



Blue Ridge Bugle: Summer 2021
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
Directors at large: Kelly Bogan, Dylan Grigar, Paul Kern,
Jane Parker Smith
Newsletter Editor: Bethany Nolan

ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us for an in-person annual meeting! At the business meeting we will elect officers for 2021-2023 and discuss whether to have our "usual" spring brush cleanup in the spring of 2022. After the business, our guest speaker will be Bruce Calloway, Duke Energy's Government and Community Relations Manager. The board has asked him to discuss the recent power outages in Blue Ridge and what Duke is doing to reduce the chance they will recur. His colleagues will be there, too: Kevin Timberman, Director of Customer Delivery Area Operation for Southwest Indiana; Brandon Wilson, Manager of Customer Delivery Area Ops Support; and JD Pinnick, Sr. Engineering Tech, Reliability. We have invited our elected representatives to join us as well.

The meeting will be at **7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 17**, in the fellowship hall of the North Central Church of Christ, 2121 N. Dunn St. If you prefer not to attend in person, contact Ralf Shaw at shawd@indiana.edu for the Zoom link so you can see what goes on.

FOOD TRUCKS

Blue Ridge will continue to host food trucks on the first Tuesday of the month through October. Stop by Rusgan Drive between Bankers and Ramble East and see who is there between 4 and 8 p.m. on **Aug. 3**, **Sept. 7** and **Oct. 5**.



CANDIDATES FOR BRNA OFFICES

Our Nominating Committee, Jeannie Galbreath and Jerry Towle, will conduct the election of incoming officers. Only residents whose dues for 2021-22 are paid are eligible to vote. The proposed slate is:

- **President:** Cory Rutz
- **Vice President:** Kate Fairley
- **Secretary:** Alison Baum
- **Treasurer:** Matt Fields
- **Directors-At-Large:** Kelly Bogan, Dylan Grigar, Paul Kern, Jane Parker Smith

Statements from the candidates are enclosed.

BLUE RIDGE DUES

Annual dues for August 2021 - July 2022 are \$30. New homeowners do not need to pay dues in their first year, so those who moved here since July 2020 are covered. You can pay by check or Venmo: Matt Fields, 2941 N. Ramble Road East, Bloomington, IN 4708 or Venmo the funds to Matt: @mdfields62 (last 4 digits of his phone number are 3005). If you have questions, email Matt at mdfields@gmail.com.

ANNUAL PICNIC

We aim to have our neighborhood picnic from 5 to 7 p.m. **Sunday, Sept. 12**, on Oliver Drive. The rain date is Sunday, Sept. 19. Please send ideas on how to make this first post-shutdown picnic fun and comfortable for everyone. Contact Ralf Shaw at shawd@indiana.edu with suggestions and if you can volunteer to help.

INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL

Major congratulations to the 81+ neighbors who participated in the removal of Asian Bush Honeysuckle and other invasives in May. The work spread over three weekends; after our chipping efforts the city removed the remaining 200 cubic yards of honeysuckle. Special thanks to Jane Parker Smith for leading the effort and to Margaret Dalle Ave for her tireless outreach and education work.

1,000 HOUSEHOLDS WHO MULCH

The city's 1,000 Households Who Mulch project challenges households to mulch and compost as much as possible and put only the excess leaves out for collection by the yard waste crew.

According to the city, incentives include:

- Free yard waste bags.
- No yard waste fee if you're part of the pilot.
- The first 300 households to sign up and specify they will use yard waste bags will also receive a free yard waste bag holder.
- Everyone who signs up will get half-off a four-month subscription to EarthKeepers kitchen waste compost drop-off service.
- If you are in two of the neighborhoods with the most people registered by Aug. 1, you will have the option of locating an EarthKeepers kitchen waste compost drop-off enclosure in the neighborhood.
- Need help? The city will supply literature, hands-on demonstrations and even a yard consult



Got a competitive spirit? Challenge another neighborhood and be tracked on our leaderboard! The four neighborhoods with the fewest yard waste bags per participating household win bragging rights AND a prize for the neighborhood!

For more information and to sign up, go to:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdrTYL5BI6NS_Lj6xNC6sdBzWNhA6B9oiX5bLuhUTWEoCuf0w/viewform.

Chris Franke at octafrank@gmail.com on Bankers Drive and Cory Rutz at cjruz@gmail.com on Lakewood Court are participants and would be glad to answer neighbors' questions. We have invited a representative of the project to meet with Blue Ridgers at the neighborhood annual meeting on Aug. 17.

E-BUGLE DELIVERY

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

Nominees for Office in the Blue Ridge Neighborhood Association, 2021-2023

President: Cory Rutz, Lakewood Ct. 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. Whitney is originally from Speedway, Indiana, works as a speech therapist for different schools in the area, and is on the PTO Board at Marlin Elementary. 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. Since then we've spent some time in Washington, D.C. and near Indianapolis (Avon area), but are thrilled to now call Bloomington home. We particularly enjoy the wonderful neighbors we have met on Lakewood Court and elsewhere in Blue Ridge. As part of the neighborhood association board, I would aim to help maintain and grow the sense of community in Blue Ridge by supporting opportunities for social connection, physical improvements and maintenance of shared spaces, and good communication between neighbors.

Vice President: Kate Fairley, Ramble Road East. My husband, Stephen, and I have lived permanently in Bloomington since July 2018 when we moved into our home in Blue Ridge along with our dog, Kobe. I grew up on a dairy farm in Southern Indiana in a small town called Greenville, while Stephen grew up in Mishawaka, IN. Stephen and I met as undergraduate students at IU in 2012 and have been together ever since. Since undergrad, we have lived in Louisville, Valparaiso and Fishers before arriving here in Bloomington. I work remotely as a health Actuary for Humana Inc., while Stephen's work as a fundraiser for IU is what brought us back to Bloomington. In December of 2020, we welcomed our first baby, Julian Glen Fairley. We are enjoying navigating the challenges and excitement of becoming new parents! My goals as VP candidate are to help ensure that Blue Ridge continues to be a thriving, safe, enjoyable community and to assist with facilitating new projects and ideas for improvement in the neighborhood.

Treasurer: Matt Fields, Ramble Road East. My wife Victoria and I have been here since the spring of 2017. Our two dogs, Weller and Winston, enjoy the great walkable streets in Blue Ridge as well as the smorgasbord of cicadas this year! I am an engineer with AES Indiana where I work with policy and strategy, especially around renewable energy. As treasurer, I want to make certain that we have a healthy cushion to grow together as a neighborhood and care for the community.

Secretary: Alison Baum, Bankers Dr. I moved to Blue Ridge in May 2015 with my partner, Chris, and twins, Miles and Eliot, because we needed a bigger yard and safer neighborhood for the boys. I have been a resident of Bloomington for twenty years and have lived all over town, but the north side is my favorite. The Blue Ridge neighborhood is convenient to my work as Director of Account Administration Services at the IU Foundation (basically, I oversee a team that manages IUF accounts, ensures compliance with donor intent, and writes gift agreements). I have a B.A. in English and an M.L.S. with a concentration in Records Management, which means I am at least somewhat qualified to serve as the Blue Ridge Board secretary. My family and I love Blue Ridge for the natural surroundings and friendly neighbors. As a member of the board, I hope to help support a collaborative and inclusive vibe for our neighborhood.

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 getting to know 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 on the sidewalks committee for BRNA, and Ruth and I have enjoyed having the responsibility for installing the Christmas decorations at the entrances to Blue Ridge for the past four years. I would look forward to participating on the Board as an at-large member for another term.

Director-at-Large: Dylan Grigar, Rusgan Dr. We purchased our home on Rusgan in 2018 and absolutely love the neighborhood. We are looking forward to meeting more people in the community and continuing to grow our gardens here in Blue Ridge. I am excited to continue serving on the BRNA board as a Director-at-Large. The Board has had success in organizing and accomplishing some great initiatives in the neighborhood and I am looking forward to being a part of that success for another term. 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 6 and enjoys the neighborhood as much as we do. We love spending time in the yard, so if you ever see us out please say hi!

Director-at-Large: Paul Kern, Blue Ridge Ct. I have lived in Blue Ridge since April of 2005 with my wife Linda, our daughter Monica and my mother-in-law Betsy. I am on the board now as an at-large member and have worked on Blue Ridge: The Mini-Series which has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience. My goal, after finishing the Mini-Series, would be to archive the treasure trove of data we have for the neighborhood. Some of the newspaper articles are one-of-a-kind because the HT burned down some years ago and those articles no longer exist, except with us.

I have also been lucky enough to work on the Lower Cascades Road Closure Project, which (along with UDOs and annexation) has been an eye-opening, educational experience into the workings of our city government. Lastly, I enlisted to fight in the war on invasive species as lead by General Jane Smith and will continue to soldier on when needed. Hope everyone is enjoying the cicada summer!

Director-at-Large: Jane Parker Smith, Blue Ridge Ct. I am interested in serving on The Blue Ridge Neighborhood Association Board as a means to continue meeting and working with the neighbors who share this wonderful area that we call home. It has been a pleasure to get to know and work alongside many Blue Ridge residents through the Invasive Plant project that we tackled this spring of 2021. The enthusiasm and teamwork that were present for this project was incredible.

Our family has moved and resided in eight different communities in the Midwest over the past 30 years. We have experience and ideas from other neighborhoods and cities where we have lived. Our suggestions along with those of other residents and board members can help to preserve and strengthen the welcoming, diverse, beautiful community of Blue Ridge.

The Nominating Committee will conduct the election at the Blue Ridge Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting, Tuesday evening August 17 at North Central Church of Christ.

You must be a dues-paid member for the neighborhood association to vote.