



MMN – Monday, September 14, 2009

Monday
Morning News

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Edition

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FINAL CHANCE FOR DWC Forum LUNCH – FREE!!

Do you know a woman who might be interested in running for office, or one that you would like to encourage (even though she hasn’t yet made that decision)? Time to make a reservation for you and her at the DWCAucus Forum that will be held this next Sunday. PLEASE make your reservations now!

We’ll be talking about problems that women have in running for office, from making the initial decision to fundraising, from encouraging another women to run for office to running yourself. It doesn’t matter if you plan to run in 2010 or 2020! You are welcome, but make that reservation today!

- Affairs of the Sun Catering on 4th Street (between Walnut and College downtown)
- Noon on Sunday lasting until about 2:30 pm.
- Reservations: regina.moore@gmail.com.

AN INTERESTING TAX ABATEMENT SITUATION

by Regina Moore

We will not all agree on this issue, but I thought it would be interesting for you to see the type of situations that can arise with tax abatements.

I sit on the Monroe County Economic Development Commission as a City Council appointment. A few weeks ago, I attended a joint meeting of the EDC and the County Redevelopment Commission to hear from a petitioner that was seeking a tax abatement to build a new facility within the county, and also for an abatement on new equipment that they would need to improve their competitiveness and to improve their productivity.

This corporation has about 150 employees (43% of which live in Monroe County). The new factory would possibly employ 4-8 more persons (at the most) with starting wages between \$11.50-11.75 with benefits. This was not presented to us as a job expansion program, but as an issue of retaining jobs.

The company has purchased about 25 acres of an old farm on Vernal Pike, next to an

orchard and a buffalo farm for its new factory. This land was included in the county Westside TIF District a few years ago, and the Redevelopment Commission was asked (and voted to fund) a road into this land for access. The funds for the road (@ \$900,000) came from the TIF district balance.

Other facts about this case:

The company bought a former west side factory several years ago and assumed their 10 year tax abatement granted by the City of Bloomington. These new owners have filed the required tax abatement forms with the city of Bloomington for the last several years and has found to be in compliance with their agreement. 2009 is the last year in their 10 year abatement.

- The company manufactures plastic bag products for the food industry in the area. They use plastic pellets which are melted down and extruded in a film to make these bags.
- The company is leaving a heavily industrial area (near GE) for the farm property.
- The company has told the EDC that if it does not get this tax abatement it might leave the area and is looking at properties in Tennessee and Mexico.
- The EDC (which makes recommendations to the council regarding tax abatements) has voted to forward the recommendation to the County Council with no recommendation. No vote for or against the abatement from them.
- The company has said that the factory will be LEED certified, but as it is still in the phase of development by the architect, further information about the level of LEED certification is not available.
- The current factory for this plant will be closed no matter whether the abatement is passed or not.

So what do you think? Should the County Council grant a 10 year tax abatement to this group to build this factory with new equipment? The county council will hear a presentation from a representative of the company on Monday at 5 pm in the courthouse.

You are invited to be there to see firsthand the questions asked by county council members. You can search the online HT articles (and editorial) for more views.

This is the first time we've really used the MMN to follow an issue of this nature, and so let us know how you feel about it. Use regina.moore@gmail.com or drjuliethomas@gmail.com or any other Steering Committee's email found at www.demcraticwomenscaucus.org

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB TO MEET TUESDAY FOR LUNCH

Matt Pierce and Peggy Welch will speak at the meeting of the Democratic Women's Club on Tuesday, September 15. Connie Loftman, President notes that there is a new location for the meeting this month -- KRC Catering, 216 S. College Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana. There is plenty of parking.

Lunch will be a salad bar buffet at \$6.95. We will gather at 11:30, begin our meeting at 11:45, and hear from our speakers about noon.

ROB AND KAREN STONE INVITE YOU!!

The Mad As Hell Doctors Care-A-Van arrives in Indiana as the rubber gloves meet the road. Check it out at <http://www.madashelldoctors.com/>.

Traveling from Oregon to DC, these PNHP docs will make stops in Fort Wayne, Bloomington, and Louisville/New Albany. Meet the Docs in Bloomington on September 19 at the HCHP table at the Farmer's Market with an after Market rally at

1PM near the B-Line Trail.

PEACE WEEK INFORMATION

Gail Merrill sends information about Peace Week: From Friday, Sept 18-Thurs, Sept 24, Bloomington Peace Week will be celebrating its second year with a far-reaching array of educational & community events promoting creative non-violence. All are free & open to the public. The week-long festival offers workshops, discussions, & films in peace-building as well as opportunities for coming together in community, with a theme of "celebrating the peace we have achieved & exploring ways to create more". For a details, see: www.bloomingtonpeaceweek.org

Kick-off will be Friday, Sept 18 from noon-1pm @ the Waldron Arts Center, main level, when the nationally-touring exhibit, "Victory over Violence" will open. Free ice cream & music will be provided, along with a taped address to Bloomington from peace-activist & congressman, Dennis Kucinich.

Several events, including a Sunday evening (9/20) "Peace Harvest" dinner provided by the Islamic Center, will be featured around town at The Waldron, Banneker Center, Monroe Co. Public Library, and elsewhere. The community is also invited to participate in a Town Hall meeting @ City Hall, Council Chambers, on Tuesday evening, Sept 22, to discuss a "city of peace" initiative for Bloomington

HELPING WOMEN IN AFRICA WITH PURCHASES IN BLOOMINGTON!!

We had several pieces of jewelry and scarves at the Women's Equality Day Dinner Silent Auction that were from the collections of Claire Robertson. If you liked them, she is having a sale on Monday, September 28th from 11am to 5 pm in Woodburn Hall 220 (across from African Studies).

Claire supports two projects in Africa with her purchases and you'll feel good in helping her take more funds to Kenya with her next trip. See last weeks newsletter for the complete information on these projects that help women and children.

STATE LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIPS FROM SENATOR VI SIMPSON:

Each year, the Indiana State Senate offers Hoosier students a chance to participate in state government. Spring-semester internships are available to college sophomores, juniors, seniors, graduate students and recent graduates who are Indiana residents or are enrolled at an in-state university.

Legislative internships provide an opportunity for students to gain knowledge of the inner workings of state government by being a part of the process. Interns thoroughly learn the legislative process, gaining an in-depth understanding of how public policy is crafted in a hands-on environment.

The 2010 Senate Internship will begin in January and end in early April. The Senate Democrats hire legislative interns who work directly with one or two lawmakers, as well as intern specializing in the fields of media relations, law and public finance.

The deadline to submit an application for the 2010 program is October 31. More information and an online application can be found at http://www.in.gov/legislative/senate_democrats/internship.htm

POSITION OPEN WITH THE AMERICAN DEMOCRACY INSTITUTE

- September 3, 2009
- Position: Program Fellow
- Start Date: Immediately

ADI is seeking a full-time Program Fellow to manage its premier Women's Leadership Program designed to empower a cohort of women to ascend to the highest levels of public leadership. The Program Fellow will work closely with the Director of Programs to ensure the program's success by leveraging the talents and networks of

accomplished advisors, helping to plan the launch of the Conference on Women's Leadership in December, and coordinating regular meetings of program mentors and participants. For this role, ADI is seeking a talented and hard working individual with excellent communication and organizational skills who is able to commit to the program through 2010.

A full description of the position is available at
http://adi.3cdn.net/7751e6448bc340ad95_98m6bnjct.pdf

To learn more about the Women's Leadership Program,
<http://empowerchange.org/events/women>

Finally be sure to check out the latest edition of Elect Women online magazine at
www.electwomen.com/