

THE ENOS PARK BANNER



ENOS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT ASSOC. INC.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Next Neighborhood meeting Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 7:00 PM at Carol Jo Vecchie Women's & Children's Center on 9th & Carpenter

Report Crimes to Crime Stoppers and be rewarded for tips that lead to arrest.

Call 217-788-8234

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CHALLENGES & RESOLUTIONS

It's that time again! As we start the new year we look to whom we want to be and then strive to become that person. The Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association is challenged the same way in trying to identify what we hope our neighborhood can become and setting goals to achieve that end! What we have used as our guide is a time in the history of Enos Park

when it was identified as the "Jewel of Springfield"! It was a time when some of the most influential legal, financial, and medical residents of Springfield lived side by side in our neighborhood with a core group of blue collar workers who formed the foundation of Springfield's work force. They were all home owners who took pride in their property. The neighborhood was a corridor that tied the downtown area and Oak Ridge Cemetery with the city's first horse drawn trolley, and it was home to Springfield's first doctor and the origin of Memorial Hospital. Today the community is identified as a "blighted" area and has three rental properties for every single family owned home. It has taken over 50 years to unravel the fabric of a viable, productive neighborhood, and it will certainly take more than one year of new resolutions to bring about a

complete change. However, in 2010 we should see some of the most significant changes leading us back to an earlier time. The historic street and sidewalk lights installed down 5th and 6th Streets will create a ribbon of light linking the downtown area through Enos Park to Lincoln Park and Oak Ridge Cemetery just as the horse drawn trolley did 100 years ago. With new sidewalks and 250 new trees planted along the boulevards we will have a more comfortable and family friendly environment to walk children to school, to the Park, or to their neighborhood friends. The ultimate change, however, must come with more renovated homes being converted back to single family owned property. To do that will involve the coordination of developers, financial institutions, realtors, and the City. Enos Park needs a master

see Challenges pg. 5



Downtown lighting similar to the historic lighting being installed on 5th & 6th St. in Enos Park

Did You Know?

By Steve Combs, President EPNIA

January starts a new membership year for EPNIA. We encourage you to join with us as we work to develop a master plan for the future of our neighborhood. Individual Membership fee is \$25. Business Membership fee is \$100. Send name, address, telephone #, e-mail and check to EPNIA Treasurer at 1001 N 7th Street, Springfield, IL 62702

EPNIA's website has been redesigned. Check it out at <http://epnia.com/>

If you have not been receiving a monthly e-mail update of Enos Park activities or programs send your e-mail to Steve Combs, EPNIA President at steven_combs_592@comcast.net

The historic street and sidewalk lights will be installed by early January along N 5th and N 6th Streets. Sidewalk lights around the Park will be installed in February.

There were 4 buildings demolished last year using Enos Park TIF funds. There are 3 currently being added to the demolish list for the new year. Another 22 properties are boarded and have been registered with the city.

The NPO team of Officer Ryan Irwin and Officer Bob Oglesby were instrumental in the arrest of two Enos Park residents involved in over 40 burglaries. They were also part of a successful effort in catching a gang stealing electronic equipment from homes city wide during the day.

Hanson Professional Services has started its survey of neighborhoods along the 3rd, 10th, and 19th Street corridors as part of the Environmental Impact Study it has undertaken on behalf of the City and County. Results of the EIS will be used to determine where the high speed rail will be constructed.

Visit us on the web

www.EPNIA.com

to learn more about the organization

What an Opportunity If You're Looking ...

There may be other properties for rent or sale. We invite property owners to use this feature. This listing will be on our website at www.epnia.com. This feature is free to the public.



Call 522-9381 to list your property.

Business Space Available in Enos Park

800 blk. 9th St. - 899-8470 or 525-2112
 700 blk. 9th St. - 553-7022 or 547-6650
 1181 N 4th St. - 523-5162
 1037 N 5th St. - 744-6969
 611 N 6th St. - 544-4002
 614 N 6th St. - 241-0202
 1123 N 8th St. - 899-9662 (tavern)
 802 N 9th St. - 547-6650 or 533-7022
 1135 N 9th St. - 726-0600
 726 E North Grand - 622-4919 or 525-2112
 825 E Carpenter - 753-2121
 716 E Enos - 725-4226 (tavern)

No Houses for Rent in Enos Park

No Apartments for Rent in Enos Park

Houses/ Lots Available in Enos Park

1038 N 3rd St. - 547-5526 (vacant lot)
 932 N 4th St. - 622-4949 or 525-2112
 1009 N 4th St. - 899-9097 or 787-7215
 1011 N 4th St. - 899-9097 or 787-7215
 1161 N 4th St. - 800-801-8003
 715 N 5th St. - 899-1153 or 547-6655
 1000 N 5th St. - 523-5555
 918 N 6th St. - 787-7215
 1011 N 6th St. - 547-5526
 1043 N 6th St. - 391-3636
 1115 N 6th St. - 899-6194
 701 E Miller - 787-7215
 804 N 7th St. - 726-3261 or 547-6655
 820 N 7th St. - 899-1153 or 547-6655
 1109-11091/2 N 7th St. - 622-5669 or 547-6655
 1117 N 7th St. - 652-6510 or 787-7215 (vacant lot)
 1120 N 7th St. - 341-4924
 824 N 8th St. - 415-7043 or 525-2112
 843 N 8th St. - 638-0719
 913 N 8th St. - 414-3436 or 547-6655
 915 N 8th St. - 414-3436 or 547-6655
 923 N 8th St. - 965-4115 or 725-5458
 1029 N 8th St. - 891-8662

5 Ways to Save Energy and Water in Your Home

By Dan Bossenbroek

If you don't have any money to invest in green, eco-friendly products or strategies you are in luck! Here are 5 ways that you can start to trim your utility bills by using less energy and water. Unless you have been living under a rock you have probably heard some of these before, but they are still worth repeating.

1. **Turn Off the Lights:** This is a favorite of dads everywhere. I can still hear my dad, and now I'm repeating it to my kids: "When you leave a room, turn off the lights."
2. **Turn Down / Up the Thermostat:** By adjusting your thermostat down a few degrees in the winter and up a few more in the summer you can make a significant cut in your heating and cooling bills. There can be added benefits to doing this: more snuggling in the winter and less clothing in the summer.
3. **Stingy Showers:** By taking shorter showers or even skipping one here and there, you can save thousands of gallons of water a year. As an added bonus, your energy bills will go down as well, since it typically costs more to heat the water for your shower than for the water itself.
4. **Wear it Once More:** Wear your blue jeans and dress shirt more than once before you wash it and save hundreds of gallons of water and cut your energy bills at the same time.
5. **Power Down:** Don't just let your computer sit there and let the screen saver run all day. If you are

going to be away from your computer for more than a half an hour, go ahead and turn it off.

Take a few free steps to save some energy and water, along the way you will find a little extra money in your wallet as well.

Medical District Commission Report

Josh Collins has been named to take the place of Holly Fowler in preparing handouts for each meeting as well as setting up the phone connection with absent Commission members.

Erich Bloxdorf, Chamber Executive Vice President, brought an update on the latest negotiations regarding the consolidation of the rail corridors in Springfield. Hanson Engineers has been named to conduct the Environmental Impact Study on the three rail corridors. They have received \$4 million to conduct the study and have just 16 months to complete the study and 4 months to study the EIS, with the assurance that the corridor shown to be the best, will be named for the "high-speed" rail.

They are working on the Health Information Exchange (HIE) grant to get quotes to build a building. They are looking to hire someone as an instructor. They have promoted Mikal Sutton-Vereen to take the place of Jennie Collings. The final report will be in January.

The contract development warrants an amendment. The amendment was voted to be made.

Dr. Graham has been working on the amendment and will be present at the annual meeting in February.

Gateway signage is under discussion and members of EPNIA were satisfied with plans as related by Boer. An ad hoc committee met and determined that the purpose of gateway signage at this time is to brand and promote the image of the Medical District rather than for "wayfinding" around the district. Their top priority location was determined to be near the intersection of 5th and North Grand. The next steps are to engage architects and engineers.

Boer also asked for volunteers to be appointed as the nominating committee for the annual meeting.

Benedictine U. will have a program for nursing instruction. The Commission will anticipate a large facility to conduct the nursing program. It was asked if they have the qualified faculty and do they have the space. LLCC has Introduction to Nursing. Robert Morris is looking for space to conduct training. Boer said we were created to do this specifically — make space for a nursing program. We must learn what are the demands — MIMD could be the developer. Toxicology and Forensics are both looking for space. MIMD could bring together property owners and these entities to build a good facility.

The next meeting will be January 21, 2010, at 5 p.m. at the Capital City Center, 130 West Mason, Springfield.

J C ANTIQUES

Inside Watt Bros. Pharmacy
9th and North Grand East



**Furniture
Collectibles
Antiques**



9:00-5:00 Mon - Sat

217-522-0222

"See Jeff"



View from City Hall

By Sam Cahnman, Alderman, Ward 5

We are about to embark on the unenviable task of putting together our city budget for fiscal year 2011, which starts March 1, 2010.

About the best that can be said about this daunting task is that at least we are going into this year's budget talks with our eyes wide open. At the start of last year's budget meetings Mayor Tim Davlin gave us the bad news. We had a \$12 million deficit. The City Council then closed that gap by making

cuts, increasing the telecommunications tax and increasing the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) on electricity sold outside the city. A large increase in outside electric sales was expected due to the increase in our production capacity with our new Dallman 4 power plant that came on line this year.

But, just 3 months into our new budget year, the Mayor gave us the really bad news. Despite these cuts and revenue enhancements, Davlin still anticipated a budget gap of \$7 to \$9 mil-

lion. This was due to lower than projected tax revenues because of the terrible state of the economy--the worst since the Great Depression, and lower than expected electric sales due to the poor economy and mild weather.

I say our eyes are wide open because it appears the economy has finally hit rock bottom, making a repeat of what happened earlier this year unlikely. Signs of an economic recovery are emerging. After four straight quarters of economic decline, the U.S. Commerce Department reported December 22nd that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at 2.2% for the 3rd quarter
see View pg. 7

Living with Character

By K.J. Knox

The little things make the difference!



Lyndhurst in Tarrytown, New York

I have been researching gothic architecture for a while but there is not enough of it around today to have the opportunity to actually build or maintain anything along those lines. I am sure that isn't the case in other parts of the country. New York City was the hub of such opulence and during the turn of

the century some wealthy homeowners lived in what would appear now as a permanent commercial building like our State Armory, or our Susan Dana house.

Of course, these homes had many servants to take care of the immense chore of day to day living which afforded decent job opportunities for many of the citizens. House-keeping, cooking, chauffeuring, trades were all needed to carry on daily life. Horses and carriages were brought into the back of the house from the alley; horses were walked down a ramp to their stalls in the basement which also contained the laundry and the kitchens and storage pantries and coolers.

The parlors were large for entertaining and the ornamentation was almost too much. Parlor pistols were shot indoors for fun.

When most people see homes like this; (Newport RI has several you can tour) they comment about how expensive it must have been to do. But when I see this type of architecture I am amazed at the amount of thought that went into it, the amount of skill to pull it off and tough to replicate today even with the money.

The author has completed over twenty-two whole house renovations in Central Illinois, some of them in the Enos Park area, and two projects have made it to The National Register of Historic Places earning him a place in National Register's Who's Who in Executives & Professionals.

Visit us online at www.EPNIA.com

In The Garden
By Jerry Blackburn

Jerry Blackburn has been a garden designer for 30 years. He designs, installs, maintains and renovates perennial beds and borders. He was employed at Washington Park Botanical Gardens for 11 years.

I hope your holidays went well. December's weather has favored our plantings by providing enough moisture to see them through winter with little chance of dehydration. Let's hope we don't get much damaging ice.

There's not much for gardeners to do outside in winter unless you own a greenhouse, so here are some ideas for January.

CONSIDER any changes you wish to make in your gardens this spring.

INVENTORY seeds and seed-starting supplies before buying new.

REVIEW/RENEW membership to garden clubs and subscriptions to garden periodicals.

ROSES should be protected for the winter by now. It's not too late, if you haven't.

CHECK perennials for frost-heaving. Mums are prone to raise out of the ground from the constant freezing and thawing known to this area. Cover their root zones with extra mulch, sand, or a couple bricks if necessary.

DISPOSE of live Christmas trees and greens properly.

FEED the birds if you wish. Their diets of insects and seeds are scarce during winter. They also need a constant supply of water.

HOUSEPLANTS - I work extensively with garden plants daily, nine months of the year. The remaining winter months are spent doing very little. If it weren't for an extensive collection of tropical houseplants, I might suffer "green-withdrawal."

There are three important things to consider regarding winter care of houseplants: First - home temperatures are generally cooler than in the summer. If plants are placed too close to a window they may suffer. Pull them back into the room just a bit to keep them warmer. Secondly - sunshine in winter is not as intense or strong as in summer; this causes houseplants to slow their growth considerably. Coupled with cooler temperatures, that means we should be watering less. Lastly - humidity is much less than in

summer. Do what you can to raise it.

GROW a few cold-tolerant herbs on or near your windowsill. Chives and parsley are perfect for this. Basil and oregano won't work — they require the heat of summer. Thyme and rosemary will work if you can satisfy their finicky water requirements. For feline lovers "cat grass" is very easy to grow. For the pure fun of it — plant a few pots of anything — grass seed, impatiens, sprout a sweet potato — anything for whimsy.

Purchase a "different" houseplant, one you've never grown before. There are many ways to keep our thumbs "green" (and dirty) until spring.

VISIT garden centers, botanical gardens, nurseries or arboretums to see what's new and how they "do things".

The University of Illinois Extension Service, located at the fairgrounds, offers many reasonably priced garden workshops, seminars and lectures through each year. Winter is a great time to take advantage of them. Their phone number is 217-782-4617. They can also answer any gardening question you may have.

Challenges from Pg. 1

plan that looks at more than just the needs of the coming year. We need a vision and a strategy that looks at Enos Park as we want it to be in 2015 and 2020. We need to identify our role as a neighborhood in the medical district and along the historical northern corridor from the business district of downtown area to the state fairgrounds and Lincoln's tomb. It will be a "challenging" year but one we are "resolved" to use as a stepping stone to continue to polish the "Jewel of Springfield"!

The Enos Park Banner

Sponsored by the Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association, Inc. The editor is Marilyn R. Piland, 837 N. 8th St. Circulation is 500, distributed monthly on the first Tuesday of each month. To contribute an article, idea or place an ad, call 522-9381 or e-mail m.piland@sbcglobal.net or fax 522-3060. The deadline for copy is the 20th.

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1/16 page \$15	\$37.50 for 3 mo.
1/8 page \$20	\$50.00 for 3 mo.
1/4 page \$40	\$100.00 for 3 mo.
1/2 page \$75	\$187.50 for 3 mo.
Full page \$125	\$312.50 for 3 mo.

Community
Health Corner
By Memorial Medical Center



Bundle Up!

Whether winter brings severe storms, light dustings or just cold temperatures, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has some valuable tips to keep your children safe and warm.

What to Wear

Dress infants and children warmly for outdoor activities. Several thin layers will keep them dry and warm. Clothing for children should consist of thermal long johns, turtlenecks, one or two shirts, pants, sweater, coat, warm socks, boots, gloves or mittens, and a hat. The rule of thumb for older babies and young children is to dress them in one more layer of clothing than an adult would wear in the same conditions.

Blankets, quilts, pillows, sheepskins and other loose bedding may contribute to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and should be kept out of an infant's sleeping environment. Sleep clothing like one-piece sleepers is preferred.

If a blanket must be used to keep a sleeping infant warm, it should be tucked in around the crib mattress, reaching only as far as your baby's chest, so the infant's face is less likely to become covered by bedding.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia develops when a child's temperature falls below normal due to exposure to cold. It often happens when a youngster is playing outdoors in extremely cold weather without wearing proper clothing or when clothes get wet.

As hypothermia sets in, the child may shiver and become lethargic and clumsy. His speech may become slurred and his body temperature will decline. If you suspect your child is hypothermic, call 911 at once. Until help arrives, take the child indoors, remove any wet clothing, and wrap him in blankets or warm clothes.

Frostbite

Frostbite happens when the skin and outer tissues become frozen, especially on fingers, toes, ears and nose. They may become pale, gray and blistered. The child may complain that her skin burns or has become numb.

If frostbite occurs, bring the child indoors and place the frostbitten parts of her body in warm (not hot) water. 104° Fahrenheit (about the temperature of most hot tubs) is recommended. Warm washcloths may be applied to frostbitten nose, ears and lips.

Do not rub the frozen areas.

After a few minutes, dry and cover him with clothing or blankets. Give him something warm to drink. If the numbness continues for more than a few minutes, call your doctor.

Information in this article was used with permission from the American Academy of Pediatrics, www.aap.org/advocacy/releases.



2010 EPNIA Officers

Steve Combs, president	494-6668
Michelle Higginbotham, vice pres.	553-4629
Diane Combs, secretary	494-6658
Fletcher Farrar, treasurer	523-2801
Bryan Allen, director	416-5294
Dennis Chrans, director	544-1464
Jack Kriel, director	546-5157
Ed Kubiak, director	544-4113
Linda Maier, director	547-5526
Maureen Mulhall, director	638-8175
Dennis Musser, director	528-7106
Cynthia Mehl, director	753-2680
Rick Mehl, director	753-2680
Andy Anderson, advisory director	528-9107
Marilyn Piland, executive director	522-9381

View from Pg. 4

(July-September). Economic forecasts for 4th quarter GDP growth range from 4 to 4.5%. Economists define a recession as two consecutive quarters of economic decline, so what looks to be two consecutive quarters of economic growth is a good sign the recovery is under way.

Other positive signs are that in November existing house sales were up 7.4%, up 46% since January to the highest level in almost three years. Even the lagging indicator of unemployment is slightly down. Nationally it declined to 10% in November and in Springfield it dropped one 10th of a percent to 8.4.

If we put together a budget based on a conservative projection of flat revenues, we should not get any mid-budget years surprises of revenues being less than projected. To the contrary, I predict we will be pleasantly surprised with increasing revenues as we grow out of this recession. Nevertheless, we must not rely on revenue growth from an anticipated expanding economy. Getting burned once was bad enough. I will not put our city budget at risk of getting burned a second time.

What all this means is that we will have to make deep cuts. A tax increase in the middle of a recession or the beginning of a fledgling economic recovery is out of the question. I hope our unions will agree to furlough days so we can limit layoffs to the absolute minimum. I have suggested the elimination of take home cars and any other perks that still exists.

I have also recommended adoption of a voluntary severance plan, which is similar to, but provides more savings than early retirement. The county, the Springfield Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority (SMEEA), the city of Decatur and DuPage County have all used this plan to save their taxpayers money.

If you have any suggestions for cutting our city budget, please pass them on to me.

With all this dreary economic news, there is some good news...our City Council unanimously approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the county and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), providing for an environmental impact study of the 3rd, 10th & 19th Street rail corridors to determine which is best for "high speed" (really mid-speed) rail. The parties agreed that the one recommended by the study will be used. We also voted to retain Hanson Engineering to do the study, with the State having agreed to pay for it. Even with the study, though, the construction of a St. Louis-Chicago "high speed" rail line is contingent on the Obama Administration awarding our State the funds to build it.

My best wishes for a great 2010!

Alderman Sam Cahnman, an attorney, can be reached at samcahnman@yahoo.com; 528-0200; fax 528-0311 or 915 S. 2nd St., Springfield, IL 62704





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At Home in the Park

By Lola L. Lucas



In urban planning there's a saying that reflects how much Americans depend on cars: "Anyone out walking is assumed to be poor, crazy, or criminal."

The second time I ever saw Carol Manley, I figured she was poor at minimum, and maybe a down on her luck streetwalker as well. I was driving on 4th by Edwards Place and saw a woman trudging along in the dark. It was something of a shock when that same person showed up at Jackie Jackson's house on 5th Street soon after I arrived. Oh! That was *Carol*, whom I'd met at some UIS function, the one who was something of a legend in local circles for the sheer number of prizes for prose and poetry that she'd won.

In our writers' group Carol was fiercely intelligent—someone who managed to make incisive remarks without being cutting. She was generous with suggestions for possible venues for publishing and contests to enter. Heck, she could afford to be; in one case she was the second runner up but the Tartt Fiction Award made an exception and printed *Church Booty* anyway. And what a book it is! It's filled with short stories of people behaving badly in the most human ways imaginable with their lust and gluttony and pride at odds with their church-going desire to be godly people. Like Carol, her characters knew hard times, what it is to scrape together enough money for necessities such as kitty litter. At the end are several stories which are frankly autobiographical. It doesn't matter if you're rich, poor, black, white, male or female—

Carol's words will stick a fork into your heart and twist it.

Carol passed away unexpectedly July 29th when her own heart failed her. During her 55 years she'd gone from her blue collar family in Belvidere, IL to poverty as a Chicago welfare mother of mixed race children. In Springfield she finally arrived at middle class respectability as a state government employee who owned her own home and had married her longtime love Leon Johnson. She wrote about her life with all the humor and grief she'd experienced as a blonde member of the black community. Oprah needs to know about *Church Booty*.

Carol bootstrapped her way to better times for herself and her children through education (a bachelor's degree with honors in computer science then a master's in English) and grindingly hard work. Look up her name in the *Illinois Times* search function at <http://www.illinoistimes.com/Springfield/> and read some of her accounts of when food was scarce and respect non-existent. It's a comfort to still be able to read her words and to see Carol laugh during an interview on YouTube.



Paint Brush Award



There was no nomination for January.

Each month it is possible to nominate a home for the Paint Brush Award. Then in January, the Board selects the property among monthly nominees for the Golden Paint Brush Award. Nominations are always welcome. Please be on the lookout for outstanding homes in your area.

I want to be a part of the revitalization of Enos Park Neighborhood. Here is my donation of \$25 for 2010 Membership, which entitles me to a copy of the Bylaws and voting privileges at the monthly meetings.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

NEW _____ RENEWAL _____ PHONE _____ DATE _____

SIGNED _____

Send to: Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association, Inc.
1001 North 7th Street
Springfield, IL 62702
For more information, call 522-9381