



# Neighborhood News

Bryan Park Neighborhood Association

August, 2014

www.bryanpark.blogspot.com . . . You don't need to move to live in a better neighborhood

Join your neighbors for:

## Annual Potluck Block Party—Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>



**Top: Joe Lee, neighbor and professionally trained clown, entertains kids & adults.**

**Second: Grill Masters cooked hundreds of burgers and hotdogs donated by Nick's English Hut.**

**Third: "Craig Brenner and Friends" entertain with their special boogie-woogie talents**  
**Bottom: Neighbor Mark Flanigan (left) shares his "sun telescope" with neighbors.**



- Potluck Party
- 1200 block of S. Palmer
- August 22, 6-9pm
- Everyone is invited!!!!

Join hundreds of your neighbors on August 22 for the 15th annual BPNA block party! Sponsored by Bloomington's Housing and Neighborhood Development Department (HAND) "Small and Simple" grant program, the goal of the block party is to strengthen our community ties, welcome new neighbors, and have a good time together!

This year's party will feature a musical performance by Craig Brenner & Friends, Joe Lee's Famous Clown Act, Mark Flanigan's telescope, and this year, for the first time, a silent auction of items donated by neighbors and local businesses! For this year's potluck, Nick's English Hut has generously agreed to provide their famous burgers, hotdogs, veggie burgers, buns and condiments. Neighbors are asked to contribute a side dish to be shared by everyone!

### Neighborhood Watch Program



BPNA, in cooperation with the Bloomington Police Department, has a Neighborhood Watch Program. This is a way for neighbors to report suspicious and noxious behavior that might not require an immediate 911 call, such as constant traffic into a house that might indicate drug dealing, or cars that have not been moved for several months. However, please note that that the program is not designed to take the place of 911- If you have a serious problem and need to speak to the police right away, call 911. To report a neighborhood watch issue, please contact Dick Mitchell, our neighborhood watch liaison with BPD. He can be notified via email at [richard\\_mitchell\\_401@comcast.net](mailto:richard_mitchell_401@comcast.net).

Note: Recently there have been a number of car break-ins throughout the neighborhood. After discussion with the Bloomington Police Department, it seems that most of these are "crimes of opportunity", as the stolen items include purses, change, bags or wallets left inside cars. To prevent car break-ins, it is advised that you do not leave any items inside your car.

*Neighborhood News* is a quarterly publication of the Bryan Park Neighborhood Association edited by Danielle Magid and designed by Jan Sorby. We welcome your contributions. Please send announcements, stories, and items of interest to [bryanparkna@gmail.com](mailto:bryanparkna@gmail.com). Thanks!

## Your Neighborhood Association

Meetings are on the fourth Tuesday (except in August and December) of each month at 7:00 pm, at the Free Methodist Church, Grimes Lane and S. Lincoln Street.

All neighbors are welcome, you don't have to be a homeowner to be a member.

### BPNA Executive Committee Members

Jenny Bauer  
Jon Lawrence  
Danielle Magid  
Mary Lou Mitchell  
Ian Woolen

### Get Involved!

There are many ways to get involved and stay informed!

We would love to hear your thoughts and suggestions!

- Sign up to be a block captain
- Submit a story to the newsletter
- Attend our monthly meetings
- Volunteer at one of our events

## A Neighborhood History

# The History of Bryan Park



Have you ever wondered how Bryan Park came to be? We sometimes take these things for granted.

On December 30, 1950, three families donated 30 acres of ground in an almost rural and residential area for a city park. They were Ralph and Ruth Rogers, Ralph and Helen Mills and Jerome and Katherine Fernal, who later became the park commissioner.

The land lay dormant until 1957 when there was a city-wide contest to name the park and it was won by Sharon Bruce who chose the name Bryan after the then President of Indiana University, William Lowe Bryan.

It wasn't until 1959 that the pool was dug.

Prior to the land being a park the north side of the creek was leased by Ona Brown who lived on the 1100 block of South Grant. Mr. Brown plowed the land with a team of white horses and planted it in corn. The south side of the creek had several sinkholes.

As kids we went to Elm Heights school (now Harmony) and we would cut through the park right along the creek. This was a great short cut for us. Hillside school (Temple-

By Mary Lou Mitchell



Left: Bryan Park path. Above: March, 1961 aerial shows farmland with few trees, a pool with a bubble cover, 1 tennis court and 1 baseball field.

ton) was a county school at that time. On the south edge of the park was an old wagon road that went to a dairy farm which was in the area of Carlisle. This is where everyone in the area bought their milk and eggs.

Now the park is very picturesque with its trees and rolling hills. At just about any time you can hear the voices of ball players, swimmers, tennis players, playground children and concerts but at one time it was a very different place.

## Property Value Assessments in the Neighborhood

Monroe County Assessor, Judy Sharp, attended June's BPNA monthly meeting to discuss recent changes on our property tax bills. Of particular interest was the fact that most homeowners' "land" values increased by approximately 50%, while the "improvement" portion (structures) decreased. Overall, homeowners saw a small increase in their total property tax bills over the past year. Judy Sharp explained that the reason for the signifi-

cant change in land values was that the Assessor's office noticed that land values in the vicinity had increased considerably when the occasional vacant lot was sold. All Monroe County properties are scheduled to be assessed on a 4-year cycle. When your property is not in its assessment year, the value of your property is increased by a standard amount. During the assessment year, property is visually inspected and assessed accordingly. Homestead (owner-

occupied) residences are taxed based on the property's value minus any deductions. Residential rental properties are based on estimated rents received. Please visit <http://www.co.monroe.in.us/tsd/Government/TaxProperty/Assessor.aspx> to learn more about how your property is assessed and to access information about appealing if you believe your property has been incorrectly assessed.

# Go Solar in Bryan Park Neighborhood!

By Chandra Romel



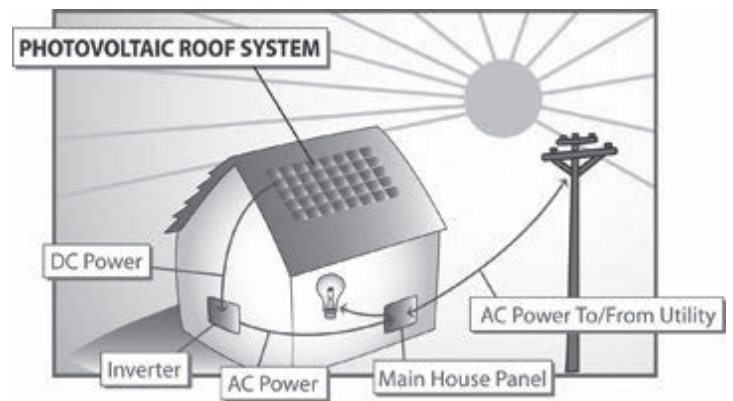
Solar powered homes captured my interest three years ago when I spotted an array of roof-mounted solar panels. Before then, I didn't know solar was a reality in Indiana, where 84% of our electricity comes from coal plants. I learned that converting to photovoltaic (PV) electricity is affordable and that Bloomington has four certified installers. A SIREN ([www.sirensolar.org](http://www.sirensolar.org)) program at the library showed me how to get started.

Since 2011, PV prices have fallen over 50%; mine will pay for itself in 12 years and gave me a 30% federal tax credit. Duke offers net metering, meaning that the grid stores surplus electricity that I produce during the day and makes it available when the sun sets.

My house on Palmer has been generating coal-free electricity for one year. The 8-panel system was sized to meet my electric-

“Bryan Park neighborhood has six homes powered by the sun. Monroe County is a solar leader in Indiana, with over 100 PV sites.”

ity demand, after conservation efforts were in place. I use LED and CFL bulbs, and I adjust the thermostat. I am not alone. Bryan Park neighborhood has six homes powered by the sun. Monroe County is a solar leader in Indiana, with over 100 PV sites. Going solar is good for the environment, makes financial sense, and cares for future generations.



[www.sirensolar.org](http://www.sirensolar.org)

*SIREN, the Southern Indiana Renewable Energy Network, is a non-profit promoter of the adoption of solar energy throughout the region. SIREN shares the vision of Thomas Edison, who pioneered the electric-power system to replace the burning of fossil fuels.*

## 2014 Summer Concert & Movie Series in Bryan Park

August/September

Sunday, 8/3 .....	6:30-8 pm .....	Stardusters Big Band (music)
Sunday, 8/10 .....	6:30-8 pm .....	Nate Johnson & the Keepers (music)
Friday, 8/15 .....	dusk (around 8:30 pm) .....	Happy Feet (movie, 2006-PG)
Sunday, 8/17 .....	6:30-8 pm .....	Kaia (music)
Tuesday, 8/22 .....	dusk (around 8:30 pm) .....	Iron Man (movie, 2008-PG13)
Sunday, 8/24 .....	6:30-8 pm .....	Hoosier Darling (music)
Sunday, 8/31 .....	6:30-8 pm .....	Krista Detor (music)
Friday, 9/5 .....	dusk (around 8:30 pm) .....	Flash Gordon (movie, 1980-PG)
Friday, 9/12 .....	dusk (around 8:30 pm) .....	Ghostbusters (movie, 1984-PG)

## SAVE the DATES

- ✓ **Monthly Meetings**  
fourth Tuesday of each month 7:00 pm
- ✓ **Party**  
Friday, August 22nd 6:00 PM-9:00 pm

### Darryl Neher



Councilman Neher holds monthly constituent meetings for interested neighbors in District 5.

They are held once a month on Saturday at 11am in the McCloskey Room of City Hall. If there are specific concerns you wish to discuss, please let him know. Darryl Neher at: [neherd@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:neherd@bloomington.in.gov)

### FREE BOOKS at Neighborhood "Little Free Libraries"



- 1 Free Library box on Davis Street at the Davis Street Garden area.
- 2 Free Library box on a tree at 1018 S. Lincoln Street.

A Little Free Library is a "take a book, return a book" gathering place where neighbors share their favorite literature and stories. In its most basic form, a "Little Free Library" is a box full of books where anyone may stop by and pick up a book (or two) and bring back another book to share. You can, too!



## Rehabilitation Property Tax Deductions for Historic Homes



Many neighbors in the Bryan Park neighborhood who have repaired or built an addition on their home qualify for a tax deduction for the increased assessed value caused by that restoration. The "Deduction for Rehabilitation for Historic Homes" is an under-utilized Indiana tax deduction for homeowners. When a house is historic, (50 years or older) as most of the houses in the neighborhood are, and the assessed value increases because of renovation work, the owner can deduct 50% of the increase from his/her property tax bill for the first five years after the assessment increases.

For example, if a building

owner's usual property tax bill is \$10,000 annually, and rehabilitation work raises the bill to \$15,000 annually, the property owner can deduct half the increase—\$2,500 in this example—from his/her property tax bill every year for the next five years. The deduction is limited to \$20,000 for the owner of a single-family home, and to \$100,000 for owners of other types of historic properties.

To qualify for the deduction:

- The property must be 50 years old or older
- The rehabilitation work must have cost at least \$10,000
- The work must have been done to remodel, repair or

enlarge the existing structure. The deduction for an addition is limited to the square footage of the historic portion of the building. For example, if the original structure is 2,000 square feet, and the addition is 3,000 square feet, the deduction only applies to 2,000 square feet of the addition.

Obtain an Application for Deduction from Assessed Valuation of Rehabilitated Property (State Tax Board Form 322 or 322a) from the county auditor online or at the Monroe County Courthouse (form 322a is for residential properties).

### Annual Suggested Dues

The BPNA annual dues help to fund important initiatives in our neighborhood. Many beautification, accessibility, and community-building projects have already been funded using these funds, including the traffic safety bump-outs on Lincoln and Washington, median by Templeton School, pedestrian bridge in Bryan Park, public gardens and bench on Davis Street, naturalized trail through Bryan Park, dog waste tubes, block parties, and restoration of the historic brick and limestone sidewalks. These projects could not have been completed without your contributions!

Annual suggested minimum dues are \$10 per household, \$5 per student/senior household. However, any amount is appreciated and we gladly except more!

**Become a BPNA member** I want to join my neighbors in helping make the Bryan Park neighborhood a better place to live. Annual suggested minimum dues are \$10 per household, \$5 per student/senior household. However, any amount is appreciated and we gladly except more!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this coupon with your annual dues to Mary Lou Mitchell, 1202 S. Palmer, Bloomington IN 47401. Thank you for your support.