



Open House set for Irish Hill Street Project

Time: Thursday, May 3 at 5 p.m.
Location: North Vernon Education and Training Center (ETC)
Contact: Kathy Ertel, Jennings County Economic Development Commission
(812-346-2388)

The public is invited to an open house on the next phase of revitalizing the Irish Hill neighborhood, which is part of North Vernon’s Stellar Community project.

The open house is **Thursday, May 3 at 5 p.m.** at the North Vernon Education and Training Center (ETC), at 1200 West O&M Ave.

This next phase of the Irish Hill project, scheduled to begin this summer, will focus on street and sidewalk renovation on Summit Street and repairs on Hoosier Street and Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth streets.

“This is another important step in revitalizing Irish Hill, which is a key neighborhood in our city’s history – and its future,” said North Vernon Mayor Harold ‘Soup’ Campbell.

There is a \$500,000 state grant to fund the work, which won’t be enough to repair every street and sidewalk in the neighborhood, said Cory Whitesell, project manager for HWC Engineering. “But it will make a noticeable difference, and it is part of our ongoing work in the neighborhood,” he said.

Under the Stellar Community project, the city has already finished renovation on eight Irish Hill homes and is working on four more. There are also 16 residents from the neighborhood on a waiting list for the program, which provides vital home repairs for income-eligible homeowners. The city will be pursuing a second grant to assist those families on the waiting list.

Residents have asked if this project will repair neighborhood streets that were torn up to install new waterlines. Whitesell said those areas will be fixed in a separate project unrelated to the Stellar Community work.

The Irish Hill work is just one of Stellar Communities’ projects to launch this year. North Vernon was selected as one of two cities in Indiana to win a new grant from the state called Stellar Communities in March 2011. Receiving the grant will amount to millions of dollars for roads, housing, storefront façades and other programs over the next few years.

Details about the Stellar Community projects can be found at www.northvernonstellar.com.

For more information contact Kathy Ertel at (812) 346-2388.