

THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER

A Non-Partisan Publication Dedicated To The Reporting Of Your Local Government At Work
Serving Posey, Vanderburgh & Warrick Counties & Their Communities

MAY 28, 2009

VOLUME II, ISSUE 5

LST-325 5-year contract review

By Franz Schroeder

In last week's City-County Observer, we promised a synopsis of the LST-325 contract with the City of Evansville. In this article, we are not making any determinations as to terms of the contract. We merely would like to inform the public of the current terms and conditions of the fifth year of the 10 year contract. The terms of the fifth year contract is important because of the problems the city is having with the LST-325 Board of Directors.

The original contract was signed May 14, 2005. There are three entities involved in this contract: City of Evansville, the Redevelopment Commission, and the Board of Public Works. These are referred to collectively as a "City."

The City of Evansville was responsible for the construction of the dock. The terms of the contract also state that Evansville also paid for the construction of the sales office, souvenir shop and storage building.

- All revenue derived from the sale of tickets for admission and sale of souvenirs belong to LST-325.

- "The LST Memorial will pay Evansville the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) per year in exchange for the docking rights...Evansville represents and warrants that the LST Memorial will not be obligated to pay any city taxes or other city assessments."

- "During the term of this agreement, Evansville will provide the LST-325 and the outbuilding, with electricity, water, trash removal, telephone and facsimile land lines (but expressly excluded long distance telephone service.)"

- In terms of permanent docking, the contract states "In any event, beginning in the fifth year of this Agreement, Evansville and the LST Memorial will commence discussions concerning the status of

the vessel's seaworthiness, crew requirements and similar issues."

- The LST Memorial will be solely responsible for the repair and maintenance of the LST-325.

- Evansville shall be solely responsible for the repair and maintenance of the Dock.

- Evansville will provide appropriate signage on and around the dock at its sole expense.

- The LST Memorial shall be responsible for any liability arising from acts or omissions concerning the operation and sailing of the LST-325.

- The City will be solely responsible for any liabilities arising from acts or omissions outside of the LST-325...

- Evansville should have a \$5 million General Liability Insurance plan.

- "The LST Memorial agrees that Evansville

continued on page 3

IS IT TRUE...



we are *still* wondering about the status of the McCurdy Condo Project?



BUSINESS INCUBATOR:

OFFICE, RETAIL, WAREHOUSE, DISTRIBUTION



ANY SIZE

ANY FLOOR PLAN

NEW CONSTRUCTION

LLOYD EXPRESSWAY, ENTERPRISE ZONE

815 John St. Evansville IN:

BUSINESS SERVICE CENTER:

Service	Price:	Service:	Price:	Service:	Price:
Electric	FREE	Prop. Maint.	FREE	Meeting Room	FREE
Gas	FREE	Fax Machine	FREE	Kitchen	FREE
Water	FREE	Photocopy	FREE	Refrigerator	FREE
Sewer	FREE	Coffee Service	FREE	Stove/Oven	FREE
Trash	FREE	TV/Video/DVD	FREE	Microwave	FREE
Phone System	FREE	Reception	FREE	Dishwasher	FREE
HS Internet	FREE	Waiting Area	FREE	Landscaping	FREE
Property Taxes	FREE	Visiting Office	FREE	Parking	FREE
Prop. Insurance	FREE	Board Room	FREE	Dumpster	FREE

BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES: (a la carte)

Service:	Description:
Consulting:	Venture Capital, Business Plan, Marketing Plan, Financing, Networking
Professional:	Accounting, Financial, Banking, Marketing & Advertising, Legal
Clerical (\$20/hr.):	Scheduling, Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Bookkeeping, Typing, Filing
Efficiency:	Central Location, Heavy Insulation, High Efficiency Lighting and HVAC
Building:	Signage, Loading Docks, Sprinklers, Security System, Outside Lighting

OFFERINGS:

Type:	Size:	Rent G/NNN	Type:	Size:	Rent G/NNN	Type: private	Size:	Rent NNN
Office	212	\$ 260	Retail	212	\$ 260	Warehouse	1,200	\$ 500
Office	424	520	Retail	424	520	Warehouse	1,500	625
Office	636	780	Retail	636	780	Warehouse	2,700	1,125
Office	848	1,040	Retail	848	1,040	Warehouse	3,000	1,250
Office	1,500	1,250	Retail	1,500	938	Warehouse	4,200	1,750
Office	3,000	2,500	Retail	3,000	1,876	Warehouse	5,700	2,375
Office	7,200	6,000	Retail	12,000	3,500	Warehouse	12,000	3,000

Office: \$10/sfNNN Retail: \$7.50/sfNNN Warehouse: \$5/sfNNN NNN: \$.65/sf

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The information contained herein is subject to change, there is no warrantee for errors, omissions, prior lease/sale/option/withdrawal or change in price/condition/terms, you must write to confirm all information in writing.

— THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —

LOCAL POLITICS

LST-325 cont.

Food For Thought



can have an insurable interest in the ‘LST-325’ to the extent necessary for Evansville to obtain a “key property” insurance policy in the event of loss or destruction of such vessel.”

- “If Evansville’s funding for any portion of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement shall not be available, Evansville shall enjoy the right to terminate this Agreement upon one (1) year prior written notice to the LST Memorial, provided however that the LST Memorial shall have the option of absorbing the shortfall in funding, in which case this Agreement shall not be terminated.

- All controversies and claims arising under or relating to the Agreement are to be resolved by arbitration in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association before a panel of three arbitrators selected in accordance with those rules... Any award, order of judgment pursuant to the arbitration is final and may be entered and enforced in any court of competent jurisdiction.

The LST-325 dock, sales office, souvenir shop and storage shed are located on privately-owned land at the expense of \$3 million. This is land owned by Ronald Riecken and associates.

In next week’s issue, the City-County Observer will present a new feature called “Front Door Pride?” We will feature photos of houses and alleys with addresses starting in the Third Ward.



FEATURE

MEMORIAL DAY MAY 25, 2009

By Don Counts, Staff Writer

I hope that all of you had a chance to attend a Memorial Day Service. If not I hope that you took a few minutes to pause to remember our fallen heroes that gave the ultimate sacrifice. As a Marine Corps veteran of the Cuban Missile Crises aboard the USS Enterprise in 1962 and the Viet Nam war in 1967-1968 I would feel guilty if I could not attend at least one memorial service on Memorial Day.

The day began at 9 a.m. with a service at Alexander Memorial Park Cemetery conducted by VFW Post 1114. The service was conducted in the Mausoleum because of the threat of rain. There was a nice crowd with all the seats full and many people standing. All the services began with Assembly-Buglers, welcoming by the Master of Ceremonies, Posting of the Colors and invocation. The next item on the agendas was the reading of General Logan's General Order Number 11. If you have never read or heard this order please take a moment to read and let the words of this order soak into your being.

HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

General Orders No.11, WASHINGTON, D.C., May 5, 1868

The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet church-yard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

We are organized, comrades, as our regulations tell us, for the purpose among other things, "of preserving and strengthening those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors, and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion." What can aid more to assure this result than cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes? Their soldier lives were the reveille of freedom to a race in chains, and their deaths the tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and



going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.

If other eyes grow dull, other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain to us.

Let us, then, at the time appointed gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of spring-time; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from his honor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us a sacred charge upon a nation's gratitude, the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan.

i. It is the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrades. He earnestly desires the public press to lend its friendly aid in bringing to the notice of comrades in all parts of the country in time for simultaneous compliance therewith.

ii. Department commanders will use efforts to make this order effective.

By order of

JOHN A. LOGAN,
Commander-in-Chief
N.P. CHIPMAN,
Adjutant General
Official:

FEATURE

MEMORIAL DAY MAY 25, 2009 cont.

WM. T. COLLINS, A.A.G.

This was followed by Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and then the main address. JR Schembre read the VFW National Commander's message. The Commander spoke of the selfless sacrifices of our military past and present. It is up to us to pass this legacy on to future generations. It is our obligation to remember those that have returned from war to receive full medical care, employment, education and a home. We must give our servicemen our honor and respect.

The roll call of the deceased from VFW 1114 was then read and flowers laid for each one, followed by taps, firing squad salute to the dead and Amazing Grace sung by JR Schembre.

At 10am we attended the ceremony at Locus Hill Cemetery conducted by the James Bethel Gresham Chapter Number 7 of the Disabled American Veterans and the Everett Burdette Post Number 187 of the American Legion. The threat of rain had subsided so the ceremony was held on the top of the hill by the flag and the veteran's graves.

The main address was given by Gary Wagoner, who spoke of the many veterans that had given the ultimate sacrifice

and to their families that grieve for their loved ones and their need for more public support. He urged the crowd to fly the Flag often and to not forget to thank a vet for their service. We must honor the dead by supporting the living that has come home from war.

This was followed by the roll call of the deceased from the DAV and the American Legion. Taps and firing squad salute to the dead was done by the Retired Veterans Memorial Club.

At 11am it was off to Oak Hill Cemetery for a service conducted by Funkhouser Post Number 8 of the American Legion. Prelude was by the Red Bank Reunion Band. The main address was given by Staff Sergeant Blaise Williamson of the Indiana National Guard Honor Guard.

Staff Sergeant Blaise talked about his grandfather who served in WWII and how he didn't fully appreciate his service until he was grown and had been through boot camp. Blaise told about the history of Memorial Day. He brought two members of his team along to demonstrate the folding of the American Flag and the meaning of each fold.



Bethel Manor
A beautiful setting
with a caring professional
staff. Nature's splendor and
peace surrounds and is
a true blessing each
for that special person
in your life.



Torturing Lawyers



By
**Kathleen
Parker**
*Washington Post
Writers Group*

WASHINGTON -- It is supremely surreal to find oneself sipping sparkling water in a sunny hotel courtyard, dispassionately discussing the legalities of torture.

Yet, there we were, an attorney and I, poring over memos about waterboarding as if they were weekend real estate ads. Three bedrooms, two baths, no more than 40 seconds without breathing, fenced yard, a flexible false wall for "walling."

The moment was both ironic and grotesque -- a clown's nose on civilization.

Our purpose was to examine the memos in the context of the growing drumbeat for "justice" aimed at federal Judge Jay Bybee and law professor John Yoo, both attorneys who interpreted the law to allow waterboarding among other interrogation techniques.

In the weeks since Barack Obama released the so-called "torture memos," both men have been demonized and tried in the public square for expressing a now-unpopular legal opinion. Depending on the outcome of an investigation pending in the Justice Department, the men could face sanctions or, in the case of Bybee, impeachment.

When did we start punishing lawyers for producing opinions with which we disagree? And where does that road lead?

It is easy now to declare that

waterboarding is torture. I personally would agree, but then, I have a low tolerance for the sensation of drowning and the perception of imminent death. And, unlike the prisoners whose treatment has been questioned, I've had no preparation for such trials.

Fortunately, the CIA did not consult me when it needed information from al-Qaeda leader Abu Zubaida six months after the 9/11 attacks. Instead, the agency asked government attorneys to interpret whether 10 interrogation techniques, including waterboarding, would violate the 1994 statute prohibiting torture.

Keep in mind: Terrorist chatter at the time was comparable to pre-9/11 levels. And the CIA had determined that Abu Zubaida had crucial information about another attack.

Bybee and Yoo didn't have much to go on since no court had ever interpreted the statute, but the law is fairly specific. It defines torture as inflicting pain that is "difficult to endure" and that is "equivalent in intensity to the pain accompanying serious physical injury, such as organ failure, impairment of bodily function, or even death."

Contrary to what I and others previously have written, the memos did not conclude that techniques could only be torture if they cause "death, organ failure, or serious impairment of bodily functions." That would have left open the possibility for a range of clearly unacceptable abuses. Consider this a correction.

Whether one agrees with the Bybee-Yoo interpretation is a difference of opinion, but nothing more. Any fair assessment has to include consideration of context and distinctions that matter, including the definition of waterboarding, which varies according to country and century.

I have no interest in defending one against the other, but there are significant

differences between what the Japanese did during World War II, for example, and what was authorized by the U.S. government.

The Japanese forced water into the prisoner's nose and mouth. In our own version, the prisoner's mouth and nose are covered with a cloth that is saturated with water for no more than 20-40 seconds in a controlled manner. No water enters the lungs. Moreover, the same technique is used to train our own military personnel, who do not suffer severe physical pain or prolonged mental harm.

Thus, the attorneys deduced that waterboarding, though extremely unpleasant, wasn't torture. It was never up to the attorneys to express an opinion about whether waterboarding was good policy. Their only role was to interpret the law in good faith.

Even if Bybee and Yoo were wrong, their error doesn't rise to the level of an ethical offense, much less a war crime. Under the Justice Department's own standards, an ethical issue would arise only if their opinion was so obviously wrong that no reasonable lawyer could possibly reach the same conclusion.

By that standard, the only obvious wrong is the continued persecution of Jay Bybee and John Yoo. The effect sanctions might have on future lawyering, meanwhile, could be chilling.

In testimony Wednesday before a Senate judiciary subcommittee, law professor Michael Paulsen (University of St. Thomas) predicted that "presidents and administrations of both parties will not obtain candid, vigorous legal advice reflecting the full range of views, on sensitive matters of war, foreign affairs and national security."

America's enemies could hope for no more.

EDITORIAL

IS IT TRUE?

IS IT TRUE that the new property tax “hand scanners” now being used in the Vanderburgh County Treasurer is a stroke of genius? IS IT TRUE this electronic billing method should decrease the long line one experiences during property tax collect days? IS IT TRUE that the Vanderburgh County Tax Treasurer deserves a pat on the back for adding this “Common Sense” technology to his office?

IS IT TRUE that indeed the EVSC system shall provide lap top computers to our 5 area high schools students starting next year? IS IT TRUE that the system now has decided to rent and or lease them to the above students? IS IT TRUE that when a student graduates from high school, then the computers shall be theirs? IS IT TRUE we still wonder how the computers will be paid for by EVSC up front? IS IT TRUE we wonder if the 7,000 plus laptop computers shall be put out to public bid? FINALLY, IS IT TRUE we wonder how many people will the school system have to hire to take care of lost, stolen, defective and other foreseen problems pertaining to this most interesting pilot educational program?

IS IT TRUE that on 9-17-07 Mayor Weinzapfel hired a national research company (Peter D Hart Research-Washington, D. C) to do a \$35,000 survey? IS IT TRUE that the partial political client list could be the following people, groups and organizations? U S Senators- Robert Byrd (WV), Russ Feingold (WI), Bob Casey, Jr. (PA), Dianne Feinstein (CA), Patrick Leahy. U.S. House of Representatives- John Dingell (MI), Baron Hill (IN), Brad Ellsworth (IN), David Obey (WI). Governors- Steve Beshear (KY), Phil Bredesen (TN), Mike Easley(NC). Political Organizations- Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, Democratic National Committee, Indiana Democratic National Committee. Labor Unions- AFL-CIO, American Federation of State, County and Municipal, United Auto Workers, International Brotherhood of the Teamsters. IS IT TRUE we wonder why the mayor would spend \$35,000 for a survey for a shoe-in Mayoral Campaign?

IS IT TRUE we wonder why Mayor Weinzapfel in 2007 sought and paid for the services of a leading provider of fundraising and compliance software for Democratic campaigns? IS IT TRUE you might be able to learn about this group by pulling it up on your computer by searching for GNP Software?

IS IT TRUE we wonder why Mayor Weinzapfel long-time Mayoral Financial Director has moved to Indy about a couple of months ago? IS IT TRUE this move might put the Mayor in a better position to raise the millions of dollars needed to run a state-wide campaign for Governor? IS IT TRUE we wish him well because he is extremely personable and a very nice person?

IS IT TRUE that the CITY COUNTY OBSERVER has been blocked from e-mailing the paper to Civic Center employees?

IS IT TRUE that the President of Evansville City Council, B J Watts, is trying to convince the Mayor to scale back the Westside Annexation plans? IS IT TRUE Mr. Watts finally realizes if this issue passes as proposed, his political days are numbered? IS IT TRUE we predicted long ago that the group of Westsiders Against Annexation shall teach the Mayor and Mr. Watts a political lesson concerning the power of the masses? IS IT TRUE we ask you to pull up www.westsidersagainstanexation.com on your computer?

IS IT TRUE that it's time for the Vanderburgh County Commissioners to vote on an employment contract for the Sheriff's Office Deputies? IS IT TRUE it's time to server the wine?

IS IT TRUE that on May 15, 2009, the City-County Observer filed a formal complaint with the Indiana Public Access Office regarding a lack of cooperation from the Brownsfields Development Corp. for not allowing us to attend meetings or view meeting minutes?

PEG'S TILLER

By Judge James Redwine

Perhaps one or two of the one or two of you who read this column may recall that we were going to engage in an exciting discussion of the Separation of Powers Doctrine this week. If you do not mind awfully, I would like to take a short digression from legal theory to the relative merits of home improvements.

Just this past weekend Peg was spading up our vegetable garden using the short-handled sharpshooter I thoughtfully procured for her. It appeared she was thoroughly enjoying going spade full by spade full down one row and up the next. I cannot tell you how relaxing it was to sit on our deck and watch her prepare the ground for planting.

I hated to interrupt her pleasant diversion, but every now and then I ran out of iced tea and did need a sandwich around noon. All seemed right with the world when I suggested she might want to quit engaging in her rather selfish agrarian avocation and get my lunch ready.

Well, she did unceremoniously drop the spade and come to the deck in what I considered a rather aggressive attitude. She said, "You know I have been wanting a power tiller for almost two years. Don't you think we can afford one since we have now finished paying off your set of new golf clubs?"

My response was measured and reasonable and was intended to make clear my position that power tillers were an unnecessary expenditure of family funds that might better be invested in season tickets to I.U. football games.

Peg just mumbled something about how our home, which is a converted barn, would not need to buy a jackass. It was a mystery to me what she meant. She did sweetly suggest that while she was preparing my lunch, I might want to finish tilling the garden by hand.

Not one to shirk my duty I picked up the shovel and began to dig down into the dirt one spade full at a time. After about five minutes I began to look around for Peg who seemed to be taking an inordinate amount of time to fix my ham sandwich. This was so even considering that I had given precise instructions on the need for a slice of onion, a tomato and Dijon mustard.

Well, gentle reader, after another five minutes of spading and sweating, it occurred to me that it would be the height of Ludditism to refuse to acknowledge the advancements in science and technology that have made America the great country it is.

Ergo, Peg now has her tiller. I am nothing if not thoughtful.



900 W. Buena Vista
Evansville, Indiana

CALL 401-NICK

SPECIALS

MONDAY THRU FIRDAY - LUNCH SPECIALS

PIZZA AND WINGS BUFFET	\$6.75
ADD A SIDE SALAD	\$0.99
1/2 SANDWICH, CHIPS AND SIDE SALAD	\$6.75
PERSONAL PIZZA, 1 TOPPING AND 2 BREADSTICKS, MARINARA	\$6.75

FAMILY 4 PACK

LARGE 1 TOPPING PIZZA,
20 WINGS (YOUR CHOICE OF FLAVOR)
AND 4 SOFT DRINKS

\$24.99

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A few words about the food and beverage tax

See CIT/FAB tax rates and effective dates at:
<http://www.in.gov/dor/3929.htm> for county specific information.

Individual enabling statutes specify purposes for which revenues may be used. Fiscal body imposes food and beverage tax. Rate is 1% on certain retail transactions involving sales of food and beverages. Five percent of revenue derived from the Food and Beverage taxes in Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Boone, Shelby, and Johnson counties is used for funding the new stadium in Indianapolis.

The remainder is for the counties to use in any legal manor.

Under current case law, bonds payable from food and beverage tax revenues count toward the unit's 2% constitutional debt limit. For that reason lease financings are frequently used if the statute is appropriately drafted.

Communities seeking legislation to impose or extend a food and beverage tax need to work closely with their legislators in

order to obtain the necessary legislation.

For example, Henry County was able to obtain legislation allowing it to use tax revenues for certain specific projects throughout the county when the tax was no longer needed for its original purpose.

To accomplish this goal, representatives of the county and the cities and towns in the county worked out a plan for the use of revenues and began laying the necessary groundwork with the General Assembly several months before the session began.

Vanderburgh County was also able to obtain an amendment allowing it to use revenues for a new project after the revenues were no longer needed for their original purpose.

Be forewarned that the likelihood of a constitutional challenge to a population based statute on the grounds that is "special legislation" has increased despite favorable precedent and the recent Supreme Court riverboat decision.

Rodney Witherspoon

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EVSC Offers Summer Meals for Students, Families

The Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation is once again offering a summer meals program at 12 schools throughout the community. Meals will be served Monday through Friday beginning June 1 and running through July 2, at schools hosting EVSC summer experience classes; and running through July 24 at locations hosting the Summer Parks and Recreation Programs for youth.

Meals are free to all children and youth, ages 18 and younger. Adults 19 and older the cost is \$2.50 for lunches and \$1.75 for breakfasts.

Specific locations and times meals will be served are as follows:

•Central High School: June 1 – July 10, serving breakfast only, 7:30 – 8 a.m.

•Cedar Hall Elementary School:

June 1 – July 2, serving breakfast from 7:30 – 8 a.m. and lunch from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

July 6 – July 24, serving lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

•Culver Elementary School:

June 8 – July 2, breakfast served from 7:30 – 8 a.m. and lunch from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

July 6 – July 24, lunch served from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

•Tekoppel Elementary School:

June 8 – July 2, lunch served from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

July 6 – July 24, lunch served from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

•Fairlawn Elementary School: June 8 – July 2, lunch served from 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

•Evans Middle School: June 8 – July 2, lunch served from 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

•Caze, Dexter and Howard Roosa Elementary Schools:

June 8 – July 2, lunch served from 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

July 6 – July 24, lunch served from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

•Delaware Elementary School:

June 8 – July 2, lunch served from noon – 1 p.m.

July 6 – July 24, lunch served from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

•Harwood Middle School: June 8 – July 2, lunch served from noon – 1 p.m.

•McGary Middle School: June 8 – July 2, lunch served from 11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Summer meal programs at EVSC schools are funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and monitored by the Department of Education Office of School and Community Nutrition.

USDA SEEKS APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS TO REPAIR RURAL HOUSING

WASHINGTON – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that USDA is accepting applications for grants to help low- and very-low-income rural residents repair their homes.

“Housing is a cornerstone of any thriving, stable community,” Vilsack said. “As the Obama administration works to ensure that people remain in their homes, it is more important than ever to make certain their homes are safe, energy efficient, livable dwellings.”

Housing Preservation Grants are provided to intermediaries such as town or county governments, public agencies, federally recognized Indian Tribes, and nonprofit and faith-based organizations. The grants are distributed to homeowners or owners of multi-family rental properties or cooperative dwellings who rent to low- and very-low-income people.

Grants can be used to weatherize and repair existing structures, install or improve plumbing or provide access to people with disabilities. For example, the Gateway Community Action Agency used a USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation grant in 2008 to make accessibility, weatherization and other

improvements to William Reed’s home in Owingsville, KY. Gateway added insulation, weather stripping, seals around doors and windows, an energy-saving shower head and more efficient light bulbs.

USDA may award up to \$10 million in competitive grants through this notice. The grants to be awarded are part of USDA Rural Development’s annual budget and are not funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Applications are due by the close of business July 10, 2009. Applications may be accessed electronically at <http://www.grants.gov>. Also see the May 11, 2009, Federal Register, page 21775.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

— THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

POSEY COUNTY CHAPTER, AMERICAN RED CROSS RECEIVES \$3,695 GRANT TO PURCHASE SHELTER SUPPLIES

Posey County, Indiana. The Posey County Chapter, American Red Cross in Mt. Vernon has received a \$3,695 grant from the Friends of Posey County Fund with the Posey County Community Foundation, a fund of the Community Foundation Alliance in Evansville, to purchase equipment and materials to assist in feeding and sheltering Posey County residents during disaster recovery operations.

Walter Brunton, executive director of the Posey County Chapter, American Red Cross, learned during the recent ice storm that opening a shelter quickly, especially when most of the shelter locations and resources were without power, presents some unique challenges. Based on that experience, the Red Cross Chapter put together a grant request to the Posey County Community Foundation for some additional shelter supplies. Among other things provided for in the grant were funds to purchase ready to eat meals.

“Sheltering people also requires feeding them and without power that requires having some ready to eat meals available right away,” said Brunton.

Other items provided for in the grant included a supply trailer to move equipment quickly and more efficiently, comfort kits and bath towels for shelter residents, and jumbo and special needs cots for shelter residents.

“Having these items available puts the chapter in a much better position to open a shelter quickly and provide residents with an environment that is much more comfortable,” continued Brunton. “We are extremely thankful to the Foundation for this grant.”

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Posey County Community Foundation Grants to 22 Organizations Serving Posey County

Posey County, Indiana – The Posey County Community Foundation’s board of trustees announced today that the foundation will award grants to 22 nonprofit organizations totaling over \$72,000.

Each year, the Foundation invites nonprofit organizations to submit proposals for projects benefiting Posey County. Support for these organizations is made possible by endowed funds created by donors who have entrusted the Foundation to determine where the community’s needs are greatest from year to year. These funds, the Atkins Family Fund, ConAgra Fund, the Friends of Posey County Fund, the CountryMark Black Township Fund, the CountryMark Posey County Fund, the Keck Family Fund, the Memorial Found of Posey County, the Robert and Carole Rust Fund, the Thomas and Nelda Hickey Fund, the Morris Family Fund, the Smithville Charitable Foundation Fund and the Roselle and Doyle Oursler Fund, have all contributed to making the following grants possible:

•Tri-State Food Bank: \$2,500.00 to provide 20 at-risk kids in the North Posey School District with a back pack of easy-to-fix, nutritious, non-perishable, weekend meals.

•Zion Lippe United Church of Christ: \$3,750.00 to fund fifteen (15) producer partners in the “Partners in Food” program to provide resources for local entities to provide food assistance for local needs.

•American Red Cross, Posey County Chapter: \$3,695.00 to purchase equipment and materials to assist in feeding and sheltering Posey County Residents during disaster recovery operations.

•Community Emergency Assistance Board: \$10,000.00 to offer the Neighbor to Neighbor classes in the fall 2009 and spring 2010.

•Posey County Steps Ahead Council, Inc.: \$1,350.00 to purchase computer equipment, computer desk, and chair to set up a small computer lab for those who need access to services such as food stamps, unemployment benefits, job search, resume creation, etc.

•Junior Achievement of Southwestern Indiana: \$2,820.00 to retain the six JA classes being taught to the 8th grade students at North Posey Junior High School along with adding an additional six classes to be taught to the 7th grade students at the school.

•New Harmony Ministerial Association: \$2,000.00 to provide milk vouchers at the food pantry in New Harmony.

•Posey County Steps Ahead Council, Inc.: \$1,110.00 to purchase gift cards from local grocery stores and gas stations, and tokens from local Laundromats to help families in an immediate crises.

•Marrs Township Volunteer Fire Department: \$8,500.00 to purchase a 14’Zodiac inflatable boat.

•Tales and Scales, Inc.: \$3,500.00 to provide residency preparation, performance and workshops for Tales and Scales to perform at eleven Posey County Schools.

•Posey County Youth Club, Inc.: \$8,500.00 to partially fund baseball field improvements such as a fence, backstop, dugouts and press box in Poseyville.

•Posey County 4-H Fair Association, Inc.: \$5,000.00 to provide funding for a new roof on 4-H exhibit building at the Posey County 4-H Fairgrounds.

•St. Wendel School: \$1,000 to provide a site license for reading software to be used by children with learning disabilities in the area of language arts.

•United Family Counseling Services: \$2,250.00 to underwrite the cost of direct counseling services to residents of Posey County who do not have the ability to pay for them.

•Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ohio Valley: \$3,000.00 to provide funding to match six children with an adult mentor.

•North Posey High School: \$2,150.00 to purchase additional microscopes for Biomedical Program.

•21st Century Leadership of Posey County: \$4,500.00 for the purchase of a modular stage to be used for community events.

•At The Cross Mission: \$2,929.00 for the purchase of a freezer to store food which feeds the hungry.

•St. Matthew Catholic Church: \$750.00 to purchase Red Cross First Aid kits and supplies for Emergency Response kits.

•Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra: \$1,000.00 to fund the admission for Posey County children and their chaperones to attend Youth Concerts.

•Buffalo Trace Council, Boy Scouts of America: \$250.00

PCCF Grants con't.

to purchase a tree for Smith Township which commemorates the 100th anniversary of Boy Scouts of America, a plaque and 100th Anniversary patches.

•Cynthiana Area Recreation & Environmental, Inc.: \$1,500.00 to concrete floor of batting cage at Cynthiana recreation complex.

“As chair of the Grants and Distribution Committee, I want to express my appreciation to this year’s applicants and the members of the Grants and Distribution Committee and the Roselle and Doyle Oursler Fund Committee for their professionalism and unselfish dedication to their tasks,” said Nikki Collier, chair of the Grants and Distribution Committee. “Our hope was to focus on the community’s health and human services needs in this tough economic climate and I believe we have assisted with some excellent projects as noted above.”

The Posey County Community Foundation, a member of the Community Foundation Alliance, Inc. in Evansville, has been serving donors since 1992 and has grown to include 70 endowment funds which address a wide variety of needs in the county. For more information about the Foundation’s grant process, please contact Julie Eickhoff, Foundation Director, at 812-838-0288 or visit our web site at www.poseycommunityfoundation.org.

The City-County Observer Mission Statement

The primary focus of this online publication will be built upon the foundation of honesty, trust, and strong principles of journalistic integrity. Our mission will be to give out readers the answers to vital, often complex information they need to live safer and more enriched lives. This publication shall be non-partisan with consistent and objective reporting. We will not only report and inform our readers about political events, but we will seek out and provide insight into the not-so-apparent political issues, which help shape our lives. In essence our publication will be built on the cornerstone of service and trust to the taxpayers and citizens of Posey, Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties. While we strive to educate and inform, we shall serve as a community watchdog by sounding the alarm whenever our citizens rights are in danger of being violated by our elected and appointed officials.

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North High School honored by the American School Counselor Association

North High School was recently honored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) for its exemplary counseling program. The school will receive the RAMP – Recognized ASCA Model Program – designation at the association’s annual conference in mid-June in Dallas, Texas.

To apply for the designation, North completed an extensive video series, requiring monthly advisory council meetings comprised of students, parents, teachers administrators and community members. The school also created a smaller, hands-on steering committee comprised of counselors, the school social worker and assistant principal. Data was collected from multiple sources, compiled, evaluated and utilized to create a comprehensive guidance program, following a detailed checklist of required activities and reports. Once all data was collected, the school submitted a portfolio and additional required information to the American School Counselor Association for consideration for the national RAMP award.

“Our main reason for applying for the designation was to ensure that we were planning activities that were having a positive impact on our students,” said Karen Halle, counselor at North High School. “The application process was very intense, but we believe the positive results speak for the effectiveness of our counseling program and reassures parents, students and the community that we are working hard to provide the best resources and activities possible to help our students.”

North is one of 71 schools from 14 states that will be honored at the conference.

North’s counseling staff includes Carrie Carter, Karen Halle, Jolayne Haller and Edith Lyles.

RAMP designation recognizes schools that are committed to delivering a comprehensive, data-driven school counseling program and an exemplary educational environment.

Local PTAs Receive State Awards

Several local PTA groups received awards this past weekend from the Indiana State Parent Teacher Association. Among the winners was the Evansville Area Council PTA who received the Outstanding PTA Council Award.

The Outstanding PTA Council Award goes to councils that are committed to training, community involvement and special programs to help students. The Evansville Area Council received the award, in part because of the PTA Clothing Bank, housed at Washington Middle School and accessible to all EVSC students. The program was highlighted by the Indiana State PTA as one of a kind in the state and nation. In addition, the Back to School Shopping Spree and Golf Scramble, benefitting the Clothing Bank, also was highlighted as reasons that the Evansville Area Council received the award.

Other awards received by Evansville PTA groups included the Journalism Award received by Harrison High School’s PTSA and the Honor Unit Award received by Reitz High School’s PTSA.

First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

EVSC Holds Graduations

Evansville Philanthropist to be Inducted to Central Hall of Fame

The Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation saw 1,388 of its students graduate on Saturday, May 23, at ceremonies throughout the city.

The EVSC Class of 2009 garnered \$22.8 million in scholarship offers for nearly 600 students to attend the colleges and other post-secondary education of their choice in Indiana and from throughout the nation.

A special ceremony also took place at Central High School's graduation ceremony. Dr. William Ridgway, 1938 Central High School alumnus, community leader and philanthropist, was inducted into the Central High School Hall of Fame.

For more than two decades Ridgway has shaped the lives of young men and women in Evansville through his scholarships created, generosity of purchases and donations made – such as the University of Evansville's British Campus – Harlaxton College, and most recently the creation of an initiative at UE which will allow any student graduating from a Vanderburgh County high school to attend the private University of Evansville at a cost comparable to Indiana's leading public institutions.

Throughout his 40-year career as an ophthalmologist in San Francisco and upon his return to his hometown of Evansville, Ridgway has consistently illustrated his belief in the importance of students furthering their education. Since the mid-1980s, Ridgway has collaborated with UE with students in mind creating numerous scholarships, endowments, the earlier mentioned Ridgway Award and purchase of UE's British Campus; and when he saw the need for the University to have a new gathering spot for students – he helped create the Ridgway University Center, which opened in Fall 2008.

After Ridgway graduated from Central High School, he went on to St. John's Military Academy. Following his time there he attended Evansville College. He received his A.B. degree from Indiana University in 1942 and his M.D. degree in 1944.

He served in the U.S. Navy as a Ship Surgeon from 1945-46 and was in active duty as regimental surgeon with the First Marine Division in Korea from 1953-54.

Ridgway is a member of the UE Board of Trustees, the Board of Directors of the Harlaxton Society at UE, a recipient of the Medal of Honor and the Honorary Alumnus Awards

at UE and is a former member of the Evansville Museum of Arts and Sciences Board of Trustees, and former treasurer and member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Glaucoma Research in San Francisco.

Evansville Area Council PTA Announces Scholarship Winners

The Evansville Area Council Parent Teacher Association (PTA) held its second annual reception May 11 to honor multiple students in the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation and announce this year's scholarship recipients.

Each year, the Evansville Area Council PTA provides six, \$500 scholarships to local graduating seniors. This year's winners include:

- Gina Deom, Bosse High School
- Addison Small, Central High School
- Alyssa Haller, North High School
- Kathryn Klass, North High School
- Lauren Wright, North High School
- Eric Peckenpough, Reitz High School

The scholarships are made possible through donations by the Evansville Teacher's Federal Credit Union. Each candidate must meet specific criteria and write an essay on how PTA and a parent/teacher influenced his/her life.

In addition to announcing the scholarship winners, the Evansville Area Council PTA acknowledged numerous students who received awards from the Indiana State PTA. Students recognized include:

- Zachary Weinzapfel, Award of Merit, Film/Video, Helfrich Park Middle School
- Andrew Hegeman, Outstanding Interpretation, Literature, Bosse High School
- Nate Stevens, Award of Excellence, Literature, North High School
- Rachel Kercher, Award of Excellence, Visual Arts, Cynthia Heights Elementary School
- Avery Decker, Award of Excellence, Visual Arts, Hebron Elementary School
- Joseph Price, Award of Excellence, Visual Arts, Reitz High School
- Nate Stevens, First Place, Citizenship, North High School

Posey County Community Foundation Awards Annual Scholarships

Posey County, Indiana – The Posey County Community Foundation Board of Trustees has announced this year's winners of scholarships awarded through the Foundation. These scholarships are made possible by endowment funds created by donors who wish to further the educational goals of Posey County students.

Holly Heerdink, a senior at North Posey High School, has been named to receive the Byron and Lila Brenton Memorial Scholarship, created by the Metropolitan School District of North Posey County in memory of former school superintendent Byron Brenton and his wife and the Kevin Dillon North Posey Memorial Scholarship, established by the family of Kevin Dillon. Holly, daughter of Raymond and Dianna Heerdink of Evansville, plans to study journalism/political science at Indiana University.

James Shea, a senior at Mt. Vernon High School, has been named to receive the CountryMark Technical Trade Scholarship, established by CountryMark. James, son of James Shea, Jr. of Mt. Vernon and Jerilyn Wolf of Boonville, plans to study electricity at Ivy Tech Community College.

Todd Seibert, a senior at North Posey High School, has been chosen to receive the Herb and Betty Curry Scholarship, established by Herb and Betty Curry. Todd, son of Patrick and Susan Seibert of New Harmony, plans to study music composition at Ball State University University.

Sarah McMahan, a senior at Mt. Vernon High School, will receive the Gillenwater Scholarship (4-year), established by William Gillenwater III. Sarah, daughter of Alphonse and Cheryl McMahan of Mt. Vernon, plans to study Biology/Pre-Medicine at Indiana University.

Benjamin Mason, a senior at North Posey High School, will receive the Gillenwater Scholarship (2-year), established by William Gillenwater III. Benjamin, son of Jonathon and Carolyn Mason of Poseyville, plans to study social science at the University of Southern Indiana.

Ashlyn Smorch, a senior at Mt. Vernon High School, has been chosen to receive the William H. Keck Leadership Scholarship, created in memory of William H. Keck by his family. Ashlyn, daughter of Matt and Stacey Smorch

of Mt. Vernon, plans to attend Indiana University to study Accountancy.

Taylor Rhoades, a senior at Mt. Vernon High School, was selected to receive the Kiwanis Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship was established by the Mt. Vernon Kiwanis Club in honor of Phil Ray for his many contributions and service to Kiwanis, the Metropolitan School District of Mt. Vernon, the students and staff of West Elementary School, and the community of Mt. Vernon. Taylor, daughter of William and Mary Rhoades of Mt. Vernon, plans to attend Saint Mary's College to study business.

Joseph Hoehn, a senior at Mt. Vernon High School, has been chosen to receive the Mac McCutchan Memorial Scholarship, established by Marcia McCutchan in memory of her father and the Oscar and Helen Uebelhack Agriculture Scholarship, created by David, Jon and Dennis Uebelhack in memory of their parents. Josphy, son of Mark and Edith Hoehn of Mt. Vernon, plans to attend Purdue University to study agricultural systems management.

Hannah Bender, a senior at North Posey High School, was selected to receive the Rosella and Doyle Oursler Scholarship, created by Doyle Oursler in memory of his wife. Hannah, daughter of Robert and Sandra Bender of Poseyville, plans to attend the University of Southern Indiana to study nursing.

Layne Koester, a senior at Mater Dei High School, was selected to receive the Posey County Co-op Scholarship, created by the Posey County Co-op. Layne, son of Duane and Zelda Koester of Wadesville, plans to attend Purdue University to study agricultural economics.

The George and Margaret Rapp Scholarship were awarded to New Harmony High School seniors Colin Wasson, Taylor Espenlaub, and Jonathan Axton. Colin, son of Roger and Pamela Wasson of New Harmony, plans to study Art/Illustration at the University of Southern Indiana. Taylor, daughter of Michael Espenlaub of Evansville and Lori Espenlaub of Evansville, plans to study education at the University of Evansville. Jonathan, son of Michael and Teresa Axton of New Harmony, plans to study engineering at the University of Evansville. The Rapp Scholarship was

PCCF Scholarships con't

created by George F. and Peggy M. Rapp.

Brittany McCoy, a senior at Mt. Vernon High School, has been chosen to receive the Bobby Rogge Memorial Scholarship, created in memory of Bobby Rogge by his father and stepmother, Bob and Cindy Rogge. Brittany, daughter of Lyndon and Michele of Mt. Vernon, plans to attend Indiana University to study Psychology.

Drew Murry, a senior at North Posey High School, has been named to receive the Craig Andrew Spradley Memorial Scholarship, established by Andrew and Christine Spradley in memory of their son. Drew, son of Vaughn and Pam Murray of Evansville, plans to attend the University of Kentucky to study architecture.

Lucas Wassmer, a senior at North Posey High School, has been named to receive the Margaret Corbin Wathen Scholarship, created by Tom Wathen in memory of his wife. Lucas, son of David and Lori Wassmer of Poseyville, plans to attend Depauw University to study music.

Laura McGennis, a senior at Mt. Vernon High School, was selected to receive the Whitney Wehr Memorial Scholarship, created by Greg and Bridget Wehr in memory of their daughter. Laura, daughter of Tim and Eileen McGennis of Mt. Vernon, plans to attend the University of Southern Indiana to study special education.

Hannah Morris, a senior at New Harmony High School, was selected to receive the Robby Wilson Memorial Scholarship, created in memory of Robby by his father, Tim Wilson, his sisters, Jodi Moore and Wendy Wilson, and his brother, Jason Wilson. Hannah, daughter of Kevin and Melissa Morris of New Harmony, plans to attend the University of Southern Indiana.

The Scholarship fund is one of the most popular among donors, who very often say they are inspired by a strong desire to serve education. Scholarship funds are versatile, allowing donors to establish selection criteria and participate in nominating candidates if they choose.

“The level of achievement among applicants was remarkable,” said Ray McConnell, chair of the Foundation’s scholarship committee. “We were delighted to see so many young people pursuing advanced education and wish the best to all of them.”

Founded in 1992, the Posey County Community Foundation is a charitable organization formed to promote philanthropy at all levels, to build and maintain a permanent collection of charitable funds that benefit the entire community, and to serve as a trustworthy partner and leader in shaping effective responses to community needs.

For more information about the Foundation, contact director Julie Eickhoff at 812-838-0288 or visit our website at www.poseycommunityfoundation.org.



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EVSC Schools Receive Awards for Promoting Health

Twelve Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation schools were recently recognized by the Indiana Action for Healthy Kids as being recipients of this year's Healthy Hoosier School Award. The award recognizes schools in Indiana who have programs in place to promote good nutrition and increased physical activity for students.

Among this year's winners was Plaza Park Middle School, earning the top score for middle and high schools at the state level for the second year in a row, and one of only six schools in Indiana to receive a gold award. Other EVSC schools, including North and Reitz high schools; Helfrich Park Middle School and Caze, Dexter, Fairlawn, Highland and Hebron elementary schools were among 59 schools in the state to receive a silver award. Harrison High School, Evans Middle School and Delaware Elementary School were among 26 schools to receive a bronze award.

"The EVSC has worked extremely hard to implement healthy choices in our schools," said Mary Schweizer, director of coordinated school health. "Through our Coordinated School Health Program, we have initiated nutrition and fun exercise programs to get students moving and eating right. These awards are another testament that our program is working and that we are making a difference in not only children's lives, but also for the entire family."

The Healthy Hoosier School Award was developed by Indiana Action for Healthy Kids, an affiliate of the national organization, Action for Healthy Kids. The national organization is the only non-profit organization formed that specifically address the epidemic of overweight, undernourished and sedentary youth by focusing on changes at schools.

The top five leading causes of death -- heart disease, cancer, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and diabetes -- are directly linked to unhealthy lifestyles. Poor nutrition and a lack of physical activity are major contributors to unhealthy lifestyles. Unfortunately, such habits are often established during youth and extend into adulthood.

All of the EVSC schools winning the awards participate in the Coordinated School Health program which recognizes the importance of eight interactive components in serving the whole child including, physical education; health education; family and community involvement; nutrition services; health promotion for staff; counseling, psychological and social services; healthy school environment; and health services. The eight components work together to support the students'

nutritional, physical, social and emotional well-being. These components affect a student's academic achievement, help to reduce absenteeism and increase healthy behaviors.

Other awards the EVSC has gained for its wellness programs include:

- In 2006, the Nutrition & Physical Activity Team for the EVSC School-Community Council was awarded the Senator Richard Lugar Health & Fitness Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to the community in health and fitness awareness and education.

- In March 2008, the Indiana Action for Healthy Kids named six EVSC schools as recipients for the Healthy Hoosier School Award, which honors schools that have policies and educational programs in place to promote good nutrition and increased physical activity among its students. Plaza Park Middle School and Dexter Elementary School were two schools out of nine from across the state to receive a gold award; Helfrich Park Middle School was one of 35 schools statewide to receive a silver award; and Caze Elementary School, Highland Elementary School and North High School were three among 22 throughout the state to receive a bronze award. In addition, Plaza Park was the top point winner in the Middle School/High School division.

- Helfrich Park physical education teacher, Audra Offut, was named Middle School Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the Indiana Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation and Dance this past October. The award recognizes an outstanding physical education teacher at the elementary, middle and high school level each year who works to make an impact on the lives of students across the state. Offutt has been a physical education teacher in the EVSC for 20 years. The physical education teachers at Helfrich Park have been able to develop a "mini gym" in which students can use air dyne bikes, treadmills, elliptical machines, stair-masters and the interactive video game, Dance, Dance Revolution. Students wear heart rate monitors while in class that lets them know the level of their efforts based on their heart rate. They have developed walking clubs, after-school fitness clubs, bowling leagues and a cardio club and more to get kids moving.

- In March of 2009, The Division of Adolescent and School Health of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) selected the EVSC's Coordinated School Health Program as one of only six models in the nation that exemplify best practices in coordinated school health.

Census Bureau Submits Proposed Recovery Plan to Congress

The U.S. Census Bureau today submitted to Congress its proposed recovery plan to create jobs, strengthen the economy and conduct a successful 2010 Census. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Census Bureau was provided \$1 billion.

“The Census Bureau’s proposed investments will improve our ability to conduct an accurate census and will create thousands of good-paying jobs,” U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke said. “A successful census is critical for ensuring that communities have proper representation and the resources needed for health care, law enforcement and education.”

Under the proposal, the Census Bureau will invest \$250 million in partnership and outreach efforts to minority communities and hard-to-reach populations. This effort is intended to promote participation in the census, which will improve accuracy and facilitate enumeration operations in 2010.

The remaining \$750 million will be committed to support early 2010 Census operations that will reduce operational and programmatic risks at a critical stage of the census process.

More than \$300 billion in federal funds are distributed every year based on census results. This funding supports vital local services like health care, schools, law enforcement, transportation and social services.

Some Census Recovery Plan highlights

•Coverage Follow-Up Enhancement (\$30 million):

The Coverage Follow-Up program provides telephone interviewers to contact households that may have erred on the census form by indicating the wrong number of people living in their household. The recovery act investment will allow for the hiring of additional temporary telephone interviewers who will work from commercial call centers. The Recovery Act funding will complement Coverage Follow-Up funding that will be included in the President’s 2010 Budget.

•Partnership Program Enhancement (\$120 million):

Enhancing the 2010 partnership program will increase partnerships in hard-to-count communities and expand efforts to reduce historical undercounts of communities least likely to be counted. The partnership program relies on trusted local voices to raise awareness of and trust in the census process. These funds will finance the hiring of additional partnership staff. The regional staff will be hired by July 2009 and conclude their work during the summer of 2010.

•Public Outreach (\$100 million):

Public outreach will help to raise awareness of and educate residents about the 2010 Census and the importance of their response. A major focus of the increased outreach will be in areas

that have historically lower than average initial response rates. This funding will support local and national outreach initiatives and also will support various partnerships and the Census in Schools program.

•Group Quarters Operations (\$138 million):

The Group Quarters (GQ) operation supports efforts to access and count residents in dormitories, prisons, nursing homes and other group living situations. These operations include an early validation of the bureau’s list of group quarters, an advance visit to prepare GQ facilities for census day and finally enumeration of all group quarters.

•Update Leave (\$116 million):

The Group Quarters (GQ) operation supports efforts to access and count residents in dormitories, prisons, nursing homes and other group living situations. These operations include an early validation of the bureau’s list of group quarters, an advance visit to prepare GQ facilities for census day and finally enumeration of all group quarters. During the operation, enumerators canvass the blocks in their assignment areas, update the address list and Census maps, determine if the housing unit is a duplicate or does not exist and needs to be deleted, and delivers addressed census questionnaires to each unit. All housing units in U/L areas for which census does not receive a completed questionnaire by mail must be visited during Non-Response Follow-Up (NRFU).

•Update/Enumerate (\$108 million):

The Update/Enumerate (U/E) operation is a method of data collection conducted in communities where many housing units may not have house number and street name mailing addresses. This method will be used on American Indian reservations, colonias (usually rural Spanish-speaking communities) and resort areas with high concentrations of seasonally vacant living quarters. The U/E enumerators canvass assignment areas to update residential addresses, including adding living quarters that were not included on the address listing pages, update Census Bureau maps and complete a questionnaire for each housing unit during the same visit.

•Local Census Office Staffing Operation (\$388 million):

The Local Census Office (LCO) Staffing Operation supports the major 2010 Census field operations. The LCO Staffing Operation recruits, hires and releases office and field staff; performs supervisory and non-supervisory functions for office activities and field operations; distributes training and procedural manuals for office staff; and trains employees and office staff for the field operations performed at the LCO. The LCO also manages and troubleshoots field and office automation systems and problems and incorporates Quality Assurance into all its activities.