

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

OCTOBER 1, 2009

VOLUME II, ISSUE 22

City Successful in Bid to Keep Whirlpool Product Development Center

Submitted by the City of Evansville

(EVANSVILLE, IN) – Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel is pleased to announce the Whirlpool Product Development Center (PDC) and its 296 jobs will remain in Evansville. The Evansville-Vanderburgh County Airport Authority plans to acquire the Whirlpool site and the Airport Authority and City will assist the company with the design and construction of a new, state-of-the-art PDC. The new 66,000 square foot facility will be the cornerstone of the “Midwest Center for Innovation & Design” which will be jointly developed by the City, the Airport Authority and other partners on the current 105-acre Whirlpool site. The new innovation park will focus on attracting other research and development and design centers to Evansville and southwest Indiana.

“Job retention is a critical element of our economic success, so the fact that we were able to craft a deal that keeps these high-tech, high-paying jobs in Evansville is extremely important. With the involvement of the Airport Authority, we will also be able to take advantage of the opportunity to acquire this valuable property for future economic development,” said Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel. “In the meantime, we will continue working through the Rapid Response Team to assist the 1,100 men and women transition to other employment and educational opportunities once the manufacturing plant shuts down in mid-2010,” said Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel.

Whirlpool has a 53-year history in Evansville through which it has been able to develop a strong relationship with the City. Company officials say they were very pleased with the expeditious and aggressive manner in which this deal was put together. The incentive package enabled Evansville to win out over sites in Arkansas, Iowa and Michigan in their attempts to land the PDC.

“When we announced the closure of the Evansville plant in August, we indicated our desire to retain the talent, deep

knowledge and jobs associated with the Product Development Center in Evansville. We appreciate the City of Evansville and the local and state economic development representatives for the support and resources they have devoted to help make this happen,” said Steve Paddock, Senior Vice President, Global Product Organization, Whirlpool Corporation.

In addition to the PDC, the City and Airport Authority will assist Whirlpool with a 28,000 square foot expansion of its U.L. certified lab currently located on the Whirlpool campus. The City plans to use tax phase-in on the new investment to assist with development costs as well.

“The Evansville Regional Airport continues to work with local and regional governments and industries to promote regional economic growth and the retention and creation of jobs. Airports are an important transportation provider that residents and visitors look to in deciding to invest in our communities,” said Derrick Stewart, President of the Evansville-Vanderburgh County Airport Authority District. “This is a long-term project and we look forward to making a viable and cost effective acquisition of a large property adjacent to the Evansville Regional Airport while providing economic opportunity and helping to retain jobs.”

Both the City and the Airport Authority will explore funding opportunities with various state and federal agencies, including the Federal Aviation Administration and the Economic Development Administration to assist with fully developing the PDC and the new innovation park. The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) has agreed to forgive a claw back from incentives offered during an earlier expansion of the manufacturing facility. Claw backs are provisions which are used to recoup subsidies paid to a company that does not fulfill its job creation promises. The IEDC has also offered Whirlpool \$50,000 in training grants.

VANDEBURGH COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE TO MAIL OUT ADJUSTED FALL BILLS

EVANSVILLE, Ind. – Vanderburgh County taxpayers who qualify for a homestead exemption will soon be receiving a new fall property tax bill in their mailboxes. Vanderburgh County Treasurer Rick Davis today announced that 46,916 properties in the county qualified for the Local Homestead Exemption, reducing fall tax bills by an average of \$69. The Local Homestead Credit, which totaled \$3,297,520.31 for all parcels combined, normally would have been approved in 2008 and applied to the 2009 bills that were mailed on May 29, 2009. However, that approval by local governing bodies did not come until August 2009, long after the spring and fall installments had already been mailed by the county. Vanderburgh County and state officials decided to remedy that issue by applying the local homestead credit entirely on a new, adjusted fall bill.

A total of 40,477 taxpayers will receive their new fall bill in the mail by the middle of next week. The adjusted fall bills display how much credit the parcel received in a prepayment column, as well as a new total amount due on a revised fall remittance coupon. Davis stated that although the new bill is printed in black & white ink on plain paper, the new remittance coupons will be continue to be accepted at all local Old National Bank branches in the Tri-State area. Properties that do not qualify for the local homestead exemption will not receive a new bill. Davis said original bills mailed in the spring for those properties will also continue to be accepted at all Old National Bank branches as well.

For those who have Internet access, Davis said the totals are already avail-

able online at www.vanderburghtreasurer.org. Once on the site, you may search the property you would like to view. The credit will be displayed as "LESS PREPAYMENT" in the Second Installment (Fall) column. If a taxpayer's account is in escrow, the online account will say "Please contact the Treasurer's Office to pay this account" in order to keep taxpayers from overpaying their taxes, due to the fact that the escrow company will be making the payment, said Davis.

Davis said the owners of 6,469 parcels will receive a refund check in the mail due to the fact that those property owners paid their entire bill in the spring. The average refund check amounts to about \$45. Davis noted that some of those parcels have exchanged hands due to being sold after the taxes were paid. In that case, homeowners may have to show proof of payment in order to receive their refund in order to ensure the correct party receives their refund. The refund checks, totaling \$231,092.90, will be mailed out by the Vanderburgh County Auditor's Office within the next few weeks.

There were some taxpayers, 135 in all, whose original exemptions outweighed the assessed value of their homes. Those property owners received original bills showing zero owed for the spring and fall installments. The county is mailing those taxpayers a notice showing how much their credit amounts to, but since they originally owed nothing they will continue to have a zero bill.

Forty one percent of all the adjusted properties, 19,378 parcels, are paid by lenders, due to the fact that the taxpayers' property taxes are paid through escrow. Davis said those taxpayers will receive a bill watermarked "Duplicate Sent To Mortgage Company."

For taxpayers who are in escrow, the Treasurer's Office will send the adjusted bills to the escrow companies, who will then be responsible to pay the lesser amount in the fall. "The taxpayer will still get that bill, though, because they are entitled to know how much credit they are receiving," said Davis. "So if a taxpayer gets a bill with that 'Duplicate Sent To Mortgage Company' watermark, if their home is still mortgaged and the taxes are still paid through escrow, those taxpayers won't have to do anything aside from keeping those documents for their records if they wish."

Davis said he was pleased to announce the bills were printed in-house by his Treasurer's Office staff, rather than by hiring an outside company to perform the printing. Davis said it cost the county less than \$4,000 to print the bills, plus an estimated \$18,000 in postage.

The bills will arrive in old envelopes that were left over from previous years' tax bills, said Davis, at a savings of about \$2,000. The recycled envelopes will be labeled in a manner to indicate an adjusted 2009 property tax bill is enclosed.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Wake Up West Side

Short Cuts To The New Majestic Place



Your Help Is Needed Now!!!

**West Side Rally to Save the West Side
Saturday – Oct 3
Meet at the USI Parking Lot 5:00PM**

The only way to stop this development is with overwhelming numbers. It is not a lot of time spent compared to what will happen if we sit idly by. The future of your community is at stake!!! The West Side and all that you came here for will change forever. Bring your friends, your neighbors, your entire family, kids too. We need to come together as a community now. We need to show that our voices and our votes count!!!!!!!!!!

County Commissioners will vote on October 13, at 5:00 PM, Room 301
Civic Center Complex
Wear something **Red**
Make plans To Be There

EDITORIAL

Proper arena planning may prevent problems

By Jamie Grabert, Publisher

I'm a stickler for planning and organization. Those closest to me will tell you that I inundate them with questions to the point of pushing them over the edge when we are working out even the most trivial events and trips.

So, the lack of planning regarding the arena may just be what I like least about the project. It seems too hastily done. It seems for some reason (yet to be explained), that the city is in such a big rush to complete the project that even the most obvious details are being overlooked.

I will admit that I am not a city planner, architect or contractor. But I do have some common sense. I understand that in the mad frenzy to obtain permits, draw plans, get the financing, and so on that some things may be overlooked. Errors and omissions are a daily battle in the news industry. But there should be a procedure that is followed when a project of this magnitude is undertaken. Those in charge of the projects (typically the City Council) should ensure that

it is the people (the electorate) that are protected first. It should be those who are elected making the decision, not a hand-picked board with no experience or accountability to the people.

Here are a few problems to note:

1. The Redevelopment Commission is taking the word of one man on how this project should proceed. Due diligence is required for a project of this magnitude, especially when hiring someone who is going to be presenting information to boards and committees. Who is the secondary source for what is deemed necessary?

2. Does the new arena look like it belongs in the area it is being built? The simple answer: No. Take a walk down Main Street. It creates quite a conundrum for me aesthetically. The Downtown Area has a rich history that is preserved in the faces of its buildings. They represent a time when this city was vibrant and thriving. If you need an example, take a walk or drive down Main Street. Take a look at Innovation Pointe. It changed the whole landscape and will leave you scratching your head as to the logic behind the design.

3. Along that same line, according to the way we read the schematics, the arena will actually be a little too large for the lot is about to be built upon.

4. The funding mechanism has many people baffled. The city creates TIF Districts to help pay for the arena at a time when home sales and values are on the decline. How will it work if there is no increase in property values? After all, the tax dollars going into the pot for the arena are based on an increase in the property's assessed value. The food and beverage tax is not a sound funding mechanism because of the basic idea that, when you have less money or in a declining economy, people do not eat out as much. And finally, the Riverboat Fund as a funding source makes little sense. Resorts and casinos across the country are seeing a decline in the number of patrons. What would happen if the casino left Evansville before the project could be completed? The city rolled the dice on a casino that went through bankruptcy.

5. According to John Kish, two unforeseen problems have arisen in the last week. The first problem is that a sewer line has been discovered in the area the arena is being built. Kish said they may need to move a second line. This may hold up the bid process for moving the sewer lines so the arena can be built. You would think the city would have GIS maps stating where the sewer and water lines were located. Kish also stated that the land under the Executive Inn and in the area may be polluted because gas stations had been located there.



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.

We support the belief that Life is the Right Choice!

Vanderburgh County Right to Life
An affiliate of Indiana Right to Life™
www.vcrtl.com

812-474-3195 • vcrtl@evansvilleforlife.com
20 N.W. Fourth Street, Suite 308 • Evansville, IN 47708

EDITORIAL

Arena planning...continued from page 4

6. The Evansville Redevelopment Commission has contracted Old National Bank Insurance to broker the insurance coverage for the arena project. The project has essentially begun with core drilling. (The second round of core drilling in fact.) But the city still does not have insurance in place on this project. They are solely relying on the insurance provided by the contractors. What happens if there is an accident and the contractor's insurance isn't adequate?

7. The arena is said to be being built on land, all of which does not belong to the city. What happens if there is a problem with the acquisition of some of the land needed for the project?

8. Public safety is something important. Mayor Weinzapfel spoke recently to city police officers and firefighters and attempted to justify potential cuts due to budget constraints. The arena is set to be constructed in one of the highest crime areas of the city. How does that work out?

9. Parking is already a problem downtown. In August, the annual EVSC event at The Centre created such a problem that a warning memo was sent out by Building Authority Director Dave Rector, telling employees they may need to find an alternate place to park. There simply is not ample parking for events to be held during the day time at the downtown facilities. Honestly, there is not even enough park-

ing for the construction workers that will be building the new arena. When asked by the Redevelopment Commission about the parking situation, the construction manager for the project replied, "We are still working on that."

10. "Haste makes waste." In this case, haste has the potential to cost the taxpayers of Evansville and Vanderburgh County millions of the dollars. Why is the city not taking time to think through the little details and create a plan to minimize the number of change orders? What is the rush?

One of the things people have said about the City-County Observer is that we are quick to present the problems, but we do not offer a solution. Our goal is not to point out the problems, it is merely to inform our readers of the news in their communities.

But in this case, I will offer a suggestion. We understand the arena is going to be built. We ask that Mr. Kish, Mayor Weinzapfel, the City Council and the Redevelopment Commission slow down and think each decision through to its reality. Efficiency does not always mean the fastest. Having to do things two or three times is not efficient. Take your time and remember, it's the people's money and the people's arena.

JOSEPH H. HARRISON, JR.

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What ACORN? I Didn't See Any ACORN



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

WASHINGTON -- While everyone in Washington is suddenly pretending they've hardly ever heard of ACORN, they might want to pretend they've never heard of the SEIU, one of the nation's largest unions.

The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now and the Service Employees International Union are tight as Heidi Klum and a new pair of jeans.

You don't think about one without the other.

You also don't talk about either organization without mention of Wade Rathke, co-founder of ACORN and founder of SEIU Local 100 in New Orleans. Rathke, who resigned from ACORN last year as "chief organizer" after it became known that his brother embezzled almost \$1 million from the association, continues to run Local 100, as well as ACORN International, recently renamed Community Organizations International.

Rathke's social justice empire is so vast that he is more hydra than man. Nine heads are surely better than one when you're organizing communities in at least 12 countries. While Rathke and ACORN undoubtedly have done much good for impoverished people here and abroad, it appears likely that American taxpayers indirectly have been helping underwrite unionizing activities and advance political goals through the commingling of Rathke's various interests.

As an ironic sidebar, America's health care reform debate could become stalled,

not by Senate Republicans demanding a cost analysis (how mundane), but by dot-connecting prompted by the Halloweenish ACORN sting starring a faux pimp and prostitute.

Screenwriters, poise your pens. Just for fun, keep this name in mind: Rod Blagojevich.

Now picture a triangle. One point is ACORN; another point is the SEIU; the third point is the taxpayer. Now picture arrows flowing back and forth, representing the exchange of greenbacks and services.

While various government agencies funded ACORN to help poor people become voters and homeowners, ACORN under Rathke created SEIU Local 100 (Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi and Texas) and SEIU Local 880 (Illinois, Indiana and Kansas). In turn, the SEIU wrote checks to ACORN for political activities and union organizing, according to ACORN whistleblower affidavits. In 2008, the SEIU and Change to Win, a coalition of labor unions, gave ACORN \$1,729,462, according to union financial reports filed with the Department of Labor.

To break it down, ACORN and the SEIU are hand and glove. Rathke himself referred to the SEIU as "one of the pillars of the ACORN family of organizations" in a June 9, 2007, blog posting. This coziness has been long known among conservative watchdog groups, but Washington has paid little attention until now.

Suddenly, ACORN is as popular as a sneeze on a crowded bus. President Obama, who once represented ACORN as a lawyer and helped train organizers, recently told ABC's George Stephanopoulos he doesn't really follow ACORN much. Massachusetts Rep. Barney Frank, a longtime ACORN champion, has been scurrying to clarify his disapproval of the organization -- after he and a staffer gave contradictory statements about where he stood on proposals to halt ACORN fund-

ing.

Congress has voted to halt most of that funding; the Census Bureau and the IRS have cut ties with the group; the departments of Housing and Urban Development and Treasury have opened investigations.

And in a coup of absurdity, the now-infamous pimp and prostitute who tempted ACORN workers to help them set up a teenage-prostitution operation are the subjects of a lawsuit accusing them of illegally taping the staffers without their permission.

Such concerns -- and charges of voter registration fraud against ACORN -- ultimately may pale in comparison to the organizers' betrayal of public trust through the apparent commingling of taxpayer money and union funding, not to mention possible coercion and intimidation.

Just last week, the Kansas City Star reported that two state agencies acting on an SEIU public records request sought to identify in-home health workers who care for the elderly and disabled. After complaints, the state acknowledged that it was under no legal obligation to provide the information and ceased helping the SEIU. Unionizing is not a state function, needless to say. And never mind the invasion of privacy.

One needn't be a mathematician to imagine what a national health care option might mean to a union in search of new dues-paying recruits. The SEIU, which has promised "to fight tooth and nail" for a public option, is demonstrably persuasive. In Illinois, former Gov. Blagojevich (thank you for your patience) helped position the SEIU so that it could unionize health care workers when he signed an executive order allowing collective bargaining. The SEIU showed its appreciation in advance by becoming Blagojevich's largest contributor, handing over \$1.8 million for his two gubernatorial campaigns.

Now that's community organization.

COMMON SENSE

*By Benjamin Clark
Political Analyst*

WORTHLY ORGANIZATION

The McDonald House fundraiser has begun to help pay for the daily operation costs. Donations can be made to the facility's Website, www.rmhevansville.org. For additional information, call (812) 402-7642.

THANKS, GAIL!

Thanks to State Rep. Gail Riecken for putting the political heat on the Family and Social Services Administration Secretary Anne Murphy. The people who receive benefits from this State agency, such as Medicaid and food stamps need this program to be simple so the elderly, educationally challenged and mentally handicapped can understand. It's time lawmakers throughout the state join Rep. Riecken in forcing the state power brokers to fix this problem soon as possible!

INCREASE OVER DUE

We hope that the proposed 2010 city budget that gives a large increase to the Fire Department vehicle repair program will be approved at next City Council meeting. The poor maintenance schedule of the past not only put our firefighters at risk but also the general public. Outstanding firefighters that have first class equipment means the public will have superior fire protection! It's time to correct this JUSTIFIABLE fear, we respectfully ask the City Council to pass this proposed budget increase intact!

WORTHY OF YOUR SUPPORT

Support the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra! This Orchestra is beginning its 75 year and is worthy of your support! For season tickets, contact them at www.evansvillephilharmonic.org or call (812) 425-5050.

WHAT'S MORE EXPENSIVE?

What's more expensive, a APPLE or CADILLAC? To be a member of Mayor Weinzapfel's "APPLE CLUB" will cost you exactly \$5,000. To be a member of Vanderburgh County Commissioner Troy Tornatta's "CADILLAC CLUB" shall cost you \$2,500. YOU NOW HAVE YOUR ANSWER!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Health South Deaconess Rehabilitation for putting on a successful REHABILITATION OLYMPICS recently. To the management and staff, keep up the excellent work!

RIGHT MOVE

The proposal to increase Evansville Regional Airport runway 4-22 length to 1000 feet should be tabled and not brought up again!

FOREWARNING

If the City Council approves new 96-gallon trash containers request next meeting, they should be forewarned that another political problem shall loon during re-election time. Some of the issues shall come up during re-election time will be from people living in older neighborhoods, traffic problems cause by refuse trucks on city streets, handicapped and elderly have problems pushing or pulling containers to curb.

PETITIONS

CONSOLIDATION of Vanderburgh county government referendum and the "VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE" (aimed at the overall performance of Mayor Weinzapfel) petitions are alive and well. Looks like the CONSOLIDATION petition drive is a slam dunk! The group doing the "VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE" drive date has been extended in order to have people attending the WEST SIDE NUT CLUB FALL FESTIVAL to have the opportunity to sign. Word on the street is that this group will have an impressive list of names to hand out to Governor's Office, State Democratic and Republican Party officials statewide, media throughout the state and other interested groups.



TEMPUS FUGIT

By Judge James Redwine

Lawyers, such as my brother, claim the shortest interval of time known to mankind is the time it takes a judge to forget the judge was ever a lawyer. What they mean by this aphorism is that salaried judges who can set their own schedules quickly forget how difficult it is to actually work for a living. Therefore, judges either procrastinate and delay or, even worse, make unreasonable demands and set unmakeable deadlines.

When I practiced law I said the same things about judges, and I was right. However, now that I am a judge much has changed and I can vouch that judges are diligent, reasonable and accommodating. Besides, lawyers are not correct about what is the shortest interval of time. In fact, it is the time it takes former lovers to become belligerents in the wars of divorce court.

Should you have read this column the past two weeks let me first suggest your life may need a little more spark. However, you, also, may recall our topic has been domestic relations cases and the analogy between dissolution of marriages and dissolution of the Union during the Civil War. You will recall that in his First Inaugural Address, President Lincoln compared the dividing of a household to the division of our country.

But toward the end of the War in 1865, during his Second Inaugural Address, Lincoln tried to bind up our wounds in his famous call for reunification:

“...[W]ith malice towards none,
with charity for all ...”

Such a magnanimous philosophy can work wonders when families finally decide that, for whatever reasons, enough is enough. If combatants who shot at one another can make peace, surely former lovers can. Of course, the rest of us are not Lincolns. Our pain, loss and most of all our pride interfere with, “the better angels of our nature”, that President Lincoln called upon. Therefore, it is incumbent upon our divorce court judges to encourage us to make peace, not war.

In Posey County for over twenty years the Bar Association and the judges have sought to assuage the

very real hurt that dissolving families endure. In 1988, before being required to do so by law, the Bench and Bar began to apply the Parenting Time and Child Support Guidelines promulgated by the Indiana Supreme Court after years of study. The guidelines help families know what experts consider fair and in the best interests of children and their parents. Such knowledge when imparted by attorneys to their clients greatly reduces conflict. These guidelines are frequently revisited to assure that as times change the law changes to meet new needs.

Next week, we will have a chance to discuss the procedural aspects of dividing the lives of erstwhile lovers who can still be friends.





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EDITORIAL

IS IT TRUE?

Is it true we are wondering what happened to making HAYNIE'S CORNER an Art DISTRICT and the promise of cafes, shops, galleries and restaurants? Is it true this is another pipe dream plan spearheaded by the Evansville Metropolitan Development to waste federal monies?

Is it true that as of September 9, 2009, the city, through the Department of Metropolitan Development, has given Evansville Brownfields Corp. \$2,046,250.12? Is it true that according to the City Controller's Office report, the money has been given for "Other Contractual Services" in the form of loans and grants? Is it true that we are still attempting to gain access to this corporation? Is it true we are still trying to find out what this money is being used for?

Is it true that the Mount Vernon City Council is following after the Posey County Commissioners regarding the purchase of a time card system for city employees? Is it true the city is already struggling to make pay necessary bills because of delays in the mailing of tax statements? Is it true this is one more example of unnecessary spending?

Is it true that the Solid Waste Board cut \$78,417 (or 15.5%) from last year's budget, reducing it to \$426,820 from \$505,000? Is it true board members cut \$97,417 from their initial 2010 budget request? Is it true the Solid Waste District has approximately \$514,000 in reserve as of August 19, 2009?

Is it true that the Evansville-Vanderburgh County Solid Waste District wants to increase the tipping fee on waste going into the landfill by 50 cents a ton? Is it true the cost would go from \$1.50 per ton to \$2.00 per ton? Is it true the last increase was four

years ago, from \$1.25 per ton to \$1.50 per ton?

Is it true that the City-County Observer's 2009 Heroes edition has worldwide readership?

Is it true that the Evansville City Council is going to allow Viola to bid on the trash contract for the city? Is it true that reliable sources were told by Councilwoman Connie Robinson that the city council will give the disposal company a chance to bid on the contract following the meeting last week?

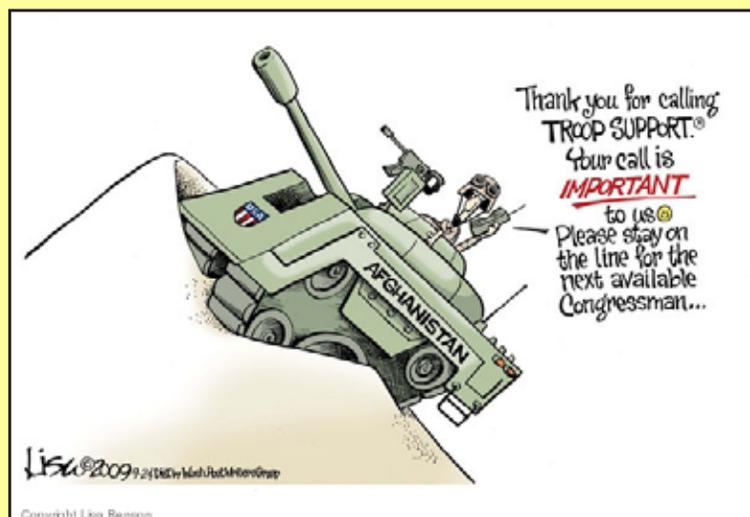
Is it true there is a great deal of confusion in the City of Evansville regarding how the money in the Riverboat Fund can be spent? Is it true we obtained a copy of Resolution C-96-21, which is a resolution by the Evansville City Council that was filed May 20, 1996? Is it true this resolution states how the money can be spent? Is it true this resolution is on the next page? Is it true the resolution can easily be changed by the City Council with another resolution? Is it true this money could be spent to fix the sewer problems?

Is it true that another board the needs more public scrutiny is the Evansville Housing Authority? Is it true the City-County Observer has previously had to involve the Indiana Public Access Office to gain access to their records?

Is it true that the City of Evansville does not have a formal written agreement to purchase the Executive Inn?



The Mole



— THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

RESOLUTION C-96-21, as amended

INTRODUCED BY: ALL MEMBERS

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EVANSVILLE, INDIANA
ON RIVERBOAT REVENUE EXPENDITURE

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Evansville, Indiana recognizes that a riverboat has been operational on the Ohio River since December 1995, and operations are expected to continue through 1996 and subsequent years, and

WHEREAS, the City of Evansville, Indiana is projected to receive approximately \$8 million during the twelve months of 1996 in admission and waging taxes and land lease revenues, and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Common Council of the City of Evansville to set direction on how these revenues are to be appropriated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of Evansville, Indiana, as follows:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION DIRECTION

The Common Council intends to appropriate riverboat tax and land lease receipts for special and/or one-time projects, including but not limited to, capital improvements and equipment purchases, storm drainage and street repair projects, economic development, economic revitalization, community development, disaster or emergency situations, establishing a trust fund to benefit future generations, or bond repayments. In no event shall these revenues be used for operations.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Common Council and signing by the Mayor.

FILED
MAY 20 1996

Alberta Matlock
CITY CLERK

THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER

LEGISLATIVE EDITORIAL

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

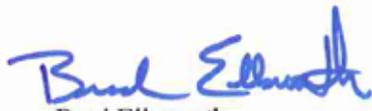
Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer:

During his September 9 address to the Congress on health care reform, President Obama told the American people that “no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions.” As reform legislation moves closer to floor consideration, we urge you to continue to work with authors of the House bill to ensure that this goal and the deeply-held beliefs of millions of Americans opposed to abortion are fully and unequivocally represented in legislative language. We are committed to protecting life at all stages and upholding existing policies that prevent federal taxpayer dollars from being used to fund abortion. We are also committed to reforming our health care system. With the adoption of several amendments in July, the Energy and Commerce Committee attempted to improve the bill by taking steps to prevent tax dollars from paying for abortions and ensuring every person has access to pro-life insurance policies. However, we also believe more can and must be done.

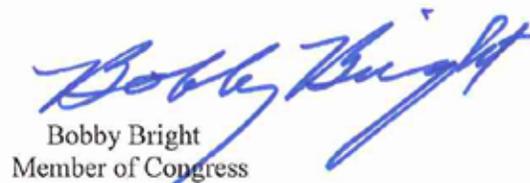
First, our constituents demand access to health insurance plans in which their premiums are not used to pay for abortions, and these protections will ensure pro-life plans are always available to individuals and businesses at all times. To that end, we were pleased the Capps Amendment permanently prohibits the Health Benefits Advisory Committee from requiring private health insurance plans to cover abortions. Second, we support the provision in the Capps Amendment that explicitly protects the rights of states like Indiana and Alabama to continue to enforce important pro-life laws like parental notification, informed consent, and Medicaid abortion funding prohibitions. Third, we support additional changes made in July to protect the rights of all health care providers to refuse to perform medical procedures or treatments that offend their faith or their conscience.

While these provisions are important, we believe there is still a need to include additional protections to ensure not a single American has his or her federal tax dollars directed toward abortions. First, we believe stronger language must be added to the bill to protect federal tax dollars from funding abortions through any new public health insurance option. Second, we support adding a new provision to clearly define the standard used to ensure federal subsidies are not used to purchase coverage for abortions.

Once again, we look forward to working with you as the House of Representatives considers legislation to address the health care crisis impacting so many American families. We remain dedicated to enacting real health care reform this year while also respecting the strongly held convictions of millions of Americans who oppose abortion.


Brad Ellsworth
Member of Congress

Sincerely,


Bobby Bright
Member of Congress

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Sunday, September 27

COMMUNITY

The Women's Fund of the Posey County Community Foundation Grants to Six Organizations

Posey County – The Posey County Community Foundation's Board of Trustees announced today that the Foundation would award grants to six organizations serving Posey County totaling \$4,921.

Grants to these nonprofit organizations, which serve Posey County, have been made possible by the Women's Fund of Posey County which is dedicated to supporting programs created to give opportunities, encouragement, knowledge and hope to women and girls in Posey County.

- Posey County Steps Ahead Council/Family Matters:
\$730 to purchase five (5) portable cribs.
- Posey County Domestic Violence Task Force, Inc.:
\$300 to purchase gas cards for clients
- West and Hedges Central Elementary Schools:
\$1,270 to conduct a "Girl Power" program to promote healthy life choices for 5th Grade girls.
- Community Action Program of Evansville & Vanderburgh Co.: \$971 to purchase 75 copies of "What To Do When Your Child Gets Sick."
- Farmersville Elementary School:
\$1,000 to conduct a "Girl Power" program to promote healthy life choices for 5th Grade girls.
- American Red Cross, Posey County Chapter:
\$650 to provide 20 Posey County women with free infant/child CPR classes.

The Women's Fund of Posey County is a permanent endowment, meaning that money used to create it will never be spent, but proceeds from earnings are awarded as grants to support women and girls in a variety of ways. Since the fund began in 2004, it has awarded \$36,417 in grants back into the county.

To acknowledge our winners, the Foundation will host a Women in Philanthropy luncheon on Wednesday, October 21, at noon in the Conference Center in New Harmony. Grant recipients will share stories about their organizations and the use of the funding provided to them by the Foundation. The cost of the luncheon is \$18 per person.

Celebrating 17 years of building community philanthropy, Posey County Community Foundation is a \$5 million philanthropic endowment with a growing family of 73 component funds. Since its establishment in 1992, the foundation has worked to improve the quality of life in Posey County with the support of charitable gifts and bequests from individuals, families, organizations and corporations committed to making a difference in the community for generations to come.

For more information about the Foundation's grant process or to attend the October 21 luncheon, please contact Julie Eickhoff, Foundation Director, at 812-838-0288.



The Children's Learning Center's acting director, Yvonne Lawrence, right, accepts a check from Posey County Community Foundation Board of Trustee member Jeff Greenwell. The Foundation awarded the Children's Learning Center \$2,159.50 from the Eliane D. Dion Memorial Fund and the Bert and Lois Ashworth Fund.

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Electric utility tree trimming investigation: Public events scheduled for Wednesday, October 7 in Evansville

Two public events will be held in Evansville on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 regarding the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's (IURC's) pending investigation of electric utility tree trimming and vegetation management practices. Both events will take place in the Harrison High School Auditorium, 211 Fielding Drive:

- At 5:30 p.m., local time, the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) will conduct an information meeting to discuss the utility regulatory process and describe field hearing procedures.

- At 6:00 p.m., local time, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) will conduct a formal public field hearing to accept oral and written comments from consumers. All comments provided during the field hearing will become part of the evidentiary record considered by the IURC in reaching its final decision in the case. Commissioners are not permitted to answer consumer questions during the formal field hearing.

This will be the sixth public field hearing conducted in this investigation, following August and September hearings in Muncie, Indianapolis, Seymour, Merrillville, and Fort Wayne.

The OUCC is accepting written consumer comments in this case through October 29, 2009. Consumers can submit comments for the case's record by mail, fax or the Internet:

- Mail: Consumer Services Staff
Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor
115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500 South
Indianapolis, IN 46204
- Fax: (317) 232-5923
- E-mail: uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov
- OUCC Website: www.IN.gov/OUCC

Written comments should include the consumer's name, mailing address, and a reference to IURC Cause No. 43663.

The OUCC - the state agency representing consumer interests in IURC cases - has filed testimony recommending that the IURC establish uniform vegetation management standards for all electric utilities under its jurisdiction. Future steps in this case will be determined by the IURC at a later date.

For more information on this case, please visit www.in.gov/oucc/2555.htm.



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EDUCATION

UE Archaeology Opens New Wet Lab

The University of Evansville wrapped up Indiana Archaeology Month Wednesday with the grand opening of its new Archaeology Wet Lab.

UE, which is one of only 17 colleges in America with a Department of Archaeology, opened the new lab in the lower level of Hyde Hall. The event began at 3:30 p.m. and ran until 5:30 p.m., with a ribbon cutting at 4:00 p.m. The afternoon also included tours and displays of the University's Tin City Excavation Project, located on the north side of Krannert Hall. The event is free, and open to the public.

"As a department, we're extremely excited to open the new Archaeology Wet Lab, and to have the opportunity to show the public all of the things we're doing here at UE," said Jennie Ebeling, chair of UE's Department of Archaeology. "By creating this lab space, we will be able to offer our students an even greater learning experience, from giving them a space in which to wash and catalog their finds to offering them more hands-on educational opportunities right here on the UE campus."

The second part of the program included tours and demonstrations of the Tin City Excavation project, undertaken each year by students

in the Archaeological Field Methods course, taught by UE Assistant Professor of Archaeology Alan Kaiser. The project allows students to practice their field techniques by excavating pieces of the "Tin City" – student housing built to accommodate the rush of students after World War II and the Korean War, many of whom were taking advantage of the G.I. Bill. The 13 residential units were used until 1961, when dwindling numbers of veterans coupled with the University's need for space to build Krannert Hall, Moore Hall, and Neu Chapel led to the structures being razed.

Today, students in Kaiser's class dig into the ground where Tin City used to stand, finding numerous artifacts from those former soldiers attending UE. The project begins in September, and runs through November.

"This is an exciting project for our students, because it gives them terrific, hands-on experience in an actual archaeological dig," Kaiser said. "In past years, students have found everything from a child's barrette to costume jewelry and a pedal from a tricycle left from that time; it's always interesting to see what pieces of UE history we find in the ground!"

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SPORTS

Aces Return Home To Face Indiana State, Illinois State

After hitting a few bumps in the road, the University of Evansville volleyball team (8-7, 1-2) returns home to face Missouri Valley foes Indiana State and Illinois State in the Aces' first full weekend at Carson Center.

The Purple Aces match-up with Indiana State Friday followed by Illinois State on Saturday. Both games are slated for 7:00 p.m.

"This is going to be a huge weekend for us," said Evansville head coach Mike Swan. "We would love to sweep our conference matches over the weekend because it would help put us in a pretty good situation. The way things have started out in the Valley right now, it's going to be really interesting to see where this thing ends up at the end of the year because everybody is beating up everybody."

UE looks to bounce back this weekend after a tough loss at Lipscomb Tuesday night. Senior Ginta Gabruseva has exploded offensively as of late, as she has led the team in kills in four

out of the last five games. Sophomore Brooke Maher leads the team with 159 kills while Gabruseva follows with 158. Junior Emily Wandersee has a team-high .262 attack percentage with 152 kills on 393 attempts.

History will also be made soon for sophomore Ellen Sawin and junior Julie Sylvester. Sawin's 615 assists this season almost reaches her 2008 total of 622. For her two years, the setter has 1,237 assists and is 27 away from breaking into the list of UE's all-time assists leaders. Sylvester is also close to making the top 10 list for career digs. Over her career, Sylvester has tallied 946 digs and now stands 11 digs away from the list.

Indiana State enters Friday with a 5-11 overall record and 1-3 conference mark. The Aces have been winners of the last 10 matches against the Sycamores. Ana Maira Charun has stepped up during conference play for the Sycamores, as she has posted a team-high 47 kills. Defensively, Kiya James has collected 254 digs this season while the team itself is being outblocked by opponents 43-17.

"We have had a lot of success against Indiana State as of late, but I think they are much improved this year," Swan said. "They have a couple of new players that are doing a good job for them, and they had a huge win over the weekend by upsetting Drake in three. I think it will come down to us serving aggressive and taking them out of their system. If we can do that I think we have a good shot of getting another win against them."

Illinois State has recorded a 6-9 record in the 2009 season while being 1-3 in the league. Mallory Leggett continues to be a consistent force for the Redbirds with 183 total kills and 57 in conference play. The Redbirds have help getting their offense started from Kristin Stauter and Jessica Pratapas, as the duo has 532 assists between them.

"With Illinois State, it's a team that has kind of had our number over the last few years," Swan said. "We beat them a few years ago at home, but we haven't been able to get past them since that point. I know they struggled early this year and took some tough losses. Their offense is geared around their two outside hitters, so we really need to focus on shutting them down, playing good defense and spreading out our offense."

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SPORTS

Men's soccer goes on the road for three

EVANSVILLE, Ind. – The University of Southern Indiana men's soccer team goes on the road for three matches this week. The Screaming Eagles travel to Oakland City University Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. for non-conference contest, while resuming GLVC action at Rockhurst University Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Drury University Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

USI (3-5-0, 3-4-0 GLVC) is coming off a 1-1 homestand that included a 2-0 win over the University of Illinois at Springfield and a 1-0 overtime loss to Quincy University. Freshman forward Jeff McClure had the game-winning goal in the victory over the Prairie Stars and raised his team-leading totals to nine points on four goals and one assist.

Between the posts, USI freshman goalkeeper Keenan Johnson has been stellar the last five matches. Johnson, who recorded his first collegiate shutout in the win over UIS, has a 0.66 goals against average and 31 saves in the last 405 minutes in goal.

The Mighty Oaks of Oakland City University (4-1-1) are up first for the Eagles this week. USI leads the all-time series, 2-0-1, with the last meeting ending in a 1-1 tie during the 2007 season.

The Eagles will restart GLVC play with two of the top four teams in the GLVC in Rockhurst (6-3-0, 4-2-0 GLVC) and Drury (9-0-0, 6-0-0 GLVC).

The Rockhurst Hawks, who host Truman State University on Wednesday, begin the week in the midst of a three-match winning streak and tied for third in the league. They have sandwiched a three-match losing streak between a pair of three-match winning streaks this year.

USI enters Friday match looking for its first win over Rockhurst after going 0-9-2 in the first 11 meetings. The Hawks have won the five in a row against the Eagles since tying a pair matches in 2003 and 2004.

The conference-leading Panthers of Drury have been on a roll since October of 2008, winning or tying their last 15 matches (13-0-2). The only blemish in the last 15 matches was a shoot-out loss in the 2008 GLVC Tournament when Rockhurst advanced to the champi-



Keenan Johnson leads USI in goal this season.

onship game.

Drury has been nearly perfect against USI, going 5-0-1 in the six meetings. Last year the Panthers defeated the Eagles, 6-1, in Springfield, Missouri.

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SPORTS

Indiana early archery deer season, Oct. 1-Nov. 29

Indiana's 2009 deer season begins with the opening day of early archery, Oct. 1.

Hunters must possess a completed and signed deer hunting, youth, lifetime comprehensive hunting, or apprentice license to legally pursue deer. Hunter education is required for anyone born after Dec. 31, 1986. However, individuals of any age may buy an apprentice license without having to take hunter education. Individuals are limited to three apprentice hunting licenses in their lifetime. Special apprentice hunting license rules apply.

Legal archery equipment includes long bows, compound bows and recurve bows. A bow must have a minimum draw weight of 35 pounds. Arrows must be tipped with broadheads that are metal, metal-edged, or napped flint, chert or obsidian. Crossbows are not legal for use in the early season, but are legal in the late season.

According to Chad Stewart, Indiana's deer biologist, "Our

deer herd is very strong. Hunters have every reason to be excited before they go out in the woods each morning."

Stewart anticipates a high deer harvest number this fall.

"In terms of early archery season, the harvest has exceeded 25,000 the past three years, and I anticipate similar numbers this year," he said. "As for the total deer season, I expect at least another 125,000 deer to be harvested this year, with a chance for the statewide harvest to exceed 130,000 for the first time ever."

Anyone with questions regarding deer hunting rules and regulations should first consult the Indiana 2009-2010 Hunting and Trapping Guide, which is available at most sporting goods retailers and online at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/2343.htm>. If further assistance is needed, contact a conservation officer at North Region Headquarters (765) 473-9722 or South Region Headquarters (812) 837-9536.

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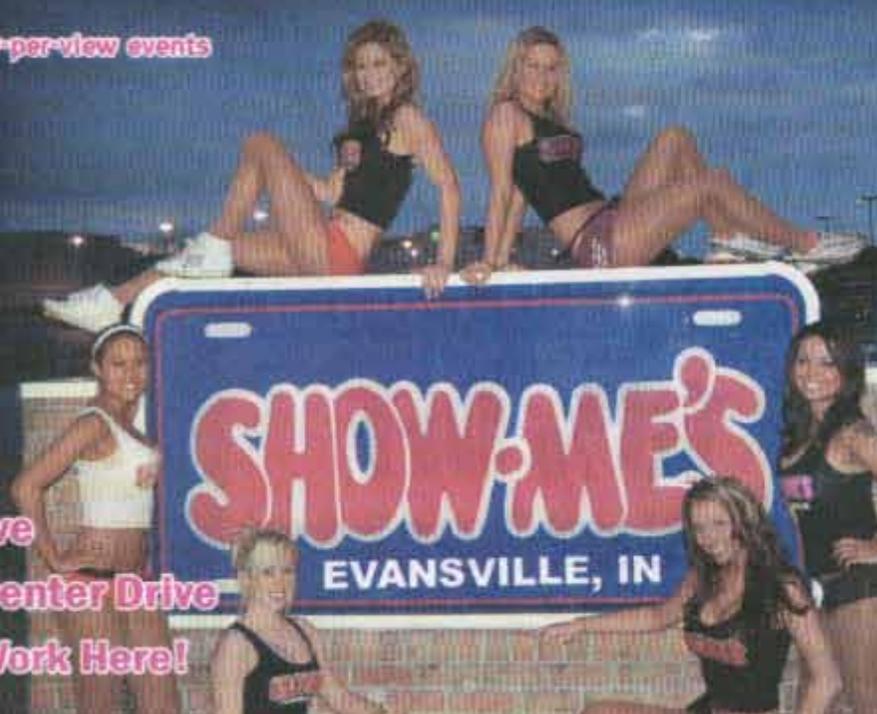
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USI College of Business, Berry Plastics sponsor business plan competition

Is there a container that will protect a pizza, maintain the pizza's serving temperature, preserve its tempting aroma, function as a serving tray and storage container, and serve as a branding and advertising medium better than the traditional corrugated box?

Students are invited to attend an informational meeting at 5 p.m., Thursday, October 1, in Room 2033 of Orr Center to learn how they can enter a business plan competition exploring a solution to this issue.

Students identified as top performers in the case study will be eligible for summer 2010 internships with Berry Plastics Corporation of Evansville.

Participants in the Community Engagement Business Plan Competition will work in teams as they develop a business plan for a company that seeks to launch a replacement for the cardboard box, a staple of pizza delivery and take-out for many years.

Interested students should visit www.basadurprofile.com/WebApp/register/personal.aspx?team=true to complete profile information that will be used in the formation of teams. Enter "Berry Plastics Competition" as the group identification and then create a username and password in order to complete the profile. The information helps describe a participant's creative style.

The competition is open to all USI students. The meeting on October 1 will provide more information about the timeline for the project, faculty and Berry Plastics contacts, and team formation.

Participants will use skills and gain experience in research, sales and marketing, financial analysis, presentation, and other fields as they compete to develop the business plan. They will work with experts at Berry Plastics who can provide insights about packaging and other aspects of the issue. College of Business faculty members who will assist with the competition include Bryan Bourdeau, Jeanette Maier-Lytle, Dr. Chad Milewicz, and Dr. Andy Yu.

The Community Engagement Business Plan Competition is an outgrowth of the recent College of Business executive-in-residence program presented by Ira Boots, chairman and chief executive officer of Berry Plastics. He suggested a partnership between the company and the College of Business to sponsor a competition that would engage students in an enriching educational experience.

Berry Plastics is a leading manufacturer and marketer of plastic packaging products. Based in Evansville, the company has 68 manufacturing facilities worldwide and nearly 14,000 employees.



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Veterans' Affairs Outpatient Clinic Veterans Stand Down

By Don Counts, Staff Writer

As a Marine Corps Veteran and an active area veteran advocate it was great to see the Veterans Stand Down come back to Evansville. The question I am most often asked is, "What is a Stand Down"? It is usually a safe haven where troops used the secure base area to take care of personal hygiene, get clean uniforms and often receive medical care. Stateside this is much the same in that it is a day off from training to get medical and administrative work accomplished.

The event was hosted by the Marion Illinois VA Medical Center and is held twice a year which is now being conducted for the third year. Any area veteran with a VA Medical card is eligible for assistance. Even though it was a rainy day there was a nice crowd. When I arrived there was a band playing, people dancing, there were several people getting free haircuts and free hot dogs were being cooked by the local Veterans for Peace chapter. Tents were set up in the parking lot for the program. As you entered the first tent you were registered by showing your VA medical card. You were given medical flyers and information on the Indiana Pharmacy Plan. There was also clothing and personal items that were freely given. The second tent you were given two camo bags with canned goods, more personal items including toilet paper. The third tent was manned by combat veterans of different eras giving advice and where to get help with psychological problems. This helped veterans know that they were not alone, there were others that had been through the same or similar situations and had the same problems that they had. This was a great opportunity for veterans to network with one another. The fourth stop was at a semi for homeless veterans. There they were given two sea bags including a sleeping bag, two blankets, jackets, socks and underwear. This event is aimed at helping homeless veterans and veterans that are struggling to attain necessary resources, medical supplies and medical information.

You could see the appreciation and thankfulness on the faces of the Veterans receiving the much needed gifts.

Several weeks ago I was introduced to a homeless Marine Corps veteran in Mount Vernon by a mutual friend. He told me about his home burning and losing everything. He said there just wasn't any work in Mount Vernon and said if he could get to Evansville he thought he would be able to find work. We brought him home with us. We took him job hunting and he was lucky enough to have recently found a job. I helped him apply for his DD214 (Military Record), it was sent to the Saint Louis Records Center and then was forwarded on to Headquarters Marine Corps. He is still waiting and since he still didn't have the form figured he wouldn't be able to receive benefits. I didn't know if they would be able to help him at the Stand Down. Thought, it would be worth a try. I explained his situation, since he had just started working; he couldn't attend, and was homeless. The VA Medical Center Homeless Coordinator was sympathetic and let me pick up the supplies for a homeless veteran. When he got off work, my wife picked him up and brought him to our home. He was so thankful and excited to get so much. We want to publicly thank the VA Medical Center and the volunteers for making his day. He has just finished her first full week of work and is moving into an apartment. The supplies given to him was a great help in helping him to get back on his feet.

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September 25



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September 26



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IDEMs fall application round for environmental stewardship opportunity scheduled

Hoosier businesses have until October 31, 2009, to apply for Environmental Stewardship Program (ESP) recognition through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM).

ESP is a voluntary environmental performance-based leadership program. Currently, there are 46 ESP business members, each of which is committed to implementing or maintaining measurable environmental improvements, such as reducing water or energy use, decreasing solid or hazardous waste, or reducing air emissions.

“ESP members are Indiana companies recognized for using sound business practices to demonstrate their core value of environmental protection,” said IDEM Commissioner Thomas Eastery. “I urge all businesses to continually challenge themselves to become environmental leaders recognized through the Environmental Stewardship Program.”

To become an ESP member, businesses must maintain an exemplary compliance record, certify that they have adopted and

implemented an approved environmental management system, and commit to specific measures for continued improvement in their environmental performance.

ESP members qualify for expedited permit review, flexibility in permitting, reduced reporting frequencies, and coordination of compliance inspections. To maintain ESP membership, companies must report on their environmental initiatives every year and reapply for ESP membership every three years.

For details about the program, visit IDEM’s Web site at www.idem.IN.gov/prevention/esp or contact IDEM at (800) 988-7901.

IDEM will announce new ESP members in early 2010.

About IDEM

IDEM (www.idem.in.gov) implements federal and state regulations regarding the environment. Through compliance assistance, incentive programs and educational outreach, the agency encourages and aids businesses and citizens in protecting Hoosiers and our environment.

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Vanderburgh County Right to Life Announces Plans for Annual Life Chain

On Sunday afternoon, October 4, Vanderburgh County Right to Life will host the annual Life Chain. Thousands of people who support life will occupy sidewalks in over 1,400 U.S. and Canadian cities, as earnest defenders of human life seek God's divine help to end the legalized killing of preborn fellow citizens.

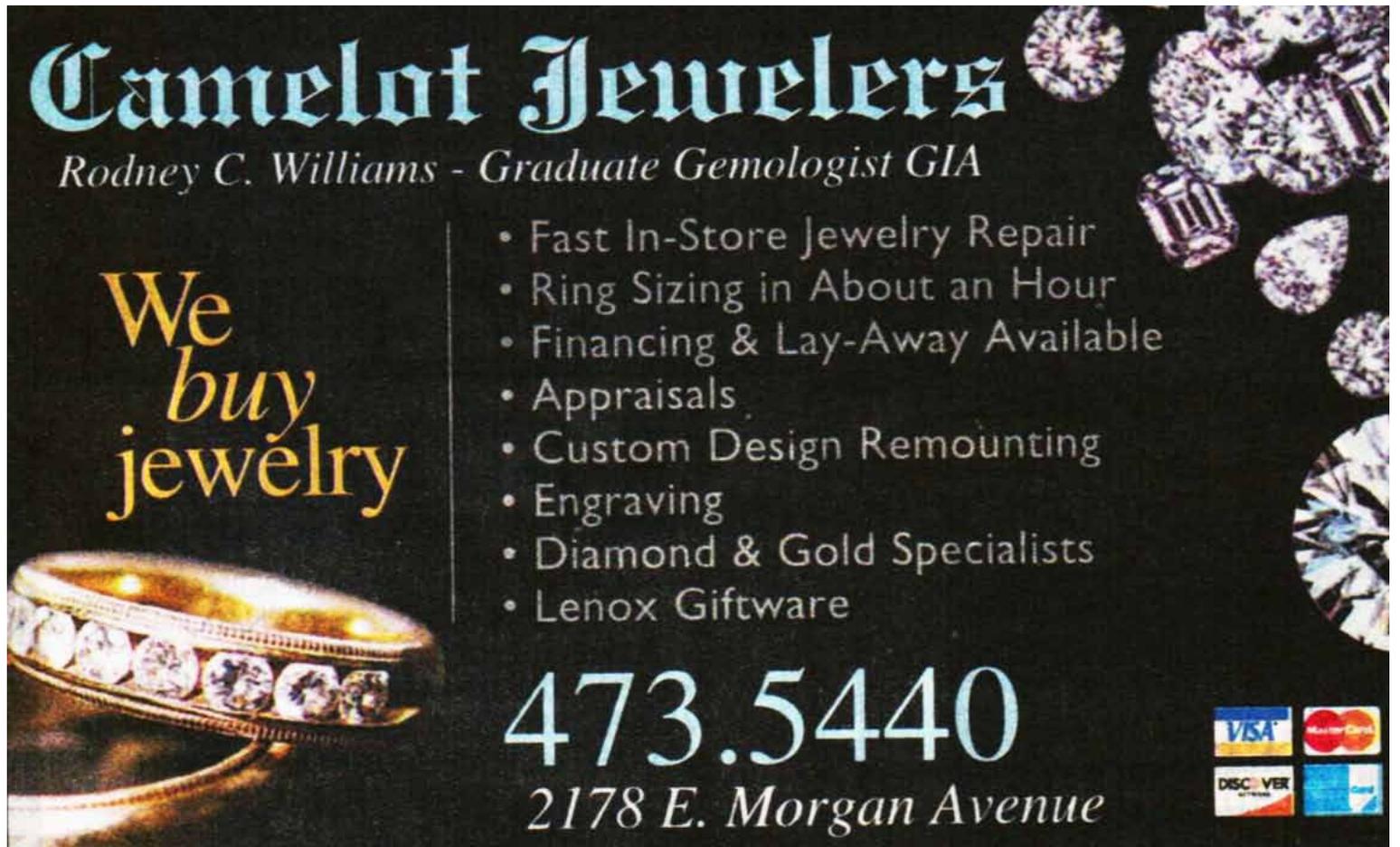
Locally, pro-life supporters will line Green River Road sidewalks between the Lloyd Expressway and Lincoln Avenue. The Life Chain supporters will gather at Brinker's Jewelers parking lot at the corner of Green River and the Lloyd Expressway for a rally and to pick up signs. Free signs will be distributed beginning at 12:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Indiana Treasurer, Richard Mourdock will be the special guest speaker. Pastor Dave Schwambach of Bethel Temple Community Church will lead all in prayer. Signs will also be available at Bethel Temple Community Church on Lincoln Avenue. Following the rally the life supporters will stand on the public sidewalks in support for life from 1-2:00 p.m.

According to Mary Ellen Van Dyke, Executive Director of Vanderburgh County Right to Life, "A large crowd is expected to stand together respectfully and prayerfully for the sanctity of life. The

past couple of years more than 300 people have stood up for Life at the annual Life Chain. This year with all the attacks against the sanctity of human life and the threat of federal funding for abortions in healthcare reform legislation many more are expected. Supporters of Life will hold signs that say, 'Abortion is not Healthcare', 'Stop Abortion Now', 'Abortion Kills Children', and 'Adoption is a Loving Alternative'. All signs include prayers to be recited with the intention to end abortion".

While only a first step into pro-life activism, Life Chain is a serious step that tests our concern. It follows a strict Code of Conduct, is peaceful, and urges all family members, young and old, to attend. Pastors may add prayer topics to those listed on the back of Life Chain signs, and each pastor who prepares his people for prayer and witness is greatly valued. It is fervently hoped that God will anoint Life Chain Sunday 2009 and use it mightily for His purpose and glory.

Vanderburgh County Right to Life with membership of approximately 50,000 protects all life through education, services, and advocacy so that in both law and practice all human life is protected.



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CONTACT INFORMATION:

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USI Student veterans' organization wins award

The Military Family Research Institute at Purdue University has awarded a \$2,000 grant to the Student Veterans Association at the University of Southern Indiana. The money will be used to assist and support student service members and veterans on campus.

The award was one of seven grants of up to \$2,000 and totaling \$10,600 that were awarded through Operation Diploma, an MFRI initiative launched through a \$5.8 million gift from Lilly Endowment Inc. Operation Diploma empowers Indiana's higher education institutions and SVOs to better serve student service members, veterans entering college for the first time, and those re-entering college after extended service or deployment.

At USI the funds will be used to host a Veterans Day Remembrance event this fall and a fundraiser to benefit HVAF (Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation) in the spring. Funds will also be used to create pamphlets and other printed materials to provide benefit and community resource information to veterans as they transition to college for the first time. USI's Student Veterans Association President Jason Jolley said, "This grant will allow the SVA at USI to be more visible and provide better support to our vets while attending our institution. We look forward to putting these funds to good use on our campus."

"We received a number of excellent proposals from student veterans' organizations, including the one from the students attending

the University of Southern Indiana, and we are pleased to award this particular grant," said Stacie Hitt, director of Operation Diploma. "We believe the mission of this SVO will make a real difference in the lives of student service members and veterans."

Operation Diploma is awarding these grants at a time when thousands of student service members and veterans are finding themselves eligible for increased education benefits through the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which went into effect Aug. 1.

The bill, expected to attract more veterans and student service members to campuses across the state and the nation, makes it even more imperative to address the needs of this growing student demographic. Through the new GI Bill, eligible students may have access to benefits such as full tuition and fees for four years at a state university, monthly housing stipends and payments of up to \$1,000 annually for books.

This is the second round of grants that Operation Diploma has awarded since the initiative was launched in March. In June, Operation Diploma dispersed more than \$270,000 to 21 institutions of higher education across the state of Indiana.

The Military Family Research Institute is a research and outreach organization based at Purdue University, supported by Lilly Endowment Inc., the Department of Defense, and others. Through it, Operation Diploma was created.

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Health Dept. urges residents to get flu shots

The Vanderburgh County Health Department (VCHD) along with State Health Commissioner Judy Monroe, M.D. is urging Hoosiers to get the seasonal influenza (flu) vaccine now and to plan to get the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine when it is offered in Indiana.

“Flu vaccine is safe and effective, and prevents thousands of hospitalizations and deaths every year,” said Dr. Monroe.

“Influenza vaccines have been used for more than 60 years and have an established record of safety in all age groups.”

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the 2009 H1N1 influenza A vaccines recently approved underwent the same rigorous FDA manufacturing oversight, product quality testing, and lot release procedures that apply to seasonal influenza vaccines.

Dr. Ray Nicholson, VCHD Health Officer, is encouraging local residents to watch for media announcements regarding the availability of H1N1 vaccine.

Information is also available at the VCHD website, vanderburghgov.org/h1n1 and will be updated when more is known.

Plans are to make the vaccine available to the following targeted high risk groups first:

- oPeople who live with or care for children 0-6 months of age.
- oPregnant women
- oAll people 6 month to 24 years
- oHealth care workers and emergency medical services personnel
- oPeople 25-64 with health conditions that make them have a higher risk of medical complications from influenza.

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