

Mayor's Column for the December 4, 2013 Edition of the Evansville Review

### **Miscellany**

**IMPORTANT RESIDENT INFORMATION ABOUT TRASH COLLECTION**—The City of Evansville is transitioning to a mechanized trash and recyclables collection system. **YOUR RESPONSE IS REQUIRED.** There will be three size options for containers, 35, 64, and 96 gallon carts. You will receive two carts, one for trash and one for recyclables. The trash and recyclable containers for a household must be the same size. You will receive a postcard in the mail for you to indicate your size selection and return by December 15. If you do not indicate a choice, the default carts will be the largest, 96 gallon size. Carts of each size are on display at Creekside Place, 102 Maple Street. The carts should be delivered and the mechanized system operational in January 2014.

Under the new system, trash will be collected weekly and recyclables every other week. The current tag system for excess and bulk items will be discontinued. Miscellaneous bulk items, excluding appliances and e-waste, will be collected monthly. E-waste, such as televisions and computers, can be delivered to the Public Works Department throughout the year. Appliance pick-up will need to be individually arranged with the contractor. More detailed information will be provided in the coming weeks.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE**—In mid-October, my husband John, as president of the Grove Society, and I attended the 2013 Local History and Historic Preservation Conference in Wisconsin Rapids, sponsored by the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Wisconsin Council for Local History. In recent years, the conferences have featured a Town Square, where local historical societies and organizations can exhibit information about their historical resources and projects. The Grove Society was an exhibitor—we distributed more than 250 pieces of literature about Evansville to participants from across the state, including the Evansville Historic District Walking Tour booklet, the Barn Quilts brochure, and the Evansville Visitors brochure. I was surprised by a conversation I had with two ladies from the Thiensville area at our exhibit. They recall attending the Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions conference held in Evansville in fall 2007. Sessions were held in St. John's Lutheran Church and an evening reception was held in the Eager Economy Building, then in the midst of restoration. They said it was the best conference they had attended because of the outstanding hospitality of the local church women that provided delicious food in a beautiful prairie-style building, the quality of the reception that included a talk by the restoration architect, Melissa Destree, and the remarkable architecture in our community.

Evansville received another compliment during one of the educational sessions I attended at the Wisconsin Rapids conference. Joe Lawniczak of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and a long-time design specialist of the Wisconsin Main Street Program gave a presentation on the value of historic restoration in downtowns. A woman attendee from Ashland was frustrated by her perceived lack of community support for some local downtown restoration projects in her city. She announced to the audience of

more than 50 that she would like to move to Evansville, “a community that gets it and is successful at preservation.” Evansville’s reputation for historic preservation is becoming well-known throughout Wisconsin.

**SCHOOL VISITS**—For the first time in eight years, inclement weather prevented all seven classes of third graders from participating in their fall field trips to City Hall. Two classes will schedule outings next spring. About forty-five minutes of their City Hall visits are spent in talking and Q & A with the mayor. This year we talked about the seven parks located in the city, costs of buildings, infrastructure, and equipment in our parks, and the new disc golf course.

A young man asked if men could be mayors in Evansville. To put this question in perspective, in 2007 there were 21 women mayors serving in Wisconsin’s 190 cities (11%). Recent history for this young man was Mayor Ringhand and Mayor Decker.

**DISC GOLF COURSE**—The first disc golf tournament in Lake Leota Park, sanctioned by the Disc Golf Association, was held on a rainy, windy Sunday a couple of weeks ago. Around thirty hardy participants enjoyed our new course, many from Madison. They spent the day in our distinctive park and lunched in our local food establishments.

The disc golf baskets will remain in place until spring, when they will be temporarily removed during the spring thaw. Disc golf is played all year. Expect to see people using our newest park amenity in the coming months.

**SUPPORT LOCAL**—It is the time of year when many spending and donation decisions are made. I encourage you to consider shopping local. Supporting our local businesses makes our community financially stronger. I also ask that you consider our many local organizations that make Evansville a better place when you are making year-end contributions.

### **Community Announcements**

The yard waste facility is now closed for the year and will reopen in spring 2014.

Winter parking regulations are now in effect until April 1. On-street, alternate side parking is enforced from 1 a.m. until 7 a.m. On odd dates, please park on the odd side of the street. On even dates, park on the even side of the street. Be sure to use the date at 1:00 a.m. to determine appropriate parking location.

The Evansville Genealogy Group will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, at Eager Free Public Library, 39 West Main Street. Solveig Quinney, library services specialist at the Norwegian American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library, will speak about verifying the validity of ancestors’ stories.

The AWARE in Evansville Love Light Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on Friday evening, December 6, at 6:00 p.m. at Evansville Manor, 470 Garfield Avenue.

The annual Holiday Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, December 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at J. C. McKenna Middle School Gym, 307 South First Street.

The Evansville Ecumenical Choir Christmas Concert will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 8, at Oak Grove Church, 101 West Church Street.

A workshop entitled "Creative Writing" will be held at Eager Free Public Library on Thursday, December 12, at 6:00 p.m. Pre-registration at the Library is requested.

### **Community Congratulations/Thanks**

Our community congratulates Eagle Scout Montana Leggett for collaborating with the City of Evansville to receive an Evansville Fund grant award in the amount of \$2000. The funds will be used towards installation of two additional flag poles as part of the Maple Hill Cemetery Rostrum Renovation, Montana's Eagle Scout project.

Evansville citizens thank the Evansville Fund for recently awarding \$11,750 in grant awards to eight local projects. These grants support programs that enhance our quality of life and education.

We thank Friends of Eager Free Public Library and our area's fabulous bakers for holding the recent pie sale to benefit our Library, as well as the purchasers of the wonderful desserts. Our family enjoyed a scrumptious pumpkin pie made with fresh pumpkin on Thanksgiving and a delectable apple pie during a weekend getaway.