

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

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WITNESSING A VIOLATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

By Jamie Grabert, Publisher

They say perception is everything. The United Freedom Makers perceive the First Amendment to the Constitution to be alive and well. But does the Evansville-Vanderburgh Building Authority?

This group walked the ramp to the Civic Center armed with posters in support of the re-instatement of the local Homestead Credit and better public policy. One would think a building owned by the people and paid for by the people would allow the people to enter peacefully with their posters in tow, displaying the signs of their cause.

Jim Rodgers, a Freedom Maker, said it best. “I spent 20 years in the military fighting socialism and communism around the world. I never dreamed I’d be fighting it in my own country.”

They were met by a security guard as they attempted to enter the building. They were told they could not carry their signs into the building. They were also met by Building Authority Director Dave Rector, who said they could not bring the posters into the Civic Center because “they might put someone’s eye out.” (To see the video click, http://city-countyobserver.com/?page_id=450.)

The security guard walked back to the Information Desk. The Freedom Makers were never told of a rule or law that existed, prohibiting them from entering with posters, so they walked up the stairs and entered the City Council Chambers. They stood in the meeting with signs held still and quietly. There was no disruption, until two Evansville Police Officers were given to the order to ask the people to remove their signs from the meeting.

The officers whispered to the Freedom Makers,



“You have to take the signs outside.”

As they were quietly walking out, Rose Young, the Mayor’s Administrator, followed them into the hallway. As she re-entered the Council Chambers, she turned to the woman behind her and said, “They knew ahead of time they couldn’t have signs.”

After exiting the meeting, Rob Snelling said, “I’m here because I’m upset that the politicians will not listen to the American people. We vote these men and women in office to represent us, not their party – Republican or Democrat. We just want them to do their jobs. READ THESE BILLS, instead of cramming them down our throats. What happened to fairness and equality? Live under the laws you pass, and post that you did. The corruption has got to stop and NOW!”

The Freedom Makers then took their signs outside, and many of them did not return to the meeting.

When calls were made to the Civic Center, no one knew the exact rule or law. A call to Evansville Clerk Alberta Matlock’s Office revealed that the City of Evansville had no law. Her office said to call the

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PEOPLE

A few minutes with Neighborhood Association leader Fred Cook

Don Counts, Staff Writer

It is important to attend your neighborhood association meetings and get involved, NOW IS THE TIME. Fred Cook has taken this to a whole different level of support for his (Goosetown) neighborhood.

I met Fred at a Goosetown meeting and had a little trouble setting up a meeting time, even though he is retired, he is very active in his neighborhood. He is a 61-year-old man from Evansville and has been married for 20 years. Fred and his wife, Portia, raised their granddaughter since she was 6, and she is now 24.

I asked him, how he got involved in his community. When he was about 17 or 18 years old he moved into his grandmother's home at 503 Jefferson Street. This property was left to his mother after his grandmother had passed away. It was just too big for his mother. She had stayed there two years before moving to Cleveland, Ohio. She gave him a quick change deed. The home had been paid for two or three times due to remortgaging. At that time there was an Alternate Repair Program through the Metropolitan Development Office. There was a limit of \$35,000 for repairs. If the amount would be over that amount, the homeowner had to do repairs to get it down to the \$35,000. He said Jim Sands came out to inspect. He was told the home needed a new roof. Fred hired Greg Claspel to put on a new roof. The inspector came back to reinspect and said that the old roof should have been torn off before the new roof was installed, so the home was still not eligible. Fred called Greg Claspel and was told the home didn't need the old roof torn off. Fred didn't have any choice but to sue Greg Claspel taking pictures and documents to Court.

Fred ended up having to file bankruptcy because of not being able to get help in repairing his grandmother's home. They were having \$900 to \$1,100 utility bills. After the bankruptcy was discharged in Federal Bankruptcy Court he got a notice there was going to be a charge of \$6,000 to tear down the home. His block captain reported to him that people were tearing off the siding. The police told him he had to clean up the property and cut the weeds per code enforcement. He told them he had filed and been awarded bankruptcy and was told that didn't matter, he was still responsible. He finally got this resolved and the city recognized the bankruptcy.

I asked Fred what were the current Goosetown Problems. The number one problem is the housing stock in the area. The Historic District is in this area. Homes that can't be fixed need to go and the ones that can be fixed need rehabilitation. When a home in a low income area is torn down it needs to be replaced with low income homes in the \$35,000 range. This problem is going on all over the country, in Louisville Meachum Park, Saint Louis and Indianapolis Fall Creek. In those areas, when low income housing is torn down, the cities are replacing them with \$100,000 homes. The people are being displaced because the demographics are changed, and they

can't afford to move back.

There are many elderly living in Goosetown and on a fixed income. These days are supposed to be their best days. They can't make the required repairs without help. Now, you can't put a roof on for \$5,000.00. If you have three steps and no rail, you are being fined \$100. If your porch is three foot high, you must have a rail.

Fred told me about a case involving Greg Fehn on Washington Avenue receiving a fine of \$7200.00. He has one house on one property, but there are four different property owners. One of the owners is Brownfield. The action in this case he believes is a conflict of interest. Connie Robinson is on the Brownfield Board and serves on the City Council which oversees the money that is given to the Department of Metropolitan Development. The DMD is over Brownfield. Her niece bought a piece of property for a real good price on Jefferson. The Garvin Industrial Park is run by Brownfield, and she has her office (HMR Vending) there. She conducts a lot of business with the city.

In speaking about split lots about areas where there is a lot next door to you that is too small to build on that is owned by the city, you could buy for \$1. He said people have called and always get voice mail. They have gone to City Hall and the officials are always in meetings.

Fred believes that poor people that are being sued by the city in cases where the city is taking advantage of the poor with a class action suit. To get out of town lawyers, request a change of venue because you can't beat City Hall.

I asked about the homes that Memorial Baptist Church and Reverend Adrian Brooks has been building. Fred said they are supposed to be low income but they are going for \$650 to \$700 per month. He thinks some of them are Section 8 Housing because some of the tenants are on welfare. Most of those residents are members of this church. This reminds me of an old saying "Don't just pray for change to happen, they have put legs to their prayers." Fred wonders if Affirmative Action guidelines were followed. The Department of Metropolitan Development requires the use of minority realtors; the contract was given to F.C.Tucker Reality because they had one minority realtor, and Evansville doesn't have any minority owned real estate companies.

This brought up TIF money. TIF money is to be used for some-



Fred Cook continued from page 2

thing in an area that will generate money. This is to be used for a low income, depressed and economically depressed. He said Burckhardt Road, Lloyd Expressway and the Riverfront areas got TIF and they are not economically depressed. The city is using this money to get something they desire.

He said the Centre hires retirees from AARP as ushers, this did not create jobs.

Fred said you can't compare Evansville to other places. The largest Black Expo is in Indianapolis and draws over a million people. We can't draw events like that. He said there is no black night life. There are no black bars owned by blacks in Evansville. When the Lincoln, Clark, and Douglas (black schools) have their reunion they started going to people's homes, or the American Legion which is the only black-bar in Evansville. About the only black entertainment is religious plays and for anything else they have to go to big cities. The only black bars in Evansville have gone out of business and been torn down. He said there is a black-owned bar in Henderson.

He said in 1927 or 28 when Lincoln High School was built the Klu Klux Klan marched. They didn't want the white people in the neighborhood to have to look at the black kids at the school. A 20 foot wall was built down Morton, Bellmeade and Garvin. This wall was torn down in the late 60s or 70s.

He said that poor white or black suffer the same way. He said when the poor have to move out and eventually the home is burnt down, the ashes and what is left of the home will stay there for 2 or 3 years, this doesn't happen in other areas.

Fred spoke about the citations that are being given to people in Goosetown. People are not getting them in other parts of town. He said there is a Write-Obama-Drive to protest the city trying to get people out of their homes.

He has thought about running for City Council. Like allot of kids he had a run-in with the law when he was a teenager and was told her was not eligible. Since this happened when he was a teenager it had been expunged from his record. He had to get a copy of the report and took it to County Clerk, Susan Kirk to prove he is eligible to run. He has decided to run in the next election and will not take a salary. Clark believes people should run because they want to serve. He may not agree on everything and with everybody on the Council.

He spoke of the closed door meetings that led to the Homestead tax not being given this year. In speaking about Front Door Pride, he said that Clayton Town got a \$1,000 fine for not having gutters on his garage. He said that "slum lords" get 30 days to repair their properties and if not done they can keep getting extensions, sometime for 2-3 years. Why not individual taxpayers?

The coalition of Intercity Neighborhoods gives three \$1,000 scholarships. The first year they were given to Reitz, Harrison and Bosse. This will be the fifth year and they will give awards to five schools. They raise money through Fund Raisers the next will be

on October 28. The guest speaker will be Joseph Smith, the Marion County School District Superintendent. Besides the scholarships, plaques will be given to people that have made a difference in the community. Location and other information on the coalition will be forthcoming. He said almost all of the politicians come and many have been awarded through the years. The neighborhoods are CCIA, Goosetown, Bellmeade, Bayard Park, Glenwood, Old Erie, Ballard, Culver, New York, and Olmstead in the City; Broadmoor, Mount Auburn and Hilltop not in the City. Fred and his wife Portia play Mr. and Mrs. Santa Clause, and the Neighborhood Association Presidents play elves. One year they had over 700 kids there. For the Back to School Fling they give away back packs and school supplies. Another fund raiser is the Harvest Festival and church fair on 07/31 and 8/1 at Hainey's corner at Lincoln and Culver.

Another organization he is involved with is the Weed and Seed program for people that have been released from Branchville Prison. This group helps them bridge the gap from release and getting back in the community.

I asked about how he spends his days. He gets out walking for exercise and talks to people. He takes his medicine and is doing fine. He said he doesn't let problems stress his out, what will happen will happen. When various neighborhood organizations he is involved in have dinners, the leftovers are given to the House of Bread and Peace.

This is the type man we all need in our Neighborhood Associations.

Honoring Ed Freeman

Publisher's Note: The City-County Observer received an email about Ed Freeman last week. He was a Vietnam War hero who was not presented the Medal of Honor until after his passing. While this is not uncommon, we were appalled to find out that the media in Fred's hometown failed to find the importance, or significance, of a life worthy of being given such a reward. With that being said, we are beginning a campaign to challenge our fellow members of the media to spend its time honoring those who deserve it.



You're a 19-year-old kid. You're critically wounded and dying in the jungle in the Ia Drang Valley, 11-14-1965, LZ X-ray, Vietnam. Your infantry unit is outnumbered 8-1 and the enemy fire is so intense, from 100 or 200 yards away, that your own Infantry Commander

has ordered the Medi-Vac helicopters to stop coming in.

You're lying there, listening to the enemy machine guns, and you know you're not getting out. Your family is half way around the world, 12,000 miles away and you'll never see them again. As the world starts to fade in and out, you know this is the day.

Then, over the machine gun noise, you faintly hear that sound of a helicopter and you look up to see an unarmed Huey, but it doesn't seem real because no Medi-Vac markings are on it.

Ed Freeman is coming for you. He's not Medi-Vac, so it's not his job, but he's flying his Huey down into the machine gun fire, after the Medi-Vacs were ordered not to come.

He's coming anyway.

And he drops it in and sits there in the machine gun fire as they load 2 or 3 of you on board.

Then he flies you up and out, through the gunfire to the doctors and nurses.

And he kept coming back, 13 more times, and took about 30 of you and your buddies out, who would never have gotten out.

Medal of Honor Recipient Ed Freeman died on Wednesday, June 25th, 2008, at the age of 80, in Boise, ID. May God rest his soul.

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Mayor announces construction on Phase 2 of Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage

EVANSVILLE, IN) – Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel announced yesterday that construction on Phase 2 of the Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage is moving forward with the submission of design plans to the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). Construction on Phase 2 could begin by the end of this year with completion in the fall of 2010.

Phase 2 will be funded with \$2.4 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has approved the use of \$5 million in Highway and Bridge Infrastructure funds under the ARRA for the City to put toward expanding the Pigeon Creek Greenway and implementing the downtown traffic flow improvement project.

“The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds will not only go a long way toward helping us complete the Greenway, they will also help to create and retain local jobs,” said Mayor Weinzapfel.

“The Greenway also benefits our economy because it is an attractive recreational amenity for visitors and it encourages people to exercise which reduces health problems and health care costs. “

Phase 2 will continue the Greenway from Franklin Street to Maryland Street. A bridge will need to be constructed in order to connect with Lamasco Park and Skate Park. If you add the Riverfront Corridor (1.5 miles), Phase 1 (8/10 miles) and Phase 2 (1/2 mile), there will be 2.8 miles of continuous trail from Sunrise Park to Maryland Street.

There are other construction projects currently underway on the Greenway including the renovation of the Marchand Bridge and the construction of Phase 6 of the Industrial Corridor from the Uhlhorn Trailhead to Kratzville Road. Phase 6 and the Marchand Bridge are scheduled to be complete by October.

Bids will open on Phase 5 of the Industrial Corridor, which extends the trail from

Kratzville Road to Dresden Street, on September 10, 2009.



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The Cronkite Factor



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

WASHINGTON -- There was something about Uncle Walt. He was so ... avuncular.

Cronkite became the most trusted man in television precisely because he seemed so grown up. The CBS anchor was a pillar of maturity, reliability and unemotional accountability -- just the sort of fellow who could sell you a tin of coffee by simply taking a sip.

During a bumpy time in our nation's history, he filled a psychic need for order amid chaos. By showing up every night at the same time, same place -- speaking simply and without drama -- he conveyed a sense that someone was in charge.

Our nostalgia for his passing isn't only for the death of a familiar and mostly admired individual, but also for a certain kind of man -- an iconic reminder of a time when fathers knew best and the media were on the home team.

He had the looks and voice of the sort of man one could trust for good directions. Non-threatening and, it seemed, untempted by vanity, his prevailing affect was of seriousness and humility.

It is doubtless difficult in these post-metrosexual, celebrity-driven times to grasp the preference Americans once held for people who weren't "all that." Male figures, also known nearly ubiqui-

tously as "fathers," were especially admired in those days for substance over style.

And, in a page for *Ripley's Believe It or Not*, the same was true of media.

If Walter Cronkite, or other nightly news figures such as CBS colleague Eric Sevareid or NBC's Chet Huntley and David Brinkley, ever checked their makeup before airtime, one wouldn't have imagined their lingering long over the mirror. To men of Cronkite's generation, preening was unmanly. As for fashion, shoes came in two colors and four suits was a full closet.

What mattered more than fame or celebrity was content. Cronkite enjoyed fame, but his was the result of his labors in the vineyard. More workhorse than show horse, he was more Rushmore than Rushbo.

Every now and then, his game face -- the envy of poker faces everywhere -- betrayed his humanity, though breaking character required the gravest or most miraculous of circumstances.

He shed a tear when he announced that President John F. Kennedy, indeed, had died, though Cronkite resisted the temptation to speculate until the word was firm and official. When the first man walked on the moon, Cronkite removed his fogging glasses, saying, "Whew, boy ... There he is."

In a seminal and steadfastly controversial media moment on Feb. 27, 1968, Cronkite ended a special report on Vietnam with an analysis, saying that there was no clear victor from the Tet Offensive and that the U.S. and North Vietnam were "mired in stalemate":

"It seems now more certain than ever that the bloody experience of Vietnam is to end in a stalemate. ... But it is in-

creasingly clear to this reporter that the only rational way out then will be to negotiate, not as victors, but as an honorable people who lived up to their pledge to defend democracy, and did the best they could."

Instead of closing as he usually did -- "And that's the way it is," he signed off with, "This is Walter Cronkite. Good night."

This was huge. Newscasters didn't say that sort of thing in Cronkite's day. Editorializing has become pro forma in the Cable Age, but it was so rare then that Cronkite is credited with validating America's disillusionment with the war and with President Johnson's decision not to seek re-election.

It was especially huge around my house. On that particular day, my brother was a 19-year-old Marine on a ridge just southeast of Khe Sanh. He says he knew nothing of the broadcast and, "I don't think it ever filtered down to us on the field. We just wanted out of the place. ... I imagine our response would have been, 'No, s---, Walter! Who didn't know that?'"

The newscaster's words did filter everywhere in America, however, and history may have shifted in a different direction as a result. His critics and others now say that the Tet Offensive was a defeat for the North Vietnamese and blame Cronkite for the birth of media bias that has undermined American faith in journalism ever since.

Whether one judges Cronkite right or wrong in that respect, he brought dignity to news delivery and helped guide a period without cynicism or smugness. That's the way it was and, with rare exceptions, is no more.

IS IT TRUE?



COMING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2009
SPECIAL EDITION

HEROES

On September 11, 2009, we are planning a special issue. This issue will be dedicated to the men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces. We would especially like to honor your friends and family members who have been given special recognition by the United States of America. If you, a friend or a family member have been given a Purple Heart, Medal of Honor, or any other award for bravery, we ask that you please send us a name and photo to be placed in our special section.

We will also honor the men and women of the local fire departments (volunteer and paid), local EMS, and local police and sheriff's deputies. It is our stance that these people cannot be honored enough for the time and dedication with which they serve in order to protect us.

Whether you choose to believe this or not, all of these people do their part to preserve and protect our rights as American citizens. We can best honor those who perished in the tragedy of September 11th by showing that we are a nation that picks itself up, brushes off the dirt and climbs back to the top by banning together.

Please submit your names and photos to us via email at citycountyobserver@live.com. If you would like to submit them in person, contact Special Edition Editor Don Counts at (812) 422-1792 or the proud American Pat Pittman at (812) 483-1700.

JUDGING 101

By Judge James Redwine

Law schools have a general approach to legal education. Law professors present law students with fictional cases then use the Socratic Method to extract issues from the cases. Then the issues are discussed with a view toward teaching the students to recognize salient principles. As criminal cases are most familiar to most people, freshman law students start there. Judges are trained the same way.

Once we begin our discussion of judging, perhaps a hypothetical criminal case would be a good place to begin. In later columns civil and domestic relation matters may be addressed.

By the way, did you complete your homework? You will recall you were to prepare for our sessions on the art of judging by reviewing what you learned in Sunday school and kindergarten. Good. Then let's go directly to class participation.

Judges should:

- A) Keep an open mind; or
- B) Always watch Judge Judy.

Judges should decide cases:

- A) Based on the law and evidence; or
- B) Survey the opinions of people who watch *The Peoples Court*.

Judges should:

A) Never allow people to talk with them about a case outside of court; or

B) Secretly try to find out how a majority of voters would like a case to come out.

Now I would like to frame our hypothetical criminal case.

Please do not attempt to compare our fictional case with any actual case as it is my express goal to not draw upon any case that has ever been in front of me. If you believe you recognize any similarities with any real incident or individuals, you are simply incorrect.

THE CASE OF THE PURLOINED POME

A long, long time ago a couple lived happily without WalMarts, Mc Donalds or even clothes. The condition they were required to meet to continue this idyllic existence forever was simple: do not eat the fruit of a certain tree.

All was well until one of the pair, She, was allegedly (remember that word) tempted by Sir Pent to taste the forbidden fruit.

Next, She, allegedly tempted Him.

For purposes of our hypothetical let's assume that Mr. Pent and Ms. She are charged with conspiracy to corrupt Mr. Him. Mr. Him is charged with taking a bite of the pome.

You are the judge. You are neither omniscient nor omnipresent. You must decide the case on the evidence you hear and see in court. The only witness who testifies is one Beelzebub who used to work for Mr. Pent as his executive assistant.

As judge you want to hear from Mr. Pent and Ms. She but they take the 5th Amendment and do not testify. Do you:

- A) Assume they are hiding something; or
- B) Assume nothing.

Mr. Him has turned state's evidence in return for which he is not sentenced to having the couple's children. Do you:

A) Assume his testimony is false; or

B) Evaluate Him's testimony considering all surrounding circumstances.

While you are trying to fairly weigh the evidence a friend of yours sidles up to you at the street fair and tells you Mr. Pent is a snake who has taken advantage of Ms. She. Do you:

A) Tell nobody and decide to find Mr. Pent guilty; or

B) Disclose the incident to Mr. Pent, Ms. She, Mr. Him and the attorneys.

Okay, enough for Judging 101. Next week, we might see if this hypothetical case has any relevance to judging today.



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EDITORIAL

LET FREEDOM RING, AGAIN AT THE VANDERBURGH COUNTY CIVIC CENTER

By Gavin Kent

This week we attended a Evansville City Council meeting. We were invited by members of the Coalition of Inner City Neighborhoods so we could listen to the discussion concerning the city handling of building codes in the 4th Ward.

One coalition member, Eric Cake suggested that the city consider hiring an independent ombudsman to defend the rights of anyone who have alleged to have broken the City of Evansville building codes as set forth by the city merit consideration.

Another 4th Ward resident, Casey Sellers suggested that the city should use people who are skilled in a trade and that have the classification of apprentice should be allowed to work on homes to bring them up to the City Building Codes. This makes good sense. This proposal could provide our union trade apprentices much needed work and on the job training doing difficult economic times.

Another downtown resident, Pat Pittman ask about how could 4th Ward home owners stop the proposed 4th Ward becoming a TIF District seemly fail on deaf ears. This question should had alert the City Council members that Tom Barnett, Director of Metropolitan Development, needs to do a better selling job on the benefits of the 4th Ward becoming a TIF District. We expect City Council shall see this issue brought up

again and again by Mr. Pittman until he and others get the answer to this question.

Most interesting part of this meeting was when members of the Freedom Makers were not allowed to bring protest signs into the Civic Center. The comments made by members that their civil rights were violated may be a stretch. However, we do feel that their First Amendment Rights were taken from them that evening! In case the powers who control the activities of the Civic Center forgot what our First Amendments Rights states, here goes, "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; of the people rights to peaceably to assemble, and to redress of grievances."

Finally, it is our strong opinion that elected officials deserve our respect and should not be scolded in public. However this goes both ways, the Taxpayers also deserves the same! Allow people to voice their opinions-conservative or liberal. For the downtown Arena or not; against a TIF District or not; for the local Homestead Tax or against it; support a Tea Party or not, let "Freedom Ring" once again at the Civic Center. Allow the signs carrying protesters back in at city council meetings as long as they don't disrupt the meeting and remain peaceful.



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My Life in Values

Michelle Peterlin, Columnist

There are people you carry around in your heart. They give you part of themselves and you meld a little piece of their spirit into your soul. I have been blessed with wonderful people in my life either through divine providence, dumb luck or both.

My grandmother, Rachel, was the strongest influence on me. She was kind, funny, intelligent and had a solid faith in the Lord. God could have given me another 100 years with her and it would not have been enough. She lost her brother in World War II, her husband when she was in her early fifties and lost a son before she died. She gave me my cultural heritage and was the family archivist. I see bits of her in my daughters and it comforts me.

When I was very young I was quite sick and got stuck at home a lot recovering from several surgeries, Mrs. Frylick, my next door neighbor and the local Rabbi's wife, became my best friend. I spied on her from the bushes between our houses where she had her swing. I caught one day when she looked into the shrubs, eyed my two dark braids and asked "Iz dat yew Pock-ka-hontis?" We became thick as thieves. She had a wonderful heart, a thick Eastern European accent and two Nazi death camp tattoos on her wrist. Many times, I found her crying in her glider swing. As a child I never understood why. She was born in Hungary and lost her family in the camps. Some memories never heal. The Frylicks taught me all politics are local. Every piece of humanity has its effects on the collective. They eventually moved to New York. Her husband fought until the day he died to bring every Nazi he could to the Haig. Mrs. Frylick's daughter is Senator Phil Lieberman's wife.

The LeBlanc sisters taught me how to stand up for myself and used entirely different methods. Camille took over the family business and had the finest dress shop in town. She was one of the best business women I have ever met. She had a mind for numbers, knew how to please even the most difficult customers, loved fashion and was passionate about working. She taught me a lot about how far women can go. Most importantly through her example, she taught how to work hard and enjoy it.

Camille's sister, Estelle, was our school nurse. When I was in high school I interned with her during my free periods and after school. She was tiny, only 4'11" but solid concrete. She spent a great deal of her time fighting to protect children from neglect and abuse. She was kind and compassionate but no shrinking violet. She wore high heel shoes and short skirts no matter what the weather. She even had these crazy old fashioned rubber covers to protect her shoes from the winter weather. She was dressed her best no matter where she was going and sometimes the homes she went to were pretty nasty. She took on a lot of bad parents, bureaucrats and social services. She was threatened and chewed out regularly. She could write a new welfare policy for you.

Dr. Radiwastle was a private pediatrician and the school superintendent. He was the guy in charge of deciding if school would be canceled because of the snow. He rarely canceled school. Boy, he was tough and all the kids in town grumbled about him as we tunneled through the snow to school. I worked with him when he came into Mrs. Ford's office to examine children. Most who saw Dr. Radiwastle couldn't afford medical care and this was the only assistance they would have. In the mid 80's, hundreds of refugees from Laos came flooding into New England. We had a headstart kindergarten located in the high school building. The refugee mothers came to register their children for kindergarten and spoke almost no English. Almost all had lost their husbands in the war and were in this country alone. Dr. Radiwastle examined, immunized, and checked out legions of these kids for hours and months with no let up. His smile never faded. He dealt with the translator with patience and he looked at each child like it was a work of art and with love. He was already in his 60s at that time. His leg had been permanently damaged by childhood polio and it hurt him to be on his feet for long periods of time. When I think of him 25 years later, my eyes still tear up. Our government could learn something from Dr. Radiwastle's health care policy.

About two years ago, I was in France. One morning, my husband and I decided to go for an early morning walk. We went into a park near our hotel and found a man bleeding from a head wound and he was disoriented. It was obvious he had been attacked. We ran over to a police substation and attempted to get help. I speak French and explained the situation to the police officer on duty. He looked at me with glazed eyes. I thought he didn't understand my accent and tried again. He said he understood me but didn't know why I thought he should bother to help this man. We were shocked because we knew back home our local police would have responded with everything they had to help this stranger but in another country they could not have cared less. When my own child was severely injured earlier this year, I witnessed the kindness of my local countrymen. I couldn't even utter more than the word "help" that didn't stop a whole herd of volunteer firemen from coming, knew what to do and made things a whole lot better. This is how we do things in Evansville, Indiana and in America and its about love. Don't forget it, don't take it for granted, and don't ever think it a common thing around the world. Our own fire and police department can teach the world a few things about decency and duty to their fellow man. They deserve all the support, funding and reserves we can give them. They are the reason we live in a peaceful society. Call your local elected official and remind them of this.

In 2007, we were in England and decided to take the train out from London over to Salisbury for the day. We went to the Salisbury Cathedral to see the sites. The original Magna Carta is

My Life in Values cont. from page10

housed there. This ancient document is to the English what the Declaration of Independence is to Americans. My feet were hurting and I couldn't keep up with our friends so I plopped down on a bench in the Magna Carta room. There were no other places to rest close by and it was air conditioned. An elderly docent who had the same foot problem parked herself beside me to have a chat. We put our bad feet up and talked for a while. Out of the blue she told me she had just buried her nephew who died in the Iraq War. He was 24 years old. She asked me to go home and tell Americans how good friends the British were to us. There was nothing confrontational about her meaning. She was nearly 80 years old. She had watched her country bombed during World War II and remembered the Americans coming her country's aid. I told I would them the folks back, that we were grateful and prayed my answer was true. This woman understood America's place in the world.

There are so many people from my youth and even now who have enriched my life. My college art professors, Grillo and Gongora, were willing to get personal and take me on at time when I needed guidance. Today, I have friends who drop everything to come to the hospital when I didn't even get out the reason why and another friend who arranged for someone to clean our house so when we returned with our child things would be better than when we left. I still have personal mentors who are strong women in their community and leading the way for girls behind them. Marsha, Venetta, Sheryl, Ginny and Carlene, thank you.

Everyone has their list of people that are part of their hearts too. We have heard a lot about preserving American rights and are country is at a crossroads right now. Lets never forget to use our freedom to practice compassion, sacrifice a part of yourself for another person, and most importantly to love.



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BUSINESS

Now could be the time to invest in commodities

By Fransico Ramirez, Archer Financial

It's been an odd weather year for the heartland of America. It's been the kind of weather that is beneficial to growing crops such as corn and soybeans. Given the large acreage planted and the prognosis for excellent yields, we could continue to see severe price pressure on these markets. Specially soybeans since they continue to be relatively high to historical standards. This could be an excellent opportunity FOR YOU to get involved in the commodity futures and options markets.

The 7/20/09 USDA crop progress report showed that the U.S. corn crop was rated at 71 percent good to excellent. A year ago this stood at 65%. Soybeans were rated at 67% good to excellent, up 6% from last year at this time. With the short-term forecasts favorable, the odds for a bumper crop continue to increase. University of Illinois extension economist Darrel Good projects that soy yields could reach 44.7 bushels per acre vs. USDA's last 42.6 estimate. He also predicts that corn yields could reach 161.9 bushels per acre vs. USDA's 153.4 last forecast. Using the latest June 30th prospective plantings report from the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the higher yields would lead to an extra 162.75 million soybean bushels and an extra 739.5 million corn bushels. Note that the soybean acreage is a record high.

Add to this estimates that next season's South American crops will be enormous. Oil World recently estimated that the Argentina soybean crop for early 2010 could reach a record 52 million tonnes and the Brazilian crop could reach 61.6 million tonnes. This is all based on substantial increases in acreage but there are a variety of factors at play as it still is too early to accurately gauge all the variables.

Although tight existing soybean supplies and other grains led to a surge in soybean prices over \$15 per bushel within the past couple of years - the historical highs from 1973 - 2005 all top out around \$10.50. With current November futures at about \$9.00, it could be said that soybean prices remain high. However, a large supply influx could continue the recent downward price trend. The same holds true for corn although the price is much more reasonable in comparison to historicals.

RISKS? There are always risks. The unknown factors remain demand and weather. It is feasible for the weather to turn markedly worse over the remainder of the growing season. There is also talk of an early frost possibility which could dramatically change price action in these markets. Global economic conditions could also affect these markets, in particular the value of the US Dollar. Weigh the risk and reward to your own personal circumstances but take a good look at this opportunity before it is too late.



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EDUCATION

UE to Welcome Iraqi Students Through New Iraq Education Initiative

Iraqi officials this morning announced the University of Evansville as one of only 22 colleges and universities across the nation participating in the first year of the new Iraq Education Initiative.

The project, which was announced in Washington, D.C., this morning by Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, was created as part of an effort to help rebuild Iraq by offering its citizens access to quality education in foreign countries. Among the goals of the Initiative is to send up to 10,000 Iraqi students per year over the next five years to the U.S., U.K., Canada, and Australia to complete their higher education studies. The program will kick off in 2009/10 with 500 students going to the 22 universities announced this morning, including the University of Evansville. It is not yet known, however, how many of the students will attend UE.

“We are just incredibly excited to be part of the Iraq Education Initiative,” said Bev Fowler, UE’s director of international admission. “As we prepare to welcome Iraqi students to the university for their education, we also anticipate their presence will have a

positive impact on the entire UE community. “ All of these students’ education will be fully-funded by the Iraqi government.”

With this morning’s announcement, UE joined 21 other universities in creating the American Universities Iraq Consortium.

But the University’s efforts in Iraq go back beyond this project. Last year, UE welcomes its first Iraqi student, Zaid Abdulmajeed, as part of a separate program, entitled the Iraqi Student Project. Then, in the spring, UE Vice President for Enrollment Services Thomas Bear traveled to Iraq to explore the new Iraq Education Initiative, leading to UE’s participation in this morning’s announcement.

At the news conference Prime Minister al-Maliki – joined by the program’s executive director, Zuhair Humadi – signed an implementation agreement with the Academy for Educational Development’s president, Stephen F. Moseley. The event took place at AED headquarters in Washington, D.C. Fowler was in attendance to represent the University of Evansville.



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PAX Program looks for local host families

Story By Don Counts
Staff Writer

In the May 22, 2009 issue of the City-County Observer (<http://city-countyobserver.com/?p=147>) I told you the story about Nita Sims and her work with PAX (Program of Academic Exchange, a non-profit organization that works in accordance with the US State Department. When I read a story like this, maybe I'm just curious, but I wanted to know the rest of the story about the kids coming to America.

I have been watching Nita's progress in finding families for the foreign exchange students. Nita said "This is crunch week just like many other businesses and organizations, we are coming into the home stretch. ..I hope...(this story) describing these students will result in a host family. Thanks for any support". This week she is working hard to find homes for Karn from Thailand and Do Yeon from Korea.

Please read their stories:

KARN FROM THAILAND

Karn loves sports and acting. He plays both tennis and soccer, and would love to learn American football while he is in the U.S. Last year, he and his friends put on a school play and Karn is very proud of all the hard work everyone put into it to make it a success. Though he attends a bilingual school, Karn cannot wait to improve his English skills. More information about Karn can be found at:



http://pax.org/asp/pax.asp?st_id=13896&p=5549

DO YEON FROM KOREA

Do Yeon is an aspiring journalist who admires the work of war correspondent Robert Capa. She can't decide whether she would prefer photo journalism, sports writing, or news reporting. Do Yeon is active in Girl Scouts and enjoys writing poetry. To relax, she plays piano and danso (Korean flute). Do Yeon's application essay to her host family ends "I look forward to cooking bulgogi of Korean food and playing danso for you!" You can learn more about Do



Yeon at: http://pax.org/asp/pax.asp?st_id=14165&p=2628

PAX host families provide a bed, a quiet place to study

and meals. They also give young people like these love, guidance, and the experience of a lifetime. In return, host families receive the gift of a new extended family and a new window on the world.

Please open your home and heart to Do Karn or Yeon. If there is even the smallest possibility of your hosting, please call me at 812/602/3355. Also, if you can not host but would be willing to tell your friends or family that might help, it would be greatly appreciated. Actually now she is taking temporary host families for 6 to 8 weeks, and she has two German boy students who are coming for just one semester, as soon as host families are found for them.

For more information and no obligation please contact:

Nita Sims, PAX Community Coordinator
Res. (812) 602-3355 or Cell (816)516-8660



UE Baseball Adds Two More to 2009 Recruiting Class

University of Evansville baseball coach Wes Carroll continued to round out his first recruiting class as head coach today, as he announced the signing of middle infield prospect Eric Stamets (Dublin, Ohio/Dublin Scioto) and right-handed pitcher Sam Johns (Bethalto, Ill./Civic Memorial) to National Letters of Intent.

“We are excited to be able to sign two players the caliber of Eric and Sam during the summer signing session,” said Carroll. “We expect both men to be able to come in and compete for a prominent role on our team this year as freshmen.”

Stamets will likely contend for a role on UE’s middle infield this spring after a break-out senior campaign at Dublin Scioto High School outside of Columbus, where he earned second team all-Ohio honors as a senior. An outstanding athlete who also shined in football and basketball for the Irish, Stamets set five single-season team records this past spring as a senior, while hitting .541 with four home runs, nine triples and 27 RBI. He also went a perfect 15-for-15 in the stolen base department on his way to earning Columbus Dispatch All-Metro Team honors and first team all-Central District honors.

“Eric is an all-around athlete who possesses great speed and explosiveness,” said Carroll. “He has many great tools on the baseball field that are going to make him a special player for us. I look forward to Eric competing for the shortstop position this fall.”

Johns comes to UE after a record-setting career at Civic Memorial High School in Bethalto, Illinois outside of St. Louis. Johns set the Civic Memorial career record for strikeouts, and has ranked among the St. Louis metro area leaders in strikeouts each of the past two years. A two-time team Most Valuable Player, Johns went 9-2 this past year with a 1.93 ERA and 86 strikeouts in just 58.0 innings of work, to rank among the St. Louis metro area leaders for victories (tied for third) and strikeouts (tied for 10th).

“Sam is a very athletic right-handed pitcher with a quick arm,” said Carroll. “He has an explosive slider and he has the tendency to miss a lot of bats. Hopefully, he can continue that trend at the college level, especially after we lost Wade Kapteyn to the Major League draft in June.”

Stamets and Johns will join fellow summer signees Chris Pearson (Greenwood, Ind./Center Grove) and John Day (Barrington, Ill./Barrington) and fall signees Scott Scheumann (Ft. Wayne, Ind./Bishop Dwenger), Josh Biggs (Valparaiso, Ind./Washington Township), Kyle Lloyd (Carmel, Ind./Carmel), Adam Culiver (Newburgh, Ind./Castle), Jake Naumann (Naperville, Ill./North), Ryan Pierce (Jeffersonville, Ind./Jeffersonville) and Ryan Oesterle (Peoria, Ariz./Scottsdale C.C.) to form Carroll’s first recruiting class as head coach of the Purple Aces. Carroll led UE to a 25-30

overall record in his first year as head coach, with the 25 victories ranking as the second-highest victory total by a first-year baseball coach in UE history. Evansville will return 19 players from last year’s squad this spring, including all-Missouri Valley Conference picks Cody Fick, Andy Pascoe and Tom Heithoff.



Swimming Ace Sekely Top Female Finisher at Maccabiah Games Sprint Triathlon



University of Evansville senior-to-be swimmer Ady Sekely (Yavne, Israel/Katzir Rehovot) finished first in both her age category and the female division in the sprint triathlon event at the 18th Maccabiah Games in Israel while representing the host country.

Sekely crossed the finish line in the sprint triathlon in a new personal-best time of one hour, 27 minutes, and 37 seconds. The time placed Sekely first in her age category (20-24) and allowed her to place first among females and 31st overall (men and women combined) in the sprint event, which features a 750-meter swim, a 20,000-meter bike ride, and a 5,000-meter run. The sprint triathlon took place around the sea of Galilee in Israel under tough weather conditions, as the temperature reached as high as 110 degrees during the biking and running portion of the event.

Sekely was competing for the Israeli National Team in the sprint triathlon, after qualifying for the squad in mid-June. The Maccabiah Games, sometimes referred to as the “Jewish Olympics,” are held every four years in Israel and attract the top Jewish athletes from around the world. This year, over 7,000 Jewish athletes from over 60 countries were scheduled to compete in what is the world’s third-largest international sporting event.

Sekely has been one of UE’s top butterfly and IM swimmers in the pool over the last three years for head coach Rickey Perkins’ Purple Aces. She posted UE’s top time in the 200 fly this past year, while also owning the team’s best 400 IM time in 2008. Sekely placed ninth in the Missouri Valley Conference in the 200 fly event this past February at the State Farm MVC Swimming and Diving Championships, and has also excelled in the classroom, earning a pair of MVC Scholar-Athlete Team honors.

UE Fall Sports Season Tickets Now On Sale

Season ticket packages for the sports of men’s soccer, women’s soccer and volleyball are now available at the University of Evansville Athletic Ticket Office, located in UE’s Carson Center. Ticket brochures are also currently available under the “Tickets” link on www.gopurpleaces.com.

Season ticket packages for men’s soccer begin at \$30 for youth (17 and under) and seniors (65 and over) and \$55 for adults. A “Family Pack” of 50 vouchers good for admission to any of UE’s 10 home men’s soccer matches is also available for \$160.

Season ticket packages for women’s soccer are priced at \$25 for youth and seniors, \$45 for adults, and \$140 for a “Family Pack” of 50 vouchers good for admission to any of UE’s nine women’s soccer home matches. Volleyball packages are also available starting at \$10 for youth, \$25 for seniors, \$35 for adults, and \$70 for a “Family Pack” consisting of two adult and two youth season passes.

Individual game tickets will also be sold this year at \$7 for adults and \$5 for youths. Individual game tickets will go on sale at the venue beginning one hour prior to the start of the match.

Anyone interested in purchasing season tickets or anyone with questions should contact the UE Athletic Ticket Office by phone at (812) 488-ACES.

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Campbell earns academic honor

EVANSVILLE, Ind.—University of Southern Indiana junior Brandon Campbell (Portage, Indiana) was named to the United States Track and Field/Cross Country Coaches' Association (USTFCCCA) men's All-Academic squad Tuesday.

To qualify for the USTFCCCA All-Academic Track and Field Team, the student-athlete must have compiled a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 and have met the NCAA Division II Indoor or Outdoor automatic or provisional qualifying standard in their respective event.

Campbell earned first-team All-GLVC honors after winning the conference title in the 3,000-meter steeplechase during the outdoor season. He also earned second-team All-GLVC accolades during the indoor season after finishing second in the 3,000 meters and third in the 5,000 meters at the league meet.

The social science major posted provisional qualifying times in the steeplechase twice during the outdoor season, with a season-best time of nine minutes, 24.02 seconds coming at the conference meet.

Campbell is the fifth Screaming Eagle to be named to the USTFCCCA All-Academic team in the last two days after juniors Mary Ballinger, Lauren Crick, and Lacy Williams, and freshman Adrienne Curtis were named to the women's squad Monday.



Brandon Campbell

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A PROCLAMATION

ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2009

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Today we celebrate the 19th anniversary of the enactment of the historic Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Signed into law on July 26, 1990, this landmark legislation established a clear mandate against discrimination on the basis of disability so that people with disabilities would have an equal opportunity to achieve the American Dream.

Our Nation is once again poised to make history for people with disabilities. I am proud to announce that the United States will sign the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in New York on December 13, 2006. The Convention is the first new human rights convention of the 21st century adopted by the United Nations, and it represents a paradigm shift in protecting the human rights of 650 million people with disabilities worldwide. We proudly join the international community in further advancing the rights of people with disabilities.

As we reflect upon the past and look toward a brighter future, we recognize that our country has made great progress. More than ever before, Americans with disabilities enjoy greater access to technology and economic self-sufficiency. More communities are accessible, more children with disabilities learn alongside their peers, and more employers recognize the capabilities of people with disabilities.

Despite these achievements, much work remains to be done. People with disabilities far too often lack the choice to live in communities of their choosing; their unemployment rate is much higher than those without disabilities; they are much likelier to live in poverty; health care is out of reach for too many; and too many children with disabilities are denied a world-class education.

My Administration has met these challenges head-on. We have launched the “Year of Community Living” to help people with disabilities live wherever they choose. We have nearly doubled the funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. I was proud to sign the groundbreaking Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act and the Children’s Health Insurance Reauthorization Act, which provides health insurance to millions of additional children. I also lifted the ban on stem cell more research. These measures demonstrate our commitment to leveling the playing field for every person with a disability. My Administration will not rest on these accomplishments, and we will continue to focus on improving the lives of people with disabilities. I encourage States, localities, and communities across the country to cultivate an environment in which the 54 million Americans living with a disability are valued and respected.

Americans have repeatedly affirmed the importance of protecting the human rights and dignity of every member of this great country. Through the steps we have taken, we will continue to build on the ADA and demonstrate our ongoing commitment to promoting, protecting, and ensuring the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by people with disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim July 26, 2009, as the Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. I call on Americans across our country to celebrate the progress we have made in protecting the civil rights of people with disabilities and to recognize the step forward we make with the signing of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Inspired by the advances of the last 19 years, let us commit to greater achievements in the years ahead.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

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at Oaklyn Library, 3001 Oaklyn Dr Evansville, IN 47711, we will be hosting our inaugural Republican political school. You will learn how to build grassroots organization and tactics for successful

grassroots lobbying. The school is suitable for beginner activists. Ideal attendees, for the Republican Grassroots Training School, are those who are interested in volunteering or working for a conservative

candidate, cause, or issue at the local or state level.

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will hear from a variety of different groups such as representatives from AXIOM Marketing, Moms R.O.C., 2nd Amendment Patriots of Indiana, and the Republican State Party.

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LOCAL POLITICS

WAYNE PARKE SELECTED AS NEW VANDERBURGH GOP TREASURER

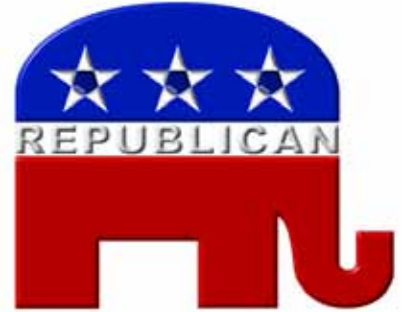
Chairman Nick Hermann has selected Wayne Parke to serve as the new GOP Treasurer. Wayne replaces former treasurer Jim Shanahan, who has moved to Chicago to practice law.

Wayne is a retired executive with Peabody Energy and Black Beauty Coal Company where he served as Director of Administration and Senior Vice President. Prior to his work with Peabody and Black Beauty Coal Company, Wayne served as President and Owner of Kindill Mining, Inc., was President/CEO of Old Ben Coal Company, and has worked in various other capacities in the coal industry since 1967.

Wayne has long been active in the community as well. He is the Board Chairman of the Southwestern Indiana Red Cross Chapter, past School Board President of the East Gibson School Corporation, and is a member of the Green River Kiwanis Club. Wayne resides on Evansville's East

Side with his wife, Ms. Karen Parke. The couple have two grown children, Andrea and Timothy.

For more information about Wayne and the Republican Party visit the GOP's revamped website at www.VanderburghGOP.com.



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COVER STORY

First Amendment continued from page 1



Building Authority. The lady who answered the phone said that there was no law as far as she knows.

Upon request, Audra Levy, the Mayor's Press Secretary, answered an email this morning providing the Rules and Regulations of the Building Authority. She asked us to pay careful attention to rule #13, which states, "The use of common and public space for political purposes is prohibited. No pictures, signs or other political materials may be posted or displayed in the common and public areas in or about the Civic Center Complex."

This begs the question, "Where does the First Amendment of the Constitution fit into this?" If this building is paid for by the people and houses the people's business, don't the people have a right to be heard and seen?

In researching this matter at the State level, the following is noted in the Indiana Constitution: "ARTICLE 1. Section 9. No law shall be passed, restraining the free interchange of thought and opinion, or restricting the right to speak, write, or print, freely, on any subject whatever: but for the abuse of that right, every person shall be responsible."

According to the State Attorney General's Office, the Freedom Makers cannot be prohibited from carrying signs in protest of show of cause. These signs should be permitted as long they are not waived during the course of business at the meeting.

There's another question to be raised about this matter. Six weeks ago, those attending the Evansville City Council meeting

to ask for the local Homestead Tax Credit back and those protesting the Westside Annexation, carried signs and posters into the Civic Center and into City Council Chambers. Nothing was said or done about that by any building official.

Calls made to the American Civil Liberties Union revealed that the Freedom Makers' first Amendment Rights may have been violated. They are interested in finding out more information and documentation regarding this incident.

In 2003, there was an incident in Indianapolis where protesters were not allowed on the sidewalks with their signs. The officers stated this was a safety issue. The Southern District Court ruled that this was a violation of the protestor's First Amendment rights.

This is an issue that warrants further attention. The City-County Observer will continue to look into the matter. Stay tuned.

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Office	1,500	1,250	Retail	1,500	938	Warehouse	4,200	1,750
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CONTACT INFORMATION:

Contact: Frank Peterlin (o)(812)425-1906 Ext.1103 (f)(812)425-2585 PeterlinVI@AOL.COM

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