



Blue Ridge Bugle: Winter 2020
A publication of the Blue Ridge Neighborhood Association (BRNA)

Neighborhood Association Board Members:
President Debora (Ralf) Shaw, Vice President Cory Rutz,
Treasurer Matt Fields, Secretary Susan Catt
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ADOPT-A-DRAIN

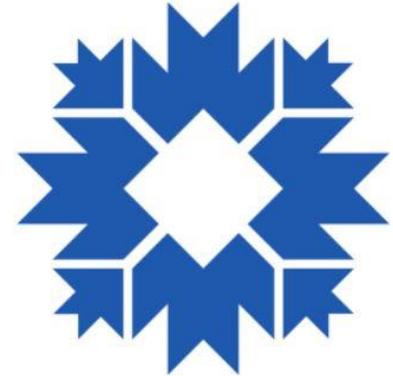
Bloomington has a volunteer program to help improve the water quality of our streams and reduce flood risk in our community. Volunteers commit to:

- inspect storm drains at least once per month
- clear storm drains when needed (best if done before it rains)
- complete and submit Adopt-a-Drain quarterly reports

The city lists more than 100 drains in Blue Ridge. A few have been adopted, but many still need special attention. A spreadsheet with the drains and approximate addresses can be found here:

<https://tinyurl.com/BRDrainsForAdoption>.

More information on the program and contact info for Adopt-a-Drain coordinator Kriste Lindberg is available from the city at <https://bloomington.in.gov/utilities/stormwater/adopt-a-drain>.



BIAS INCIDENTS UPDATE

Blue Ridge residents met in December to discuss two incidents that had been reported on NextDoor. Someone yelled at one of our neighbors and threw a large liquor bottle her; on another day she was verbally harassed for walking in the street, not on a sidewalk. In the discussion, many neighbors reiterated the concerns and support that had been expressed in the NextDoor commentary on these incidents. Those attending supported efforts to keep the neighborhood safe and find a civil way to deal with disagreements.

The BRNA Board discussed the recommendation from the meeting and board members have agreed to serve as an informal channel to collect reports of future incidents that neighbors prefer not to post on NextDoor. The board will monitor activity and report to the neighborhood as needed. If you have concerns about the temper of the neighborhood, feel free to begin a discussion on NextDoor or mention your concerns to a board member.

CITY SANITATION INFO ONLINE

Answering your City sanitation questions just got easier! You can now use an online tool to:

- View and print trash, recycling, or yard waste collection calendars for your address.
- Schedule a large item pickup (appliances, bulky items, mattresses, furniture, etc.).
- Schedule an extra weekly pickup.
- Determine whether an item should be disposed of in the recycling cart or trash cart.
- Request additional assistance.

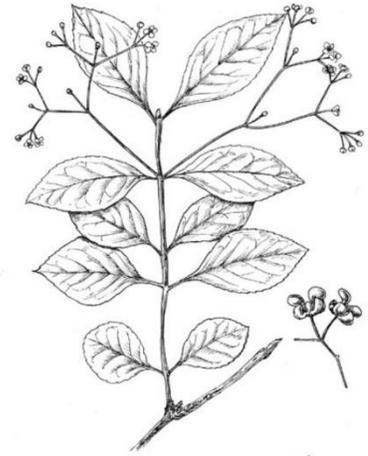
Visit <https://api.recollect.net/r/area/bloomingtonin>.

E-BUGLE DELIVERY

If you received this newsletter in print and would like to go electronic, email Ralf Shaw at shawd@indiana.edu. Please say whether you prefer to receive the newsletter via email or if the pdf posted on NextDoor is sufficient.

INVASIVE PLANTS/NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP

The city is offering Small and Simple Grants to Control Invasive Plant Species (SSCIPS). Funds are to support neighborhood-wide initiatives to remove invasive species and replace them with native plants. This includes, but is not limited to, the purchase of tools and supplies or rental of equipment to help remove invasive species, as well as the purchase of native plants to plant in areas where invasive species have been removed. Monroe County Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS) is partnering with HAND for the grant program. This year MC-IRIS has targeted purple wintercreeper (also known as Euonymus, which Blue Ridge has in abundance) in its Reduce One Invasive Species Challenge.



Jane Parker Smith will be the lead in preparing our grant application. She will need to have commitments to participate from 15 percent of the neighborhood (35 households). Participation includes agreeing to:

- Remove invasive plants from your property and replace them with native plants (or allow invasive plants to be removed and replaced by volunteers) and/or
- Volunteer in the effort to remove and replace invasive plants from the neighborhood, including on private properties and in communal areas.

If you can participate, contact Jane Parker Smith at 4women2men@msn.com. Jane will schedule an educational workshop with MC-IRIS via Zoom before the project starts.

The SSCIPS grant, if successful, would likely include funds for removing the invasive plants. With this in mind, as well as the amount of waste discarded through the HAND-supported cleanup in September, the BRNA Board decided not to use the funds authorized at the annual meeting for a cleanup in spring 2021.

BLUE RIDGE BOARD NOMINATIONS

At the annual meeting this August, the Blue Ridge Neighborhood Association will elect a new Board of Directors: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and four Directors-at-Large. The constitution is online on the Blue Ridge website: <https://blueridge.bloomington.in.us/neighborhood-association/constitution-of-the-blue-ridge-neighborhood/>

If you are interested in serving or want to suggest a candidate to the Nominating Committee, contact Jerry Towle at jertow@comcast.net or Jeannie Galbreath at gknee615@gmail.com.

YOUR BLUE RIDGE DUES AT WORK

Annual dues for the Blue Ridge Neighborhood Association are \$30, due in July. New homeowners are not asked to pay dues in their first year in the neighborhood. Paying dues entitles your household to vote in BRNA elections and participate in some special projects, such as the brush cleanup and receiving a printed copy of the directory. Dues cover many expenses for the good of the neighborhood, including:

- mailing newsletters
- mailing information to people not on NextDoor
- mowing and plantings at the front gate
- maintenance such as flag replacement, gate repair, and holiday decorations
- expenses for the annual meeting

In normal times, dues also underwrite costs related to the bi-annual brush cleanup, the picnic, and the annual meeting.

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

Your neighborhood association board meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month via Zoom. The meetings are open to any Blue Ridge resident. The agenda, which includes the Zoom link, is posted a few days in advance on NextDoor. You can contact any board member for the connection information as well.