

APRIL 2001

Council of Neighborhood Associations

VOLUME 2  
ISSUE 2



Coming Soon

A new CONA  
website

Watch for it!

## Bloomington — A Wildlife Habitat?

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The winter has been too long in Bloomington but how quickly we forget when the daffodils begin to peak through the soil and finally make their golden appearance with the first sunny days of spring. Accompanying those welcome sights and smells of fragrant blooms are the chirping sounds of birds, glad also that spring is here.

Bloomington and Monroe County residents continually demonstrate their appreciation of the elements of nature that add quality to our lives and that of our feathered friends - the presence of trees, flowers, water sources as expansive as a Lake Monroe or as simple as a bird bath.

Lucille Bertuccio and the Eastside Neighborhood Association have worked in their neighborhood to establish some backyards as wildlife habitats. Now Bertuccio's aims are much higher — she would like to see Bloomington become only the fourth certified Community Wildlife Habitat in the country. A coalition of organizations have decided to join her in that venture; CONA is one of them.

Lucille Bertuccio will be speaking at the CONA meeting in May. Do not miss this opportunity to begin a project that will not only help nature's friends but beautify and enhance your garden with new sights and sounds.

### Fund-Raising Activities

As with all non-profits, CONA needs to raise funds to help with operational costs. Several small projects have been implemented in the last few months. One is completed and the other is on-going.

Lazarus Department Store generously made 20%-off coupons available to organizations to sell for \$5.00. The money from the sale of the coupon is retained by the organization. CONA appreciated the opportunity to participate and next year hopes to benefit more.

The other project involves the purchasing of

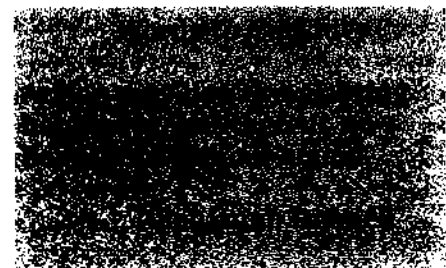
For more information contact Bertuccio at [iber-tucc@indiana.edu](mailto:iber-tucc@indiana.edu). or on the web, connect with the National Wildlife Federation at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org).

Did you know ?

Zionsville,  
Indiana is a  
Community  
Habitat.



REMEMBER  
CONA MAY 16 MEETING!



**Kroger Certificates.** CONA has certificates in various amounts that may be purchased from the treasurer, Jan Bulla-Baker. Kroger has given a 5% contribution upfront. If you shop at Kroger's, give Jan a call (336-0323) and CONA will get certificates to you.

CONA will always graciously accept any donations. We are a tax-deductible organization. Recent donations have come from Bill Sturbaum, Elizabeth and Paul Cox-Ash, Eugene Fritz and an anonymous donor. CONA thanks them all for supporting our mission of citizen involvement in the decision making process.

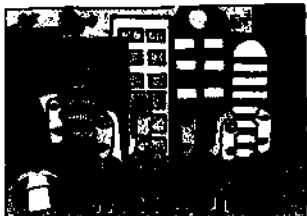
### Did you know?

- Three neighborhood associations now have their own websites: Sycamore Knolls; Prospect Hill; and McDoel Gardens.

### CHECK THEM OUT!

Add your association to the list. If interested, contact CONA at [cona@bloomington.in.us](mailto:cona@bloomington.in.us)

## Meeting Attendance and Participation



*Of course, we are going to the neighborhood association meeting!*

Judging from the responses on the January surveys, several associations meet only once a year, while others meet twice a year and some meet monthly or semi-monthly. Whatever the plan, it is important to have as many neighbors there as possible. In order to be effective, you need to hear from a number of area residents.

Some neighborhood associations reported a need for "new blood" for their associations. Experienced leaders are important to keep coming but you want those new neighbors involved too. What will get them there? Everyone has his/her own reason for attending, especially a first time.

Think about what attracts you

to a meeting? Is it the topic? Is it the planning and problem solving that will follow the meeting? Or is it simply to get together with your neighbors?

Some things to think about:

- have a high profile speaker or presentation
- feed them! Nothing special but food is inviting!
- get the information out about the meeting — make sure everyone in the neighborhood knows
- keep the meeting short
- consider meeting only when you need to if your residents are tight on time
- get everyone involved in the meeting — a feeling of contri-

bution will bring a person back

- do not let anyone dominate the group — call on those who are not talking
- do not allow negative comments to dominate the meeting — set a ground rule that anyone who makes a negative comment must also make a suggestion to remedy the negative situation.
- set goals for the next meeting — it may simply be to bring in three new residents
- take time to enjoy one another's company!

Celebrate your successes, no matter how large or small.

## CONA Membership Why join?

Why indeed. CONA was formed with a mission seen as important to the quality of life of the community. Its mission: "to provide the training, resources, and advocacy needed to enhance our citizens' ability to shape quality neighborhoods." It is a non-profit organization determined to aid in the ongoing positive development of our community.

Neighborhood associations

are not a new idea for Bloomington. We have several in our community that have many years of successful existence. We have other neighborhoods that are identified by name but lack an organized association. CONA can assist in that development but more importantly, that neighborhood can add its voice to the collective voice of CONA. There is power in numbers and neighborhood voices need to be heard.

CONA allows a recognition that as neighborhood associations, we are responsible for our larger neighborhood, Bloomington and Monroe County. What negatively affects one neighborhood affects us all.

2001 Members thus far: Matlock Heights, 6th and Ritter, Westpointe, Park Ridge East, Hoosier Acres, McDoel Gardens, Prospect Hill, Eastside, Old Northeast, and Bryan Park.

JOIN CONA  
TODAY

Join the voice  
for all  
neighborhoods.

Dues \$20.00 per  
association

### TRAFFIC CONCERNS



Matlock Heights Neighborhood Association has been addressing a traffic concern on North Dunn for the past several years. What was once a tranquil neighborhood is now bordering a "race track; i. e., North Dunn Street.

The neighborhood associa-

tion has completed all the surveys, the traffic counts, etc. but no solution thus far. CONA supports this neighborhood association in its quest for some kind of remedy to the problem. Other neighborhoods could suffer somewhat the same fate as traffic patterns change in our growing community. The police do a

good job of enforcement when they can be there, reports Carole Darling of the association. It seems that some other solution needs to accompany that enforcement.

Appealing to drivers to honor the neighborhood's request for slower speeds has been ineffective thus far.

## How can we help our neighborhood youth?

The Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County is involved in a Youth Development Initiative here in Monroe County.

According to Christopher Koscica, programming specialist at the Youth Bureau, "a few years ago, the Search Institute ([www.search-institute.org](http://www.search-institute.org)) developed a list of twenty external and twenty internal assets that were thought to be good contributors aiding in the positive development of young people."

This theory was then tested

on 100,000 youth across the country. The hypothesis, says Koscica, was overwhelmingly supported. The data revealed such things as having access to a caring adult (external) and the asset of reading for pleasure (internal) can make a child less likely to engage in deviant and unhealthy behaviors. We may say "I knew that already." But are we doing anything to help that come about for our young people, especially in our neighborhoods?

The categories of assets include Support, Empowerment,

Boundaries and Expectations, Constructive Use of Time, Commitment to Learning, Positive Values, Social Competencies, and Positive Identity. Forty developmental assets are encompassed in these categories.

Koscica is scheduled to speak at the CONA meeting in April when he will address the program here in Monroe County. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns.

Koscica is also available to speak at neighborhood association meetings. Contact him at 349-2986.



**REMEMBER**  
CONA Meeting  
April 18

## CCRP = Community Conflict Resolution Program

A mediation center to handle community disputes and disagreements has been a priority in CONA's strategic plan. Finally, the reality of one is here with the establishment of the Community Conflict Resolution Program. It will be operating as a program under the jurisdiction of Citizens for Community Justice (CCJ). CCJ already administers the Victim/Offender Resolution Program.

Several agencies have worked toward the formation of this program. Among them CONA,

Safe and Civil City, HAND, Indiana Conflict Resolution Institute, and Conflict Resolution Services, and the Monroe County Bar Association.

CCRP will be contacting neighborhood associations and arranging a time to make a presentation to the association about the services offered. Neighbors and neighborhood associations should contact CONA to discuss conflict areas possibly needing such services.

On Saturday, April 21 in the City Council Chambers in the Showers Building, 7th and Morton, a CONFLICT RESOLUTION SUMMIT will be held from 10 am to 4:00 pm. The topic — "Solving Problems in our community — What are we Doing and Where are we Going?"

Call 349-3854 or email [hunterro@city.Bloomington.in.us](mailto:hunterro@city.Bloomington.in.us) to register. There is no registration charge and a free lunch is included if you register by April 18.

**April 21 Summit**  
Keynote Speaker:

**Russell Skiba, Director,**  
Institute for Child  
Study, Indiana  
University

## Neighborhood Watch Update

The Neighborhood Watch program is awaiting full utilization by all our neighborhoods. Are there special concerns in your neighborhood regarding personal safety, home security, presence of unfamiliar people or vehicles?

All of these factors are reasons for establishing a

neighborhood watch plan for your neighborhood.

Several associations have already asked a member of law enforcement to a meeting of your residents. If you haven't done so, you are encouraged to do so.

When a plan is established, remember CONA has grant money to pay for the ex-

penses of the association in its educational outreach to the neighborhood. Take advantage of this financial help to educate your neighborhood about safety issues.



Contact CONA for any information relating to the Neighborhood Watch Program

# Council of Neighborhood Associations

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# CONA

 CONA

*Blooming Neighborhoods & Join Hands Day  
June 16— A Day for Neighborhoods to be  
recognized and to join hands in a project!*



The City of Bloomington announces the 2001 Awards for Blooming Neighborhoods. Blooming Neighborhoods is a program designed to recognize Blooming-

-ton neighborhood associations for their commitment, accomplishments, and resourcefulness.

Three awards will be given: the Mayor's Excellence Award, the City Council Beautification Award, and the HAND Neighbor of the Year Award. At a City Council meeting in June, prior to June 16, the Mayor will issue a Proclamation for a Bloomington Neighbor-

hoods Day and announce the Mayor's Award. The City Council will announce its award winner as will HAND. On Saturday, June 16, at the Farmers' Market, awards will be presented.

On the same day, Join Hands Day, a national celebration, is being sponsored by the Family Matters program under the Bloomington Volunteer Network. This program encour-

ages neighborhoods to hold an event /project in their neighborhood on that day. Funding may be available to underwrite costs for neighborhood projects. This information, along with award application forms should reach your association by May 1. Start planning ahead! It will be a great day for neighborhoods!