

March 2014

Muncie Action Plan 2



MAP Reading

Muncie in Transition

CITY TO APPLY FOR HARDEST HIT FUNDS

The City of Muncie will be applying for a portion of the Hardest Hit Funds that have been allocated by the U.S. Department of Treasury for Blight Elimination. A total of \$75 million has been set aside for this new program. The Indiana Housing and Community Development Association (IHCDA) will be administering the program for Indiana and have divided the state into six funding divisions based on population size. Muncie is in Division 3 with similar communities such as Terre Haute, Bloomington, and Anderson. The City is planning to apply for \$4 million. The goal of the Hardest Hit Funds Blight Elimination Program is to demolish abandoned homes and stabilize property values in Indiana communities. Commercial and industrial properties are not eligible to receive funding for demolition. A key feature of the Blight Elimination Program is that an end use for the property must be determined in the application. Potential end uses include, but are not limited to: community/neighborhood gardens, pocket parks, sites for new build construction or other redevelopment purposes. For further information regarding the Blight Elimination Program, please contact the Muncie Community Development Office at 747-4825.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We know that the economy is improving. But for many Midwest cities that is not enough. (To be successful in the future Muncie and other Midwest cities must pull together and make education a priority).

MAP's Task Force 1 has a vision for the future based on an educated workforce with a high quality standard of living at relatively low cost. MAP recognizes achieving this vision will be a 20 year process. In fact, Mike Hicks, Director of Ball State's Center for Economic and Business Research, said that MAP's focus on developing an educated work force is on track. Companies in the future are going to mandate well trained work forces as well as high standards of living to make significant investments and relocate or build here. This is not something that can be done quickly.

We also know that more investment, more manufacturing, use of new buildings and reuse of old (think the new shell building with 30 foot ceilings and the Borg Warner Plant with 15 foot ceilings) is critical for Muncie to evolve from its current state of city with a university and hospital based economy.

MAP understands that working together to build public-private partnerships and working groups is a critically important. When people work together to identify actions the community acts as one to move forward and when that occurs great things happen.

John Fallon, Associate Vice President of Economic Development and Community Engagement for BSU's Building Better Communities says he is very encouraged by the emphasis local city and community leaders are putting on developing a quality "sense of place." According to Mr. Fallon, that "sense of place" can be instrumental in attracting talent to the community which will then attract business.

Economic Development is important because it usually means economic growth and that is a key ingredient of any successful city or community. MAP (is working or believes the next step is an economic development summit that can build on recent successes-- University Village, Dicks, the new car dealerships on McGalliard, and other ventures that represent positive investment in the community. The purpose of the summit will be to identify a clear set of strategies working with the Chamber, Visitor's Bureau, Rotary, Lions, the Foundations, and other groups **to market Muncie to the world.**

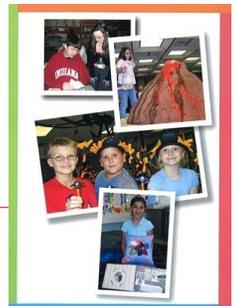


Community Foundation Announces Grants for Teachers

It's a tough time to be a teacher. Between preparing your students to meet standards and making sure you attend all the required training and earn your PGPs, it's hard to introduce new projects for your students. **We get that.** That's why The Community Foundation of Muncie & Delaware County offers Robert P. Bell

Education Grants. In less than an hour, you can easily prepare a grant request that could award you anywhere from \$50-\$450 to complete a classroom project, program or innovative idea. Robert P. Bell Education Grants are available to K-12 teachers working in Delaware County schools including counselors, special needs teachers, and itin-

erant teachers. Small groups of teachers are also welcome to submit an application for joint projects. Go online to www.cfmdin.org for more information.



View the MAP2 Report at <http://muncieactionplan.org>

Photo Gallery



www.muncieactionplan.com

PLAYGROUNDS

With winter appearing never to end, it is never too early to think about Spring. Through a partnership between the West View Community Association (WVCA) and Muncie Community schools, over \$100,000 has been raised for new playgrounds at West View elementary school. The first was completed in 2011 on the west side of the school, which is off of Gilbert Street just west of Tillotson. The second will be constructed this spring on the east side of the school and will feature structures more suitable for younger children. Playgrounds have evolved substantially over the years. From pure metal (which boils in summer) to the carbon fiber and plastic elements, there are many options to help people get fit and have fun. Adults can easily get some exercise on the new playgrounds while watching their kids or grand kids. Just join the kids and try and mimic their actions. The playground development initiatives were conceived by WVCA in 2010. Once the east side playground is complete, WVCA is going to raise funds to rebuild the baseball field off West View Boulevard. Stay tuned and if you can help your local PTO. Together, we make a difference.

ALL OVER THE MAP

On Thursday, April 3, 2014, a most significant event will occur in Muncie. We strongly recommend you mark your calendars to attend because the likelihood of its ever occurring again, in our town, in any of our life-times, is very remote. On that day Mrs. Eva Kor will be here to "tell her story," about her life in a Nazi concentration camp in Auschwitz, Poland during World War II, which included human experimentation on 1500 sets of twins including herself and her twin sister by the notorious Nazi physician, Josef Mengele. She currently lives in Terre Haute, Indiana, where she has established a museum commemorating the Holocaust, (called Candles) which she helps to support by talking to audiences around the midwest. Her visit is supported by the Department of Jewish Studies, the office of the Provost, and Emens Auditorium at Ball State University, the Ball Brother's Foundation and the Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, as well as the City of Muncie, other groups and individuals.

There will be two events. The first one will involve the Muncie Middle Schoolers at 1:00 p.m. at the Northside School's Auditorium. The Muncie Community Schools has graciously agreed to bus students from the Wilson Middle School, and the appropriate grades from Burriss to the roughly two hour event. Other secondary students from South Side and Central High Schools, along with our County Schools, and those in surrounding counties are being encouraged to attend the second event which will take place at Emens Auditorium.

The program at Emens, which is free and open to the public, will begin at 3:00 p.m. with a documentary film, following which there will be a brief interlude around 3:45 p.m. during which Mayor Dennis Tyler will acknowledge certain people who have been instrumental in organizing this program, especially the Committee for a Positive Influence, chaired by Mr. Steve Robert, and Dr. Frank Felsenstein, Head of Jewish Studies at Ball State.

Virtually our entire community is supporting this event. It would be wonderful if all together we could fill Emens to show this lady

