

MAP Reading

Muncie in Transition

Neighborhoods

Neighborhood Associations are alive and well in Muncie Indiana! Half of Muncie's identified neighborhoods have active associations and others are being developed. The presidents of these associations meet monthly as they work to harness and prioritizing the ideas and energy of their neighborhoods. At their July meeting the presidents explored the possibility of participating in leadership training that would help them and others learn how to harness the potential within each neighborhood. Neighborhood Associations help solve problems by bringing people together. The principle at work is the belief that a group working together can improve a situation or a condition better than can one person working alone. Neighborhood Associations make neighborhood stronger because when people know each other than neighbor looks out for neighbor and more eyes and ears are focused on what is happening in the neighborhood and reporting to each other. Several neighborhoods have email chains, notifying each other about the activities of the neighborhood association including yard sales and picnics. They also notify each other when break-ins occur or when suspicious people in the area and other potential problems. This kind of network can reduce crime and get boots on the ground that may deter crime from happening. Neighborhood associations create pockets of energy and activity that can energize an area turning a blighted landscape into one of beauty or bustling activity.

Sustainable Muncie

The Muncie Action Plan (MAP) and the Building Better Communities (BBC) program at Ball State University (BSU) came together to sponsor the Sustainable Muncie Immersive Learning Project. The project consisted of 5 students (Cale Rauch, Kaleb Chowning, Aroma Zhang, Bailey Shannon, and Aubry Damon) and their faculty mentor, Dr. David Hua. The intent of the project was to develop recommendations on what should be done with the Muncie Energy Council.

An investigation of other cities found that municipal energy conservation initiatives into are frequently coordinated by Offices of Sustainability. These offices were tasked with the implementation of programs, projects, or policies that improve sustainability in their communities. For the purpose of the project, sustainability was defined as efforts to improve the quality of life by fulfilling the social, economic, and environmental needs of present and

future generations in the City of Muncie.

It was the recommendation of the project that the City of Muncie pursue the development of an Office of Sustainability. Such an office would address issues such as natural resource conservation, waste reduction, and recommend policies and/or procedures that promote sustainability for the City of Muncie. In addition to working with city government on sustainability issues, an Office of Sustainability would also coordinate programs that have a direct impact on the citizens of the City of Muncie. At a minimum, the office could support and coordinate the efforts of the sustainability-related projects and programs that operate in the Muncie community. These include projects such as community gardens, Muncie Clean and Beautiful, and Ball State University projects.

A survey conducted by the student group found broad

support for sustainability efforts. It was also determined that the community would benefit from a website that provides the citizens of Muncie with a clearinghouse of available sustainability-related resources in the community. The student group has developed such a website based on the resources identified through the survey with the hopes that it will be available in the near future. The website will also employ several social media tools to share information, increase awareness, and notify citizens of upcoming sustainability-related events.

The student group is in the final stages of developing a formal proposal on how the City of Muncie could organize, staff, and fund an Office of Sustainability.

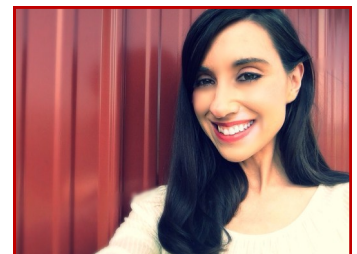
Continuing the Muncie Energy Center in some form was an original action step for MAP and through this project and the efforts of Dr. Hua and his students there is good progress being made in that direction.

Meet Aimee Fant

A big part of MAP's influence on Muncie has been the development of neighborhoods. Former Neighborhood Coordinator Jessie Slaven led the initial phases of MAP's neighborhood efforts along with Task Force 2 MAP Chair Jim Wingate. The efforts over three years saw the establishment of more than 20 new and active neighborhood associations and a viable Neighborhood Presidents Council that meets monthly to

review key issues. Aimee is a Muncie native, attended Muncie Central, and now works at the Youth Opportunity Center. She is also a Community Relations Professional/Digital Media Photojournalist and Co-Founder of Muncie Matters. Her strong community interest and local base makes her ideal to lead the second phase of MAP's neighborhood organization initiatives. Aimee will be attending neighborhood meetings, working to organize new associ-

ations, and supporting MAP's Task Force 2. WELCOME AIMEE!



NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

Anthony-Northside - Wednesday, July 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Kennedy Library.

Blaine/Southeast - Tuesday, July 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the Serenity Club, 1218 S. Brotherton.

East Central - Sunday, July 6, 6 p.m. at Blood and Fire, 300 N. Madison

Forest Park - Thursday, July 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Delaware County Senior Citizens Center, 2517 W. 8th.

Halteman Village Neighborhood Meeting - Tuesday, July 1 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lutheran Church of the Cross, 4401 N. Wheeling.

Indian Village - Thursday, July 3 at 6 p.m. at Pilgrim Holiness Academy, 2720 Apache Pass.

Industry - Thursday, July 24 at 6:00 p.m., Price Hall, 704 S. Madison St.

Minnetrista Central Neighborhood Association - Tuesday, July 1 at 7 p.m. at Minnetrista.

Old West End - Tuesday, July 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Dining Room, Friends Memorial Church, 418 W. Adams.

Riverside/Normal City - Wednesday, July 23 at 7:00 p.m. at Hazelwood Christian Church Fellowship House (Mansion), 1400 University.

South Central - Tuesday, July 24, at 7:00 p.m. at Urban Light Education Center.

Thomas Park/Avondale - Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Ross Center, 1110 W. 10th.

Western Woods, Wednesday July 2 at 6 p.m. at West View Elementary, 3401 W. Gilbert.

Whitely - Monday, July 14, 5:30 p.m., Muncie Area Career Center, 2500 N. Elgin.

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