

From the Mayor's Desk



Mayor Brad Cole

Last month I had the opportunity to visit the City of Shimla, India, as part of our effort to re-establish the Sister City relationship with that community. Some people wondered about the association (why there was one to begin with, and who started it) and what benefit it might have to the people of Carbondale and southern Illinois.

The history is a little unclear about the original relationship, but we believe it was begun because of a connection with a graduate student studying at SIU in the early 1970's who was from Shimla. From that point, resolutions were passed and correspondence shared between the two cities. However, over the years and with a more dedicated focus on our Sister City in Nakajo, Japan, the India ties were left unkept. That all changed when the City Council adopted another resolution re-establishing the formal relationship in February 2005.

Sister Cities throughout the United States and, obviously, around the world are formed for the purpose of building positive relationships between communities. There is even a group, Sister Cities International, that helps to facilitate similar arrangements for desirous cities and villages. The relationships generally bring cultural, educational, social, informational and governmental exchanges that otherwise would have been unimaginable. This is certainly the case with Carbondale and Shimla.

In kick-starting the new relationship, we were joined by the India Association of Southern Illinois, its officers and members, to help make the arrangements and finalize the details for my trip. I can say that the help of many people, especially my friend Dr. Harvinder Singh, made my overseas experience the best it could possibly be and one that I will always fondly remember. Contacts were made in Shimla by the father of local resident Roopa Gulati, and the wheels were set in forward motion from both directions.

It will be up to us and those who follow to keep this new Sister City relationship active, as well as our Japanese connection, and I hope the community encourages such to happen. Friendships and contacts that are developed in times of peace help to ease the problems and pressure in times of conflict.

By reconnecting to Shimla, India, and by continuing our efforts with Nakajo, Japan, the local community of Carbondale, Illinois, can play a larger role in creating a better global society.

Brad Cole, Mayor

Haven't You Heard...

Carbondale Now Eligible for USDA Rural Development Housing Programs

New home buyers looking to settle in Carbondale will now have an easier time with the housing process thanks to Congressman Jerry Costello who, with the assistance of Mayor Brad Cole and City Manager Jeffrey Doherty, has ushered a legislative change to make Carbondale eligible for low-cost home financing from the United States Department of Agriculture.

Legislation to reclassify Carbondale as a rural community for the purpose of the Rural Development housing program was introduced by Congressman Jerry Costello and passed by Congress. President Bush signed the bill in December. Through the USDA Rural Development housing programs financing is available for new and existing home purchases, home repairs, affordable rental complexes, and for special assistance for senior citizens to repair their homes.

Mayor Brad Cole and City Manager Jeffrey Doherty asked Congressman Costello to pursue the change. Prior to the legislative change, Carbondale was too large to qualify for Rural Development housing programs with the City's student population included in the census. The new designation will now make Carbondale more competitive in the housing market with surrounding areas. Carbondale had been the only community in southern Illinois outside of the Metro East area that was not eligible for the program.

USDA Rural Development has several housing programs. Three of the programs target owners or purchasers of single unit

dwelling. Other programs are targeted for multi-family housing, and local governments and non-profit agencies with the site development for subdivisions for low- and very-low income persons.

According to a press release from the USDA, the best opportunity for most area residents to utilize these programs is through the Guaranteed Loan Program. Under this program, financing is available to people with moderate to very-low income. Home buyers that meet the program qualifications, work with local lenders to obtain a home loan guaranteed by Rural Development. The loan can be made for up to 100 percent of the value of the home with no down payment, at a 30 year fixed rate of mortgage. There are no maximum purchase price restrictions. Because the government backs the loan, mortgage insurance is not required which provides additional financial benefit to the home purchaser.

The USDA Rural Development Housing Programs will not only benefit Carbondale, but also parts of the surrounding area including Murphysboro, Pomona and Makanda. USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender. Besides housing, they provide rural credit programs for community facilities, water and sewer development, and businesses.

More information is available on these programs by calling 618/ 993-5396, ext. 4 or by visiting the USDA Web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/il.

City Council Election Scheduled for April 5th

On April 5th, citizens will go to the polls to select three persons to serve four-year terms on the Carbondale City Council.

In order to narrow the field of candidates vying for the City Council seats, state law required a primary election to be held on February 22nd. From that primary, six candidates advanced to the April 5th General Election. Ballot placement for the general election is determined by the number of votes received in the primary election, with the top vote-getter placed first on the ballot, the second top vote-getter being placed second on the ballot, etc.. The six candidates that have advanced to the April 5th general election, along with the unofficial number of votes they received in the primary election, are: Corene

McDaniel (700 votes), Chris Wissmann (618 votes), Joel Fritzler (444 votes), Donald Troy Barrett (391 votes), Rhett T. Barke (285 votes) and Angie K. Kaye (203 votes). The remaining candidates who did not advance were: Tyjuan J. Cratic (117 votes), David A. More (109 votes), Hugh R. Williams (67 votes), Andrew Young (52 votes), Taurian P. Harris (40 votes) and Justin Eckman (30 votes).

A list of polling places for the April 5th general election will be published in local newspapers the week prior to the election.

Citizens who wish to double-check the location of their polling place should contact the City Clerk's Office at 457-3281 or the County Clerk's Office at 687-7366. The polls are open from 6:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Youth Award Nominations Being Accepted

Each year the City of Carbondale recognizes the community service contributions of its youth at the annual Youth Appreciation Day event. The 2005 Youth Appreciation Day Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2005 at the Carbondale Middle School (1150 East Grand Avenue), hosted by Mayor Brad Cole.

Youth Appreciation Day provides an opportunity for the City and its citizens to recognize the many positive contributions made by young people in the community. Middle school and high school students may be nominated by community members in recognition of their efforts in

making a difference in another's life through volunteer service and achieving growth or accomplishment in life as he/she participates.

The event also recognizes the Youth Volunteer of the Year, a high school junior or senior who is chosen based on grade point average, completion of at least 50 volunteer hours and participation in additional school and community activities.

Nomination forms are available in the City Manager's Office, 200 South Illinois Avenue or by calling 457-3226. The deadline to submit a nomination for both awards is Monday, April 11, 2005.



Photo Compliments of the Carbondale Times.

Congressman Costello, USDA Rural Development State Director Doug Wilson and Carbondale Mayor Brad Cole announce Carbondale's eligibility for a program to benefit home buyers.

Jeffrey Berkbigler Appointed City Attorney

Jeffrey S. Berkbigler has been appointed City Attorney for the City of Carbondale by City Manager Jeffrey Doherty.

Prior to joining the City of Carbondale, Berkbigler was a partner in the Carbondale law firm Feirich/Mager/Green/Ryan and had been associated with the firm since 1993. His private practice emphasized labor and employment law, collective bargaining and business and corporate transactions. Prior to joining FMGR as an attorney, Berkbigler was a law clerk with the law firm from 1991 to 1993.

Berkbigler is a 1993 graduate of the Southern Illinois University School of Law. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Illinois in 1989. Berkbigler is a native of Centralia, Illinois and now lives in Carbondale with

his wife Sara and two sons.

"Jeffrey Berkbigler offers a wide range of legal experience that will assist him in the many areas of municipal law," City Manager Doherty said when making the announcement. "We are very pleased that we attracted a person with the experience, abilities and professionalism that Jeff possesses and I am confident that he will serve the City of Carbondale well."

Berkbigler was chosen from a field of 14 applicants. He replaces Deborah Nelson who left in December 2004 to become an Associate General Counsel for Southern Illinois University. Casey Parker, the Assistant City Attorney, had been serving as Interim City Attorney during the vacancy. Berkbigler began his new duties on January 25, 2005.

Neighborhood Groups Work to Promote Community Relations



Evelyn Koine, Chair of the Carbondale Preservation Commission, speaking at the Neighborhood Alliance Meeting.

The recent Neighborhood Association Training Session was considered a great success by all who attended. The event was sponsored by the Housing and Neighborhood Action Groups, citizens working together to strengthen Carbondale neighborhoods. The goal of the day was to encourage networking within and among neighborhoods. Sixty-seven people signed in and got acquainted with neighbors, both new and old. Many Neighborhood Watch Captains attended. A special presentation was made by members of the West Central Carbondale Neighborhood Association,

including a virtual tour via computer of their neighborhood and overviews of a variety of organizations in other cities. (Links can be found at collegetownlife.com. Click on "Traditional college town neighborhoods.") Other speakers included representatives of the Human Relations Commission, the Preservation Commission, and Keep Carbondale Beautiful. A questionnaire was circulated inviting people to respond to things they like about their neighborhood, what they would like to change, and what ideas they would have for improving it. Participants were also provided

information on "How to Develop a Neighborhood Watch Group" by Community Relations Police Officer Randy Mathis of the Carbondale Police Department. Although many in the audience were already involved in Neighborhood Watch, the information was useful to everyone in attendance.

The Housing and Neighborhood Action Groups are discussing hosting another session at the Eurma Hayes Center in April. Watch for more details and contact the Study Circles Office to get involved at 549-5302 x 386 or e-mail study_circles@ci.carbondale.il.us.

Housing Rehabilitation and Homebuyer Assistance Funds Available

The City of Carbondale has received approval of two grants from the Illinois Housing Development Authority for federal HOME program funds. The grants are to assist lower-income persons with the cost of rehabilitating their owner-occupied homes, and to assist with the purchase and rehabilitation of a home.

The Single Family Owner Occupied Rehabilitation (SFOOR) program assists lower-income owner-occupants with the rehabilitation of homes in three parts of the City: Northeast Carbondale, Tatum Heights, and the part of Northwest Carbondale east of Little Crab Orchard Creek and south of the former rail line to Murphysboro. The assistance is in the form of a forgivable loan at zero percent interest. Based on the amount of assistance provided, if the person owns and occupies the home between five and ten years, the loan will be

completely forgiven. If the home is sold or vacated sooner, the amount to be paid back will be pro-rated based on the length of time the home was owned and occupied.

The Homebuyer Assistance Program assists lower-income persons with the purchase and rehabilitation of a home located within Carbondale city limits. The City can provide up to \$8,800 toward the down payment and closing costs of the home. The maximum the City can assist with the purchase and rehabilitation of the home is \$40,000. The assistance provided is in the form of a forgivable loan as described above. The home purchaser must provide at least \$1,000 towards the purchase price, and qualify for and obtain financing from a participating lender.

Eligibility for both programs is limited to low and very low income households. Income

limits set by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for participation are based on the number of persons in the household: 1 person-\$27,650, 2 persons-\$31,600, 3 persons-\$35,800, 4 persons-\$39,500, 5 persons-\$42,700, 6 persons-\$45,850, 7 persons-\$49,000, and 8 persons-\$52,150.

Persons who are interested in the housing rehabilitation program should contact the Development Services Department at 457-3248 or visit the Development Services Office in Room 251 of the City Hall/Civic Center to be placed on a mailing list to receive application materials. It is anticipated that applications will be taken beginning in April 2005. Persons interested in applying for the Homebuyer Assistance Program should contact the Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council at (618) 965-3193.

Residents Invited to Join Second Year of Study Circles

The Human Relations Commission is preparing for another round of Study Circles. HRC commissioners anticipate the second year of the Carbondale Conversations for Community Action to be more intense and dynamic, and if the past year's performance is an indicator of what is to come, then success will also be in store.

The Human Relations Commission is looking for 200

residents interested in community relations to discuss how the City is policed and how citizens interact with officers, as well as other important issues that effect Carbondale residents. For more information about the Carbondale Conversations for Community Action Study Circles, contact the Study Circles Office at 549-5302 x 386, or via email at study_circles@ci.carbondale.il.us.

Preservation Commission Workshop April 9, 2005

The Preservation Commission of the City of Carbondale will be hosting a two-session workshop on Saturday, April 9, 2005 at the Eurma C. Hayes Center in Carbondale. The workshop will have one session that deals with establishing and developing oral history projects. The second session will include information involving the nomination and designation of historic homes, sites, and places in the Carbondale area.

The first session will be presented by Annie Valk, Assistant Professor of History at SIU Edwardsville and will begin at 9:00 A.M. Dr. Valk will conduct a session for citizens and groups who are interested in finding out more information about oral history projects. This session will be valuable for all community members including students, group or organization representatives and amateur and professional historians.

The second session will be presented by Laura Milsk, also an Assistant Professor of History at SIU Edwardsville and will begin at 11:00 A.M. Dr. Milsk is

a contributor to the Museum Studies curriculum at SIUE, and she will conduct a session that will focus on the importance and methods for nominating properties to local and national registries of historic places. This session will be valuable for community members who own or appreciate historic homes or sites or who live in historic or traditional neighborhoods. Attendees will leave with a better knowledge of why homes, sites or neighborhoods should be placed on historic registers.

The workshop is free to the public, however RSVPs are appreciated to ensure adequate seating. Citizens are encouraged to attend one or both sessions. The Preservation Commission anticipates an energetic and informative event with many chances for community involvement.

If you would like more information or would like to RSVP for this event, please call or email Joe Hinton at 457-3259 or jhinton@ci.carbondale.il.us

Wanted: Housing Rehabilitation Contractors

The City is continuously seeking additional contractors to work in the Housing Rehabilitation Program. Contractors experienced in building and renovating homes are encouraged to contact the Building and Neighborhood Services Division at 457-3237 if they are interested in participating in the Housing Rehabilitation Program. The City is an equal opportunity contractor and encourages minority and women owned businesses to consider this contracting opportunity. The City also is seeking contractors who are licensed by the State of Illinois to perform lead-based paint mitigation in homes being rehabilitated.

Free International Energy Conservation Code Seminar March 17, 2005

Contractors, homebuilders, licensed design professionals and building officials in Carbondale and surrounding communities are invited to attend a free seminar on the International Energy Conservation Code as it pertains to residential dwellings. A representative of the International Code Council will present the seminar. Seminar participants will learn how to use the International Energy Conservation Code in the

design and construction of housing. The seminar will be held on March 17, 2005 in the Carbondale Civic Center. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. and the presentation will begin at 9:00 a.m. Work books, lunch and refreshments will be provided at no cost to participants. Please register no later than 11:00 a.m. on March 14th if you plan to attend. To register, contact the Building & Neighborhood Services Division at 457-3237 or e-mail

tgrant@ci.carbondale.il.us, or James Mathias, Department of Mechanical Engineering and Energy Processes, Southern Illinois University, at 453-7016 or e-mail mathias@engr.siu.edu.

This free seminar is being sponsored by the City of Carbondale, Rebuild Carbondale and Rebuild Union County with grant funds provided by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Eurma C. Hayes Child Care Center Open House

We hope that you will join us on March 30, 2005 between 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at an Open House at the recently remodeled Eurma C. Hayes Child Care Center. This fall the center welcomed its students and the new school year with a freshly renovated and remodeled facility and classrooms. Classrooms, offices and restroom

facilities as well as connecting hallways have been completely converted from floor to ceiling, with installation of new ceiling tile, flooring, removal of room dividers, and bright and colorful paint throughout. Every room, including the hallways also received new lighting. The renovation of the facility also included replacement of

classroom furniture, required play rugs and computers for each classroom. In addition, telephone, security and computer systems have been upgraded and security cameras and monitors for the classrooms and the playgrounds will be installed in the next month. External improvements have been made to enhance the property as well.

The Child Care Center, operated by the City of Carbondale since 1975, provides affordable, quality child development services designed to enhance the physical, social, emotional and intellectual growth of each child. Services are provided for children six weeks through twelve years of age. If you live or work in

Carbondale, we invite you to stop by the Open House on March 30, 2005.

The Eurma C. Hayes Child Care Center is located at 441 East Willow Street and is currently enrolling children. For more information contact Jill Johnson, Child Care Center Director at 457-3302.

Haven't You Heard...

City of Carbondale Residents Raised \$5,000 Tsunami Relief Funds



Attending the disaster relief check presentation were Mr. Sripakash Jaiswai, Minister of State for Home Affairs for the Government of India; Mr. Tejinder Singh; Carbondale Mayor Brad Cole; and Dr. Harvinder Singh.

Mayor Cole proclaimed the City of Carbondale Tsunami Relief Collection effort a resounding success. After just three weeks of collecting funds from throughout the community, Mayor Cole announced that Carbondale raised \$5,000 for victims of the recent natural disaster and devastation in India.

As part of Mayor Cole's recent mission to India to re-establish Carbondale's sister city relationship with the city of Shimla, Mayor Cole personally presented the Carbondale community donation to the Office of the Prime Minister in New Delhi, India.

The funds will go directly to the India National Relief Fund and will help with all of the associated costs of assisting those most in need. The funds were collected primarily through a "red bucket campaign," that Mayor Cole launched in January, in conjunction with local banks.

"I really appreciated the willingness of the local banks to place a red bucket on their counter and allow their customers to help with this important cause," Cole said. Several of the banks and numerous other members of the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce also contributed

funds raised by their employees.

"The effort was impressive," Cole said, "for a community halfway around the world to show that it cares by donating such a substantial amount of money to people they have never met - and may never meet - that is what makes Carbondale a great community."

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the relief effort is still encouraged to donate, however, the City of Carbondale is no longer accepting donations. Donations should be made to other not-for-profit organizations providing relief aid, such as usafreedomcorps.gov.

Carbondale Installs Energy Efficient Traffic Lights

The City of Carbondale expects to save \$37,500 per year after recently completing the replacement of the traffic signals at 25 intersections with energy efficient Light-Emitting Diode (LED) lights. These tiny electronic lights use up to 85 percent less energy than traditional incandescent light bulbs. In addition, LED lights don't have filaments like traditional incandescent bulbs, so they last for years versus months, reducing operating and maintenance expenses. With the ability to run on batteries during power outages, LED lights also enhance safety through better light quality and improved reliability.

Carbondale's LED lights were largely funded by a grant from the Illinois Clean

Energy Community Foundation. The City was awarded the grant to upgrade the traffic lights when Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn was in Carbondale last summer promoting reduction of energy usage by communities as part of his role in leading the "Special Task Force on the Condition and Future of the Illinois Energy Infrastructure".

Last year, the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation awarded \$3.8 million in grants across the state. Quincy, Springfield and Edwardsville were also awarded grants last year. Information on Clean Energy grants is available by calling (312) 372-5191, or on the Web site www.IllinoisCleanEnergy.org.

Low-Interest Loans Available for New & Expanding Businesses

The City of Carbondale offers loans to help start new businesses and expand existing businesses. Low-interest loans are available through the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). Loan funds may be used to purchase land, construct a building, renovate or expand an existing building, purchase machinery or equipment or provide working capital.

The interest rate on Revolving Loan Fund loans is below market rate. Depending on the project, the rate can be low as 3%. As a matching loan program, RLF loans can account for no more than one-half of the total project cost.

Job creation is the Revolving Loan Fund program's primary goal. Program guidelines require that at least one job must be created for each \$15,000 of RLF loan funds. At least 51% of the total jobs created as the result of an RLF loan must be held by persons with a low or moderate income.

If you are interested in making the City of Carbondale's low-interest Revolving Loan Fund program part of your business plan, contact Jeremy Hayes, Economic Development Manager, at City Hall, 200 S. Illinois Avenue, Carbondale, Illinois.

Call 457-3286 or e-mail jhayes@ci.carbondale.il.us for detailed information and a loan application.

Carbondale Flood Protection Information

The Carbondale area has a number of creek systems which are susceptible to flooding during or soon after heavy storms. These creek systems include the Little Crab Orchard Creek, Crab Orchard Creek, Piles Fork Creek, Plum Creek, Glades Creek, and Drury Creek. Flooding in Carbondale is relatively infrequent, however there is potential for flooding and road closures in low lying areas from overflows of these creek systems.

The City of Carbondale Planning Services Division can assist property owners, lenders, insurance agents and real estate agents in determining flood hazards for individual properties within the City and within the City's mile and one half zoning jurisdiction. The Planning Services Division can be reached at 457-3235. Flood maps and flood protection references are also available at the Carbondale Public Library.

There are several things you can do to reduce flood hazards in the community.

• **Do not dump or throw anything into the ditches or streams.** Even grass clippings and branches can accumulate and plug channels. A plugged

channel cannot carry water and when it rains the storm water is likely to flood adjoining areas.

• **If your property is next to a ditch or stream, please do your part and keep the banks clear of brush and debris.** The Public Works Street Maintenance and Environmental Services Division also has a stream maintenance program which may help remove major blockages such as downed trees. To report illegal dumping or debris in ditches and streams you should contact the Building and Neighborhood Services Division at 457-3237 or the Street Maintenance and Environmental Services Division at 457-3275.

• **Always check with the Planning Services Division before you build on, alter, regrade, or fill on your property.** A Flood Plain Development Permit may be needed to ensure that flood plain development regulations are met. It is important to report unapproved construction activity within designated flood plains to the Planning Services Division at 457-3235.

FLOOD SAFETY

Do not walk through flowing water. Drowning is the number one cause of flood related deaths, mostly during flash floods. Currents can be deceptive, six inches of moving water can jolt a person off their feet.

Do not drive through a flooded area. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers, as the water levels may be higher than expected and/or the road or bridge may be washed out.

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. The second highest cause of flood related deaths after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to the Ameren CIPS or Egyptian Electric Cooperative. Don't use appliances or motors that have gotten wet, unless they have been taken apart, cleaned and dried. If flooding is imminent, turn off the electricity at the main electrical panel.

Be alert for gas leaks. Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames unless you know the

gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated. If flooding is imminent, turn off the gas at the gas meter or propane tank.

FLOOD INSURANCE

If you don't have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, because the City of Carbondale participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the federal government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been flooded.

The City of Carbondale has been designated by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System as a Class 9. The Community Rating System classification applies flood insurance premium credits to help lower the cost of flood insurance for property owners within the Carbondale community, based on the City's efforts to exceed minimum NFIP requirements for flood plain management

and public information activities.

FLOOD PROOFING

Many houses, even those not in the flood plain, have sanitary sewers that may back up into the basement during heavy rains.

A backwater valve can be installed in a floor drain and sanitary sewer drain to prevent backflow into a building. A licensed plumber should be consulted for the installation of a backwater valve.

Other ways to protect a building from flood damage are to make your walls waterproof and place watertight closures over the doorways.

If flooding is imminent, sand bags can be installed around doorways and basement windows to prevent storm waters from entering a building. In addition, you may keep the water away by regrading your lot to direct water away from your building.

Contact the Building and Neighborhood Services Division for additional information on flood proofing and retrofitting flood prone structures at 457-3237.

Carbondale City Calendar

March

Date	Meeting	Time
The Following Meetings Are Televised LIVE On CityVision 16		
Tuesday - 1st, 15th & 29th	City Council	7:00 pm
Wednesday - 16th	Planning Commission	7:00 pm
Thursday - 24th	Park District Board	6:00 pm
Other Scheduled Meetings At The City Hall/Civic Center, 200 S. Illinois Avenue		
Tuesday - 1st	Partnership for Disability Issues	1:30 pm
Monday - 7th	Human Relations Commission	6:30 pm
Wednesday - 9th	Information & Telecommunications Commission	7:00 pm
Monday - 21st	Preservation Commission	7:00 pm
Scheduled Meetings At Other Locations		
Wednesday - 9th	Library Board, 405 West Main Street	4:30 pm
Wednesday - 16th	CCHS School Dist. #165 1301 E. Walnut - Cafeteria	7:00 pm
Tuesday - 16th	Elem. School Dist. #95 Lewis School - 801 S. Lewis Lane	7:00 pm
THE OFFICES OF CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED ON: Friday, March 25, 2005 for the Easter Holiday.		

April

Date	Meeting	Time
The Following Meetings Are Televised LIVE On CityVision 16		
Tuesday - 19th	City Council	7:00 pm
Wednesday - 6th & 20th	Planning Commission	7:00 pm
Thursday - 14th	Park District Board	6:00 pm
Other Scheduled Meetings At The City Hall/Civic Center, 200 S. Illinois Avenue		
Monday - 4th	Human Relations Commission	6:30 pm
Monday - 18th	Preservation Commission	7:00 pm
Scheduled Meetings At Other Locations		
Wednesday - 13th	Library Board, 405 West Main Street	4:30 pm
Thursday - 14th	Energy & Environmental Commission	7:00 pm
Thursday - 21st	CCHS School Dist. #165 1301 E. Walnut - Cafeteria	7:00 pm
Thursday - 28th	Elem. School Dist. #95 Lakeland School - 925 S. Giant City Rd.	7:00 pm

Refuse and Recycling Collection Holiday Schedule

Following is a list of upcoming 2005 holidays which the City will observe:

Friday, March 25	Good Friday
Monday, May 30	Memorial Day
Monday, July 4	Independence Day
Monday, September 5	Labor Day
Friday, November 11	Veterans Day
Thursday, November 24	Thanksgiving Day
*Friday, November 25	Day After Thanksgiving
Monday, December 26	Christmas Day

When a holiday occurs prior to the regular refuse and recycling collection day, collection will occur one day later than normal.

*Refuse and recycling scheduled for Thursday, November 24 (Thanksgiving Day) will be collected on Friday, November 25 even though this is a scheduled City holiday and City offices will be closed.

If you have any questions concerning this schedule, please feel free to call the Maintenance and Environmental Services office at 457-3275.



CITY OF CARBONDALE
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Brad Cole, Mayor

Margaret Flanagan, Councilwoman
 Corene McDaniel, Councilwoman
 Chris Wissmann, Councilman
 Sheila Simon, Councilwoman
 Steven Haynes, Councilman
 Lance Jack, Councilman

Jeffrey W. Doherty, City Manager

Carbondale Communiqué is written by the City of Carbondale to provide residents and businesses with municipal news.

Janice Hampton, Editor
 Dimitrios Karayiannis, Translator

For More Information on City Government:
www.ci.carbondale.il.us
AM Radio 1620
Cable TV Channel 16

CARBONDALE COMMUNIQUE

Carbondale Es Ahora Elegible para Programas de Vivienda de Desarrollo Rural del USDA

Los nuevos compradores de casas que busquen instalarse en Carbondale encontrarán ahora más facilidades en el proceso de establecer su vivienda, gracias al Congresista Jerry Costello quien, con la ayuda del Alcalde Brad Cole y del Administrador de la Ciudad Jeffrey Doherty, hizo pasar un cambio legislativo que hace a Carbondale elegible para la financiación de viviendas a bajo costo a través del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos.

La legislación para reclasificar a Carbondale como una comunidad rural con el propósito del programa de vivienda de Desarrollo Rural fue introducida por el congresista Jerry Costello y aprobada por el Congreso. El Presidente Bush firmó la ley en diciembre. Hay financiación disponible a través de los programas de vivienda de Desarrollo Rural del USDA, para la compra de casas nuevas y existentes, para la reparación de viviendas, para complejos residenciales de alquiler módico y para ayuda especial para la reparación de viviendas de ciudadanos de la tercera edad.

El Alcalde Brad Cole y el Administrador de la Ciudad Jeffrey Doherty le pidieron al Congresista Costello que pusiera

su empeño en lograr el cambio. Antes del cambio legislativo, Carbondale era demasiado grande para calificar para programas de vivienda de Desarrollo Rural, con la población estudiantil de la ciudad incluida en el censo. La nueva designación hará a Carbondale ahora más competitiva con los alrededores en el mercado de viviendas. Carbondale era la única comunidad del sur de Illinois al exterior del área Metro Este no era elegible para el programa.

Desarrollo Rural del USDA tiene varios programas. Tres de los programas están dirigidos a propietarios o compradores de residencias unifamiliares. Otros programas están dirigidos a residencias multi-familiares, y a los gobiernos locales y a las agencias sin ánimo de lucro que tengan un lugar de urbanización para personas de bajos y de muy bajos ingresos.

De acuerdo con un comunicado de prensa release del USDA, la mejor oportunidad para que una mayoría de residentes del área utilice estos programas es a través del Programa de Préstamo Garantizado. Bajo este programa, hay financiación disponible para personas con

ingresos entre moderados y muy bajos. Los compradores de casas que cumplan con los requisitos de este programa, trabajan con prestamistas locales para obtener un préstamo hipotecario garantizado por Desarrollo Rural. El préstamo puede ser hasta del 100 por ciento del valor de la casa sin cuota inicial, a un interés fijo por 30 años. No hay restricciones sobre el precio de compra máximo. Com o el gobierno respalda el préstamo, no se requiere seguro de hipoteca lo que suministra un beneficio financiero adicional para el comprador de la casa.

Los Programas de Vivienda de Desarrollo Rural del USDA no sólo beneficiarán a Carbondale, sino también a sus alrededores, incluyendo a Murphysboro, Pomona y Makanda. Desarrollo Rural del USDA es una agencia de préstamos que brinda igualdad de oportunidades sin discriminación. Además de vivienda, esta agencia provee programas de crédito rural para instalaciones comunitarias, para desarrollo de acueductos y alcantarillados, y para negocios. Para más información sobre estos programas llame al 618/ 993-5396, extensión 4 o visite el sitio Web del USDA www.rurdev.usda.gov/il.

Seasonal Employment Opportunities Available With the City of Carbondale

Early each spring, the City begins the process of hiring its Temporary (Seasonal) Positions which usually include a Weed Control Inspector, four Public Works Seasonal Workers, four Cedar Lake Maintenance Workers, a Head Lifeguard and numerous Lifeguards. In some years, Engineering Technician I positions are also filled for the summer months. Job opening announcements for these positions are posted at City Hall, are available on the City's Web site at www.ci.carbondale.il.us under Job Opportunities and on the City's television cable Channel 16 (City Vision). In addition,

Illinois newspaper and, for the Lifeguard positions, in the Daily Egyptian.

The City's Application for Employment forms are available at City Hall at the Receptionist's desk and in the Human Resources Office. The application form may also be downloaded from the City's Web site. It is very important to complete the application in its entirety, providing all three required references and including all job related experience whether paid or unpaid. Applications must be submitted by the announced deadline.

Applications are reviewed and candidates are selected for

interviews based on their qualifications. Interviews are conducted by a team usually consisting of the City's Human Resources Manager, the City's Community Services Manager and the City staff person who supervises the position. This team makes recommendations for filling these positions to the City Manager who makes the final decision. The City of Carbondale encourages female and minority applicants. The City of Carbondale is an equal opportunity employer. For more information about employment opportunities with the City of Carbondale contact the Human Resources Office at 457-3328.

Notice of Spring Clean-up

The City of Carbondale will conduct a residential SPRING CLEAN-UP beginning April 29, 2005. The program serves single family dwellings up to 4-units inclusive. The clean-up will address household items and general rubbish generated from the residence being served. Items will be collected from curbside only. Collections are scheduled on Fridays by zones, and subsequent Saturdays as volume requires.

Monday's City Refuse Route (ZONE #1)
Friday, April 29
All East of ICRR

Tuesday's City Refuse Route (ZONE #2)
Friday, May 6
All South of Main Street, East of Little Crab Orchard Creek and West of Oakland Avenue (excepted)

Wednesday's City Refuse Route (ZONE#3)
Friday & Saturday, May 13 & 14 and Friday & Saturday, May 20 & 21
All West of ICRR, South of Main Street and East of Oakland Avenue (inclusive);

and All West of ICRR, North of Main Street, and South of Sycamore Street (inclusive)

Thursday's City Refuse Route (ZONE #4)
Friday, May 27
All West of Little Crab Orchard Creek; and all West of ICRR and North of Sycamore Street (excepted)

Only Household Rubbish Please
 No Contractor's Remodeling or Construction Debris

The Following Items Cannot be Collected
Tires - Yard Waste - White Goods
 Please Cut Household Lumber to Five Feet or Less

Place trash at curbside NO EARLIER THAN FIVE (5) DAYS prior to your zone's collection day and NO LATER THAN 8 a.m. on collection day. Do not inhibit or obstruct drainage or block sidewalks. Placing and allowing items to remain at curbside outside these times may subject you to a citation. If you have any questions, please contact the office of the Environmental Services Manager at 457-3275.