

## FY 2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Fiscal Year 2013 City of Carbondale Budget included four Community Goals that guided City Government activities during the year. The four Community Goals and accomplishments within each are highlighted below.

### ***I. Economic Development and Community Growth:***

In FY 2013 the City's top priority was Economic Development and Community Growth. The City's commitment to economic development was demonstrated by the financial support for the City's Economic Development Division, Jackson Growth Alliance, Carbondale Main Street, the Carbondale Convention and Tourism Bureau and the City's continued emphasis on expanding and improving its infrastructure.

In FY 2013 the Economic Development staff initiated the development of and obtained approval by City Council for the addition of two new Tax Increment Financing Districts within the City of Carbondale to attract additional business growth and redevelopment in the community. The City Council approved a Downtown Tax Increment Financing District along the Illinois and University Avenue Corridor, and an Oakland-Sycamore TIF District around the intersection of North Oakland Avenue and Sycamore Street on the City's northwest side.

In FY 2013 the City received more than \$400,000 in grant funds from the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program and the SIU Sustainability Council to aid in the construction of a bike/pedestrian route on recently acquired railroad property from Grand Avenue to the Town Square. Construction will begin in FY 2014.

In FY 2013 the Economic Development staff provided assistance to parties interested in Carbondale as the site of a new business which included distributing printed material, providing data electronically, and meeting with business prospects. Staff for Economic Development reviewed applications for Community Development Assistance Program Revolving Loans and Downtown Facade Loans.

In FY 2013, the Economic Development staff and the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce continued a business retention program focused on improving customer relations between the City, Chamber, and Carbondale businesses. One afternoon per week was devoted to meeting with

business managers and owners to identify strategies to improve the economic climate in Carbondale. A final report was written and as a result of the efforts the City has approved an ordinance to support concerns identified pertaining to panhandling and sign provisions.

The Economic Development staff continued to represent the City in the Jackson Growth Alliance, Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission and other regional economic development organizations. The Jackson County-Murphysboro-Carbondale Enterprise Zone (EZ) continued to be the driving force for economic development during FY 2013. A total of 36 EZ projects were completed in FY 2013 with an estimated value of \$5.4 million. Construction was completed on the \$60 million Southern Illinois University Transportation Education Center at the Southern Illinois Airport, and construction began on the \$36 million new Student Services Building which will house future admissions and registration departments for SIU. In addition, a \$1 million landscaping project was completed at Faner Hall.

In FY 2013 the City continued working with the Small Business Development Center at Southern Illinois University, to provide assistance to new and expanding businesses. Such assistance included the creation of business plans, securing financial assistance and locating potential sites for development.

Restaurants that opened in FY 2013 included Pita Alley, Lil Taste of Cuba, La Fogota, Bandana's BBQ at the former Stadium Grille property and Boondocks Seafood Company in the former Houlihan's location. In addition, a ground breaking ceremony was held for McCallister's Deli which will be open for business in the fall.

During FY 2013 Carbondale's east side saw several new business openings and expansions including Mattress Firm, Liberty Wealth Management, Liaison Technologies, a Veteran's Administration Outpatient Clinic, Little Britches Clothing and Gear, Align Healthcare and a Wedding and Events Garden at Sports Blast. The University Mall added Ross Dress for Less, Rogers and Holland Jewelers, Lane Bryant, Maurice's, Justice, Look Great Eyebrow Threading, The Candy Store and Encore Shoe Department. FY 2013 business openings on Carbondale's west side included Family Dollar, Prime Lending and Dr. Elam's Sleep Clinic.

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In FY 2013 new businesses downtown included Avant's BBQ, Cloey's Hair Design, Locally Important Produce Store, Escape Locally and Studio Day Spa. The Carbondale Town Square continued to be a major center of business activity with a number of small retailers and professional service businesses looking for available space. The vacancy rate is estimated to be less than 5 percent.

In FY 2013, a ground breaking ceremony was held and construction began on the City's new west side fire station. The new facility will be a 12,400 square foot single-story brick building designed to meet the present and future needs of the Fire Department with four apparatus bays, seven bunk rooms, living and kitchen space, a workout room, a training room and office space for the Assistant Fire Chiefs and Training Officer. There will also be space to relocate the City's Emergency Operations Center and Storm Watch Center. The building has been designed to be energy efficient and meets or exceeds all relevant energy codes as well as seismic standards. Some design features will include a backup generator capable of powering the entire building, geothermal heating and air-conditioning for the living area and provisions for the addition of future solar equipment.

In FY 2013 the Carbondale City Council approved funding in the amount of \$100,000 towards the matching grant the Carbondale Park District received for the Splash Park Aquatic Center project for the Carbondale community. The \$3.4 million project is planned to be built adjacent to the Carbondale Superblock.

In FY 2013 the City continued to provide funding to the Carbondale Convention and Tourism Bureau to further attract more overnight visitors to the City.

In FY 2013 the Planning Services Division coordinated revisions to, and ultimately the adoption of, a new Title 15 to the Carbondale Revised Code. Title 15 regulates all planning, zoning and subdivision activity within the City. The document will help ensure that new development is built to the standards outlined in the Comprehensive Plan and existing features are maintained with the community's best interest in mind.

In FY 2013 the City issued more than 130 Zoning Certificates authorizing new construction or additions and more than 100 Sign Permits. In total more than \$16 million in new construction permits were issued in FY 2013.

### *II. Provide Quality Services With Fiscal Responsibility:*

In FY 2013 the City of Carbondale residents voted by referendum to authorize the City of Carbondale to act on their behalf to arrange for the supply of electricity for residential and small commercial retail customers. The City Council approved an Energy Aggregation Plan to help residents and businesses save money on electricity costs. A contract was signed with Homefield Energy for a two year period.

In FY 2013 the City was presented an Act on Energy Most Progressive City Award from Ameren Illinois in recognition of significant energy efficiency achievements by the City of Carbondale and businesses in the Community. Carbondale was the only municipality to earn the honor in Ameren Illinois Division VI which encompasses more than 20 Southern Illinois counties.

In FY 2013 the Carbondale Civic Center hosted approximately 702 events which included banquets, receptions, reunions, dances, workshops, conferences, trade shows and exhibitions. Public meetings held at the Civic Center included the City Council, Planning Commission and the Carbondale Park District. Donated space for City sponsored groups such as the Human Relations Commission, the Preservation Commission, the Sustainability Commission and Study Circles continued.

In FY 2013 the City consolidated the maintenance and repair of all City buildings and facilities under a new Building Maintenance Division. This new division allows for the centralized oversight of expenses that include utilities, repairs, fire suppression and extinguisher system inspection, security and fire alarm monitoring contracts and elevator contracts. The City anticipates cost savings in future years.

In FY 2013 the Public Works Engineering staff continued to work on Community Investment Program projects identified in the Community Investment Program Five Year Plan. In addition, engineering staff worked on many other activities including reviewing subdivisions and site plans, updating information on city-owned properties, preparing easements and right-of-way vacations, locating utilities and right-of-ways for developers and City departments, investigating and responding to storm drainage complaints, and updating City maps and records.

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In FY 2013 the Equipment Maintenance Division received the ASE Blue Seal of Excellence status for the 12th consecutive year. This is accomplished through the continued training, testing, and certification of all Equipment Maintenance staff personnel.

In FY 2013 the City's Fueling Facility at the Public Works Garage was upgraded with a new Fuel Management System. This new system has significant improvements in accounting and managing fuel transactions.

In FY 2013 the City continued to provide funding for social service and economic development agencies in the community. Services provided by these agencies support economic development, tourism promotion, art and cultural activities, youth programs, transportation services, senior citizen programs and shelter programs for victims of domestic violence.

In FY 2013 the City continued to assist the Carbondale Community High School District with debt repayment funds for the high school and annual payments continued to be made to Southern Illinois University for the Saluki Way Project.

In FY 2013, the City of Carbondale continued to implement the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS). This system provides a consistent approach for federal, state and local governments to work effectively together to prepare for and respond to disasters by standardizing management processes, protocols and procedures.

In FY 2013 EMS obtained reaccreditation as a Storm Ready Community certified by the National Weather Service. Storm Ready helps community leaders and emergency managers strengthen local severe weather operations.

In FY 2013 the City continued to pay a portion of the operating expenses for the Amtrak Station in Carbondale. The Carbondale station averages 400 passengers per day and is served by six passenger trains. The station is the fifth busiest station in Illinois.

In FY 2013, the City continued to provide matching funds for the Jackson County Mass Transit District. The City of Carbondale is one of several local governments that provide funding to the Transit District as a match for state and federal funds to provide public transportation in Carbondale and Jackson County.

In FY 2013 the City continued to provide assistance for Southern Illinois University Carbondale's Saluki Express Bus System. Although the service is primarily used by students it is being used by an increasing number of Carbondale residents. The City's funds provide half of the cost of running the service when the university is not in session.

During FY 2013 the Affirmative Action/ Equal Employment Opportunity Plan was reviewed, revised and updated. The Division III – Affirmative Action section of the City's bid packet for City construction projects was updated and efforts continue to develop partnerships with community groups and institutions to assist with identification and placement of minorities on City construction projects.

In FY 2013 the City continued to maintain 21 public parking lots within the City of Carbondale, including 17 lots located in the downtown business district. In FY 2013 the Parking Services Division used allocated funds for the resurfacing and beautification of downtown parking lots. The Parking Division continued to evaluate the condition of the lots and work towards making them more attractive to users and the general public.

### ***III. Encourage Citizen Participation and Community Pride:***

In FY 2013 the City website underwent a complete redesign to increase functionality and content accessibility. Some of the enhancements included: history of award of bids, posting of public notices and a resident only area. The City website is visited 9,406 times per month which computes to an average of 314 times per day.

In FY 2013 Carbondale's internet presence was again lauded by an organization that rates local government's commitment to transparency. The website was one of 19 Illinois municipal web sites to earn a "Sunny Award" from The Sunshine Review, a non-profit, pro-transparency organization.

In FY 2013 the City implemented internet video streaming services for public and private meetings. Streaming video allows citizens to watch meetings that are live or have been recorded on any computer connected to the internet. This was the first phase of a multi-phase project to implement groupware for Council agenda management.

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In FY 2013 the Police Department continued to enhance its web site to provide citizens a new, interactive tool to help them become more informed about crime in their neighborhoods and to help fight crime in their community.

In FY 2013 the Police Department partnered with Carbondale Community High School District No. 165 in the development of a School Resource Officer Program. The program is staffed by a Carbondale Police Officer who is assigned to the Carbondale Community High School on a full-time basis when school is in session. This program provides an extra layer of safety and security for the students and faculty at the CCHS campus and also promotes positive relations between students, faculty and law enforcement officers.

In FY 2013, the Police Department continued to develop partnerships among agencies and resident groups to address community problems while maintaining a strong commitment to prevention and suppression. The Department will continue active participation in groups dedicated to improving the quality of life in our community.

In FY 2013, the Police Department continued its commitment to a volunteer services program. Volunteers provide essential services which enhance the productivity of Department operations while serving the community through public service.

In FY 2013, the Police Department continued Community Service Officer (CSO) program. The CSO program was developed to recruit young women and men from all ethnic backgrounds to work in the Police Department in various police related duties and functions. This program has resulted in four CSO's being hired as Carbondale Police Officers.

In FY 2013 the Fire Department continued its partnership with other communities in the region through continued participation in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, MABAS Division 45. Member agencies have worked to develop standards of operation, communication, incident command, equipment and safety. The department participated in major disaster exercises with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, as well as Southern Illinois University, Jackson County Emergency Management Agency and surrounding county Emergency Management Agencies.

In FY 2013 the Fire Department continued its commitment to education and prevention. In partnership with Elementary School District #95, fire department instructors provided formal fire prevention and safety lessons to all fifth grade students. Staff members participated in this year's Senior Fair at the Carbondale Civic Center and provided informational talks for the Carbondale Senior Citizens Center, Jackson County Housing Authority, and Mill Street high rises to name a few. The department also attended the Carbondale Community High School career fair and spoke at the Boys and Girls Club.

In FY 2013 the Fire Department continued its commitment to community safety with its fire smoke detector and battery replacement program. Under program guidelines, the department will provide and install, free of charge, a smoke detector or replacement battery to citizens that cannot afford to purchase one.

In FY 2013 the Emergency Management Services Department staff continued to participate in public information talks and displays at the Old School Community Center, Senior Adult Services, and schools in the community.

In FY 2013 EMS staff conducted exercises and table top disaster drills with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) and local agencies. EMS and City of Carbondale staff participated in the Great Shakeout Drill, a nationwide earthquake simulation drill. EMS and other City departments participated in a National Earthquake Full Scale Disaster Drill which involved eight states. Participation required activation of the Emergency Operations Center and communications with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency as well as other participating agencies.

In FY 2013 City funding to the Boys and Girls Club continued to provide educational and recreational programs for Carbondale youth.

City funding in FY 2013 to Carbondale Main Street was used to provide quality events for Carbondale residents and visitors in the City's Downtown District. Some of the events included Art Around the Square, Brown Bag Concerts, Growers market on the Square, Downtown Art and Wine Fairs, Meet Me on Main Street, SIUC Welcome Fest events, Friday Night Fairs and the annual Lights Fantastic Parade.

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In FY 2013 the City continued to provide financial support of the Sunset Concert Series which provides family entertainment in the Community. This event is a partnership between the SIUC Student Programming Council, the SIUC Student Center and the Carbondale Park District.

In FY 2013 the City continued to provide funding for the Science Center to operate a Children's Science Museum in Carbondale and provide outreach services and activities to promote the sciences for youth.

### ***IV. Strengthen and Promote Neighborhood Living***

During FY 2013 the City continued to take a pro-active role in providing public resources to ensure that the housing stock in Carbondale is maintained in a safe and decent manner. The City has updated housing codes and property maintenance standards that are in place and aggressively enforced and applied city wide. In addition, there are a number of state administered grant programs that the City has successfully used over the years to improve the housing stock and enhance the older neighborhoods. These grant programs are used in concert with other regional and local programs and resources that have had positive impacts on improving the overall livability of the community.

In FY 2013 City staff continued the Mandatory Rental Housing Inspection Program to address the structural integrity, health and life safety violations of dwelling units and continued to address the general aesthetic appearance and condition of the entire property and grounds during inspections.

In FY 2013 City Neighborhood Inspectors conducted more than 2,500 rental property inspections which included inspections that were complaint driven, as the department strives to respond to the needs of citizens. The Building and Neighborhood Services Division continued to improve on the procedures in place to respond quickly to resident inquiries and complaints on property maintenance and issues impacting the viability of the City's neighborhoods.

In FY 2013 the Building and Neighborhood Services staff continued to pursue demolition of unsafe structures that have been vacant neighborhood eyesores for years. Several

dilapidated structures were demolished as efforts to remove blighted structures continued. This is part of the aggressive code enforcement efforts that the Building and Neighborhood Service Division has been focusing efforts on for the past few years.

In FY 2013 the City's Single Family Housing Conversion Program served to convert two homes previously used as rental property back to single family owner-occupied residences.

In FY 2013 the City received \$252,000 in SFOOR Program grant funds to rehabilitate homes in Tatum Heights, northeast Carbondale, and northwest Carbondale for FY 2013 and FY 2014. The City used these grant funds to rehabilitate nine homes for low to very low income residents over the two year period.

In FY 2013 the City received \$336,000 in HOME Homebuyer Grant funds to enable eight low to moderate income persons to purchase and rehabilitate their homes to bring them into compliance with City code.

In FY 2013 the City continued to administer a \$398,400 Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.