



Project on Civic Reflection

## Civic Reflections at City Hall a conversation among Valparaiso citizens about the character of our community

co-sponsored by the City of Valparaiso and the Project on Civic Reflection

The goal of this series is to encourage conversation among Valparaisians about our city—who we are and who we want to be.

Too often people only start talking when there is a crisis to address. To change and grow well, we need to do more than react to change. We need to reflect on the direction of the change—to pay attention to our hopes and dreams, not just the problems that need fixing.

Civic Reflections at City Hall will be a conversation about what is important, not just what is urgent. A chance to explore our hopes, values and aspirations for our community.

This series will bring together city leaders and residents for a monthly conversation, in City Council chambers. Each conversation will focus on a fundamental question of community life, approached through discussion of a reading. Conversations will be facilitated by a diverse group of community members from education, business, government and the non-profit sector.

### Civic Reflections will benefit Valparaiso by . . .

- expanding awareness of shared and differing values
- building relationships among community members across Valpo
- bringing citizens to City Hall and into dialogue
- creating a trusted time/place to talk together as our community changes and grows

### Theme for Civic Reflections in 2008: "What is 'Our Town'?"

What kind of community is Valparaiso? Are we welcoming to one another? What kind of community do we want to be? As we grow, what should change? What should stay the same?

The Civic Reflections at City Hall series takes place on the first Wednesday of each month, from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m., in the City Council chambers.

January 9

#### Who is a Valparaisian?

Reading: "Fellowship," by Franz Kafka

February 6

#### How do we meet or work together as neighbors?

Reading: "Mending Wall," Robert Frost

March 5

#### How do we connect across race and other differences?

Reading: "Theme for English B,"  
Langston Hughes

April 2

#### What is 'Our Town'?

Reading: Excerpt from "Our Town,"  
Thornton Wilder

May 7

#### How do we create change?

Reading: "A Bed for the Night", Bertolt Brecht

June 4

#### How do we encourage unity?

Reading: Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address



[www.civicreflectionsvalpo.com](http://www.civicreflectionsvalpo.com)

call Elizabeth Lynn at (219) 464-6767 or Valparaiso City Hall at (219) 462-1161 for more information.