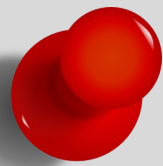


December, 2014

Muncie Action Plan 2



MAP Reading

Happy Holidays

MAP Semi-Annual Report to the Community

Hidden Gems

The Dr. Joe and Alice Rinard Orchid Greenhouse offers a quiet respite from the busy world...until you get caught up in its amazing diversity of orchids. The orchids at BSU's greenhouse in Christy Woods (another hidden gem) are housed in the Wheeler Orchid Collection and Species Bank, which was created over a span of almost three decades. The collection currently has approximately 1,800 plants. The orchid, in addition to being a star in a Meryl Streep movie (*Adaptation*), is part of a plant species known as monocots, which have been around for about 65 million years.



Orchids are renowned for their beauty and complexity and have long been admired and cultivated. Stop in the greenhouse from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or attend one of the special programs put on by Ball State. For more information go to www.greenhouse.iweb.bsu.edu. Guided tours are available. Contact 765-285-2641 for more information. If you know of other "Hidden Gems," please forward the information to MAP (www.muncieactionplan.org). They are out there!

MAP engaged the community on December 3, 2014 at Open Door Health Services and presented progress on major initiatives and the status of upcoming activities. About 60 people attended the event, which marked five years of activity by MAP since the adoption of the original MAP plan in 2010. The presentation included discussion of:

- Creation of the B5 Early Childhood Education Initiative and a stand-alone non-profit organization to support it with over \$900,000 in funding;
- Development of 20 new and currently active neighborhood associations that have energized residents and the city to create important improvements throughout Muncie;
- Implementation of a city-wide campaign through the Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau to improve Muncie's image (see MyMuncie.org).
- Support for important initiatives such as the Muncie Arts and Cultural Council Cultural Trail, downtown planning and development, and forward-thinking ordinances to improve the aesthetic appeal of the community; and,
- Realization and enhancement of Tuhey Pool, Prairie Creek Reservoir, Cardinal Greenway, and other vital community assets.

Details of the presentation can be found on the MAP website at www.muncieactionplan.org.



Winner, School Art Contest



Gathering for Dec 3 meeting



Lighting of the tree

MAP's Executive Board

MAP board members spend many hours volunteering for MAP and other activities in the community. Recent additions to the board include **Jenni Marsh**, President/CEO of the United Way, and **Tricia Stanley**, President of the IU Health Ball Memorial Foundations. Other members are **George Branam, MD** and Co-Chair; **Donna Browne**, Muncie Public Library, Co-Chair; **Terry Whitt Bailey**, Director, City of Muncie Community Develop-

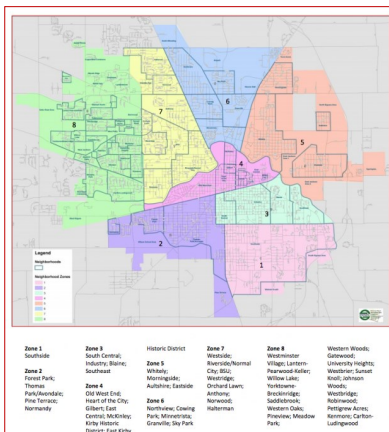
ment Department; **Dale Basham**, Retired, Muncie Community Schools; **Andy Bowne**, East Central Chancellor, IvyTech; **Betty Brewer**, CEO/President, Minnetrista; **Cornelius Dollison**, Whitely Community Council; **John Fallon**, Associate Vice President, Ball State University; **Linda Gregory**, Muncie City Council; **Connie Gregory**, Retired, formerly with City of Muncie; **Tim Heller**, Superintendent, Muncie Community Schools; **Roni Johnson**, Retired, formerly

Executive Director of the Community Foundation; **Tom Kinghorn**, Vice President, Ball State University; **Marta Moody**, Director, Muncie-Delaware County Metropolitan Planning Commission; **Ginny Nilles**, Director, Muncie Public Library; Kelly Shrock, President, Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County; and, **Jim Wingate**, Retired, Midwest Metals Executive.

Get information about MAP at <http://muncieactionplan.org>

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

- Anthony-Northside** - No meeting scheduled for December.
- Blaine/Southeast** - Tuesday, December 9 at 6:00 p.m. at the Serenity Club, 1218 S. Brotherton.
- East Central** - Sunday, December 7 at 6 p.m. at Blood and Fire, 300 N. Madison.
- Forest Park** - No meeting scheduled for December.
- Gatewood** - No meeting scheduled for December.
- Gilbert** - Monday, December 8 at 7 p.m. at Inside Out, 200 N. Madison.
- Grove Park** - No meeting scheduled for December.
- Haltman Village** - Tuesday, December 9 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lutheran Church of the Cross, 4401 N. Wheeling.
- Indian Village** - Thursday, December 4 at 6 p.m. at Pilgrim Holiness Academy, 2720 Apache Pass.
- Industry** - Thursday, December 18 at 6:00 p.m. at Price Hall, 704 S. Madison.
- Ludngwood** - Tuesday, December 23 at 7 p.m. at Ludingwood/Woodlands Nursing Home, 3820 W. Jackson.
- Minnetrista Central** - Tuesday, December 2 at 7 p.m. at Minnetrista.
- Northview** - Monday, December 15 at 7 p.m. at Northview Elementary School, 807 W. Yale.
- Old West End** - Tuesday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Dining Room, Friends Memorial Church, 418 W. Adams.
- Riverside/Normal City** - Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. at Hazelwood Christian Church Fellowship House (Mansion), 1400 W. University.
- Thomas Park/Avondale** - Wednesday, December 3 at 6:30 p.m. at Ross Center, 1110 W. 10th.
- Westridge** - Thursday, December 11 at 5:30 p.m. at Bracken Library, Ball State University.
- Western Woods**, Wednesday, December 3 at 6 p.m. at West View Elementary, 3401 W. Gilbert.
- Whitely** - Monday, December 8 at 5:30 p.m., Muncie Area Career Center, 2500 N. Elgin.



FROM RUINS TO GARDENS

The Star Press headline in Section A on Sunday, December 7 reflected what can be good about urban planning - *Gary Church Turns Into Ruin Gardens*. The church is the former City Methodist Church...the ruins are remains of the sanctuary where the roof caved in opening the interior to the sky. The church was abandoned in 1975 and has been a target of vandals, children, and movie makers,. It is now being planned as a European-style "ruins garden." The garden will be a public park that could host weddings and other events according to Gary's Building Commissioner, Steven Marcus. This reuse is an example of how cities like Muncie are reusing abandoned property.



While nobody is praying for an older church in Muncie to cave in, there are numerous abandoned and blighted properties begging for reuse. The City has programs can allow private individuals and groups, such as neighborhood associations, to obtain abandoned and blighted properties for positive and community-enhancing end uses. The Muncie Redevelopment Commission is authorized to acquire and dispose of abandoned residential properties. The focus of this effort is to return the properties to productive use, including neighborhood revitalization, home ownership, community gardens and orchards, parks, and other uses. Specific programs include:

- MRC Residential
- Urban Revitalization
- Side Lot Program
- Community Garden & Orchard Program
- Pocket Park Program

For information on how residents, neighborhood associations, non-profit organizations, church groups and private businesses can participate in these programs contact Chris Allen, the MRC Residential Administrator, at 765-747-4825 or callen@cityofmuncie.com

