

The Bulletin

Vol. 54, No. 8 May 2008

Two Shifts at Goshen Saturday Market Left to Fill

We need two more volunteers to sit at the LWVEA table on Saturday morning, June 14th, 2008. We have a shift from 8am to 10am and a second shift from 10am to noon. Anyone interested in helping out, please call or email Carol Gerdt. 656-5327 or cgerdt@charter.net. We are registering voters and giving out league information.

Democracy for Kids: A Workshop for Adults

Dr. Caroline Pryor from the SIUE School of Education will present a Democracy for Kids Workshop on Saturday, June 7 from 10-11 a.m. in the meeting room at the Edwardsville Public Library. In this interesting election year, it's an excellent opportunity to learn ways to enlighten and educate children in the principles of our government. Parents, grandparents, teachers, and community members can learn how books portray the stories of democracy. Help build the next generation of citizens by identifying ways to discuss our society's basic principles with children from kindergarten through eighth grade. Each participant will receive a free book, a bibliography, and many practical and easy to use ideas. The program is free and no registration is required.

THE GARAGE SALE IS COMING!

We've set the date for the League's garage sale **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**. If you're cleaning out those nooks and crannies where we tend to save items we don't use, please remember to put some aside for the garage sale. **Good quality** household items, knick-knacks and other decorative items, toys, tools, and books usually sell well, but we have not had good luck selling clothes in the past; please donate those to another organization. Details about time, place, and dropping off items will appear in future Bulletins.

Edwardsville City Council

Sue Webb, observer

5/5/08

Final meeting of fiscal year

All present.

Mayor Niebur welcomed discussion from members of the audience on any agenda topic. Comments were made regarding the proposed Timberland Place development. City attorney Berkbigler stated that the petition filed with signatures of 20% of adjacent property owners was no longer valid since two of the signatories (Stephen Mudge and James Gorman) filed affidavits to withdraw their names. Thus only a simple majority will be required to approve the development.

Council approved the Planned Unit Development by Place Properties on Route 157 (Timberland Place). The vote was four in favor of and three against (Mallon, Stamer and Tippit).

Approved the closure of St. Louis and Second Sts. on Saturday mornings until October for the Goshen Market.

Passed a resolution establishing a budget for the Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

Approved an IDOT resolution appropriating \$381,000 for the Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance Contract.

5/6/08

At the first meeting of the new fiscal year, Mayor Niebur announced the appointments/reappointments of department heads and aldermanic committees. This was followed by the mayor's state of the city speech. All of this is on file with the observer, Sue Webb.

5/20/08

Aldermen Stamer and Walker excused.

Informational presentation of the current status and future plans for the Watershed Nature Center.

Approved purchase of two portable CO-Oximeter Units for the fire department which came in under budget.

Awarded the West High Street/Elm Street reconstruction project to the low bidder, Keller Construction, for \$345,000.

Passed on first reading an ordinance approving the sale of surplus office chairs to Senior Citizen Services, Inc.

Approved an agreement with the University of Illinois Extension regarding the Watershed Nature Center

Madison County Board Meeting

Marcia Custer Observer

May 21, 2008

Prologue: Numerous Supporters of a plan to rebuild the Madison County Nursing Home were picketing the Madison County Administration Building prior to the meeting and then came inside to jam the Board Room Galley.

I Pre-agenda items.

A. The Lincoln Middle School basketball team was honored for winning the State Middle School Class AA Basketball Championship.

B. The 5th grade of St. Jacob School was honored for winning a ICTA Greenways Award for recycling.

II Speakers approved for 3-minute address to the County Board.

A. Joann _?_ appealed to the Board to extend a 35 mile speed limit somewhere in Bethalto.

B. Orville Mercer, Regional Manager of Chestnut Health Systems spoke of their commitment to the Mental Health Board to help provide housing for clients in need..

C. Stephanie Brown spoke of the Challenges Unlimited program that oversees 140 residential slots under their "Residential Options Program".

- D. Michael Holiday Jr. called on the County to “have a heart” and continue maintaining a residential facility at it’s current location. *Huge applause from the Galley.*
- E. Billy E., a resident at the Shelter Care Facility appealed to the County Board to honor their commitment to build a new facility at its present location.
- F. Steve Hoehn, who has a close relative in the Shelter Care Home, thanked the staff for their excellent service over the years as well as the Institutions Committee for their loyalty to the original plan. He then denounced the County Board for the “mess” they had created and the money wasted on expensive planning. He asked for the issue to be taken back to the voters

III Committee Reports

- A. Executive Committee called for a Resolution authorizing expenses related to the closure of the Madison County Shelter Care Home. The resolution passed 22-5 (members of the County Institutions Committee)
Judy Kuhn spoke against the resolution, and Hal Patton also spoke against the resolution and suggested it should be referred back to the County Institutions Committee.
- B. There were no other Committee Reports of note.

III Other

Chairman Dunstan invited County Board Members to stay following adjournment to discuss a proposed new voting system.

IV Adjournment 6:05 PM

DISTRICT 7 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Observed by Meg Oberlag

May 12, 2008 - Jill Bertels showed slides of progress in all new buildings and expansions.

Greg Roosevelt discussed the amended 2007-08 budget. There have been some declines in funding, but adjustments are made to keep us balanced. The 23rd and 24th state aid payments have not arrived and we would lose \$866,000 if they are not received.

Monica Laurent said the CAC had its final meeting of the year and heard impressive presentations by 16 teachers who had received grants.

Supt. Hightower said that June 2nd is the last student day and graduation will be on June 7th at EHS at 3:00 p.m. He also read a letter that had been sent to parents advising them to beware of “senioritis” and other end-of-year let downs. Academics and behavior will count up through the last day!

The following dedications were announced: Winston Brown Track at EHS on Saturday, May 31, at 10:00 a.m., Worden Elementary on Saturday, August 16, at 10:00 a.m., Goshen Elementary on Sunday, August 7, at 1:00 p.m. and Albert Cassens Elementary on Sunday, August 7, at 3:00 p.m.

LWVEA Board Meeting

May 7th, 2008

Members present were Carol Gipe, Lisa Brennan, Ruth Ellis, Carol Gerdt and Ellen.

An addition/correction was made to the April 2008 meeting minutes noting the discussion presented by Mary Pearson to have a fall 5K Walk/Run in conjunction with Voter Registration and fundraising.

The treasurer reported that the memorial contributions in honor of Gerry Thorp would be put into the education fund. The treasurer also reported that there is a PMP due in July and a bill from the LWVUS conference that our president is attending. The treasurer will transfer funds from the savings account to the checking account to cover these costs.

Lisa Brennan has called all members to remind them of the annual meeting on May 15th. A question arose as to how much cake to order, and we decided that ½ sheet cake should be enough as there are so far 43 people who have made reservations. The seating was discussed and we decided to have a head table set up for the board, our guest speaker, Rich Walker, and the parliamentarian, Nina Barid. We thought that this would facilitate the actual business meeting.

Lisa Brennan has been working with the Collinsville League and Jan Zarneck from the State to bring mock elections into the high schools. The state has received a \$200,000 grant to accomplish this task. Lisa and Melissa (of the Collinsville league) have contacted the high schools in Madison County. Mark von Nida is very much behind the project and in fact wants to do it regardless of the states program. A meeting is planned between Mark von Nida, the school administrator and the league members. The idea is to hold a registration for the mock election two weeks prior and then have all students in the state vote on the same day. This could be very interesting.

Carol Gerdt, speaking for Mary Pearson, brought up the ideas for the proposed 5K fundraiser. The issues of cost for police traffic control and insurance were discussed. Other issues were where to have the event and if we want to do voter registration, the date must be prior to the deadline for the Nov. 4th election. Carol Gipe contacted Mark Von Nida and discovered that Early Voting begins October 14th. A thought to end at the administration building for this event will be considered. Several concerns need to be addressed for this walk/run to occur. Weather is always an issue for outdoor activities.

Do we have enough available and willing volunteers to pull this off? The economy is not great so would participation be adequate to make the event worthwhile, especially considering that the first year is not always profitable. Are we competing with too many other groups who also have this event? Could we partner with other organizations? Do we have an individual or two who would be able and willing to solicit fund and sponsorships from businesses to cover the cost, including the water and fruit that are generally provided at these kinds of activities? Do we have enough time to put this together? A committee will be set up to research these concerns and then present the ideas to the board.

The Goshen Market begins Saturday, May 10th. We will have a table for Voters Registration set up. We additionally have signed up for tables on June 14, Aug 9, Sept 10 and Oct 11. Carol Gipe and Carol Gerdt have volunteered to be there for the first Sat. Lisa Brennan will bring table, tablecloth, brochures, signs, tape etc. Carol Gerdt will bring cards with our email address to hand out to potential interested parties.

October 31st, 2008 will bring another Halloween Parade to Edwardsville. Historically, the LWVEA has participated. Perhaps we could find enough members interested to have a float this year as a great way to make ourselves known in the community.

We have not given any scholarship awards since the first time two years ago. The board wants to revive this program. We feel that this represents another great community project. After much discussion, we thought that providing one or two \$100 grants to Edwardsville High School students would be a good place. A LWVEA member would give out the monies at the annual Senior Award dinner at the school. Carol Gerdt will investigate.

Carol Gipe and Carol Gerdt moved to support this initiative, the motion passed.

Ruth will have all the reports done and printed for the meeting. Judy Thompson is taking care of the cake and gifts to be presented. We were reminded to be out of Martha's by 9pm.

Ellen moved to adjourn. Carol Gipe seconded. The next board meeting was set for August 20, 2008, at 6pm at Ellen's.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Gerdt

