

Mayor's Column for the May 8, 2013 Edition of the Evansville Review

Lots of Community Info and Reminders

**At Creekside Place (102 Maple Street) at 6:30 p.m. tonight, May 8, 2013, the Evansville Inventors and Entrepreneurs Club is hosting Joshua Clements, University of Wisconsin-Extension Community and Economic Development Educator for Walworth County. He will make a presentation on Innovative Downtown Businesses, a toolbox for historic downtowns, developed by UW-Extension. Downtowns are opportunities to be catalysts for enhancing community economic and social vitality and vibrancy.

A retail market analysis undertaken for Evansville by Ady Voltedge, an economic development consulting firm, included a finding that we needed to continue our downtown revitalization efforts as we work on expanding local economic development opportunities. National and regional site selectors look at thriving downtowns as an indicator of healthy community environments.

The program is free and open to the public. I encourage citizens interested in supporting our economic development activities to attend.

**The Evansville High School Plant Sale is underway this week, May 6 through May 10, at the High School Greenhouse from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Plants will also be sold at the Evansville Farmers Market this Saturday.

** The Evansville Farmers Market outdoor season has started. The Market will be held Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Creekside Place. Shopping the Market is a good way to support buying fresh and local. Last week I purchased asparagus, eggs, bakery items, and dog treats.

**T-Ball and Little League teams are currently being formed. Registration has been extended and sign-up continues at City Hall.

**Evansville residents have until Friday, May 17, to complete the park and outdoor recreation survey. The survey can be found on-line at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2013EvansvilleParkPlan>. Paper copies are available at City Hall. Survey results will be incorporated into the 2013-2018 city park and recreation plan that will be completed this summer.

More than 300 surveys have been completed so far. One preliminary finding is that more than 75% of respondents indicate the need for additional walking and biking trails. A public open house and hearing will be scheduled in the coming months for additional comments and suggestions prior to plan adoption.

Park and outdoor recreation plans are a requirement for a number of federal and state grant funding sources. For example, there are currently some funding sources available

for bike trail development. Our new plan will allow us to take advantage of emerging opportunities.

**The third annual Rally 'Round the Flag Civil War Commemoration will be held May 17-19. The popular candle-light Living History Cemetery Theater will occur at 8:00 p.m. Friday evening, May 17, at Maple Hill Cemetery. Saturday highlights include re-dedication of Evansville's Civil War Memorial at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall, 2:30 p.m. 1st Brigade Band Concert at Lake Leota Park, and 7:30 p.m. Songs 'Round the Campfire and Ice Cream Social (ticketed) at the Upper Park Pavilion at Leota Park. Sunday activities include a noon Victorian Tea (ticketed) with Jessica Michna as Mary Todd Lincoln at the Upper Park Pavilion and 2:00 p.m. ceremony honoring the 75th anniversary of the Woman's Relief Corps flagpole dedication at the Boy Scout facility at the Park.

For a complete schedule for this family-friendly, alcohol-free weekend celebration, go to <http://www.grovesociety.org/2013-schedule.html>.

**The recent local National Park Service public open house regarding Ice Age Trail development in Rock County was extremely well attended. There were well over 100 people at the Evansville meeting. I thank all of the citizens who took time from busy schedules to attend. Public interest in trail development is important in the determination of trail location.

The Park Service is taking written comment on trail development until June 1. I strongly urge citizens to take time to make comments, including those of you who attended the meeting. The community benefits for location through Evansville are great. To comment on-line, go to <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>. Find Ice Age National Scenic Trail in the listing and then the list of documents open for comment. Comments can also be mailed to National Park Service, Ice Age National Scenic Trail, 700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100, Madison WI 53711.

**Curbside yard waste pick-up is occurring this week, May 6 to 10. Please place your waste and brush on the terrace to keep debris out of storm sewers.

**The Garfield Avenue street reconstruction will commence on May 20. Preliminary work is already occurring with some tree removal and gas company improvements.

**With warmer weather, garage and yards sales become frequent. The Evansville Municipal Code prohibits placement of signs on public property. Signs are not to be attached or taped to light poles and street signs or placed in terraces between the sidewalk and street. Please be considerate of your fellow citizens.

**Similarly, spring weather brings additional dog walkers on city streets and in parks. Be considerate of community safety and cleanliness by leashing your dogs and cleaning up after your pets.

****Twelve citizens participated in the Lake Leota Bird Walk to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day last Saturday morning. 54 species of birds were sighted during the morning. A list can be found elsewhere in this paper. Some of the interesting birds that were seen included a belted kingfisher, ruddy duck, pied-billed grebe, northern parula, spotted sandpiper, and blackburnian warbler. In the coming weeks, we will be posting information on birding on the city website as recognition of our Bird City Wisconsin designation.**

****Some city residents have been receiving solicitations from a company called HomeServe, offering water line protection. This company is not endorsed by or connected to the city in any way. Please exercise diligence and caution when considering any insurance product.**

Community Congratulations and Thanks

Landmark has begun an expansion at its rail shuttle-loading facility. Additional storage and a dryer will provide the ability to better serve cooperative members and customers. Congratulations to a long-time Evansville business!

We are grateful to Julie Hermanson of AWARE in Evansville for organizing the new record of 58 exhibitors at the Week of the Young Child Family Night. Our youngsters enjoyed the extensive variety of hands-on activities.

Our downtown was bustling with activity during the recent Friday evening Art Crawl. Kudos to Lisa James and Margaret LeMay for their efforts at coordinating exhibiting artists with hosting businesses. Greg Ardisson provided great live jazz music at the Night Owl wrap-up party. The winner of the gift basket of artist goodies was a visitor from Byron, Illinois.

Our city thanks Evansville Girl Scout Troops for holding last weekend's spring food drive benefitting the Care Closet Food Pantry. The Scouts are living a portion of the Girl Scout Promise, "to help other people at all times."

Evansville thanks citizens that participated on city committees for the betterment of our community. Kim Miller, Justin Brooks, Jerry Krueger, Larry Dobbs, Steve Melanz, and Richard Schuch have each served our city for several years and we are grateful for their efforts.

We congratulate Evansville resident Dan Emery for his recent recognition at the Rock County Historical Society annual meeting. Dan has served as foreman for the restoration and maintenance of the Charles Tallman House in Janesville for the last three years.

Congratulations and thanks to the cast, crew, sponsors, and enthusiastic supporters of the Evansville High School Drama Department's presentation of the Wizard of Oz. Our community was treated to delightful performances of family theater entertainment. Saturday night's show was a sell-out. Bravo!

