



*Neighborhood Associations working together  
to preserve, enhance, and promote  
the Evansville neighborhoods*

# ***NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR***

**A Publication of United Neighborhoods of Evansville**

**Volume 8 Issue 5**

**20 N.W. Fourth Street, Suite 501, 47708**

**May 2008**

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## **From the President.....**

Hello Neighborhoods!

Our mission statement directs the work of the United Neighborhoods of Evansville. Our purpose is to "preserve, enhance, and promote" the Evansville neighborhoods. We do this in many ways, but the most effective way is to collaborate with organizations, both civic and private, and with agencies who serve our community. During the next few months we will feature our collaborative efforts and bring information for you to use and share with your neighbors.

This month we will begin with the City's Urban Forestry Program, directed by Shawn Dickerson, the City Arborist, and is under the Department of Transportation and Services.

The United Neighborhoods of Evansville was an early supporter of Evansville's development and passage of the "Tree Ordinance" and becoming a "Tree City USA" in 2001.

The United Neighborhoods of Evansville was given a permanent seat on the Tree Advisory Board. The Tree Advisory Board is a seven member voluntary board, that meets monthly beginning in May 2001.

**Reminder! The applications for the "Litter Patrol" grants are due May 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Announcement: The 13th Annual "Sparkplug Banquet" is scheduled for Friday, November 14, 2008 at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, located at 2003 Chestnut Street. The building has a ramped entry for those who have difficulty with the stairs. Plan now for your neighborhood association members to attend. Final details will be completed next month.**

David Ballew, President  
United Neighborhoods of Evansville

## **False Advertising**

Each year the local Arborist's office checks the new phone books to see what companies are advertising to provide tree services. If a company is advertising an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) logo or claims to be a Certified Arborist, they are checked out carefully. Some companies advertise that they are "bonded". There is no such thing as a blanket bonding for tree companies to do tree work. Tree companies can get bonded only for a specific job.



## **WWW.UNOEVANSVILLE.ORG Website**

### **Community Resource Links**

- ❖ American Red Cross
- ❖ City of Evansville
- ❖ Courier & Press
- ❖ Evansville City Clerk
- ❖ Evansville Department of Metropolitan Development
- ❖ Evansville Parks and Recreation Department
- ❖ Evansville Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- ❖ Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library
- ❖ Keep Evansville Beautiful
- ❖ Pigeon Creek Greenway Passage
- ❖ Step Ahead of Vanderburgh County
- ❖ Vanderburgh County Assessor

## **LOOK INSIDE FOR.....**

- ~ Evansville Tree Advisory Board and duties
- ~ Importance of Trees to Our City
- ~ How to Select an Arborist
- ~ Neighborhood Sparkplugs
- ~ Important Meetings

## ***Upcoming Dates.....***

- May 1st**—UNOE Parks, Trees, & Beautification Meeting
- May 3rd**—Recycle Day
- May 9th**—DRC Community Partners in Breakfast
- May 21st**—UNOE Board Meeting
- May 22nd**—UNOE General Membership Meeting

## Evansville Tree Advisory Board

The duties of the Tree Board are as follows:

-  Facilitate the growth of the tree inventory by at least 2 to 1 ratio for each tree removed.
-  Study the problems and determine the needs of the City in connection with the development and execution of a tree-planting program.
-  Assist the properly constituted officials of the City and citizens of the municipality concerning trees.
-  Provide regular and special meetings for tree related issues.
-  Coordinate its efforts with related projects of other public and not-for-profit groups.
-  Communicate with the State Highway Department as to any highway projects which would affect public trees.
-  Enforcement of the Evansville Tree Ordinance.
-  Review all plans for preserving existing public trees and planting new public trees.
-  Recommend to be removed any public tree or part thereof which is in an unsafe condition or is injurious to utilities, public improvements, or other trees.
-  Recommend to the proper authority trees to be planted upon city-owned streets or in parks.
-  Issue permits as required by the Evansville Tree Ordinance.
-  Govern all aspects of the city's Arborist (Tree Pruner's) Licensing program.
-  Conduct educational and fund-raising campaigns as necessary and work with private and public agencies and organizations to establish programs for planting and care of public trees.
-  Establish a non-reverting tree capital improvement fund to be used by the Board to accept public and private sector resources for programs of the Board.
-  Annually submit a budget to the Common Council for appropriation of the funds aforementioned.

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### Current "Tree Advisory Board" Members

Joe Ballard

Larry Caplan

Shawn Dickerson

Jay Ritter

Michael Schopmeyer

Joshua Sherretz

Paul W. Farmer, Chair

Solid Waste District

Purdue University Extension

City Arborist

Parks and Recreation Board

Attorney—Kahn, Dees, Donovan, and Kahn

Vectren Energy

United Neighborhoods of Evansville

## How to select an arborist

Having your tree pruned from time to time can help to maintain the tree's health and can increase the value of your property. Here are some hints to help you find the right arborist (tree pruning business) to prune your trees. Also, if you plan on having a tree removed, this guide is just as important. Removing trees and limbs from over structures can be very technical work.

- 🔔 Know how you want your tree pruned before you get an estimate. To maximize the health of your tree you should have it pruned correctly. Once you know how you want your tree pruned give the arborist specific instruction for pruning the tree. Of course, you may not be able to tell them specifically which limbs to cut, but try to tell them generally if you want the tree dead-wooded, thinned, or pruned in another way.
- 🔔 Beware of arborists that go door-to-door looking for work.
- 🔔 Avoid hiring an arborist that is known for topping trees or tries to talk you into having your tree topped. Some other terms that arborists use for topping are pollarding, heading back, crew-cut, and cutting the crown even.
  - NOTE: Topping trees is a poor way of temporarily making a tree that needs to be removed safe. If the tree survives, it obviously will grow back out again, making future maintenance or removal costs higher.
- 🔔 Ask for references from other customers and for credentials. If you live in Evansville, have them show you their "Tree Pruner's License." Arborists have to have a license to operate within the city of Evansville.
- 🔔 Get estimates from more than one arborist. You will want to pay a low price, but keep in mind that the cheapest job is not always the best job.
- 🔔 Get an agreement in writing. If they refuse to sign, then it is an indication that they are not trustworthy. Make sure that the agreement has a statement that you do not want your tree topped, headed back, cut even, pollarded, or any other form of topping.
- 🔔 Make sure the arborist has insurance and get a Certificate of Insurance from them. You should even call their insurance company to see if their policy is still active.
- 🔔 If a tree company claims they are bonded, get proof. Bonding, for tree pruners, is job specific. There is no such thing as a "blanket bonding" for tree companies for any work that they do. If they do get a bond for work on your property, get proof.
- 🔔 Other certifications and licenses related to their profession can show that they run a well educated business, however, always check to make sure that those certifications are still valid and up to date. If not, it may show that the business is not trustworthy.
- 🔔 Never pay the full amount for the work before the work is done and refuse to pay in full until the work is completed to your specifications.

## Importance of Trees to Our City

We would not have an urban forestry program if trees were not important to us. Trees provide many benefits to us, although some of these benefits are not immediately visible. For trees to provide maximum benefits to our community we must inventory, plant, and preserve trees now. This would not be possible without an urban forestry program. The following are the benefits that trees provide to an urban community:

**Increasing property values** – If the right tree is planted in the right place, and if such trees are maintained properly they can increase property values by more than 27% (Tree City USA Bulletin #28), and in doing so can increase the city tax base. Hedges and rows of trees can be used to screen unsightly areas, reduce high winds from open areas or highways, and reduce noise from traffic or other loud sources. Trees can also make commercial districts more attractive, therefore attracting more potential customers to such areas. Customers willingness to pay for products in such districts may increase by as much as 11% as a result\*.

**Lowering energy costs** – Trees can reduce utility bills through evapotranspiration and shading buildings in the summer (as much as 34%\*), and reducing cold winds in the winter (10-12%\*). Canopy coverage from trees over streets can reduce sunlight hitting the street surface, which can reduce the resurfacing time of streets by 6-13 years, therefore reducing maintenance by 50%.

**Intercepting rain water and lower soil erosion** – Trees intercept rain water before reaching the ground. This greatly reduces the amount of storm water that reaches public storm water facilities, therefore lowering storm water facility costs. Trees can also reduce the amount of potential flooding through this process. Through the interception of rainfall, trees lower the amounts of soil erosion by intercepting rain droplets that may impact soil, reducing amounts of storm water runoff over existing soils, and lowering the amounts of soil saturation through interception and evapotranspiration.

**Reducing air and water pollution** – Trees reduce toxicities in our air and water through taking up particulates through natural gas and liquid exchanges, which provides a healthy environment. Trees can also reduce the amount of gaseous emissions from parking lots and street pavements by shading them. By reducing energy consumption, trees also reduce power plant emissions.

**Improving quality of life** – These are perhaps the most overlooked benefits that trees provide to us. They are difficult to quantify and calculate, but are present, and are perhaps more important to the public than the physical benefits that they provide. Trees are relaxing to people by providing aesthetic beauty, recreation, and the overall feeling of psychological well being. Trees make people healthier psychologically through relaxing, relieving mental fatigue, and reducing aggressions, therefore helping to increase social interactions and lowering crime rates. This can have an indirect effect on the community by lowering amounts of police enforcement expenditures, and better the overall appeal of the city to those outside the community.

\* figures taken from "Piedmont Community Tree Guide. Benefits, Costs, and Strategic Planting" publication.

# Announcements

- **UNOE Parks/Trees/Beautification Committee Meeting**—Thursday, May 1st, 4 p.m. held at the UNOE office.
- **Recycle Day**—Saturday, May 3rd, 8:00 a.m.—12:00 noon at Evansville Day School. For more information call the Solid Waste District at 436-7800.
- **South Sector Citizens Meeting**—Thursday, May 8th at 6 p.m. located at 315 Taylor Avenue. For more information, call South Sector at 435-6037.
- **Electronics Recycling Day**—Saturday, May 10th from 8 a.m.—12 noon at the Civic Center Parking Lot (Ninth & Walnut). Items accepted are: Computers, Monitors, Printers, Keyboards, Modems, Scanners, Fax Machines, TVs, VCRs, DVD/CD Players, Tape/cassette players, and Stereos. No businesses please. For more information, call 436-7800.
- **UNOE Finance Committee Meeting**—Tuesday, May 13th, 9:30 a.m. at the UNOE office.
- **West Sector Citizens Meeting**—Thursday, May 15th at 6 p.m. located at St. Lucas UCC, 33 W. Virginia Street. For more information, call West Sector at 435-6135.
- **Great American Cleanup**—Saturday, May 17th. For more information, call KEB at 425-4461.
- **East Sector Citizens Meeting**—Tuesday, May 20th at 6 p.m. located at 4900 Shamrock Drive, Ste. 105. For more information, call East Sector at 485-3055.
- **UNOE Board Meeting**—Wednesday, May 21st, 4 p.m. at the UNOE office.
- **UNOE General Membership Meeting**—Thursday, May 22nd from 6:30—8:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the Red Cross Center on Stockwell Road.
- **UNOE Board Meeting**—Wednesday, June 18th, 4 p.m. at the UNOE office.
- **Great American Cleanup**—Saturday, June 21st. For more information, call KEB at 425-4461.
- **UNOE General Membership Meeting**—Thursday, June 26th from 6:30—8:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the Red Cross Center on Stockwell Road.

2007

**“Neighborhood Sparkplugs  
of the year”**



**Rick Atkins from Goosetown Neighborhood Association** was recognized as one of the Sparkplugs from his neighborhood.

“Mr. Atkins moved into the neighborhood several years ago. When we went to his home to welcome him into the area, he informed us that his friends had asked him why he wanted to live in this area. He said he wanted to make a difference! Since buying his home, he has made many improvements on his property. Mr. Atkins supports all neighborhood functions and events.” ~Portia Cook, Goosetown N.A.

**Mr. & Mrs. Earl Carter from Goosetown Neighborhood Association** were recognized as one of the Sparkplugs from their neighborhood.

“The Carters” are dedicated members of our neighborhood association. They are concerned about the children in our area as well as the condition of the neighborhood. They are always willing to support and help out in all of our neighborhood projects and never miss any meetings.”

~Fred Cook, Goosetown N.A.

## DRC Community Partners Breakfast

Presented by Disaster Resistant Community &  
Sponsored by Vectren Corporation

**Friday, May 9, 2008 - 7:30a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**

At The Centre - 715 Locust Street, Evansville, IN

Come meet Joe Wainscott, the new Indiana Dept. of Homeland Security Director, who will talk about the state's planning efforts to respond quickly following a major earthquake in SW Indiana and the 2009 exercise of this plan.

We know from historic evidence that a major earthquake will have a devastating effect on SW Indiana. It is important for us to continue educating ourselves about how to be better prepared and minimize the effects before anything happens.

Tickets are \$20, tables of 8 are available for \$150. Reservations can be made at [drc@swidrcc.org](mailto:drc@swidrcc.org) or call 425-8401. Send checks payable to Disaster Resistant Community to 318 Main St. Suite 207, Evansville, IN 47708.

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 UNOE Office  
 20 N.W. Fourth Street  
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 Evansville, IN 47708

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## Did U.N.O.E.?

### UNOE Officers and Board Members

President:	David Ballew	Culver Neighborhood
President-Elect:	Chris Cooke	Eastview Neighborhood
Vice-President:	Robert Head	Helfrich Neighborhood
Secretary:	Linda Jones	CHAIN Neighborhood
Treasurer:	Dick Tredway	Alvord Blvd. Neighborhood
Past-President:	Jayne Buthod	Westside Improvement

### At-Large Board Members

Barbara Boatright	Ballard Neighborhood
Fred Cook	Goosetown/C.O.I.N. Neighborhood
Rene McCormick	South Lincoln Park Dr.
Sam Wentzel	Western Terrace Neighborhood
Lucy Williams	Glenwood Neighborhood

### Committee Chairs

Marlin Beck	Animal Control	Oak Hill Neighborhood
Jayne Buthod	By-Laws/Long Range Planning	Westside Improvement Neighborhood
Susan Harp	Parks/Trees/Beautification	Oak Hill Neighborhood
Delores Mason	Marketing	Lorraine Park Neighborhood
Dick McKasson	Personnel	North Country Club Neighborhood
Jim Morgan	Safe Neighborhoods	Jacobsville Neighborhood
Fred Padget	Finance	Westside Improvement Neighborhood
Carolyn Stagg	Education	Hilltop Neighborhood
Brenda White	Education	Lincoln/Bellemeade Neighborhood

### UNOE Staff:

Paul Farmer,  
**Neighborhood Services  
 Coordinator**

Lori Gardner,  
**Operations Manager**

Stephanie Caudle,  
**USI Intern**

Eartha Thomas,  
**AARP Assistant**

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

May 22, 2008

Thursday 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Red Cross Building—29 S. Stockwell Road

Program: TBA

