

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 when we were able to direct them to a Strategic Materials facility within their own county. We look forward to hearing the success stories of those communities and business districts that are replicating our program here in the Village.

Envision Broad Ripple, a collaborative process sponsored by Green Broad Ripple, HARMONI, Broad Ripple Village Association and senior planners from the Department of Metropolitan Development, continues monthly public meetings to develop appropriate planning and zoning for our Village. As work to garner consensus among Villagers brings residents and business owners together, we also have identified special projects that need immediate attention. One of these projects is the reengineering of Broad Ripple Avenue, aptly named the **BRAVE Project**.



BRAVE brought a number of community leaders from City and State together over the past six months to discuss the possibility of transforming our gateway Avenue through *Complete Streets* policies. With the intention of widening sidewalks, installing bike racks, improving crosswalks and adding human scaled lighting in the near future, the Envision Broad Ripple group asked Village property owners to participate in Fortune Favours the BRAVE, a \$2,009.00 for 2009 Capital Campaign. Fundraising for private reengineering to enhance the Department of Public Works federally funded road resurfacing has enjoyed a successful start. The original 1999 project is scheduled to take place before the end of this year. We hope to have 'shovel ready' prints submitted for consideration and approval for a coordinated overlay to the original scope of work. Many thanks go to the property and business owners who know that we must not give up hope during difficult economic times. They are investing in our Village and investing in our future.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

Photo: Main Street – Cortellini