

# 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](mailto: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 Bulla-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.

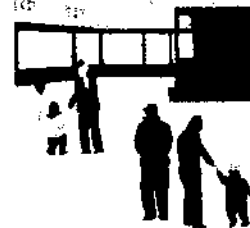
We have received contributions from Anthony Pizzo, Christine Mitchell, James Ackerman, Fran Moore, David Walter, and the Park Ridge East Neighborhood Association. Thank you for your contributions to our mission. If you want to contribute and just haven't as yet, it isn't too late! Remember, contributions 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**



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BUILDING Community.  
neighborhood by  
neighborhood

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**Secretary, David Walter**  
**Treasurer, Jan Bulla-Baker**  
**Program Manager, Nancy  
Lumbley**

 CONA



*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