

THE ENOS PARK BANNER

ENOS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT ASSOC. INC

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MONTHLY
MEETING

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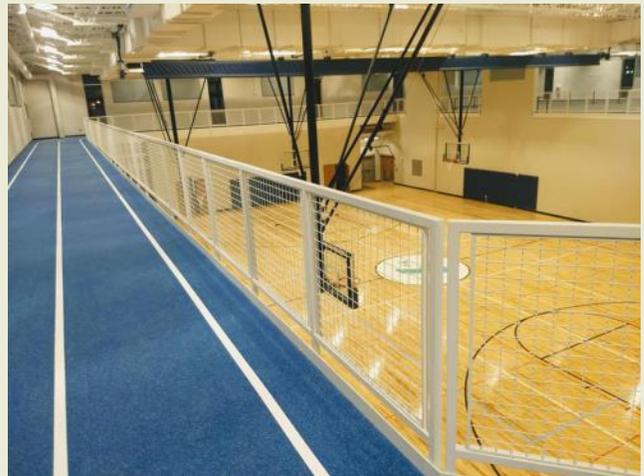
\$33 Million YMCA Opens

*by Karen Ackerman Witter
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of the Illinois Times*

The new downtown YMCA opened Nov. 30 in the heart of the medical district. It is an inviting place to work out, whether you exercise individually, participate in fitness classes or enjoy group sports. The new Y is not only a state-of-the-art fitness center, but a

community asset serving youth, adults and community organizations. Its location on the corner of Fourth and Carpenter streets provides a valuable resource for the Enos Park neighborhood. The facility is a stark contrast from the current building, which closed Nov. 25 after serving as a downtown fixture since 1962. Remaining the same is the YMCA's commitment to providing programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

The new facility is bright, airy and welcoming, which is immediately evident upon entering from the north-side parking lot into a spacious lobby with a large, open membership desk. Everything in the building is new,



including all of the equipment and furnishings. The only things moved from the downtown Y are remnants of the basketball floor which are being incorporated into the donor wall in the lobby. Sections of the basketball court will pay tribute to Andre Iguodala, an NBA all-star and Lanphier High School graduate who played basketball at the downtown Y, and President Barack Obama, who played on the court when he was an Illinois state senator.

Youth will have a dedicated area, with a half-court basketball court, a room to socialize and a space for after-school tutoring. The Aquatics Center has an eight-lane pool and separate

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recreational pool. This will be the home pool for the Y's Special Olympics team. The large gym is striped for basketball, pickleball, badminton and volleyball. A track on the second floor overlooks the basketball courts instead of being relegated to the basement, with 12 laps to a mile instead of 21.

There is a striking view of the State Capitol from the Wellness Center, which features a large room with cardio equipment, an adjacent area with free weights and a dedicated cycling room. There are two group exercise studios and a high-performance fitness area. The gymnastics center is double in size and will have a foam pit. There are two racquetball courts. Both men's and women's locker rooms have steam and sauna. Young children have a place to play while their parents work out, and the child watch area also has an outdoor play space. A community room is available free of charge to community groups.

The YMCA is committed to having a positive influence in youth development, promoting lifelong healthy habits, ensuring equitable access to all and serving as a community center. Memorial Health System (MHS) has had a long relationship with the Y and is a lead partner. "Memorial Health System's mission to improve the health of the people and communities we serve is in total alignment with the mission of the Y," says Kevin England, MHS senior vice president and chief administrative officer.

Caleb Payne is president of the Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association (EPNIA), which is dedicated to the preservation and revitalization of the neighborhood once known as the "Jewel of Springfield." Through his job at Inner City Mission and volunteer service with EPNIA, Payne is committed to engaging people who are hard to reach,



enriching the lives of his neighbors and enabling adults to build better trajectories for their kids. He considers the new Y a valuable neighborhood asset which will contribute significantly to these goals. The new facility will be an enriching place where kids can be kids and discover who they are, and adults will have opportunities to better their routines that will result in greater balance and stability in their lives, says Payne.

The YMCA will demolish the current building during the first quarter of 2021.

2020 Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association

Board Members

- Caleb Payne, President..... 309-270-8240, info@epnia.com
- Fletcher "Bud" Farrar, Vice President 217-523-2801
- Jason Vincent, Treasurer..... 217-801-0244
- Shannan Karrick, Director 309-696-8938
- Ryan Mobley, Director 217-801-8225
- Donna Smylie, Director 217-816-4128
- Marcus Stewart, Director 217-816-4928
- Dave Steward, Director..... 217-622-6591

Associate Positions (non-voting)

- Betsy Dollar, SAA 217-523-2631
- Alex Worix, SIU 217-523-2631
- Michelle Ownbey..... 217-553-4629

2020 Enos Park Development

Board Members

- Kirk Jefferis 217-971-2258
- Linda Maier..... 217-971-9138
- Michelle Ownbey..... 217-553-4629, info@epnia.com
- Larry Quenette 217-414-7227

DECEMBER 2020						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

For a full list of activities in Enos Park, check out our [social calendar](http://www.epnia.com/events/calendar/) at: www.epnia.com/events/calendar/

Greetings, neighbors!

I'm Carey Smith, and I've recently taken the reins as editor of The Banner. I aim to return to our monthly publishing format with news of our community, as well as some thoughts from those living and working here.



I've been a resident of Enos Park since March 2017, and a homeowner here since January 2018. It's been my pleasure to have been the coordinator of the Neighborhood Gardens on North 5th for the last two years. I feel connected with the people in my community, and for the first time in my life, I feel like I truly belong to a neighborhood.

I also work for the Springfield Area Arts Council as a program assistant in its Poetry Out Loud program, a national poetry recitation program, and have been freelance writing for the Illinois Times group of publications. Before the pandemic, I also worked to help others organize and declutter in my home business, though that is currently paused. In my spare time, I enjoy gardening and writing poetry and short stories, and I'm currently landscaping my yard to transition it from grass to native prairie plants and other pollinators.

My husband Andrew Heathwaite is a library assistant at the Northside Children's Community Library. Though the library has been closed to the public for some time due to the pandemic, please know the library staff are working diligently behind the scenes, cleaning, painting, and organizing so that when the library opens again it will be a fresh experience for our neighborhood kids. Currently, bins of free books for all ages are put outside on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 2-4, weather permitting. Book donations are also accepted: gently used books for all ages, except for encyclopedias, can be dropped off at the home of NCCL board member Tiffany Lapp at 1025 N. 8th. If a pickup is needed, please call or text Tiffany at 630-688-8979.

As our public lives are kept to a minimum, we, like many of our neighbors, have focused on our at-home family life. We have one daughter, Kayla, age 20, an artist who recently moved out on her own. We have one son, Luca, age 9, who enjoys Legos, computer games, reading, and being absolutely silly. We are about to begin our winter tradition of reading aloud the Harry Potter series, and we also love playing board games, eating popcorn, and nerding out on various interests. We have many elderly pets we have adopted, including Tigger the dog, and our three cats, Patches, Mr. Blue Eyes, and Penny.

I'm really excited about the Banner! If you would like to receive The Banner on a monthly basis, either through email or print edition, please feel free to email me at info@epnia.com, or call/text 708-580-8432. Submissions are accepted by the 20th of each month for print in the following month's Banner. Feedback is appreciated.

I hope to see you around the neighborhood!

— Carey Smith



Photo by Bethany Payne



Be the reason someone feels welcomed, seen, heard, valued, loved, and supported.

Courage and Unity

The year 2020 will no doubt go down in the history books as one of the most difficult years of our modern era. A pandemic has killed upwards of 300,000 Americans so far, and our political landscape is fraught with uncertainty.

But we know we are a community. We get through this uncertainty and these rough spots together. Deep down, no matter how we identify ourselves and each other, we are humans, we are neighbors, doing the best we can with what we have. We can reach out our hand in invitation to help each other, as we recognize we all need assistance and support at one time or another.

Many people and agencies in Springfield have stepped up to create pathways for assistance. While the following resources may not provide you with exactly what you may need, hopefully they can at least point you in the right direction.

SIU School of Medicine has a COVID Hotline, which serves anyone in need of help during the pandemic, regardless of positive case status. The intake workers will guide you toward resources that can help, or will provide what you need through the actions of their pandemic health workers.

Call SIU School of Medicine at 217-545-5100.

The Sangamon County Public Health Department has a hotline to call with COVID questions, including testing site information.

Call SCPHD at 217-321-2601.

The Facebook group [Springfield Families Helping Families](#) has been a tremendous asset to our city. With nearly 15,000 members both making and granting requests, it is a hub of assistance in these challenging times. Also on the site is a list of food pantries and food giveaways, as well as micropantry locations.

Always report suspicious activity!
Police Emergency dial 911
Police Non-Emergency
217-788-8311

Springfield Schools including McClernand Elementary provide a pre-packaged breakfast and lunch from 7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. each morning school is in session for all children ages 1-18, regardless if they attend a District 186 school. No prior notification is needed! Delivery is available in special circumstances and depends on driver availability.

For Delivery, leave a voicemail for McClernand's Parent Resource Coordinator Dawn Mobley at 217-525-3247 or email dmobley@sps186.org.

Sangamon County Community Resources provides a variety of assistance, including utility assistance through its LIHEAP program.

Contact SCCP at 217-535-3120.

Capital Township is offering intake over the phone for utilities, workfare, and transitional assistance, with verification of documents through email and snail mail.

Contact Capital Township at 217-525-1736 or townshipgeneralassistance@co.sangamon.il.us

The City of Springfield maintains a long list of resource partners on their web page:

springfield.il.us/COVID19CommunityResources.aspx

In Enos Park:

Volunteers Tiffany and Jeff Lapp have offered to help with a variety of general assistance, including “books for all ages, school supplies, yard work, snow removal, babysitting, light tutoring, run errands, or pick up a few groceries.”

Contact Tiffany at tiffany.lapp.9@gmail.com / 630-688-8979; Jeff is at 815-409-8744.

EPNIA board president Caleb Payne has also offered to serve as a point of contact for people in the neighborhood who need assistance.

Contact Caleb at 309-270-8240 / caleb@innercitymission.net.

And finally, **2-1-1** is a number provided by the United Way to call for information on what agency or program may be able to assist you with needs.

— Carey Smith

Creative Reuse Marketplace

Looking for Holiday Inspiration?

The [Creative Reuse Marketplace](#) (CRM) began under the umbrella of the Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association. The idea of a way to upcycle items that are normally put straight into the waste stream grew and adapted, and with a \$52,500 grant this spring from the Women's Fund, a part of the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, the idea became a reality.

CRM, found online at creativereusemarketplace.org, takes donations of items that are good candidates for upcycling and that are not generally available at thrift stores, boxes or used crayons, pieces from incomplete puzzles, bottle caps, partial skeins of yarn, cd's, stray game pieces, and a whole host of other items. The website lists acceptable items, as well as provides an online marketplace for items currently for sale. Available items are often sold in bulk by the pound, or in lots. Reservations for drop-off and pick-up are available online.

Though the pandemic has required adaptation and creativity, Adena Rivas, the volunteer founder and project manager of CRM, says (as of this writing), the CRM will open its brick and mortar location December 1 at 122 S. 4th, becoming a part of the vibrant Adams Family downtown. In addition to items for sale, the physical store will also offer a creative nook, where educational workshops will eventually be



held for people to learn how to upcycle items available in the store.

CRM also has a unique workplace development component. Residents from Inner City Mission, a transitional residence for homeless women and children located in our neighborhood at 714 N. 7th, will be employed by CRM, with the aim of helping them attain the skills needed to transition to the traditional workplace. “We hope to funnel a lot of women through this program,” says Rivas.

Currently, residents of Inner City Mission offer handmade items such as cards and shadow boxes for sale through CRM's website, with 80% of the proceeds going to the women at the shelter. These items are perfect for the holidays, and your purchase helps fund the transition into permanent residency. CRM will eventually offer more artists' work online, featuring items upcycled from their inventory.

— Carey Smith



I wear my mask in public for three reasons:

- 1) **HUMILITY.** I don't know if I have COVID as it is clear that people can spread the disease before they have symptoms.
- 2) **KINDNESS.** I don't know if the person I am near has a child battling cancer, or cares for their elderly mom. While I might be fine, they might not.
- 3) **COMMUNITY.** I want my community to thrive, businesses to stay open, employees to stay healthy. Keeping a lid on COVID helps us all!

The Gift of Hope

My dad was ten years old when the stock market crashed in 1929 at the start of the Great Depression. Even at that young age, he remembered it well into his senior years. He talked about two things that he could never forget – one was uncertainty and the other was hope. At the time of the Depression, anxiety was high, and no one knew how long this would last or how catastrophic it would be. People assumed at the time it would be short lived – over in a flash – gone tomorrow. It lasted for four years and every moment of every day during those four years, people lived in uncertainty.

But my dad also remembered that at least in his circle of life, there was always hope. He came from a strong Christian family and he used to talk about this hope being a gift from God. Fast forward ninety-one years. We are in another season of uncertainty by the name of Covid. We thought this would be short-lived – over by the end of summer – here today, gone tomorrow. But as reality would have it, it is not. Maybe it is time again for the gift of hope.

The Old Testament Prophet Jeremiah writes this, “For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jer. 29:11 NIV) There is a promise in these words. Not an exact answer – the text was written to the Hebrew people when they were going into exile, an exile that would last for seventy years. The length did not matter, what matters is the promise of God that they can get through this and be at a new place.

The Prophet Isaiah writes in Isaiah 41:10b the following words of encouragement, “I will strengthen



you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (NIV) The Hebrew word which is translated uphold is the word “tamak” which means to grasp. I remember the assurance I had as a young child and as a parent of young children, being able to feel the grasp of a hand. In a spiritual way, not only is there hope, but God will grasp our hands and walk us through to this future of hope.

Finally, Paul, writing to the Christians in Rome who were under severe persecution writes this, “May the God of hope, fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit”. (Romans 15:13 NIV). It seems we have choices in this age of Covid... we can give up, we can complain, we can be frustrated, we can live in uncertainty – none of those sound real appealing, or we can embrace the Gift of Hope. The gift that assures us that God will not only walk with us, but God will grasp our hands and affirm to us that there is a future beyond these days. Please accept and embrace this gift of hope. Amen and Amen.

— Rev. Dr. John R. Shear

Rev. Dr. John R. Shear is the Pastor of Third Presbyterian Church (Third-Presbyterian.org) in the Enos Park Neighborhood. He is a pastor, college professor and published writer. He is married to Rev. Jackie Havis-Shear, a minister in the United Methodist Church, and they have a blended family of six children and six grandchildren.



We isolate now
So when we gather again
No one is missing.



The simple things

A smile. A kind word. An offer of help.

If there's anything 2020 has taught us is to cherish the simple things. It warms my heart every time I witness, read about or hear of the many things neighbors have been doing for one another.

Phone calls, texts, cards, a wave from the window. All the things we may have taken for granted in the past. They mean so much today.

People dropping off meals, picking up groceries, sharing garden produce.

These are the acts that make a neighborhood and build community, not just during the most unusual of times, but every hour of every day of every year.

I fear, however, that we often lose sight of the simple things when all is well, when things are "normal". I think we get so caught up in the daily activity of living that we forget how much impact simple acts have.

This was driven home one day in the food pantry when a man who had just received food started to

walk away, hesitated, turned back and asked if he could ask us something. We said of course, and then he asked if anyone would pray with him, and we did. But it made me wonder. Are we so involved in what we're doing that we look as if we don't have time to offer comfort to someone in need? That they would hesitate to ask that question in a church building of all places?

The simple act of praying with others made a world of difference for this man. You could see it in his face, hear it in his voice and see it in his body language as he walked out the door. He had found a measure of peace.

And peace is what we all need right now. My hope and prayer is that we find peace through simple things—a smile, a kind word, an offer of help—and not just today or this month, but for years to come.

— Sharon Brown,
Kumler Outreach Ministries

The



Presents: Screen Free Activities!

This month we suggest a game of... I SPY!!!

I SPY is a great game that can have multiple variations!

The traditional way to play I SPY is for one player to suggest something like, **"I SPY with my little eye... something that starts with a D."** The other player will guess items around them that begin with D until they guess correctly.

- If you want to play outside, you can say, "I SPY with my nature eye...."
- If you want to make it tough, and possibly give more clues, each player can imagine items and say, "I SPY with my mind's eye..." You can do this on the go and say, "I SPY with my traveling eye..." and so on!

This game is great for all ages and helps younger kids learn letters, numbers, shapes and colors. Older kids can be asked to spell the item, use the word in a sentence, or say what that item is usually used for. Maybe you can imagine new uses? Make the game your own!

Have fun, stay warm and stay safe! Wear your mask, wash your hands and keep your distance from people outside of your safe circle. Hopefully see you soon kids!

— Your friends at the NCCL.

AT HOME in the Park

By Lola L. Lucas and Her Friends

Unconventional Companions in Unusual Times**Exploring backyard biodiversity and the meaning of community during a time of isolation.**

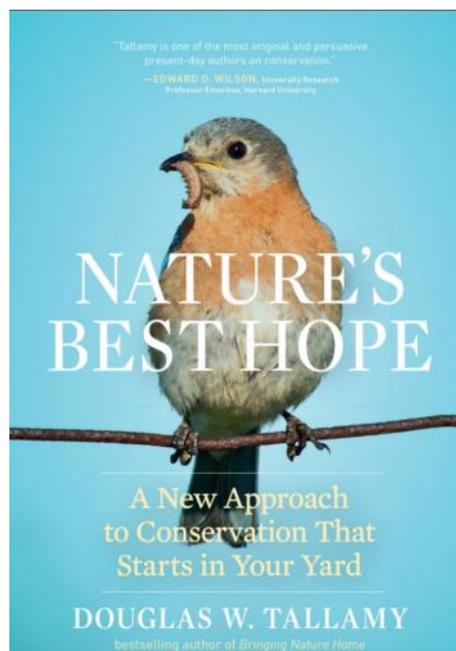
Some conservation leaders have urged us to recognize that the continued survival of other species will depend upon small patches of diverse backyard habitat. National lands and nature preserves alone, they say, will not be enough to sustain dynamic communities, particularly of our native species. We need corridors between preserves and stop-over points along migratory routes. Wildlife needs us, the homeowners.

But when the coronavirus struck and the shelter-in-place orders went out, notions of who needs whom flipped upside-down. Despite our technological ties, the urge to be in the presence of other living, breathing beings remains. For many of us, backyard wildlife has suddenly become our family, our co-workers, our community.

I recall the sense of wonder my husband and I felt when first moving to our current home 11 years ago from an adolescent subdivision with sparse treescaping to a home located in a 60s-era pocket of development nudging up against an area known for its venerable homes and equally venerable trees.

We realized we were seeing a home landscape that LIVES, and we quickly became greedy for more – more plants, more creatures, more beneficial insects. Our view of homescaping was surely shifting and continues to do so. A landscape without the vibrancy of wildlife in motion appears barren.

Now, forced into seclusion, we seek the society and distraction provided by our backyard residents and visitors. And we are not alone. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology notes that birdwatching has become a popular pastime during the COVID-19 crisis, not only for people with access to green space but also for those bird seekers accessing the Lab's webcam offerings. This is thought to be the result of people seeking comfort from nature in a time of stress, seeking learning opportunities and an antidote to isolation.

**Nature's Best Hope, by Douglas Tallamy**

For those of us with the ability to “participate” daily in the lives of nearby creatures by observing them through windows or from patios and porches, the presence of birds and other creatures has indeed been comforting. Little did we consider that efforts made toward diversifying our personal landscape could unexpectedly become a significant component of a modern-day emergency preparedness kit.

I find encouragement in the fact that there is excitement in the voices of people who spot our birds, and that a neighbor referred to our native landscaping attempts as “phenomenal” and “inspirational.” As I mull over my isolation research, I find myself thinking about new ways to interact with and assist the multi-species community at large. BIG THOUGHTS.

My isolation research has included the 2019 book, *Nature's Best Hope*, by Douglas Tallamy, professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware and a prominent advocate of backyard

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biodiversity. In it he asks a fascinating what-if question: “What if each American landowner made it a goal to convert half of his or her lawn to productive native plant communities?” He answers his own question by stating that even with moderate success we could “collectively restore some semblance of ecosystem function to more than 20 million acres of what is now ecological wasteland.” Tallamy puts the size of 20 million acres into a national park perspective:

It’s bigger than the combined areas of the Everglades, Yellowstone, Yosemite, Grand Teton, Canyonlands, Mount Rainier, North Cascades, Badlands, Olympic, Sequoia, Grand Canyon, Denali, and the Great Smoky Mountains National Parks.

If we accomplish this, he states, “we can create this country’s largest park system.” He suggests we call it “[Homegrown National Park](#).” Although Tallamy’s proposal was formed pre-pandemic, seclusion may help push us to think differently about community and to consider more deeply the dismantling of relationships between species that have known each other historically. We now know what it is to miss our communities. We now know isolation. The Homegrown National Park is an idea that captures my imagination. What if?



In a New York Times article, astronaut Scott Kelly reflected on his year in space aboard the International Space Station and offered his advice on how to deal with the isolation forced upon us by the pandemic. He acknowledges the importance of life beyond human and technological connections. He states: “I actually started to crave nature — the color green, the smell of fresh dirt, and the feel of warm sun on my face...My colleagues liked to play a recording of Earth sounds, like birds and rustling trees, and even mosquitoes, over and over. It brought me back to earth.” His best advice for handling the stress of isolation? “Go outside.”

Good advice. It’s a madhouse out there, and it’s time to join them.

— *Jeanne Handy, Enos Park Friend*
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Lola Lucas’s column continues, hosted by Lola’s friends, and occasionally by Lola herself through past writings.



The Enos Park Banner

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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.

Go easy on yourself.
You're doing great.
This is just really hard.

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