



MMN – Monday, October 19, 2009

*Monday
Morning News*

**October 19^h
Edition**

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LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION! MONROE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

It has been said that most of local government policy is about land use – where we want to locate different community activities, and subsequently, or primarily maybe, where we want to NOT have these activities. You have an opportunity to observe and participate in this periodic review of County wide planning this month. Dare we say that women's voices are needed in this process?!

From Julie Thomas, county councilmember who sits on the MC Plan Commission:

The Monroe County Planning Department and the Plan Commission have prepared an updated Comprehensive Plan. Once it is adopted, (first by the Plan Commission, then by the Commissioners), the document will serve as a general guideline for future land use in the County. The Comprehensive Plan considers and balances all elements of land use, including development, environmental protection, public infrastructure, private property needs, economic well-being, public health, etc.

This plan is the culmination of three years of work which included community surveys, consultant reviews, stakeholder interviews, and community meetings.

On Tuesday October 20, beginning at 6 pm, the Plan Commission will meet in the Nat U Hill meeting room on the 3rd floor of the Courthouse. The meeting will include a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed Comprehensive Plan.

On Thursday October 29, beginning at 5 pm (also in the Nat U Hill meeting room on the 3rd Floor of the Courthouse), there will be a public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan. Public input and comment will be heard at this meeting.

The Comprehensive Plan is available on-line, with the final version appearing on the County's website by the end of the day on October 19th at <http://www.co.monroe.in.us/planning/compplan.html>. Comments (specific or general) are encouraged either in-person (at the October 29th meeting) or via e-mail (the e-mail link is provided on the website).

As a member of the County Plan Commission, Julie Thomas will answer any questions you may have about the Comprehensive Plan. Send her an e-mail at drjuliethomas@gmail.com

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME FORUM

- From Susan Sandberg, city councilmember:

"There's No Place Like Home" a town hall meeting on affordable housing and emergency shelter sponsored by the Community and Family Resources Commission, Tuesday, October 20, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m., City Hall, Council Chambers.

Members of the public and agency representatives are invited to participate in this community forum on affordable housing and homeless shelters sponsored by the Community and Family Resources Commission with the City of Bloomington. Moderated by Bloomington City Councilmember At-Large, Susan Sandberg, the meeting begins with overviews on homelessness and housing trends from Joel Rekas of the Shalom Community Center and Lisa Abbott, Director of Housing and Neighborhood Development. Citizens with concerns about community access to affordable housing and emergency shelter are urged to provide public comment. The Community and Family Resources Commission will consider the public input in their planning for future town hall meetings on the topic of shelters and affordable housing.

"We hope for a broad spectrum of public comments that will lead to innovative ideas for programming and public policy to increase affordable housing options for more Bloomington citizens," stated Community and Family Resources Commission chair, Hans Huffman.

For more information about the October 20th town hall meeting, "There's No Place Like Home" contact (Susan Sandberg, sjsandbar@juno.com, 812-320-8552).

THE DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB

will hold their regular monthly meeting at KRC Catering, 216 S. College Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana, 47403, for a salad bar buffet, which costs \$6.95. Gather at 11:30, meeting at 11:45, and speakers at noon.

Todd Lare, Executive Director of the South Central Community Action Program, and Bobbie Summers, Executive Director of Martha's House will be speaking about how current economic conditions impact those in need of housing in our area.

Please reserve your lunch by contacting Connie Loftman at connie@loftmanlaw.com or 812-339-4899 TODAY for a reservation.

You also have the option of attending the meeting without having the buffet.

DWCaucus TO HOLD EVENT TO CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

DWCaucus to hold March event to celebrate Women's History Month!

The DWCaucus plans to have a Fundraising event in March celebrating Women's History Month. The Caucus wants to start planning now! We are going to have a committee of 7 to plan the event with 4 from the Steering Committee and 3 from the membership. Folks are needed to help with Publicity, Graphic Design, Program, Communications, and Volunteers. If you would like to join Lu Cregar in planning this annual event please email her at lcregar@gmail.com

OPPORTUNITY FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS :: SENATOR BAYH SERVICE LEADER SUMMIT

- From m Member Lindsay Shipps:

This week there will be a Service Leader Summit that Senator Bayh is hosting in Indianapolis on October 24th. This is Sen. Bayh's annual leadership summit for junior and senior high school students from around the state. If you know of a student that might like to attend, contact: Andrew Homan, Regional Director, Senator Evan Bayh, <http://bayh.senate.gov>, 1650 Market Tower, 10 West Market St., Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 554-0750 phone, (317) 554-0760 fax, andrew_homan@bayh.senate.gov. The program is outlined at http://bayh.senate.gov/students/service_leader/

HEALTH CARE ISSUES:

- From Member Megan Hutchinson:

Millions of women desperately need health insurance reform now. We must have a public option.

Yet the Senator Baucus Finance Committee just passed a measure that does not include a public option. Plus the committee attached by a slim 12-11 vote margin a hostile amendment (introduced by Senator Orrin Hatch) that would restore funding to the tune of \$50 million for

the failed Abstinence-Only (i.e. no contraceptives) so-called Education programs. The Senate leadership will now merge the Affordable Health Choices Act (S. 1679) approved by the late Senator Kennedy's Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee with the Baucus Bill. Contact your Senator and Senate leadership and immediately urge that the merged bill that moves to the floor includes a public option and does not include the failed abstinence-only provisions. Once the merged bill reaches the Senate floor it will take 60 votes to change it. This is it. We must have a public option and no killer amendments coming from the Senate. Contact your senators to urge them to vote for the public option. And everyone please call Majority Leader Harry Reid at (202) 224-3542 to thank him for supporting the public option and family planning and to urge him to exercise his power for all Americans and include in the merged bill the public option and no abstinence-only funding.

Take action:

http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/1269/t/3076/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=301

UNION BOARD Lecture

- From Member AnnElyse Gibbons:

Union Board Healthcare Panel

"A Non-Partisan Look at Healthcare Reform"

What: Lecture

Start Time: Monday, October 26 at 7:00pm

End Time: Monday, October 26 at 9:00pm

Where: Whittenberger Auditorium, IMU

DWCaucus LUNCH/FORUM REPORT

On Sunday afternoon, October 11th, 38 women gathered for a lunch and forum on women in politics. A discussion of obstacles to women's participation in politics was followed by presentations of former candidates, campaign managers, and advisors. Attendees ranged in spectrum from teens to, well, older (!) women, from the experienced present and past office holders to political novices, to activists that now want to turn their passion into public service. At the end of the program, brainstorming provided the group with ideas for continued training, resources that need to be developed, and an interest in future sessions. Thus, the next news item:

CAMPAIGN 101 CIRCUIT TRAINING!! NOVEMBER 8 AT 1 PM

In keeping with the DWCAucus of inspiring, recruiting, training, funding and supporting women in pursuit of political participation, we will be holding a continuation of our lunch/forum/training program on Sunday, November 8th. This session is for any woman who is planning to run for political office next year, or the year after, or sometime in the future, or any woman who wants to work on a political campaign, or any woman who just wants to know what all this hoopla is all about! More information will be coming as plans firm up regarding location, but put this date on your calendar, and plan to attend. Regina.moore@gmail.com for more information.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS NOW!

Caucus bylaws call for an election of half of the officers and steering committee each year. This December we will be voting for the offices of Vice Chair and Treasurer along with up to five steering committee members. The bylaws call for a Nominating Committee made up of 2 steering committee members and 3 general members. PLEASE consider volunteering for this project, which shouldn't take a lot of time, and would be of benefit to the caucus. THANKS!! Email regina.moore@gmail.com of your interest to serve.

If you haven't checked out **ElectWomen** online magazine by Kathy Groob, here's the link. It's great, and Kathy is a neighbor in KY. <http://www.electwomen.com/>