



**COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS**

**FIRST QUARTERLY REPORT  
2001**

**Submitted by  
Nancy S. Lumbley  
Program Manager**

## Quarterly Report 1st Quarter 2001

The report for this quarter will follow elements of the Strategic Plan with emphasis on the points of service that CONA outlined as possible work in the Scope of Services to be Provided for the 2001 calendar year.

### **ADVOCACY**

CONA continues to believe in and support an advocacy role in relating to our neighborhood associations and neighborhoods. A major key to having a quality environment in a neighborhood is having a neighborhood that is conflict-free. The sources of conflict can be varied. They can be between neighbors, between neighbors and developers, between age groups or life styles. They can result from differing value systems that impact our mutual sharing of living space. The conflict can even result from an intrusion into the neighborhood such as increased traffic. All these conditions can benefit from some type of advocacy.

Neighborhood associations that are already pro-active will begin to address problems on their own because they already know how to involve the correct components of city government, know whom to contact when problems arise, and realize the procedures that sometimes need to be followed. Issues are discussed at CONA meetings and other neighborhoods can reveal, perhaps, new perspectives to a problem. CONA can then further support that neighborhood by a letter or some other visible action. This is advocacy when CONA, as a group, supports an individual neighborhood.

Sometimes the advocacy can be programmatic. An example of this is the Monroe County Youth Initiative currently being developed and was presented in our April CONA meeting. As neighborhoods invest in this program and identify activities that can be done for the youth who live there, they are helping to curtail possible conflicts. This is a better situation than the youth ending up in mediation or worse, the judicial system.

**We have continued involvement in the development of a community mediation center.** CONA has been deeply involved in the development of the Community Conflict Resolution Program (CCRP). Bill Boese, CONA president, is a member of the Steering Committee. The program has now officially become a program under Citizens for Community Justice (CCJ). CCJ has the office space and staff to accommodate CCRP at this time.

CONA will refer appropriate conflicts involving neighborhoods, neighbors, etc. to CCRP. Sometimes conflicts between neighbors can be worked out after talking to a third party. The individual realizes that he/she should just discuss the issue with the other person or persons involved, especially if there has been an on-

going relationship between them before. The CONA program manager has received a few such calls.

Most recently, CONA referred a situation at Harrodsburg to CCRP. The conflict involved a resident/developer and other Harrodsburg residents who did not approve of the development he had planned. After several conversations, a facilitated town meeting was suggested after checking with CCRP to ascertain their willingness to facilitate. The town meeting was held April 11. Some opposition still appeared at the County Commissioners' Meeting but the opportunity had been taken by most of the community to discuss openly the difference of opinion.

CONA will become a contributing member of CCRP and hopefully, our four trained mediators will become working members. We need to continue to identify individuals to take mediation training so that CONA will have trained mediators in support of the program.

A big advocacy challenge lies with the Off-Campus Issues Committee. The eventual advocacy involves promoting neighborhoods that are harmonious with the age and life style variations of college students and "family residential" folks. Most people believe that this issue may be in one or two neighborhoods but the reality is that many neighborhoods are now being affected and people are apprehensive about the future.

The Off-Campus Committee did not previously meet on a regular basis and the now monthly meetings seem to work better for continuity of discussions and actions. The committee needs to get back to the "community reflection" it had at its initial meeting. This is something I, as program manager, am working on to make sure we have all interested parties at the table for discussion.

## **OPERATIONS AND FINANCE**

This part of our plan continues to be the most difficult of goals. I believe CONA, as an organization, is beginning to increase its name recognition. This is especially true through our neighborhood associations. This does not mean, however, that they are "fired up" to work for CONA financially speaking. According to the survey results (attached), most neighborhood associations believe a group such as CONA should exist, but beyond that, the evidence of support becomes vague. Several associations have expressed that having this organization where all neighborhood associations can come and share information and discuss issues is a good thing BUT they do not understand why we have to do fundraising. Many associations do not even have dues for the neighborhood association membership, thus complicating CONA membership.

**We have increased our membership to 13 paid members at this time.** Part of the difficulty of collecting dues is the meeting schedules of the various

associations. Some only meet annually or twice a year. The neighborhood association decides upon membership in CONA and that may not be until April or later. The treasurer and I have talked about associations joining later in the year paying in the same month the next year. In other words, the due memberships would come at different times. This may help us gain members.

We continue our Kroger Certificates that brings in a small amount. We also did a project with Lazarus' Charity Day Sale. This brought in a small amount (\$101.00) but we had a potential for much more. Next year, we will try again and see if we can develop a "plan" that will bring more success. We also had some donations come in this quarter for a total of **\$590.00**; so we made our goal of **\$500**.

## WEBSITE

Within this quarter, we have been working on a website with a group of students from Indiana University Kelly School of Business. We have been meeting with them on a weekly basis since January. This has consumed much of the Finance Committee's time because we did see it as a "financial" investment since this was a way of getting a web design that seemed more possible than a grant to do so.

We are actually fulfilling one of our goals for the second quarter because our website should be operationally within the next week or so. The name of the website is [conaonline.org](http://conaonline.org). We are excited about its possibilities when we get all the components in place. The team did a great job for us.

The plans for the extensive program that was being considered for a Bloomington Foundation Grant has been tabled because everyone seemed to have a full plate for the time being, including our neighborhood associations. The one thing that we have pulled from it is the development of the 2002 CONA Calendar. We are proceeding with this as a major fundraising project. The calendar will feature artistic representations in or of neighborhoods for each of the twelve months. We will sell advertising on the calendar and hope to have them ready for marketing in early October.

The Walk idea is still with us but the choice of time and activities has been rather frustrating to pin down. The Finance Committee has decided to develop a Greenways Walk with the Planning Department after this project has been identified. This will probably not occur until September. As things develop, we will attempt to involve other groups.

We want to expand our newsletter circulation so in order to control that expense, we have acquired a "pre-paid standard mail" permit, otherwise known as bulk mail. This will enable us to keep expanding our mailing list at a nominal cost.

The brochure developed this quarter is an update of our CONA informational brochure. These will be available at the Conflict Summit as well as placed in the Monroe County Library. A flyer was used for our Neighborhood Watch mailing. Bill Boese supplied this material.

Two newsletters have been published thus far, one in January and one in April. Surveys seemed to indicate a need for more CONA news via the newsletter so that indication has been pursued in the newsletters. (copies attached)

I met with Mary Beth Roska from the **Hoosier Times Homes** section and discussed neighbors and neighborhood associations with her. As of this date, no article has appeared with her name line although several articles have appeared regarding neighborhoods. All of this exposure is good for neighborhoods and ultimately for CONA.

The CONA contact list continues to evolve with many changes. I have established several different databases to help in this process and eventually, it will become much simpler updating.

**We continue on expansion of our internal as well as external communication channels.** I have greater contact with people via email than previously as I identify the individuals who are to a part of the various activities. Email seems to be most effective when available. We are hopeful that our website will increase external communication possibilities. We have had contact with several community groups as well as city departments, such as Red Cross, Bloomington Hospital, Planning Department, Bloomington Volunteer Network, and WTIU. Our contact with outside groups should increase as we pursue our fundraising projects.

**A survey was sent out in January and a report including summary, analysis, evaluation and action plan is attached to this report.**

PERSONAL NOTE: This has been a busy quarter complicated by my having a surgery that cost me about three weeks of computer time! I hope I am through with those interruptions!

Summary of Council of Neighborhood Associations Survey  
Sent out January 2001  
Prepared by Nancy Lumbley, Program Manager  
April 2001

The Council of Neighborhood Associations, by terms of the Strategic Plan and the agreement with the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department of the City of Bloomington, sent out a survey in January 2001. The purpose of this survey was to evaluate the awareness of and the effectiveness of CONA to the neighborhood associations up to this point of its existence.

The survey was sent to 50 neighborhoods identified on various documents in the CONA files. Several were returned - "non-deliverable; unable to forward." Among those were Nancy-Hillside, Hyde Park, Windemere Woods, and Sherwood Oaks. I have been unable to locate new contacts for those neighborhoods to the present time.

The return on this survey has been very slow. By the deadline (February 1), six surveys had been returned. For all associations that have a contact with an email address, a form was sent as an attachment to be answered and returned via email. I had four returns in that way. By face-to-face contact, four additional surveys were completed. Information-gathering continued until the writing of this report. It can be assumed, in some cases, that the information did not go to the correct person, and the information was not forwarded nor was CONA made aware of the incorrect contact. The changing of responsibilities in the neighborhoods and CONA not being aware of these changes is a big factor. For those associations who are members of CONA and who send representatives to the meetings, this problem is minimized, as contact with these groups is rather constant.

The Survey is attached to this report along with a list of those associations responding to the Survey. Also included is a list of those associations sent the Survey but no response was received from them.

After identification of the neighborhood association and the person filling out the survey, information was focused toward the organization's meeting structure. Of the seventeen surveys responding to this question, twelve

(12) responded that they do, in fact, have regular meetings. The survey did not define "regular" and thereby, found great variance in the derived schedules. The variances were:

Two (2) associations reported annual meetings;

Four (4) associations reported meeting twice a year - spring and fall, while two (2) specified April and November;

Two (2) associations meet quarterly;

One (1) meets every other month;

Two (2) meet monthly;

One (1) reported meeting regularly but said they had not met for a year.

Six associations responded "no"; we do not have regular meetings. Of those six, two (2) said their association exists in name only at this time. Both would like to have it revitalized but presently the neighborhood lacks initiative or individuals to assume the responsibility, time and energy to do so. Two (2) others responding "no" indicated that they had meetings as needed. Of these associations, one is a large one both geographically and membership, while the other is very small in both categories. The remaining two (2) responded "no" without comment.

Three (3) associations made special note of their executive committee meeting more frequently - either monthly if association meets quarterly or quarterly if association meets annually.

The relationship of the neighborhood association to CONA was explored by asking "are you a dues-paying member of CONA" and "do you have a representative who comes to CONA meetings?" Of those responding, twelve (12) said "yes" they were dues-paying members. One (1) was not sure if they paid dues or not. Two (2) associations who said "yes" to the dues question said "no" to the CONA representation question, saying no one has volunteered for that role. Four (4) associations who said "yes" to the dues question have not paid their 2001 dues but were paid members in 2000. Two (2) associations responded "no" to both inquiries. One (1) association said their association voted down CONA membership last year and will inquire again in April for this year. The association basically feels it can handle its own problems and does not need CONA to help them. Of the two neighborhoods now lacking associations, one was a member of CONA when the association was in place.

CONA is concerned about increasing their contact with all neighborhoods. A question was asked concerning their awareness of mailings from CONA in the last year. Of the eighteen (18) surveys evaluated, only two (2) respondents said they were not aware of any mailings from CONA. One of these was actually marked "N/A," as this was a neighborhood without an association. The other respondent has not been on CONA's mailing list until recently. That association also reported April/November association meetings. This causes some concern about the timing of mailings.

The question asked: "if or when you have a neighborhood problem, whom would you contact for assistance or advice?" Two (2) surveys did not respond to this question. The fifteen (16) who did made it very obvious that the City does an excellent job of making neighborhoods aware of their availability. Several neighborhood associations named a specific department - such as police, planning, parking, thereby, possibly indicating a recent need of that particular department's aid in their particular concerns.

Most responded that they would contact HAND, Vickie Provine (by name), or their neighborhood compliance officer, also named specifically thus indicating a good working relationship. Three (3) associations specifically mentioned CONA; all of these associations have brought concerns to CONA for its support.

Three questions concerned the December Training Workshop sponsored by CONA and HAND. One question asked if anyone from their association attended; the others asked if they knew about the workshop and how did they find out about it?

The results are as follows:

- Six (6) associations said "yes" they attended the training. All knew about it because of CONA meeting attendance or mailing about the workshop.
- All but one (1) who said "no, didn't attend" knew about the workshop, either from a mailing/brochure or by attending a CONA meeting (5).  
The questions: "Are you aware of how CONA can help you as a neighborhood association?" and "What is the best way of making that known?" The



results varied greatly to the second question. Two (2) associations said they were unaware of how CONA could help them but both indicated the newsletter as a way of conveying that information. One association also noted brochures, website, and email that can be forwarded. The question actually had a defect because the method response was actually asked only of "no" responses. Fortunately, many "yes" responses indicated methods. The newsletter (5) led the way with brochures and website (4 each) close behind and email also mentioned. Eight associations did not respond as the question did not direct them to do so.

"Neighborhoods working together can create a stronger, more viable community." The respondents were asked if they agree with this statement. All respondents agreed with the statement. The next question asked them to explain their response. The comments follow with selected omissions in order to try to preserve the anonymity of the neighborhood.

*"People from diverse backgrounds, getting to know each other and one another's needs, have a sense of identity. I think the best way to understand and appreciate others -especially when "different" from oneself, is to work together on something that needs doing."*

*"We need to know what other neighborhoods are doing to help CONA."*

*"City government has enacted guidelines that encourage neighborhoods to act as groups rather than individuals and has been more responsive to group requests."*

*"Our neighborhood consists of ... households. We do not have enough "clout" to have our needs for physical improvements heard. By being part of a larger organization, we feel that we are placed on an equal footing with other, larger, neighborhoods and have a voice in decisions that affect our homes."*

*"It is always better when each part of the community is aware of everything within the community."*

*"...Communication, information, strength through numbers."*

*"We as a neighborhood association draw from the experiences of other neighborhoods when problems arise."*

*"Supporting each other makes each neighborhood stronger and then gives us more influence as a whole."*

*"Neighborhoods like to know what's going on in other parts of the city, ... and help with support, advice, experience sharing."*

*"It is easy for neighborhoods to be played against each other on land use and traffic issues. The participation in the MPO of the neighborhoods can be critical."*

*"If a neighborhood is having trouble getting organized or needs help in gaining a grant."*

*"Grass roots needs a representative in the group that makes decisions in a community. Money and self-interest and other interests are represented."*

*"We united with the ... Neighborhood Association to fight the ... plans for overdevelopment of ... ."*

*Exchanging information is so important. Sharing ideas and supporting each other through problems makes for a stronger community.*

When asked about awareness of CONA's standing committees -- off-campus issues, finance, and planning - responses were varied. Two (2) surveys had no response; seven (7) responded that they were aware of all of them. Three (3) indicated an awareness of off-campus issues but not of the others. Two (2) were not aware of the planning committee and one (1) did not realize the existence of a finance committee.

**"Would your association like representation on any of these committees?"**

To this question, five (5) associations responded "no" and one gave no response. Most associations did not respond to this question. Four (4) associations said they would like to have representatives on the committees but only one suggested a possible candidate. Several said they would have to know more about them before answering the question.

"Is there a project that CONA can help with?" This question was posed and seven (7) respondents said "no"; two (2) were "no responses" and two (2) were unsure. Six (6) said "yes" and their projects are as follows:

- ◆ traffic problem
- ◆ reclassification of S. Lincoln and S. Washington Streets as neighborhood streets
- ◆ Clean-up Day
- ◆ Off-campus issues
- ◆ detention center location
- ◆ community wildlife habitat

When asked if their association would help CONA in fund-raising, seven (7) associations said "yes"; one (1) said "no" and nine (9) had no response. The next question asked if they believed a CONA-like organization is needed in this community? All respondents said "yes" with a few comments: *"probably yes, but no one in our neighborhood seems to have the time to be involved"* and *"...but we're not familiar and involved enough to be fully convinced and enthusiastic."*

The next question had to do with support by way of involvement. Nine (9) responded "yes" with one adding "in theory at least." One (1) association said "no"; two were "no responses" and one was marked "N/A." Comments made include: "unknown until next meeting," "will have to check with association," "have to be discussed," "unsure."

Two questions concerned the Neighborhood Watch program. One asked if they had heard of the program and the other asked about their involvement. Twelve (12) said they had heard of it; one (1) said "no" - they had not heard of it. The rest were "no responses."

When asked about involvement, answers were varied. Five (5) associations said "no." they did not want to be involved. Comments include: "don't see a lot of interest;" "not personally or Board formally;" "already have one established;" "I've been told we had one before and the Neighborhood Watch signs keep getting stolen."

Six (6) said "yes" with these comments: "personal, not group opinion"; "already have"; "information would be useful that we could discuss at our

next regular meeting"; "wish I could get someone on this; will keep working on this."

As with several questions, a couple of associations noted that they would have to talk with their associations about it.

The last question asked what CONA should be doing to help them as a neighborhood association? Eight (8) respondents did not respond. Others did so:

- ∞ help organize it!
- ∞ Need to have a spring meeting and discuss current status
- ∞ got to think about this some more
- ∞ be more political
- ∞ you have us headed in the right direction
- ∞ operate as a channel for expression of our needs to city government.  
CONA put us onto the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program as a way of solving our traffic problems.
- ∞ write letters of support to city regarding our traffic problems.  
Advice through off-campus issues as students are beginning to rent in our neighborhood and we are being faced with loud parties, etc. Talk of people wanting to move—fear of reduced property values.
- ∞ our association was having trouble obtaining officers for this year - so we are working on motivating younger neighbors to participate.
- ∞ Our group is formed. We should get more involved with CONA.
- Maybe visiting association meetings to ask some questions and share what CONA does

Only one association took advantage of the final comment: Sorry not to be more helpful. I think CONA is probably a good thing, but people in our neighborhood have not seemed to want to take the time to get involved. When the ----- issue came up, we went directly to the City Planning Dept. and worked with them.

#### Possible Actions Germane to Survey Responses

1. From the slow rate of returns of the questionnaire, the return of undeliverable surveys, and those neighborhood associations not responding at all, it can be determined that maintaining neighborhood contact people is both a challenge and ever-changing. This correct

identification of contact people is vital to CONA. Ideally, the best solution would be for the neighborhood associations to notify CONA when changes are made. This procedure can be worked toward but will not happen quickly. The program manager is now much more aware of the status of the various associations regarding organizational structure, meeting times, etc. Hopefully, this new awareness will allow for better contact with the associations, both those established and those in various states of existence. It also gives CONA an opportunity to focus development in certain neighborhoods.

2. In the neighborhoods where associations are now defunct, CONA needs to do some exploration into why the association has gone into remission and assess the possibilities of rejuvenation. Those neighborhoods have expressed lack of leadership, lack of time, lack of interest as factors affecting their current status. Both of these points can be addressed by the establishment of a "nurture team" or "nurturer" to work with the association.
3. Establish office files (electronic and paper) of basic information about each neighborhood association with notification of date to review and update information.
4. Establish a yearly calendar with known neighborhood association meeting dates. Establish as part of CONA monthly announcements of meetings, etc., the meeting dates of any associations having meetings.
5. Encourage Neighborhood associations to have at least monthly meetings of the executive committee.
6. Encourage neighborhood associations to send a representative to CONA, then let them determine their level of involvement - hopefully, membership.
7. Mailings of important information should continue to all neighborhood associations and to all individuals who request mailings.
8. In conveying information, all methods possible should be used - website, brochures, newsletters, and email for fast delivery of

specific, focused information.

9. Neighborhood associations attest to a belief in an organization like CONA but hesitate on a commitment to its program. CONA needs to continue to lend their support to neighborhoods and hopefully, convince associations that their involvement adds to the potential success of the organization.
10. CONA needs to encourage some neighborhood associations by some mentorship work on the part of its solid neighborhood associations.
11. Knowledge of the standing committees of CONA seems to be lacking. The committees need to be featured more in newsletters. Perhaps a brochure about the committees would be appropriate and information about committees will be on the website. New interested people need to be recruited.
12. CONA will continue to support neighborhood associations in their projects or concerns, when appropriate.
13. Neighborhood associations appear to be "not sure" about their commitment to CONA in terms of fund-raising even though they believe that CONA is needed in this community. The organization needs to determine some guidelines and a plan for financial stability that fits with their willingness to "get involved."
14. In follow-up to this concern, neighborhood associations indicate more of an inclination to become "involved" with CONA other than fund-raising. Three fund-raising attempts aimed at seeking the help of the CONA population may reflect this: the financial letter appeal, the Kroger Project, and the Lazarus Project.
15. Only about 1/3 of the associations responding wanted to become "involved" in a Neighborhood Watch. Several indicated a neighborhood watch already existed - some successfully, others not. The Neighborhood Watch grant lasts all year. CONA will continue to

address possible needs - neighborhood association by neighborhood association.

16. In regards to projects or concerns that CONA can help with, CONA has already responded to some of these concerns; others will be addressed in the future. As stated before, defunct associations will be contacted to see how we can help.

## Associations Responding to Survey

McDoel Gardens  
Old Northeast  
Longwood Devon  
Bryan Park  
Elm Heights  
The Stands  
Sixth and Ritter  
Garden Hill  
Park Ridge East

Eastside  
Prospect Hill  
Highland Village  
Hoosier Acres  
Matlock Heights  
South Griffy  
Arden Place  
Westpointe  
Green Acres

Sent also to:

Park Ridge  
Gentry Estates  
Sherwood Oaks  
Fritz Terrace  
Moss Creek Village  
Somerset  
Willow Manor  
Windemere Woods  
Hyde Park  
Cascades Addition  
Rolling Oaks  
Winslow Farms  
Eastern Heights  
Kenwood  
Reverend Butler  
Walnut Woods

Southeast Coalition  
Near Westside  
Nancy-Hillside  
Miller Drive  
Bittner Woods  
Autumn View  
Blue Ridge  
Rockport Hills  
Woodview  
Sycamore Knolls  
Sherbrooke Place  
Crestmont  
Eton Mews  
Kensington  
Tamarron  
Wilmington Court



# Council of Neighborhood Associations

January 2001

Dear Neighborhood Association friends:

As a component of our grant support from Human and Neighborhood Development, we are to seek input from our neighborhood associations as to the effectiveness of the Council of Neighborhood Associations up to this date. Thus, this becomes one reason for an enclosed survey. The more important reason is to identify more clearly those things needed by our associations because you are our reason for being.

The concept of strength in numbers is central to the existence of CONA; that means active membership and involvement of as many of our neighborhood associations as possible. We are a countywide nonprofit organization and as such want to involve our county neighborhoods also.

A current activity that I wanted to alert you to is the Neighborhood Watch program. Slated for implementation during 2001, it has as its goal: making all our neighborhoods safer for our citizens, young and old. Receiving information, training, and then designing a plan appropriate for each neighborhood will accomplish this. Grant money is available to neighborhood groups for information brochures, training, signs, or any other item needed for implementation. We hope your neighborhood plans to be a part of this program.

Enclosed also with the survey is a Membership Application. Please respond to all questions as completely as possible. A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Please return both forms by February 1; that is the date when tabulation of responses will be done. Responses will be reported in the spring newsletter. If this material did not reach the correct person, please forward and let CONA know the correct contact person for your association (333-6377). If you have any questions regarding this survey or membership application, please do not hesitate to call CONA. The program manager's position is part-time but the answering machine is always on!

Sincerely,

Nancy Lumbley

CONA Program Manager

**Council of Neighborhood Associations  
Survey**

1. Name of Neighborhood Association \_\_\_\_\_

2. Person filling out survey \_\_\_\_\_

3. Does your association have regular meetings? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If "yes," what is the schedule? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Are you a dues-paying member of CONA? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you have a member who attends CONA meetings? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

6. Have you or your association received mailings from CONA within the past year of which you are aware? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

7. If or when you have a neighborhood problem, whom would you contact for assistance or advice? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Did you or any of your association members attend the December Training Workshop? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

9. Whether "yes" or "no," did you know about the workshop? Y\_\_ N\_\_

10. If "yes," through what source(s) did you learn about it?  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Are you aware of how CONA can help you as a neighborhood association? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

12. If "no," what would be the best way of making that known?  
\_\_\_\_\_ newsletter, \_\_\_\_\_ brochure, \_\_\_\_\_ web site, \_\_\_\_\_ other

13. "Neighborhoods working together can create a stronger, more viable community." Do you agree with this statement? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

14. Explain your response to #13.

15. Are you aware of CONA's various committees?  
Off Campus Issues Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
Planning Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
Finance Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
16. Would your association like representation on each or any of these committees? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
17. Any suggested names at this time?
18. Does your association have an activity or project that CONA could help with in some way? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
19. If "yes," explain activity/project or type of help.
20. Would your association be willing to help in a CONA spring/summer fund-raising project? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
21. Do you believe an organization like CONA is needed for this community? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
22. If "yes," are you and your association willing to support it with your involvement? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
23. Have you heard of the Neighborhood Watch before this letter?  
Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
24. Do you want to pursue this program for your neighborhood?  
Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_
25. If CONA is to function as a support organization speaking for and working for all neighborhood associations but at the same time strengthening individual associations, what should it be doing to effectively aid your group?
26. Other comments:

Please return in enclosed envelope. Thank you for your time and input!



# NEWSLETTER

## West Kirkwood Charrette

What should be the appearance of the West Kirkwood Corridor? This was the task undertaken by architects Marc Cornett and Jim Rosenbarger as they worked with the adjoining neighborhoods, business and property owners in the area and any other interested persons in the project. To start them on their journey, the architects first let the Corridor be seen the way it is right now. This house-by-house layout was in the City Hall Atrium during the process. Participants walked the area so that they could become more aware of what was there, what could be and more

importantly, what they want it to be. Several sessions were held during which suggestions were given. The consensus of the people participating will be incorporated into the design plan eventually presented to the City Council.



This is a process to watch as it goes forward. Neighborhoods would like to see more of this type of dialogue in the future.

Check out the websites of Sycamore Knolls and Prospect Hill

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## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The Neighborhood Watch Program is a part of a large grant received by a coalition including CONA. One mission of the grant is to identify the situations that could promote undesirable or illegal behaviors and try to effect their occurrences. CONA's part of the program involves making our neighbor-

hoods helps in the identification process.

As one of the first steps, Sgt. Scott Oldham, Bloomington Police Department, participated in the December 2 workshop. He informed the participants as to how individuals and neighborhoods can become involved.

A \$3000 grant finances brochures, signs, and other educational or informational items needed by the

neighborhoods receiving training. If you or your neighborhood want to receive this training, please contact CONA (333-6377) or cona@bloomington.in.us. A workshop is planned for March; initial information will be given at that time. The success of this program depends upon the involvement of our neighborhoods; so please call!

## Upcoming CONA calendar

- *Planning Meeting* — Last Wednesday of the month, come and discuss planning issues with Tom Micuda, City Planner, 12 noon, Kelly Room, City Hall. Upcoming meeting dates: Jan. 31, Feb. 28, March 28.
- *NAG Meeting* — February 2, 12 noon, Kelly Room, City Hall.
- *CONA meeting* — 3rd Wednesday of the month. ALL neighborhood associations welcome. February 21, March 21.

# McDoel Gardens: An example of neighborhoods in action

Should a neighborhood help determine its future? If we have a uniqueness about our neighborhood, should we work to protect that? All of us who live in neighborhoods we chose and have grown to love would surely answer "yes"; but how to do that is not always so apparent.



*The enjoyment of a neighborhood!*

The neighbors of McDoel Gardens have not all agreed on the method to be used but all value their neighborhood and want it to remain healthy.

The McDoel Neighborhood Association is seeking the establishment of a conservancy district. This designation will allow review by the Historic Preservation Commission before a structure is moved or demolished. This neighborhood has witnessed the loss of many homes over the past two decades and wants to slow this erosion.

The Council of Neighborhood Associations has endorsed this action. The designation is now in the hands of the City Council. The first reading of the ordinance occurred January 24; the final reading and official vote will come February 7 at the City Council meeting. CONA supporters attended the January 24 meeting and will be there again on February 7. It is the Council's decision now as to "how to protect neighborhoods"? Or even "should we?"

The dialogue that has resulted between neighbors is a positive outcome of this controversy. That is democracy in action!

## Financially Speaking

CONA, as a non-profit organization, has the same financial responsibilities of any non-profit organization — provide for its own existence. The City of Bloomington, through HAND, currently gives CONA supporting grants, but if the organization wants to grow and meet the goals developed in the Strategic Plan in July 1999, outside sources of income must be forthcoming.

It is always a good idea for a non-profit organization to show the support of the immediate constituents (neighborhood associations)

**Do you shop at Kroger's? If so, contact Jan Sulla-Baker, 336-0323 to find out how you can benefit CONA as you shop!**

and the community at large. CONA has sent an appeal letter to both groups, although the community one was somewhat selective. Obviously, our selection needs to be altered as results have been poor,

thus far. Does this mean that our community does not deem CONA as important or our own constituency does not see us as beneficial? We hope not.

We have received contributions from Anthony Pizzo, Christine Mitchell, James Ackerman, Fran Moore, David Walter, and the Park Ridge East Neighborhood Association. Thank you for your contributions to our mission. If you want to contribute and just haven't as yet, it isn't too late! Remember, contributions are tax-deductible. What better thing to support than stronger neighborhoods?

The CONA Finance Committee has entertained many ideas of fund-raising activities and discussed the pro's and con's of each. What we decide to do must, first of all, profile our neighborhoods and allow people to experience the uniqueness of our community through them.

Plans are beginning for a Neighborhood Walk but we need the involvement of our neighbor-

hoods to make it work. Each neighborhood will be able to present its neighborhood in the way desired.

The specific date has not yet been set so we are open to suggestions. We also would love to have some volunteers to work on the planning committee for this event. Contribute your ideas to a



great happening — showcasing neighborhoods!

For more information or for volunteering, call Nancy 333-6377 (CONA) or [cona@bloomington.in.us](mailto:cona@bloomington.in.us).

## Neighborhood Grants

Neighborhood Grants are available from the City through Human and Neighborhood Development (HAND) several times during the year. In the latest round, the neighborhoods and projects funded were: Bryan Park, for construction of a split-rail fence along a culvert on Davis Street; Sycamore Knolls, play equipment



for the kindergarten play area at Childs School; Prospect Hill, the removal of a stretch of historic sidewalk, its storage and then its replacement after the completion of renovations to increase the height of the sidewalks to match street elevations; Fairview, playground equipment for Fairview School; Westpointe, a streetscape project to take care of a drainage prob-

lem.

The grants now invites projects that include public art. The grants will also allow payment of a professional to plan a beautification project for neighborhood improvement. No requests of this nature were received in this round of grants.

Each neighborhood should be scrutinizing its environs and thinking about ways it could be improved or enhanced.

For more information about the grants and the date of submission for the next round, call HAND 349-3420.

## CONA—HAND Training Workshop

The Training Workshop held on December 2, 2000 in City Hall was attended by about 30 people interested in finding out about neighborhood associations, projects for these groups, and also learn about neighborhood safety.

The individuals attending the sessions were a mix of established associations, "less-active" associations, and neighbors feeling a need for the formation of such a group.

The workshop followed the Regional Neighborhood Conference held in Louisville, Kentucky. Delegates from CONA attended that conference and passed on information from those sessions.

Other workshops will occur as the need is verified. One workshop already scheduled is an hour-long session on *How to Run an Effective Meeting*. This class, scheduled on February 27, 7:00—8:00 pm in the

***How to Run an Effective Meeting***  
***February 27, 2001***  
***McCloskey Room, City Hall***  
***7:00—8:00 p.m.***  
***Call HAND 349-3420***

McCloskey Room, is offered by Housing and Neighborhood Development and Community and Family Resources.

## Mediation Center Progress Report

CONA had as one of its goals to make mediation services available to neighbors and neighborhoods to help solve problems and situations just needing a neutral, objective ear. This desire brought several community groups together in a common goal — to provide a reasonable way to resolve conflicts not needing legal determinations.

A mediation training was held in

late October, early November. Out of that mediation group, a steering committee was formed. Bill Boese, CONA president, is a member of that group. The committee is making great progress and is prepared to go before the Committee for Community Justice with a proposal of a program operating under its jurisdiction. CCJ cur-



*What is the best decision? Can an objective listener help?*

rently operates the Victim-Offender Reconciliation Project (VORP).

For information about the mediation center and its progress, contact Bill Boese, committee member and CONA president or [cona@bloomington.in.us](mailto:cona@bloomington.in.us) for an update.

**Council of Neighborhood  
Associations**

P.O. Box 252  
Bloomington, IN 47402-0252

Phone and FAX: (812) 333-  
6377  
email: cona@bloomington.in.us

BUILDING Community:  
neighborhood by  
neighborhood

**President, Bill Boese**

**Vice President, Kathy  
Holland**

**Secretary, David Walter**

**Treasurer, Jan Bulla-Baker**

**Program Manager, Nancy  
Lumbley**



*Building Community:  
Neighborhood by  
Neighborhood*

**REMEMBER:**

CONA MEETING  
February 21, 2001

\*6:30 pm—8:00 pm

\*Information from HAND  
at 6:30 pm re: neighbor-  
hood clean-ups. Meeting  
follows.

McCloskey Room,  
City Hall

Speaker from Juvenile  
Facility Task Force