

# The Bulletin

Vol. 56, No. 3  
January 2010

## Important Dates at a Glance:

- 1/17      **Candidate Forum** 2:00 p.m., Edwardsville Library- Community Room
- 1/27      **Program Planning Meeting** 7:00 p.m., at Ellen Nordhauser's home
- 3/3      Symposium: **Air Quality and Local Environmental Initiatives** 7:00 p.m. Edwardsville Public Library- Community Room
- 5/13      **Annual Meeting** Café Aroma

## January Candidate Forum

Sunday, January 17th, 2010, there will be a Candidate Forum at the Edwardsville Public Library (Community Room) from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There are two contested races for the Primary Election February 2, 2010. The following candidates have been invited to attend the meeting:

U.S. Representative to Congress, District 19: Rep. John Shimkus (incumbent) Republican, Michael Firsching (challenger) Republican

Madison County Board District 17: William Catalano Republican, Douglas Hulme Republican

The program begins with the U.S. Congressional candidates. Coffee is planned immediately following and before the Madison County Board portion of the meeting. ECTV Channel 10 will tape the forum for viewing on cable news.

## **Voter's Guide Post Dispatch**

Linda McDaniels, St. Louis LWV, has contacted Carol Gipe to discuss the feasibility of our helping with a November 2010 Voters Guide to be printed in the Post Dispatch. The newspaper approached St. Louis League asking for help in this endeavor. They (PD) hope to be able to round-up some money through sponsors. We will cover Madison County, IL. There will be planning meetings in the future. If there is any money for the purpose, we would get a share of the funds to help with any costs we might incur.

## **Campaign Finance Reform Legislative Update**

A Campaign Finance Reform Bill, SB1466, passed on the last day of the Fall Veto Session, October 30<sup>th</sup>. The gains in the legislation include:

- Limits on money coming into the political system.
  - There are limits for individuals, corporations, unions and associations, and PACs for the primary and general elections
  - There are limits for political party and legislative caucus committees during primary elections
- A framework for better disclosure and enforcement.
  - Contributions of \$1000 or more must be reported electronically within 5 days
  - More detailed quarterly (rather than semi-annual) reports from campaign committees of contributions and expenditures
  - Random audits conducted by State Board of Elections to ensure compliance with the laws
  - Enhanced penalties for violation of the law's provisions

There has been a lot of criticism because the political party and legislative caucus committees are not limited in the money that they can transfer to

candidates in the general election. However, having limits in the primary is an important step. It will encourage more people to challenge an incumbent or party-backed candidate and help level the playing field for challengers.

**This is the first time that there are any limits in Illinois of money that can be used to fuel political campaigns.** LWVIL has been working on campaign finance reform and to get limits on contributions since 1995. It took countless hours of negotiations between Change Illinois and the Democratic Leadership to come to an agreement with contribution limits and improved disclosure and enforcement. Efforts will continue to work for limits on the political party and legislative caucus committees.

## Curbside Recycling

*The following information is provided in response to interest expressed at the Christmas party, after Ginger McCall gave an interesting and informative review of our local League history in the area of recycling.*

If you live in a single or two family residential dwelling in Madison County, you have access to curbside recycling. Most curbside programs, and all Drop-off Recycling Stations accept the following:

- **Newspapers**
- **Junk Mail**
- **Magazines & Catalogs**
- **Corrugated Cardboard**
- **Aluminum Cans**
- **Tin/Steel Cans**
- **Glass Bottles & Jars**
- **NEW!!! #1- #5 Plastics**
- **NEW!!! #7 Plastics**

*Items that ARE NOT accepted include:*

- **Pizza Boxes**
- **Diapers**
- **Cooking/Motor Oil**
- **Plastic Grocery Bags**

*How Should I Prepare My Recyclables?*

Sort materials before you put them in the trash. Remove lids from plastic and glass bottles & jars. Put lids in trash. No need to remove labels.

Put all recyclable items in your recycle bin. Containers go at the bottom of bin. Put paper items in paper

bags, place this on top. Break down/flatten boxes. Corrugated cardboard no larger than 2'x3'.

Set out once a week, or as assigned by your hauler. If you live in an apartment or multiple-family residency that doesn't have access to curbside recycling then drop-off recycling is the answer! You may recycle all of the items from the list above at Home Depot (on Troy Road, Monday-Thursday only).

Retrieved from <http://www.madisoncountyrecycles.com/index.aspx?page=8>

## **Annual Meeting**

Membership Chairs, Alison Lamothe and Lorraine Krusa have scheduled the Annual Meeting at Café Aroma on May 13th!

### **DISTRICT 7 BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Observed by Meg Oberlag**

**October 26, 2009** - The bulk of the meeting was a report by Supt. Hightower about the results of the last ISAT testing. Our students performed well above the state level, especially in math and reading. In the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 97% of the general students (excluding IEP) met or exceeded state standards. One sub group did not perform up to the No Child Left Behind requirements and this caused the District to not make adequate growth for 2009 – the first time this has happened. The percentage requirement will increase by 7.5% each year until 2014 when 100% of all students are expected to meet or exceed the goals. Eighty nine out of 395 students with disabilities came into District 7 during 2007 and 2008 so interventions are in place to bring these students up to expectations. They are:

1. At EHS intensive lab courses in English and Math will double their daily instruction.
2. At the middle schools and EHS, two teachers (one special ed and one regular) will team teach these students to provide individualized instruction.
3. The Reading Lab will offer daily instruction materials that ensure growth in skills and comprehension.
4. During the 35-minute activity period at the middle schools, there will be small group instruction in math and study skills for those needing it.
5. The District will offer a specialized, research-based reading program for those who need a different approach to reading.

The Superintendent said that the District takes a serious commitment to academic achievement for all students

**November 9, 2009** – Dave Courtney gave the time table for the 2010-11 tax levy. The tax rate will probably be \$3.9795. This is assuming **no** growth in EAV (Equalized Assessed Valuation). EAV dropped to 3.14 in 2007-08 after reaching a high of 14.15 in 2006.

Tim Funkhouser proposed starting a Middle School Baseball Program which would have 16 players from each of the two schools. The EGHM (Edwardsville, Glen Carbon, Hamel, Midway) Foundation would fund the start up cost of \$35,000 and the continuing annual cost of \$15,000. These teams would play 12-15 games in the fall at the Sports Complex. Also, an EHS summer baseball program with 2 or 3 teams would play 25 to 30 games in the area.

Supt. Hightower announced that parents and students will be able to make course selections for 2010-11 online starting Nov. 30 during the school day. The parents will have to sign a request form and students will finalize it personally with their counselor.

Hightower also said that he has spoken to the high school and middle school students and all District 7 teachers about his concern over the senseless violence, poor judgment, lack of tolerance, respect and civility that is showing up throughout the country. He showed graphic slides of some of these behaviors and said that any student who violates another by any means will be dealt with promptly and severely. He discussed the seriousness of social networking such as My Space, Facebook etc. and the legal consequences of Sexting. He asked the students to take seriously these issues, to be responsible and step up when they see something happening to one of their peers.

**December 21, 2009** – The Board recognized recent contributions from the St Cecilia's Knights of Columbus (\$8,351) and the Edwardsville-Glen Carbon Junior Service Club (\$1,000). They also introduced Ginger McDaniel and Dorothy Kraus who have become Nationally Certified Teachers which brings the total of sixteen in District 7. They also recognized Sandy Pringle who is retiring after 26 years, first as media clerk and then as a financial secretary at EHS. She organized the secretary's union in 1983.

Supt. Hightower gave a year end report recognizing student successes and contributions from the public, and stated that the District has been able to meet its goals and maintain the budget. However, next year will be a different story as the State of Illinois will likely be 13 billion dollars in debt and will not be able to meet its obligations to any area, not just schools. As of today (Dec. 21) the State owes our District 2.3 million dollars! Therefore, we must continue to make changes to the 3-year plan. This will include freezing all nondiscretionary purchases, reducing operating expenses such as staff cutting and vowing to keep the tax rate under \$4.00. At present we have the lowest tax rate in Madison County and the city of Madison has the highest at \$6.86. Hightower also vows to not request any additional education funding through a tax referendum.

**CITY COUNCIL**  
**Observed by Susanne Web**

### **City Council 10/06/09**

Walker excused.

Approved sidewalks as follows: \$16,000 across from Lincoln School and \$58,000 along Governors' Parkway.

Adopted a Parks Dept. Master Plan.

Approved \$99,000 for Vadalabene Park parking lot (\$70,000 was budgeted for reconstruction.

### **City Council 10/20/09**

All present.

Passed a resolution approving renovation of the Wildey theater.

Alderman Stamer informed the council of the purchase of two Ford Crown Victoria police vehicles with financing by the Bank of Edwardsville in the amount of \$44,698.

Approved a resolution authorizing the mayor to sign an intergovernmental agreement with Madison County regarding funding the Governors Parkway paved shoulders as a bike trail.

Approved an ordinance vacating a portion of right-of-way on North Second Street.

Suspended the rules and passed on first reading an ordinance authorizing the sale of certain personal and government property.

### **City Council 11/3/09**

Mallon absent.

Accepted the resignation of Mary Castellano from the Human Relations Commission effective November 10, 2009.

Amended the Commercial Building Facade Program to include North Main and St. Louis Streets and to increase the amount to include 25% of one facade up to \$7,000 and two to \$10,000.

Passed a resolution supporting H.R. 3415 introduced by Congressman Jerry Costello to postpone mandatory flood insurance until scheduled levee repairs can be made.

Adopted an ordinance enacting a new code for the City of Edwardsville that provides for the repeal of certain ordinances not included therein, a penalty for the violation thereof, the manner of amending such code and provides when such code and this ordinance shall become effective.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE EDWARDSVILLE AREA  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
JANUARY 2010**

BALANCES 01/06/10

Small Business Checking Account	\$2,485.28
Business Insured Money Market Account	2,588.88
LWVIL Education Fund	
General	254.62
Helen Delicate	<u>975.00</u>
 TOTAL	 \$6,303.78

ACTIVITY 12/03/09 – 01/06/10

Income

11/30/09: Interest on Money Market Account	\$ 1.17
01/06/10: Membership Dues & Extra Contribution	<u>100.00</u>

TOTAL \$101.17

Expenses

01/06/10: Check # 1036, Lorraine Krusa, reimbursement for postage For December meeting mailing	<u>\$26.40</u>
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TOTAL \$26.40

**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

