



THE ENOS PARK BANNER

E N O S P A R K N E I G H B O R H O O D I M P R O V E M E N T A S S O C . I N C .

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Next Neighborhood meeting Tuesday, February 9, 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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The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago....the next best time is today!

The above title is taken from an article written by Paul O'Shea, coordinator for city planning and design, in the January issue of the Springfield Business Journal. In his article Paul identifies many of the plans put together over the last ten years such as those for the Medical District, railroad consolidation, R/UDAT, Capitol Avenue, school district facilities, PCCC expansion, and many others. These studies and recent positions taken by members of the city council question the continued expansion of the city's infrastructure at the expense of the center core of older neighborhoods in Springfield. As the plans for the development of the downtown historic area start to bear fruit, the older neighborhoods around the downtown area form a "ring" of ruin and blight.

As one of those blighted areas the Enos Park neighborhood has been targeted with new infrastructure and a design to enhance its ability to draw contractors and developers to the neighborhood. Clearly, Enos Park should be the location of choice for new families coming to Springfield in anticipation of increased jobs associated with the growth of the medical district. With new sidewalks throughout most of the neighborhood, 250 new trees planted along every boulevard, and historic street and sidewalk lighting along 5th and 6th Streets, the neighborhood is positioning itself to recapture its glory days as the "Jewel of Springfield"! A long range plan identifying the role of developers, financial institutions, realtors, and the city is needed to help those trees planted this winter bear fruit for the

enhancement of our neighborhood in the future.

In his SBJ article Paul O'Shea wrote, "The R/UDAT Follow-Up Committee, for one, would like to attract developers to build new or rehab existing residential units in the inner city core to attract these new Urban Pioneers". He goes on to say, " Meanwhile, in this world of planning, we should all continue to work within our means and take steps toward providing an attractive living, working and shopping environment to entice residents, businesses and customers to our city and back to our downtown and *connected neighborhoods*".

Enos Park has always had a historic connection to the downtown area. With the installation of historic lights we now have a new visual link to the downtown that follows the route of the original horse drawn trolley of the 1860's.

The time is right for an Enos Park master plan. Come join us Tuesday, February 9th to meet our guest speaker, Paul O'Shea, as he brings us up to date on a number of the current plans and how they may impact on the future development of our neighborhood.



**Did You Know?
By Steve Combs, President EPNIA**

Mayor Davlin said this year's budget is revenue driven! Since the anticipated revenue is \$27 million less than three years ago, the only resolution provided in the budget is to reduce staff and programs.

The last thing the older neighborhoods of Springfield can afford is a reduction of staff (police & fire) and programs (trash pickup & housing inspection).

What services are more important and basic than the responsibility of local government to provide safety and a healthy environment for its citizens.

But if you don't have enough revenue what can you do?

You can start by collecting fines and fees that are due the city and will enforce violations that deter from the quality of life of its residents!

Did you know that \$70,000 of loud vehicle noise has **NOT** been collected over the last two years?

Did you know that in Enos Park alone over \$38,000 of boarded property fees have **NOT** been collected?

Did you know that it is estimated from \$200,000 to \$400,000 of boarding fees are **NOT** being collect citywide?

Did you know that less than half of those ticketed for violation of city ordinances show up for administrative court and even less than that actually pay their fines?

Did you know that there could be thousands of dollars of fines and fees due from city employees?

**Medical District
Commission Report**

The MIMD commissioners' meeting was held on January 21. A very short meeting was held in preparation for the annual meeting to be held February 18. The regular monthly meeting will be held immediately following. The public is invited.

**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
- 1181 N 4th St. - 523-5162
- 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)
- 700 E Miller - 494-6468 or 787-7215

Houses for Rent in Enos Park

- 509 E North Grand - 528-8254

Apartments for Rent in Enos Park

- 1126 N 4th St. - 899-7470
- 631-639 N 6th St. - 523-3239
- 918 N 6th St. - 827-0014

Houses/ Lots Available in Enos Park

- 1009 N 4th St. - 899-9097 or 787-7215
- 925 N 5th St. - 638-1920
- 1000 N 5th St. - 523-5555
- 1035 N 5th St. - 544-7131
- 1050 N 5th St. - 971-9138
- 918 N 6th St. - 787-7215
- 923 N 6th St. - 971-9138
- 700 E Miller - 494-6468 or 787-7215
- 804 N 7th St. - 726-3261 or 547-6655
- 810 N 7th St. - 899-1153 or 547-6655
- 820 N 7th St. - 899-1153 or 547-6655
- 824 N 7th St. - 525-2112 or 341-7716
- 833 N 7th St. - 787-7215 or 415-0191
- 911 N 7th St. - 971-9138
- 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
- 719 N 8th St. - 638-7374
- 824 N 8th St. - 787-7215
- 843 N 8th St. - 638-0719
- 913 N 8th St. - 414-3436 or 547-6655
- 915 N 8th St. - 414-3436 or 547-6655
- 1101 N 8th St. - 341-3577 or 787-7000
- 800 block N 9th St. - 525-2112 or 899-8470

In the Neighborhood
By Officer Ryan Irwin

Over the past several weeks the Neighborhood Police Officers have been working together with other specialty units in the department to address residential burglaries that have been occurring throughout the city. We have been conducting special details to try and resolve and prevent some of these burglaries. This has been a major focus for us during the past several weeks and we are showing some good results from our efforts. Since the start of our detail we have been able to catch and arrest over eight different individuals committing residential burglaries. We are also assisting the detective bureau with ongoing investigations concerning some of these burglaries and hope to make some more arrests soon regarding some of the burglaries that we have investigated recently. If you have any helpful information regarding the burglaries, please let me know so I can get the information to the right people for follow up. Here are some preventive tips to think about:

- Make your home look occupied, and make it difficult to break in.
- Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time, lock your doors!
- Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers or flyers build up while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail, or arrange for a friend or neighbor to take them regularly.
- Check your locks on doors and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary. Use

curtains on garage and basement windows.

- Be careful of what you store close to your house. Bricks are sometimes stored near the house and have been used in the past to break open windows and doors.
- Suspects have also used yard ornaments, and chairs that are sitting next to windows to boost themselves up and through windows.
- Suspects may be out at night, (window shopping) roaming neighborhoods looking in through open curtains to see what is inside, Flat screen t.v.'s hanging on walls.
- Suspects sometimes go door to door knocking to see if anyone is home, if someone answers they make up a story about doing a survey, or claiming they are with a business for some reason.
- Have adequate exterior lighting. A motion-sensitive light is helpful for backyards.
- If you purchase expensive items like computers, t.v.'s, ect. Break down the boxes when you put them out in the trash so people don't see you have a new item.


If you come home and it appears your home has been broken into, don't enter, the suspect may still be inside. Go to a neighbor's house and call police. Do not touch anything or clean up messes until police have had a chance to go through and look for evidence. Write down any suspicious vehicles license plates or descriptions of suspicious people in the area at the time.

Good neighbors who report suspicious activity can be one of the best deterrents. You live in the neighborhood and know better than anyone else who is in the neighborhood acting suspicious. Call the police to report any suspicious activity. Call 911 for emergencies, call the non-emergency police number at 788-8311.

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View from City Hall

By Sam Cahnman, Alderman, Ward 5

Last month I wrote about the difficult journey on which we were embarking in putting our city budget together for the next fiscal year, starting March 1st. Like local and state governments across the country, our revenues are down due to the worst recession since the Great Depression. Even worse for us, Springfield gets smacked a second time because we also rely on a tax on CWLP's outside the city electric sales. These sales are down also due to the recession and because of the unseasonably warm winter and cool summer.

First the good news. Right out

of the budget starting gate on January 11th Mayor Tim Davlin proposed a Voluntary Severance Plan--something I have advocated since day one of our budget debacle. These plans have saved money for the county twice, the Springfield Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority (SMEAA), the city of Decatur and other local governments.

Under Davlin's proposal any city employee with 20 or more years of service, who resigns or retires by March 1st, receives a \$7,500 incentive payment. In addition, any employee who retires and begins receiving

their pension by April 1st, would have their \$300 per month city retiree health insurance premium paid by the city for 30 months.

If the plan passes the City Council, as it should, the amount of money it will save depends on the number of employees who participate. But there is no question that it will reduce the outflow of dollars from the city treasury. That's because city employees who have served for 20 or more years or are eligible to receive their pension by April 1st are the highest paid. Say an employee earning \$100,000 in pay and benefits retires by March 1st and starts receiving their pension by April 1st. The first year the city saves
see View Pg. 7

Living with Character

By K.J. Knox

Same after all these years!

We are to the point of finishing up the inside. Drywall is up and finished up ready for sanding and touch up prior to paint. I was at the house to answer some questions about some cornice work going on. I made some drawings on the wall to explain how it should go. The foreman did it wrong and when I returned to explain again, he started yelling at me. Using his logic he wanted to leave it as is, rather than remove the mistake and put it where it goes. But, in the first place no one yells at the boss, it is disrespectful which I don't deserve and it causes me

to yell back. Though I catch myself and walk away it does nothing to solve the problem that brought us there. No one can speak and learn at the same time.

Cornice work or trim work began I assume, after the Stone Age, maybe somewhere in Ancient Greece, as theirs seems most pronounced. There is aesthetic thought as well as designs that have come from long ago. Such as egg and dart depicting birth and death, long life, yin and yang so to speak; and true, the layman might not notice a millwork mistake as well as a carpenter but there are

reasons for everything. I tried to no avail to teach the foreman that the wide crown arriving tomorrow only fits where I have it designed for and the other trims have to go where I designed them to go or they wouldn't fit or look correct. I guess he was too busy trying to find fault with me to pay any attention to what I had to say.

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

We have had record rainfall for the last two years. This winter proves to be the same. That will guarantee an increase in insect and disease problems for this growing season. On the bright side, trees and shrubs will bloom profusely, producing an abundance of seed. My sympathies to those of you that own more than one sweetgum tree. Our national weather experts all predicted a drier, warmer winter. I thought Springfield might float away last Christmas — my sump pump ran non-stop for days and the first two weeks of January brought record-breaking below freezing temperatures. Let's hope things improve.

Some Garden Ideas —

HOUSEPLANTS – Remember, during winter, light, humidity and temperatures are reduced, resulting in slower growth. Water and feed them accordingly.

SEEDS – Seed starting will begin soon. Some vegetables, such as eggplant, are started in February. Most others we should start in March or April. Check the seed packet for the correct sowing date for this area.

PLAN – One of the aspects of gardening we can do as much as we like during the winter is planning. Do you want to enlarge or expand any of your beds? Install a small pond? Lay a stone or brick path to your garage or elsewhere? Limb-up a tree? Run a rustic fence as backdrop behind a flower or vegetable bed? Plant a tree, perennials, more shrubs? Tame an overgrown shrub? Easily and inexpensively, give your gardens an entirely different “feel”? Color can help achieve that.

COLOR - Use color to change our moods, or feelings, while outside; therefore our gardens can easily change from one style to another. Bright, bold yellows, oranges, reds and greens are vibrant, eye-catching. They give us a feeling of excitement, heightened energy. They command attention. Subdued blues, greens, purples, lavenders, browns, grays and whites are soothing, calming and restful. We can add new flavor to our backyards with accessories and careful consideration of colors used. Here are some ideas. Consider the color of blooms and foliage before buying plants.

ANNUALS are inexpensive and very showy. Plant them anywhere you need additional color. Put some in containers.

Why not paint your patio furniture? Director's chairs are affordable and come in almost any color you want. Patio table umbrellas come in many styles and colors also. Containers for plants can be had in any color — you can paint the ones you own. These days you can buy five-gallon buckets in many colors — you can spray paint the ones you have. Consider styles and colors of patio lights, candles, lanterns, birdhouses, statuary and sculptures. Fences, arbors, garden gates — even plant supports can be painted any color you wish. Do you support your green beans or tall perennials with long sticks or limbs? Spray paint them! Garden paths can have color using colored stepping stones or crushed gravel. Bricks and pavers come in many shapes and several colors. Plain bricks can be painted — they will wear with interest over the years. Need privacy? Plant ornamental vines or green beans on a chain-link fence or plant a row of Baptisia along it for privacy and bloom.

Create a screen wall for shade and privacy on your patio or front porch. Hang tiers of hanging baskets filled with annuals and tropical's for a lush wall. Check the Internet to see what plants are new and to find novel ways to use any plant. Letting your imagination roam could easily, inexpensively change your outside environment profoundly.

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.



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**Did You Make Resolutions for 2010?
Here's some help to keep them!**

“Who needs breakfast?” Weight-loss myths can do more harm than good

Myths surrounding weight loss have existed for hundreds of years. If you've ever had an interest in losing weight, you've likely heard a myth or two. Gayle Jennings, clinical dietitian at Memorial Medical Center, offers a look at some common myths.

“Carbohydrates are bad for you.”

Consuming too few carbohydrates reduces the amount of fiber, B vitamins and minerals that are necessary for good health. Low-carb diets also may increase the risk of heart disease because you're replacing carbohydrate choices with protein and fat. These are higher in saturated fat and lead to increased cholesterol levels. Eating about half your calories from healthy carbohydrates (whole grains, fruits, vegetables and dairy products) provides energy for our brains and bodies and helps to prevent using the protein for energy.

“Skipping meals is a good way to lose weight.”

Research has found that people who skip breakfast and eat fewer times per day tend to be heavier than people who eat a healthy breakfast and eat four to five times a day. Skipping breakfast actually makes you hungrier and eat more later in the day. Eating smaller meals throughout the day helps you control your appetite. The body doesn't know the difference between diet and starvation. If you don't take in enough calories for

basic function, your body will start conserving energy by decreasing your metabolism. If you eat more calories than you burn, you'll gain weight. It's the amount of food that you eat that's important.

Too busy to exercise? Work out at the office

After a long day at work, it's hard to find the motivation to exercise. Tasha Lancaster, exercise physiologist with Memorial Heart and Vascular Institute, has a few trips to sneak in some exercise at work.

- Take the long route to your destination. Do this every time you get up and go to the restroom, coffee shop or cafeteria. The more you walk around, the more calories you'll burn.
- Sit on a fitness ball instead of a chair. It's better for your posture and back. It also allows you to lean back and do a few crunches throughout the day.
- Take the stairs. You'll burn calories and get your heart rate up. Even if you don't take all the stairs, get off the elevator early and do a few.



**Paint Brush Award
Nomination**

818 North 9th Street, the home of Gary Koehler, for the beautiful new blue paint job.

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.

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.

Advertising rates are:

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.

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- Cynthia Mehl, director 753-2680
- Rick Mehl, director 753-2680
- Andy Anderson, advisory director528-9107
- Marilyn Piland, executive director 522-9381

View from pg. 4

the \$100,000 in salary/benefits, but spends \$7,500 on the incentive, plus \$3,600 on the health insurance, a total of \$11,100, amounting to a savings of \$88,900. The second year the savings goes up to \$96,400, the third to \$98,200 and each year thereafter that the position is not filled, \$100,000.

Now the bad news. According to the Mayor's projections, the city will take in \$17 million less revenue next budget year than this one. To close this gap the Mayor proposed a number of measures, such as furlough days, reduced pay raises, and eliminating 55 positions, including 15 layoffs. All are designed to reduce spending. I agree we have to reduce spending, but in his proposal the Mayor totally ignored the other side of the budget--revenue.

A budget hole can be filled by reducing spending, increasing revenue or both. I am **not** for a tax increase, but there are ways to increase revenue without increasing taxes and that is what the city should be doing on the revenue side to plug our budget hole.

Two years ago Enos Park Neighborhood Association President Steve Combs estimated the city failed to collect \$400,000 in fees due from owners of boarded up houses and other properties. The city has done better in collecting these fees, but there's still plenty of room for improvement.

Another example of forgone revenue is Alderman Gail Simpson's ordinance making possession of small amounts of marijuana an ordinance violation. One of the reasons the City Council passed this was so the city would collect the fines from these offenders, unlike when they are charged under the state's crimi-

nal code. This ordinance was enacted in February 2009. Yet as of late last year, our former police chief told the Council that no one had been charged under the city ordinance because the Police Department had not gotten the forms to charge this new ordinance violation printed. It shouldn't take almost a year to print a simple form that would be similar to a traffic ticket.

I have been told that there may be up to \$100,000 owed to the city by the city's own employees!

Just because we are not raising taxes does not mean the revenue side should be ignored in this budget process. The bottom line is that our city must do a better job of getting everyone who owes the city money to pay what they owe.

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



Are you looking for a place to take your recyclable items? If so, visit one of the drop-off recycling facilities below or contact your waste hauler (curbside – blue bin recycling is included in your monthly garbage pick up fee)

Lake Area Recycling Services, 2742 S. Sixth St. Offers 24-hour access to its drop-off facility. Accepts paper, plastic, metal and corrugated cardboard.

F&W Resources, 3327 Terminal Ave offers 24-hour access to its facility. Accepts paper, plastic, metal and corrugated cardboard.

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 _____

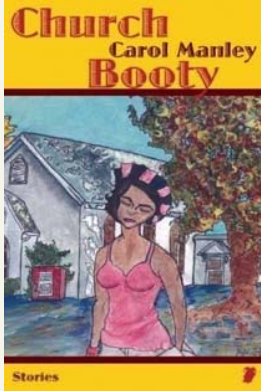
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Springfield, IL 62702

For more information, call 522-9381

At Home in the Park By Lola L. Lucas



{Dear Reader: due to technical difficulties a third of last month's column was lost in translation to the new format. What I'm going to do is back up, take another run at it, and then expand on a related theme. Lola}

In our no name writers' group the late Carol Manley 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; national awards wallpapered her study. She wrote about both the humor and the grief she'd experienced as a blonde member of the black community.

She wasn't entirely comfortable with success. Too much of her life had been spent as an outcast back when mixed race relationships were seen as a transgression. Often I had a distinct feeling that she considered me a privileged and pampered white woman. (I hoped I didn't seem as silly to her as a college classmate had to me. During a discussion on men, women, and housework, the girl had chirped, "Why should any couple argue about who cleans the toilets when they can just hire a maid?")

Our no name writers' group will be pulling together Carol's welfare stories and assorted poems in a book to sit alongside her magnificent collection of short stories, *Church Booty*. By all means, check the reviews at Amazon.com and order yourself a copy. You'll laugh. You'll cry. Really. I'll let you know when the new book comes out, too.

Last May, my friend Karen Walsh came up from St. Louis and we spent a wonderful afternoon celebrating Carol's birthday at Barnes & Noble with talk of writers' workshops, plot mechanics, and how to get more work published. We teased her about hitting the double nickel highway of life at age 55. It never crossed our minds that it would be our one and only opportunity to trade thoughts. We'll miss the decades of articles and reviews that she won't be writing.

My comfort? That Carol lived to see Barack Obama elected to America's highest office, a man who'd surely recognize something of his mother's life and his own within *Church Booty's* pages. She passed on knowing her precious grandson Xavier will live in a very different world—one where he can, indeed, grow up to be president.

OK. That's the part that didn't get printed. Moving onward, since February is when we celebrate Washington and Lincoln I've been pondering what comes next. The first woman to make a serious bid for the presidency was Victoria Woodhull in 1872 with freed slave and activist Fredrick Douglass as her running mate. One congressman told her that because she was a woman, she wasn't a U.S. citizen. Woodhull couldn't cast a ballot for herself because she wasn't allowed for vote—women's suffrage took nearly five more decades. We got closer to a female president in 2008 with Hillary Clinton on a major ticket. However, that election also showed that regardless of gender most voters didn't want Alaska's governor just a (72 year old) heartbeat away from the Oval Office.

As a young teen, I was sure I could do a better job of running the world than the men who had nuclear weapons pointed at each other's countries. Politics was way too messy so I wanted to just skip over all that to being a benevolent world dictator. Predictably, the older I got, the more I realized the complexities of the job and it lost any allure. I suspect President Obama has discovered some unpleasant realities, too.

The promise that any child in America could grow up to be president used to ring hollow. Now, looking at the Supreme Court and its array of people who would've once been barred from elite colleges and country clubs, there's real hope. Different colors of thread make for a much more vibrant American tapestry.

Lola Lucas is author of At Home in the Park: Loving a Neighborhood Back to Life about Springfield in general and Enos Park in particular.

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www.EPNIA.com

to learn more about the organization