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Community Building - Brenda Rising-Moore

Community Building through Direct Action: recycling, Complete Streets and Envision Broad Ripple. Broad Ripple Village is moving forward and helping others toward a more sustainable future.

Green Broad Ripple has been working with other communities to further the glass cullet manufacturing process. Emails directed to our website, www.greenbroadripple.org, have presented us an opportunity to assist groups from nearby Keystone at The Crossing to distant Kingston Springs, Tennessee. The grassroots environmental activists in Kingston Springs, located 30 miles west of Nashville TN, submitted a list of questions we responded to. In answering, we were very happy to share the benefit of our experience. They appeared delighted... [read more](#)



Photo: Main Street - Cortellini

Nuisance to Community Asset - Neal Bennett

Broad Ripple Floods... Who Knew?

If this winter weather of rain, snow and sleet is any indication of what we can expect this spring, then I believe it is safe to say that we can expect flooded streets from time to time. It is one of the unsatisfactory aspects of living in Broad Ripple, along with potholes I might add. It is the desire of Green Broad Ripple to do something about this issue. How can we solve a historical problem like flooding in Broad Ripple? And the answer... [read more](#)



Photo: Water in Alley - Cortellini

The Gathering - Cortellini

On Earth Day 2007, Green Broad Ripple sponsored its first Earth Day event entitled "Glimpse the Future." On Earth Day 2008, Green Broad Ripple sponsored "Envision Broad Ripple" that launched the current ongoing Visioning process. On Earth Day 2009, April 22, Green Broad Ripple will initiate a concerted effort to Build Community in Broad Ripple. What will this entail?

Robert Putnam's best selling book; *Bowling Alone* quantified, with facts and statistics, the fact that Community, in America, has suffered a collapse. As a people, we have become estranged from one another. Our emphasis on individuality and materialism of the past half century has virtually destroyed our Sense of Community. We must rebuild this Sense of Community if we are to make any serious progress toward building a Sustainable Community.



Peter Senge, in his book; *The Fifth Discipline* provides a road map. He lays out a concept, a way of getting there, and a geometry of its structure. The subtitle of his book is "The Art & Practice of the Learning Organization." He, and others, have been inventing a Science of the Organization in an effort to make corporations more effective yet many of their insights... [read more](#)

A Bicycling Community? – Jeff Tinsley

Can Indianapolis be called a Bicycling Community yet?

Upon first glance one might question calling Indianapolis a vibrant bicycling community. Especially if your eyes reside in the well-known popular bicycling communities of Portland, OR, Seattle, WA, or even our Midwest neighbor Chicago, IL. I believe one of the largest issues skewing the perception is our state of health. We have a relatively high obesity rate (ranked 16th in 2007 compared to other states) as well as smokers (ranked 6th in 2007). Indiana was ranked 49th in 2007 on Forbes Magazine's list of America's Greenest States (thank you coal industry). Besides health, a common perception (fueled by disparaging definitions of Hoosier in many dictionaries) is that Hoosiers are backward thinking yahoo's bombing around in old pick up trucks that would rather run bicycles off the road than give them (us) a little space. Although I can't argue about the above facts on our health, I would like to dispel the hostile cyclist's environment ... [read more](#)



Photo: Hand Made – Jeff Tinsley



The Nature of Nature - Cortellini

In November, the Polis center will put on their 14th Spirit and Place festival – a Civic collaboration of the Arts, Humanities, and Religion. <http://www.spiritandplace.org/AboutTheFestival.aspx>. The festival has grown remarkably in participation, attendance, and quality in the last decade and is today, recognized nationally as a major cultural event.

This year the theme, "Inspiring Places," was taken up by Green Broad Ripple in partnership with Marian College of Indianapolis to develop an event entitled "Nature of Nature." I have had the pleasure of working with a team from Marian including

Janice Hicks Slaughter, Director of K-12 Programming and Outreach, School of Mathematics and Sciences. Together, we have designed a program, described in the collaborative narrative that follows, which became part of our event application. We submitted the application last Friday, March 6. The application will be reviewed by a selection committee who will inform us in May as to whether our project is among those selected.

Nature of Nature will engage the audience on two levels... [read more](#)

Photo: EcoLab – Courtesy Marian College

Announcement:

The Board of Directors of Green Broad Ripple are currently involved with an effort to structure the organization. We believe that Green Broad Ripple wants to be a "People Organization." An inclusive, democratic body moved by its members. We would appreciate any suggestions you may want to offer pertaining to the role the members of the organization should play. Please send remarks to info@greenbroadripple.org.

Green Broad Ripple Mission:

To enhance the Greater Broad Ripple Community by promoting a healthful, productive, and fulfilling quality of life through; community education, promotion of "Reduce-Reuse-Recycle" practices, and development of a neighborhood "Town Plan" toward a more sustainable future.



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If you would like additional information, have comments to offer, or would like to become involved, please get in touch with us.
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edited by cortellini