



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

Post-Meeting NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 Issue 1
February 2009



We the People
AMERICASPEAKS
21st Century Town Meeting®

Workgroup Meetings

Healthy & Caring Community
First Tuesday each month
6:30 p.m.
Administrative Board Room (Wendell Foster Campus)

Region Of Opportunity Team (ROOT)
Second Tuesday each month
6:00 p.m.
Wendell Ford Center, Owensboro Area Museum of Science and History

Environmental Impact Council
Fourth Tuesday each month
6:30 p.m.
Wendell Ford Center, Owensboro Area Museum of Science and History

Citizens for Good Government
Second Thursday each month
6:30 p.m.
Wendell Ford Center, Owensboro Area Museum of Science and History

Community Education & Learning
Third Tuesday each month
6:30pm
Wendell Ford Center, Owensboro Area Museum of Science and History

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY – CELEBRATING 1 YEAR

From the Executive Director

2008 – A Year in Review A Year for Change ...

In November 2007 something very magical happened, when over 650 Owensboro, Daviess County Residents came together for one reason—the future of our community!!!! It was a historical day; a day that we will remember and talk about for years to come. The day ended with hope.

Now, a year later we have over 1200 people involved with “We the People”— tracking progress, staying informed and supporting our efforts to make a difference in the five community challenges discussed during the town meeting:

- A Community Committed to Education and Learning
- A Region of Opportunity and Appeal
- A Uniquely Green and Clean Community
- A Healthy and caring Community
- A Government for the 21st Century

We believe that people can make a difference. We value the voice and participation of people from all walks of life. And we recognize that people also have responsibilities—to be well-informed, to respectfully deliberate with those who may have different points of view, and to find common ground for action.

The idea of an implementation phase after the Town Meeting was so exciting and groups formed. America Speaks commends our community calling us a pilot for other communities. We are doing something unprecedented, as we take the recommendations and put them into action.



Shelly Nichols
Executive Director,
We the People Initiative

So what have we been doing?

Expand Recycling

What has happened?

After the town meeting, the EIC (Environmental Impact Council) was formed. The EIC wasted no time and began researching other communities to find out about their recycling programs. Members from the group met with representatives of recycling services and municipalities, and visited programs in other communities. On September 18, 2008 the group made a presentation to the Daviess County Fiscal Court, where the officials challenged the group to educate the community on recycling. On April 22, 2009 (Earth Day) the group will kick-off a 13 week recycling educational campaign.

Transform downtown and insist on well-planned suburban expansion.

What has happened?

City and county government stepped up with support of a downtown executive. A firm was hired to prepare a master plan/implementation strategy. That plan was unveiled during the November 2008 first anniversary meeting of the “We the People” Town Meeting. “We the People” teamed up with the Region of Opportunity Team (ROOT) to facilitate unprecedented public participation in the downtown plan.



Coming Up

March 12, 2009
Quarterly Meeting

April 22, 2009
Kick-off for the Curbside Recycling Campaign

Ongoing Events
check the website for forums and other activities

Your voice can make a difference! Join us today!

shelly.nichols@plfo.org
270-685-2652

Getting low income families on solid financial footing; Fighting substance abuse.

What has happened?

The Healthy and Caring Community partnered with Community Solutions for Substance Abuse to expand proven techniques to reduce substance abuse.

A Volunteer Fair was held at the September 2008 Quarterly meeting to connect citizens who want to make a difference with community organizations who need volunteers.

The Healthy and Caring Community sponsored the initiative Love for Children: Operation KCHIP. This initiative provides sites and volunteers throughout Daviess County to help families complete the KCHIP application. The KCHIP program is low to no cost health, dental and vision insurance. The program was kicked off on February 13, 2009 at the Cliff Hagan Boys and Girls Club. The sites and volunteers will be running through April 15th 2009.

Establish governmental policies that ensure openness and transparency.

What has happened?

A Citizens for Good Government (CGG) committee was formed. The CGG sponsored public forums on the structure of local government and taxation as it researched the challenge of openness and transparency. CGG prepared an Openness and Transparency Pledge that soon will be presented to local public officials. Owensboro and Daviess County leaders may be the first public officials anywhere to adopt such a pledge.

Parent and community involvement in education.

What has happened?

A Generations United program is being launched to channel the valuable contribution that senior citizens can make in our schools and community

The Education committee is working with Junior Achievement in mentoring kids in local schools.

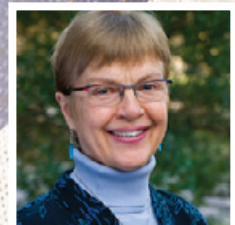
Save this date!

March 12, 2009
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Owensboro Community & Technical College
Blandford Hall – Humanities Building

Renowned Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Carolyn Lukensmeyer, Ph.D.
Founder and President of AmericaSpeaks



- A Pioneer in the field of citizen engagement
- Consultant to a former White House Chief of Staff
- Chief of Staff to Ohio Governor Richard Celeste (first woman to serve in this capacity)
- One of three women admitted to Harvard Law School in 1967 (first year Harvard Law School accepted women)

What has been happening with the five workgroups?

Join us March 12, 2009 to learn more!