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

SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

VOLUME II, ISSUE 21

Trash debate to land on the laps of City Council members

By Jamie Grabert, Publisher

The Evansville City Council will meet Monday evening, and among the items they will find for review will be a presentation by Harry Lawson, Manager of the Water and Sewer Utility, and a representative from Republic Services Inc. (formerly Allied Waste) regarding the implementation of a new trash pick-up program and contract.

After spending countless hours speaking with representatives and journalists from a dozen cities, including the oftencited Fort Wayne, it is discernable that the city may need to spend a bit more time on this issue before the City Council rubber stamps this one.

After reviewing the residential contract dated May 9, 1999, it was determined that the contract ended in June of 2004, with a potential 5-year extension. The city has continued to utilize Republic's services while they work out the terms of a new contract. According to the contract, BFI (which was bought by Allied Waste, which was recently bought by Republic) publicly bid contract to provide the residential trash disposal and recycling services. The contract also states that the company "has the necessary equipment, manpower, experience and ability to provide the services requested by the CITY for the collection and disposal of residential refuse, collection and management of residential recyclables and yard waste under the terms and conditions of this Agreement."

Under Article V of the current contract subsection "A" states, "The CONTRACTOR shall furnish all equipment, labor and supervision necessary to operate in compliance with this Contract. Refuse shall be collected and hauled in closed, leak-proof, packer-type trucks equipped with a load in mechanism so designed that refuse being collected shall he exposed only for the time necessary to deposit to the refuse into the body of the truck."

The current contract goes on to state in subsection "D" that "Equipment used in the collection services shall bear no representation that it is owned by the City of Evansville."

According to recent reports, Republic is seemingly asking the residents of Evansville to pay for their new equipment. According to a story by Dan Shaw, of the Evansville Courier & Press, earlier this week, Republic is planning to make some substantial investments, such as equipments and the proposed new containers.

Under Article XVI (Compensation and Adjustments), subsection (A) of the current contract, the dollar amounts are given.

1. From March 1, 1999 through June 30, 1999, the sum of \$761,028.00 payable in equal monthly installments of \$190,257.00.

2. From July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000, the sum of \$3,761,640.00, payable in equal monthly installments of \$313,470.00.

3. From July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001, the sum of \$3,873,678.00, payable in equal monthly installments of \$322,806.50.00.

4. From July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002, the sum of \$3,989,889.00, payable in equal monthly installments of \$332,490.75.

5. From July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003, the sum of \$4,109,586.00, payable in equal monthly installments of \$342,465.50.

6. From July, 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004, the sum of *continued on page 23*

Kennedy Club roasts Bitz



Paul Bitz (left) and Al Lindsey look at a birthday gift received by Bitz. See the story on page 2.

THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER NEWS

Kennedy Club holds roast, celebration to honor respected former State Senator Paul Bitz

By Rick Davis, Vanderburg County Treasurer

Anyone who's ever thrown a successful surprise birthday party knows a good, believable ruse is as important as a delicious birthday cake. After all, in order to keep the party a surprise for the intended recipient, a good lie is necessary to get the birthday boy or girl to show up when and where you want them.

But friends and family of former State Sen. Paul Bitz learned on Saturday, Sept. 19, that if you're going to throw a birthday party/roast for the longtime Democrat, you'd better consult the Notre Dame football schedule BEFORE coming up with a good lie.

Bitz kept more than 50 friends and family members who gathered to celebrate his 86th birthday party patiently waiting at The Evansville Labor Temple on Saturday because Notre Dame was

gridlocked with Michigan State in a nailbiter. Bitz, a devout Catholic and lifelong Notre Dame fan, wasn't leaving his living room for anything, even if it meant he was unknowingly keeping loved ones from pulling one over on him.

It was 6 p.m. when party planner David Cosby drove to Bitz' house to pick him up as part of the ruse. The two were supposed to drive to the Labor Temple to serve food for a "party" City Councilman H. Dam Adams was supposedly throwing for local professional hockey team The Evansville Icemen. But when Cosby arrived there was still nearly half a quarter of exciting football to be played between Notre Dame and Michigan State, and Bitz wasn't missing any of it. Bitz told Cosby to go back home, and said he would be the one to pick

Cosby up and drive them both to the Icemen party at 6:30 p.m., 15 minutes after Bitz was scheduled to be surprised.

For those who know Bitz, no one was shocked when Cosby called the Labor Temple and shared the news. Stubborn. Loyal. Determined. Three traits that were evident for about an hour of roasting. But when Bitz finally showed up, he indeed, was surprised.

"I thought it was fantastic," said Bitz. "I was really surprised. I thought everyone did an outstanding job."

Also enjoying the evening were Bitz' wife of 62 years, Tena, and all six of their living children (boys Terry, Kim, and Greg; and girls Bonnie Rheinhardt, Cindy Korff and Karen Stewart). Grandchildren and great grandchildren were also in attendance.

Adams, who played the part of Roastmaster, enjoyed hounding Bitz about their escapades during Adams' successful 2007 campaign for City Council At-Large. Other roasters were political legend Betty Knight Smith, Republican County Clerk Susan Kirk, Judge Maurice O'Connor, City Clerk Alberta Matlock, me, and Bitz' son, Kim, who enjoyed telling the crowd how hard it was growing up being "the son of a Bitz." City Councilman Don Walker also helped plan the party.

Cosby said the roasters did a wonderful job of giving Bitz his due. Matlock gave Bitz a gag gift of adult diapers, causing Bitz to proclaim to the audience: "I don't need these yet."

"I thought there were a lot of different personalities which really brought it together," said Cosby, who has known Bitz for more than 20 years. "I think there were a lot of stories that hit the nail on the head with Paul. He's very dedicated to people. I see Bitz as a person who has a lot of compassion for people and I felt like nobody's ever really done anything for Paul, and he's always doing something for the community."

Bitz, who created the John F. Kennedy Club two years ago and has served as the club's only President, has been a Democratic Party precinct committeeman for 34 years. He served as a State Senator from 1955-1962 and in 1960 came within one vote at of representing the Democratic Party on the November ballot as Lt. Governor.

"Back in those days your state officials were picked at the (Democratic Party) convention, and I ran for Lt. Gov. and Matt Welsh of Vincennes ran for governor. We both got endorsed on the front page of the Indianapolis Star by the AFL-CIO."

But when Welsh won the gubernatorial nod, party leaders relented against supporting Bitz due to the fact that both candidates were from Southern Indiana. "The (delegates) all switched over and said we can't have somebody from the same end of the state (on the governor/Lt. Gov. ticket)," said Bitz. A candidate

THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER NEWS

Paul Bitz roast continued from page 2

from Kokomo was nominated to appear on the Lt. Governor ballot, but that candidate was defeated by a Republican, making for a bizarre circumstance in Indiana when a Democrat governor served above a Republican Lt. Gov. After that happened, state law was changed, stating the governor and Lt. Gov. had to be from the same party, said Bitz.

Despite the disappointing loss, and a re-election loss for State Senate that followed, Bitz was not bitter, and has remained faithful to the Democratic Party ever since. He's been a precinct committeeman for 34 years.

"It's just part of life," said Bitz. "You lose some battles and you win some battles."

The highlight of the roast, said Bitz, was seeing his family all together. When he entered the party room and looked around, "I didn't see some of them," said Bitz, who had family come from as far away as Arlington, Va., and Indianapolis to attend the party. "I didn't have any idea they'd all be there.

"I just want to thank everybody for being there," he added. "It was a great surprise for me and a great honor (to be roasted)."

We don't yet know how well the real Evansville Iceman party will turn out -- Adams plans on holding the real party next



Elected officials past and present were happy to be part of the roast honoring Paul Bitz.

month -- but Notre Dame pulled out a stunning victory over Michigan State, 38-34.

For Bitz, who showed up at his surprise party wearing a beloved Notre Dame sweatshirt, the Irish victory was icing on his own roasted birthday cake.

JOSEPH H. HARRISON, JR.

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THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER NEWS Eyes Wide Open Indiana: The Human Cost of War

By Don Counts, Staff Writer

I just left the "Eyes Wide Open" display at the Four Freedoms Monument in Evansville. While there I met Erin Polley. She was in Chicago when the war in Iraq began. She was against the war and became involved in protests against the war. I was wearing a Marine Corps shirt and told her that I had served for 24 years. She thanked me for my service. She is against the war not against the men and women serving. Polley joined Eyes Wide Open and is now the coordinator for the State of Indiana.

The Eyes Wide Open exhibit, created by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), is a living memorial to the military personnel and civilians killed in Iraq and Af-

ghanistan. The exhibit began in Chicago in 2004 with over 3,400 pairs of boots. As more service personnel died the exhibit had to be divided by state.

When you see a display honoring the men and women from Indiana that have died it brings the war home. We see the national figures of how many service personnel have died and the national monetary costs of the war, but rarely see the numbers from Indiana. As of today there are 155 servicemen and women from Indiana that have died in the wars. Standing there looking at the 155 pair of boots you see the costs that Indiana has paid.

Each pair of boots is tagged with the name, age, rank and hometown of the service person. There was also a pair of white boots and a sign saying they represented the service personnel that have committed suicide after returning from the war. Also on display was a small group of shoes representing the Iraq and Afghan civilians that have died. Beside the human lives that have been lost, what is the monetary cost to Indiana? That cost, so far, Indiana taxpayers have paid \$13.9 billion toward the national expenditure of the Iraq war.

The servicemen and women from Southwestern Indiana that have given their lives in the war on terror are:



Sergeant Brock Babb 40 Evansville IN Specialist Ryan G Carlock 25 Evansville IN Private First Class Darren A Deblanc 20 Evansville IN Specialist William A Jefferies 39 Evansville IN Sergeant Jimmy Shawn Lees 26 Mount Vernon IN Private First Class Jonathan R Pfender 22 Evansville IN Corporal Willard Powell 21 Evansville IN

Eyes Wide Open is a Quaker organization that opposes the war. This memorial is owned by the American Friends Service Committee intended to honor lives lost in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars and to call attention to the human and financial cost of the Wars as it is born by individuals, families, communities, states and our country as a whole.

While the American Friends Service Committee has taken as strong stance in opposing the Iraq War, the exhibit seeks to create a safe space where people of differing opinions and perspectives about the war can come together to remember those who have died.

Eyes Wide Open is intended to provoke dialogue and reflection as opposed to debate and confrontation.

Veterans for Peace Chapter 104 co-sponsored the event and their national organization helps to raise public awareness about the costs in human life and financial costs and consequences of the war.

THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER EDITORIAL IS IT TRUE?

Is it true that Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel met with Evansville City Police Officer and Firefighters last week to discuss budget cuts in the 2010 budget? Is it true that the mayor blamed much of the problem on the state? Is it true that the mayor also attempted to cite the reinstatement of the Local Homestead Tax Credit as another reason for the cuts? Is it true he gave firefighters a handout that listed cuts by South Bend, Kokomo, Hammond, Mishawaka, Gary, East Chicago, Muncie, St. Joseph County, New Castle, Anderson, Schereville, Merrillville and Georgetown? Is it true both presentations fell on deaf ears?

Is it true the League of Women Voters has started a petition to consolidate city and county government? Is it true the League of Women Voters announced their petition at a Vanderburgh County Commissioners meeting?

Is it true that the Evansville Redevelopment Commission will hold a Public Hearing at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 29.? Is it true the Public Hearing is to approve the acquisition list for the proposed amendment to the Downtown Development Plan? Is it true many, if not all, of these properties are necessary for the construction of the new arena? Is it true the properties on the list are: 629 Main St., 627 Main St., 625 Main St., 623 Main St., 621 Main St., 619 Main St., 617 Main St., 7 SE ML King Blvd., 615 Main St., 617 619 Main St., 624 Locust St. (rear), 619 Main St. (rear), 600 622 Locust St., 624 Locust St., and 18 SE Sixth St.? Is it true written remonstrances will be accepted until the date and time of the meeting in the Dept. of Metropolitan Development Office in the Civic Center?

Is it true that the "Sewers Before Stadium" slogan is taking on a different meaning in light of the recent complaint filed by the EPA and IDEM?

Is it true that the City of Evansville's Sewer Dept. spent \$1

million on flow meters for the Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) for equipment that is not compatible? Is it true that \$500,000 was from a federal grant, while the other \$500,000 was paid by the city? Is it true the City of Evansville currently has 22 CSOs? Is it true that only a handful of the monitors ac-



The Mole

tually work properly? Is it true that the five that are working send information directly to the sewer plant? Is it true that the others require someone to physically to go the meters and download the information to a computer vs. having the information sent automatically as it was supposed to do? Is it true the city has to install cell phone modems to the meters that are not properly relaying information? Is it true the Sewer Utility now has to pay more to get the equipment to interface properly?

Is it true we would like to thank Lana Abel and Laura Walker, of the Dept. of Metropolitan Development, for their recent invitation to review Evansville Redevelopment Commission documents? Is it true we would like to thank Redevelopment Commission President Bob Goldman for his assistance and agreement that more public scrutiny is needed there?

Is it true that the mayor announced that he is going to vigorously oppose the complaint filed by the EPA and IDEM against the Sewer Dept.? Is it true we wonder how much the legal bills are going to cost the taxpayers vs. compliance? Is it true that before the mayor can file a counter complaint, he must get the approval of the City Council? Is it true that TIF money can be used to pay for infrastructural improvements, such as those needed by the water and sewer departments? Is it true that the majority of TIF money is being used for the arena project?



September 24, 2009

- THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER EDITORIAL Interview With An Apostate



By Kathleen Parker Washingon Post Writers Group

WASHINGTON -- No one was more delighted by the recent ACORN pimp 'n' prostitute, hidden-camera sting than Marcel Reid, the former ACORN board member who was booted in summer 2008 when she tried to examine the organization's books.

"If we'd known all it took was a half-naked 20-year-old, we'd have done this a year and a half ago," said Reid from the rented desk in a church that she calls her office.

By now most Americans are familiar with the acronym, ACORN -- the un-pithily named Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now -- and all its attendant problems: charges of voter registration fraud, embezzlement, tax arrears, corruption and, now, accusations of aiding and abetting illegal immigration, prostitution, tax evasion and child abuse.

Quite a dirty laundry list for an organization that once engaged the purest of ideals -- to help the poor and disenfranchised through education and employment. The viral videos of ACORN employees advising two young conservative activists ridiculously dressed up like a pimp and a prostitute about how to house and exploit underage girls from El Salvador are a long way from the Arkansas kitchen table where, in 1970, a group of impoverished mothers sat trying to figure out how to buy school supplies for their children.

That kitchen klatch was the seed that became ACORN with the help of the now-infamous Wade Rathke, better known recently for resigning from the group's board after he covered for his brother Dale, who embezzled almost \$1 million in ACORN funds in 1999 and 2000.

Despite ACORN's history of corruption, it took sex to seize the attention of the nation's leadership. In the past couple of weeks, ACORN has been stripped of \$1.6 million in federal funding and been dropped by the U.S. Census Bureau as a partner in conducting the nation's headcount.

Reid, who has been reviled by the left as an apostate, can only shake her head at the sudden interest. A gallows sense of humor helps her get through her days now as head of ACORN 8, a group of former ACORN leaders and board members in 15 states trying to reform the community group. Their mission is the same one that first attracted Reid to ACORN 10 years ago -- to help the poor.

What pains her is that the videos that have conservatives in stitches have helped bolster negative attitudes toward those she aims to help.

"Look at those poor ladies. I was so embarrassed. You cannot be operating on any cylinder and do what they did. Unfortunately, they reinforced the idea that poverty is your fault because you're not smart."

Also problematic for this former military-wife turned champion of the downtrodden is the odd tension between her new Republican fan base and her own affection for President Obama. Reid embraces the irony with a sharp wit and a seen-everything attitude. It's a wacky world out there when a former ACORN activist becomes a darling of the right-wing media.

Then again, Reid says that mainstream media outlets, with the exception of The Wall Street Journal's John Fund, weren't interested in her story when she tried to tell it more than a year ago. As political wisdom goes, you have to hunt where the ducks are.

Politics and salacious stories aside, the bottom line for Reid really is the bottom line. She still wants to help the poor and believes that all Americans share that vision. But ACORN's name has become toxic.

"We need a swift end," she says. "The only thing to do is decapitate."

Reid would like to see all board members and all senior staff gone. She thinks the Justice Department should investigate the charges of civil rights RICO violations that ACORN 8 previously filed in January. And, though grateful that the president stepped up to the plate on ACORN, she wishes he would go further than he did during Sunday's talk-show round robin.

When asked about ACORN, Obama feigned slight knowledge of the group's federal funding, though did concede that an investigation of the pimp 'n' prostitute revelations was appropriate.

Although the president is inarguably focused on more pressing concerns, his long history with ACORN is familiar. Just as Republican leaders should renounce those who race-bait and peddle anger, the Democratic Party's leader should recognize that ACORN has become an obstacle to its own mission.

THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER — EDITORIAL COMMON SENSE

By Benjamin Clark Poltical Analyst

STRONGER PROHIBITION

The Right to Life organization are extremely pleased with U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth for calling with stronger prohibitions against abortion funding through whatever public insurance bill that Congress may decide to support in the coming months.

Hospitality, Evansville Style

Thanks to Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel and his staff for showing the people from our sister city, Tochigi City, Japan, "good old" Evansville hospitality during their visit last week! People who attended some of the events hosted by City of Evansville said the Mayor and his staff were very impressive and socially gracious to our Japanese guests! The Japanese dignitaries will return home with a positive view of our fair city and just may look at suggesting that one of their plants locate in progressive Vanderburgh County, Indiana, in the future.

GOT IT RIGHT

Evansville City Councilman Dan McGinn got it right! Recently, political newcomer Dan McGinn pushed his idea of requiring an arena spending cap resolution before council. Although, this resolution is non-binding because certain members of city council went along with the Mayor's plan to allow the Evansville Redevelopment Commission to be soley in charge of the financial activities concerning the building of the new downtown Arena. We also are pleased with City Councilmen Don Walker and Dr. Dan Adams pushed the requirement of the Evansville Redevelopment Commission to provide the city council with a detailed financial report every three months. We hope that council will give consideration to supporting Councilman Don Walker's push to require the financial report to be given once a month. WOW, we are finally experiencing "good public policy" in action concerning the activities of City Council!

EXTREMELY PLEASED

We are extremely pleased to hear that The Welborn Baptist Founda-



tion is providing a \$250,000 grant the Marian Education Outreach in order to improve the educational proficiency of the students enrolled in the Catholic School System of Evansville. Organizations like The Welborn Baptist Foundation are what makes this region a great place to live!

MONSTER

Monster news! The Holiday World Voyage Rollercoaster was recently named number one in the world! Holiday World is the best regional place for family fun and is also among the cleanest amusement parks in the county!

SURVEY IS WORTH TIME

We are glad to hear that the Evansville Christian School Group is looking at expanding their offering to the high school level. Go to their website www.newevansvillehigh school.com to give your opinions on this idea.

POLITICAL FORCE

They did it again! Another successful event sponsored by the UNITED FREEDOM MAKERS was a TEA Party rally outside the Vanderburgh Civic Center in celebration of Constitution Day. It was once again deemed a successful and meaningful event! Like it or not, this group of Conservative Americans will be a political force to be reckoned with down the road!

REFERENDUM CHANCES

Consolidation of Vanderburgh County has an outstanding shot to be put on referendum in the next election cycle, thanks to the League of Women Voters of Southwestern Indiana, Freedom Makers, Vanderburgh County Tax Payers Association, 2nd Amendment Patriots and other conservative groups wanting change in this hostile political climate. Give County Councilman Joe Kiefer credit for his long term stance in support of a Metro Mayor and Metro Council type of government. It will be interesting to watch how current County Commission President Troy Tornatta dances around this issue because of his desire to be Evansville next MAYOR.

REALLY

We learned recently that the Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Bennett wants to increase the rate for ISTEP to 90% in near future. Let's see how this works - cut education funding to the bone and expect our teachers to work miracles concerning the improvement of ISTEP test scores.

SPECIAL THANKS

We want to give special thanks to our Firefighters, City Police and Sheriff Deputies for the recent work they did fighting a fire at Marina Point- TIN FISH Restaurant, working fatal wreck at North High and St. Theresa Catholic School area on Stringtown area and catching bank robbers after a long chase here in Evansville! You're all our Vanderburgh County's finest!

BUY MEAD JOHNSON PRODUCTS

Mead Johnson is once again showing us what outstanding corporate citizens they are by investing in Evansville's future and announcing a major expansion. Congratulations to Mayor Weinzapel and his team for putting together a competitive financial package to in order to bring

continued on page 9

September 24, 2009

- THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER EDITORIAL-GAVEL GAMUT HOUSES DIVIDED

Robert Dale Owen (1801-1877) and Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) both served in Congress, Owen from 1843 to 1847 for the state of Indiana and Lincoln from 1847 to 1849 for the state of Illinois.

Both men knew Posey County Common Pleas Judge John Pitcher (1795-1892). Owen and Pitcher both sought to be one of Posey County's delegates to Indiana's Constitutional Convention of 1850-1852. Owen, along with Alvin Peterson Hovey, won. Lincoln knew Pitcher when they both lived in what is now Spencer County, Indiana.

Owen wrote to Lincoln in September, 1862 just before the President issued the Emancipation Proclamation on September 23rd that would be effective January 1, 1863. The tone of his letter was respectful but blunt, much as that of an acquaintance might be.

Owen was an ardent abolitionist long before Lincoln came to the position that the Union must be all free. As was mentioned in last week's column, Lincoln expressly put the preservation of the Union, even half slave and half free, above abolition of slavery. This cautious position may have taken root due to Lincoln's loss in 1858 in his bid for election to the senate. In his famous "House Divided" speech the then Illinois senate nominee quoted Jesus:

"Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand."

~Matthew 12:25

What Abraham Lincoln the individual believed in and wanted, i.e., a Union wholly free, candidate Lincoln found to be anathema to a large majority in 1858.

However, Robert Dale Owen wrote to him in 1862 urging the President to free the slaves:

....

I shall speak to you as man to man.

Wisdom, prudence, forethought, these are essential. But not second to these that noble courage which adventures the right, and leaves the consequences to God.

Our enemies (The South), like the Grecian hero (Achilles), have one vulnerable point....

They have nearly a million able-bodied men of fit age for war or for labor. Holding these men in bondage, and employing them to till the soil, they are able to send to the

battlefield almost their entire white male adult population.... It has always been a great wrong that these men and their families should be held in bondage....

Property in man, always morally unjust, has become nationally dangerous."

Owen appealed to Lincoln's personal abhorrence of slavery and his understanding that slaves were a military asset to the South.

Now you may recall, should you have read last week's column, that our topic is family preservation, not preservation of the Union. On the other hand, you may agree with the analogy that compares civil war to divorce. Next week we might touch on Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address and start moving toward a more explicit discussion of family reintegration and harmony, even after households have been divided through court proceedings.



THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER EDITORIAL

Common Sense continued from page 7

this major expansion to Evansville, Indiana! Buy Mead Johnson produced products!

UNION TALK

The buzz heard through the CIVIC CENTER grapevine is that nonunion city employees are quietly talking about unionizing. The reason for this thinking is that they understand that the unionized city employees fared extremely well during the budget process, while the nonunionized employees did not.

WATTS PAVES THE WAY!

B. J. WATTS, 6th Ward Councilman, push to pave Broadway and Barker Streets became a reality last week. He won some praise from that effort.

CITYWIDE PROGRAM!

It's our hope that B.J. Watts will use his position of President of City Council to push the Mayor to make FRONT DOOR PRIDE a citywide program! The 6th Ward has its share of blighted homes and could benefit greatly from the FRONT DOOR PRIDE program! At least one other councilperson would support Mr. Watts push to make FRONT DOOR PRIDE a citywide program. Her name is MISSY MOSBY from the 2nd WARD!

Our Policy:

The City-County Observer accepts letters to the editor and op-ed pieces. We reserve the right to edit such items to maintain the integrity of this publication, space constraints, or for misleading and accusatory statements. We will not print letters that have not been signed and are not varifiable with the original source. From time to time, we reserve the right to print (or electronically publish) correspondence from your local officials. Again, all emails and letters must be able to be verified. Any items without accurate contact information and are not signed (a digital signature is acceptable) will not not be published. We encourage our readers to submit letters to the City-County Observer, regardless of your politcal affiliation.

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THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A request for a town hall

Publisher's Note: This letter was previously sent to the local newspaper, but it was not published. It was then sent to the City-County Observer this week by the author with a request that it be published. The letter was written at the end of August 2009. The letter is being printed in its entirety.

August 26, 2009

Dear Editor,

It is the end of August. We still have not had the opportunity to question Congressman Ellsworth in a town hall meeting. These meetings are taking place all over the country, but not in the Eighth District. Even Arlen Specter has had as many as four meetings in three days. Is he tougher than our congressman? Our congressman has spent most of his life as a sheriff, putting bad guys in jail. Congressman Ellsworth seems to be afraid of answering questions from



A woman's life is about making all kinds of choices, large and small. And Vanderburgh County Right to Life is here to support a woman's right to choose life for her unborn child. We work through education, advocacy, and services to protect women's health and the life of their unborn children.

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a few senior citizens in public forum. I am a senior citizen myself and below are a few questions that I would like to ask

1. Are the Democrats going to do anything about tort reform?

2. Are the Democrats ever going to say no to a union on anything?

3. The stimulus bill; the one that you voted against before you voted for it "Flip Flop." The president said if this stimulus bill did not pass we would have 8% unemployment. You voted for it and it passed. Unemployment is now at 10%. So how is that working out for you?

4. The CBO projects the deficit to reach over nine trillion in ten years. Are you willing to cut spending to reduce the deficit?

5. President Obama said spending one to 1.6 trillion on socialized medicine would save money. How does that

work?

6. The deficit increased 180 billion in July. How do you feel about that?

7. Does the president want to cover illegal aliens in the health care plan?

8. How do you add 50,000,000 people to the health insurance population without any new doctors?

9. With 50,000,000 new insured and no additional doctors they will have to ration coverage. What are your thoughts about this issue?

10. Eighty percent of medical expense is at the end of a senior citizens life. There is a lot of chatter about cutting these lives short. How do you feel about that?

In closing if your party passes cap and trade, socialized medicine and a card check there is no reason for any employer to stay in the United States if he/she can move their plant elsewhere. Millions of jobs will disappear including yours.

> Sincerely, Robert Barthel





New Patio Now Open!

Mondays Jay Johnson, 8pm Tuesdays John Gauer, 8pm Wednesdays Karaoke with The Experience hosted by B.K., 8pm

Thursdays Bike Night with John Hussman, 8pm Drink Specials!

Weekend Entertainment

PIECES OF THE DAY

September 11 & 1

Come celebrate

September 11th

THE JIMMIES

September 25 & 26

VILD RIDE VIEET AND GREET! September 5 ONLY!

September 4 & 5



September 18 & 19



September 18 from Club Royale! See Page 67 for Details!

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Open Mon.-Sat. 3pm • Open Sun. doors open at 6pm, show at 8pm MySpace.com/ClubRoyaleNightClub • Friend Us on FaceBook.com



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LABOR DAY WEEKEND NO SHOW

JOE MARIOTTI



with Cleveland

Credits: Bob & Tom Show, Comedy Central

Sunday, September 13

FIENROY CHO *Clean Comedy Store*



with Ted Denson

Credits: Bob and Tom Late Late Show w/ Craig Ferguson Comedy Central

Sunday, September 20

KRIS SHAW



with Adam White

Credits: Comedy Central XM Radio



and the

- THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER -LEGISLATIVE EDITORIAL Why Washington Must Restrain Spending

By Senator Evan Bayh

America is on an unsustainable fiscal path that threatens our future. Changing course is imperative, and Democrats should lead the way.

Last month the Office of Management and Budget predicted that the national debt will increase by \$9 trillion over the next decade—\$2 trillion more than forecast just four months earlier. Government net interest payments exceed \$1 trillion in 2019, up from \$382 billion this year. Because projected deficits exceed projected economic growth, the gap will be self-perpetuating.

The consequences of all this will not be benign. A world saturated with U.S. currency will eventually look elsewhere to invest, causing the dollar's value to drop; foreign creditors, their confidence shaken by our fiscal profligacy, will demand higher payments to keep holding our debt. The net effect will be "stagflation," that pernicious combination of slower growth, higher inflation and interest rates, and lower living standards Americans suffered through in the 1970s.

These events will diminish our global influence, because fiscal strength is essential to diplomatic leverage, military might and national significance. No great nation can rely upon the generosity of strangers or the forbearance of potential adversaries to meet its security needs. America is doing both. China uses its monetary reserves to curry favor in developing countries once in the U.S. sphere of influence; we must borrow to pay for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Worst of all is the legacy we will leave. From the "Greatest Generation" we inherited an America that is the strongest, most affluent, freest nation on earth. On our present course, our children will not. We violate a fundamental part of our national character by taking from our children to satisfy our desires today.

Congress's initial reaction to our fiscal peril has not been encouraging. The \$410 billion omnibus spending bill passed in March increased domestic discretionary spending by 8% and included more than 8,000 earmarks. This year's budget contemplates domestic discretionary increases of nearly 9%, three times the rate of inflation. If the past is any guide, it will include thousands of new earmarks.

Any serious effort to control the deficit must begin with spending restraint. Efficiency and frugality, common virtues in the private sector, must be incorporated into government. Congress should enact health-care reform that actually lowers the deficit. For the next fiscal year, assuming the economy has gathered sufficient momentum, we should freeze domestic discretionary spending, limit increases in defense spending to the rate of inflation, forgo pay raises for federal workers, and institute a federal hiring freeze. These steps alone won't put our fiscal house in order; more difficult action is needed. But by showing common cause with middle-class families facing their own budget crises, we can send an important signal that Washington has the will to chart a more responsible course.

In many ways, it is unfair to blame President Barack Obama for the magnitude of federal government's fiscal problem and the urgency of dealing with it. He didn't create this mess. According to a New York Times estimate, 90% of the deficit growth over Mr. Obama's first term in office is attributable to policies and conditions he inherited. Regardless, if we wait for the markets to force corrective action, the danger to our economy will be greater and the correction more painful.

Spending restraint will not come easily to the Democratic Party. Pent-up demand for investment in education, health care and the environment is understandable after the Bush years. But long-term progressive government can't be built on a foundation of debt and deficits. We cannot indefinitely share with the less-fortunate resources we do not possess. Ultimately, a growing economy with increased revenues and a stable national balance sheet are the best guarantors of social progress.

Fortunately, fiscal probity is not entirely alien to Democrats' DNA. Andrew Jackson eliminated the national debt during his presidency. Harry Truman restored balance to the federal budget following World War II. John F. Kennedy cut taxes to stimulate growth. Bill Clinton left the nation's finances so secure that some worried about the size of prospective surpluses.

As Indiana's governor, I cut spending during difficult times, balanced the budget, and didn't raise taxes. When times improved and revenue increased, we used the surplus to invest in progressive priorities that made our state more humane.

This approach found favor with people across the ideological spectrum. Conservatives were happy that budgets were balanced and taxes kept modest. Progressives ultimately saw the fruits of our discipline in higher funding for the things we cherish.

The choice is clear. We can take the path of least resistance and ignore the impending day of reckoning. Or we can do what is necessary to right the fiscal ship of state and lay a foundation for prudent, progressive government for a generation.

I believe Barack Obama will choose the responsible course. If he does, he will find kindred spirits in our party prepared to help.

Mr. Bayh is a Democratic senator from Indiana and a former two-term governor of that state.

This editorial was also published in the Wall Street Journal on September 18, 2009.



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- THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER -COMMUNITY Tickets available for Marlee Matlin Diversity Lecture

Submitted by the City of Evansville

Evansville's Celebration of Diversity Distinguished Lecture series will present An Evening with Marlee Matlin on Tuesday, October 13th, at The Centre. Tickets for Matlin's lecture will be available from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, September 26th, at The Centre box office.

The lecture will have reserved seating in select sections of the auditorium. There will be a maximum of four tickets per person. No group requests will be taken. Tickets and seats will be set aside for anyone needing special accommodation.



p.m. A question and answer session will begin at 7:45 p.m. followed by a book signing from 8:15 to 9:15 p.m. Matlin will sign copies of her most recent book, "I'll Scream Later", and the three books she has authored for children.

The Celebration of Diversity Distinguished Lecture Series is a collaborative effort among the City of Evansville, University of Evansville, University of Southern Indiana, Ivy Tech Community College, EVSC and businesses committed to the support of diversity within the community.

The Diversity Lecture Series seeks to en-

The lecture is free; however, tickets are required for admission. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Seats not occupied by 6:45 p.m. will be released. Matlin's lecture begins at 7:00

gage Evansville and surrounding communities to explore, appreciate and celebrate the diversity of race, culture and ethnicity. For more information visit www.DiversityLecture-Series.com



— THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER — EDUCATION Ideation Project offers cash awards

Students at the University of Southern Indiana (USI) have the opportunity to develop creative business ideas and earn cash through the ARC Ideation Project during the 2009 fall semester. Students in all academic disciplines can compete by developing ideas for new products, new distribution methods, manufacturing upgrades, or other innovative suggestions for Evansville ARC Industries. Awards of \$500, \$300, and \$200 will be given to students with the top ideas, and the first 100 entrants will receive a free flash drive.

ARC Industries employs over 300 workers every year, and over 200 of the employees have developmental disabilities. Deidra R. Conner, president of Evansville ARC and a 1987 USI graduate, said, "ARC Industries offers one-source solutions utilizing flexible, innovative, cost-effective manufacturing processes. We provide 'quick-to-market' alternatives for both low and high-volume operations."

She continued, "We are delighted to work with the USI faculty and students on the 2009 Ideation Project. This project is a great opportunity for Evansville ARC to benefit from the creativity and knowledge of the USI students, and an excellent opportunity for the students and faculty at USI to learn more about Evansville ARC and the many contributions individuals with developmental disabilities make to our community."

Elissa Bakke, project coordinator for the Center for Applied Research at USI said, "It has been an honor and a privilege for the Center for Applied Research to collaborate with ARC and the College of Business in developing this Ideation Competition. This social entrepreneurship competition gives our students an opportunity to truly make a positive impact on the lives of others. Rarely will students have the chance to directly create employment opportunities for others. With this competition, a successful product idea has the potential to allow ARC to stabilize its workforce, and add new job opportunities for their clients. Now that's a pretty good resume builder!"

A tour of the company and consulting hours will be offered to students who want to learn more about the company before submitting their ideas. ARC Industries is sponsoring a tour of the facilities on Saturday, October 3 at noon at the Kotter Avenue plant. Consulting will be available from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, September 29 in the University Center's Carter Hall D. Two ARC representatives will talk with students and provide answers to students' questions about the project.

The College of Business and the Center for Applied Research at USI are hosting the project, and Bryan Bourdeau, instructor in business, is the faculty sponsor. Bourdeau said, "The College of Business is excited to offer the fall ideation competition as a crowd sourcing model to help resolve sustainable workforce growth, a long-standing concern for Evansville ARC Industries. By tapping into the collective intelligence of the USI student populous, we hope to expedite and manage solutions for Evansville ARC Industries' concerns. If successful, the College of Business hopes this model also will serve as a catalyst for front-end innovation management for other businesses within our region."

He added, "Working in conjunction with Evansville ARC Industries will help students focus their ideas on specific products for ARC."

Bourdeau is accepting ideas through Monday, October 19, 2009. A web site at www.usi.edu/business/ideation.asp will give more information about the 2009 Ideation Project, including directions to the ARC Industries plant. Students are required to submit a one-page description about each idea. Students can reach Bourdeau at bbourdeau@usi.edu.

Schools Join Together to Host Greater Evansville College Fair

Schools and colleges throughout the community have joined forces to offer the 28th annual Greater Evansville College Fair, Sunday, September 27, at the University of Southern Indiana. The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. and continue until 3:30 p.m.

More than 70 colleges, universities, special schools and military organizations will be participating in the program. Its purpose is to provide opportunities for high school students and their parents to obtain first-hand information regarding college admission requirements, testing procedures, cost, financial aid, NCAA (athletic) requirements and courses of study.

The event is co-sponsored by the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation, Evansville Catholic Schools, Southern Indiana High Schools, University of Evansville, University of Southern Indiana, Ivy Tech Community College and Oakland City University.

Students interested in getting more information need to contact their school guidance counselor.

THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER EDUCATION

UE Prepares for H1N1

The H1N1 flu virus has caused much concern in the U.S. and the world over the past several months. With the possibility of an increasingly virulent outbreak this fall, the University of Evansville has established an H1N1 task force to review and develop appropriate procedures in the case of an outbreak.

Communication and Education – Posters describing good hand washing and hygiene practices are located in campus bathrooms. Automatic hand sanitizers are located at the entrance of Café Court, and employees are encouraged to keep hand sanitizers on their desks. Practice the 3 C's to lower your risk of contracting this virus:

• Clean – Properly wash your hands frequently. Alcohol based hand cleaners containing at least 60% alcohol are also effective.

• Cover – Cover your cough & sneeze

• Contain – Contain your germs by staying home when you are sick. Taking precautions is the responsibility of each individual.

Symptoms of H1N1 virus include fever (above 100 degrees) lethargy, body aches, cough, sore throat, runny nose, diarrhea and nausea & vomiting. Students experiencing these symptoms should report to the UE Health Center. Employees are asked to follow up with their primary care physician for diagnosis and treatment. A flu vaccine is not currently available but is being developed and is expected to be released in early fall.

Prevention – Although persons are contagious for up to 24 hours before symptoms emerge, it is recommended that once diagnosed they be isolated to prevent further spread of the virus. This isolation period will last until the student has been free of fever without the assistance of medication, generally 3-5 days. Sodexo Food Service is prepared to respond to an outbreak of H1N1 virus by implementing special contingency plans.

A comprehensive response to a campus H1N1 virus outbreak has been developed. The UE Health Center is working closely with the Vanderburgh County Health Department and the Indiana State Health Department as new information becomes available regarding the virus. As new information becomes available, it will be posted at www. evansville.edu/flu.

Helpful Links regarding H1N1:

- www.cdc.gov
- www.in.gov/flu





- THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER -SPORTS Aces Spoil SIUE Home Opener 3-1

The University of Evansville volleyball team (7-5) spoiled SIU-Edwardsville's (1-15) opening game in its new facility with a 3-1 win (25-21, 25-19, 14-25, 25-17) over the Cougars Wednesday night.

"I think it is really key that we were able to win in front of a huge crowd," said Evansville head coach Mike Swan. "I thought it was great that we could battle back in game four after we looked bad in game three. Hopefully this win will give us some confidence going into more conference play this weekend at Bradley and Northern Iowa."

Senior Ginta Gabruseva led the Aces with 21 kills while Emily Wandersee followed with 10. Setter Ellen Sawin also had a solid night with 43 assists. Julie Sylvesterand April Lubrecht tabbed double-digit digs with 17 and 14, respectively.

The first set had the teams trading points and leads for most of the contest. The Aces had the advantage at 18-14, but a timeout by SIUE changed the mo-





Senior Ginta Gabruseva led the Aces with 21 kills while junior Viera Rajcan posted a team-high four blocks against the Cougars.

mentum to the Cougars who quickly found a 20-18 lead. However, errors on SIUE and kills from Gabruseva and Wandersee flipped the score in favor of UE, as the visitors took the set 25-21.

The next set had UE on board first. The Aces didn't let SIUE hang around, as the Cougars only threatened early. The Aces led as much as seven during the set, but took the win at 25-19.

The third set has proven to give UE trouble throughout the season, and it was no different against the Cougars. Although UE kept it close in the beginning, the Aces couldn't get the sweep and lost the third 25-14.

In the fourth, SIUE quickly jumped to a 6-2 lead. UE started to gain its composure, and a five-point rally put the Aces up 17-12. UE never let the lead slip and a 25-17 victory sealed the match for the Aces.

UE returns to league play on Friday when it travels to Bradley for a 7:00 p.m. match before taking on Northern Iowa on Saturday.

- THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER -SPORTS Eagles finish home tourney in third

EVANSVILLE, Ind.—Senior Jessica Dooley shot a finalround, two-under-par 70 Monday to finish in a tie for second and lead the University of Southern Indiana women's golf team to a third-place finish at the Screaming Eagles Classic at Cambridge Golf Course.

Dooley, who recorded the low round of the day and was one stroke back of a tournament record, posted a blistering 32 on the back nine and finished the two-day tournament with a fiveover-par 149. She was just a stroke behind the University of Indianapolis's Lindsay McBride, who was the 2009 NCAA II national champion.

As a team, the Screaming Eagles finished third in the 11-team field after shooting a 311 Monday. USI, which shot a 316 Sunday, finished two strokes back of Drury University (625) and four strokes behind defending champion Indianapolis (623).

In addition to Dooley, the Eagles had four players finish in the top 18 of the 65-player field. Senior Angela Dehning shot an 80 Monday to finish with a two-day 159, good enough for 14th, while freshman Mandy Buchanan shot 160 to finish in a tie for 15th. Sophomore Lindsey Carr finished with a 161 and in a tie for 18th.

The highlight of the day came when Rend Lake College's Athena Smolka hit a hole-in-one at the 121-yard, par three 13th hole The All-Tour-



Jessica Dooley recorded a 32 on the back nine en route to finishing the second round of the Screaming Eagles Classic with a two-under-par 70 on Monday.

hole. The All-Tournament team consisted of McBride, Dooley, Drury's Katrina Choate (149), Indianpolis's Darin Pinnick (151), and Lindenwood University's Marcella Ax (154).

USI returns to action Saturday and Sunday when it competes at the Midwest Shootout in Romeoville, Illinois. The Eagles conclude their fall schedule October 5-6 when they compete at the Triton Invitational in St. Louis, Missouri.



THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER SPORTS

USI Men's Soccer returns to Strassweg Field this weekend

EVANSVILLE, Ind. - The University of Southern Indiana men's soccer team returns to the friendly surroundings of Strassweg Field with the hopes of getting back on track this weekend. The Screaming Eagles host the GLVC-newcomer University of Illinois at Springfield Friday at 7:30 p.m. and long-time conference rival Quincy University Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

USI (2-4-0, 2-3-0 GLVC) starts the short two-match homestand trying to break a two-game losing skid after dropping a pair of conference road contests last weekend. The Eagles were shutout, 1-0, by the University of Wisconsin-Parkside last Friday and Lewis University on Sunday.

Leading the way for the Eagles in 2009 is junior midfielder Michael Simcock and freshman forward Jeff McClure, who are tied on top of the USI scoring column with seven points each. McClure's seven points come from a team-best three goals and one assist, while Simcock has seven points on two goals and a team-best three assists.

The Prairie Stars of UIS (1-5-1, 0-4-1 GLVC) are in search of their first conference victory in their inaugural GLVC season. UIS began play in the GLVC with losses at Rockhurst University, Drury University, Missouri University of Science and Technology, and the University of Missouri-St. Louis, in addition to a doubleovertime tie at home against Maryville University.

The all-time series between USI and UIS is tied, 2-2-1, in contests before the Prairie Stars joined the GLVC. The Eagles defeated the Prairie Stars last year at Strassweg Field, 2-0.

The Hawks of Quincy (4-



3-1, 3-1-0 GLVC) have been on a roll the last five matches, posting a 3-1-1 mark. Quincy is averaging three goals per contest during it last five matches, including a 6-6 tie with Hannibal-La Grange College.

USI trails the all-time series with Quincy, 13-3-1, with the Hawks taking the last six meetings.





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THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER EDUCATION

Attorney General Greg Zoeller urges Hoosiers to avoid illegal foreclosure consultants

INDIANAPOLIS – A lawsuit filed today against National Foreclosure Consultant Services (NFCS) by Attorney General Greg Zoeller's Homeowner Protection Unit (HPU) marks Zoeller's eighth suit against illegal foreclosure consultants since taking office in January. The lawsuit filed in Hamilton County includes 11 consumers from Allen, Hamilton, Johnson and Marion counties and reported losses totaling more than \$10,000.

Zoeller's efforts against illegal foreclosure consultants is fueled by a state-wide initiative to raise awareness among Hoosiers of the availability of free, certified mortgage counseling through the Indiana Foreclosure Prevention Network (IFPN). Homeowners at risk of foreclosure can contact the IFPN at 1-877-GET-HOPE.

Foreclosure consultants claim they can save a home from foreclosure by negotiating or modifying the terms of the homeowner's existing mortgage. In some cases, the homeowner is directed not to

contact their lender during this negotiation process. The lawsuit alleges NFCS did not obtain a necessary \$25,000 surety bond to demand payment upfront from their customers. Without the bond, the company is barred from receiving payment until after all services have been performed.

The lawsuit also alleges NFCS failed to register as a business in the state of Indiana. Attorneys general in Florida, Illinois and Minnesota have also filed lawsuits against NFCS citing similar allegations.

The 11 consumer complaints included in the lawsuit allege homeowners were asked by NFCS to pay upfront fees ranging from \$950 to more than \$3,000 before services would be performed. NFCS failed to modify any of the mortgages for the 11 homeowners. Three of the homeowners were able to negotiate directly with their lenders and modify their own loans. At least one homeowner has filed for bankruptcy and is facing foreclosure.

The IFPN provides a toll-free hotline (1-877-GET-HOPE) which is available to help answer mortgage-related questions for distressed homeowners. For more information on foreclosure-prevention advice through IFPN, visit www.877gethope. org.

"Anyone struggling with their mortgage payments or who may be facing foreclosure should contact the Indiana Foreclosure Prevention Network," Zoeller emphasized. "I don't mind sounding like a broken record if it means one more person hears this message and avoids the hazards of hiring a fraudulent foreclosure consultant."

CASE UPDATES

Of the seven prior lawsuits filed against foreclosure consultant companies, among those cases, three have reached a resolution:

• A settlement was reached in June with You Walk Away, Inc.,

located in California. In exchange for the case being dismissed, You Walk Away agreed to pay \$4,000 in restitution to four Indiana consumers and \$2,000 to the State for costs and fees.

• On June 29, a Delaware County court ordered California-based American Mitigation Group, Inc. to pay \$4,064.45 in consumer restitution payments to five Indiana consumers and \$33,000 to the State for civil penalties.

• On July 27, a Marion County Superior Court ordered Foreclosure Relief Agency, LLC. to pay \$53,002.34 in consumer restitution to 52 Indiana consumers and \$2 million in civil penalties to the State of Indiana.

Zoeller extended his appreciation to Deputy Attorney General Myron Rahn, III and the HPU for their passion and dedication to protecting the rights of homeowners and responding to and investigating consumer complaints against foreclosure consultants.



September 24, 2009

THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER COVER STORY

Trash Debate continued from page 1

\$4,232,873, payable in equal monthly installments of \$325,739.41.

This is the end of the listed dates in the contract. One interesting point is that at the end of each of the terms listed above, the following is written: "payable the first of each month plus an amount equal to any tax or surcharge paid in this year for refuse collected under the contract which tax or surcharge has been imposed by a governmental authority based upon tonnage or volume of refuse deposited in the landfill."

No rate is given for any tax or surcharge. No reporting measures were stated for such data.

Adjustments are made based on increases or decreases in the number of private residences. Adjustments are also made in the case of annexation.

Then, under the subsection "C" (Inflation Adjustment), it states: "In the event the CITY elects to exercise its option to extend this agreement for an additional (5) five years, the compensation payable to the CON-TRACTOR hereunder (including the Residential Adjustment) shall be adjusted based on July 1, 2004 and on July 1 of each year thereafter according to the all-items Consumer Price Index for the State of Indiana for the previous 12 months according to the appropriate category for municipal population."

There are no dollar amounts specified.

According to the City Census Office, the city has 37,503 residences. This is the number of residences in which Republic is being said to serve. They also said there are 4,792 empty houses in the city.

In a phone conversation with Harry Lawson on Tuesday, he explained that the city was currently paying approximately \$408,000 a month to Republic Services for residential trash pick-up and curbside recycling.

He was quick to note that the city is working on a new contract with Republic; however, when asked if he was going to put the contract out for bid, he responded that it was a "Service Contract" and those are different. He said that services contracts do not have to be put out for bid.

Lawson said the increase in rates is because the Sewer Dept. had been covering the shortfalls for the bill in the amount of roughly \$500,000 a year. "Refuse needs to be selfsustaining. We don't want to make a profit, we just want it to pay for itself."

The Utilities Manager also stated that the proposed new program will be cheaper for the residents. He said that \$3.70 is the proposed increase. Lawson further explained the cost to the city and the residential service user. He said that the city will pay \$11.58 for each residence served, but the consumer will pay \$13.65.

He said that it will cost the city and users more if they remain on the current collection system. He said it would cost the city \$13.76 per user, but did not give a figure for the consumer.

Lawson stated that using the 96-gallon containers that a mechanized truck can easily pick-up and dump will reduce the number of routes. He said it will also reduce Republic's costs because it will cut back on the number of Workman's Compensation claims. When asked about how this is going to work in areas where there is a great deal of street parking, Lawson responded, "We are aware of that and we are looking at that. One solution may be still having a truck that will fit through the alleys with a rear dump."

He stated he had been working on many of the issues with a Republic and these things will be addressed at Monday's City Council meeting.

Other communities have tried to implement such program with little to no success. In some areas, such as Daytona Beach, Fla., trash was a bigger problem during the life of the program than it was before. Residents and journalists made comments that "it cost them more money for their community to look worse."

They cited people filling the containers too heave or full for them to maneuver, but said the city would not pick up trash outside of the container, so they were forced to fill them to the point that they could not push them to the curb.

In Fort Wayne, residents pay \$11.24 per month for a single-family residence. The city offers two sizes – a 48-gallon or a 96-gallon container. Additional containers can be rented. They also spelled out strict guidelines for trash and recycle disposal, many of which the residents believe are ridiculous in nature. "They [city officials] tell us when we can put our trash out to the curb. Then they tell us when we have to put them back. Who do they think they are?" commented one resident, while visiting.

Whether these types of programs are a success or failure depends on who you ask. The cities are not overly-willing to discuss their trash woes.

One interesting point is that many of the cities discussed said they use the services of Republic (or Allied Waste).

Calls to Republic's Todd Chamberlain were not returned.

Residents interested in this issue should be sure and attend Monday evening's City Council meeting at 5:30 p.m. in Room 301 of the Civic Center.



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THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER SPECIAL ADVERTISEMENT

WE THE PEOPLE... DEMAND ANSWERS!



As a proud citizen of the United States and a lifetime resident of Evansville, I have many questions I want answered by the local ELECTED OFFICIALS!

This week's issue is the trash contract:

1. Why is this contract not being put out for bid?

2. If Republic (or Allied) is unable to meet the needs of the city, maybe it's time for the city to give another company a chance? (What happened to the customer is always right?)

3. Is the City Council attorney going to review this contract to make sure it is fair to the people?4. Why should the residents of Evansville have to pay for new equipment for a private com-

pany?

5. What are you going to do about areas where people park on the street?

6. Why is sanitation utilizing Sewer Dept. funds? (What happened to the money in the budget for sanitation?)

7. Who writes the specs for the city's contracts, the city attorney or the company? If the city has a contract with Republic for a certain dollar amount, there should be no overages in the budget?

8. What is going to happen when the mechanical arm causes damage to someone's property? Who is going to be responsible, since most residents are at work during the hours of trash collection?

9. What happens when the containers are too heavy for people to move and they decided to leave them by the curb?

10. Is it right, given the news on the current economy, to force another service increase on the residents of Evansville when you are also looking at increasing the sewer rates?

THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER BUSINESS

Mead Johnson to Invest Nearly \$33 Million in Evansville Manufacturing

(EVANSVILLE, IN) – Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel is pleased to announce a new \$32.8 million economic development agreement with Mead Johnson Nutrition. "This investment proves that Evansville has created the right climate to attract new business at a time when there is such strong competition among cities for new jobs," said Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel. "We are pleased to continue our partnership with Mead Johnson which has also resulted in the development of a new research center and the tapping of methane gas from Evansville's landfill to provide energy for the company."

Mead Johnson will expand and renovate its Evansville facility in order to produce powdered infant formula products in addition to existing products. The shift is being made due to the growing consumer preference for powdered infant formula. Currently, Mead Johnson manufactures liquid infant formula products at its Evansville facility. The manufacturing of the powdered products will create approximately 35 new jobs.

"The additional production capacity will create greater flexibility in our global supply chain network," said Jeff Jobe, Mead Johnson Nutrition Senior Vice President, Global Supply Chain. "The new facility will allow us to better meet consumers' needs and help fulfill our mission to create nutritional

products trusted to give infants and children the best start in life."

The City will create a new TIF district which will allow Mead Johnson to capture and reinvest the property taxes into its business. It will also offer the company a 10 year tax phase-in. The Indiana Economic Development Corporation is offering Mead Johnson up to \$3.25 million in performancebased tax credits and up to \$28,500 in training grants.

Evansville successfully bid against the City of Zeeland, Michigan for this project. Zeeland had been the sole U.S. manufacturing site of powdered infant formula for Mead Johnson. Mead Johnson expects to have the powdered product line in Evansville operational by the end of 2010.

"This \$32.8 million investment by Mead Johnson shows our focus on local and regional economic development is paying off," said Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel. "These are good, high-paying jobs which will put more Evansville residents to work at a time when new jobs are hard to come by."

Since 2004, the City of Evansville has seen nearly \$253 million dollars invested and 1,600 jobs created by economic development deals with Berry Plastics, American General and AT&T. That is in addition to the \$32.8 million investment and 35 jobs being created by the expansion of Mead Johnson.



THE THEATRE

USI Theatre launches 2009-10 season with Sam Shepard's "True West"

University of Southern Indiana Theatre launches its 2009-10 season with Sam Shepard's drama, True West, directed by Elliot Wasserman, chair of the Department of Performing Arts at USI. The play runs October 1-11 at the Mallette Studio Theatre on the University of Southern Indiana campus.

According to Wasserman, True West is about "two adult brothers sharing some time in their mother's home who become locked in a psychological and sometimes violent struggle for their individual identities. A turf war

of the soul and a lamentation for the lost West, this is a major play by one of America's greatest living playwrights."

The cast includes USI students Brandon Eck of Jasper and Jeff Dumond of Evansville as the brothers, Austin and



Lee Joshua Smith of Indianapolis as Saul and Emily Kirk of Evansville as Mom.

In addition to Wasserman, the artistic team for True West includes USI Department of Performing Arts faculty members Robert Broadfoot as scenic designer and Craig Young as lighting designer and USI students Anna Kysar of Indianapolis as costume designer and Michael Frohbeiter of Princeton as sound designer.

Performances for True West are 7:30 p.m. October 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, and 10, and 2 p.m. Oc-

tober 4 and 11. Tickets are \$10, with discounts for seniors and students. To purchase tickets or for more information, contact the box office at 812/465-1668.



September 24, 2009



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Office	636	780
Office	848	1,040
Office	1,500	1,250
Office	3,000	2,500
Office	7,200	6,000
Office: \$10	/sfNNN	F

	Type:	<u>Size:</u>	Rent G/NNN
	Retail	212	\$ 260
	Retail	424	520
	Retail	636	780
	Retail	848	1,040
	Retail	1,500	938
	Retail	3,000	1,876
	Retail	12,000	3,500
Retail: \$7.50/sfNNN			Ware

ent NNN		Type: private	<u>Size:</u>	Rent NNN
260		Warehouse	1,200	\$ 500
520		Warehouse	1,500	625
780		Warehouse	2,700	1,125
,040		Warehouse	3,000	1,250
938		Warehouse	4,200	1,750
,876		Warehouse	5,700	2,375
,500		Warehouse	12,000	3,000
Ware	hou	se: \$5/sfNNN	NNN	V: \$.65/sf

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(f)(812)425-2585 PeterlinVI@AOL.COM

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THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER NEWS

Arts Commission now accepting online applications for arts in education grants

(Indianapolis, Indiana) - The Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) announced today it is now accepting online applications for its arts in education program.

"This marks the second year for this program designed to support curriculum needs, and impact individual student engagement and performance at the primary and secondary levels," said Lewis C. Ricci, IAC executive director. "In the year since this program was launched it has been exciting to see how the individual investments made to the Indiana Cultural Trust Fund are paying off by encouraging young people who will be Indiana's next generation of artists and arts patrons."

The IAC anticipates funding approximately 12 to 13 applications with grants up to \$5,000. Applicants much match dollar for dollar the IAC grant awarded with school funds, contributed funds, in-kind donations, or services. Funding may not replace or supplant existing resources. Project activities must take place during the scheduled school day and may not fund afterschool or summer activities.

"The Indiana Arts Commission believes the arts are essential

to a balanced, quality education and a vehicle for increasing critical thinking skills," Ricci said. "Schools will be asked to develop a balanced and working partnership with a qualified artist, organization, business, or group to help develop and implement a successful project."

The arts in education grant program is open to any Indiana pre-kindergarten through 12th grade public, private, or parochial school. Grant guidelines and application are currently available online at: http://www.in.gov/arts/2420.htm

Applicants are encouraged to carefully read the grant guidelines as there have been a number of changes since last year.

Applications must be submitted through the Indiana Cultural Grants Online (http://indiana.cgweb.org/) no later than October 1st, 2009. Projects must include a planning phase and implementation plan between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010.

On behalf of the people of Indiana, the Indiana Arts Commission advocates engagement with the arts to enrich the quality of individual and community life.



THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER NEWS

Warrick County Awarded Federal Dollars for Road Work

VINCENNES, Ind. - The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) recently awarded Warrick County \$3,000,000 in Local Public Agency (LPA) Group IV funding. These funds will be used in the reconstruction of the Oak Grove Road in Warrick County.

County officials made their case for the federal matching funds before an award panel at the INDOT Vincennes District offices in June. The panel's decision to choose Warrick County's project was confirmed in August by a selection committee in Indianapolis.

Warrick County was one of six municipalities competing for the Vincennes District's \$4.1 million in LPA Group IV funding. Group IV projects had to be located in counties or in towns with a population of less than 5,000 (based on 2000 US Census) and must also be located outside the urbanized area of a Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The maximum amount of funding to any one applicant during the 2009 call for projects was \$3,000,000 and all awards will require the local entity to provide 20% in matching local funds.



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