

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 .

**EPNIA
MONTHLY
MEETING**

**Tuesday
December 13, 7pm**

St. John's Hospital
Assisi Conference Room

**Annual
Cookie & Conversation
Meeting**

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ISSUE:**

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Our Stocking is Full!



**Shotgun house
renovated by Enos Park LLC**

We started 2011 with the purchase of a historic shotgun house that was in foreclosure. We brought it back to life and sold it within 30 days to a new home owner and neighbor for Enos Park. As the year comes to an end, we are finalizing the sale of four of the five residential properties we had on display in our Urban Pioneer Tour. In between, we secured 44 properties and were recognized with the Mayor's Award for Neighborhood Preservation. It's been a very active and rewarding year for the Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association and our Enos Park Development LLC.



**Volunteers clearing and
mowing LLC lots**

Going hand in hand with the new LLC signs placed throughout the neighborhood are hours of volunteer work needed to maintain a safe and clean green space. While we have been maintaining over 40 properties, we have also been removing vacant and boarded structures. In 2012 we will have at least five other blighted properties removed from the neighborhood. *Continued on page 2*



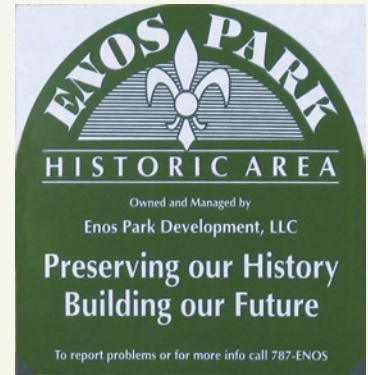
**Neighborhood Preservation Award
Steve & Michelle with Mayor Houston**

Continued from page 1

In addition to removing problem properties, we have been working closely with our Neighborhood Police Officer (NPO) and housing inspector to eliminate the problems caused by residents and property owners who won't abide by city codes and ordinances. We are holding them accountable for the condition and use of their buildings. We have retained an attorney to bring civil action on behalf of the neighborhood against owners who allow continued code violations and police service calls. However, we have also formed a Landlords Support Group for those property owners who want to actively support and improve the neighborhood. The Group provides information, contacts, and legal support in

identifying responsible tenants and removing those with ongoing issues.

To sustain the momentum needed to implement the Enos Park Master Plan, we have retained Mansur and Lakota, the consultants who developed the Plan for use in 2010. We have found new energy



and excitement for our project from students in Robert Morris University's resident program. We are expanding our partnerships with McClelland Elementary School and the Northside Children's Community Library, both of which have such an important impact on the children of the neighborhood. We are also reaching out to a variety of businesses in the neighborhood and others involved in home renovations to provide resources to our home owners and the Association.

A lot has been done, even more lies ahead as we look forward to 2012! We encourage you to join EPNIA and participate in our programs. Come meet with us Tuesday, December 13th, 7 p.m. in the Assisi Conference Room in St John's Hospital for Christmas cookies and conversation. We will elect Officers and Board of Directors for 2012 and present a slide program featuring the projects of 2011.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Robert Morris University students part of intern program

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www.EPNIA.com

Did You Know

By Steve Combs, President EPNIA

Thirty volunteers put in 320 man hours of time baking 400 pies for Enos Park's annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale.

The pie sale funds are earmarked for the EPNIA Safety and Security account. Funds from this account have been used to retain an attorney to bring civil action on behalf of the neighborhood against property owners with excessive code violations and police service calls.

The Enos Park hotline, 787 ENOS, used to record trends in suspicious activity, is also funded from this account. Information from this source played an important role in solving a series of robberies during the summer in the neighborhood. Keep those calls coming! They help!

This year's pie sale was supported by Qik-n-EZ, Tuxhorn Towing, St. John's Hospital, Massie-Massie Associates, Marine Bank, Starbucks (Freedom Dr.), and CVS (Carpenter & N 2nd).



Volunteers bake pies for Enos Park!



At Qik-n-EZ we're more than just a convenience store. We offer quality products with fast and friendly service. QE has everything you need, when you need it. With 11 locations throughout central Illinois - we are where you need us.

Northside Library News

Rachel Kocis, NCCL Coordinator

We had our first trivia night at the VFW hall on Saturday, Nov. 19 with a silent auction, food, and a true/false 50/50. About 85 folks came out to support the library and battle brains. All in all, it was a very successful evening.

Earlier that same day, we had our first children's program featuring the theme of hibernation--about 10 kids participated in the story time and craft.

We have received two used computers from Marine Bank for kids to use, and 1000 books were donated to the library from the Girard school district as part of a school book drive! Students from the education department at Benedictine University raised funds for book purchases for the library and came out and toured the space.

We are currently working on getting a website up for the library.

2011 EPNIA Officers

- Steve Combs, President.....494-6668
- Michelle Higginbotham, Vice President553-4629
- Linda Maier, Secretary (cell) 971-9138, 547-5526
- Fletcher Farrar, Treasurer..... (cell) 502-9149, 523-2801
- Owen Anderson, Director (cell) 899-0320, 528-9107
- Randy Bird, Director971-5830
- Dennis Chrans, Director544-1464
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View from City Hall
By Sam Cahnman, Alderman, Ward 5

Plans to build a state-of-the-art County Market within a block of Enos Park were recently announced by Niemann Foods, Inc.

The plan to build the grocery store at Second and Carpenter is contingent on the City extending \$2 million in TIF funds, according to Richard H. Niemann, Jr., President and C.E.O of Niemann Foods. I met with Niemann and the company's Real Estate Manager, Shan Clevenger, at their office in Quincy on the Friday after Thanksgiving. The proposed store location is on the cusp of the Downtown TIF District.

Niemann says the proposed grocery store operation won't be profitable and therefore won't be built without the TIF deal, which is on the Committee of the Whole's agenda for November 29th. If approved there, it would go to the City Council December 6th. Niemann plans to be at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

After tough negotiating, Niemann said his firm had gotten the land acquisition cost down to \$2,070,000. The sellers are demanding a premium due to the surrounding Medical District. The total cost of the project is \$15.15 million, including \$5.57 million in mortgage interest. Niemann estimates it would take two to three years for the new County Market to turn a profit based on current revenues and expenses. He did not say how long it would take the company to earn back its start up costs.

With the influx of residents into our downtown, there is a great need for a grocery store there. However, Niemann said there just isn't enough room downtown to build a grocery store building and adjacent parking. While groceries in the downtowns of larger cities have built downtown stores with ramped parking due to lack of space, Niemann said the volume here would not justify such an expense.

The proposed location will only be a few blocks from Sangamon Towers, and provide a nice outlet for them as well as the surrounding area, including Enos Park. The plan includes a mezzanine, at which customers, while overlooking the store, could sip coffee or eat soup, salad or a sandwich as they converse with friends and neighbors or work on their laptop. The new County Market will have free Wi-Fi. The store building may have space for small retailers to rent, giving the place the feel of a small shopping center in the middle of our older urban neighborhood!

While just outside of Enos Park, the new County Market would provide an alternative to the Shop N Save and Aldi's on North Grand, and competition is almost always good for consumers.

County Market has an Employee Stock Ownership Program (ESOP), allowing employees to own stock in the company. The fact that many County Market employees own part of the

company has caused them to provide better service, as their stock rises or falls with company profits.

The new store would create the equivalent of 70 full time jobs and 100 temporary construction jobs. If all goes as planned, the ribbon cutting will take place about a year from now, in December 2012.

The City Council, over my objection, recently voted to tie the hands of future City Councils for 20 years! The Council voted to make a legally binding commitment to give the Prairie Capitol Convention Center (PCCC) the first \$100,000/year of our hotel/motel tax revenues for the next 20 years.

In 2005, the Council voted to give the PCCC the \$100,000/year subsidy to provide it with a partial revenue stream to pay back bonds the PCCC sold that year. Those bonds were set to terminate seven years from now. The PCCC plans to roll the 2005 bonds in with new bonds being sold to finance their expansion project. The PCCC asked the Council to provide the \$100,000 yearly subsidy for the 20 year life of the new bonds. Earlier this year, the Council provided the PCCC with \$5 million of Downtown TIF money for the expansion project.

Under my Amendment, the City would have paid the \$100,000/year for the seven years it would have had to continue to pay the subsidy had the 2005 bonds not been rolled over. After seven years, the City would review the matter and determine if further subsidies would be paid.

The Council rejected my prudent proposal, 8-2. While PCCC activities generate City tax revenues, Alderman must be cognizant of the fact that we are, first and foremost, the board of directors and guardians to the City Treasury.

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

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.

In The Garden

By Jerry Blackburn

November's temperatures were relatively mild. Rainfall has been enough as to not stress plants much. Hopefully, the ground will stay moist this December, as all plantings need the moisture to withstand the frigid, desiccating winds winter brings. NOAA and AccuWeather.com predict a wet, snowy, very cold winter for the Springfield area. Temps are supposed to be below average for December and January. Hold on to your hats... and ready the shovels.

Here are some things we might do this month:

PERENNIALS - Should have been cut to the ground for winter by now, except those you choose to leave standing for winter interest.

ROSES - should be protected for the winter after the ground freezes and stays frozen (usually mid to late December). Dump 14-16 inches of soil or mulch down the center of each plant to completely cover the crown and bases of all canes. Rose cones (if used) should have 3 or 4 holes poked near the base to provide enough cold air inside to keep the plants frozen, avoiding they don't warm up too much on mild, sunny winter days. I recommend not cutting back hybrid teas until Spring, unless to fit in a rose cone.

HARVEST - Pine boughs, holly branches, pine cones or any berried branch or anything attractive you might wish to use as holiday decorations. A sprig of yew tied to the bow of a Christmas gift makes a nice touch.

PRUNE - any diseased, wayward or broken branches from trees or shrubs.

EQUIPMENT - Lawn and garden equipment and tools should be cleaned, oiled, repaired, replaced and stored for the winter. I'm keeping hoses and sprinklers at-the-ready in case there isn't enough rain this month. Lawns and all plantings should

go into the winter well hydrated. Ready the snow shovels, ice scrapers and snowblowers so they'll be at hand when needed.

BIRDFEEDERS - should be cleaned and filled. Birds need food all winter long until April, when there will be enough insects to nourish them. Suet is an excellent source of energy for them. Provide water whenever you can.

CHRISTMAS TREES - for safety — live trees should not have dry needles when purchased. Be sure to remove at least one inch from the trunk and place immediately into water. It is not uncommon for a newly installed Christmas tree to use (take up) several gallons of water in the first 24-48 hours. Try not to let the water dry up until you dispose of your tree. Be as informed as you can be regarding the selection, purchase, installation, maintenance, safety and disposal of live trees.

HOLIDAY PLANTS - Poinsettias, Cyclamen, Calceolarias, Mums, Christmas cactus, etc., should be kept evenly moist in a cool (65 degrees) sunny place. Discard after bloom (except Christmas cactus or Amaryllis), as all are difficult to re-bloom without specific chemicals and/or cultural conditions. Some require certain hormonal treatments to bloom properly.

HOUSEPLANTS - Avoid over-watering houseplants to prevent root rot problems. Provide extra humidity during winter if possible and drastically reduce the fertilizer applications and strength.

PLAN - for next year's gardening.

Happy Holidays - ENJOY!



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.

Moving Forward in 2012

I want to be a part of the revitalization of Enos Park Neighborhood. Here is my donation of \$25 for 2012 Membership, which entitles me to a copy of the Bylaws and voting privileges at the monthly meetings.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

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821 N 5th St., Springfield, IL 62702

For more information, call 522-9381

Community Health Corner By Memorial Medical Center

The Internet Is Not the New Doctor

By Stephanie Lahnum, Internal Communications Coordinator, Memorial Health System

For two months, 27-year-old Crystal Lindell fought off stomach pain while monitoring her symptoms using online health websites. Convinced she was suffering from heartburn, Crystal, of Naperville, ignored the increasing abdominal pain until she ended up in the emergency room and needed emergency gallbladder surgery.

"I now go to the doctor earlier," she said. "That's the one lesson I learned and was glad to figure out."

In an age where quick, convenient information is valued, Crystal's story has become common. According to new research by Health Dialog, a healthcare consulting firm, **81 percent of Americans search the internet for medical information, but only 25 percent verify source reliability.**

"Patients doing online research is good because they're being proactive in their care," said Dr. Benjamin Montgomery, a primary care physician in Jacksonville with Memorial Physician Associates, the physician network of Memorial Health System. "But you can't put too much faith in the internet; it is not the expert."

Montgomery encourages his patients to visit only reputable organization and government sites (ending in .org or .gov) instead of sites generally more commercial (ending in .com).

"If you type in 'chest pain' on a Google search, you could end up on someone's personal blog who just experienced heartburn when you could be experiencing something more serious," he said. "But if it's the American Heart Association website, it could lead you in the right direction."

When in doubt, look for the Health on the Net (HON) code that will be located at the bottom of any health information webpage. Health sites approved by the HON Foundation have been checked to ensure the information provided is trustworthy.

According to Montgomery, an educated patient is going to be a healthier patient, provided resource tools are used correctly.

"If you're going to use the internet, go to your doctor's appointment with the web info printed off so you can review it with your physician," he said. "Most of the time you will walk out with a much better understanding of your condition."

This article was previously published by BeHealthySpringfield.com.

Paint Brush Award Nomination



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at 630 N 5th Street enhancing historic
Enos Park neighborhood!**

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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, TVs, 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!
Police Emergency dial 911
Police Non-Emergency 788-8311

Living with Character

By K.J. Knox

They don't build 'em like they used to!

Noticing the neighbor doing his roof brought to mind something I could write about that you may be interested in reading. The older home's roof has skipped sheathing or boards across the rafters with spacing between them so that the wood shingles of the time could dry out after they get wet. The neighbor has cut boards and filled in the open space and then is putting plywood over all of it, then paper and new shingles.

Framing for wood shingles, the carpenter would have spaced the 2 x 4 rafters on the same centers we use for trusses today since the roof as a whole was light in framing and strength. Going to the trouble of filling the gaps was unnecessary, time consuming, and added weight to an already weak system.

Plywood installed and nailed correctly would have been sufficient and less work, less materials, and would make for the smooth surface needed for modern roofing shingles. And then provisions must be made to ventilate under this new roof to achieve as much life as you can out of your shingles.

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 Register's Who's Who in Executives and Professionals.

Enos Park Banner is going

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At Home in the Park

By Lola L. Lucas

It was an object of desire and awe. I went back several times to look at it before finally convincing myself it was worth the cost. It was so alluring that it was impossible to resist! Yes, I spent \$80 on a four-function calculator that added, subtracted, multiplied and divided. It ran on a 9 volt battery, and my friends and family members were totally impressed with its red LED numbers giving answers to the best value per ounce for products.

Go ahead and laugh, you can buy a calculator that does many more things at the dollar store, but in 1970, it took 50 hours of minimum wage work to purchase it and if you factor in 40 years of inflation, it'd be \$441 today. (Alas, minimum wage has not kept up and it would take 61 hours of labor.) Nowadays there are tablet computers for toddlers, and I'm seeing a netbook advertised for \$59 at CVS. It's only a matter of time until gadgets as fancy as my new Amazon Kindle Fire are sold at their checkouts as stocking stuffers.

This autumn Kevin and I resumed an old tradition and went on a trip to celebrate our 20th anniversary. We hadn't in the past few years because I wasn't up to it, but both my hair and energy are growing rapidly now that I've been out of chemo for nearly a year. We headed off to Portland, Oregon, one of our all-time favorite cities. Kevin downloaded a free guidebook to his Nook that suggested points of interest: book stores, brewpubs, an air museum—all of those were fun but I particularly enjoyed the resale shops.

There were some glaring differences in their Goodwill stores. The fact that they allow dogs to come inside was a very obvious one, but they also mix male and female clothing more, and they have a mashup of seasons on the racks. Wandering through the electronics area I noticed DVD players, flat screen monitors, and cordless phones, all once the latest thing. There wasn't a CRT monitor or TV to be seen. Tossed in the bin of office supplies was a day planner with a built-in calculator for \$2.99. What surprised me the most was the Guitar Hero gear that had already filtered down from an excited holiday morning to the donation center. So retro—now there's a t-shirt with a guitar image printed on it that can be strummed to produce 14 chords through a belt-clipped amp. Time was, the idea of a Wii sounded pretty out there, too—play tennis by swatting a plastic racquet at your TV??

On our flight it amused me to see the ads in the Skymall catalog for a do-it-yourself 3-D hologram kit for \$99. What next, home cloning? Maybe sooner than we think. The Target ad this season shows kids with straps around their heads controlling toys with their thoughts. The processing power of a Webkinz stuffed toy dwarfs that early four-function calculator.

It was certainly a trip for nostalgia. We went to Oregon because one of Kevin's favorite brewpubs is slated to be torn down next year and we wanted to visit the Old Lompoc one more time. We also wandered up the Columbia River Gorge to the small town of Hood River where I found a vintage clothing store and experienced for the first time seeing something I'd worn as a adult being sold alongside 50's cat's eye glasses and aprons from the 30's. In this case, it was a polyester blouse with a collar scarf that tied to the side, very 80's and Princess Diana. Many items brought back memories of cotton and wool, ironing and dry cleaning, even how it felt to get skin caught in a metal zipper. (Hint: BAD.) On a shelf they had one of my favorite playthings from childhood, which wasn't a toy at all but a hand-cranked ice crusher. What fun it was to put bars of soap through that and shred them!

Historic preservationist that I am, you might think that I'd deplore all these high tech toys and gadgets in favor of hand-carved wooden trains, cast iron banks, and ragdolls made from, well, rags. If so, you'd be wrong. Time marches on. For example, performances evolved from around fires to stages then leaped to beams of light from a projector. Movies kept adding features such as sound, color, and now 3-D on a screen. Soon we'll have holotanks as shown in science fiction films. The next step is full immersion so that the viewer can feel physically part of the plot and the action in virtual reality. As a child, I imagined movies on demand but there wasn't a way to handle that much data. Netflix and Amazon now have the computing power to stream all the video the world wants. It's as pointless to try to stop toy and entertainment technology as it would be to stand in the way of talkies.

Whether it was a Civil War era music box or this season's remote controlled Wi-Fi enabled videocam mounted on a robot, kids young and old are thrilled with contraptions. I'll treasure my happy memories of holidays past for a lifetime, just as you have, and your kids will. Children's shining eyes are a joy to behold. I hope you'll also donate to Toys for Tots, the new Northside Children's Library housed at Third Presbyterian, Friend in Deed, or any other organization that makes the season bright. The tech of today will be amusing later, but the caring thought endures forever.

Lola Lucas is the author of *At Home in the Park: Loving a Neighborhood Back to Life*, about Springfield in general and Enos Park in particular. You can find it at Amazon.com & other online booksellers.

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Columnists: Jerry Blackburn
Sam Cahnman
Steve Combs
Officer Ryan Irwin
Kevin Knox
Lola Lucas

A decorative border of green Christmas trees surrounds the central text.

Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association

Monthly Meeting

Annual Cookies & Conversation

December 13, 7 p.m.

Assisi Room, St. John's Hospital

2011 slide recap, elections, conversation