

July, 2015

Muncie Action Plan **2**



MAP Reading

MAP Moves Forward as Muncie Celebrates 150 Years

Volunteer Spotlight - Mark Kinman - Forest Park President

One of Muncie's greatest assets is its citizens who choose to give back to the community. One of those volunteers is Mark Kinman, current president of the Forest Park Neighborhood Association. A native of Muncie, Mark works as a freight broker for Universal Truckload, Inc. Mark got involved when Forest Park was being organized through MAP's early neighborhood efforts, which included walking the neighborhood, distributing fliers, and scheduling meetings at the 8th Street Senior Center. In September 2012, the neighborhood organization was formalized. Mark became president by default as he had been its main catalyst. An important issue for Forest Park was West 9th Street west of Mill Street, which had never been paved. After years of back-and-forth between residents and the City and with support from the neighborhood association, the road was paved in 2013. Sadly, the resident who lived along the road and really wanted this improvement died from cancer just after it was paved, but she was able to walk on it and was grateful for the change. Mark is a regular at Neighborhood Presidents Council meetings. Thanks to Mark and those like him, our neighborhoods continue to improve.



ADVANCE East Central Indiana—Summit

ADVANCE is a regional planning effort focusing on the East Central Indiana counties of Delaware, Henry, Jay, Madison, and Randolph Counties. The impetus for the project is the opportunity to participate in Indiana's Regional Cities Initiative. According to the website of the Muncie-Delaware County, Indiana Economic Development Alliance, the lead agency for the initiative, ADVANCE encourages communities to develop a vision and action plans that will "attract and retain future generations of Hoosiers." A consulting team comprised of Ninigret Partners (Providence, RI) and Planning Next (Columbus, OH) is supporting the Alliance. A "summit" meeting was held on June 6 at the Horizon Convention Center and was attended by nearly 250 concerned residents. A follow-up meeting will be held July 28 from 6-8 p.m. at the Horizon Convention Center. The summit program began with a State of the Region report that focused on key socio-economic and place-based trends. The presentation outlined a number of key assets for which the community should be proud. It also revealed several negative trends, suggesting a Regional Development Plan is fundamental. Trends related to population loss, low median income, and diminishing home values make a strong case for collective action. Following the report, participants were asked to think about their aspirations for the region. A "Write the headline" activity asked participants to think about the effect of a successful ADVANCE process 20 years into the future. One headline boldly stated, "Rust belt becomes gold belt as young people stay for hi-tech jobs in health and science fields." The planning team for the ADVANCE process presented the framework for the Regional Development Plans as outlined by the state. The Indiana Economic Development Corporation is overseeing the process and recently detailed the criteria for projects eligible for funding. The team presented the state's categories and asked participants to consider their priorities. Improving the quality of place, and addressing basic infrastructure needs were identified as the top categories.

MAP Board Retreat

The Board of Muncie Action Plan participated in a half-day planning retreat on June 11. Facilitator Ray Montagno lead members in a series of assessment and visioning activities designed to gather input and prioritize goals and objectives for MAP's five Task Forces for the coming year. The Board also examined organizational functions including board strengthening, administration, public relations, and fundraising.



Approximately 250 people attended the ADVANCE Summit.

NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS

MAP produced a neighborhood development plan for Western Woods as one of its first neighborhood collaboration efforts. Among its recommendations was traffic calming at Riverside and Clarksdale, a busy location for pedestrians and bicyclists on a busy thoroughfare. The City worked with the neighborhood and recently put in a four-way stop that by all reports has slowed traffic. On June 16, Task

Force 2 and the Neighborhood President's Council held a picnic in Heekin Park featuring bar-be-que and other summer favorites. Despite all the rain during June, the weather held and it was a nice event for all. The Gatewood neighborhood held its annual picnic on June 14 and for the second year running asked it adjoining neighborhoods, Western Woods and Kenmore, to join the fun. Approximately 50 people attended and

the picnic hosted a bouncy house for children and yard games. During the week of July 22nd, Whitely held a "Neighborhood Makeover," with volunteers from local churches helping with painting, neighborhood improvements and other projects. The Forest Park Neighborhood Association is sponsoring an Ice Cream Social on Saturday, July 25 at 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center on W. Eighth Street.

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Anthony-Northside - Wednesday, July 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Kennedy Library.

Blaine/Southeast - Tuesday, July 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the Serenity Club, 1218 S. Brotherton.

Cowing Park - Thursday, July 23 at 6 p.m. at Gesthamane United Methodist Church, 1201 E. McGalliard Rd.

East Central - Sunday, June 5 at 6 p.m. at the Emily Kimbrough House, 715 E. Washington.

Forest Park - Thursday, July 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Delaware County Senior Citizens Center, 2517 W. 8th.

Gilbert - Tuesday, July 16 at 7 p.m. at Inside Out, 300 N. Madison.

Grove Park - Thursday, July 9 at 7 p.m. at Munsee Lanes at 601 E. 25th.

Halteman Village - Tuesday, July 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lutheran Church of the Cross, 4401 N. Wheeling.

Industry - Thursday, July 30 at 6:00 p.m. at Price Hall, 704 S. Madison.

Ludingwood - Tuesday, July 28 at 7 p.m. at Ludingwood/Woodlands Nursing Home, 3820 W. Jackson.

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

Northview - Monday, July 27 at 7 p.m. at Northview Elementary School, 807 W. Yale.

Old West End - Tuesday, July 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Dining Room, Friends Memorial Church, 418 W. Adams.

Riverside/Normal City - Wednesday, July 22 at 7:00 p.m. at Hazelwood Christian Church Fellowship House (Mansion), 1400 W. University.

Thomas Park/Avondale - Wednesday, August 5 at 6:30 p.m. at Ross Center, 1110 W. 10th.

Westridge - Thursday, July 9 at 5:30 p.m. at Bracken Library, Ball State University.

Western Woods, Wednesday, August 5 at 6 p.m. at West View Elementary, 3401 W. Gilbert.

Whitely - Monday, July 13 at 5:30 p.m., Muncie Area Career Center, 2500 N. Elgin.

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MUNCIE SESQUICENTENNIAL

Muncie: 1905–1920

At the turn of the 20th century, many of Muncie's factories converted from gas powered machines to steam. Life continued beyond the Gas Boom, and new apartment buildings, hotels, schools, and businesses opened. The W. W. Shirk building (named for local banker William W. Shirk) was completed in 1906 as a commercial and residential space – it is now known as Canopic Apartments. Hotels such as the Delaware Hotel and Roberts Hotel (now The Loft at Roberts apartments) opened. Over 150 grocery stores operated in Muncie in the early 1900s. Some department stores even sold groceries. The automobile industry also arrived, and new factories opened, some manufacturing cars, some manufacturing parts. The 1908 Inter-State automobile designed by Muncie resident Thomas Hart was manufactured at his Inter-State Automobile Company in Muncie.

The women's suffrage movement was gaining attention, and in 1912 the Women's Franchise League of Muncie was established with 179 charter members. In 1913, the Muncie Home Hospital was founded on Mulberry Street. The hospital had a 60 bed capacity, compared to the 8 bed capacity of the Whitney Hospital opened by William and Elmer Whitney in 1891. A devastating flood following heavy downpours that began on Easter Sunday of 1913 put much of north Muncie under water. Several houses and bridges were swept away.

As WWI began in 1914, production in factories such as Inter-State shifted to help the war effort, with plans to resume regular production after the war. However, Inter-State was sold to GM after the war, and several smaller factories in Muncie during this time also closed or were absorbed by larger companies.

In 1915, the population of Muncie reached 35,000. Silent films were a new form of entertainment, and *The Man Haters* was filmed in Muncie that year. There were nearly a dozen companies listed under "moving picture" theatres in the Muncie city directory (including the Orpheum, Crystal, Majestic, and Vaudelle theatres). There was even a "Muncie Film & Supply Company" at 202 ½ E. Main Street that sold "all kinds of supplies for moving picture theatres."

Text and photos were provided by Sara McKinley, Local History and Genealogy Specialist, Muncie Public Library.



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