

April 6, 2009

Neighbor-to-Neighbor

Election for City Council 2nd District is tomorrow. As 10-year residents of the Arbor District, located within the 2nd District, we feel the need to respond to Curphy Smith's recent campaign literature. We have a long relationship with both Barbara Van Auken and Curphy Smith, and until now, we've remained rather quiet about this campaign. Information has been distributed from Curphy's campaign camp that is over the top and unwarranted.

As many of you know, we have worked closely with Barbara on several issues concerning all of our neighborhoods. She has always been honest and forthcoming with information, which we respect. She's dedicated to all the issues in the District, working tirelessly on them. Barbara's promises to us have never been broken (we personally know Curphy Smith has broken vows and promises he's made), and she has always worked hard for the 2nd District. Barbara respects Bradley University and its mission to provide a safe educational environment for their students and neighbors. Simply stated, Barbara understands the dedication and time commitment of being a council member, and is still passionate about being our representative. She desires the job...not just the title.

Her diligence to facilitate the rebuilding of the arbors in the Arbor District was supported not only by the neighbors, but the City Council. The City Council voted UNANIMOUSLY on April 10, 2007 to approve additional funding for the arbors, however most of the funds were allocated in the Capital Fund Budget before Barbara's first term. The previous arbor was held together with metal bands, and a danger to public safety. The "extravagant monument," as referred to by Curphy's campaign, is almost identical to the original, and was rebuilt per the request of the neighbors, to preserve a historical landmark for which the neighborhood is named; they weren't rebuilt for Barbara's benefit.

Barbara Van Auken has accomplished many great things and will do more for our District and our city. She has experience, fortitude, and she has our vote. Re-elect Barbara on Tuesday, April 7.

Respectfully,

Nathan and Michelle Wagner

West Bluff Contributions

Barbara Van Auken

- Coordinated meetings between neighborhoods and Bradley with respect to the new parking deck.
- Played a key role in negotiating the paving of the South Maplewood alley for safe passage of Upland's pedestrians.
- Helped facilitate purchases of property for the Western Avenue Greenway Project, bringing it closer to its completion.
- Continues to be an advocate for 2nd District schools.
- Working on Renaissance Park projects, such as Main Street Commons and Methodist Medical Center's expansion.
- And the list goes on....

Curphy Milton Smith

