

This past Monday around 5 pm, 56 year-old Raymond Kist, a visitor to our community from Hawthorn Woods, Illinois, left his hotel on IL-157 and walked to Jimmy John's for a bite to eat. Darkness had fallen and a light rain was misting the area when he started back to his lodging. While attempting to cross the five lanes of traffic on 157, Mr. Kist was struck by a northbound vehicle and pronounced dead a short time later. He left behind a wife and two kids.

Unfortunately his was not the first life lost in this corridor in the last four months (well-known local businessman Gary Cross was killed there in August). In fact, there have been multiple traffic-related deaths on IL-157 between Center Grove Road and Governor's Parkway in the past few years and scores of other accidents. It begs the question that many of you have raised: Is there something about this stretch of highway that is especially dangerous or problematic? The quick answer is no, right? Thousands of cars pass through every day without incident.

Instead of speculating, the Edwardsville Police Dept. ran an analysis of crash data in this area. Although it's still being reviewed and evaluated, the report reveals a series of seemingly unrelated accidents caused by a wide variety of factors. Fender benders, collisions with deer, distracted drivers, motorists running red lights, the list goes on and on. While there doesn't appear to be any one particular factor causing these accidents, (many are ice or snow related) there are definitely certain conditions that are worth evaluating. For instance, it appears as though traffic moves faster here than on other corridors in town. With five lanes and long stretches between stop lights, drivers can accelerate to higher speeds easier here than elsewhere (on IL-159, there's a signal every few blocks). There is pedestrian access (a crossing at Center Grove and a tunnel at the MCT Nature Trail) but it is limited. We also know that there are segments which are darker, and undeveloped areas where deer are still prevalent. The recent tragedy has understandably ignited anger, frustration and concern about public safety on IL-157. It also reinforces the need for a comprehensive bike and pedestrian plan for Edwardsville. At the upcoming Public Safety meeting on Monday night at 5 p.m. at City Hall, we will be discussing the topic of safety on IL-157. Many Ward 4 residents will be attending to share their thoughts, and I'm told that elected officials and staff members will be on hand for the conversation as well. If you can make it, I encourage you to be there. I can assure you that we at the city share your concerns, your sadness and your anger and we want to be smart about evaluating the situation and finding solutions.

As most of you know, tomorrow is Veteran's Day. I learned through a quick google search this morning that Raymond Kist was also a veteran. He served as a jet aviation mechanic in the United States Air Force. His memory will be among the many that we reflect upon tomorrow as we honor our veterans and meditate on their sacrifice and bravery for our country.

WINTER CONCERT SERIES AT THE WILDEY: The City of Edwardsville's Winter Concert series kicks off tonight, Friday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m. with Big Mike Aguirre and the Blu City All Stars at the Wildey Theatre. The band plays the music of the Mississippi River: St. Louis Blues, Memphis Soul, New Orleans Funk & everything in between. Visit www.WildeyTheatre.com for all of this year's Winter Concert Series shows, presented by the Edwardsville Parks & Rec Department.

VETERAN'S DAY PARADE & FREE MOVIES: Regardless of the weather, come out to support the brave men and women who have served our country by attending the annual Edwardsville Veteran's Day Parade on Saturday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m. in Downtown Edwardsville. The parade starts at Eden Church on Main Street and ends at First Baptist Church

on St. Louis Street. To encourage attendance, the city is hosting two free movies at the Wildey Theatre on Veteran's Day and free popcorn is available at both. The first is "Midway" starting at 4 p.m. and the second is "Saving Private Ryan" at 8 p.m. Please come to the parade and to the movies to show your support. A special thank you to all of Edwardsville's Veterans.

EHS DRAMA FALL SHOW: The acclaimed Edwardsville High School Drama Club presents its fall show, the classic comedy, "You Can't Take It with You," tonight, Friday, Nov. 10 and tomorrow, Saturday, Nov. 11 both shows at 7:30 p.m. in the EHS Auditorium. As a proud past member of this group, I can tell you that these shows are always entertaining. Tickets are on sale in the EHS Main Office weekdays from 7:30 am – 3:30 pm, and will also be available for purchase one hour before each show in the EHS lobby.

18TH CENTURY MEDICINE: On Sat., Nov. 11 at 2pm, the 1820 Col. Stephenson House will host a special lecture on Medical Practices of the 18th Century with speaker John Murphy. The event will actually take place at St. Andrew's Church (406 Hillsboro) due to the number of reservations. Mr. Murphy portrays an 18th century French barber surgeon as he discusses, in detail, a variety of historical cures, medicines and tools used to treat the sick. Attendees will be introduced to the remedies used by our fore fathers (and mothers) to treat physical ailments from toothaches to amputation. To purchase tickets visit www.stephensonhouse.org or call 618-692-1818.. Ticket prices for the presentation are \$6 Adults, \$3 children.

EHS CRAFT FAIR: The Edwardsville Band Boosters are hosting their annual Arts and Crafts Fair at Edwardsville High School tomorrow Saturday, Nov 11 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Sun., Nov 12 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sounds like a great place to do some holiday shopping. All proceeds benefit the Edwardsville High School band program.

EHS SPORTS ACTION: If you thought that the Drama Club's Fall production and the EHS Craft Fair was enough to keep Center Grove Road busy this weekend, here's what's going on with Athletics: The IHSA is hosting the Swimming Sectional Meet from 8 am – 5 pm at the Chuck Fruit Aquatic Center at the EHS Sports Complex on Saturday, and if all that isn't enough, your Edwardsville Tigers will be taking on Minooka High School in Varsity Football action in the IHSA Quarter-Finals at the Sports Complex at 4:00 p.m. Go Tigers!

CEMETERY UPDATES: Ward 4 has two cemeteries, Woodlawn (on St. Louis Street) and Valley View (on IL-157). Last weekend members of the Woodlawn Association, along with St. Louis Street neighbors and Sexton Edward Ricks, worked to dig out old bushes, re-landscape the entrance, place new rock, and plant replacements that will provide year round color (junipers, roses, arbor vitae) to the site.

Likewise, the Friends of Valley View Cemetery held a "Day of the Dead" fund-raiser in the side room at Cleveland Heath last Thursday night to help raise funds and support for the ongoing maintenance and improvement of conditions at Valley View.

WHAT'S UP AT THE WILDEY: Tonight, as I mentioned earlier, Big Mike Aguirre and the Blu City All Stars take the Wildey stage, tomorrow there are two FREE movies in honor of Veteran's Day ("Midway" at 4 pm and "Saving Private Ryan" at 8 pm). The \$2 Tuesday film next Tuesday

is the Frank Capra classic “Arsenic & Old Lace” starring Cary Grant. For details on these and other shows at the Wildey, visit WildeyTheatre.com or call 307-1750.

LIBRARY LECTURE ON WONDERS OF PERE MARQUETTE: The Edwardsville Public Library is hosting an educational seminar on the rare and fascinating geological and historical features of nearby Pere Marquette State Park. The event will take place this Sunday, November 12 from 2:00 to 3:30 PM in the downstairs community room at the Library. The seminar will be lead by author and retired SIUE Biology Professor (and former Ward 4 resident) Richard Keating who recently published a guidebook on the 8,000-acre park. Keating will speak about his research on the history and the natural elements of the impressive park. The event is free and open to the public.

STATE BUDGET, THE CHALLENGES AHEAD: Context is important and so is face-to-face discourse about the real issues that are facing our community and region. Here’s an opportunity to engage. St. Louis Public Radio is teaming up with Illinois Public Radio to host an “Edwardsville, Illinois Issues Forum” on Thursday, November 16 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Morris University Center, on the SIUE campus. The topic is the Illinois Budget situation, and attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions, share how they have been impacted, or to simply listen and learn. The event will take place in the Maple – Dogwood Room of the University Center and those interested are encouraged (but not required) to sign up online at: <https://uofi.uis.edu/fb/sec/7762359>

AMAZON GIFT TO WOODLAND: It’s not HQ2, but students at Ward 4’s Woodland Elementary were greeted this past Thursday by reps from Amazon, who announced a generous gift of \$10,000 to the school for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) products. We’re grateful to our new corporate partners for this donation. In the interest of space, I defer to our friends at the Intelligencer for more on the story: <http://www.theintelligencer.com/news/article/Amazon-makes-STEM-donation-to-Woodland-12345777.php>

LEARNING ABOUT LIGHT POLLUTION: Be a citizen scientist and participate in Watershed Nature Center’s “Globe at Night” program on Saturday, November 18 from 6 - 7 pm at Watershed. The event is run by the National Optical Astronomy Observatory and is a partnership with SIUE. Participants are invited to monitor light pollution by measuring the brightness of the night sky in their community. The event is open to the first 25 individuals - \$5 for adults and \$2 for kids 12 and under. Register at the link below: <https://forms.donorsnap.com/form?id=f0d85ad6-0518-4fb8-aa98-fe75bd40f971>

WATERSHED WILDERNESS WALK: On Tuesday, November 21, from 10 am – 12 pm, join a guided tour of Watershed Nature Center led by a Master Naturalist and teacher, Judy. Take in the vistas of their native wetland, prairie, and forest habitats and learn what's new in the Watershed wilderness. No registration is required.

WHITE CHRISTMAS SING ALONG: The Friends of the Wildey Theatre are continuing their annual tradition of screening the 1954 classic film, “White Christmas” starring Danny Kaye, Bing Crosby, and Rosemary Clooney. Guests will be treated to a free goodie bag with special

props to use during the movie and are invited to sing along to these holiday favorites. Christmas movie trivia will take place 30 minutes prior to the shows. General admission tickets are \$15; and \$10 for seniors and students under 18. Both the Friday and Saturday shows have sold out, so the Wildey has opened up another showing on Thursday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. Don't miss this holiday classic, a new Edwardsville tradition, and see this heart-warming tale as it was meant to be seen on the Wildey Theatre's big screen, surrounded by friends and family. It really doesn't feel like the holidays until we've been to this event. For tickets, visit: <http://wildeytheatre.com/?nav=eventsDetails&num=1410>

WEIR HOUSE WINDOWS: The Madison County Historical Society (MCHS) is asking residents for assistance in restoring the 31 windows of the historic "Weir House" on Main Street. The Weir House which was built in 1836, and is one of Edwardsville's oldest structures, has served as the Madison County Historical Museum since the 1960s. Donors are being asked to adopt one or more windows at a cost of \$2,400 each – which will pay for complete restoration of the window and a protective storm window appropriate for the historic building. The family name of each window sponsor will appear on a plaque. The project is part of a \$2 million whole-house renovation which the Weir House has been undergoing for the last few years. The roof was recently replaced, and the dormers and chimneys were rebuilt. Currently a high-efficiency heating and air conditioning system is being installed. Other plans for the renovation include: new electrical wiring, repair of deteriorating plaster, repainting the entire interior, and stripping paint from the brick exterior, tuck pointing, and resealing the structure. Once this work is completed, new museum exhibits designed to tell the story of Madison County will be installed. Help restore this architectural jewel in our community. To donate, or learn more, visit: <http://madcohistory.org/>

"4-WARD" THINKING: Thursday night the Land Use Committee of the Plan Commission met to review two proposed "Planned Unit Developments." Both are located within a half-mile of one another on IL-157 and both are in Ward 4. The first is Whispering Heights, the mixed-use, multi-story retail and apartment complex which is proposed for the outlots in front of the Enclave Student Housing. The other is the latest portions of the "Timberlake PUD" which is the small development at the corner of IL-157 and Lewis Road (where the US Bank is located). A few small office buildings which will match the brick and gabled look of the bank are being proposed. Representatives for both projects were present at the meeting last night to answer questions and hear comments from the committee. Composed of knowledgeable and caring Edwardsville residents (three of whom live in Ward 4), the Plan Commission along with our hard working City staff, does a nice job of asking hard questions about projects and making sure that all concerns are addressed. I try to make it to as many of these meetings as I can, but especially those that impact Ward 4, so I attended last night to be a part of the discussion. As many of you know, I am committed to improving pedestrian and bike access throughout Edwardsville, but particularly in Ward 4. So I think it's important that we develop a comprehensive plan for prioritizing infrastructure and way-finding improvements in an effort to facilitate safer and more accessible pedestrian connectivity. We may even need to look at our existing ordinances and make changes to formalize this vision for a more walkable, bikeable Edwardsville. Since we first learned about these projects on IL-157, I have insisted that both developments be connected to a 10 foot-wide concrete shared-use path (for use by both pedestrians and cyclists). My goal is to have the path begin at Lewis Road and extend past the Timberlake PUD, past the

small retail development, around the curve and all the way to the MCT Goshen Trail and the new Whispering Heights project. Eventually, that path could connect to Woodland Elementary, Lincoln Middle School and then provide seamless access to Downtown Edwardsville. Obviously it will have to be phased, but I was pleased to learn at the meeting that both developments will be integrating connections to the shared use path, with the developer of the Timberlake project committing to construct the first 100 or so feet and the Whispering Heights project adding designated bike parking. We have much to do, but these are small and encouraging victories. And hopefully just the beginning.

And don't forget about....

ROTARY CITRUS FOR SALE: It's that time of year again – you can fight scurvy, get your vitamin C and support the community all at the same time! The Rotary Club of Edwardsville is selling cases of oranges and grapefruit to benefit local charities, grants and scholarships as well as regional and international projects. A case of 72 Navel California Oranges is \$37.00 and a case of 36 Indian River Grapefruit is \$35.00. You can also get a split case (half oranges/half grapefruit for \$36.00). Since I am an Edwardsville Rotarian, if you'd like to order a case (or cases) just respond to this e-mail by November 30 and I can coordinate getting your check (made payable to Edwardsville Rotary Club) and the citrus. Cases will be available December 8 & 9.

OLIVE STREET CLOSURE: Olive is still closed for the culvert replacement and stream bank stabilization of the Delaplain Branch. The closure is expected to be complete around the week of Thanksgiving if not sooner. Motorists are encouraged to use Grandview Drive during the closure.

EDW NEIGHBORS IN NEED TURKEY TROT: Registration is open for the 8th Annual Turkey Trot 5K hosted by Edwardsville Neighbors in Need on Thanksgiving Day. This year's event is moving to SIUE and promises to be bigger and better than before. A Kids Fun Run starts at 8:30 a.m. and the 5K at 8:45 a.m. Pre-registration is required. To do so, and to ensure that you get one of their great long-sleeve performance race shirts, sign-up at: <https://www.athlinks.com/event/edwardsville-turkey-trot-5k-17273>.

My apologies for the lengthy e-mail this week. There's been a lot going on and I feel compelled to let you know about what we're doing and why. Thank you again to all of our Veterans. Have a wonderful weekend!

SJ Morrison
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