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METRO

## Pollution kills south-side well field plans

By DON PORTER

**SOUTH BEND** — Heart by an inability to find an unspoiled site, the Water Works has dropped plans for a new well field on the south side, says Director John P. Stancak.

The utility's Board of Managers earlier this month agreed with Stancak to scrap a new well field that had been planned for O'Brien Park in the 4100 block of South Michigan Street.

The decision came after following by the Indiana Water Pollution Control Board, a potential carcinogen, and other organic compounds in water from one of three test wells drilled at the site.

The tests showed a TCE level of 64 parts per billion, Stancak said. While that is well below the maximum level of 50 parts per billion

### Well fields on south side ruled out

**SOUTH BEND** — Municipal water wells on the south and west side have encountered repeated pollution difficulties in the last 10 years.

One of the six wells at the Olive Street pumping station were shut in the early 1980s when they became contaminated. Pollutants also forced two wells in Burn Village to be shut down and also reached wells at Chipmunk Avenue and South Main Street and at Ewing Avenue and Cortez Street.

"At this point, we're not planning any new well fields on the south side since we can't be sure of a location," according to Water Works Director John P. Stancak.

well, the chances are you're going to draw more TCE to it eventually," he said. "If there are any signs of TCE, pumping there is just asking for trouble."

Pumping at O'Brien Park also could increase the likelihood of drawing pollutants to another municipal well at Erie Park just to

the east along East End Road, the director said.

"The Erie well is just down the street. If we pull the (pollution) plume into a well at O'Brien, we're saying we won't pull it into the good well at Erie as well," he added.

No traces of TCE have shown up in the remaining well at Erie, the director said. One well there had to be shut down in the late 1980s when it revealed TCE contamination.

Drilling a well at O'Brien also would require constant — and costly — monitoring. Stancak said.

Although the source of the TCE traces in the O'Brien water aren't pinpointed, it likely stems from a former heavy industrial area along Chipmunk Avenue to the west, Stancak said.

The stretch includes the former

AM General truck manufacturing plant, an abandoned oil company tank farm, and the former Teco Washburn Manufacturing Co. plant. The Stancak Corp. once had a trucking facility there as well, Stancak noted.

Original plans for O'Brien called for drilling two wells. That was cut back to just one after tests showed insufficient capacity there for two.

Plans to develop a new well field at Bellevue Park on the far west side were scrapped earlier when testing showed an inadequate water supply.

However, plans remain in the works to add two new wells this year, Stancak said. One would be at the north pumping station in East Leeper Park and the other on Cleveland Road on the far north side.

Each should be able to pump

1,700 to 2,000 gallons a minute, Stancak said.

While it would cost less to develop new wells on the growing south side to serve that area, the Water Works can pump water from virtually any place in its system to any location, he continued.

"I think we'll be OK for this summer," he said. "We can pump water from just about anywhere to any where."

The highest strain on the system came in the summer of 1988, when the utility pumped a record 60 million gallons in one day. That was probably close to the system's capacity, although the maximum possible output is not known precisely, Stancak said.

A sobering caution is that the utility has 12 fewer wells operating today than in 1988, the director said.

## Lawsuit seeks foreclosure on Baseball Inc.

By MARTI GOODLAD HELINE

**SOUTH BEND** — Owners of a building used for a bingo hall by Baseball Inc. have filed court action seeking foreclosure of a bank loan they hold.

In the lawsuit filed in Circuit Court, the owners of the former Hammond Shopping Center, 290 Lincoln Way W., ask the court to foreclose against Baseball Inc. because it is behind in its payments. Baseball Inc., a nonprofit organization formed to raise funds for youth sports, ran bingo games there eight a week until Jan. 12, when the state Department of Revenue revoked its bingo license.

The state claims Baseball Inc. had committed a number of violations of state gaming laws, including paying bingo taxes. Baseball Inc. denies all the allegations.

The revocation and a fine of \$30,000 have been upheld in an administrative hearing and subsequent appeal in St. Joseph Superior Court. Baseball Inc. now is in the process of appealing the court ruling that affirmed the license forfeiture.

The plaintiffs in the foreclosure suit are listed as James P. Conboy Jr., James J. Conboy and Vincent Stenhouse, who sold the property to Baseball Inc. in March 1993 for \$90,000.

Defendants are Baseball Inc. and St. Joseph City, who signed a security agreement in connection with Baseball Inc.'s original promissory note at the time of the sale, according to the suit.

The suit seeks to foreclose on two mortgages: a secondary one on which \$25,144 remained unpaid as of March 31, according to the case, and the primary mortgage, which had a balance of \$62,582 on March 31.

Court documents show that Baseball Inc. was to pay \$1,800 monthly on the first mortgage. The secondary loan started out as a mortgage to General Fire Protection Systems Co. at Elmhurst, Ill., which was later bought out by the owners of the property on Lincoln Way.

Circuit Judge Terry Crane on Monday turned down a request from the plaintiffs' lawyer to appoint a receiver to supervise the property. Baseball Inc. attorney Fred Hines argued against the receiver.

Hines said he thought Baseball Inc. officers had met the requirements of the agreement they made with the managing partner of the building, namely to maintain the status quo for a while, but then the owners were forced to sell.

The lower judge said that without game income to pay expenses, foreclosure is a definite possibility. Meanwhile, the organization's appeal is moving forward. Hines said it will be sent soon to the Indiana Court of Appeals.

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Perry Lucas, a student at Indiana University Purdue University at Indianapolis, registered to vote Tuesday at the MTV "Chosen Line" program in Indianapolis.

## Voter registration 'bused in' to IUPUI students by MTV

By MARCIA BENEDEK

**INDIANAPOLIS** — Political quotes cover the red-white-and-blue has carrying the message that every vote counts — and at every step its riders try to convince college students to register their vote for the '96 election.

This is hardly, and figuratively, a machine that keeps making a huge impact on the audience we're reaching," Jaime Ernesto Luna said Tuesday.

Luna, along with several others, visited Indiana University Purdue University at Indianapolis as part of MTV's "Chosen Line" for MTV, and Rick the Vote bus tour. MTV is leading the campaign coverage, while Rick the Vote is heading the voter registration drive.

Dave Anderson, who looked the "Chosen Line" tour for MTV, said his main objective is to provide political awareness and let students know they have a voice in the system.

"MTV has a certain role in the media space," Anderson said. "People aren't tuning in just for entertainment. They're interested in this year's presidential campaign because of reports by the

music television network.

"I've got to see the MTV reports at least once a day to catch up on the issues and see what's going on," said John Brothers, an art education major at IUPUI.

While the bus made blares from the stereo system and television sets repeated MTV's campaign broadcast, students sat on the back seats, filling out registration forms. They agreed the key issue to them is education.

"The main thing for us to be thinking about is what these people are going to do to our student loans," said John Brothers, an art major. "I want to vote for someone who isn't going to make me start paying back my loans while I'm still trying to get through school. That's not right."

Steve Gray, a law concentrator, said students' views on financial aid range from ultra-conservative to undeniably liberal.

"In an interview with us, (Rick the Vote) outlined his program to cut student loans, and some students are Republicans who say they trust that, others are getting loans so they don't, and some aren't concerned with it at all," Gray said.

Art major Ben Wachtel said the bus tour gave him a reason to register.

"I watch quite a bit of the MTV news reports, plus this is a chance to go to the post office to register," he said.

Joan Diggs said she's undecided on whom to vote for in the '96 presidential election. But her friend, Charlotte Schmeider, knows who she's not voting for.

"It's not going to be Bill Clinton," Schmeider said. "The cars more about what's going on in other countries than about what's happening here in our own country."

Anderson said the bus tour, named for guitarist Ted Nugent's words, "Don't be a worthless weed, choose or lose," has logged more than 3,000 miles in the past two months and registered more than 1,000 people.

Gray said the Indianapolis campaign is the bus's first stop, and he should reach nearly 200 destinations before the November election.

"We really want to get out there and encourage people to read the newspapers and find out the candidates' platforms," he said. "We're also trying to reach out and find out what's important to this crowd of voters."

Opponents say the action was fairly barred by lack of proper legal advertising. Council Member James L. Redmond, R-Charter 8, sought Tuesday to present a resolution declaring the view of the council to be that the tax should be "declared null and void" for St. Joseph County for calendar year 1996.

But the resolution had not been properly filed in advance of the meeting. Redmond said it would be filed for action at the May 14 meeting.

That is the deadline given by citizens for Common Sense for action to avoid a court suit.

church acquired the center when it bought the brown brick church, formerly St. Paul's Episcopal Lutheran Church, at the corner of Van Buren and Harmon in 1981. A separate board was set up to run the center, so that it can receive federal funding.

## Disease discussed via teleconference

**SOUTH BEND** — A statewide teleconference on multiple sclerosis will be held locally from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. May 4 at Memorial Hospital.

Participants will first watch a video of medical professionals discussing recent multiple sclerosis research and then be able to ask questions via telephone hookup.

Featured presenters are Dr. Patricia C. Coffey and Dr. Lawrence Krupp, both medical school professors of neurology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Registration is required and can be arranged by calling 800-25-1208. A donation is suggested to help cover the costs of the mass media conference.

**Session will cover osteoporosis topics**

**SOUTH BEND** — Lifeslides of St. Joseph's Care Group and Holy Cross Care Services will be joined by the Indiana State Department of Health in sponsoring "Osteoporosis 101" from 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. April 27.

The program will take place in the St. Joseph's Medical Center Education Center. Topics will focus on new and emerging therapies for osteoporosis, nutritional aspects, exercise, prevention and treatment, diagnostic tests, hormone replacement and patient education.

Faculty include Dr. Thomas J. Savory, Robert Thompson, Dr. Brent Mohr, Dr. Diane Healy and Dr. Diane Healy.

Registration is required. The cost is \$10 for family caregivers and \$25 for professional caregivers. Refunds will be given as well as handouts and continuing education credit are included in the fee.

For information, call 233-3117.

**Students can bring parents to school**

**SOUTH BEND** — May 1 will be "Take Your Parents to School Day" at Riley High School, 400 E. Irving Ave.

All Riley students will be encouraged to take one or both of their parents to school that day.

Special programs and activities will welcome parents, who attend that day. There also will be a drawing of prizes donated by local businesses.

Parents can spend all or part of the day at the school.

For more information, call Riley at 289-5571.

## PUBLIC WORKS

### Hydrant flushing in 2 city areas

**SOUTH BEND** — Water Works crews will open 15 fire hydrants in two areas of the city tonight as the annual main flushing program continues.

One of the areas is on the east side and includes Main Avenue and Pleasant Street between Tronzo Drive and Logan Street.

The other is on the near northwest side and includes Lincoln Way from Lafayette Boulevard to Lavender Avenue, Chalk Avenue from Lafayette to LaPorte Avenue, VanBuren Street from Portage Avenue to Lavender, Martin Street from Lafayette to LaPorte, and LaPorte to Portage, LaPorte from Martin to LaPorte Street, LaPorte Avenue from Lafayette to Taylor Street, Scott Street from Lindsey to Portage, and Lindsey from LaPorte to Scott.