

The Bulletin

Vol. 56, No. 5
March 2010

Important Dates at a Glance:

- 4/22 **Health Care** Informational Meeting 7:00 p.m. Edwardsville
Public Library- Community Room
- 5/13 **Annual Meeting** Café Aroma – Registration will begin at
5:30pm and dinner will be served at 6 p.m. Our speaker this year
is Ms. Leah Dettmers, Solid Waste Coordinator for Madison
County. She will speak on the Recycling Program for the County,
its present and future - watch for your invitation in the mail!
- 10/6 **New Judicial Programs for Madison County**, with Judge
Barbara Crowder. 7:00 p.m. Edwardsville Public Library-
Community Room

Health Care Information Meeting

The League of Women Voters of the Edwardsville Area will sponsor an informational presentation on the social and political context of health care reform in the United States. In addition to reviewing the League's position on health care reform, the presentation will include a brief overview of several topics: the history of prior reform efforts, disparities in U.S. health outcomes and costs compared with those of other countries, how polarization and anti-government rhetoric complicate reform efforts, and resources for understanding health policy and the impact of the recent legislation. A private LWVEA blog will host references, articles, and links to additional informational resources discussed in the presentation.

Thursday, April 22 7:00pm Edwardsville Public Library, Community Room

Air Quality and Local Environmental Initiatives

John May, chair of the Creve Coeur Climate Action Task Force, spoke about greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies they are employing. He noted that 40% of such strategies pay off financially during the life of the project. In Phase 1, his task force will focus on the development of knowledge, one or two high visibility projects, and education. To begin with, they want to concentrate on any opportunity to abate for under \$50 a ton, through which they could abate 50 gigatons of greenhouse gas, 40% of their total emissions. These are such ideas as no idle policies, green construction techniques and green purchasing policies. Whereas solar panels are high profile but expensive, such prosaic measures as replacing residential electronics and lighting with energy efficient models, or fuel economy packages for non-hybrid vehicles are inexpensive but effective. For Phase 2, they will focus on developing municipal knowledge, skills, motivation and structure, and such high visibility initiatives as a light bulb swap, as well as an educational campaign, and the formation of a city 'green team'. They support renewable energy audits and replacement of HVAC and hot water systems with energy efficient models.

Dave Gocken, the chair of the Edwardsville Cool Cities Initiative Advisory Board, described the growth of the Cool Cities program. It is a grass-roots initiative in which municipalities voluntarily undertake the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to the levels dictated by the original Kyoto Protocol (which the USA did not sign), or 7 % below 1990 levels by 2012. Seattle was the first Cool City, the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement initiator, under Mayor Greg Nickels, on February 16, 2005. There are currently 1000 Cool Cities, or signers of the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. The Four Steps to Become a Cool City are to take the Cool Cities Pledge, then conduct a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory. Edwardsville is currently undertaking this step. The next step is to create a Solutions Plan, then, finally, to implement the plan and to monitor progress.

Dave Gocken talked about the difficulty inherent in changing people's behavior, using as an example the percentage of people who do not recycle. He described efforts in Europe where a household's non-recycled trash is weighed and fees are determined by that weight. With that type of financial incentive, recycling rates climb quickly.

Kathy Andria, of American Bottoms Conservancy and Kaskaskia Sierra Club reported that she is on the national and the state Air Quality Committees. She was born in Granite City and returned as an adult shocked at the pollution situation, which does not meet federal standards for ozone particulates or for lead. Fine particulates enter deep into human lungs and even blood stream. Shockingly, in Granite City there is a preschool down the block from a coke plant. Benzene, a pollutant, is linked to leukemia incidence. In the Metro-East, there are many coal fired power plants: Rush Island, Labadie, Portage du Sioux, Dynegy Ballwin, Dynegy Wood River and Prairie State, a new plant in Marissa. Coal fired power plants are the largest emitters of the neurotoxin mercury, which accumulates in fish. Major Emitters must obtain operating permits, Granite City Steel does not have one (American Bottoms Conservancy has been objecting to their application) and has been out of compliance for years with emission standards. Madison County was found second in the country for cancer risk by the US EPA after an air toxics assessment. Kathy Andria urged citizen involvement in cleaning up air pollution locally. She has left material at Edwardsville Public Library to walk a citizen through how to respond to a Title V permit application. She requested a health risk assessment for subsistence fishing in Frank Holten State Park and was able to have local mercury emissions reduced. More monitors are needed for the EPA. Permits can be reviewed at the EPA Envirofax Warehouse. EPA.gov website lists resources for communities, to learn about air and water quality. Citizens can attend permit hearings. Get involved!

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE EDWARDSVILLE AREA
PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2010 – 2011**

	FY 2009-10 Estimated Total	FY 2009-10 Budget	Proposed Budget FY 2010-2011
Income			
Member Dues (@\$60.00)	\$3,175.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,600.00
Contributions			
Members	585.00	700.00	500.00
Non-Members	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fundraising			
Fundraiser	0.00	1,000.00	1,200.00
Garage Sale	0.00	350.00	0.00
Interest			
Money Market Acct.	13.77	25.00	5.00

Miscellaneous Income			
Annual Meeting	700.00	700.00	800.00
Holiday Meeting	0.00	300.00	0.00
Total Income	\$4,473.77	\$6,575.00	\$6,105.00

Expenses

Board/Administrative Coms.			
Bulletin	\$319.44	\$600.00	\$300.00
Annual Meeting	800.00	800.00	850.00
Holiday Meeting	26.40	200.00	0.00
General Meetings	0.00	50.00	0.00
Membership	49.02	150.00	50.00
President	0.00	50.00	25.00
Publicity/PR	0.00	50.00	25.00
Publications			
Membership Directory/ Annual Report	100.00	100.00	75.00
Vice President	0.00	25.00	0.00
General Operating			
Insurance	95.00	100.00	100.00
P.O. Box Rental	60.00	60.00	60.00
Website Maintenance	200.00	200.00	220.00
Other (Stationery)	0.00	150.00	0.00
Fundraising			
Fundraiser	0.00	300.00	200.00
Garage Sale	0.00	50.00	0.00
Nat'l. PMP @ \$29.80	2,408.60	2,408.60	1,951.90
State PMP @\$26.00	2,158.00	2,158.00	1,703.00
Program & Position Support	0.00	100.00	25.00
Voter Service	0.00	50.00	25.00

FY 2009-2010
Estimated Total

FY 2009-2010
Budget

Proposed Budget
FY 2010-2011

Expenses (continued)

Delegate Travel & Affiliations			
LWVIL Convention	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 300.00
LWVUS Convention	0.00	1,500.00	0.00
Workshops/Meetings	0.00	50.00	0.00
Total Expenses	\$6,241.46	\$9,301.60	\$5,909.90

LWVEA NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
2 nd Vice President	Alison Lamothe	2012
Treasurer	Karen Buescher	2012
Director	Jeanne Brunworth	2012
Director	Evie Gorski	2012
Director	Kathy Jones	2012
Director	Joann Nabe	2011

Nominating Committee for 2011

Judy Thompson, chair Ruth Ellis Lisa Brennan

The following officers and director will continue their terms through June 2011:

President	Mary Pearson
1 st Vice President	Kim Kirn
Secretary	Ellen Nore
Director	Lorraine Krusa
Director	Rachel Tompkins

Presented by the 2010 Nominating Committee:

Meg Oberlag, chair

Angela Farrell

Ginger McCall

Kathy Jones

Joann Nabe

LWVEA Proposed Local Program for 2010 – 2011

The LWVEA proposes to:

- a. support an effective Human Relations Commission;
- b. support an effective Edwardsville and Glen Carbon Historic Preservation Commission and encourage the designation of areas and/or sites in the communities as historic landmarks;
- c. support the recreation 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 of 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 funding mechanism of recreational opportunities including Park District funding, including establishment of a community pool;
2. gather information on the ecological impact of local development;

3. continue to support the recycling efforts in place, including republication of *Living Lightly on the Earth*, and monitor possible changes to the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon recycling programs;
4. continue to support the Cool Cities Initiative;
5. present information regarding Home Rule.

DISTRICT 7 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Observed by Meg Oberlag

March 22, 2010 – This was a short and somber meeting as the Board voted to approve 3.1 million in cuts for next year. These are done to “preserve our fiscal responsibility” according to Supt. Hightower. He said that Illinois is one of 29 states and D.C. that has cut support for schools. Illinois will cut \$500 per student from the state aid formula causing District 7 to lose 4.5 million. So far, the State has not cut special education and transportation, but if it does, that will make an even greater impact on our situation.

He again stated three goals: maintain class size, preserve a quality and safe learning environment, and preserve extracurricular activities. (Observer note: He is to be commended for the latter goal since this is the first to go in many districts.)

The Board voted to freeze all discretionary items; freeze administrative salaries: reduce administrative, teaching and ESSPA positions; curb building expenses; preserve reserves; maintain a tax rate of \$4.00 or less; and not ask for any education tax rate increase. These cuts will impact 60 employees! Dismissals include 7 administrators, 25 probationary (non tenured) teachers, 4 parent educators, 1 central office position and 17 part-time education assistants. (Observer note: In past years, March dismissals were routinely made because of a law and then hired back later, but this year is different. No new money will magically appear from a state that is 13 billion dollars in debt.)

CITY COUNCIL

Observed by Susanne Web

City Council 2/2/10

Twombly excused.

A building facade award of \$10,000 was made to the Steigers for 215 S. Main St.

An award was made for the Raw Water Detention Basin and Brine Storage Capacity to Keller Construction in the amount of \$597,542.

Passed a resolution approving the preliminary and final plats for Cote Place Subdivision.

City Council 2/16/10

All present.

Presented the Mayor's Award for the Arts to Vivian Raffaele the former director of the Edwardsville Municipal Band who still plays oboe in the band.

Awarded a contract for the Wildey Theater renovation to Miller & Maack, Inc. in the amount of \$2.9 million dollars. Alderman Butts cast the lone dissenting vote.

Awarded a sole source contract to Miller & Maack, Inc. for the residing of the LeClaire Academy in the amount of \$25,689.

Defeated a motion (4 to 3) to allow for electronic attendance at meetings.

City Council 3/2/10

Alderman Butts Excused.

Neal Gilb, Public Relations Manager of Charter Communications, reported that ECTV Channel 10 will be moved to Channel 993 effective March 16, 2010. However, I have located it at Channel 118-11 with the particular package that I have with Charter (expanded basic).

Bryan Kress was appointed to the Historic Preservation Committee.

The city's ordinances are now available for viewing on line.

Passed a motion approving a memorandum of understanding between the city and the school district to renew the School Resource Officer Program and the School Crossing Guard Program.

Approved a construction engineering agreement with Oates and Associates for \$38,000 using MFT funds.

Awarded the Fourth Street Reconstruction Program to Keller Construction for \$358,727.

Approved the final plat of the replat of Lot 7 in Peony reek.

League of Women Voters Edwardsville Area, Minutes of Meeting Jan. 7, 2010

Present: Kathy Jones, Lorraine Krusa, Alison Lamothe, Ellen Nordhauser, Meg Oberlag, Mary Pearson, Carol Reinking.

- I. **Minutes** of the Meeting of November 5, 2009 were accepted.
- II. The **Treasurer's Report** was accepted and discussion on need for a fund-raiser followed
- III. **Old Business**
 - a. **Committee Reports:** Rachel Tompkins announced that the **Forum on "Air Quality and Local Environmental Initiatives"** had been scheduled for March 3, 2010, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the Edwardsville Public Library. Kathy Andrea, of the American Bottoms Conservancy, will be among the speakers, which include Mr. Scott, Director of the Illinois EPA, Dave Gocken, who heads the Mayor's Cool Cities Committee in Creve Coeur. Ellen Nordhauser volunteered to contact newspapers about this event.
 - b. Various: Rachel Tompkins passed around an **Action Memo** in opposition to the Mirkowsk Amendment that would weaken the Clean Air Act of 1970, by lowering the standards for clean air. A letter supporting re-districting will be sent to the State League.
 - c. Mary Pearson reported the John Harvey will present a program on **comparative health care systems** in April (4/22).
 - d. Lorraine Krusa had met with the owner of Cage Aroma, where the **Annual Meeting** will be held on May 13. Leah Dittmers, the Environmental Coordinator for Madison County, will talk about Madison County's recycling program and the ways in which it has changed since it was implemented.

IV. New Business

- a. **Board Membership:** Needed for the next year are a 2nd Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, and three new Directors.
- b. The Board voted to donate **League photographs** to the LWV Archive at SIUE's Lovejoy Library.
- c. Mary Pearson will call Karen Buescher about heading the **Budget Review Committee**. Other possible members are Nina Baird and Dottie Hummel. Meg Oberlag pointed out that the Budget must go to the members 30 days before the annual meeting.

V. Program Planning for 2010 – 2011

The following programs were suggested:

September 2010:	Illinois Responsible Budget Coalition
October 2010:	New Judicial Programs for Madison County
November 2010:	Illinois Redistricting
December 2010:	Annual Christmas Party
January 2011:	Program Planning
February 2011:	Pre-school at Risk Programs in Madison County Public Schools
March 2011:	Edwardsville Land Use Plan: Ecological Impacts of Development, with Ben Dickman, City Planner
April 2011:	Implications of Home Rule for the City of Edwardsville

Mary 2011: Annual Meeting

During the discussion, Ginger McCall phoned to suggest updating “Living Lightly on the Earth, ” published in 1972. Members discussed a Trivia Night as a possible fund-raiser.

**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

