

Community and Neighborhood Strength

September 11, 2001 is a defining day for people in all our communities from "sea to shining sea" and perhaps world-wide. It was not only a day of tragedy that affected many Americans in all parts of the world but was also the day that America realized that we are vulnerable to the forces of senseless violence.

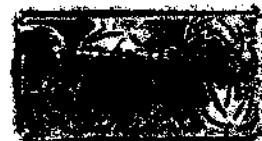
In the days following, we have seen an America, community by community, responding in compassionate and heroic ways. Care was needed for the families of innocent victims and support was needed for the thousands who desperately dug for survivors. Ameri-

cans answered that call.

The aftermath leaves us, as a nation, as a community, and yes, as a neighborhood, asking "what now?" Here in Bloomington, there have been and continue to be events where people can come together and express their fears, their sadness, and sometimes their anger. It is a time for communities to show their strength in caring for one another. CONA says in its mission "building safe, secure neighborhoods". We did not anticipate this new perspective but let us rise to the challenges. What does this now mean to us? In the coming months,

we need to answer that question, in thoughtful constructive dialogue and action.

Take advantage of community activities that have as their goal bringing people together for healing, reflection, and sharing ideas about the future and our actions as a responsible community. Remember especially the children of our neighborhoods. All of us have a responsibility to help them cope with these happenings. "Working together, we cannot fail."



NATIONAL ISSUES FORUM -- November 17

*What is NIF?

National Issues Forum (NIF) is a non-partisan, nationwide network of forums and study circles for the discussion of public policy issues. Sponsors are community organizations. Here in Blooming-

ton, NIF is being sponsored by The Center for the Study of Democracy and Public Life, Indiana University; The Safe and Civil City Program, Mayor's Office, City of Bloomington; The Community Conflict Resolution Program

(CCRP); The Indiana Conflict Resolution Institute, Indiana University; The Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA); and the League of Women Voters, Bloomington/Monroe County.

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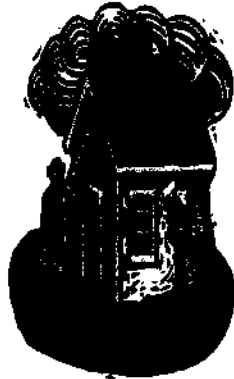
Special Dates to Remember:

- *GPP Update Meeting*
MCPL Auditorium 7 p.m. October 10
- *Strategic Plan Update Session*
McCloskey Room 7 p.m. October 17
- *National Issues Forum*
Bloomington HS South November 17

21st Century Challenge: Eliminating Substandard Housing

Habitat for Humanity International challenges communities to eliminate substandard housing in their area, and to set a date to meet the challenge no more than 20 years away. All over the U.S., communities are accepting the challenge to build with a definite plan and at a rate at which it is possible to end substandard housing. Where the need for adequate housing is especially daunting, the 20-year goal may be for a significant, quantifiable reduction in substandard housing.

Locally, the Housing Network has taken up this challenge for Bloomington and CONA has endorsed this program.



Bill Sturbaum serves on the Housing Network Steering Committee representing CONA. They have, thus far, based on exterior appearance, identified 368 "substandard" housing units.

How does the 21st Challenge work?

Local affiliates and Habitat's 21st Century Challenge staff work together to:

- define the local housing problem
- organize a properly constituted local initiative
- set a realistic date for solving the problem
- involve the community in the effort
- develop a work plan and a budget
- develop the resources – money, people, goods and services – to accomplish the goal.

"We have the know-how in the world to house everyone. We have the resources in the world to house everyone. All that's missing is the WILL to do it."
Millard Fuller, Founder of Habitat for Humanity

Growth Policies Plan Update

The Growth Policies Plan Update is nearing its official presentation to and vote by the Common Council. Workshops were held in July and residents had an opportunity to ask questions, give comments and input. Many of you may not have been around when those workshops occurred, but the opportunity is still there for information-gathering and input.

First of all, the entire update (plus the

original plan) is on the city's website: [http://www.city.bloomington.in.us/planning/projects/gpp/2001/visionintro/html..](http://www.city.bloomington.in.us/planning/projects/gpp/2001/visionintro.html)

Additionally, the League Of Women Voters is sponsoring a public meeting on Wednesday, October 10, in the Monroe County Public Library

Public Meeting October 10

MCPL Auditorium 7 p.m.

GROWTH POLICIES PLAN

UPDATE

Auditorium at 7 p.m. Tom Micuda, City Planner, will be presenting the Update and questions will follow. The meeting will

be televised by CATS. Do not miss this opportunity for citizen input. If you care about the growth of our community and the impact on its neighborhoods, please do not pass up these chances.

Neighborhood Improvements

The Sixth and Ritter Neighborhood Association applauds the award for contracts for sewer work and new storm drainage work on West Sixth Street. The Utilities and HAND departments have jointly funded this project. The sewer work will replace a broken main line that has caused backup of raw sewage into several neighbors' homes. The storm drainage work will improve the flow of storm water from the retention pond into the open

ditch by Kleindorfer's Hardware store. Along with this work, new curbs and a sidewalk will be constructed on West Sixth Street, starting at the intersection of Ritter Street and going west to Hopewell Street. The sidewalk will form the top of a culvert that will handle the storm water. It is hoped that this will ease the problem of flooding at this intersection and the lots nearby.

Two new homes will be constructed in the 1400 block of West Sixth Street by Gene Moncel. The homes have been granted tax abatement by the City Council. Moncel has agreed to rent the homes to low income families at a rate fixed by HUD for the next 30 years. The lots have been vacant for many years and the neighborhood welcomes these investments.

Ongoing Projects/Programs/Grants

A reminder from CONA that several programs have been offered to our neighborhoods in the past months and we need to keep those in mind as we make plans and create visions for our neighborhoods.

***Neighborhood Watch Program** – this program allows neighborhoods working with local police officials to address the particular safety concerns your neighborhood has and how neighbors can help. Reports of local vandalism are in the news so perhaps a revisit to that program might be appropriate. Remember, CONA has funds for signage, educational materials, etc.

***Disaster Resistant Neighborhoods** – This program, directed by the American Red Cross, is one that neighborhoods might find very useful. Every neighbor-

hood needs to make some assessment about the preparedness we have for any kind of a disaster. To learn more about the program, visit the CONA website, www.conaonline.org (under PROGRAMS) Read about the program and look at the checklist for neighborhood safety and personal home safety. All of us have become greatly sensitized to the concept of safety and what it means we do..

***Neighborhood Improvement Grants** – HAND has made available information about its improvement grants (\$2000 minimum) and applications are now available. Also available from HAND is a new grant for smaller projects called Small and Simple Projects Fund which funds projects of \$1000 or less.

Neighborhood organizations can apply once per year for the fund. The first round deadline is January 21. The apps will be rated on project quality, neighborhood participation, neighborhood match, and community benefit. The match is a \$1 to \$1 match. However, the match package can include volunteer labor, donated professional services or skilled labor, and donated materials or supplies.

For additional information about either of these grants, call Vickie Provine 349-3505 or email provinev@city.bloomington.in.us.



National Issues Forum (continued)

Begun in 1982, NIF is rooted in the simple notion that people need to come together to talk – to deliberate – about common problems. Indeed, democracy requires an ongoing deliberative dialogue. Forums offer citizens the opportunity to inform themselves on the issues and weigh alternative courses of action. They may help set directions for government.

And, more importantly, they are opportunities for people to talk about common problems. Everyone has a voice in these conversations which encourage a full exchange of views on the issues as well as an understanding and appreciation of dif-

fering viewpoints.

The topic selected for the first community conversation is “growth and community well-being”. This topic was chosen because it is often a polarizing topic in our community.

In a democracy, citizens must come together to find answers that they can all live with – while acknowledging that individuals have differing opinions. Forums help people find the areas where their interests and goals overlap. This allows a public voice to emerge that can give direction to

For more information :

about NIF: www.nif.org

*about Forum: issac@indiana.edu
or bradform@city.bloomington.in.us*

us

public policy.

Forums do not advocate a particular solution to any public issue nor should they be confused with referendum or public opinion polls. Rather, the forums enable diverse groups of

Americans to determine together what direction they want to take, what kinds of action and legislation they favor, and what for their common good, they oppose.

The Forum will take place at Bloomington HS South from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on November 17. Plan to be there.

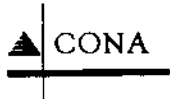
News from a New Neighborhood Association

Waterman Neighborhood Association is in the process of being official but already they have been very busy. In the spring, they received one of HAND's Neighborhood Clean-up Grants. Now they are involved in an exciting project—the Gateway Home Project. The overpass bridge in their neighborhood is going to receive a facelift, thanks to work

between the neighborhood, HAND and the Indiana Rail Road. The bridge will be painted with the refrain from “Stardust” written by Bloomington's own, Hoagy Carmichael. Terri Inskip of the Waterman neighborhood has been pursuing this dream for over two years and it now seems destined to become a reality. Angie Robertson, local artist, is

the designer and director of the work to be done. Donations have come from Bread for the Journey, CFC, Bloomington Area Arts Council and the Prospect Hill Neighborhood Association. Painting days: October 6 and 7, October 13–14. You must be over 18 to paint. s





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**COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATIONS**

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*Building Community:
Neighborhood by Neighborhood*

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CONA Concerns

CONA is a non-profit organization working with and for neighborhoods. As a non-profit, CONA must raise funds for operational purposes. Neighborhood associations' memberships contribute to that cause. The City of Bloomington through the HAND department also provides us with a grant.

But we must additionally look to our community – both businesses and individuals. We will be doing that in the next month. If you would like to support CONA with a donation, no matter how small, it would be appreciated. It can be sent to CONA, P.O. Box 252, Bloomington, IN 47402. Contributions to CONA are tax deductible.

CONA also has available coupons for Lazarus Charity Day, scheduled for October 27. Coupons are \$5 and offer special discounts. All money collected goes to CONA. If you or your neighborhood association would like some to sell, please contact Nancy Lumbley, 333-6377

or cona@bloomington.in.us. Also, CONA has Kroger Gift Certificates for sale. Kroger contributes 5% upfront with the purchase of the certificates. Call Jan Bulla-Baker, 336-0323 if you shop at Kroger's and want to help CONA at the same time.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The Strategic Plan is in need of an update. The plan will be the focus of the meeting on October 17. We need representatives from all our neighborhood associations as well as from neighborhoods who are potential members of CONA. Some pre-information has been prepared and should be read before the meeting



so the time can be more productive. Consider such questions as: What should CONA's focus be in the next 18 months? What should be the work of the group? What should the relationship be between the neighborhood associations and CONA? How can CONA be more visible in our community? How much time and energy are individuals and Neighborhood Associations willing to devote to the success of CONA?

How is the community different because of CONA's presence?

We must remember that CONA IS the neighborhood associations. The organization relies on the membership and participation of the individual neighborhood associations. Help update the plan.

If you are planning to attend, please contact Nancy Lumbley 333-6377 or email cona@bloomington.in.us. So pre-information can be sent to you before the meeting. The current Strategic Plan is located at cona@bloomington.in.us.