



Blue Ridge Bugle: Summer 2019

A publication of the Blue Ridge Neighborhood Association (BRNA)

Neighborhood Association Board Members:
President Debora (Ralf) Shaw, Vice President Mike Trotzke, Treasurer Shirley Watkins, Secretary Susan Catt
Directors at large: Carole Canfield, John Grigutis, Jillian Kinzie, Jeremy Nation
Newsletter Editor: Bethany Nolan

BRNA ANNUAL MEETING – Tuesday August 20

Join us in the fellowship hall in the lower level of the North Central Church of Christ, 2121 N. Dunn St. Doors open at 6:45 p.m., and the business meetings begins at 7 p.m. sharp as we need to leave the building by 8:30 p.m. The agenda is as follows:

1. Call to order, introduction of officers - Ralf Shaw
2. Approval of agenda
3. Treasurer's Report - Shirley Watkins
4. Election of board/officers for 2019-21 - Ruth Aydt and Jeannie Galbreath
5. Proposed bylaws revision - John Grigutis
6. Proposal to reimburse partial expenses for repair of high priority sidewalks - Ralf Shaw
7. Blue Ridge Picnic - Deb Kloeppel
8. Discussion of Bloomington Transportation Plan and Unified Development Ordinance with Terri Porter, Director, Department of Planning and Transportation and Beth Rosenbarger, Planning Services Manager, Department of Planning and Transportation
9. Discussion with Frankie Presslaff and Gabriela Esquivel, Neighborhood Resource Specialists with the Bloomington Police Department
10. Open forum



BRNA BYLAWS REVISION

The attached July 2019 proposed bylaws bring our governance into the 21st century. Significant changes are:

- rename the document from "constitution" (which focuses on basic principles) to "bylaws" (specific rules and guidance for how an organization operates).
- adopt a more general statement of the association's objectives: "to promote the welfare of the property owners and residents of the Blue Ridge neighborhood."
- elect a nominating committee at the annual meeting the year before officers will be elected.

Major thanks to John Grigutis for preparing the draft. We will vote on approving the revised bylaws at the annual meeting.

SIDEWALK REPAIR PROPOSAL

The Board encourages all homeowners to comply with the city code and keep their sidewalks in good repair. Our Sidewalk Committee (Jillian Kinzie, Ann Birch, Kelly Bogan) have identified 104 places where there is at least an inch difference between adjacent sidewalk squares, with 25 of at least 1.5 inches. The Board proposes reimbursing homeowners of those 25 squares up to \$300 per square for repairs. The goal is to encourage coordinated repair and reduce the overall cost and disruption. Funds for the reimbursements would come from the association's reserves. Members will vote on the proposal at the annual meeting.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Homeowners new to the neighborhood this year have complimentary membership. All others should have received invoices for \$30. Please send checks to Treasurer Shirley Watkins, 3331 N. Ramble Road Ct. Payment of dues for 2019-20 is required to vote at the annual meeting.

CANDIDATES FOR 2019-20 BRNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nominating committee members Ruth Aydt and Jeannie Galbreath prepared the following slate of candidates willing to serve for the next two-year term. In compliance with our current constitution, additional nominations with signatures of five BRNA members supporting the nomination should be sent to Ralf Shaw by August 5.

President: *Debora "Ralf" Shaw, Bankers Drive*

My husband, Chuck Davis, and I moved to Blue Ridge at the turn of the century. We appreciate the neighbors, nature, and the gradual evolution of the neighborhood as new folks move in and make houses their own. I have learned a lot while, and enjoyed serving as, BRNA president since 2017. Thanks to our excellent board and amazing volunteers, we responded to neighbors' suggestions for the directory, picnic, front gate upkeep, and brush clean-up. Our holiday cookie swap proved popular and I hope we can repeat it in 2019. It has been a pleasure to get acquainted with more Blue Ridgers, an experience I would like to continue as your president for two more years.

Vice-President: *Cory Rutz, Lakewood Court*

My wife and I, along with our children Wyatt and Audrey, moved to Bloomington in November 2017 to be closer to my work at IU on the Foundation Relations team. Whitney works at Audrey's preschool (St. Marks) and will serve on the PTO Board at Marlin Elementary starting in 2019. I am originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, (Go Packers! Go Brewers!), but came to Bloomington for a graduate school in 2006 where Whitney and I met while working together at the IU Ticket office. Whitney, a "Sparkplug" from the town of Speedway, is a speech pathologist who attended IU for her undergrad and grad programs. We've spent some time in Washington, D.C. and Indianapolis (Avon area), where we lived in a tiny farmhouse once owned by Whitney's great-grandparents, learning about home repair, gardening, and the traffic in the Indianapolis metro area. After our children were born and I was hired by IU (in 2016), we had outgrown our house, and we happily made the move back to Bloomington after we found a home in Blue Ridge, the only neighborhood we really considered. We love living in Bloomington, and particularly enjoy the wonderful neighbors we have met on Lakewood Court and elsewhere in Blue Ridge. As a VP candidate, I hope to help the neighborhood thrive, offer some support in fundraising, and get to know some new friends.

Secretary: *Susan Catt, East Blue Ridge Drive*

We moved to Blue Ridge in 1996 from Stone Mountain, Georgia, when my husband Larry retired from the United States Army. In 2017 I retired after 21 years as library director at Ivy Tech Community College, Bloomington. In 2018 I was appointed to the BRNA secretary position for a partial term. I've enjoyed serving Blue Ridge and I look forward to continuing to serve for another two years.

Treasurer: *Sarah Wasserman, Ramble Road East*

I was the first treasurer for our condo homeowner association in Indy, and did much of the initial work in establishing policies and procedures for how the finances of that organization would be managed. I am currently treasurer of the Shalom Community Center (my term ends in December), and was the treasurer for many years of Congregation Beth Shalom here in Bloomington. I have an MBA from Boston College, and spent most of my career in university financial administration. I would be pleased to have an opportunity to serve our neighborhood where Stan and I and our "pack" have enjoyed living for the last 15 years.

Director-at-Large: *George "Kelly" Bogan, Ramble Road West*

I am retired after 42 years in the metals industry. I am a native of Indiana, growing up in Valparaiso. My wife, Ruth, and I moved to Blue Ridge in May 2015. We took a year to consider moving to Bloomington, after having lived in Illinois, New Mexico and New Jersey. We toured most neighborhoods in town over that span and are quite happy to have selected Blue Ridge for our home. We have enjoyed knowing our neighbors, and we have appreciated that there is an active Board addressing issues that make the neighborhood more viable and enjoyable. I have served recently on the sidewalks committee for BRNA, and Ruth and I accepted the responsibility for installing the Christmas decorations at the entrances to Blue Ridge for the past two years. I would look forward to participating on the Board as an at-large member.

Director-at-Large: *Matt Fields, Ramble Road East*

My wife Victoria and I moved to Blue Ridge in 2017 and have been in Bloomington since 2013. Both native Hoosiers, we spent some time in the South before coming back home to Indiana. I studied at Purdue and am an engineer in Indianapolis, Victoria studied here in Bloomington at IU and runs her own content marketing company. We love the sense of community that we have found in town and our neighborhood, especially the abundance of old trees and friendly dogs. As an at-large candidate, my goal is to continue to ensure that Blue Ridge is great place to live both for long-time residents and newcomers.

Director-at-Large: *Dylan Grigar, Rusgan Drive*

My family and I were thrilled when we first looked at our home to be last April. We knew we had some work to do and got right to it. Through a whole lot of sweat equity in remodeling the basement and getting the house move in ready, we were able to finally spend the night by early August. The neighborhood has been very welcoming and we love living here! We are very much looking forward to getting to know our neighbors and forming new relationships in the community. I am originally from Fort Wayne and moved to Bloomington in 2003. While much of my family still lives up there, I am proud to call Bloomington home. I cooked at Bloomingfoods East through college and that is where Riley and I met. After we both graduated from IU, we settled down and found great jobs that enabled us to stay in Bloomington. I work for Loren Wood Builders as a Project Manager specializing in residential remodels and Riley works as a Production Manager for Secretly Group. Our son Neil is now 4 and loves the neighborhood as much as we do. We love spending time in the yard, so if you ever see us out please say hi! We are truly looking forward to our gardens growing in Blue Ridge. I am happy to help in any way around the neighborhood and am excited to be nominated as an At-Large Member of the BRNA.

Director-at-Large: *Paul Kern, Blue Ridge Court*

I am originally from Indianapolis. My wife, Linda, and I moved to Bloomington in 2005. We were fortunate enough to find a home in Blue Ridge Court. For years we have thoroughly enjoyed being in Blue Ridge. It's a very comfortable neighborhood which we walk almost daily. (I am the bald guy walking the Maltese with Linda who walks a Yorkie). One thing that is cool about the neighborhood is its history; almost 60 years old. We hear stories from the "old-timers" about which road got added when etc. I saw there is some interest in exploring Blue Ridge's past. That would be a fascinating project. Overall our family loves being in Blue Ridge and would be interested in anything to help the neighborhood.

Sign up for the e-Bugle

Each issue of the Bugle is posted on Nextdoor and on the Blue Ridge public website: <http://blueridge.bloomington.in.us/>. You can also receive the newsletter via email (send a message to shawd@indiana.edu). Help save trees by joining the 58 Blue Ridge households that have opted for an e-only Bugle. The paper version will be mailed to all neighbors who do not ask to go electronic.

**Bylaws of the Blue Ridge Neighborhood Association
Proposed July 2019**

Article I: Name

The name of the organization shall be the Blue Ridge Neighborhood Association.

Article II: Object

The object of this organization shall be to promote the welfare of the property owners and residents of the Blue Ridge neighborhood.

Article III: Members

Section 1. Any property owner or owner's family unit of the area bounded by Matlock Heights, North Walnut Street/Business Hwy 37 North, North Dunn Street, and Old Highway 37 North, may become a member of the Association by the payment of dues, and may continue as a member so long as such dues are kept current.

Section 2. All meetings and social functions shall be open to all residents of Blue Ridge, but when issues are at stake, only members may vote.

Section 3. The annual dues per family unit, as determined by the Blue Ridge Board, shall be payable on or before such date as specified by the Blue Ridge Board; each family unit shall have one vote in the Association. New members shall owe no dues for the remainder of the calendar year in which they become residents of Blue Ridge, or in a case where property ownership precedes residency, shall owe no dues for the remainder of the calendar year in which they first become members of the Association.

Article IV: Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and four Directors. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Association.

Section 2. Every other year, during the annual meeting, a Nominating Committee of two members shall be elected by the Association. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate candidates for the offices to be filled at the following year's annual meeting. The list of candidates must be submitted to the membership in writing at least thirty (30) days before the annual meeting. Any Association member shall have the privilege of nominating additional candidates by submitting a petition signed by at least five (5) Association members. The petition must be filed with the President of the Association and submitted to the Association membership in writing at least fourteen (14) days before the annual meeting.

- Section 3. Each officer shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting every other year to serve a term of two (2) years, with terms beginning at the adjournment of the annual meeting and ending when their successors are elected. Any officer or director may be elected to succeed himself/herself.
- Section 4. If there is only one (1) nominee for an office, or only four (4) nominees in the case of the Directors, that office may be elected by acclamation.
- Section 5. No person shall hold office if he is not a member of the Association. No person shall hold more than one office at the same time.
- Section 6. Vacancies between annual meetings shall be filled by appointment by the Board, until duly elected successors are installed.

Article V: Duties of Officers

- Section 1. The President's duties shall include presiding at meetings of the membership and the Board and appointing committees and their chairpeople; conducting correspondence on behalf of the Association; giving notice of meetings, nominations, and the filling of vacancies, or delegating the aforementioned responsibilities.
- Section 2. The Vice-President's duties shall include performing the duties of the President in his/her absence or incapacity and performing whatever other duties as may be given him/her by the President, Board or membership.
- Section 3. The Secretary's duties shall include keeping minutes of all meetings of the membership and of the Board and making them available for the inspection of any member; and maintaining the records of the Association with the exception of the financial records.
- Section 4. The Treasurer's duties shall include receiving all funds of the Association and maintaining them in a bank account in the name of the Association; keeping complete financial records and reporting to the membership at the annual meeting and at such other times as may be directed by the President, Board, or membership. Withdrawals and disbursements in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) may be made only upon the express authorization of the Board. Checks must be signed by the Treasurer or the President.
- Section 5. A Director's duties shall include serving as committee chairperson if appointed by the President and performing whatever other duties as may be given him/her by the President, Board, or membership.

Article VI: Meetings

- Section 1. The annual meeting of the membership of the Association shall be held at a time and place designated by the Board, for the purpose of electing the new Board, receiving annual reports and conducting any other business that may arise.
- Section 2. Other meetings may be called by any officer or director of the Board or any ten (10) Association members in good standing.
- Section 3. Notice of meetings may be given in any reasonable manner, but fourteen (14) days' notice must be given prior to the annual meeting.
- Section 4. Twenty (20) members of the Association shall constitute a quorum.
- Section 5. Any expenditure by the Treasurer exceeding two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2500) shall be voted on at a meeting of the Association and must be submitted to the membership in writing at least fourteen (14) days prior to that meeting.

Article VII: The Executive Board

- Section 1. The officers of the Association, including the Directors, shall constitute the Executive Board.
- Section 2. Shall serve as the governing body of the Association and may act on behalf of the Association, subject to the right of the members to overrule any action by a simple majority vote.
- Section 3. All meetings of the Board shall be open to the membership of the Association, except that the membership will not have the right to vote.
- Section 4. Shall authorize, to the Treasurer, all withdrawals and disbursements in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) from funds held by the Association.
- Section 6. The Board shall have the authority to adopt rules governing its own proceedings.
- Section 7. Five (5) members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.

Article VIII: Committees

The President shall appoint chairpeople for such committees as from time to time may be deemed necessary to achieve the objectives of the Association. Chairpeople must be selected from the membership of the Association and may be members of the Board. The chairperson of a committee shall recruit committee members from the neighborhood.

Article IX: Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of [*Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*](#) shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Association may adopt.

Article X: Amendment of Bylaws

Any member in good standing may propose an amendment or bylaw by submitting it in writing to the Board at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting. Any amendment or bylaw to be voted on at the annual meeting must be submitted to the membership in writing at least fourteen (14) days prior to that meeting. The bylaws may be amended by a simple majority vote.