

# The Bulletin

Vol. 55, No. 4 March 2009

## Important Dates at a Glance:

- 3/19      **Mayoral Debate** at Main Street Community Center, 1003 N. Main St. Edwardsville, 7:30 p.m.
- 3/21      **Candidate Forum: City of Edwardsville and District 7 School Board** at Edwardsville Public Library Community Room, 1:00 p.m.
- 3/28      **Candidate Forum: Village of Glen Carbon and District 7 School Board** at Glen Carbon Senior/Community Center (behind Village Hall), 1:00 p.m.
- 3/28      **League Roadside Cleanup** 8:00 a.m., meet at Watershed Nature Center Parking Lot
- 3/29      **Candidate Forum: Village of Worden** at Worden Elementary School, 2:00 p.m.
- 3/16 – 4/2 **Early Voting.**
- 4/8      **Fundraiser** Culver's Restaurant, Edwardsville, 5:00 – 7:00p.m.

## Early Voting

Early voting begins March 16th and ends April 3rd. Ballots are available at the Madison County Courthouse weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon). The Edwardsville City Clerk's Office is also providing ballots weekdays only 9:00 to 5:00.

## **ANNUAL DINNER MEETING...COMING SOON**

This year's annual dinner meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>** at Café Aroma (on Main Street across from the Madison County Courthouse). Registration will start at 5:30, and dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. Stephen Kerber, archivist at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, will be our speaker. He's the co-author of a book about the Mississippi River Festival, and he'll be discussing the history of the festival. Our business meeting will follow his presentation. You'll be receiving more information about the annual meeting along with a registration form. In the meantime, *please save the date!*

## **March Candidate Debate/Forums**

### **March 19, 2009 Mayoral Debate:**

Main Street Community Center

7:30 p.m. Thursday 1003 North Main St., Edwardsville

Candidates: Mayor Gary Niebur and challenger Alderman Wesley Tippit

### **March 21, 2009 Candidate Forum:**

City of Edwardsville and District 7 School Board

1:00 p.m. Saturday Edwardsville Public Library Community Room

Candidates: City Clerk, Aldermen for Wards 4 and 6; 4 School Board Candidates.

### **March 28, 2009 Candidate Forum:**

Village of Glen Carbon and District 7 School Board

1:00 p.m. Saturday Glen Carbon Senior/Community Center (behind the Village Hall)

Candidates: Village Trustees (4 candidates for 3 seats); 4 School Board Candidates

Unopposed candidates will give brief speeches: Edwardsville City Treasurer, Ward 2 Alderman, Glen Carbon Mayor, Glen Carbon City Clerk and District 7 School Board.

*All three events will be taped by ECTV Channel and aired several times before the election April 7, 2009.*

**March 29, 2009 Candidate Forum:**

Village of Worden

2:00 p.m. Sunday Worden Elementary School

Candidates: Village President, Village Clerk, Village Board

*The League of Women Voters of the Edwardsville Area is participating at the request of Concerned Citizens of Worden and is providing support. We are not sponsoring this event.*

Submitted by Carol Gipe

## **Join the League of Women Voters of the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Area for a Fundraising Dinner at Culver's of Edwardsville**

Culver's has generously agreed to donate to League 10% of their revenues from this date. We will need 6-8 waitresses to greet diners, bus tables and help out. Call LWV member Kim L. Kirn to volunteer. Here are the details:

What: You order off Culver's regular menu which includes soups, salads, shrimp, pork tenderloins, fried chicken and Atlantic cod (in addition to the regular burgers and fries) snacks and frozen custard

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Time: 5-7 pm only

Place: Culvers, 6724 Old Troy Road, Edwardsville

Who: You, your family, friends and neighbors are all invited

Questions: Call Kim L. Kirn 288-0109

## **League Roadside Cleanup**

The next roadside cleanup is scheduled on 3/28 at 8a.m. Meet at the Watershed parking lot for distribution of gloves, trash bags, and reflective vests.

## Wi-Fi Program

The League of Women Voters of the Edwardsville Area recently sponsored a discussion of Wi-Fi in our community as many cities and town across the nation begin implementing programs which provide free wireless internet connection for residents in their communities.

League member Pat Hulme organized the program which took place in the Edwardsville City Hall Conference Room on February 18, 2009. Several members of the League, residents of Edwardsville, and a member of Edwardsville Community Television (ECTV) Committee, Mike Pashae were in attendance.

Packets of information were distributed and participants discussed the pros and cons of Wi-Fi in the Edwardsville Area as well as the resources currently available regarding internet access. Ms. Hulme, who had just returned from a trip to California, told the group in attendance about the city of Pleasanton, CA which offers free Wi-Fi for their downtown Main Street area by using part of their local inter-governmental communication system. Another community she studied, St. Cloud, FL, offers free Wi-Fi service to "all residents, businesses and visitors in the 15 square mile radius" of their town. It was also noted that larger cities such as Philadelphia had hoped to make money through advertisements on their Wi-Fi programs, but have not been successful and have even encountered many problems.

The evening's discussion brought to light the possibility that community Wi-Fi could be an asset to area businesses and may help create equality for all citizens, some of whom may not be able to afford internet services. Mr. Pashae told the group he and a few others on the ECTV Committee would like to see the city of Edwardsville offer Wi-Fi along Main Street as a service to businesses and the customers who frequent the downtown businesses.

Although no formal consensus was reached, the discussion proved to be a strong start to this important concept in improving our community.

Submitted by Lisa Brennan

# DISTRICT 7 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Observed by Meg Oberlag

**February 23, 2009** – Supt. Hightower discussed a plan for addressing the reduced funding that will probably occur during the rest of this year. The state will likely reduce its funding and the amount will not be known until May or June. The \$250,000 in Medicaid funding has not been received and any shortfall will be taken from the Working Cash Fund.

The District projects a \$700,000 decline in Education Fund revenue and will address that with the following moves:

- Eliminate all roving custodians (\$94,500)
- Offer only one entrée at lunch (\$50,000)
- Reorganize cafeteria staff and cut down on lines in some buildings (\$40,000)
- Freeze all discretionary spending (\$25,000)

Transfer \$300,000 from Transportation Fund to Education Fund. We will not layoff teachers or increase class size!

The following information pertains to the 2009-2010 school year when General State Aid could decline by 1.3 million:

- Reduce five certified positions by attrition (\$209,175)
- Eliminate six roving custodian positions (\$162,500)
- Eliminate fourteen educational assistant positions (\$154,000)
- Reduce summer school expenditures (\$150,000)
- Consolidate food service positions and costs (\$125,000)
- Eliminate two administrative positions (\$105,362)
- Reduce curriculum study expenditures (\$100,000)
- Eliminate two roving and EHS South SSO resource officers (\$46,436)
- Outsource all mail services (\$25,000)
- Consolidate printing services (\$10,000)
- Increase student parking fees at EHS to \$100 (\$20,000)
- Freeze construction/renovation projects (\$200,000)
- Delay summer renovation at Hamel and LeClaire (\$1,000,000)

Mr. Courtney gave an update about changes to the technology projects and funding. The Financial Information System will have its own separate server and the total cost of \$75,000 will be divided between two years. The Student Information System will start in July at a cost of \$172,000. The Board will request a lease/purchase with the Bank of Edwardsville for the software (54 months at 4.2% or \$37,845 annually). It has been ten years since the original lease. He also discussed security updates such as new and better cameras, better entry access control, job application on line, electronic time sheets for hourly workers, etc.

Supt. Hightower presented the calendar for 2009-2010 with the following highlights: Aug. 17, 1<sup>st</sup> teacher day; Aug. 18, 1<sup>st</sup> student ½ day; Dec. 21-Jan. 1, winter break; March 29-

April 2, spring break; May 25, last student day if no emergencies; June 2, last day if all emergency days used.

## **City Council 2/17/09**

Sue Webb, observer

All present.

Presentation by Chief Bedell on the activities of the Police Dept. for the past year.

Approved purchase of two 2009 Chevrolet Impalas at a cost of \$39,614 from state bid for the Police Dept.

Approved the purchase of a thermal imaging unit costing \$7,760 for the Fire Dept.

Approved a mowing contract change with Greenside Lawn Services to add 2 new locations at a cost of \$705 per occurrence.

Approved an engineering contract with Oates & Associates at \$31,900 for the Hillsboro Avenue resurfacing project.

Approved a preliminary engineering agreement with Kaskaskia Engineering for the Fourth Street rehabilitation project (part of the brick street project).

Authorized the sale of the old Merlin Phone System (96 phones).

Awarded the bid for the Hoppe Parking Lot Improvements to Rooters American Maintenance, Inc. for \$94,708.

## **City Council 2/3/09**

Sue Webb, observer

All present.

Robert Parker resigned from the Mobile Intensive Care System Trust Committee and Dee McDonald, CFO of Clover Leaf Bank, was appointed in his place.

Passed an ordinance authorizing sale of certain surplus personal property (fire truck, \$35,000) of the city of Edwardsville.

Adopted an ordinance requiring the registration of rental property in the city.

Approved an SIUE Party in the Park on April 24, 2009 and a March of Dimes Walk for Babies on April 25, 2009.

## **LWVEA Proposed Local Program for 2009-2010**

### **Current Local Positions**

The LWVEA proposes to:

- a) support an effective Human Relations Commission;
- b) support an effective Edwardsville and Glen Carbon Historic Preservation Commissions and encourage the designation of areas and/or sites in the communities as historic landmarks;
- c) support the recreational systems consensus position. The LWVEA also proposes to support possible ways of improving recreational facilities and programming through existing governmental entities, private developers, and/or the creation of a park district;
- d) support the governance and quality of education positions that have been developed previously and support appropriate tax propositions (especially those related to funding, physical facilities, and district boundaries) after review and further study;
- e) support the consensus on the City or Edwardsville Comprehensive Land Use Plan and the six approved recommendations;
- f) support the consensus on the Village of Glen Carbon Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

### **Additional Recommendations**

The LWVEA also proposes to:

- 1) gather information regarding the expansion of MetroLink to the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon area or the expansion of bike trails to encourage energy savings for commuters;
- 2) gather information regarding the funding mechanism of recreational opportunities including Park District funding;
- 3) gather information on the ecological impact of local development;
- 4) continue to support the recycling efforts in place and monitor possible changes to the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon recycling programs;
- 5) continue to support the Cool Cities Initiative;
- 6) revise the "Here Is Madison County;"
- 7) present information regarding Home Rule;
- 8) present written and electronic information regarding The Open Meetings Act at the local level.

**League of Women Voters  
Edwardsville Area  
BOX 841  
Edwardsville, IL 62025-0841**



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The goal of the League of Women Voters is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide. Membership is open to any U.S. Citizen who is at least 18 years of age. Dues of \$50.00 include membership in our local, state and national organization. Send your check to Treasurer, LWVEA, P.O. Box 841, Edwardsville, IL 62025-0841