

THE ENOS PARK BANNER

ENOS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT ASSOC. INC.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Next Neighborhood meeting Tuesday, December 14, 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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Don't Railroad Us!



Steve Combs, EPNIA President, speaks at a press conference sponsored by the Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

As residents of Enos Park will recall, the EPNIA was extremely involved in discussions surrounding the increased train traffic planned for Springfield. The EPNIA, along with other neighborhood associations and local groups, successfully lobbied to force IDOT to undertake a complete Environmental Impact Study (EIS) to examine the various factors involved in choosing a rail corridor to serve as the main thoroughfare. The EIS, scheduled to take 16 months, is now roughly halfway complete.

Hopefully many of you had the opportunity to attend the open house held on November 16 at the Prairie Capital Convention Center by Hanson Professional Services and Vector Communications. I also attended a focus group for leaders of the various

neighborhood associations, and it was quite informative. As it currently stands, there are three options still being studied: 1) Double tracking the Third St. corridor 2) Moving the Third St. traffic to Tenth St. 3) Moving both Third St. and 19th St. traffic to Tenth St. The consultants have eliminated other options such as elevating the tracks over the city, routing the trains around the city entirely, building a rail line along the interstate median, etc. due to the impracticality of these options. It is important to remember that while public input will be heavily weighted, the three railroad companies must ultimately agree to the plan and it also must be within a cost range that can feasibly be funded.

The consultants looked at factors such as the number of at grade crossings, potential for accidents, traffic delays, noise and vibration, displacement of residences and businesses, and more for each of the three proposed options. To see the detailed analysis, visit www.springfieldrailroad.com. You will be able to see each of the stations from the open house and you also have the opportunity to submit comments on the various proposals. A final public open house will be held in spring 2011 to present the draft EIS.

See **RAILROAD** pg. 10

DID YOU KNOW
By Steve Combs, President EPNIA



Approximately 100 people attended the public announcement of the Enos Park Master Plan.

The Mayor and representatives from Economic Development and Planning, the Medical District, Park District, Art Association, Regional Planning Commission, Springfield School District, and other Springfield neighborhoods were all part of the public hearing as well as a press conference held earlier in the day to announce the Enos Park Master Plan.

Three separate but interwoven projects, all critical components of the Master Plan, were introduced. They included the enhancement of small business in the neighborhood with the renovation and reopening of Susie Q's restaurant, the construction of new facilities at the Springfield Art Association with an emphasis on making it a Cultural Campus, and the formation of the Enos Park Development LLC to start the process of acquiring vacant and distressed property.

The project cost for the renovation and revitalization of Enos Park is \$45 million. This is funds to be generated from both public and private sources over the next ten years.

The Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association anticipates continuing its working relationship with both Mansur Real Estate Services in Indianapolis and The Lakota Group from Chicago.

**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

- 629 N 4th St. - 836-3387 (vacant lot)
- 1181 N 4th St. - 523-5162
- 1037 N 5th St. - 787-7215
- 611 N 6th St. - 544-4002
- 614 N 6th St. - 241-0202
- 1123 N 8th St. - 899-9662 (tavern)
- 701 N 9th St. - 553-7022 or 547-6650
- 800 blk N 9th - 899-8470 or 525-2112 (1.95 acres)
- 802 N 9th St. - 547-6650 or 533-7022
- 1135 N 9th St. - 726-0600
- 725 E North Grand - 415-1127
- 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

- 717 N. 5th St. - 544-1459
- 1177 N. 4th St. - 341-7656 or 741-6746
- 907 N. 9th St. - 306-4418
- 1117 N. 6th St. - 546-5800

Houses/ Lots Available in Enos Park

- 918 N 3rd St. - 525-2112
- 1004 N. 3rd. St. - 971-9138
- 1030 N. 3rd. St. - 523-5555
- 1123 N. 3rd St. - 652-3959 or 787-7215
- 1151 N 3rd St. - 899-9097 or 787-7215
- 904 N. 4th St. - 306-1375
- 925 N. 5th St. - 638-1920
- 929-1001 N 5th St. - 816-4191
- 1001 N. 5th St. - 816-4191
- 1044 N 5th St. - 971-9138
- 1050 N 5th St. - 971-9138
- 804 N 7th St. - 726-3261 or 547-6655
- 1117 N 7th St. - 541-1308 (vacant lot w/small bldg.)
- 1120 N 7th St. - 522-6133
- 824 N 8th St. - 523-1223
- 925 N. 8th St. - 816-6618 or 787-7000
- 905 N. 9th St. - 793-7644
- 1005 N. 9th St. - 544-4002, 2 vacant lots

In the Neighborhood
By Officer Ryan Irwin

During this Holiday Season please take an extra minute to make sure your home and family are safe. Here are a few good tips to ensure you are taking proper precautions to help minimize the opportunity of becoming a victim.

Don't list your plans of going out of town or being away from your home on social networking internet sites.

Don't have valuables, t.v.'s, electronics, etc. next to the window where people can easily see them, items in plain view tempt thieves.

Don't leave expensive boxes such as electronics received during the holidays at the curb where people can see. Always break them down and place in a garbage bag or can.

Keep drapes and blinds shut, especially in rooms with expensive equipment.

Always lock your windows and doors, double lock them before leaving or going to bed. Install larger screws into the door hinges that actually secure into the 2x4's of the door frame. A strong door is not as effective without bigger screws to help anchor it into the frame.

If you're going to be away from your home for an extended period of time, use timers on items to give the appearance that someone may still be at home.

Use exterior lighting such as motion lights to eliminate any dark areas burglars might try to use to hide.

Place a pipe or metal bar in the track of your glass sliding door. This will make it harder to get the door open if they defeat the small locking mechanism.

Store valuables in a safe or safety deposit box instead of leaving them lying around your home.

Keep garage and shed doors shut and secured.

If you have a home phone and are going to be away, turn the phone ringer down, an unanswered phone could tip off a burglar that nobody is home.

Speak with neighbors you trust and watch out for one another. They can be the best alarm system for alerting you to suspicious activity around your home.

If you hear a strange noise don't ignore it, get up and go look out your window to see what it is. Turn on a porch light or other lights to let a potential burglar know that people are home. Call the police for any suspicious activity. For emergencies call 911, for the non emergency police number dial 788-8311.

Remember to always report suspicious activity!
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Police Non-Emergency 788-8311

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View from City Hall
By Sam Cahnman, Alderman, Ward 5

With the Christmas and holiday season approaching, many of us are getting into the giving mood. There is an easy and painless way to give and help some of the least fortunate among us--our sisters and brothers who don't even have a bed to sleep in tonight--the homeless.

You can do this by opting to have your CWLP bill rounded up to the next dollar each month, with the additional amount going to programs that help the homeless, like the Springfield Overflow Shelter. For example, if your December bill were \$67.53, it would be rounded up to \$68, and the extra 47 cents would go into a fund to help the homeless. Doesn't sound like much, but multiplying that by 65,000 CWLP customers or even just 5,000 or 10,000, and then by the 12 months of the year, and "pretty soon you're talking real money", as the late Sen. Everett Dirksen used to say.

To round up, go to the city's web site: www.springfield.il.us. Then go to the bottom

and click on the penny with the arrow around it pointing up, surrounded by the words: "Round Up to end homelessness." An explanation will appear and then you click on another link to get to the form to fill out. You can fill out the form and submit it on line, or print it out and send it to CWLP with your bill payment or separately to CWLP, Municipal Center West, Rm. 101, Springfield, IL 62757.

If you don't have internet access, you can call CWLP at 789-2026 and they'll send you the form, or you can wait till January and a Round Up sign up form will come with your January bill. You can return it with your January bill payment.

With the bitter cold coming, I can't think of a better or easier way to really help our fellow man/woman.

Have you ever put your branches out by the curb and wondered when they were going to be picked up. I get numerous calls from constituents, complaining that their branches are not getting picked up.

See VIEW pg 7

Living with Character
By K.J. Knox

Sometimes you just can't win!

The phone rang and the caller, a past roofing customer, wanted me to come by and give him a price on another new roof at his lake house. When I got to the house I immediately noticed the shingles looked as though they had held up very well and were about to reach half life.

The customer came to the door and I explained that he was not in need of a roof but I couldn't remember how old it was and he said I installed it in 1998, and that they were sold with a twenty-five year warranty. Then he asked me to meet him around back; to my surprise the back section was almost completely black with all the grit gone off of the shingles and the core of the shingles curled up to ashes. Other sections of the back

roof but this one area were as fine as the rest of the house.

It didn't end well, but whomever built the house vaulted the ceiling without insulation or ventilation and the lack of both cooked the shingles to ash just in that area of the roof. Customer wanted manufacturer to put on a new roof, blaming the shingles, and when told they were out of business for several years, he wanted me to stand good for it thirteen years later. Then it dawned on me. He accused our new roof leaking in 1998 only to find the gable vents they had were too large, allowing snow to drift in the open parts of the attic which melted.

The author has completed over twenty-three 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.

In The Garden
By Jerry Blackburn

November’s temperatures were very mild (as was last year’s). It was also too dry — as last year. One or two slow downpours would be nice before the ground freezes. If that doesn’t happen, it would be beneficial to water all plantings. Other than that, there’s not a lot to be done in the garden during December. Here’s a garden calendar for December:

PERENNIALS - Should be cut to the ground for the winter, except those you wish to provide interest. That would make clean up in the spring easier.

ROSES - Hybrid teas should be protected for the winter after the ground freezes and stays frozen. This year, as in most years, that would be around December 15th. Dump 14 to 16 inches of soil or compost down the center of each plant, completely covering the crown and the base of all canes. Rose cones may be used if they are ventilated. Poking 3 or 4 quarter-sized holes near the base of each cone will allow enough cold air inside to ensure roses stay frozen and will not warm up too much on sunny mild winter days.

HARVEST - Pine boughs, cones, evergreen branches, berried branches or anything attractive you might wish to use as holiday decorations. Be creative — use something unusual in an unusual way.

PRUNE - any diseased, wayward or broken branches from trees and shrubs (maintenance pruning).

EQUIPMENT - Lawn and garden tools and equipment should be cleaned, oiled, repaired and stored for the winter. I’m keeping hoses and sprinklers at-the-ready in case there isn’t enough rain. It’s time to get out snow shovels, ice scrapers and snow blowers so they’ll be at hand when needed.

BIRDFEEDERS - should be cleaned and filled if you “feed the birds.” Food is needed all winter long, until April when there will be enough insects to make them happy. Suet is an excellent source of energy for them during the winter. Be sure to provide them water whenever you can.

CHRISTMAS TREES - Be as informed as you can be regarding the selection, purchase, installation, safety, maintenance and disposal of live trees. Be sure

to keep them well watered.

HOLIDAY PLANTS - Poinsettias, Cyclamen, Calceolarias, Mums, etc., should be kept evenly moist in a cool (65 degrees) sunny place. Discard them after bloom, as all are difficult to rebloom without specific cultural conditions. Some require certain hormonal/chemical treatments to bloom properly.

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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20 Family Resolutions for the New Year

2011 is just around the corner. Every year, thousands of people tackle the annual ritual of making New Year's resolutions. Some resolutions succeed and some don't. One of the secrets to New Year's resolution success is making the commitment together as a family. Prevent Child Abuse Illinois offers 20 suggestions for New Year's resolutions. Sit down together and pick one or more that are right for your family.

We as a family resolve to:

1. Set aside one night per week as family night
2. Spend at least 20 minutes each day talking as a family
3. Work together on household chores
4. Read together as a family at least once a week – even if our kids are older
5. Eat dinner together at least one night a week
6. Laugh together as a family every day
7. Practice good money management skills helping children learn to save and spend wisely
8. Work together on a special family project
9. Look at family photos regularly
10. Listen to older family members tell stories about our family's history
11. Volunteer time, resources, or both to a charity that serves children and families
12. Learn about a new culture as a family
13. Deal with any unsettled family business to promote peace in our lives
14. Connect with other families around us to build friendships and positive support systems
15. Encourage each other with praise rather than being critical
16. Let children make appropriate decisions for themselves to promote responsibility
17. Hold family meetings to solve problems, share good news and plan fun events
18. Discipline with love, patience and understanding
19. Make it OK to talk about feelings (even the bad ones)
20. Think of 20 ways that our family can connect over the next year

For more tips for parents and information on preventing child abuse in our community, go to preventchildabuseillinois.org.

FREE! Online Assessment for Depression and Anxiety

Not all wounds are physical. Depression, anxiety and other related mood disorders cannot be seen on X-ray. Yet mental illness is just as painful and the stigma associated with the disease often prevents many from seeking help and getting treated. Mental Health Centers of Central Illinois and Memorial Counseling Associates are offering central Illinois residents the opportunity to go online and assess their emotional well being. There are assessments for depression, bipolar disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, post traumatic stress disorder and adolescent depression. The assessment is free and anonymous. After completing it, participants receive immediate feedback, as well as referral information about how to access local treatment resources and links to related articles. Go to:

MHCCI.org or MemorialCounselingAssociates.org to complete an anonymous questionnaire to assess your emotional well being.

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www.EPNIA.com
to learn more about the organization

View from Pg. 4

There's an easy answer. Between April and November Public Works crews pick up branches in each neighborhood of our city every 4 to 6 weeks. To find out when the crews will be in your neighborhood, go to the city's web site. Then click on the Government icon at the top. Then at the bottom, click on Public Works. Then on the left, click on Branch Pick Up Map.

There you'll find a map of the city with the areas in grey being those that were just finished. The green are areas the crews are currently in, and blue are the

areas the crews will get to next. If you can't wait for the crews to pick up your branches, and during the winter months when the program is suspended, you can take your branches to the city's drop off location at 19th & Moffat, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wishing everyone a joyous Christmas, Happy Chanukah and a great holiday season!

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

Enos Park Master Plan Announced



Press Conference kicks off process!

Moving Forward in 2011

I want to be a part of the revitalization of Enos Park Neighborhood. Here is my donation of \$25 for 2011 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 _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Send to: Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association, Inc.
821 N 5th St.
Springfield, IL 62702

For more information, call 522-9381



Paint Brush Award Nomination

No Nomination for December

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.

2010 EPNIA Officers

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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.
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Loving a Neighborhood Back to Life



Lola L. Lucas

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Calm the Overwhelm

By Carrie Greene

You walk into a room and look around. Wow, there's a lot to do. You don't know where to begin. You feel an ache in your stomach. It's hopeless. You walk out of the room. You're disgusted with yourself and the situation.

There's a project you've been meaning to do for ages now. You have set aside yet another afternoon to finally get it done. But there's so much to do on this project. Where do you start? Besides, it's probably going to take more than just one afternoon anyway. Maybe you need to set aside a whole day to do it. Oh well, maybe you'll tackle it next weekend.

We are all unique people and what we find overwhelming varies from one person to the next. Maybe you get overwhelmed dealing with the details involved in planning a party or some other event. Maybe you feel overwhelmed when faced with all of the decisions involved in de-cluttering your home. Maybe you feel overwhelmed trying to get all of your to-dos crossed off your list.

How you handle yourself when faced with these overwhelming situations is the key to success.

Here are four strategies that will help you create a plan for these big overwhelming projects so that you can finally tackle them with confidence and ease.

1. *Give yourself a physical place to work.*

Not surprisingly, I work with a lot of my clients on decluttering. The first thing we do is to create a space

to work in. That may mean clearing off a table, a counter, a desk or a bed. You don't necessarily have to put those things away just create a space so that you can focus on one thing at a time.

2. *Give yourself the mental space to work.*

Eliminate distractions. Shut your cell phone. Turn off email. Shut your blackberry. Send the kids and dog outside.

3. *Break the project up into steps.*

Even though these types of overwhelming projects often end up as a single line on a to-do list, they generally involve more than one step.

Break the project into multiple steps and give yourself permission to focus on only one step at a time. Instead of the overwhelming task of "organize office", define the things that need to be done. For instance, step one may be "handle the things on the right corner of the desk" or "gather the papers on the floor into a single pile".

4. *Do something, anything.*

Doing nothing will leave you in the same situation that you are in now. Often the act of doing something will help break the cycle of hopelessness and give you the push to get moving.

These four steps will help you create a plan. The project as a whole may still look big and overwhelming but the little steps you define are doable and more importantly approachable. As the smaller steps get done the bigger project gets done as if by magic.

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Classes begin early 2011

RAILROAD from Pg. 1

On December 2, the Chamber of Commerce held a press conference to highlight the results of a recent study conducted by Northern Illinois University that examined the economic impact of expanding the Third St. rail corridor. The study was specifically concerned with the growth of the Medical District, and how expansion efforts could be hampered by additional rail traffic.

The study specifically looked at a planned expansion project by a Medical District member (unnamed) that is currently on hold due to the uncertainty of the Third St. rail use. This project is budgeted at \$80 million in construction cost and it is estimated to create 645 construction jobs and over 560 permanent jobs. It is important to remember that this is only one quantifiable project. There are other projects that would create capital investment and add jobs in our community that are unable to move forward due to the Third Street rail issue. The study also examined employment data for Sangamon County and found that Springfield's health care industry has growth by more than 9% in the last five years, while non-medical employment is down by 3.34%.

Certainly the growth of the Medical District is vital to the future of Enos Park, as well as the continued revitalization of downtown Springfield and the increasing tourism efforts, which would also be significantly hampered by a rail expansion on Third St. On the other hand, the recent master plan completed by Mansur Real Estate Services and Lakota Group envisions what a tremendous asset the Third St. corridor could become in a "rail to trail" scenario where it is eventually converted to a greenway.

We will continue to be a strong advocate for rail consolidation on the Tenth St. corridor, which we believe is not only in the best interest of Enos Park, but all of Springfield and Sangamon County.

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At Home in the Park

By Lola L. Lucas

It **would** be fair to say my family was not prolific. Of my grandparents' four daughters, only two had children and there was about a 15 year gap between those sets of two daughters. I was an only child for six years until I begged my mother and new stepfather for a little sister, surely that would be even better than a puppy. Bless their hearts, they produced Lorna for me, four days after Christmas in 1959. It wasn't until the 70's that our cousins Shannon and Lisa came along and we very seldom saw our more distant cousins.

Still, holidays were crowded with relatives including the childless aunts and uncles who were leading interesting lives of travel and adventure in places such as Germany for Air Force deployment or the even more exotic Central America, Indonesia and Algeria for aunt Dena and wild uncle Melvin. Mel had some great stories about high jacking a truckload of butter during WWII rationing days and being chased into the desert where it all melted. He claimed he'd run away with the circus when he was eight where he slept with the elephants. Well, it was hard to know what was true or not. Great uncle Wendell from Canada would pull a hip flask of Teacher's Scotch out of his pocket and take long swigs. "Medicine," he assured Lorna and me, "for war wounds from The Great War." Actually, I suppose that was accurate if alcohol is considered an attempt to self-medicate and his shrapnel scars were truly impressive.

Someone always had to drive to get elderly aunts then take them home afterward. My grandmother's half-sister had a way of monopolizing the conversation with her most recent stay in the hospital, or the horrid doctors who had somehow failed to put her in the hospital. She didn't seem to mind if they did exploratory surgery again and again without finding anything to account for her pains. As it was, she lived to her early 90's "enjoying ill-health," as we often said. We did rather a lot of eye rolling.

My maiden aunt Mary Grace, last remnant of my father's side of the family, always brought jars of pickles, gherkins, olives, and tiny peppers that went on a particular ridged glass relish tray. It was a miracle to us that she had had a frontal lobotomy (all too popular in the 1950's) but still managed a job as a switchboard operator for a large hospital, back when calls were transferred by plugging a snarling mess of wires into holes, not pressing buttons.

With so few children plus dining tables with many leaves, we were seldom sat at a kiddie card table or folding TV trays in the living room. If we were, we counted it as fun, an adventure. That all came flooding back to mind when my sister-in-law recently sent me one of those things that circulate on the Internet. In it, a family has to take in aging Grandpa and he makes such a mess spilling things at each dinner that he's consigned to a small table in the corner by himself and given a wooden bowl so he won't knock peas off his plate. Then the four year-old grandson begins playing with wood scraps one day and his father asks him what he's doing. "Making wooden bowls for you and Mommy," he replies. Well, in true treacle fashion there are tears shed and Grandpa is brought back to the grownup table, his messes now tolerated with love, respect, and patience.

Before it gets to the inevitable pitch to forward the message on and not break the chain, the email tosses in some life lessons that I actually agree with:

- *You can tell a lot about people by the way they handle four things: a rainy day, the elderly, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.*
- *Sometimes life gives you a second chance.*
- *If you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But if you focus on your family, your friends, the needs of others, your work, and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you.*

Enos Park is always looking for that second chance, and we're dealing with issues far worse than even tangled strands of lights. Way back in my December 1995 column (which you can find in *At Home in the Park: Loving a Neighborhood Back to Life* at Amazon.com) I suggested that an ideal present for the area would be a really good master plan. 15 years later we've finally got one! Now we need the \$45 million or so that it suggests it would take to upgrade the housing stock and commercial buildings. We've gotten a lot of good press in the *State Journal-Register* and the *Illinois Times* recently and I'm hoping the entire plan will be posted at www.epnia.com for everyone to see.

As you work to make Enos Park a better place, it's very likely that happiness will find you. May your holidays be bright with memories of the past as you make new ones for the future!

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.