

# Freedom-Zine America

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## Community Reports

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## Win-Win for Centuria, WI

After working on the issue since August, the Centuria Village Board took a decisive commitment November 10<sup>th</sup> to help the community's struggling downtown. The board decided unanimously to use \$400 from their newly approved promotions budget to buy (from the State of Wisconsin monopoly, of course) two road signs to be placed on the main thoroughfare Hwy 35 that say "Business District." The signs will show arrows pointing at the turnoff to the "main" street, Fourth Street. This act, in the interest of the entire economic and cultural development of the Centuria, comes on top of a September decision to put a new road sign up at the corner of Wisconsin Hwy 35 & Fourth Street, that designates the road "Fourth/Main St." In such little ways does change happen for progress in a small town.

The action was essential. As explained in previous Freedom-zine's, Centuria suffers a downward depressive spiral due to a number of economic factors. Putting the Cepia Clubhouse in Centuria was a

conscious choice, besides the afford ability. Our entire ideal for community awareness and activism would be funk if they could not work here over the planned minimum three-year stay (circumstances provided). Our model seeks positive, peaceful change through individuals working at the together at the local level. But, on the other hand, if they worked here, they would work almost anywhere.

With non-occupied storefronts all along Main/4th Street (only around half of the spaces had businesses), Cepia Club identified two problems: First, there was not enough commercial diversity and there was an underused capacity to get people here to create a popular market for visitors, or even local shoppers (let alone providing local employment to boost sustainable consumption internally); second, as far as people from other places, not even those who lived near Centuria or traveled by it their whole lives even knew Centuria had a business district. The first step in moving toward the

village's win-win decision on the 10<sup>th</sup> was to gauge what Cepia Club had learned and analyzed in the six months up to July. From there, we formatted a proper plan. In step two, we talked to the available business owners, including the non-retail businesses, and asked if they would support an initiative. We even advised that part of the solution might require a paid sponsorship posting, voluntarily, to get something done. Generally skeptical about seeing any progress, the response among the business owners was cautious but supportive.

At the first village board meeting, the proposals were considered. The board members gave their support. After that meeting, businesses again were consulted. In September, both sides committed to do something and the village government found out what was and was not permissible under State of Wisconsin guidelines. While our optimum option could not be pursued, because the state would not allow any alteration of the

“Welcome to Centuria” billboard on the highway, (not even a small revision with an arrow that said, “Business District”), the village took its only remaining option for the present at the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Although the village spent a considerable sum, \$400, for the signs, it was within their projected budget for 2009. And it cannot be said that the initiative was a subsidy for the downtown businesses, or that the taxpayers are paying for something unreasonable. Most of the businesses were willing to rent space on a new billboard design, thus showing their willingness. But with state regulations, nothing could be done with the “strong option.”

The city took the best remaining option for now, even though the signs will not be delivered until spring. The key thing all people must remember is that all sides in this matter—the businesses, the village board, the citizens, and Cepia Club—worked together for the best of the entire community. There was no conflict anywhere along the way. All sides were reasonable throughout (newspaper errors and misrepresentation of the process as aggravated were not true in the least). The process was measured with goals for proposals, commitment levels, willingness and final actions. No side could lose unless we all loss. But, from Cepia Club’s perspective, all sides won with the village board’s commitment (to the signs and an increased budget). When things are done reasonably, with the greater good the ultimate goal, awareness and activism work.

If any readers have comparable issues in their communities, we hope our methods and progress in Centuria can benefit you with a path already traveled. We have more work to do in

Centuria, but the community, led by its village board, is forging ahead.

## **Notes from the Underground November 12, 2008**

On Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, The Japanese Space Project played at the Planet Supply. The two dude anti-pop daring duo, with Kenny on guitar and Kevin on baritone guitar, really tripped out the local Underground. Playing over their pre-recorded tracks of snap, crackle anti-pop samples, The JSP dug into a groove on stage happy to not even notice the fair-sized crowd locked and mesmerized by experimental space rock before them.

The Japanese Space Project does a continuous stream of what intergalactic white noise is supposed to be if we could only realize that it’s a mathematical musical language of intelligent, and talented beings, trying to communicate with us.

Anyone who understands what Throbbing Gristle could have, would have sounded like—which is what the anti-pop Coil sounded like after them—could appreciate the Final Frontier where no ears went before in the Planet Supply. It was super-cool, as we open-minded folk listened to new oceans of nebulous band waves of a Hubble scopes colors in sound.

Kenny and Kevin played in various band standing formations on stage for 12 or 13 years, and for a year in and a half in The Japanese Space Project. They’ve toured a little, as far as Chicago. Yet any music Chicago can take, so can the Planet Supply excel. The Japanese Space Project recently cut a cd, coming out

this week. And like true community-culture subversives, screwing the dudes that run the above ground mainstream music, independent music shared in places like our Underground, the music is raw, live, original and fresh. Take that Big Music. Again like the anti-pop home-grown culture of the Underground, The Japanese Space Project did not yet name their cd due out this week. In the community-culture of the Underground, such things turn out rather more authentically original and tripee when done so casually, true to the anarchy areas of free-speech. Well, space rock like The Japanese Space Project is always good, when done well, in the Underground.

## **Coming to the Web Near You**

The Cepia Club LLC’s PiK. Media Productions will shortly debut its new Pikzl Vision TV on-line with a new episode of *Freedom Affairs*. (Check at [www.cepiaclub.com](http://www.cepiaclub.com) and follow the link). Host Pwadjeur interviewed 2004 Libertarian Party Vice Presidential candidate Richard V. Campagna on his September tour to the St. Croix Valley as the honored guest of Cepia Club.

Campagna is the Cepia Club’s favorite national political personality. Dubbed by the Club as the Existential Optimist, Richard talks about his recently released book, *To Play Along the Path: The Multifarious P’s of Existential Philosophy and Practice*. Find Pikzl Vision on the Clubsite at [www.cepiaclub.com](http://www.cepiaclub.com)

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