

Programs Designed To Feed The Hungry Help Grant County Residents

By Sheri Ann Richerson
The Courier Editor

Homelessness and hunger are year round problems even in Grant County. They affect the young and old alike. Although there are numerous food pantries and shelters throughout the county help is needed from every person in the county as well as many outside agencies. Supplies such as paper products and food are in high demand. Donations are needed on a regular basis to help keep these places open and stocked with enough supplies for the people in the county who are in need.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, one out of every ten households in the United States experience hunger or the risk of hunger. Many people have sub-standard diets or must resort to seeking emergency food because they cannot always afford the food they need. Research shows that hundreds of hungry children and adults are turned away from food banks each year because of lack of resources.

There are ways that we can help to reduce these numbers. It is not only a problem all across

the United State but it is also a problem right here in Grant County. There are numerous programs set up that can help in getting donations to the right place and seeing that those donations are then distributed to those in need.

The Indiana House of Representatives and Lighthouse Mission Ministries kicked off a Statehouse food drive to help reduce hunger throughout the state which ran from February 10 through 12, 2005. They named it "Have a Heart for the Hungry."

This program will allow State Representatives to work with local grocery stores as well as a network of non-profit partners to increase food donations and help get those donations to the people who are most in need of them.

State Representative Tim Harris from Marion has chosen two sites, one in Grant County and one in Blackford County that will be participating in the program. The food collected will then be distributed locally on February 19, 2005.

The chosen partner agencies are Lance's Market located at 1255 South Western Avenue in Marion and Bill's Foods located

at 208 North Jefferson Street in Hartford City.

The charities chosen by Harris to receive the food collected are the Salvation Army in Grant County and Family Services in Blackford County.

"Donating food is a simple way to help less fortunate Hoosier's in a meaningful way," Representative Harris said. "As a community it is our duty to ensure that nobody goes hungry, and as a state representative, I am happy to have the privilege of being part of this effort."

Bob Goodrum, the Executive Director of Lighthouse Mission Ministries is pleased with the enthusiastic support he has received from the state legislators.

"Now it's February and folks are thinking about other things. The food donated during the holiday season is gone. We just have to remind everyone that homelessness and hunger are year-round problems for some people in our state," Goodrum said.

Another way that you can help fight hunger in your county is by planting an extra row of produce in your garden this coming spring. Now is the time that many gardeners are plan-

ning their vegetable gardens. This is a good time to begin to think about helping others with your extra produce. Fighting hunger is everyone's responsibility and everyone can donate fresh produce out of their gardens. Many food pantries and soup kitchens will accept fresh fruit and herbs as well.

Another way that you can help is to teach a friend, neighbor or acquaintance how to grow vegetables. Many times people do not know how to grow their own food. Donating a tomato plant, a few extra lettuce or radish seeds or any other vegetable seeds to someone can make a world of difference.

The Plant-A-Row-For-The-Hungry program was started in sixteen correctional facilities throughout Indiana last spring. The Plainfield Correctional Facility alone donated over one ton of fresh produce to local food pantries in Hendrick's County. This year they will again participate and plan to double that amount.

It is easy to get the Plant-A-Row-For-The-Hungry Program throughout a state or city program. All it takes is a phone call and a little time. There is a Grant County Program already started

and more volunteers are needed. To participate contact Sheri Ann Richerson at (765) 664-6916 or via email at SheriAnnRicherson@exoticgardening.com

Before making a donation please follow these basic steps:

- Wash fruits, vegetables and herbs.

- Place them in a container (bag, box, etc.)

If possible, before donating your produce weigh your items and call the total amount donated in to Sheri Ann Richerson at (765) 664-6916 or email the amount donated to SheriAnnRicherson@exoticgardening.com, taking the time to do this will help us to keep track of amounts donated per county and per state to add to the national counts.

Tax deductible receipts are available upon request.

There are at least three participating food pantries and soup kitchens in Grant County. If you know of others please ask them if they will accept fresh produce before you drop it off.

St. Martins located at 901 South Branson Street in Marion accepts drop offs between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. They will accept fresh

vegetables, fruits and herbs, especially garlic, oregano and sage. Their phone number is 765-651-9324.

The Grant County Rescue Mission located at 423 South Gallatin Street in Marion accepts drop offs between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. They also ask that you call ahead and tell them what you have as well as when you will be bringing it in. Their phone number is 765-662-0988.

The Salvation Army located at 359 North Bradner Avenue in Marion accepts drop offs between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. They do answer their phones 24/7 so if you have something to drop off during other hours, please call first. They also accept fresh herbs. Their number is 765-664-6536

There are two food pantries in the Blackford County area, one in Hartford City and one in Montpelier.

The CFS Pantry in Hartford City located at 206 West Main Street is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The CFS Pantry in Montpelier located at 206 West Huntingdon is open on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Upland Town Council Receives Ordinance Request

By Sheri Ann Richerson
The Courier Editor

A request for an ordinance that would restrict eighteen wheelers from using alleyways in Upland was made by Dennis Smith at the Wednesday night Upland Town Council meeting.

"We need an ordinance that would restrict eighteen wheelers and cabs from running twenty-four hours a day," Smith began. "We also need an ordinance that restricts them from parking on private property if they must use an alley to access that property."

Smith stated that he had already made two hundred and fifty dollars worth of repairs

because of a neighbor who drove an eighteen wheeler and damaged some of his property including power lines.

"Personally it's an inconvenience," Smith said. "He has to drive over the sidewalk to get out."

Smith stated the alley was too narrow for the truck to get down without running over sidewalk edges and causing damage to his property.

"We could put up a weight ordinance sign," John Bonham council member said. "We can ask Jim and if we do not have an ordinance we can get one."

Mike Cooper, council member concluded by stating that the town council members would see what they could do.

A Busy Night For The Upland Town Council

By Sheri Ann Richerson
The Courier Editor

The Upland Town Council met last Wednesday night. Although only four members were present at the meeting many towns' people were there and lots of business was discussed.

Council members who were present included Joe Romine, Mike Cooper and John Bonham. Jane Rockwell the Clerk-Treasurer was also present.

The meeting opened with a request for a new ordinance that would restrict eighteen wheelers from using alleyways in town. That request was presented by Dennis Smith and is being looked into by the council.

The next order of business was a proposal for use of the Upland water towers for wireless internet access from Gregg Ballinger owner of the True Value Hardware Store, Inc. located on State Road 22 just outside of Upland. Permission was granted pending legal document approval for Ballinger to use the site for a six week trial period.

Barry L. Ehinger from the Bonar Group was also at the meeting to discuss with the town council the option of putting together a storm water committee.

There are many repairs that need to be made to the streets and the storm water drains and these repairs can be paid for out of the water rate Ehinger told the council.

"We could eliminate storm water problems," Bonham said. "We need to phase towards projects, establish the storm water department and the new rate with a plan of action in place. We can provide services that have a quality of life. That is our responsibility to the town."

The town people present were then asked how they felt about a rate increase. A few comments were heard about the town raising rates but over all the reaction was positive.

"The water goes somewhere. It goes through the cities drains to get to the ditches. You do need money to take care of that," Ballinger replied.

"We have to look at what we will get for our money," Bonham said. "We are working together for the good of Grant County. There is a good spirit within the county. We need to have a long range plan for our town. We need to raise revenue to deal with this."

In closing Bonham requested approval for residents of Bragg Avenue to pay for half of the repairs being done up front and the other half within a year. The council approved the plan.

Finally Romine told the council members that he made a decision to loan the fire pumper truck to Matthews for three to four weeks while their truck was out for repairs as a courtesy to them.

The next meeting of the Upland Town Council will be February 23, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Upland Town Offices, 87 North Main Street in Upland.

Indiana Sheriff's Association Accepting Scholarship Applications

By Sheri Ann Richerson
The Courier Editor

Grant County Sheriff Oates E. Archey has announced that the Indiana Sheriff's Association will be awarding forty scholarships of five hundred dollars each to qualifying students pursuing a degree in criminal justice studies.

To qualify for one of these scholarships the applicant must be an Indiana resident who is either a current member of the Indiana Sheriff's Association or a dependent child or grandchild of a current member. They must also attend an Indiana college or university, be enrolled as a full time student with a twelve hour minimum and be majoring

in a law enforcement field.

Applications are available from your high school counselor, the sheriff's office or by request from the Indiana Sheriff's Association, Post Office Box 19127, Indianapolis, Indiana 46219. The applications must be completed and received before April 1, 2005.