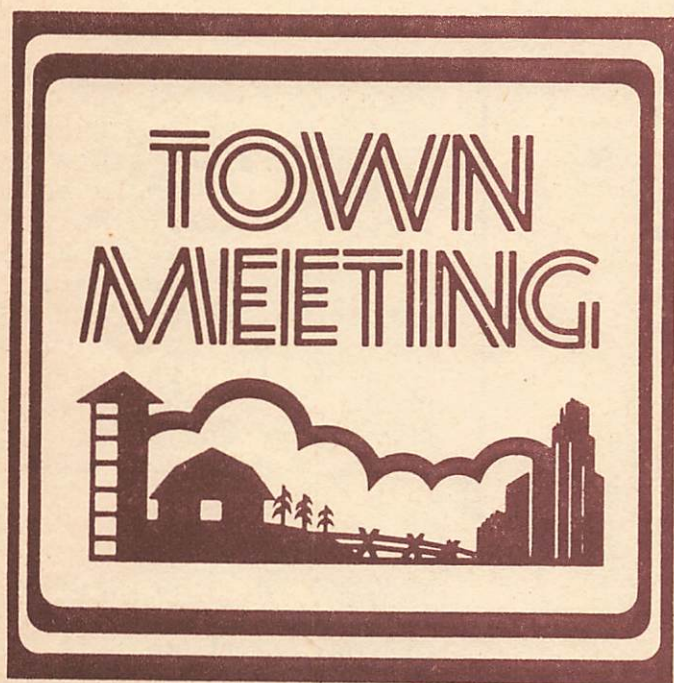


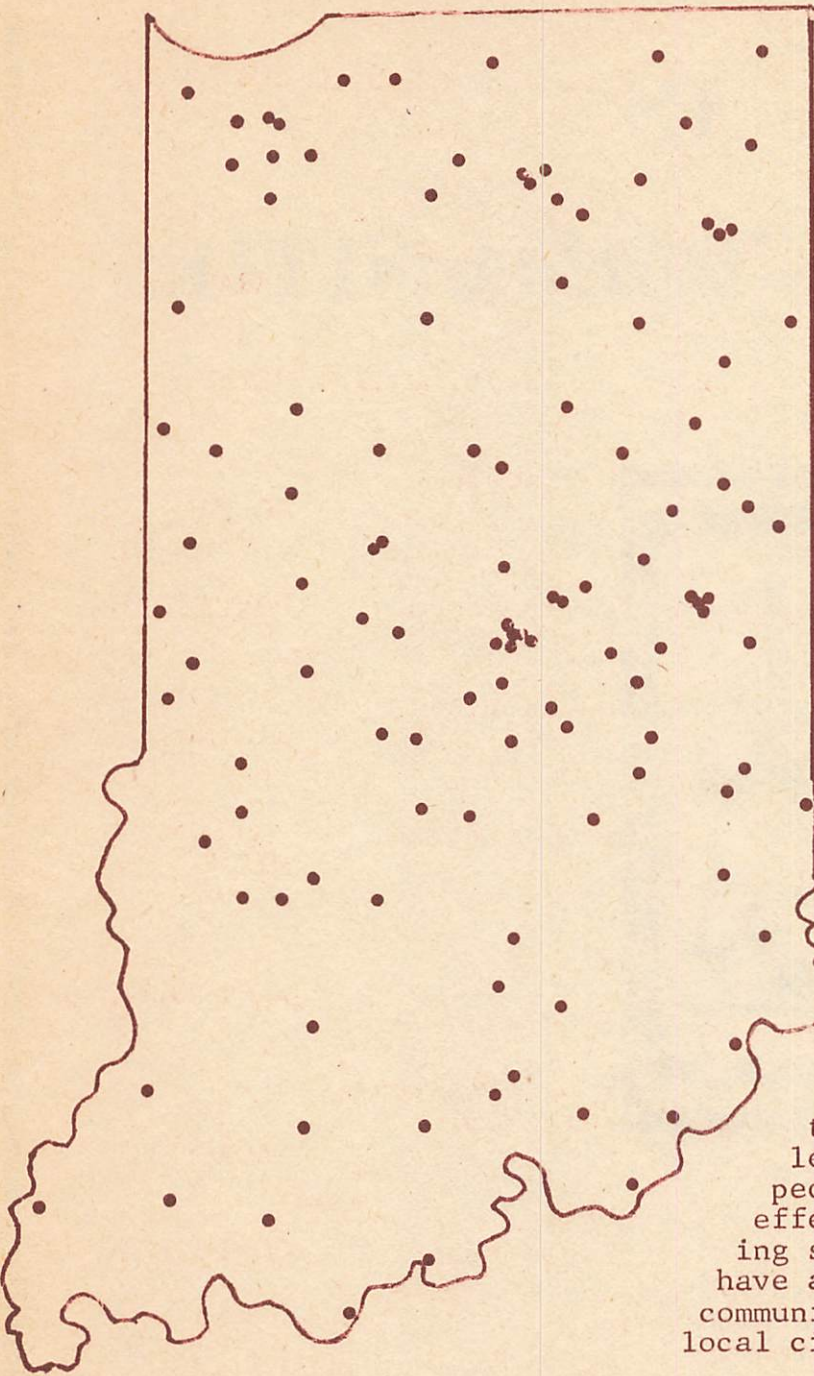
SOMETHING IS HAPPENING
IN
INDIANA COMMUNITIES



A Follow-up Report

prepared by
THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

January, 1980



SINCE 1974, OVER 5600 PEOPLE
IN 120 INDIANA COMMUNITIES -
AT LEAST ONE IN EVERY COUNTY -
HAVE PARTICIPATED IN A
NATIONWIDE PROGRAM INSPIRED
BY THE EARLY NEW ENGLAND
'TOWN MEETING'.

AT EACH TOWN MEETING, local
citizens defined the key
challenges facing their
communities and wrote proposals
to engage the whole community
in solving them. Working in
teams, they created a song
and symbol commemorating their
past achievements and future
vision. At the end of each
Town Meeting, the participants
produced a document containing
their work and had a celebration
of their new decisions.

THROUGH THE TOWN MEETING,
people rediscovered that local
citizens are those best qualified
to discern and resolve local prob-
lems, and that twenty or two hundred
people working together are much more
effective than the same number work-
ing separately. These participants
have again demonstrated that true
community development depends upon
local citizens.

Something Is Happening

FROM LACROSSE TO VEVAY

.... FROM RISING SUN TO COVINGTON

- "We had our first Town Board election in 33 years." SARATOGA
- "We revived our traditional Swiss Festival." VEVAY
- "We will now be having a youth member on our Town Board." COLFAX
- "We established our town's first preschool." MONTPELIER
- "Our new senior citizens housing unit is about to open." RISING SUN
- "We developed a community resume to attract new business." MILAN
- "We began our own housing renovation program." WEST HARRISON
- "We had 300 people out sandbagging all night and then hosted a Town Meeting Assembly the next morning." LACROSSE
- "We had another bank decide to open here." COVINGTON
- "We had three more Town Meetings." FLAT ROCK
- "In Hospital Heights we've started youth activities, published a community newsletter, had our streets paved and finished the playground." NEW CASTLE

Communities Are On The Move

In 1976, Mapleton-Fall Creek was a place most people would have described as a "declining Indianapolis neighborhood". A Town Meeting there in June 1976 enabled the once active Neighborhood Association to begin functioning again. They sponsored a second Town Meeting in May 1978 which focused on housing, jobs and safety and attracted 350 residents. In June 1979 the first Mapleton-Fall Creek Festival was enjoyed by more than 3,000 people. Property values in the neighborhood have doubled in the last four years, one indication of the turnaround which this community has experienced.



CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

WILLIAM H. HUDNUT, III
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

"MAPLETON-FALL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION DAY"

June 16, 1979

The Mapleton-Fall Creek Neighborhood Association has been successful in reaching the nucleus of its community through its various services, activities, and programs promoting civic awareness and participation; and

The primary goal of this association is neighborhood revitalization and the improvement of the social, cultural, and economic status of the area residents; and

The Mapleton-Fall Creek Neighborhood Association has provided responsible and accurate direction for the neighborhood residents in its efforts to identify and resolve the issues of this area; and

In its constant effort to acquaint the members of the community with the benefits of a dynamic coalition, the neighborhood association is sponsoring a festival which will serve to unite area merchants, residents, and associates in a carnival atmosphere featuring a parade, talent show, beauty contest, fashion show, booths, and a spectacular dance:

I, William H. Hudnut, III, Mayor of the City of Indianapolis, do hereby proclaim June 16, 1979, as

"MAPLETON-FALL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION DAY"

in Indianapolis, and call upon all citizens to salute this outstanding organization and join me in commending its numerous achievements.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand and
caused the Seal of the City
of Indianapolis to be affixed
this 1st day of June, 1979.

William H. Hudnut, III
WILLIAM H. HUDNUT, III, MAYOR





Small towns are nice

Small town accomplishments and ways to deal with problems in rural communities were discussed at an eight-town meeting held in Colfax Wednesday night. As part of the group, Priscilla Bain, WL, lists the accomplishments of area small towns, while Marta Lapke,

standing right, talks with Colfax town attorney David Little. Also pictured are Matt Sorensen, WL, standing center; Walter Harrison, seated left; and an unidentified town board member. (Staff photo by Toni E. Cornelius)

Residents share concerns for boosting small towns

By TONI E. CORNELIUS
Staff Writer

COLFAX — The message was clear — the residents of area rural communities aren't ready to roll over and play dead.

Community leaders and concerned citizens from eight small towns gathered here Wednesday night to share the accomplishments that have improved their towns and to exchange ideas for further improvement with other communities.

Their accomplishments ranged from the "swanky new sewage plant" at Clark's Hill to the remodeled fire department building at Flora. And they all plan more development and new attempts to involve residents in making their towns nicer places to live.

The meeting was sponsored by the Colfax Town Board and the Institute of Cultural Affairs, based in Indianapolis. It was an extension of a series of meetings held last spring in each of the towns represented at Wednesday's session.

According to Elsa Bengel, ICA worker, the meetings were designed to promote growth and development of pride, industry and participation in small towns. The institute has conducted seminars nationwide.

The participants came to compare their successes and discuss their not-so-successful projects. As one woman said when the group sessions ended, "I feel like I've gotten a lot of good ideas, and I also feel like I've made some friends."

About 60 people attended the meeting at the Colfax Lions Club building.

Residents from Colfax, Linden, Clark's Hill, Frankfort, Ambia, Pine Village, Flora and Brookston attended the session. They introduced themselves as town board members, concerned citizens, ministers, and retired persons who are interested in preserving their communities.

New sidewalks and sewer systems, senior citizen housing, dog control and town celebrations were the most frequently mentioned improvements.

Money for other projects, and how to get it, was the most frequently mentioned problem.

Marvin Flowers, Colfax Town Board president, opened the meeting, which included discussion and listing of town projects, comparison of the success of projects from town

to town, small group sessions to discuss economic, political and cultural planning for communities and a slide show demonstrating how other towns have handled their problems.

The small group sessions gave participants a chance to compare ideas on a more casual level. One group discussed economics and the problem of being a "bedroom community" to Lafayette, according to Larry Hartzler, Brookston.

"That's a problem that a lot of us are facing," Hartzler said. "Our towns might be growing, but they're people who work in Lafayette. That's the hub of the area," he said, "and what we have to do is find something that will get them involved in the towns they live in."

Casey Jones, Colfax, explained how his town financed and operates 20 new units of senior citizen housing. He said residents of the complex pay between \$90 and \$189 rent in the apartments, and money is used to repay the federal loan that financed all but 2 percent of the project.

Greg Gilmore, Colfax, said the town still is looking for ways to get federal funding and state help for improvement of sidewalks and highways.

Colleen Sipple, Clark's Hill, said the new sewage system in her town "is being used to only 30 percent of its capacity right now, so we've got room to grow."

She said the system also allows for expansion of the water system and "right now, the people that are using it are real happy with what we've got."

Activities for the youth of the community and events designed to get residents involved are another priority. Suggestions ranged from the bathtub races and water-ball fights held last summer in Colfax, to the Apple and Popcorn Days Fall Festival sponsored by Brookston.

Ideas for new events included country music festivals, flea markets, sidewalk sales and auctions.

When the groups broke up and returned to the main meeting, all were asked to write a newspaper headline about a future event designed to improve their town.

"Small Town Politics a Big Success," said one headline. "Music Festival Rivals Newport, Woodstock," said another.

But the headline that captured the feeling of this session was written by one group which caught the theme of the meeting.

"Keep Our Small Towns Alive."

MEETING FUTURE

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY IDENTITY

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Global Women's Forum is a one-day workshop for women. It is a reflective bridge between past images of womanhood and the newly defined role of the woman of the future. Global Women's Forum allows women of varied backgrounds to discern together the major social issues of our day and focus personal priorities for responding to these challenges in their own communities.

Community Youth Forum invites young people to rethink their present and future in a fresh way. It looks directly at the question of responsible participation in society. By articulating their own dreams of the future and then building a plan for responding to their community's needs, youth begin to pick up the challenges facing their generation.

Economic Issues Forum was developed in response to the concerns of those persons who play a major role in shaping their community's economic future. In a format similar to that of the Town Meeting, this day-long event is designed to develop new ideas for altering local economic patterns.

CHALLENGES

SENIOR CITIZENS

BUSINESS EXPANSION

PUBLIC SERVICES

Human Development Projects - Communities in 25 countries are taking part in a comprehensive program designed to help local citizens renew their own social well-being and economic self-reliance. There are nineteen of these projects in North America, each offering in-residence training periods of one week to one year for interested volunteers.

Human Development Training School is an intensive 3-week residential program designed to give local people methods and practical skills for effective leadership in their own communities. The school is set in the midst of an active demonstration community, and provides an orientation to the basic principles of economic, social and cultural development.

The World of Human Development is a film which makes a fine program for a group or organization. Available in 16mm, it allows any group to discuss how they can help create a self-sufficient, self-reliant and self-confident community.



The Institute of Cultural Affairs is a research, training and demonstration group concerned with the human factor in world development. It has worked for twenty-five years to devise and demonstrate practical methods for comprehensive local renewal. The Institute's emphasis is on methods which enable local residents to plan and implement socio-economic change in their own communities. Local self-sufficiency, self-reliance and self-confidence are the aims of ICA programs.

The Institute of Cultural Affairs is a not-for-profit private voluntary organization working in 32 nations. It has over 100 field offices served by coordination centers in Bombay, Brussels, Chicago, Hong Kong and Singapore. The work of the Institute's staff is complemented by an international network of voluntary consultants representing a wide range of expertise. Consultants donate both time and resources to assist in the planning and implementation of programs.

The Institute is supported by foundations, corporations, church and service organizations and concerned individuals. Specific programs have been funded by government agencies.

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