 24 Electronics Recycle Day. Civic Center Parking Lot. 8 AM - Noon\*\*\*
- Sat., Oct. 1 Recycle Day. Old Wal-Mart West. 8 AM - Noon\*\*
- Mon., Oct. 3-8 West Side Nut Club Fall Festival
- Sat., Oct. 27 UNOE Sparkplug Banquet. Aztar Executive Conference Room 6 PM  
Call UNOE at 428-4243 for reservations.
- Sat., Nov 5 Recycle Day. Old Wal-Mart West. 8 AM - Noon\*\*
- Thu, Nov 17 WIA's Annual Banquet Meeting
- Sat., Dec. 10 Recycle Day. Old Wal-Mart West. 8 AM - Noon\*\*
- December No WIA Board 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](http://www.westsideimprovement.org). Westside Improvement Association practices an "Open Door Policy." Guests are always welcome.

\* — For more information: <http://vanderburghgov.org/Index.aspx?page=939>

\*\* — For more information: <http://vanderburghgov.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=6687> or call Solid Waste District, 436-7800

\*\*\* — For detailed information: <http://vanderburghgov.org/Index.aspx?page=469>

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE PICNIC**

Guest Speaker: Marsha Abell, Vanderburgh County Commissioner

Doors open at 12 noon, Sept. 17

Burdette Park Shelter House No. 13

Lunch served at 1 p.m.

**Reservations required by Monday, Sept. 12**

Call 428-2529 or e-mail FCPADGET@aol.com

**BRING A FRIEND**

Food and drinks provided by Westside Improvement Association, Inc.

**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 [mmrunge@wowway.com](mailto:mmrunge@wowway.com) or to Fred Padget at [fcpadget@aol.com](mailto:fcpadget@aol.com).

**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.

**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 West Side. 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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West Wabash Station  
Evansville, IN 47719-0172

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Permit No. 2023  
Evansville, IN 47708

**Return Service  
Requested**

## **A free lunch does exist**

See page five  
for details  
about our picnic

**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	