

## this issue

SUMMER  
COOLING TIPS

Now that spring has sprung, it is time to prepare for the hot, humid Indiana summers. Here are a few quick tips to help lower your energy bill.

Sunny windows make air conditioners work two to three times harder. Close curtains on south- and west-facing windows during the day. Install white window shades, drapes, or blinds to reflect heat away from the house. Apply sun-control or other reflective films on south-facing windows.

Use your air conditioner wisely. Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible, the less difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill. Don't set your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It won't cool your home any faster, and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense. Use a programmable thermostat with your air conditioner to adjust the setting at night or when no one is home. Use a fan with your window air conditioner to spread cool air effectively through your home without greatly increasing power use. Don't place lamps or TVs near your air conditioner's thermostat. The heat from these appliances will cause the air conditioner to run longer.

If your air conditioner is old, the new energy efficient models can save you up to 50 percent on your cooling bills. Look for the ENERGY STAR®.



## NEW CASTLE

**NEW CASTLE, INDIANA** – Do you wonder who the people walking around downtown with clipboards are? Last week Brenner Design and Silver Creek Engineering conducted a three day site survey of all 72 historic buildings in downtown New Castle which included identifying their historic significance and documenting existing traffic and pedestrian patterns. The site survey was followed up with an in-depth two day investigation of the current physical condition and known environmental site hazards of specific buildings. The goal of the survey was to identify opportunities to improve quality of life and business.

The downtown revitalization project will energize and re-define Broad Street from 11th to 16th Streets and Race Street from Main to 15th Streets. The project will focus on increasing visitor experience with the addition of walking and bike paths, way-finding signage, and additional parking. The engineering and design will include new sidewalks, street lighting, benches and streetscape amenities. Façade improvements for individual storefronts are a definite target.

Brenner Design, founded in 1992, is an Indianapolis-based architectural design firm. Brenner Design's staff members include professional architects, interior designers and space planners. Brenner Design's Historic Preservation and Downtown Revitalization Studio staff are certified Indiana Historic Architects and Preservationists (DNR), dedicated to enhancing the physical and aesthetic character of existing downtown historic properties.

Silver Creek Engineering is an Indianapolis based engineering firm. The staff at Silver Creek has a broad base of technical knowledge and practical experience and has provided structural engineering services including structural investigations, damage assessments, historic restorations and the renovation of existing structures. Silver Creek's experience with historic buildings includes work on National Historic Landmarks and buildings on HLF's 10 Most Endangered list. Past projects include the restoration of The West Baden Springs Hotel West Baden, The French Lick Springs Hotel, and The City of Attica Façade.

Matt Owen, P.E. of Silver Creek Engineering, will focus on the structural stabilization of buildings in downtown New Castle. Matt's experience with both historical and modern structural design combined with practical knowledge makes him a wealth of knowledge.

Kevin Sumner is Silver Creek's senior site/civil designer. Kevin's role on the project team is handling the parking and civil improvement design aspects. Kevin is a LEED Accredited Professional and has been proposing environmentally friendly solutions for the revitalization project.

The City of New Castle is excited to partner with Brenner Design and Silver Creek Engineering to design a plan that will combine many different ideas to make New Castle a sustainable community to live, shop, play and entertain. Please say hello to our visitors when you see them on the streets!

**The next meeting will be held on May 10<sup>th</sup> at the City Council Chambers to review the Final Draft of the OCRA Grant Application.**



## SPRING CLEAN-UP!

NEW CASTLE, IN – Get involved with your community and help improve Downtown New Castle's Historic District. Volunteers are needed to assist with the Spring Clean-up. If you would like to participate, meet in front of the courthouse at 9:00 am, Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>. If you bring your own clean-up supplies, please label your supplies with your phone number. Donations are also appreciated (brooms, large trash bags, rakes bottled water, etc.) For more information about the Spring Clean-up, contact Scott Heavin at 765-529-2489.

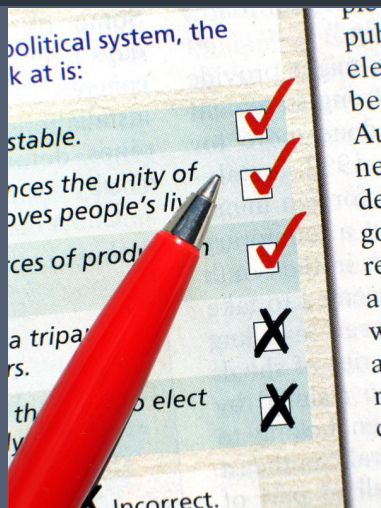
## MAKE YOUR OPINION COUNT

### TAKE THE SURVEY...

Please help improve the City of New Castle by completing a short survey. Results of the survey will be used to help shape the future of your community and define how we can best serve the community. This survey is open to anyone: residents, business owners, and visitors. Let us know why you think New Castle is a great place to live, work, and visit. Share your ideas for the future of New Castle.

To take the survey, visit:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XQ77K9W>.



## ALL EYES ON NEW CASTLE !!! New Castle Community Calendar

- |               |                                                                                              |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 2010      | National Historic Preservation Month                                                         |
| 01 May 2010   | Annual State Road 38 Rummage Sale<br><i>Throughout New Castle &amp; Henry County</i>         |
| 08 May 10     | Cash Bonanza @ Westwood Golf Club<br><i>Presented By NC Chamber of Commerce</i>              |
| 10 May 10     | Final Draft Presented                                                                        |
| 21 May 10     | Henry County Concert Series- Duke<br>Tomatoe, <i>Arts Park, New Castle, IN</i>               |
| 31 May 10     | New Castle Memorial Day Parade                                                               |
| 04 June 10    | Henry County Concert Series- Cook &<br>Bell, <i>Arts Park, New Castle, IN</i>                |
| 05 June 10    | Cars for a Cure Fundraiser<br><i>Baker Park Main Shelter</i>                                 |
| 04 July 10    | 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks, <i>Henry County<br/>Memorial Park</i>                     |
| 07-17 July 10 | Henry County 4-H Fair<br><i>Henry County Memorial Park</i>                                   |
| 09 Jul 10     | Henry County Concert Series- Sycamore<br>Rhythm Kings, <i>Arts Park, New Castle, IN</i>      |
| 10 Aug 10     | OCRA "Bricks and Mortar" Grant<br>Application Deadline                                       |
| 14 Aug 10     | Preservation Celebration<br><i>New Castle, IN</i>                                            |
| 20 Aug 10     | Henry County Concert Series- Lonnie<br>Lester, <i>Arts Park, New Castle, IN</i>              |
| 03-06 Sep 10  | Farmer's Pike Antique, Arts & Crafts<br>Festival, <i>New Castle, IN</i>                      |
| 11 Sep 10     | Henry County Concert Series-<br>International Festival, <i>Arts Park, New<br/>Castle, IN</i> |
| 10 Oct 10     | Potential Grant Award Date<br>(OCRA "Bricks and Mortar")                                     |

\* Meetings Are Open to the Public

**NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING**  
May 10, 2010, 6:30 PM  
New Castle City Council Chambers