



The VOTER

League of Women Voters - Janesville

November 2013

www.lwjvl.org



Janesville City Employee, Gail Price giving the "history" of the Historic Commission and the areas within the city that it covers.

Kay Deupree, Photos

Historic Preservation and Neighborhood Stabilization Program November 13th



Housing Committee Chair, Nancy Stabb addressing the group

Kay Deupree, Photos

Nancy Stabb
LWV Board of Directors

In the 1970's the Janesville League of Women Voters studied historic preservation as it might be applied in Janesville. Our members took the position then that Preservation of historic buildings and neighborhoods is important and that the City government had an important role to play

in preservation. Plans for streets, schools and other community facilities, zoning changes and variances should be evaluated in terms of their effect on the neighborhood and historic resources.

The members also supported adoption of an HISTORIC DISTRICT Ordinance including creation of a Historic Preservation Commission in order to allow interested property owners to take advantage of the various tax incentives for preservation. Our position also included strong support for property owners being involved in the definition of historic district boundaries. A Historic District Ordinance was passed in 1981 and the Commission was created in 1982. We have continued to support the efforts of the Commission and the city to raise awareness of the value of preservation of historically signif-

★ See HISTORIC PRESERVATION, Page 2

★ Historic Preservation

Continued from page 1

icant structures and districts as good economics as well as enhancing and stabilizing neighborhoods. At the Annual Meeting in May 2013 members voted to ask the Board to review the position on Historic Preservation.

On November 13, the Janesville LWV and Hedberg Public Library cosponsored a program Meet Your Janesville Historic Commission.

Gale Price, staff person assigned to work with and advise the Historic Commission, has been with the City's Planning and Community Development Department since 2001. He explained that Janesville is a Certified Municipality and as such as certain responsibilities. It is the city's responsibility, e.g., to

- *Safeguard, preserve and enhance improvements of historic buildings and neighborhoods and to

- *Stabilize and improve property values to protect the city's attractiveness and livability.

The 7 member Historic Commission meets twice monthly and provides recommendations to the City Council on all things historic , e.g.,

- *Establishment of historic districts and historic overlay districts

- *Nomination of historic structures for the National Register.

The Commission also



Kay Deupree, Photos

Historic Commission member explains the make up of the committee and its duties.

- *Reviews exterior changes in the Courthouse Hill Overlay District and

- *Provides guidance on historic preservation to those persons who request it.

There are 12 historic districts in Janesville including 1 Historic Overlay District, Courthouse Hill. Improvements to buildings in historic districts may qualify for tax credits and building code relief. Buildings in the Overlay District require commission review of all exterior changes. The members of the Commission visit the site and work with property owners to find an economically viable solution that respects the historic character of the building and neighborhood. The 2 step appeal process to the Commission recommendations is rarely used. First appeal is to the Plan Commission and second appeal to the City Council.

In 2011 the Commission recommended making the downtown area an Overlay District but the recommendation was met with resistance by the property owners and was not adopted.



Kay Deupree, Photos

Wearing two hats, Mary Buelow, Hedberg Public Library staff member and LWV-JVL Secretary speaks to the attendees.





Looking for a Stocking Stuffer?

Chico bags make a great gift. They come in a variety of sizes and patterns and are made of recycled materials. From the farmers' market to travel items, you can find something for everyone on your list. We're currently at 43% of our goal for this fundraiser.

Log on to Chicobag.com and when you check out use the code **VOTE4LWV** and **50% of your purchase price will be donated to the Janesville League of Women Voters.**



This fund raiser ends on December 31, 2013.



Kay Deupree, Photos

Carl Schwartz director of Bird City Wisconsin explains what is involved with the designation of Bird City Wisconsin .

Janesville is now a Bird City Wisconsin

Neil Deupree
Sustainability Committee

“You have met all the criteria – and you have more that you could have counted,” said Carl Schwartz, director of Bird City Wisconsin. Carl presented the official designation as Bird City to Jim Farrell, Janesville City Councilor, on Wednesday, November 20, at a Green Rock Audubon Society meeting.

The presentation followed a program presenting the essentials for becoming a Bird City. The Bird City movement is four years old and Janesville is the 76th community to be chosen after an application process that involves meeting at least seven criteria.

The mission of Bird City Wisconsin is “Making our communities healthy for birds...and people”. The local goal is to increase the healthy habitat for birds and to decrease the hazards they face.

In ratifying the application, the Janesville City Coun-

cil also designated the second Saturday in May each year as International Migratory Bird Day. The Bird City planning team will be gearing up in January to organize a Bird Festival in May. (Ideas and assistance are welcome.)



★ Bird City

Continued from page 4

Carl Schwartz also commented extensively on Janesville's application – especially noting the number of groups that had signed on as supporters, including financial contributions for the \$100 application fee. He also mentioned the meticulous bird count being done annually at the Cook Arboretum and the activities with



Carl Schwartz presented the official designation as Bird City to Jim Farrell, Janesville City Councilor, on Wednesday, November 20



local schools.

Bird City materials include a flag – which can be flown by the Municipal Building each May, two road signs, and a plaque. “It’s a good feeling to have so many people and groups working together to make Janesville a bird friendly place,” commented Neil Deupree, who is part of the planning team. “The group’s website is packed full of resources and ideas for bird conservation and enjoyment: www.birdcitywisconsin.org.”

LWV Sustainability Committee Report

Notes by Neil Deupree
Sustainability Committee

November 22, 2013 9:30 am Deuprees' home
Present: Neil D, Judy A, Lois A,
Excused: Karel C, Cathy M, Kay D, Evon M, Hazel C,
Left the work group: Magda N, Barb F Thanks for your loyal service!!!!

New members: Ted Kinnaman

Book discussion: *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver. Available in paperback. \$10.19 at Amazon

Date: October 19, 10-11:30 am

FEEDBACK: 8 PRESENT, good discussion.

Next discussion: March ?? *Oil & Honey* by Bill McKibben – recommended by Evon M

Sustainable Janesville – Neil will report next time.

Sustainability Survey attached, water quality

Fundraiser: Thanks to Judy for her work: Chicobags, \$214 so far!!! Goal - \$500

Online ordering – we get a percentage – 50% - Thru **December 31**

Samples (3) are here

www.chicobag.com/fundraiser/lwvjvl

Many styles

Farmers market Worked October 5 – Barb, Magda, Karel

Flyer – Judy will send it to us and we can forward to our various email lists.

Dec 7, Farmer's Market, Lois will take the display, Old Town Mall.

Bird City Wisconsin –

Neil reported – SUCCESS !!

★ Sustainability

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WRITEUP ATTACHED

Bird Festival – Brainstorm session: Theater, schools, Convention/Visitors bureau,

Birds & Blooms, LWV

LWV could have a table at the International Migratory Bird Day Festival

– or an activity (build a nest?). Post cards for legislators??

SHOULD IT BE CONNECTED WITH THE FARMERS MARKET? Two successive Saturdays?

One at Market, One at Rockport or Riverside

Parks position:

County Parks –Katie K, Carolyn B, Ethel H, Kay & Neil D expressed an interest. Carolyn & Neil represented Jvl, Dave Dobson & Joyce Schoenfield represented Beloit. Carolyn & Dave have talked with Lori Williams at County. Neil has talked with Colin Byrnes at County Planning.

COUNTY BUDGET HAS BEEN APPROVED WITH THE \$ FROM ATV DESIGNATED FOR PARKS' 5 YEAR PLAN (Carolyn spoke against it.)

City Parks – At Annual Meeting it was raised as an issue to protect and monitor them. Katie K, Carolyn B, Bill W, Neil D expressed an interest.

LWV board recommended a public meeting with Tom Presny about the “impact of the city budget on City Parks”. Judy will check with Tom about dates and will reserve the public room in the library.

MEETING HELD OCTOBER 29. 8 PEOPLE PRESENT. GOOD EXCHANGE. TOM BROUGHT MATERIALS.

Water:

Do we want to be the group within the LWVJvl to look at the state position?

Are there other local water issues to explore? *Neil*

will ask about presentation at SJC.

HOMEWORK: Look at state position. Look at the national position.

Judy looked and brought resources from her attic.

Who would like to review them???

Decide what we will do at our next meeting.

Deb K, Coral S have expressed interest. Neil will check

Ask Andrea Kaminski at Wednesday's meeting about state action re: water. Kay will ask.

Not done

Put together a reading list for the Voter.

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Frack sand mining is related to this issue

Rain garden program to go along with the rollout of River Street project.

Co- sponsor with Sustainable Janesville Committee

Neil will check

K&W ??

Leaves in street – what are alternatives???

River water quality is GOOD – per county health dept.

Oakhill Chapel Meeting, Sept 17 – Lois attended. Related to City Parks.

Contact Madison which has a cemetery & chapel.

How can cemeteries be sustainable?

How to solicit donations?

Reserves – city has different requirements.

Judy will write an article for the Voter.

Next meeting: Friday, January 17, 10 am, Deuprees



Web addresses of National, State and Local Leagues:

To check out the action go to:

LWV-US <www.lwv.org>

LWV-WI <www.lwvwi.org>

JANESVILLE LEAGUE

<www.lwvjvl.org>

Susan B: Anthony Birthday Party Reservations!

To make your reservations contact Deb Fisher
The RSVP deadline is February 5.

Join us on Sunday, February 16, 2014.

Pontiac Convention Center 2809 Pontiac Dr. Janesville

Sign in begins at 11:30; program starts at 12:00 noon. , WI

Price \$32; \$20 for students with valid student ID



The card features a decorative floral border at the top. On the left, there is a profile sketch of Susan B. Anthony and two small photographs: one of Rose Stephenson as Susan B. Anthony and one of Andrea Kuminski. The main text reads: "We're making ready for the next Susan B. Anthony birthday party! Mark your calendar now for Noon, February 16, 2014. Susan B., portrayed by Rose Stephenson, will be speaking this year along with Wisconsin LWV Executive Director, Andrea Kuminski. You won't want to miss it!". On the right, a pink box contains the event details: "Date: Sunday 2/16/2014", "Time: Noon", and "Place: Pontiac Convention Center 2809 Pontiac Drive Janesville, Wisconsin". A purple heart-shaped balloon with "Happy Birthday" written on it is at the bottom right.

Oakhill Cemetery Chapel in Need of Restoration

Judy Adler
LWV-JVL
Board of Directors

The City of Janesville took over maintenance of Oak Hill Cemetery in 2008. The Chapel, which was built over 100 years ago, is in need of restoration. The City considered demolishing the chapel, but has given the community until February to show support (meaning donated funds) for its restoration.

You can help. Make your donation to: Friends of Oak Hill Chapel Fund, Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin, 26 S. Jackson Street, Janesville,



Oakhill Chapel

Friends of Oak Hill Chapel's photo.

WI 53548-3838.

Or on the web: <http://www.cfsw/donors/make-a-gift/rock-county-funds>. Go down the alphabetical listing to Friends of Oak Hill Chapel Fund.

2013-2014 Janesville League of Women Voters Board

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Web addresses of National, State and Local Leagues:

To check out the action go to: **LWV-US** <www.lwv.org>

LWV-WI <www.lwvwi.org>

JANESVILLE LEAGUE <www.lwvjol.org>

Celebrate your Birthday with the League!

*Remember you may still
contribute to the State
League with a birthday
donation and half of your
donation will be returned to
our Janesville League.*

