My Neighborhood's Pot Luck Idea!

A wonderful collection of recipes from our Bloomington Neighborhoods on how they make their neighborhood a better place to live!

City of Bloomington
Housing and Neighborhood Development

Dear Bloomington Neighbors,

This year HAND has whipped up a recipe book, **"My Neighborhood's Pot Luck Idea!,"** a collection from Bloomington neighbors of methods that make a neighborhood project work. Many thanks to all the neighbors that took the time to submit a 'My Neighborhood's Pot Luck Idea!'

The recipe books have been placed in binders so we can add recipes to them as new ideas come in. If you have a new idea for the "My Neighborhood Pot Luck Idea!" please sent it to Vickie Provine at provinev@bloomington.in.gov. In the near future we will be positing in on our Neighborhood Services website.

Thanks to all our Bloomington neighbors whose countless hours of work and commitment make their neighborhoods, as well as the Bloomington community, a great place to live!

Thanks!

Lisa Abbott
Director of Housing and Neighborhood Development

Vickie Provine
Neighborhood Services

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My Neighborhood's "**Pot Luck**" Idea!
Instead of bringing food to a **"Pot Luck"**
Share a great idea that works in your neighborhood!

Name of Neighborhood Association: Bloomington Housing Authority Resident Council Inc.

Name of Project:
Green Clean Buckets

Contact Person:
Tammy Long- BHARC President

Telephone Number:
812-272-0724

Email Address:
Tammycar54@yahoo.com

Please Attach Picture(s)

Describe Project:

The Resident Council, in conjunction with a Small & Simple Grant from HAND, provides new residents with the buckets at time of move-in. The Housing Authority has found that this is helpful at time of move in because residents may not have money for cleaning supplies. The "green" cleaning supplies, other than the dish detergent, can be purchased with food stamps because they are food items. Over the years we have found that the percentage of passed inspections has gone up due to this intervention strategy of providing them with cleaning supplies. The ingredients are not toxic, which is good for both residents and pets.

Cost of Project: About $20.00 per bucket, with the contents and extras we provide.

Tips on making it work:

Including tools like a plunger helps to minimize maintenance calls. Including "recipes" for the use of the cleaning supplies can be found online and a list compiled to give to residents.

"Green" Bucket Contents

1 mop

1 broom

2 spray bottles

1 dustpan

1 box baking soda

1 dish detergent

1 pkg bathroom tissue

1 sponge

1 pkg salt

1 bottle vinegar

1 bottle peroxide (or lemon juice)

2 cloths

1 towel

Crestmont Resident Council

"Green" Welcome Bucket Project

My Neighborhood's "**Pot Luck**" Idea!
Instead of bringing food to a **"Pot Luck"**
Share a great idea that works in your neighborhood!

Name of Neighborhood Association: Broadview

Name of Project: Neighborhood Clean-up

Contact Person: Liz Sluder

Telephone Number:332-7323

Email Address: bw6cw4gw01@gmail.com

Please Attach Picture(s)

Describe Project: This year BNA applied for and received a Neighborhood Clean-up Grant from HAND. Vickie Provine and Jo Stong do the work of finding and doing the legal work for the site. They also line up the city workers that will help, dump truck(s), chipper, Hazmat truck, pickups, barriers, signs, etc. Broadview Learning Center allows the use of their parking lot for the site. BNA finds the neighbors to volunteer as supervisors, pick up drivers, site workers and food preparers and food set up.

Cost of Project The cost to the neighborhood is minimal and is for hot dogs, buns, charcoal, plates, cups, drinks, condiments.

Tips on making it work: Broadview has done this project every three years and our clean-up is one of the biggest and best in the city. Here are some tips.

1. **People who cannot get their trash to the site due to age or lack of vehicles are told to call one or two numbers a week or two prior and arrange for a pick up and volunteers to come and help. The homeowner must be present to avoid something being picked up by mistake.**
2. **Get as many volunteers signed up as possible via meetings, phone calls, and neighbors talking to neighbors. Some volunteers come at the last moment and some can only stay for a short time but we welcome any help.**
3. **Thanks to HAND door hangers were distributed to every residence in Broadview within 10 days of the event.**
4. **Only Broadview residents are permitted to use the clean-up site so no newspaper or any other form of communication was used except the door hangers.**
5. **At Broadview's shelter house in our neighborhood park, hot dogs, chips, drink, desserts, and donuts are available for free for anyone whether working, or just visiting the park.**

6. **One of Broadview's finest ladies gets several grocery carts full of items from Kroger South's bakery making desserts plentiful.**
7. **Another wonderful lady got a gift certificate from Wal-Mart which helped purchase drinks, chips, and other needed items.**
8. **This year cookies and donuts and water were taken from the shelter house to workers and people waiting in cars, vans and trucks.**
9. **Thank you notes are sent to HAND, Broadview Learning Center, Kroger South and Wal-Mart. Neighbors are encouraged to show their appreciation.**

Broadview
Neighborhood Cleanup

My Neighborhood's "**Pot Luck**" Idea!
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Share a great idea that works in your neighborhood!

Name of Neighborhood Association:

Bryan Park Neighborhood Association (BPNA)

Name of Project:

Google Group Email Distribution List

Contact Person:

Jon Lawrence

Telephone Number:

812-650-2810

Email Address:

jontlawrence@gmail.com

Describe Project:

The BPNA needed a way to allow neighbors to easily communicate information quickly about neighborhood related events, projects and concerns. For example, notification of upcoming neighborhood meetings, distribution of minutes/agendas, lost dogs, and vandalism. There are many ways to accomplish this, all with various pros and cons.

The BPNA decided on Google Groups. Google Groups is a feature of Google Apps that makes it easy to communicate and collaborate with groups of people. A *group* is like a mailing list: It contains the email addresses of its members, but also has its own address. Our address is bryanpark@googlegroups.com. Using just the *one* email address for the group, you can:

- Send email to group members
- Invite group members to meetings
- Share your content (e.g., Google documents, sites, videos, and calendars) with group members

To send an email message to a group, simply enter the group's address as a recipient in the **To** field. If you start typing the address, it will auto-complete in the field.

There are various ways to implement Google Groups activity. We have chosen to limit membership so that only "Accepted" members may send and receive e-mail. This means that there needs to be an administrator who manages access to the group.

For more information about Google Groups, visit:

https://groups.google.com

Cost of Project:

Free

Tips on making it work:

- Neighbors need to know about the Google Group to be able to ask to be added. We collect e-mail addresses at all neighborhood meetings and events. We also advertise the Group on our website.
- Administrators can directly add members to the group, or they can send electronic "invitations" which need to be accepted by the new member. We prefer the invitation method so that there is no misunderstanding about membership in the group.
- Though administration is not difficult, it is helpful to have someone who is a bit computer savvy. The activity, once started, is minimal. Bryan Park contains approximately 750 households and our Google Group contains approximately 300 members. On average, there are less than 2 requests per week to be added or removed from the list.
- We have no formal rules about e-mail etiquette, though we are considering adopting rules. In general, we ask that e-mails be neighborhood specific. Our experience has been that when conversations drift to topics unrelated to the neighborhood, members ask to be removed from the list.

My Neighborhood's "**Pot Luck**" Idea!
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Share a great idea that works in your neighborhood!

Name of Neighborhood Association: Grandview Hills NA

Name of Project: Little Free Library

Contact Person: Meagan Eller

Telephone Number: 812-323-8316

Email Address: Meagan_eller@me.com

Please Attach Picture(s)

Little Free Library #6788, on location.

The current selection, along with labels for any new books.

Describe Project: Our neighborhood has long talked about a book exchange, but it has never worked out. When we learned about the Little Free Library movement (http://www.littlefreelibrary.org/), it seemed a perfect opportunity to share books amongst neighbors (and of course anyone else who wants to stop by).

We ordered the library, choosing from the available models, deciding that a model that has been tested was a good way to go. Once the library arrived, we mounted it on a post and stocked a few books inside. Neighbors filled the rest within the first 24 hours.

The goal of a Little Free Library is for people to take a book and/or leave a book. The selection of available titles will hopefully change frequently. We have chosen to stock a variety of books: fiction and non-fiction, classics and modern titles, children's and adult books.

Cost of Project: The project cost approximately $315, the cost of the library and shipping, plus the brackets to mount it. We reused a post, so there was no cost involved there. The books have all been donated.

Tips on making it work: The library has been up for less than a week, but we hope it will be successful. The biggest hurdles, after the cost, is getting word out and helping people past their shyness of walking up the path to the library. As with all Little Free Libraries, our library is available to anyone who stops by, so we check the books inside and make sure the path is clear on a regular basis.

GREEN ACRES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Project: Green Acres Neighborhood Garden

Contact Person: Ann Kreilkamp
phone: 812-606-9563
email: arkcrone@gmail.com

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Green Acres Neighborhood Garden, at the corner of DeKist and Overhill Drive, was created by transforming a sunny side yard lawn into a permaculture commons. The GANG garden functions to grow food, to show how to grow food, to serve as a gathering spot for community life, and to encourage other neighborhoods to invest in garden commons. To help leverage this template for cooperative living, both the workshops, and now the seasonal life of the garden, have been extensively blogged, first on tendrepress.com, and now on ganggarden.wordpress.com.

The GANG is the only commons in the Green Acres Neighborhood. We have no park.

An unusual type of private/public enterprise, the GANG garden is situated on privately owned land that the owner, Ann Kreilkamp, has turned over for public use. It has and continues to go through many iterations, evolving each growing season into a more and more fertile and densely packed, lovingly tended "permanent culture" heartland.

For the first two years, the garden got up to speed as a prime location for permaculture workshops, five or six per year, given by permaculture instructors, including Keith Johnson, Rhonda Baird, and Nathan Harmon. The GANG garden has also enjoyed a number of SPEA interns over the years, and partnered with a SPEA course on Sustainability during the first two years, serving as a project center where they built experimental compost structures (that didn't work too well) and a cob oven (that we had to tear down after only one firing).

The cob oven, and an experimental ferrocement wall behind it, were determined by the city to be out of compliance with zoning laws, after a complaint by a nearby neighbor. Also, the city decided that we could only hold three workshops per year.

This year and last, a Garden Director has been hired, for a small monthly stipend— last year SPEA student, Stephanie Gardner, this year Goddard student and permaculturist, Jim Ollis. Stephanie got interns from SPEA to work with her; they are still with us, plus another one who has joined the team.

We have held a few GANA neighborhood meetings and lots of "garden parties" of various kinds over the years in the picnic area of the garden, next to the garden pond with fish and frogs, two of them with children's workshops included. Last year's party was held in August, with an attendance of perhaps 50 people. GOES course participants come by each year to see the garden, as have other groups, and individuals, from as far away as Philadelphia, Louisville and Indianapolis.

Each year a few people from the neighborhood join us, most of them transient, as is the nature of this university town. We also have a few "regulars." Though we haven't had great participation, so far, from those living in the neighborhood as we had hoped, the project is still young. As the central project and showpiece of GANA, the Green Acres Neighborhood Association, and GANE, the newly designated

(by a website) Green Acres Neighborhood Ecovillage, the project continues to be a vital and evolving aspect of life in Green Acres.

Our long term vision includes other GANG gardens in the neighborhood. We would like to rename this first garden GANG 1, followed by GANG 2, 3, and so on. There is some progress toward GANG 2 this year, though still in the planning stages.

COST OF PROJECT

Costs have varied, depending on the year. When necessary, Ann K. has footed the bills, helped by donations from workshop participants for teachers, and by a non-profit association, ARC (Association for Regenerative Culture), which pays the Garden Director stipend ($100 per month during the growing season). We also received a $1000 Small and Simple Grant from HAND the first year, to help pay for tools. Ann also pays $125 per year for insurance.

TIPS ON MAKING IT WORK:

Think positive, and think long term. Look at every crisis as an opportunity. For example, when the neighbor complained about our beloved cob oven (created by hand by SPEA students, who stomped the cob with their bare feet and shaped the walls with their hands), I spent five months thinking about this sudden difficulty that had stopped us in our tracks. I needed to transform my own fury and disappointment into neutrality before I could come up with a creative way to integrate what had happened into the community's life. I decided to hold a quasi-Buddhist "Ceremony of Impermanence," wherein we symbolically fed one final little fire with the attitudes within ourselves that we would like to release, and then each of us, somberly, and with great force, took turns formally whacking the cob oven to death with a sledge hammer.

We did it on a somber, rainy Saturday. Afterwards, of course, as usual, we retired to my house for a potluck.

This incident, and its aftermath, the way we healed it, felt archetypal. For there will always be that one neighbor in a neighborhood who refuses to integrate him or herself in any attempts at a common life. How we work with such difficulties is of the utmost importance. We attempt to resolve differences, but where they cannot be resolved, then we aim to immerse the situation in love and ask that we learn how to live with, and ultimately, how to creatively integrate our differences into our common life.

Websites that refer to Green Acres Neighborhood and this project (google them).

Green Acres Neighborhood Association (GANA):
Green Acres Neighborhood Ecovillage (GANE)
Green Acres Neighborhood Garden (GANG)
Tendre Press (archival)
Exopermaculture

Green Acres
Neighborhood Garden

My Neighborhood's "**Pot Luck**" Idea!

Instead of bringing food to a **"Pot Luck"**

Share a great idea that works in your neighborhood!

Name of Neighborhood Association: Longwood-Devon

Name of Project: Hardly a project. We call it "Silvers."

Contact Person: Martha Wailes

Telephone Number: (812) 339-0072

Email Address: marthawailes@gmail.com

Describe Project:

We are a small neighborhood association, about 33 houses, so we do generally know each other. Many of us are aging in place. The retired or older non-working people in the neighborhood get together about once a month at 10 am, usually with coffee or tea provided, no food, just to talk. Group size has ranged from 2-10. It's a way to get to know each other better, keep tabs, even bring up neighborhood issues. There is almost no organization involved

Cost of Project:

Host provides hot water, tea bags and/or coffee.

Tips on making it work:

Someone has to set a date and send the email message, call the person who doesn't use email. Someone has to be willing to be a host for a couple of times when it is starting and to be the fall-back host.

My Neighborhood's "**Pot Luck**" Idea!
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Name of Neighborhood Association: Near West Side

Name of Project: Gardeners' Tour

Contact Person: Sophia Hauserman

Telephone Number: 332-5556

Email Address: sofyhaus@sbcglobal.net

Please Attach Picture(s) to follow....

Describe Project: Fervent gardeners gather in a pack and traipse around the neighborhood to gardens marked as participants. The resident gardener at each site leaves the pack long enough to discourse on her or his creation, basking in a shower of appreciation. The gardener then rejoins the pack, and the group moves on to the next garden. Among the advantages to this focus are that the gardener has to speak only once, and that the group is self-selected to be keen gardeners, so the level of discourse is pretty high. And for those new to gardening, there's plenty of friendly advice. Best of all, when the day is over, one's left with a polished and tidy garden.

Cost of Project: nothing

Tips on making it work: Set the time of day to be comfortable for walking and standing, according to the season. Make the route circular so the end is near your beginning. In his garden, Burhan offers a jug of iced mint tea.

Near West Side Gardener's Tour

My Neighborhood's "**Pot Luck**" Idea!
Instead of bringing food to a **"Pot Luck"**
Share a great idea that works in your neighborhood!

Name of Neighborhood Association: Near West Side

Name of Project: Gurlz of the 'Hood

Contact Person: Sophia Hauserman

Telephone Number: 332-5556

Email Address: sofyhaus@sbcglobal.net

Please Attach Picture(s) None available

Describe Project: Facing the lack of a downtown senior center/gathering place, several Near West Side women began to meet monthly for lunch. We chose Max's Place because it is quiet (at lunchtime!), friendly, and central. The day is the fourth Wednesday of the month, and the time is 1pm. Join us, if you like.

Cost of Project: the price of your lunch

Tips on making it work: Chose a date and stick to it. Send a reminder a few days ahead.
Chose a congenial place, preferably within walking distance.

My Neighborhood's "**Pot Luck** " Idea!
Instead of bringing food to a "**Pot Luck**"
Share a great idea that works in your neighborhood!

Name of Neighborhood Association:
Old Northeast Downtown Neighborhood Association

Name of Project:
Neighborhood Clean-up, 2013

Contact Person:
Marge Hudgins, President

Telpehone Number:
(812) 336-1188

Email Address:
margehudgins @ sbcglobal.net

Please Attach Picture(s)
Our neighborhood photographer was called out of town due a family emergency.
We can provide photos if needed.

Describe Project:
To pick up trash and litter after Indiana University annual spring events.

Cost of Project:
No cost work done by neighborhood residents.

Tips on making it work:
Propose project at an winter or spring meeting of neighborhood association.

Obtain trash bags from city.

Recruit volunteers from neighborhood

Schedule a particular day for the pick up and a specific meeting place.

Provide light refreshments for volunteers.

Coordinate with city to pick up trash in city provided bags.

Note: Housing and Neighborhood Development Department of city of Bloomington has been very helpful in working with the Old Northeast Downtown Neighborhood Association in completing this 2013 project.

My Neighborhood's "**Pot Luck**" Idea!
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Share a great idea that works in your neighborhood!

Name of Neighborhood Association: Park Ridge

Name of Project: Park Ridge Service Recommendations

Contact Person: Steve Akers

Telephone Number: (812) 332-0326

Email Address: spakers@indiana.edu

Please Attach Picture(s)

Describe Project: The home services list if a collection of home service contractors who have been used by neighbors in the Park Ridge neighborhood who have been identified to be reliable, fair in price, and perform good work.

Cost of Project: no cost

Tips on making it work: I collected input via email and in person from neighbors. Everything from painting to driveway sealing. After some neighbors experienced sub-standard work at their homes; we thought it would be good resource to identify reputable repair persons who may be trusted. The list was established in March, 2013 and continues to grow! It is shared through email. For those neighbors who do not have access to email, I provide a hard copy.

My Neighborhood's "**Pot Luck**" Idea!

Instead of bringing food to a **"Pot Luck"**

Share a great idea that works in your neighborhood!

Name of Neighborhood Association: Park Ridge East

Name of Project: Community Allied Produce Share

Contact Person: Fileve "Fifi" Stahlman Palmer

Telephone Number: 812 219 3021

Email Address: ftpalmer@indiana.edu

Please Attach Picture(s)

Describe Project:

The project involves having community households grow vegetables, fruits, herbs in their yard and set up a trading partnership between neighbors. The idea is to get people more connected with the food they eat and build healthier practices not only for themselves but for the environment as well. Every community could benefit by spending more time outside, reducing harmful practices such as the use of pesticides to kill weeds, reduce emissions used by mowers and driving to the store for produce, and finally learning and practicing organic gardening such as vermiculture compost which also reduces waste and saves money for trash collection. The project will also build camaraderie amongst neighbors, not just the ones who live directly across the street or on either side. In all, the produce exchange will have a positive effect on the people by encouraging healthier and more mindful practices.

Cost of Project:

The cost really is household dependent upon how big a space and time they want to dedicate to growing a garden. However there are some cost effective ways of maintaining a healthy garden, such as using a rain collection system instead of city water. The benefits of watering plants with rain water as opposed to city water are numerous. First off, rain does not have the chlorine and other chemicals put in city water that are harmful to the plants. Collection of rain reduces the need for city utilities and eases the burden of the storm drains, which also lowers water consumption and cost for the customer. Using vermiculture and composting reduces the waste produced by households (i.e. vegetative and paper products). Also using these methods means one does not have to buy costly and often poisonous fertilizer. Depending on who you know also or how you save, seeds can be exchanged and saved which is another money saver.

In all the real cost is time and effort. As aforementioned, that's all dependent on the household, but whatever the efforts the rewards are numerous!

Tips on making it work:

I think one of the best things to do would be to have people meet a few times in the neighborhood to discuss the logistics of the exchange and gardening in general. Perhaps some people are really great at growing squash or they have a particular variety while other people are great with strawberries. In that case they could exchange seeds, tips, and when the harvest comes, the produce. Having a list of producers and community members who want to participate and then meeting regularly would encourage people to share their gardening wisdom and goods.

My Neighborhood's "**Pot Luck**" Idea!
Instead of bringing food to a **"Pot Luck"**
Share a great idea that works in your neighborhood!

Name of Neighborhood Association: Park Ridge East Neighborhood Association (PRENA)

Name of Project: PRENA Picnic

Contact Persons and Email addresses:

Tom Shafer (tomshafer@mac.com)
Alwiya S. Omar (alwiyahuseina@gmail.com)

Please Attach Picture(s): Previous annual picnic pictures available at:
http://parkridgeeast.blogspot.com/2012/05/annual-prena-picnic.html

Describe Project:

The picnic is an annual pot luck event that brings together Association neighbors. It is a chance to interact and meet with each other, and for children to play together at the park. Each household brings a food item to share according to the first letter of the last name

A-K: main dish
L-S: fruit or salad
T-Z: dessert

Cost of Project:

Association supplies cups, ice tea and lemonade.
Neighbors bring plates, utensils and food.

Tips on making it work:

- Post the event on Association Blogpost
- Send out email messages to the Association list
- Distribute the Association newsletter about two weeks before the event
- Have Association garage sale before the picnic and remind neighbors about the picnic
- Put signs on the entry ways to the neighborhood

Park Ridge East Picnic

My Neighborhood's "**Pot Luck**" Idea!
Instead of bringing food to a **"Pot Luck"**
Share a great idea that works in your neighborhood!

Name of Neighborhood Association: Park Ridge East Neighborhood Association

Name of Project: Web presence (actually a blog)

Contact Person: John C Huffman

Telephone Number: 812 339 1993

Email Address: Huffman@indiana.edu

Please Attach Picture(s)

Describe Project: PRENA maintains a presence on the web by using the "Blogger" software available from Google (see www.blogger.com). While the software is not as versatile as a web site, it has distinct advantages. It is easy to use, is free (!), and there will probably be at least a few residents in your organization who already have a personal blog. The PRENA site (see http://parkridgeeast.blogspot.com/) actually consists of three separate sites: the primary site at http://parkridgeeast.blogspot.com/, a photo library http://prenaphotos.blogspot.com/, and an information site where copies of newsletters, etc. can be stored and referenced at http://prenalibrary.blogspot.com. Because it blog is readily edited it can be used for a variety of both current and archived information. A new feature being implemented is a neighborhood directory of residents available for babysitting, lawn care, pet walking, and other activities. The "owner" of the blog is a fictitious individual named who has an email address of parkridgeeast@gmail.com. We attempt to cc to this account on all neighborhood e-correspondence, and it is easy to forward from this account to whoever is currently in charge of the blog. It is also convenient to have a non-personal email that people can correspond with.

Cost of Project: $0.00

Tips on making it work:

One person is in charge of the web presence, and all content is sent to that individual. This means that you should identify someone who is comfortable with a computer and social media to oversee the project. It is easy to establish a "personal" blog, and so it is easy for someone to set one up and see how it works. We find that the PRENA site gets about 150 "pageviews" per month. Note that unlike typical blogs, the entries are not "last in/first out". There are tricks to allow the author to arrange items in the order desired.

My Neighborhood's "**Pot Luck**" Idea!
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Share a great idea that works in your neighborhood!

Name of Neighborhood Association: Park Ridge East Neighborhood Association

Name of Project: Plant Exchange

Contact Person: Kathleen Boggess

Telephone Number: 334-3678

Email Address: boggess2@comcast.net

Please Attach Picture(s) none available

Describe Project: We recently announced through our newsletter that we are starting a plant exchange in the neighborhood. Individuals will email or phone their interest in participating to Kathleen and then get together and discuss what they would be willing to exchange with each other. When the season is appropriate, plants will be dug up and given to interested neighbors.

Cost of Project: nothing

Tips on making it work: Discussing with neighbors this possibility and asking them to share the idea with their neighbors.

My Neighborhood's "**Pot Luck**" Idea!
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Share a great idea that works in your neighborhood!

Name of Neighborhood Association: Park Ridge East Neighborhood Association

Name of Project: Neighborhood Garage Sale

Contact Person: Kathleen Boggess

Telephone Number: 334-3678

Email Address: boggess2@comcast.net

Please Attach Picture(s)

Describe Project: Park Ridge and Park Ridge East have a combined garage sale. Neighbors are asked to let Kathleen know if they have unusual items that need to be listed in the advertisement in the Herald-Times and on Craigslist. The associations split the cost of the ad so neighbors do not have to contribute to the cost.

Cost of Project: Approximately $50

Tips on making it work: Getting the date in the newsletter long before the actual sale is important so people have time to sort out and get organized.

My Neighborhood's "**Pot Luck**" Idea!
Instead of bringing food to a **"Pot Luck"**
Share a great idea that works in your neighborhood!

Name of Neighborhood Association: Park Ridge East Neighborhood Association

Name of Project: PRENA Nature Club

Contact Person: Angie Shelton

Telephone Number: 812-961-1507

Email Address: angieshltn@gmail.com

Please Attach Picture(s)

Describe Project: Our family nature club is open to anyone in the neighborhood, but is focused on families with school age children. Our goal is to provide a group environment to allow kids to play in and explore nature in a safe environment. We do different local activities, such as hikes, stream walks, bike rides, canoe trips, etc. We try to schedule events about every two weeks and people come when they can.

Cost of Project: None. Events are typically free. In the case of paid events (e.g. canoe rentals) each family pays their own way.

Tips on making it work: We just started so we're still figuring things out. Goals are to have a regular meeting time with most activities being close to home so they don't require a lot of advance planning. We expect to do a few bigger, out of town trips each year.

My Neighborhood's "**Pot Luck**" Idea!
Instead of bringing food to a "**Pot Luck**"
Share a great idea that works in your neighborhood!

Name of Neighborhood Association:
Prospect Hill
Name of Project:
Doorknob Holiday Greeting

Contact Person:
Telephone Number:
Email Address:
Please Attach Picture(s)

Peace, joy and abundance to you today
& every day of the new year.

Describe Project:
We photocopied a funny non-copyrighted picture from the web, and put a greeting with the executive committee names on it, tied it to a candy cane, and hung it on the doors. Photo copy was black and white to save $, printed on gold paper (3 greetings per sheet) with hole punch for the ribbon. Folded over with greeting inside.

Cost of Project:
$

Tips on making it work:
Funny picture.
Use a sweet greeting, appropriate for culturally diverse neighbors.

My Neighborhood's "**Pot Luck**" Idea!
Instead of bringing food to a "**Pot Luck**"
Share a great idea that works in your neighborhood!

Name of Neighborhood Association:
Prospect Hill

Name of Project:
Neighborhood Survey

Contact Person:
Richard Lewis

Telephone Number:

Email Address:
richardlewis@earthlink.net

Please Attach Picture(s)

Describe Project:
A development was planned in our neighborhood, and some neighbors weighed in at the meetings. We wanted to know how more neighbors thought about the project and variances. Richard wrote a survey that allowed yes/no tally, and solicited potential solutions input.

Cost of Project:

Tips on making it work:
Ask clear questions, both yes/no, and choice questions to show the popularity of more than one answer.

St. James Woods Neighborhood Association

Our Neighborhood's "**Pot Luck**" Idea!

Neighborhood Association: St. James Woods is located at the corner of Moore's Pike and Smith Road, with a single entrance and exit on Moore's Pike. There are 39 lot owners (44 lots) in the development, which has existed since the early 2000's, and which was incorporated into the City sometime in 2004-05). The Association was formed in June of 2006.

Name of Project: **Collaborative Community Garden Project**

Contact Person: Dave Cumings

Telephone Number: 812-334-0291

Email Address: szcmn@comcast.net

Describe Project:

This project evolved from a neighborhood brainstorming session on how to improve an area viewed as an unattractive, unmanageable woodland adjoining our neighborhood utilized as a community walkway. The area was a breeding ground for poison ivy, scrub trees, weeds, chiggers, and ticks. It was difficult for our neighborhood to maintain the area due to the previously mentioned undesirable problems. This area also blocked the view of drivers from our addition exiting onto Moore's Pike.

We felt that beautifying this section of our development with flowers, bushes, and trees would not only improve our neighborhood appearance and enhance the entranceway to St. James Woods, but would also provide a source of beauty for the many walkers, joggers, and hikers from other neighborhoods who pass across the entryway and through the west woods on a regular and frequent basis. Creating a Collaborative Community Garden Project would also provide us with another way to promote collaboration and reinforce neighborhood pride and cooperation among our residents.

The first phase of the Project was simply a neighborhood decision, several years ago, to install weed screen and mulch along sixty feet of the area to avoid weekly mowing. At that time, our Association began a minimal landscaping project to prevent our members from becoming infected or bitten by the inhabitants of the undeveloped area.

Since last summer, however, our Association has aggressively pursued our dream of transforming the walkway into a beautiful nature path along the sidewalk that winds between the woods and the backyard fence of the subdivision and parallel to Moore's Pike. We developed a plan to divide the area into six gardens and offered each garden for "adoption" by a St. James Woods resident. The Association agreed to fund the project a few feet annually. During our neighborhood discussions, Vicki Pappas, Secretary of the Association, mentioned a City grant that might make our vision become a reality. She applied for the grant on behalf of the Association and we were accepted for City funding!

Currently three gardens have been adopted and are actively maintained by our neighbors. The walkway will be in full bloom in the spring and summer. When this project is completed, the area will be a beautiful woodland walkway many Association members and walking friends from other neighborhoods will be able to enjoy. It will also eliminate the need for our Association to mow the woods' weeds; eliminate the City's need to mow the Moore's Pike roadside; and reduce maintenance to overhead power lines.

Cost of Project:

We applied for and have received two City Neighborhood grants, totaling $1500. In addition, our Association has budgeted $600 annually for the past two years to fund purchase of plants and other materials. In addition, neighbors have made in-kind contributions of plants and work time to create and maintain the garden,

Tips on making it work:

1. First and foremost, we have a Neighborhood Beautification Committee, inspired and led by Dave Cumings. They have been absolutely committed to this project, and helped to generate interest in the gardens. They also contributed a lot of the initial person-power to get the project started, which provided a good model for other neighbors to follow.
2. Funding through the City's Small and Simple Grants program gave us the impetus to expand the planting. As the gardens took shape, more pride and excitement about the project have been evident.
3. The idea of residents "adopting" a garden, a small area of land, made volunteering feasible for people who might not have the time or talents to tackle a large garden. The Beautification Committee offers "training," tools, support, and advice to the volunteers.
4. Some neighbors who couldn't adopt a garden came up with other ways to participate. Some have donated their extra plants after they thinned their own gardens. A few residents were willing and able to adopt a "pot" instead of an area of land.
5. We have created a periodic "Woodsy Gram" that is sent out electronically by our Communications Chair. This keeps the neighbors informed of progress and alerts them to new things to look for in the area.
6. We've also discovered a new City resource that will help our gardeners during the summer, where they have had to manually cart water up to their plots in the heat. The City has an "Adopt a Meter" program which we are investigating for the coming summer.

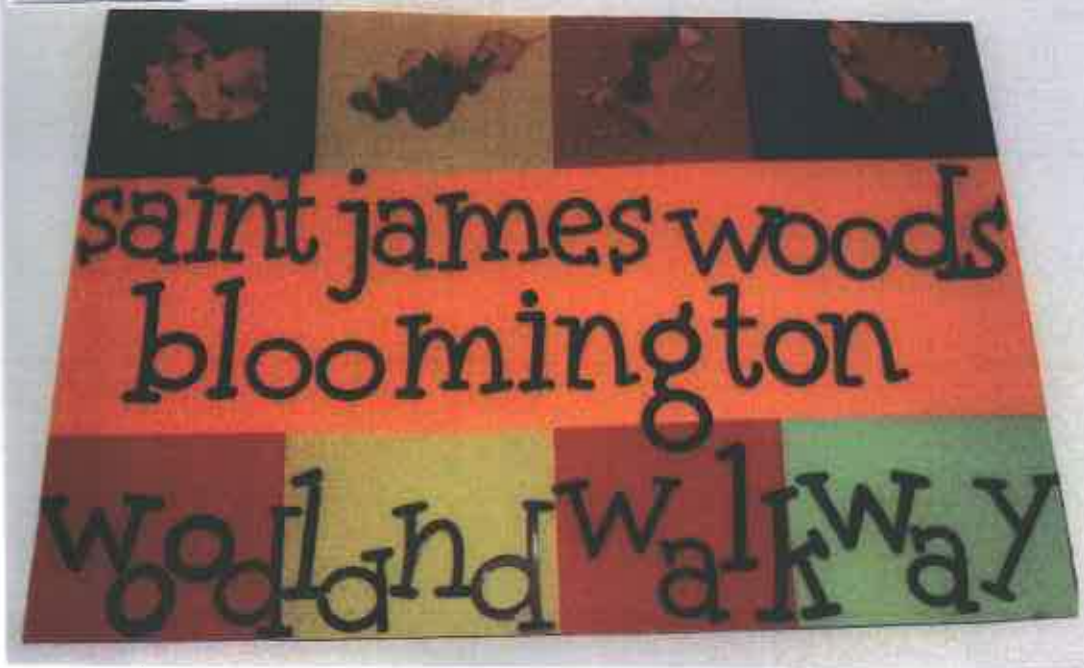
The first garden adoption.

Adoption #2

Who wins from this project?

Walkers, Joggers, St.James Woods Residents

and City of Bloomington



My Neighborhood's **"Pot Luck"** Idea!
Instead of bringing food to a **"Pot Luck"**
Share a great idea that works in your neighborhood!

Name of Neighborhood Association: St. James Woods Neighborhood Association

Name of Project: Individual Special Events

Contact Person: Jack Dvorak

Telephone Number: 339-9770

Email Address: dvorakj44@gmail.com

Please Attach Picture(s)

Describe Project: Individual neighbors have been kind enough to sponsor, organize and host special events in their homes. The two that have been recently done are:

1. December Holiday Open House. Various holiday treats and spirits were prepared and served by a generous neighbor who had an open house during mid-December. Neighbors dropped in within a two-hour period during a Sunday afternoon for some holiday cheer and conversation.

2. New Year's Open House. Similarly, new neighbors hosted a New Year's Open House. They provided all the refreshments, both food and drink, and many neighbors attended. It was a good way for these new neighbors to meet others socially while generously providing a community-building event during the New Year's holidays.

Cost of Project: Borne by the individual home-owners (hosts). Several delicious hors d oeuvres and beverages, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, were available at both events.

Tips on making it work: Having neighbors who care about the neighborhood and who enjoy entertaining in this way. We are fortunate in having a tight geographical area with 38 homes and 6 empty lots, so we are tight-knit in that respect. Events like this open house during the holidays solidify the spirit of the neighborhood, and we are thankful that Vicki Pappas has sponsored and hosted the December event for the past several years. Also, we are thankful for new neighbors Charley and Linda Pickle for hosting a New Year's open house for the first time.

My Neighborhood's "**Pot Luck**" Idea!
Instead of bringing food to a "**Pot Luck**"
Share a great idea that works in your neighborhood!

Name of Neighborhood Association: St. James Woods Neighborhood Association

Name of Project: Outdoor Socials (meals)

Contact Person: Jack Dvorak

Telephone Number: 339-9770

Email Address: dvorakj44@gmail.com

Please Attach Picture(s)

Describe Project: Socials: Twice a year Irene Reedy, chair of the special events committee, has organized a meal on the cul de sac near her home. In the fall, it has been a chili supper, with various volunteers making chili. Often there are 4 or 5 types to sample. In the late spring, Irene has organized a pancake breakfast, with various volunteers flipping the pancakes. Irene has purchased most of the food and done the yeoman's share of the organizing. Volunteers help with setting up tables. Typically about 30 neighbors attend these outdoor meals….in a neighborhood with 38 homes and 6 empty lots.

Cost of Project: Typically these cost about $75, and the cost comes from the treasury of the association.

Tips on making it work: Having a leader, such as Irene, who organizes the volunteer helpers and who plans and shops for the food.

These socials have proven to be a great source of community bonding as well as *esprit de corps.*

St. James Woods
Outdoor Socials

My Neighborhood's "**Pot Luck**" Idea!
Instead of bringing food to a **"Pot Luck"**
Share a great idea that works in your neighborhood!

Name of Neighborhood Association: Sherwood Oaks Neighbors

Name of Project: Miles of Lights luminary display

Contact Person: Lisa Wrasse

Telephone Number: (prefer e-mail)

Email Address: **lisawrasse@comcast.net**

Please Attach Picture(s) Additional images may be viewed here:
http://sherwoodoaksneighbors.blogspot.com/2012/12/images-of-miles-of-lights.html

Describe Project:
In December of 2012 Sherwood Oaks created a new neighborhood tradition by having its first annual luminary display. The Miles of Lights luminary display was a memorable evening of celebrating a year of community and fellowship among neighbors by lining our sidewalks with candlelight. Neighbors enjoyed strolling our sidewalks or driving our streets to see our neighborhood transformed by the glow of hundreds of paper luminaries.

Several neighbors volunteered for the Sherwood Oaks Neighbors luminary committee. The committee was responsible for placing, lighting, and cleaning up the luminaries on the main Sherwood Oaks thoroughfares. In future years we hope to have greater participation from neighbors and expand the display to the entire neighborhood.

Luminaries consist of a votive candle placed in sand in a paper white bag. Approximately 4 luminaries were placed to line the sidewalks in front of each house. Next year we are thinking of doubling that amount for greater visual impact.

Cost of Project:
There was no cost to the neighborhood association as all supplies were donated by individuals or businesses.

Tips on making it work:
Much advance preparation and communication is needed to secure supplies and coordinate volunteers. Also, a rain date is essential since dry weather is a must.

Sherwood Oaks

Miles of Lights
Luminary Display

My Neighborhood's "**Pot Luck**" Idea!

Instead of bringing food to a **"Pot Luck"**

Share a great idea that works in your neighborhood!

Name of Neighborhood Association: SoMax

Name of Project: Pie Party

Contact Person: Carrol Krause

Telephone Number: 339-7392

Email Address: lorrac58@gmail.com

Describe Project: SoMax began as a series of block parties. When my husband Frank and I moved into our current home on Marilyn Drive, we didn't know anyone. I was pregnant and we had a lot on our minds in the first week, sorting out our goods and getting the house arranged. When we were done, we looked around our new home and walked around in our yard. We saw other people driving by and mowing lawns nearby, but we did not know a single person on our block and no one had dropped by our house to welcome us. At our old house we had thrown parties with some regularity and we were civil, if not friendly, with the people next door. But here, we felt stranded and isolated. "I know what we should do," I said, "let's invite everyone on the block to a pie party next weekend." So we went door-to-door up and down the street, sixteen houses total, and knocked. Neighbors opened their doors to see a pregnant woman and her bearded husband. "Hi," I told each person, "we're the new neighbors at 1925 Marilyn. I'm Carrol and this is my husband Frank, and we'd like to invite you to stop by next Saturday afternoon and have some home-baked pie." Everyone was charmed, and delighted! We went home at the end of an hour or so knowing the names of everyone on the street. It turned out there were two other families with babies or young children on the block, so we immediately bonded and our children began playing together. The original pie party segued into a regular series of block parties at different people's homes; we turned out to be such an amenable bunch that if a month and a half went by without a party, someone would announce "We need a party; I'm hosting the next one." And after ten years or so of fun on one block, we finally extended the door-knocking to the entire surrounding area, and SoMax was born.

Cost of Project: Virtually nil: baking supplies and blueberries for pie.

Tips on making it work: Look friendly and non-threatening, and offer something that everyone likes to eat.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

HAND

Housing and Neighborhood Development

Improving our neighborhoods

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Housing and Neighborhood Development Department
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