

The Bulletin

Vol. 56, No. 1 August 2009

Important Dates at a Glance:

- 9/3 **Monthly Board Meeting** at Ellen Nordhauser's home 7:00 p.m.
- 9/22 **League Roadside Cleanup** 8:00 a.m., meet at Watershed
Nature Center Parking Lot
- TBA **Membership Meeting** at location and time TBA - watch the
website for details. Phone tree will be initiated prior to this event

Events in Planning:

- Fall 09 Yard Sale
- October Public meeting on Home Rule; Roadside Cleanup 10/24
- November Meeting on Understanding Your Tax Bill
- December Christmas Party
- January Program Planning Meeting
- February Voter Service Meeting in preparation for Primary Election in March
- March Primary Election
- Meeting on Cool Cities/Climate Change
- April Meeting on status of Campaign Finance Reform in Illinois
- May Annual Meeting

ANNUAL REPORT AND MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

We hope you were with us for our Annual Meeting in May and took home your copies of our Annual Report and Membership Directory. If you were unable to attend, we would be happy to mail your copies to you – please just let Ruth Ellis know that you would like to have them, either by calling her at 656-8801, or sending an e-mail at annieruth55@hotmail.com.



PICTURES FROM THE ANNUAL DINNER MEETING...at Café Aroma

League Roadside Cleanup

The next roadside cleanup is scheduled on 9/28 at 8 a.m. Meet at the Watershed parking lot for distribution of gloves, trash bags, and reflective vests. A second pickup is tentatively scheduled for 10/24, again at 8:00 a.m.

****Archivists Looking for Old Photographs and Memorabilia****

DISTRICT 7 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Observed by Meg Oberlag

March 9, 2009 - The Board unanimously passed the proposed recommended cuts of \$1,307,473 in the 2009-10 school year as listed in the last League *Bulletin*. This is needed to offset the anticipated loss of revenue from state aid, property tax money etc. and will allow us to have a balanced budget without using our reserves. We need to keep the 10% recommended by state and to keep our good bond rating up. They also approved the technology upgrades, the 2009-10 calendar and a lease/purchase agreement with The Bank of Edwardsville for a new Student Information System.

March 23, 2009 - The St. Cecilia Knights of Columbus presented a check for \$6,260 for Special Education in District 7. Their Tootsie Roll Drive has contributed \$33,150 since they have been doing it.

Four hundred thirty two students participated in the Young Authors Contest and some of the winners were recognized.

Mary Kane of Stifel-Nicolaus gave a review of the District's bond indebtedness and pointed out that we were lucky to pass the 58.3 million dollar construction bond in 2007 when rates were high and buyers interested. She complimented the District for being able to keep the "A" bond rating and said this is due to good fiscal management, long term fiscal planning, revising the 2nd year of the 3-year plan to meet changing times, having 7.8 million in the Working Cash Fund to meet emergencies and collaborating with special donors to help finance facilities and programs. She mentioned that the proposed University Town Center along Route 157 in Glen Carbon is in our school district and should bring in more money in the future.

April 13, 2009 - Supt. Hightower gave a status report regarding funding. The State of Illinois faces a 12 billion dollar deficit – the largest ever and among the top five states in the nation. They plan to address this by increasing revenues, short term borrowing, budget reductions and receiving federal stimulus funds. This money will be used to help

pay general state aid and other categorical grants. District 7 will receive \$310,000 for Title I and 1.2 million for Special Ed. These funds, however, are restricted to remedial improvements and those students with individual disabilities. They cannot be used to undo the 1.3 million in cuts that the Board has approved for next year.

Hightower also stated that we should continue to focus on curriculum revision. It has been seven years since the math and language arts have been updated and we should do this while staying within our means.

The Board approved the renewal of ISHA membership for next year and a new sport – Bass Fishing. There are 214 schools in Illinois that compete in this sport which is co-ed and offers another opportunity for students to be active in a sport.

April 27, 2009 - EHS Principal Bohnenstiehl discussed the accomplishments this year. One student got a perfect ACT score, 94 are Illinois State Scholars and 12 are National Merit Scholarship finalists. The school raised \$80,000 for St. Jude's Hospital and received many awards in sports and music. The senior class gift is a life-sized bronze tiger which will be placed in the EHS lobby.

A tribute was given to Jim Speciale who is leaving the Board after 20 years of service. Judge Charles Romani administered the oath to the newly elected Board including League member, Dorothy Hummel. The following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Greg Roosevelt; Vice President, Jill Bertels; and Secretary, Brad Hewitt. Chairs and members of committees were also named.

Personnel changes and April bills were approved, and David Courtney was named District Treasurer again. The Charles Richards Charitable Trust is being dissolved and EHS will receive \$135,727.27.

May 26, 2009 – This brief meeting was devoted mainly to routine matters. Supt. Hightower introduced Bruce Holland who is the developer of the University Town Center which probably will be built south of Route 270 in Glen Carbon. He showed slides of the proposed area and told of success with another similar development. He said that Jay Hoffman does not favor this because he thinks it will hurt Collinsville business. District 7 sees it as a means of bringing in more revenue to our schools,

The Board approved the annual contract with the Collinsville Area Vocational Center. There will be about 29 of our students attending there next year. Cost is \$98,165.

Dr. Andre reported that the update of the Parent Teacher Handbook has been complete with only one change. It regards a photo release form that is necessary when a child's photo is identified in a yearbook or other District communications. This will be voted on at the next meeting.

DISTRICT 7 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Observed by Meg Oberlag

June 15, 2009 - Recognition was given to the following: Mike Waldo for having the most wins in EHS basketball history, Alpha Delta Kappa sorority for giving many scholarships to students who are choosing the teaching profession, and the EHS girls' softball team for placing 2nd in the State.

Supt. Hightower announced that a 3-year contract has been reaching with the ESSPA through June 30, 2012. There will be a 3.4% increase over the three years. The group includes such service personnel as teacher assistants, monitors, custodians etc.

The Board passed the following resolutions –

Interim transfer from the Working Cash Fund to the Ed Fund and Trans. Fund

Permanent transfer of 2.5 million into the 2008-09 budget

Amended budget for 2008-09

Vendors for 2009-10

General education supplies (\$27,367.53) for 2009-10

Reduction of Special Treasurer's Bond 2007B for Life Safety from \$500,000 to \$200,000

Reduction of Special Treasurer's Bond 2007B for construction from \$3,500,000 to \$200,000

Next meeting will be on July 20, 2009.

July 20, 2009 - Supt Hightower said that the State of Illinois has set a 6-month temporary budget for the schools. Many programs are likely to be cut as the State deals with an eleven million dollar deficit. He said that what we read in the news tells only a fraction of the State's problems.

The District is working with two local energy firms to request a grant to develop a solar panel at EHS South. This will give EHS students experience with solar energy. Hopefully, future grants will allow panels at other buildings.

Starting this fall all buses and vans will be equipped with two-camera video and audio surveillance systems. This should improve student behavior as well as checking on bus drivers. There will also be GPS for speed and location of every vehicle.

The District food service will be starting an online payment system so parents can prepay, check balances, view purchases and set spending limits etc. The Board approved an intergovernmental agreement with Madison County to continue a school probation officer (Scott Cooper) at EHS and the middle schools.

Dr. Andre read the proposed policy changes which will be adopted at the next meeting. These concerned abused child and pornography reporting, family medical leave, substitute

pay and contract bidding.

A group of teachers started working in 2006 to develop a Functional Life Skills Curriculum for students who have significant cognitive and adaptive delays. At present there are 55 students (ages 3-22) who fall into this category. The curriculum covers key concepts that students should learn to develop into independent adults. They are career education and work, personal health and safety, financial planning and management in addition to traditional academics. A budget of \$21,780 will come from ARRA funds (stimulus money). Supt Hightower credited Monica Laurent for pushing this when she first ran for school board. Monica pointed out that no other district in Illinois has a curriculum of this nature.

CITY COUNCIL

Observed by Susanne Web

7/21/09

All present.

Approved a license to conduct a raffle for St. Boniface Parish.

Awarded the 2009 Tree Removal Contract to Ahlers Tree Service in the amount of \$9,980.

Awarded the Water Main Extension Material Bid to the low bidder Midwest Municipal Supply in the amount of \$29,838.

Passed an ordinance authorizing the issuance of \$5,100,000 debt certificates for paying of certain capital projects in the city of Edwardsville. The city's rating has improved from AA to A+.

7/7/09

Stamer excused.

Approved two licenses to conduct a raffle, one for St. Louis Children's Hospital and the other for the Blake Sprinkle Benefit.

Approved Tourism Fund Request from Friends of Leclaire for the annual Parkfest in the amount of \$2,000.

Passed a resolution authorizing the single source purchase (only maker) of one AutoPulse CPR Administration System from Zoll Medical Corp. in the amount of \$13,490.

Approved East Lake engineering services with Crawford, Murphy & Tilly (\$32,770) and construction by Petroff Trucking, the low bidder(\$413,423).

Approved engineering services agreement with Oates Associates for the Randle Street Reconstruction in an amount not to exceed \$ 87,000

Approved engineering services with Sheppard Morgan & Schwab for smoke testing of selected sanitary sewer lines.

Approved landmark status for the E. Breese Glass House at 647 Hillsboro Avenue and the Ryderus C. & Emily Peters Springer Gillham House at 112 Springer Avenue.

6/16/09

Walker excused.

Passed an ordinance making appropriations for the 2009 - 2010 fiscal year.

Approved Southwestern Illinois Tourism Bureau annual membership dues of \$1,500.

Approved a resolution authorizing the mayor to sign a haul route agreement with TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, LP for the use of city streets.

Approved the Hunters Ridge Culvert project with H & M Backhoe in the amount of \$127,301.

6/2/09

All present.

There was a presentation on Human Resources by Emily Bates and one on cable TV by John Cunningham.

Passed resolutions approving both the preliminary and final plats of Vallow Subdivision.

Short meeting - two items held in committee.

5/19/09

All present.

Appointed Tom Butts to the Alliance Board and the I 55 Plan Management Team.

Heard a presentation by Bob Pfeiffer, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Authorized the execution of an energy supply agreement with Constellation NewEnergy, Inc.

Approved the purchase of three air packs for the Fire Dept. at a cost of \$16,111.

Approved the purchase of various paving materials and services to be paid from Motor Fuel Tax Funds in the total amount of \$110,121.

Annexed property at 5829 Old Poag Road and 229 Seminole.

5-5-09

All present.

Judge Barbara Crowder administered the oath of office to the Mayor, city clerk, city treasurer, and aldermen in Wards 2, 4, and 6.

The mayor appointed and/or reappointed the aldermanic committees, city officials and the boards and commissions.

The mayor then gave the state of the city address, which is very good and he especially expressed appreciation for those who volunteer their services in so many places.

5-4-09 Sine Die Meeting

Tippitt absent.

Accepted resignation of Tom Butts from the Plan Commission and Rich Rezabek from the Recreation, Arts and Special Events Board (they were elected to the city council).

Passed a resolution establishing a budget for the fiscal year beginning the first Tuesday in May 2009 and ending the Monday preceding the first Tuesday in May 2010. The council then passed a resolution appropriating funds for this fiscal year.

Passed amendments to ordinances concerning emergency medical transportation, impoundment of motor vehicles and possessing cannabis and cannabis paraphernalia.

Presented an award to Dorothy Hummel in appreciation for her service on the city council (she has been elected to the school board).

4-21-09

Tippitt absent.

Tourism Fund request from Sunset Hills Country Club for the NGA Hooters Professional Golf Tour event was granted for \$5,000 cash and \$5,000 in in-kind services.

Special Finance Committee meeting called for April 23rd for budget review.

The annual hydrant flushing program will begin April 1st and will continue for 10-12 weeks.

Approved purchase of outfield fencing for Upper Hoppe Field from Liberty Improvements in the amount of \$13,310.'City Council 4-7-09

Approved a joint agreement with IDOT for the milling and resurfacing of Madison Avenue from Hadley to Jefferson Road.

Approved a resolution authorizing Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the Hillsboro Ave. project and for Gerber RoadPhase 4 construction engineering.

Approved Change Order #1 for Gerber Road in the amount of \$76,265.

Approved an IDOT resolution for maintenance of streets and highways appropriating \$353,000 in Motor Fuel Tax Funds.

Approved a resolution authorizing amendment to funding agreement to repair a storm sewer structure and erosion damage with the Villas of Country Club Homeowners Association in the amount of 7,300.

The Goshen Community Market will open on May 9,2009 until October 17, 2009.

3-17-09

All present.

Approved purchase of two mobile data computers for police vehicles.

Approved purchase of an air bag set and controller from Towers Fire Apparatus Co. for \$7025.

Approved a resolution authorizing Silver Oaks Amended Planned Unit Development.

**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

