

# 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

AUGUST 20, 2009

VOLUME II, ISSUE 17

## Attorney General: Refinery company agrees to plug oil wells in state park

INDIANAPOLIS – To settle a lawsuit stemming from an oil spill in a wooded area of southwestern Indiana, an oil-refinery company has agreed to clean up abandoned oil-well equipment in Harmonie State Park near New Harmony, Ind.

Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller announced today that a proposed consent decree has been reached between the State of Indiana, the federal government and Countrymark Cooperative LLP of Mount Vernon, Ind. The agreement was signed to resolve issues arising from a May 2003 oil spill from Countrymark facilities that polluted a wooded area near Griffin, Ind., in rural Posey County.

Countrymark agreed to pay costs the state and federal governments incurred for the spill itself, plus costs associated with removing a separate environmental hazard from the state park. If the company meets the terms of the consent decree, then the lawsuit will not go to trial.

“Hoosiers should be pleased to know that this consent decree will restore some of the pristine beauty of Harmonie State Park along the Wabash River, while protecting against a future pollution incident and ensuring the company owns up to its legal responsibilities,” Zoeller said.

Countrymark operates pipelines that transport oil to its Mount Vernon refinery. The spill from a pipeline in May 2003 impacted approximately 300 acres of land in a former bend of the Wabash River near Griffin, Ind. Countrymark immediately tried to clean up the spill using vacuum trucks and backhoes and by removing trees and beaver dams. Because of the remote area, however, it was not possible to remediate completely the entire spill zone, according to court documents.

To resolve the claims brought by the Office of the Indiana Attorney General and the U.S. Department of Justice, Countrymark has agreed -- in lieu of completing the cleanup in the spill area -- to correct instead a

longstanding environmental hazard at nearby Harmonie State Park.

Although Countrymark is not responsible for the conditions in Harmonie State Park, the company agreed to plug and seal 13 abandoned oil wells or saltwater disposal wells within the park, drain and plug abandoned pipelines and haul away oilfield equipment and debris from the cleanup area in the park.

Under the consent decree, Countrymark agreed to pay \$15,651.94 to the U.S. Coast Guard's National Pollution Funds Center, \$1,168.19 to the U.S. Department of the Interior and \$5,979.99 for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's cleanup costs. Countrymark also agreed to pay any future costs of cleanup.

The Attorney General's office represents the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Indiana Department of Environmental Management in the consent decree filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana.

### IS IT TRUE...



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

# New Bank on Evansville Account Total

(EVANSVILLE, IN) – Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel announced today that Bank on Evansville’s 15 financial partners have opened a total of 324 accounts in the first two quarters of 2009.

“These numbers show that Bank on Evansville is really making an impact on our community. People are discovering that traditional banking methods really do offer a positive alternative to spending their money on checking cashing services,” said Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel. “We have also learned that what we are doing with Bank on Evansville is now shaping how the State of Indiana is implementing the ‘Bank On’ program.”

The National League of City reports that we are the community that has achieved the fastest launch of the ‘Bank On’ program and we are pace setters when it comes to financial education.

In five months, we have reached 27% of our goal of opening 1,200 accounts in two years in Vanderburgh County. During the 2nd quarter of 2009, 213 Bank on Evansville accounts were opened in the County and 60 outside of the County. The average monthly balance was \$219. The highest number of accounts opened occurred in the 47714 zip code (42) followed by 47711 (25). Each of our banks and financial institutions reported their results to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis for tracking purposes.

Evansville was the first Indiana community to implement the “Bank on Cities” model, and we have received attention from the National League

of Cities, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) and the Federal Reserve Bank for the highly collaborative and innovative manner in which we are implementing the model. This spring, we were named a Faculty City for the National League of Cities and we are providing assistance to eight cities, including Indianapolis and Louisville. In addition, we have been asked for technical assistance by the Federal Reserve to help launch projects in Cincinnati, Owensboro and Memphis.

Bank on Evansville was developed as a response to the high cost of basic financial services for individuals and families who don’t have a checking or savings account. Based on the 2000 U.S. Census and area income data, it’s estimated that there are at least 6,000 households in Evansville that do not have a bank account. “Unbanked” individuals spend on average nationwide more than \$800 a year to cash paychecks or government checks and for check writing to pay their bills.

Bank on Evansville accounts are low cost/no cost, have no minimum balance and offer a second chance for people that have had previous trouble with banking; fraud is the exception. Our initial financial partners include:

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Evansville Federal Credit Union  
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Farmers State Bank  
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Heritage Federal Credit Union  
Integra Bank  
Old National Bank  
Sterling United Federal Credit Union  
United Bank

United Way’s 211 is acting as the referral service for Bank on Evansville. The 211 operators will ask callers a series of questions to help determine which bank or credit union and accounts are most appropriate for them.

Please visit our website, [www.BankOnEvansville.org](http://www.BankOnEvansville.org), for more information.



**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](mailto: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.



## Refinery story

*continued from page 1*

“This settlement balances the important economic role that oil production has played in southwestern Indiana for generations with the expectation that all environmental-safety laws will be followed,” Zoeller said. “In this case, Hoosiers will see a benefit through the removal of unsightly old equipment from Harmonie State Park, which will in a very tangible way enhance the park experience for the many visitors there.”

The proposed consent decree requires Countrymark to complete the oil-well-plugging work within three years of the consent decree being signed and to not disrupt Harmonie State Park operations with its plugging activities. The work will be supervised by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources’ Oil and Gas Division.

The filing of the proposed consent decree in U.S. District Court triggers a 30-day public-comment period before the Court would officially enter the decree.

## The City-County Observer Mission Statement

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

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EDITORIAL

# IS IT TRUE?



CITY OF EVANSVILLE  
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(812) 436-4919 FAX (812) 436-4926  
Jonathan Weinzapfel, Mayor

August 17, 2009

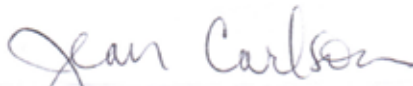
Ms. Jamie Grabert  
City-County Observer  
815 John Street, Suite 220-C  
Evansville, IN 47713

Re: Public Records Requests

Dear Ms. Grabert:

In regards to your three (3) Public Records Requests dated August 12, 2009, the Public Records Act only requires government entities to provide records and documents in existence. The information that you requested is not maintained by our department in the form requested. A source of this information may be the Water and Sewer Department and the Department of Metropolitan Development.

Sincerely,

  
Jean Carlson  
Office Manager

Is it true this letter was received by the publisher of the City-County Observer this morning? Is it true this letter was sent after three formal written requests were made for financial information and presented to the Evansville City Controller last week? Is it true the first request was for "a list from 2008 and 2009 of ALL vendors paid from the City of Evansville Dept. of Metropolitan Development budget from the legal and contractual services lines?" Is it true the second was "a list from 2008 and 2009 of ALL vendors paid from the City of Evansville Sewer Dept. budget from the legal and contractual services lines?" Is it true the third request was "a list from 2008 and 2009 of ALL vendors paid from the City of Evansville Water Dept. budget from the legal and contractual services lines?" Is it true we contacted other communities and found that such records should exist? Is it true that these records are typically kept in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office or Controller's office, according to other local mayors and clerk-treasurers? Is it true we wonder who is writing the checks? Is it also true we should be concerned about the system of checks and balances if these departments are not subjected to the same rules as other departments? Is it true we are questioning the so-called "transparency" by our local elected officials? Is it true this matter is being sent to the state for review?



# Sometimes Slopes Really Are Slippery



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

WASHINGTON -- Sarah Palin was right, the second time.

We do need to turn down the rhetorical heat lest we miss important issues in the proposed House health care bill.

Unfortunately, Palin's more thoughtful comments followed a made-for-the-tabloids Facebook post suggesting that under President Obama's health care reform, a "death panel" would kill her elderly parents and her Down syndrome baby.

Once upon a time, radical reformers could only dream of such helpful enemies. Now that the world is chasing hyperbole, we indeed risk overlooking troublesome language in the end-of-life section of the House health bill, aka Section 1233 of HR 3200.

For purposes of civil discourse, let's assume that no one wants to kill off old people. Just as airline pilots have a primary interest in safely landing planes, even Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reid and Barack Obama will be elderly someday.

Meanwhile, we all know that America's health care system is in dire need of repair. We also know, though we're loath to admit, that we can't do all things for all people. Technology that enables us to prolong life far beyond what is natural or desirable also threatens to cripple us financially.

How do mere humans balance the immense powers of "can" against the

humbling moral quandary of "should?" This is partly what the bill's end-of-life section aims to address.

Theoretically, rational people can dwell happily on the same page. Wouldn't we all rather voluntarily make end-of-life provisions while we're still healthy rather than burden family members, who would be reluctant (one hopes) to pull the plug on our darling selves?

Of course. In practice, however, the debate is over whether these consultations are conclusively voluntary -- and the bill, to the extent it is comprehensible at all, is vague enough to cause concern.

For instance, the bill makes end-of-life consultations reimbursable under Medicare every five years, but allows for more frequent Medicare-reimbursed sessions should a person's condition worsen. These consultations allow for the formulation of "an order regarding life-sustaining treatment."

We can all imagine a situation when we might not want any more life-sustaining treatments -- when death is imminent, for example. But we can also imagine a scenario when, feeble and ill, we might be subtly urged to forgo further life-sustaining treatment out of consideration for others. Given that "actionable medical orders" can be formulated from advance care consultations, the danger is that life-sustaining care would be precluded based on a checkmark on a document you signed five years earlier.

It would be nice to think that everything goes as intended by patients, but we can safely assume that when human error collides with bureaucratic efficiency, nightmarish enforcement scenarios could ensue. Likelihoods morph into certainties when, as this bill sets out, primary physicians aren't necessarily involved in the consultations. As proposed, a variety of health care practitioners would do.

Not least, the bill is an enabling document that leaves great discretion to the secretary of health and human services to develop guidelines that ultimately could change the character of what seems to be offered. In just one of dozens of examples, the bill leaves it to the secretary to develop "quality measures" on end-of-life care and advanced care planning.

What might such quality measures look like? Who knows? But other documents floating around hint at what the secretary might consider.

One is a 2008 Rand Corp. report, "Advance Directives and Advance Care Planning: Report to Congress," which suggests mechanisms by which poor "advance care planning" could be viewed as "medical error," otherwise known as malpractice. While it's unclear what direction "quality measures" might take, the bill could allow the government to require Medicare providers to encourage end-of-life consultations -- or risk being penalized in their compensation or in their ability to participate in the Medicare program.

Beyond the jargon, of course, the real issue is that people instinctively (and correctly) fear bureaucracy -- especially in matters of life and death. When it takes 1,017 pages of mostly incomprehensible language to MapQuest the way we live (and die), people have a right to demand clarity.

A simple amendment to HR 3200 would do much to cool tempers. All that's needed is specific language saying that these end-of-life consultations are not mandatory -- either for physicians or patients -- and that there would be no penalty, either in coverage or compensation, for declining to participate.

In the absence of such language, one may reasonably assume otherwise.

EDITORIAL

# Small Town, USA

*By Jamie Grabert, Publisher*

I am among the rarest of locals. I still believe in the purity of communities. I believe that most people are basically good. I believe the biggest majority of people find happiness in doing right by others and helping their neighbors.

My mother and I used to battle quite often over my take on society. I never understood gray areas. I only understood black and white. I like things simple. Yes or no. Right or wrong.

I grew up in a home where honesty was required. I'm from Small Town, USA, and life was easier if you went home, fessed up and dealt with the ramifications. When you live in a small town, it doesn't take long for word to get back to your parents. My mother is a stickler for knowing what's going with her children. She's still quick to put us back in line when we need it. In fact, the rule at our house was that if you didn't attend church on Sunday, there was no need to even ask about attending a social activity that week.

Growing up, I also spent a great deal of time with my grandparents – Opal and Wilton Juncker. Honestly, I spent more time on their farm than I did in my own home. I learned more about hard work and integrity from those two than any other people in this world.

As an adult, my inner circle of friends is comprised of only the most ethical people I know. My best friend holds me to the highest standards possible, and is quick to point out when she thinks I may be veering off course even the slightest little bit.

I had to provide that bit of history to enable you to understand why things in this publication are the way they are. First and foremost, I believe that life should be simple. I believe that if you put God above everything else, all other matters will work themselves out. Honestly, I believe that life should still be like the Andy Griffith Show. I believe it can be once again. (Even Andy had to remind the mayor of his duty to the people from time to time.)

I'm often asked why I won't move to Evansville. The answer is simple to me. I like to go home each evening and not have constant reminders of the windmills at which I've chosen to tilt. I like to drive in the country and clear my mind. One of my favorite places to go is a friend's lake. It's in the middle of nowhere, but it helps you realize what's truly important. When we go to the lake, everything becomes much clearer for me. Conspiracy theories are shelved. Transparency exists in nature. Every living, breathing thing works together to create an ecosystem.

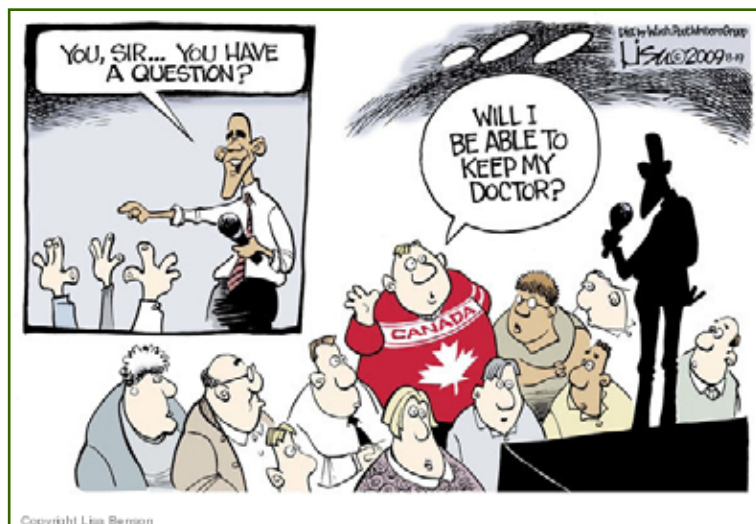
In the city, nothing really makes sense. People work counterproductively. People who were elected by the people

lie to them when there really is no need to do so. Power and greed are put before the common good. Money is taken from the accounts it is appropriated for and transferred to another account in secrecy. "Consent" items are a way to hide important matters the people should know about. Elected officials should remember that EVERYTHING is the people's business. The pens you use in your elected office belong to the people. The computer you use belongs to the people. The money given to you on pay day comes from the people. So, how are you going to say that you hide things from the people in their best interest?

Despite the past actions of some local elected and appointed officials, I believe that good will still prevail. I think these people can still show that they believe in the people. I believe that if they set aside their personal ambitions, they will find that the people will trust them once again. I believe that most of those chosen to represent the people truly want to be transparent.

Call me crazy, but I think you can compare nature to communities. I think people should want to help their neighbors, to work for the people who elected them, to make the community a better place than when they entered it. That's what I like about small towns. We don't forget where we came from. We know each other's pasts and are quick to defend one of our own. We aren't rednecks, although that's what we are considered.

We merely live in a less populated area. Living in Small Town, USA, isn't for everyone. It takes a big person to be honest, caring and willing to put a whole lot of hard work in to something that may or may not produce a big reward. But I can tell you one thing for certain, I appreciate the value of due diligence and hard work. Most people do. We elect people who are willing to be the leader and representative they promise to be. Why? Because there's still a lot of Small Town, USA in each of us.





# CASH FOR TRASH

*By Judge James Redwine*

Your government decided to give one billion dollars of your money to car dealers who could then pass your money on to some of your fellow citizens.

Not surprisingly, this manna from the Washington heavens was devoured immediately. This made your government feel so good another two billion dollars of your money was given to car dealers to pass along to some more citizens, none of whom you selected.

Now this money was not sitting in a bank nor was it in gold in Ft. Knox. And, fortunately, it was not under the benevolent care of A.I.G. or Goldman-Sachs. No, it was just printed on paper and then borrowed from such friends as the Chinese.

As I understand the policy behind the giveaway of your borrowed money, environmentally challenged clunkers were to be removed from our highways and replaced with high mileage vehicles. And, the worse the trade-in, the higher the credit for it.

If this is sound policy, why would we want to stop at clunkers? One of the worse pollutants in America's landfills is old newspapers. You know, like this column. Far be it from me to question the wisdom of our leaders. Therefore, I suggest we citizens enthusiastically endorse the Cash for Trash program as set out below.

For a second part of the give-a-way, my proposal is that a select few newspaper columnists be paid up to \$4,500.00 not to write columns. Just as with the clunkers, the more worthless the column, the higher should be the pay not to print it. Since "Gavel Gamut" is priceless, literally, I submit that I should receive the maximum amount of your money to not write it; I will accept it if you can get Washington to send the insufficient funds check. I will await your act of generosity and, thank you.

Should you be hesitant to support my proposal, it is only fair to inform you that I plan to continue writing this column until I get the money.



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# — THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Health Care concerns

To the Editor:

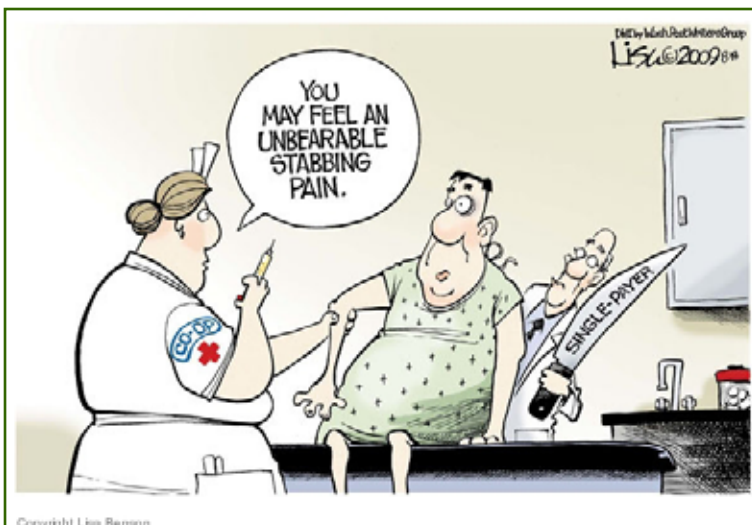
Congressman Brad Ellsworth likes to label himself a “Blue Dog Democrat” a fiscal conservative reflective of Southern Indiana values. He has a National Debt counter at the top of his web page to infer that he is keeping track and working hard to control spending. As I write this, the counter indicates each and every American citizen owes \$32,918.47.

What does it take to be a “Blue Dog Democrat”, apparently not much? The Club for Growth just published their 2009 House RePork Card. The RePork Card compiled the voting record of all House members’ votes on 68 anti-pork amendments intended to save taxpayer dollars and to limit spending to true national priorities.

How did self proclaimed Blue Dog Democrat Brad Ellsworth do? He FAILED with a score of 0%, voting against 67 of the 68 amendments for which he cast a vote. Blue Dog Democrats had an average score of 7%.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated Health Care Reform would add \$1 TRILLION to the national debt while leaving 16 million people without healthcare coverage. Does Health Care Reform need to include Federal funding for abortion, end of life counseling, family planning and increased insertion of social workers in the lives of young families? Hopefully, Blue Dog Democrat Ellsworth will vote against the current Health Care Reform proposed legislation because it does not provide coverage to all and is much too expensive.

Doug G.  
Newburgh, IN



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*Sophy S. Sprueger*

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Evansville, Indiana

# Governor eases compliance for secure driver's licenses, identification cards

INDIANAPOLIS -- Governor Mitch Daniels announced today that Hoosiers will have more flexibility to obtain a federally compliant driver's license or identification card at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) beginning next year. States are required to begin issuing compliant cards in January 2010, and the federal government has mandated that states complete their compliance by the end of 2016.

"We encourage citizens to obtain a SecureID license when it is time to renew, but we're giving everyone the full six-year period in order to maximize convenience. Our BMV is now nationally-recognized for its short visit times and friendly customer service, and we intend to keep it that way," said Daniels.

The BMV announced last month that beginning in January 2010, all Hoosiers who renew, amend, or apply for a new driver's license or ID card would be required to obtain the new, federally compliant license or ID card.

But following customer feedback, the governor decided to make the change optional for current holders of an Indiana driver's license or ID card. To obtain the new compliant card, one must provide documents that verify identity, lawful status, social security number and residency. Or current holders of an Indiana driver's license or ID card may choose to obtain a non-compliant card without presenting the additional documentation.

Without a compliant ID or license, boarding aircraft or entering certain federal buildings will be prohibited; however, the federal government will likely not enforce those restrictions until 2016. Customers can return to the BMV to obtain a compliant card at any time.

There will be no option for new Indiana license and ID customers. They will be required to obtain a federally compliant card and provide documentation of identity, lawful status, social security, and residency documentation beginning in January.

Some Hoosiers also have said they are concerned they will not be able to produce the documents needed for the compliant card; the governor said that in some cases, the BMV will accept alternate documents. For example, some citizens were not issued a birth certificate, so the BMV may accept other documents such as church, hospital or school records.

Daniels said the state will implement centralized issuance of cards beginning in 2010 to reduce fraud and identity theft. The BMV will use its new facial recognition technology to check photos against its entire database to stop individuals from securing multiple driver's licenses and will mail them to customers within 10 days.

Twenty-five other states already have adopted the central issuance procedure or are enacting it this year.

Secure License and ID Facts

Obtaining a secure ID or license

Hoosiers who plan to renew, amend or apply for a new compliant driver's license or identification card beginning in January 2010 are required to present documents that verify their identity, Indiana address, Social Security numbers and legal status. These are the most common

documents that meet the requirements:

- o Identity and lawful status- birth certificate or U.S. Passport
- o Social Security - Social Security card, W-2 form, 1099 or another federal government document that shows SSN
- o Indiana residency - two forms such as bank statement, utility bill, credit card statement
- o Alternate documents will be accepted if one cannot secure one of the above. A list of acceptable documents may be found on the BMV Web site at [myBMV.IN.gov](http://myBMV.IN.gov). For more information, log on to myBMV.com, call 1-888-myBMV-411 or visit a local license branch.

All new customers will be required to obtain a federally compliant card and will be asked to provide documentation of identity, lawful status, social security, and residency.

Obtaining a non-compliant license or ID card

Current holders of Indiana driver's licenses and ID cards who prefer not to secure a federally-compliant license or ID card:

- o May show their old card as they have done in the past
- o Will be issued a new card that includes the language "Not for federal ID purposes."
- o Will sign an affidavit that says the cardholder has been informed and understands that the card may limit their ability to board airplanes and enter federal buildings at some point in the future.

Customers may return to the BMV to obtain a federally-compliant card at any time.

Central Issuance

Next year, the BMV will begin to issue driver's licenses and ID cards through a central issuance process. Such a process will allow the BMV to check photos against the entire database to stop individuals from securing multiple driver's licenses.

- o New cards will be mailed in no more than 10 days, in most cases 3 to 5 days.

- o Extensions or interim licenses will be issued for the interim period and will be valid for voting and driving.





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## Posey County United Way Pacesetters Lead Campaign

This year, St. Philip Catholic School is one of the Pacesetters for the United Way campaign. They will run their United Way campaign during August and results are announced at the United Way of Posey County campaign kick-off on September 16th. Their early support and enthusiasm will get this year's campaign off to a good start.

St. Philip Catholic School is located about one mile from the Posey/Vanderburgh County Line in Posey County. It is a parochial school of about 210 students in grades pre-school through 8. The school is nestled in the heart of the St. Philip Community and is home to many people, old and young, both for religious purposes and social purposes. It has many gatherings and events that bring the community together and ensure a sense of belonging and acceptance to



everyone.

St. Philip is excited to be a Pacesetter for the United Way Campaign this year. Andrea Lodato, Principal of St. Philip School said "We hope that our contributions will support the United Way of Posey County and help show our commitment to helping others in and around our community."

For the first time, this year 5 Posey County schools will be Pacesetters in the United Way of Posey County campaign. Steve Bennett, campaign chairman, said "We are proud of our schools in Posey County, and we are excited about their community involvement as Pacesetters in our United Way campaign."

Funds raised in the United Way campaign will go to support 21 local agencies and more than 75 programs that provide services to the people of Posey County such as Albion Fellows Bacon Center, American Red Cross – Posey County Chapter, Buffalo Trace Council – Boy Scouts of America, Catholic Charities, Children's Learning Center of Posey County, Christian Church Day Care Center, Community Emergency Assistance, ECHO Community Health Care, Family Matters, Homeless Shelter of Mt. Vernon, Indiana Legal Services, Lampion Center, Mental Health America, New Harmony Ministry Association, Posey County Council on Aging, Posey County Rehabilitation Services, The Rehabilitation Center, The Salvation Army, Visiting Nurse Association of Southwestern Indiana, WNIN Radio Reading Program, and Willow Tree of Posey County.

In addition, the United Way of Posey County funds 2-1-1, the easily-remembered number to call for information and assistance about needs and resources. For more information about services provided through the United Way of Posey County or volunteer opportunities available, call 838-3637 or email [uwposey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uwposey@sbcglobal.net).







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## EDUCATION

### UE Named One of America's Most Military-Friendly Campuses

The University of Evansville is among the most military-friendly campuses in the nation, according to a new list released by GI Jobs.

The list, released this morning, recognizes the 15 percent of colleges, universities, and trade schools who are "doing the most to embrace America's veterans as students." Schools on the list range from state universities and private colleges to community colleges and trade schools. The common bond is their shared priority of recruiting students with military experience.

This year marks UE's first appearance on the list.


"We are extremely excited to be named among the most military-friendly schools in America," said Jennifer Graban, UE associate vice president for academic affairs. "As a University, we feel there isn't enough we can do to say 'Thank you' to the men and women who have put their lives on the line to serve our country. Through their service, each of our veterans has earned the opportunity to receive a life-transforming education that is uniquely tailored for military students; at the University of Evansville, we are proud to offer that to them."

Earlier this summer, UE announced its participation in the new Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program, through which military veterans and active service members with more than 36 months of active duty since September 11, 2001, can receive a free education to

UE. As a participant in the Yellow Ribbon program, the University of Evansville has pledged a \$9,555 scholarship for any veteran who meets the qualification; that, coupled with the government's Yellow Ribbon match and funds from the new GI Bill, creates a free educational opportunity for any veteran who qualifies. Veterans who have served less than 36 months will receive a pro-rated financial aid award from UE and the government programs. And anyone who qualifies for the award can, instead of using it for themselves, pass the award along to their spouse or dependents.

In addition, UE has opened an Office of Veterans Affairs on campus, which will be responsible for reaching out to veterans and providing on-campus support organizations. This morning's announcement of UE as one of the most military-friendly campuses in the nation came as a result of these programs, according to representatives of GI Jobs.

"This list is especially important now because the recently enacted Post-9/11 GI Bill has given veterans virtually unlimited financial means to go to school," said Rich McCormack, G.I. Jobs publisher. "Veterans can now enroll in any school, provided they're academically qualified. So schools are clamoring for them like never before. Veterans need a trusted friend to help them decide where to get educated. The Military Friendly Schools list is that trusted friend."



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## USI participating in One Book One Community roundtable

Community leaders, including President Linda L. M. Bennett, Dr. Betty Hart, professor of English, and Harold Calloway, USI trustee, will gather for a roundtable discussion of this year's One Book One Community title, *Life on the Color Line: The True Story of a White Boy Who Discovered He Was Black* by Gregory H. Williams, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, August 25, at Barnes & Noble. The event is free and open to the public.

Other participants include Diane Clements, City-County Human Relations Commission, Father Steve Lintzenich, St. Mary Catholic Church, Matt Meadors, Chamber of Commerce of Southwest Indiana, Reverend Deane Oliva, Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville, Orvietta Shannon, Toyota



Motor Manufacturing, and Mizell Stewart III, Evansville Courier & Press.

The panel will discuss themes from the book including the effect of community and family on children, education as a path to success, father/son relationships, and segregation and racism. Their discussion will be moderated by WNIN 88.3 radio news reporter and producer Micah Schweizer.

The author, who is now president of City College of New York, will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday, October 1, at Bosse High School. His presentation is co-sponsored by One Book One Community and the Chamber of Commerce of

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## USI Center for Applied Research to receive award for Innovation Discovery Process

The University of Southern Indiana Center for Applied Research will be presented with the Federal Laboratories Consortium Partnership Award for the development of a process to help Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division capture innovations by its scientists and engineers in order to identify potential intellectual property.

The Innovation Discovery Process designed by Dr. Susan J. Ellspermann, director of CAR, and Gene Recker, manager of education and entrepreneurship for USI at Innovation Pointe, is a model for federal research laboratories across the country. The award will be presented during the FLC Midwest Regional Conference today in Bloomington.

In 2008, Ellspermann and Recker facilitated two Innovation Mining events at Crane at which inventors discussed their projects and a panel of experts identified potential disclosures – documented concepts which can

be used toward applying for a patent - to be pursued. Thirty-five potential disclosures and 89 commercialization ideas were identified. Four Department of Defense labs have requested to observe the next Innovation Mining event.

CAR was nominated for the award by John Dement, NSWC Crane's technology engagement officer. "We have felt for some time that we were capturing a fraction of the intellectual property developed in our many successful projects," he said. "Through the Innovation Discovery



*Dr. Susan J. Ellspermann*

Process events, inventors have suggested that having the panel brainstorm disclosures on their work has been eye-opening to them and very positive. Most said they now understand intellectual property better, will be more likely to file a disclosure in the future, and will encourage their colleagues to do the same."

Dement also cited CAR's help in partnering NSWC Crane with the Growth Alliance for Greater Evansville (GAGE); initiating a Physics STEM Camp bringing together USI faculty and area high school teachers with Crane's Technology Engagement office; and designing and coaching an Electronic Warfare Technology Summit at Crane.

"NSWCCrane is a key source of technological innovation and economic development in southern Indiana," Ellspermann said. "USI is pleased to support Crane in identifying patentable innovations which will then become available to companies and entrepreneurs in our region resulting in new products and industries and increased employment and economic growth."

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## USI and UE battle to 0-0 tie in women's soccer

EVANSVILLE, Ind. -- The University of Southern Indiana women's soccer team and the University of Evansville battled to a weather-shortened 0-0 tie at Black Beauty Field Tuesday evening. USI and Evansville go to 0-1-1 in the preseason.

Both teams were unable to score in the first 45 minutes with the Screaming Eagles' offense holding a slight lead in chances on-goal. The Eagles outshot the Aces overall, 7-6, and in shots-on-goal, 3-2, and had numerous one-on-one looks at the Aces goal during the first half.

After the second half was delayed 55 minutes by lightning, the second half was shortened to 30 minutes. Neither team was able to find the back of the goal with each team taking six shots. Eagles' freshman forward Susan Ellsperman (Newburgh, IN) and sophomore forward Nancy Newcomer

(Parma Heights, OH) had the best chances for USI late in the second half only to be stopped by Aces goalkeeper Chaviel Harrison.

The Eagles conclude the 2009 exhibition schedule Sunday at Belmont University. The kick-off for USI's final preseason match is 7 p.m. in Nashville, Tennessee.



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# UE Cross Country Opens Practice Today

A pack mentality powered the University of Evansville cross country teams to a successful 2008 season. That will likely be the case once again in 2009 for head coach Don Walters' Purple Aces, as 25 members of the 2008 squad will return to the course this fall for UE, including 13 of UE's 16 competitors from the State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Championships. In all, 37 runners will take to the trails this fall hoping to help Evansville build on a strong 2008 season which saw the Purple Aces post five top five team finishes on both the men's and women's side.

"I have been waiting for this year for a long time," said Walters, entering his 10th season as head coach of the Purple Aces. "If we can keep everyone healthy, this will be the deepest team on both the men's and women's side that we have had in my time at UE. Again, if we can stay healthy, I think that we have the chance to have one of the most exciting years in cross country in a long time at this university."

On the men's side, the Purple Aces will return all eight members of UE's State Farm MVC Championship squad which posted the school's best team finish since joining the league in 1994. Leading UE's returning pack from a year ago is two-time UE Most Valuable Runner, senior Greg Pulscher.

Pulscher earned his second-straight Most Valuable Runner award for the Purple Aces last fall after leading UE in seven of its eight meets. He posted five top 20 individual finishes last year, including posting a pair of second-place finishes.

Senior Academic All-American Brian Joyce and fellow senior Ethan Merkel also ran among UE's scoring pack at the MVC Championships last year, as did juniors Brian Denny and Ryan Witters. Senior Steven Matthews and juniors Max Cordier and Nicholas Tyree also saw action at the State Farm MVC Championships last fall, and all three should battle for a spot in UE's scoring pack again this season.

Senior Michael Romine, redshirt junior Matthew Kaufman and junior Adam Gilbert will also look to push for a spot in UE's scoring pack this season, while also providing leadership to the squad. Redshirt junior Ryan Grieco also returns after missing the entire 2008 season due to injury, while junior Kevin Todd and sophomores Daniel Caruana, Jacob Ramirez and Kyle O'Connor all hope to build on solid 2008 campaigns this fall. Seven new faces will also join



the UE men's cross country team this fall, as junior transfer Christopher Kipchirchir and true freshmen Nicholas Fimek, Brady Hall, Lucas Heidenreich, Dylan Kleemann, Samuel Mires and Cody Stein will help add depth to the already deep and talented Purple Aces' squad.

On the women's side, Evansville returns five of its eight competitors from the 2008 State Farm MVC Championships, including senior pacesetter Arrena Svoboda, senior "110 Percent" award winner Courtney Heller, and 2008 Outstanding Freshman award winner Lauren Schaftlein.

Svoboda led UE in a pair of meets last year, including the MVC Championships. Heller, meanwhile, had a career year, setting new standards in both the 4K and 5K events, while Schaftlein posted UE's fastest 5K time of the year en route to earning UE's Outstanding Freshman award.

Juniors Melissa Truex and Jaclyn Dippel also return from UE's State Farm MVC Championship squad of a year ago, and both will push for a spot in UE's scoring pack this season. Truex, Dippel and senior Katelyn Sandy will help provide the leadership to this year's relatively young squad, as nine of UE's 14 squad members are sophomores or younger.

Sophomore Ali Cooper and redshirt freshmen Shelby Cron and Morgan Kenner hope to bounce back after injuries cut short promising rookie seasons a year ago. Meanwhile, sophomore Tailae Yeung hopes to build on a strong finish to her rookie year.

Joining the UE women's squad this fall is a talented incoming recruiting class highlighted by New Mexico star Kepra McBrayer, and featuring Indiana standouts Megan O'Malley, Andrea Wolf and Lauren Zeabart.

SPORTS

# Deer hunting intro at the Hoosier Outdoor Experience, Sept. 26-27

Becoming an ethical and effective deer hunter requires education, and the Hoosier Outdoor Experience, Sept. 26-27, is a good place to learn the necessary basic skills from experts.

"There is much more to deer hunting, than simply walking out in the woods and shooting a deer. New hunters need someone to teach them what to look for in the woods, how to act ethically, and the rules and regulations of where they are hunting," said Capt. Dave Windsor, Indiana Conservation Officer.

The Indiana Deer Hunters Association will offer its Whitetail Deer Sensory Trail to attendees of the Hoosier Outdoor Experience, who can experience much of what it's like to be a deer hunter.

"The sensory trail will introduce participants to many different scenarios they may encounter while deer hunting. It is set up to explain "deer sign" (i.e., how to tell if deer have been in the vicinity recently), equipment used in deer hunting, what to do with a deer after it's been killed, and much more," said Kevin Smith, IDHA member.

Those who take the sensory trail will leave with the basic knowledge necessary to begin deer hunting. The event is geared toward beginning and intermediary hunters looking to gain valuable knowledge.

The Hoosier Outdoor Experience is a family-friendly event that is the first of its kind in Indiana. Unlike traditional trade shows, visitors will be able to enjoy hands-on experiences in a wide range of outdoor activities, such as fly fishing, target shooting, archery, kayaking, mountain biking, hiking, rock climbing, camping and much more.

The Hoosier Outdoor Experience is presented by the Department of Natural

Resources and the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation, with sponsorship support from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Ball Brothers Foundation, WXIN-Fox 59, Indianapolis, and numerous other sponsors.

Parking, admission, activities, demonstrations and seminars are free to the public, but online registration is required. To register, go to [hoosieroutdoorexperience.IN.gov](http://hoosieroutdoorexperience.IN.gov) and click on the yellow registration icon.



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## Ribbon-cutting and open house for Recreation, Fitness, and Wellness Center is September 3

Excitement is building across campus as students and employees anticipate the opening of the expanded Recreation, Fitness, and Wellness Center. A ribbon-cutting for the RFWC, at double its former size with an additional 44,000 square feet, will be held at 10:15 a.m. Thursday, September 3, followed by tours of the facility from staff and students. The department's annual Welcome Fun Fest, with food, games, and door prizes from 100 local vendors, will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. that day.

With lounges, flat-screen television sets, and a game room, the improved RFWC will be more than a place to work out. Dave Enzler, director, said he hopes the RFWC will be a place people come to "recreate themselves."

"It's a recreation center," he said. "People should do whatever they like to do to feel better and get rejuvenated. There are a lot of ways to do that: for some it's using the treadmill or weights, for others it's watching TV or playing video games."

A 3,860-square-foot lounge with lounge furniture, computer stations, cafe tables, and a large-screen television will greet students and employees as they enter the new RFWC. Enzler predicted the lounge will be "the place to see and be seen."

"This is a place to congregate, not just to work out, but to meet and socialize," he said. "Our hope is that the lounge will be an enticement to come in and work out. We've made it as user-friendly and inviting as we can. If we can get them into the building, maybe we can get them to cross the threshold."

An adjacent "quiet lounge" can be reserved by groups and organizations. In the new game room, students can play pool, foosball, table tennis, and video games (Xbox or Wii). The game room also will include cafe tables and a vending area.

The expanded RFWC was designed to attract new users, but also to satisfy dedicated ones. "We don't want it to be an intimidating place, but we also want to serve the hardcore exercisers. That's a challenge, and we think we've met the challenge," Enzler said.

Zach Ryder, a junior physical education major, is a regular user. He said, "During the school year, it'll be busy. It'll be a cool place to hang out when classes start. It'll be more of a place to go on campus to hang out."

The expanded RFWC has more exercise equipment, and almost all of it is new. There are 48 cardio machines (formerly, there were 26) and the first row is equipped with attached television monitors. From the rest of the machines, users can plug in headphones and choose from one of a dozen 52-inch television sets hanging from the ceiling. The entire line of Cybex weight machines is new, and there are areas dedicated to stretching and abdominal work adjacent to the cardio area and the track.

On the lower level, a third basketball court is available since the cardio and free weight areas were moved into the expanded area. There are twice as many stations in the free weight area, which includes all new weights and built-in benches and cubbies.

Those who enjoy group exercise classes will be pleased that the new RFWC offers two group exercise rooms, allowing for more classes. One of the new rooms holds a collection of brand new spinning bikes. A third room is outfitted with padded walls, speed bags, heavy bags, and mats.

The lower level offers access to the 33-foot-tall rock climbing tower, painted to resemble limestone bluffs near campus. The tower, surrounded by glass walls, can be viewed from all levels of the building. The climbing room is equipped with a padded floor and multi-colored lights that can be adjusted to mimic different times of day, and also includes a 12-foot-high bouldering wall for horizontal climbing. Climbers will be required to take a training course from RFWC staff.

Mick Ballart, a junior mathematics major, said he thinks the rock wall will be popular. "I'm looking forward to it," he said.

Students who want to get out into nature can check out tents, sleeping bags, backpacks, and lanterns from the RFWC. There is additional office space, a conference room, consultation rooms for personal training appointments, and more storage. Two more locker rooms will supplement the two already offered, and will be complete soon after the opening.

The groundbreaking for the \$7.75 million expansion was held in April 2008.

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## Mead Johnson Now Using Green Technology to Power Facility

EVANSVILLE – Mead Johnson & Company has announced that it is now using landfill gas to meet a significant portion of its energy needs at the company's manufacturing facility in Evansville, Ind. The project, which is the first of its kind for Mead Johnson and in the city of Evansville, uses a "green" technology that has been proven safe and reliable.

The project has an estimated capacity to reduce net carbon dioxide greenhouse gas emissions by 24,000 metric tons per year. Annual environmental benefits of this reduction are equivalent to removing greenhouse gas emissions from 4,400 passenger vehicles, the carbon dioxide emissions from burning 125 railcars of coal, or the carbon absorbed by 5,500 acres of pine forests. Emission reductions were estimated using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator.

"Mead Johnson is committed to environmental stewardship and sustainability around the world," said Mead Johnson Senior Vice President, Supply Chain, Jeff Jobe. "We're pleased to be converting from natural gas, a fossil fuel, to landfill gas, a renewable energy source, for a majority of our energy usage at our Evansville facility."

Jobe added that the project is consistent with consumers' interest in the energy-efficiency practices of the companies with which they do business. "In addition to our commitment to product excellence, using a renewable source of energy is yet another example of how Mead Johnson is working to meet our customers' needs," he said.

Mead Johnson has been working over the past year with two companies to make the project possible. Republic Services, Inc., which provides the gas that occurs as a natural byproduct of the decomposition of organic materials at its Laubscher Meadows Landfill, and Ameresco, which designed and built the five-mile dedicated pipeline and is responsible for operating and maintaining it.

"The city of Evansville is dedicated to supporting projects and initiatives that improve the environmental, social and economic health of our community; and this is a great example of how we can partner with businesses to be stewards of the environment and achieve positive results," said Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel. "With this project, Mead Johnson is once again demonstrating its commitment to improving the quality of life in our community."



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# — THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —

## ADA COMPLIANCE

### U.S. Labor Department announces ‘Expectation + opportunity = full participation’ as National Disability Employment Awareness Month theme

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Labor today announced “Expectation + Opportunity = Full Participation” as the official theme for October’s National Disability Employment Awareness Month. It is intended to urge employers, as they seek to fill positions, to embrace the richness of America’s diversity by considering the talents of all workers, including workers with disabilities.

This year’s theme emphasizes the vision of the Labor Department’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP): a world in which people with disabilities have unlimited employment opportunities. Early selection of an annual theme for upcoming National Disability Employment Awareness Month helps the private sector; federal, state and local governments; and advocacy organizations plan events and programs that showcase the abilities and skills of job seekers and working Americans who have disabilities.

ODEP is the nation’s first assistant secretary-led office that addresses policies that impact upon the employment of people with disabilities.

The office provides national leadership on disability employment policy by developing and influencing the use of evidence-based disability employment policies and practices, building collaborative partnerships, and delivering authoritative and credible data on the employment of people with disabilities.

As background for National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Public Law 176, enacted by Congress in 1945, designated the first week in October as “National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.” President Harry S. Truman designated the (now former) President’s Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities to carry out the law. Congress changed the name to “National Disability Employment Awareness Month” in 1988. The responsibility for leading the nationwide recognition was transferred to the newly created ODEP in 2001.



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## The City-County Observer

### Mission Statement

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



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Trash	FREE	TV/Video/DVD	FREE	Microwave	FREE
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## OFFERINGS:

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

Office: \$10/sf/NNN

Retail: \$7.50/sf/NNN

Warehouse: \$5/sf/NNN

NNN: \$.65/sf

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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