

## Westside Improvement Association Inc.

*“Pointing Westward”*

**OUTLAW  
WESTSIDE  
LITTER!**

**TAKE PRIDE  
IN THE  
WESTSIDE!**



*To enhance the natural environment of the west side of Vanderburgh County and serve the common good of its residents by exerting influence on public and private sectors*



### From The President

*DeAnna Outlaw*

Happy March, Westsiders!

Last month, I wrote about ‘Pedestrian friendly’ development. This month, let’s talk about development on the University Parkway Corridor. You may be aware the County Commissioners, the Area Plan Commission and the Metropolitan Evansville Planning Commission have hired a consulting firm to create a plan for development along this corridor. The letter below is from the Westside Improvement Association Board to those elected and appointed officials:

The mission of the Westside Improvement Association is *“To enhance the natural environment of the west side of Vanderburgh County and serve the common good of its residents by exerting influence on public and private sectors”*. Accordingly, several of our members attended the stakeholder and public sessions held regarding the USI Parkway Corridor Plan. We were impressed with the professional and thorough presentations provided by the speakers and respectfully offer our comments regarding the University Parkway Corridor Plan.

Since development of University Parkway Corridor is inevitable, we commend the County Commissioners, Area Plan Commission (APC), Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and their consultant, Rundell Ernstberger Associates,

for creating a plan to guide that development. The aspects of the plan which we believe are critical include the following:

- Require Use and Development Commitments on re-zonings;
- Disallow “leap-frog” development;
- Limit development to residential and light commercial;
- Require all development to be built as approved by the Site Review Committee with no “after the fact changes”;
- Require landscaping and provisions for wildlife;
- Size all infrastructure to accommodate future growth, rather than current conditions;
- Disallow additional intersections;
- Install turn lanes at every intersection;
- Install acceleration / deceleration blisters at every intersection;
- Minimize traffic signals;
- Minimize night lighting;
- Require adequate drainage;
- Require developments to be pedestrian / bicycle friendly;
- Provide for connectivity between developments; and
- Require greenspace and set “high-end” aesthetic design standards.

In addition, we believe that tax phase-ins should not be used to entice developers and that any infrastructure improvements necessary to accommodate a planned, new development be privately funded, rather than using county funds.

(Continued on Page 2)

**MARCH GENERAL MEETING!  
Thursday, March 15 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
Howell Park Shelter**

Special guests, Prosecutor Nick Hermann and Sheriff Dave Wedding, will provide interesting information on:

- The Castle Doctrine  
    “Stand Your Ground”
- Drug Trends
- Security Systems for Your Home

See you there! Refreshments will be served.

**From the President** – Continued from Page 1

Finally, even the best plan is worthless if it is not followed. The west side of Evansville has been disfigured by inappropriate, poorly constructed, thoughtless development which was approved by our elected officials.

With the University Parkway Corridor Plan, we have an opportunity to “do it right”. We sincerely hope that the plan, when finished, will be respectful of the land, residents and wildlife. Moreover, we trust that our elected officials will adhere to the plan rather than capitulate to developers.

The University of Southern Indiana attracts students and visitors from around the world; the University Parkway should be a showcase – an economic development tool, a lovely “Welcome” mat for students, visitors and residents. If the developers and elected officials are mindful of neighborhood needs, the lovely terrain, the rural feel, and the overall opportunity this area represents, the University Parkway can be an example of a beautiful purposeful design that is for the people and family friendly. This hasn’t been seen on the west side and in very few other parts of Evansville. Let’s do this right the first time.

**CONCERNED ABOUT DEVELOPMENT ON  
THE WEST SIDE?**

Sign up for news and public notices at  
[universityparkwayplan@gmail.com](mailto:universityparkwayplan@gmail.com).

**Westside Improvement Association  
2018 Meeting Schedule**

General Meeting: 6:00pm-8:30pm	Thursday, March 15 Howell Park Shelter
Board Meeting: 5:00pm-6:30pm	Wednesday, April 25 Howell Park Shelter
General Meeting: 6:00pm-8:30pm	Thursday, May 17 Howell Park Shelter
Board Meeting: 5:00pm-6:30pm	Wednesday, June 20 Howell Park Shelter
Board Meeting: 5:00pm-6:30pm	Wednesday, July 25 Howell Park Shelter
Board Meeting: 5:00pm-6:30pm	Wednesday, August 22 Howell Park Shelter
General Meeting: 6:00pm-8:30pm	Thursday, Sept. 20 Howell Park Shelter
Board Meeting: 5:00pm-6:30pm	Wednesday, October 24 Howell Park Shelter
Holiday Banquet: 6:00pm-8:30pm	Thursday, November 15 To Be Announced

No Meeting in December.

**If EVSC is closed, WIA meetings will be cancelled.  
REMEMBER, MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC ARE  
ALWAYS INVITED!**

**DOC’S WORDS OF WISDOM**

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path, and leave a Trail”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Indiana's State Insect: Say's Firefly****By DeAnna Outlaw**

This session, the Indiana Legislature designated Say's Firefly as the state insect. The idea for a state insect originated at Cumberland Elementary School and was then followed by Happy Hollow Elementary School, in West Lafayette, where students have spent the past three years learning and researching about Say's Firefly and persistently lobbied lawmakers to adopt it as a state symbol. The students argued that the lightning bug best represents Indiana because of its agricultural benefits and place in American history.

The Say's Firefly was named for entomologist Thomas Say (1787-1834). He was born in Philadelphia and, as a self-taught naturalist, travelled on the famous "Boatload of Knowledge" to a utopian society experiment, the "New Harmony Settlement" in Indiana (1826-1834), a venture of Robert Owen. The insect was named in 1826 while he lived in New Harmony. By the way, fireflies are neither a bug nor a fly but a beetle.

Say described over 1,000 new species of beetles and over 400 species of insects of other orders and is widely considered the father of American entomology. No single individual before had discovered more new species than him. He died, apparently from typhoid fever, in New Harmony, Indiana, on October 10 1834, at 47 years old.

Some of my fondest childhood memories were watching 'lightening bugs' magically blinking their beacons through the velvet darkness of the night sky. The sweetness of evening blooms hung heavy across the grass while crickets and owls harmonized their nocturnal melodies. We knew it was summertime when the fireflies came out to play.

While I still derive much joy from watching fireflies, there seem to be a lot less in recent years. We still live in the county; in fact, the same house where those many years ago I watched thousands of fireflies each evening. What could be the cause of the dwindling numbers? After a little research, I learned that it is the same ol' story: it's us. We are harming yet another environmentally significant and beautiful creature because of our lifestyle. Fireflies are disappearing from marshes, fields and forests all over the country—and all over the world. And if it continues, fireflies may fade forever, leaving our summer nights a little darker and less magical.

Fireflies, as with many other organisms, are directly affected by land-use change such as loss of habitat area and connectivity, which is identified as the main driver of biodiversity changes in terrestrial ecosystems.

Since fireflies depend on their own light to reproduce, they are very sensitive to environmental levels of light and to light pollution. All firefly species speak a language of light—scientists believe they use it to attract mates, defend their territory, and warn off predators. Both male and female fireflies use their flashing lights to communicate. Some species synchronize their flashes, sometimes across groups of thousands of insects

Human light pollution is believed to interrupt firefly flash patterns. Scientists have observed that synchronous fireflies get out of synch for a few minutes after a car's headlights pass. Light from homes, cars, stores, and streetlights may all make it difficult for fireflies to signal each other during mating—meaning fewer firefly larvae are born next season.

Another problem is that in America and throughout the world, our open fields and forests are being paved over, and our waterways are seeing more development and noisy boat traffic. As their habitat disappears under housing and commercial developments, firefly numbers dwindle. Logging, pollution and increased use of pesticides may also contribute to destroying firefly habitat and natural prey.

What can we do to help increase firefly populations and even save them? Turn off your lights. Yes, at night turn off your bright outside lights and close your blinds. Plant native, fast growing trees and allow leaves to remain on the ground. Provide water for them to congregate. Avoid the use of pesticides and use natural fertilizers. Talk to your friends and neighbors.

Now that Indiana has the magical and delightful Say's Firefly as our State insect, let's do all we can to help its population grow.



**Recycling Drop off Days:  
8 am to 12 pm**

Mar. 10: Old Wal-Mart West

April 7: Old Wal-Mart West

Please be sure items are clean & sorted.

Items to bring: Aluminum cans, Metal food cans, cardboard, catalogs/ magazines, newspaper, junk mail & #1 thru #7 containers. No glass containers, Styrofoam or plastic bags.

Vanderburgh County Residents Only.

**Long Term Transportation Plan on the  
Drawing Board – YOUR INPUT IS  
NEEDED!**

The Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is currently updating the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The MPO is seeking public input regarding the region’s transportation system and what you would like to see improved between today and the year 2045. A survey to provide your input is available at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mtp2045>.

The survey should only take 5-10 minutes. The results will be used to help prioritize projects and guide the overall development of the MTP.

**Thursday, March 22 - Sustainable Urban  
Landscapes Symposium (Cincinnati)**

Hosted by Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, this symposium is focused on landscaping and gardening for pollinating insects. Pollinators are the very foundation of a healthy ecosystem, serving to control pest insects and to support food-producing plants for both wildlife and humans. Speakers includes Dr. Robert Geneve from the University of Kentucky, Mace Vaughn from the Xerces Society, Natalie Boyle from the USDA, and Scott Beuerlein and Steve Foltz from the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Fee \$75, includes parking, Zoo admission, lunch, snacks, and social hour. Register by March 19. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Frisch's Theater, Schott Education Building, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, 3400 Vine Street, Cincinnati, Ohio. To Purchase tickets:

<https://store.cincinnati-zoo.org/webstore/shop/ViewItems.aspx?CG=EDUP&C=HORT>

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**By Christie Outlaw**

March 1 – 3 pm: Area Plan Commission, Rm 301, Civic Center.\*

March 2 – 11 am-8 pm: Free Friday at the Evansville Museum, 411 S.E. Riverside Drive, Evansville, IN.

March 5 – 10 am: Commercial Site & Subdivision Review; Rm 318, Civic Center.

March 6 - 4:30 pm: Affordable Housing Fund Advisory Committee - Watch Online\*.

March 7 - 3:30 pm: County Council Meeting, Rm 301, Civic Center - Watch Online\*.

March 10 – 8 am-12 pm: Recycle Day Old Walmart West Parking lot.

March 12 – 10 am: Commercial Site & Subdivision Review, Rm 301, Civic Center - Watch Online\*.

March 13 - 2:30 pm-3 pm: Solid Waste District Board Meeting, Rm 301, Civic Center - Watch Online\*.

March 13 – 3 to 4 pm: Vanderburgh County Commissioners / Rezoning Meeting Drainage to follow Rm 301, Civic Center - Watch Online\*.

March 17 - 7:30 am: Run of Luck 7K West Franklin Street. This year’s event also will include a one-mile competitive run. Be sure to wear your best Paddie’s Day green! <http://www.facebook.com/runofluck>

March 17 – 10 am-1 pm: Evansville Donut Festival 2018 Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 300 Court St.

<http://www.upcomingevents.com/e/evansville-donut-festival-33638/?ref=ee>

March 1-18: Orchid Escape Mesker Park Zoo (included in Zoo Admission).

March 19 - 10 am: Commercial Site & Subdivision Review Civic Center Rm 318.

March 26 – 10 am: Commercial Site & Subdivision Review Civic Center Rm 318.

March 27 – 3 to 4 pm: Vanderburgh County Commission Meeting, Rm 301, Civic Center Drainage Meeting to follow- Watch Online\*.

March 31 – 1 pm: Westside Nut Club’s 71<sup>st</sup> Easter Egg Hunt at Mater Dei High School.

\*To watch online, go to [www.evansville.in.gov](http://www.evansville.in.gov) and click on “WATCH MEETINGS ONLINE”.



# ★ THANK YOU CENTURY MEMBERS ★

 <p><b>Bill Schenk CPA 812-425-3161</b></p>	<p><b><u>John Dillingham</u></b>                  J.E. Dillingham Heating &amp; Air                  Conditioning &amp; Refrigeration                  Industrial Commercial Resident                  Call 812 426-2505</p>	<p><b><u>Carol &amp; Larry Haller</u></b></p>
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***Westside Improvement Association Inc.***

***A Member of UNOE***

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**2018 Westside Improvement Association Officers**

**President:** DeAnna Outlaw, *Fall Festival Co-Chair*, 812-589-1657, [dpoutlaw@aol.com](mailto:dpoutlaw@aol.com)

**Sr. Vice-Pres.:** Dona Bergman, *Env'l Chair, Newsletter Editor*, 812-455-1421, [bergmandona@gmail.com](mailto:bergmandona@gmail.com)

**Jr. Vice President—** Linda Singer, *Scholarship Chair*, 424-2536, [lindaque@windstream.net](mailto:lindaque@windstream.net)

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**Secretary—** Brenda Stocker

**Membership Secretary—**Melanie Stagg, 812-483-9750, [justafloridagirl01@yahoo.com](mailto:justafloridagirl01@yahoo.com)

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