



Westside Improvement Association Inc.

Pointing Westward

Volume 31, Issue 2 | February 2023

Thoughts from the President

I hope this year brings new and wonderful changes/happenings to Westside Improvement Association. As you can see in another posting in the newsletter, we have a great Board of Directors for 2023. I expect good things from this group of people. Thank you to each and every one of the board for stepping up.

One of the upcoming changes is Katie Koewler will be our new newsletter editor. Katie and I will be transitioning in the next couple of months. I am so pleased and excited! I have been editor for some years now. It is a lengthy process to collect articles and information, print and mail every

month. Katie will bring a fresh breath of air to our newsletter. I so appreciate everyone who has contributed articles over the years and I want that same support to continue with Katie.

Please support the WIA officers, board and the events that we hope to have the coming year. Several great ideas and projects are on the table for WIA. We will let you know what, when and where as plans are finalized. As members, WIA needs you to support these projects that will make continuing improvements to the west side.

- Janice

EPD Crime Prevention Unit—Keeping the West Side Safe

Evansville Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit (CPU) is a group of patrol officers, one sergeant, and one civilian. The CPU works with neighborhood associations, like the WIA, to identify areas of improvement within each sector and prevent crime.

WIA's crime prevention officer is Officer Jay Pagett. His boundaries include Saint Joseph Avenue west to the city limits, and Broadway north to the city limits. Officer Pagett also represents Poplar



Grove, Western Terrace and Helfrich associations.

To assist CPU officers in keeping neighborhoods safe, EPD has implemented a new tool. The "Guardian" is a neighborhood surveillance unit that can be placed in front of problem houses in neighborhoods throughout the city to monitor illegal activity. If you're aware of a problem area in your neighborhood and would like to have the "Guardian" placed, please call the Crime Prevention Unit office at (812) 435-6135.

West Sector citizen meetings are held on the third Thursday in January, May and September at the CK Newsome Community Center, Room 118 C & D at 6:00 PM. Please consider attending!



Meet the 2023 Executive Board

2023 is here along with some fresh faces on the WIA Executive Board! Learn more about our new and returning Executive crew.

2023 Board Members

Steve Craig
Gordon Dingman
Ann Ennis
Bill Harty
Connie Howerton
Karen Reising
Chris Robinson
Larry Samples
Kris Schroeder
Karen Selby
Lorie Van Hook
JoAnn Volz



**President
Janice Ricketts**

Janice is a lifelong Westsider, schooled at Cynthia Heights and Reitz. She is an alumna of UE. Janice was previously WIA's recording secretary and has sat on the Board for several years. In her free time, she enjoys crafting, and volunteering her time.



**Senior Vice President
Ryan Payne**

Ryan is a real estate broker for team CCRE at Key Associates and partner of Haag's Outdoor Solutions. He is a graduate of Reitz and USI. Ryan is also an Eagle Scout and is passionate about amusement parks and roller coasters.



**Junior Vice President
Katie Koewler**

Katie is a Marketing Manager for Butler/Till Media out of Rochester, NY, but lives in Union Township. Katie grew up a Westsider and is an alumna of Reitz and USI. She is a lifetime member of the Girl Scouts and loves all things gardening and outdoor-related.



**Recording Secretary
Jessie Ricketts**

Jessie is a dedicated Westsider and attended Reitz and USI. She recently made her way back home from living in Florida, where she spent 9 years working in catering and events. Jessie is passionate about animals, creating great food and organizing events.



**Treasurer
Bill Schenk**

Bill Schenk has been WIA's treasurer for several years. He owns United Schenk Accounting on the westside which keeps him quite busy. In his free time, he likes spending time with his children and grandchildren.



**Membership Secretary
Melanie Stagg**

Melanie is repeating her role as membership secretary in 2023. She is a native Westsider and former WIA president. She has also proudly sat on the WIA Board of Directors for over 10 years. Her favorite quote is from *Jerry Maguire*, "Show me the money."



Thank You to Our Volunteers for Lighting the Gateway Garden for the Second Year

The Westside Improvement Association lit up the corner of St. Joseph Avenue and West Maryland Street at the Gateway Garden for the second year honoring the memory of former president and board member, Charlie Stocker. **We would like to extend special thanks to lead electrician, Andrew Robinson and his crew, Chris Robinson and Jason Peter,**

for their hard work setting up and taking down the Christmas display lights. WIA is always happy to help spread the joy of the holiday season as our neighbors walk, run or drive by the Gateway Garden. Stay tuned! Only nine months until we turn the lights on again. We are expecting a new delivery!

-Connie Howerton



Are My Shrubs Dead? What to Do with Cold-Damaged Plants



If you're noticing brown foliage on evergreen trees and shrubs in your landscaping, you aren't alone. Many people in the tri-state area experienced damage to their landscaping following arctic temperatures in late December. While perennial plants go dormant during winter months, the rapid drop in temperature resulted in cellular damage—generating those lovely brown leaves. “The best thing to do,” advises Larry Caplan of Caplan Tree & Landscape Consulting, “is nothing.” Avoid pruning brown leaves and removing plants. Most trees and shrubs, especially those hardy to our zone (6B), will bounce back and fill in before summer.

Source: Caplan Tree & Landscaping Consulting

Upcoming Community Events

Coffee With A Cop

February 21, 7am-9am

Mission Grounds

1107 Washington Square



Drop off Recycling

March 12, 8am—noon

Old Walmart Parking Lot

4551 University Dr.

Items to Bring:

Aluminum cans, cardboard, junk mail, newspaper, metal food cans, magazines, bagged, shredded paper, #1—#7 plastic containers

*No glass or Styrofoam

Doc's Words of Wisdom

“Wise are the men and women who plant trees that they will never sit in their shade or eat of their fruits.”

Thank You Century Members

For Your Positive Impact on Our Westside Community



David K. Robinson



Bill Schenk



Jack Huffman

Cheryl & Robert Musgrave

Dan & Laura Niemeier

Fred Padget

Jeffrey & Sue Kreig

Keith & Sharon Hollander

Carol & Larry Haller

Gordon & Caron Dingman

Randy & Janice Ricketts

Steve & Patrice Craig

Monie & Mark Freeman

Rick & Karen Reising

Westside Improvement Association Inc.

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To enhance the natural environment of the west side of Vanderburgh County and serve the common good of its residents by exerting influence on public and private sector.



What's Happening in the WIA Community



February 15, 5:00 PM	WIA Board Meeting	Howell Shelter House
March 1, 6:00 PM	West Sector Partnership Meeting	CK Newsome Center
March 15, 6:00 PM	WIA General Meeting	Howell Shelter House

Check out our website: www.westsideimprovement.com

Follow Us on Social Media or Contact Us at Westside.Improvement78@gmail.com

