

Westside Improvement Association Inc.

"Pointing Westward"



**Outlaw
Westside
Litter**

Volume 15 - Issue 9

www.westsideimprovement.org

September, 2010

From the President *by DeAnna Outlaw*

To live in southern Indiana, especially at this time of year, is fortunate indeed. We enjoy cool evenings, campfires, football (go Big Blue!), hay rides, apple cider, autumn leaves, and the West Side Nut Club Fall Festival.

WIA will again have a food booth at the Fall Festival next to the Pet Food Center at St. Joe and Franklin streets.

We offer the 'original' Barbecue Stuffed Baked Potato. There are a couple of imitators on the street but none that can compare with ours. A loaded potato comes with butter, Shyler's Barbecue (chicken or pork), grated cheddar cheese, sour cream, and real bacon bits. Now that's a meal.

We also offer Italian Sausage Sand-

wiches that come with Italian sausage, sautéed red/green bell peppers and onions, marinara sauce, and Italian herbs on a hoagie bun. These have been a best seller for many years.

Our Lemon Shake-Ups can't be beat. We use fresh lemons and prepare them as they are ordered.

The Fried Cheese Balls sell as fast as we can get them fried so they will be back this year. Also, we have really yummy Egg Rolls.

This is our only fund raiser for the year. We use the proceeds to fund our many endeavors such as the Farmer



DeAnna

Family Scholarship to a Reitz senior and the Paul Harper Scholarship to a Mater Dei Senior, the WIA newsletter, our award winning Adopt-A-Spot, five scholarships to Burdette Park Day Camp and National Night Out.

I am asking for volunteers for the food booth. Even if you feel as though you can't physically help in the booth, then maybe you could recruit someone else. We have a lot of fun and the time goes by quickly.

The shifts are from 10 am- 2 pm, 2 pm – 6 pm, 6 pm – 10 pm, Monday thru Saturday.

Please email me at dpoutlaw@aol.com or call 589-1657 if you would like to schedule a shift or have any questions.

WIA on Facebook

Our Facebook page is running and active. We have pictures from of our Adopt-A-Spot at St. Joe and Maryland, this year's National Night Out at Garvin Park and volunteers working in our food booth at last year's West Side Nut Club Fall Festival.

We've also included some links that may interest you and there are more to come. You are welcome to post comments and pictures as appropriate.

You can visit us 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.

Hope to see you there.

By-law change proposed

A change in WIA by-laws has been proposed and will be considered at our next meeting. The current by-law reads ...

Section 5. Quorum. A majority of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board, but if less than a majority of the Directors are present at said meeting, a majority of the Directors present may adjourn the meeting from time to time, without further notice.

The proposed change reads . . .

Section 5. Quorum. A quorum of the Board of Directors shall be the majority of its members present.

The proposal will be considered during the business meeting at the Membership Picnic on Sept. 18.

Fred Padget on Land Use Planning, Part XVIII

We've been exploring the Evansville and Vanderburgh County Comprehensive Plan for 18 months and you may think what more can there be. There is more and today we are going to look at some of those additional items.



Fred

There is a group advocating for a study of the University Parkway Corridor. Although we don't have a good feel for the cost, it will be expensive as it now stands. The Comp Plan recommends that in the review of proposed developments an impact analyses should be used to determine the effect on the environment, road network, educational system, community services, and utilities. The plan further advocates that we research and establish the threshold criteria that would initiate traffic studies for new development. I don't think anyone would disagree with those thoughts and, quite frankly, many of us feel that already happens. Not necessarily so. It generally comes down to cost and who pays. If it's the city/county, it comes from taxpayers and no one wants to see taxes increase. If it's new development maybe the developer should pay. Sounds good to most of us but most developers feel that puts an extreme upfront burden on them and would stifle development. In any case, the Comp Plan recognizes a strong need for these type studies.

The Comp Plan also recommends amending the Subdivision Ordinance to provide the APC with the authority to require special studies. These studies would address off-site improvements as warranted to mitigate substantial development impacts on community infrastructure, services and flooding. Again, good idea but much of the same argument exists. The Subdivision Code does provide for many appropriate requirements within a plotted subdivision but has little or no control beyond the subdivision boundaries.

Another environmental consideration is to investigate changing the parking requirements in the Zoning Code to reduce the amount of impervious pavement required and establish criteria to allow for permeable surfaces. Both the city and county earlier this year passed an

ordinance requiring landscape islands in parking lots to partially address this problem as well as for beautification and other reasons. This past month, less than six months from approval, we saw the first variance approved to not require landscape islands. Reducing impervious pavement in parking lots helps to absorb storm water rather than flooding streams and other drainage systems. It also helps to absorb pollution. For the most part, it's not suitable for heavily traveled roadways or maybe even heavily used parking areas. But when you look at how much of our parking lots set empty other than during the Christmas season along with other areas that have excessive parking facilities permeable surfaces make good sense.

I can remember fondly Shirley James' aversion (that was probably a stronger word as I remember) to large billboards and other obtrusive signage. Although I believe there has been some improvement, the current Comp Plan suggests investigating changes to the current requirements in the Zoning Code to enhance and improve signage as a contributing element in the aesthetic quality of the community in general and particularly along major corridors and at I-69 interchanges. A comment I hear frequently is "why do we allow these obnoxious electronic signs?" Some of the electronic message boards such as what we see at the CVS at Red Bank and the Lloyd are no more obtrusive to me than other smaller signs. On the other hand, the ones constantly scrolling are not only obnoxious but, in my opinion, a safety hazard. The large flashing signs, ditto. And, occasionally, we see some signs that don't fit anywhere into our community standards such as the tattoo sign along the Lloyd just east of St. Joe. A thorough review of our sign ordinance should take place. Defining electronic message boards would be a good first step.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at fcpadget@aol.com or 428-2529. 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. Next month we'll start to wrap up our look at the Comp Plan with some thoughts about improving the code.

Land use update *by Fred Padget*

The Board of Zoning Appeals heard two Zoning Variance requests and one special use request involving WIA boundaries at its August meeting. One request was by Asher-Daniels-Midland at 2350 Broadway to relax the minimum front yard setback from 10 feet to 3 feet for construction of a loading shed addition. The other was at 8024 Hogue Road requesting relaxation of zoning code restrictions to allow an accessory structure taller than the residence for construction of a pole barn. Both were approved.

As we mentioned last month, there was also a request by Fifth-Third Bank for a special Private Recreational Use, at the Eagle Village student housing complex at 814 Schutte Road which is under the ownership/receivership of the bank. Basically, the request would allow construction of a community center for the student residents. Prior to the hearing we met with the project engineer, property managers and a near-by neighbor. One of our concerns was the possibility of renting the proposed facility for others to use and we were told it would not be rented. We take some comfort that since the building will be on Agricultural zoned land it would be a zoning violation to do so. The manager/receptionist's office will be in the building where they will be able to observe visitors and students coming and going. Additionally, the building would be locked in the evening unless there were supervised activities. The plan is to have frequent supervised activities for the residents. No alcohol will be allowed. One comment made did impress me and that was by having an employee frequently near and observing the students, they may be able to detect distressed students and work to help them. Obviously there is no guarantee of that but it's a good philosophy and the right thing to do. Apparently they do this at other properties.

As I mentioned last month, in late 2009 there were requests by Eagle Village for construction of additional parking which is sorely needed and construction of a basketball and volleyball court. A condition for approval of the parking lot was that a sidewalk would be constructed to provide a safe walkway for USI students. This was a request from USI to prevent further car/pedestrian accidents similar to one earlier that year. None of this has been completed yet but is still in the plan. We were told it would be done. The sidewalk was a condition of approval so it must happen if anything happens.

We were blindsided when Eagle Village was proposed and built. I still have a difficult time every time I remember what we, the APC and County Commissioners were told and the commitments made by the original developer. But today is today and Eagle Village is a fact of life. The current property manager previously managed Ashley Pointe on the East Side. In checking the background we got nothing but very complimentary comments. If the building and related basketball and volleyball courts are run and controlled as represented, it will be a good, even needed, facility for the student residents of Eagle Village. The nearby neighbor and previous owner of the property has had no problem with the facility. Another nearby neighbor expressed similar thoughts. Based on all of this, the WIA did support the request which was approved by the BZA at the August meeting.

The University Parkway Corridor Study Committee met during August to refine the scope of work for the proposed study of the area. Suggestions were made but we probably didn't narrow the scope down very much. Currently we don't have a formal cost estimate but it would be quite expensive as it now stands. This is taxpayer money, yours and mine. We talked about alternative methods of completing the study at less cost and other aspects of the study. Parts of the Comprehensive Plan are being reviewed and likely will be revised which may help the process. Information from the Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization dealing with traffic and roadway planning may also help.

The MPO is an important organization to our region. The Evansville MPO Study Area contains about 650 square miles in Indiana, including all of Vanderburgh and Warrick counties. In Kentucky, the Study Area encompasses about 440 square miles which includes Henderson and Henderson County. Additionally, IN-DOT and Evansville MPO have executed an agreement for the MPO to provide planning assistance in the rural counties of Gibson and Posey. You may visit <http://evansvillempo.com/> to see what is offered. Bikers, walkers and joggers may want to access the site and click on "bicycle and pedestrian" on the left side of the screen.

As always, be involved.

What's your Carbon Footprint

By Dave Rockwood, Environmental Committee Chair

I heard from a few WIA members that liked the quiz that I posted last month. So I have decided to continue on the theme of question-and-answer. But this time you must go online to take the quiz. You have probably heard the term "carbon footprint" a few times by now (maybe a few times too many). A carbon footprint is the amount of carbon dioxide – the principal greenhouse gas – that is emitted to the atmosphere through your activities. But do you know what is specifically included in a carbon footprint? How do you determine the size of your carbon footprint? You turn to the internet, where you can find several carbon footprint calculators.



Dave

From a bit of research I found that the University of California's "Cool Climate Calculator" is considered very good, and so I tried it. It should take you about 10 minutes to answer a series of questions that are grouped into three major themes: housing, transportation, and shopping. While you will be able to answer most of the questions easily, you might have to guess at some of them, but that shouldn't cause significant errors.

To access the U.C. carbon footprint calculator on the Google, enter this address: <http://coolclimate.berkeley.edu>

When you are done with each section of the survey (housing, transportation, and shopping) you will see your results displayed in annual tons of carbon dioxide (CO²) emitted, and a comparison to other households (averages for the region, U.S., and world). You may be shocked to see how your results compare to other households, particularly compared to the world averages. Even my tree-hugging, one-car, energy conscious family emits more than three times the world average for CO². And it's not because of my electric guitars. Some climate calculators will tell you how many planets we would need if everyone lived like you (I think

it's somewhere around seven for the average US resident), but this one doesn't.

All of your results are displayed on the final summary page of the Cool Climate Calculator, and there is a list of 18 categories of actions that you can take to reduce your carbon footprint. You can learn about a variety of things that will reduce your carbon emissions. There are links to carbon offset providers, and to *The Consumer Guide to Retail Offset Providers*. You can purchase carbon "offsets" to reduce your CO² impact through projects such as wind farms, which produce clean energy that displaces energy from fossil fuels. By funding these reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, you balance out, or offset, your own impact by an equivalent amount.

If you haven't calculated your carbon footprint, I encourage you to take a little time to do it, as I am sure that you will become aware of some things that you probably don't consider as having an impact on our atmosphere. And, the calculator will help you to understand specific things about your lifestyle that can be modified to reduce your impact.

Howell Wetlands Happenings

Did you know that the Wesselman Nature Society conducts a variety of free public programs at Howell Wetlands? Some of the offerings include Wing Walks (birding), Wetland Wildflower Walks, and A Bugs Life (insect study).

Other programs such as the raptor programs and bug hunts require a donation. This month there is a guided butterfly walk on the 12th (1 p.m.) and again on the 29th (10 a.m.); and a guided wildflower walk on the 18th (8:30 a.m.).

The WNS also conducts many programs at Wesselman Woods, and has canoeing programs on several local water bodies.

You can find the WNS calendar of events online at: www.wesselmannaturesociety.org

DUES REMINDER

We recently sent reminders to many of you that annual dues are due. We've had a great response and just wanted to take a minute and say thanks. All of our members are very important to us and we appreciate your support in working for the betterment of the West Side.

Live debates on WNIN

League of Women Voters and WNIN will be hosting debates by the candidates in the up coming elections. Two of the debates will be held later this month.

At 7 p.m. on Sept. 30 the candidates for State House Districts 75, 76, 77, and 78 are scheduled to appear.

That is to be followed at 8 p.m. by the candidates for State Senate District 49.

More debates are scheduled for October.



Calendar for 2010

- Sept 11 *Recycle Days – old Walmart West
- Sept 18 WIA Membership Picnic - Noon
Burdette Park
- Sept 22 WIA Board Meeting 4 pm – 5:30 pm
Red Bank Branch Library
- Oct 2 *Recycle Days – old Walmart West
- Oct 4-9 Westside Nutclub Fall Festival
- Oct 27 WIA Board Meeting 4 pm – 5:30 pm
Red Bank Branch Library
- Nov 6 *Recycle Days – old Walmart West
- Nov WIA Banquet
- Dec 4 *Recycle Days – old Walmart West

*Recycle Days 8 am – 12 noon. Items to Bring: Auminum Cans, Metal food cans, Glass containers, Cardboard, Catalogs/magazines, Newspaper, Mixed paper, #1 & #2 plastic bottles. Vanderburgh County Residents Only. For information call the Solid Waste District (812) 436-7800

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:

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.

P.O. Box 6172

West Wabash Station

Evansville, IN 47719-0172

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

Return Service
Requested

See you at Membership Picnic, Sept 18



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	DeAnna Outlaw	589-1657 or dpoutlaw@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	Fred Padget	428-2529 or fcpadget@aol.com
Secretary	Linda Cleek	422-4288 or elcee@insightbb.com
Membership secretary	Dot Berning	424-8307 or djbern@insightbb.com

Standing Committee Chairs

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
Membership	Dot Berning	424-8307 or djbern@insightbb.com
Transportation	Bill Harty	424-1501 or wfharty@wowway.com
Newsletter	Mel Runge	425-4633 or mrunge@wowway.com

At-large Board of Directors

William Allen	Michael Lockard
John Dillingham	Joyce Moers
Paul Farmer	Ava Nix
Wayne Gerteisen	Phillip Outlaw
Bill Harty	David Robinson
Aphrodite Hudson	Dave Rockwood
Bill Jeffers	Mel Runge
Bonnie Kolb	Sam Wentzel