

# BHA Banner



Spring Edition

Bloomington Housing Authority

April 2011

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jennifer J. Osterholt

Spring was here for a few days in March and then, well, it went away and once again it was cold and gloomy. But I am sure warmer days are just around the corner and it will be good to be outside once again.

Did you know May is Older Americans month and locally, a committee is developing a series of events called the Creative Aging Festival? Personally I think you need to be creative just to survive getting older. This Festival is meant to both celebrate age and creativity, and also provide opportunities for elders to develop creative pursuits in later life. A companion event is called Food for Thought, and this will bring an exciting exhibit on food in all its aspects to the City Hall Atrium. The exhibit will serve as the focus for a number of community wide events celebrating food culture in Bloomington.

In January I was reading an article by Bill Mansell, a motivational speaker. The article got me thinking and I would like to share some of his thought provoking ideas.

Do you remember dreaming as a child about what your future would be like? Did you have big plans in high school to accomplish something truly great in your life? At various points in my

youth, I wanted to be a nurse, write a best selling novel, a flight attendant and a chef. My dreams were unfettered by reality. I was filled with the idealism of youth. Then life happened.

Bills had to be paid every month. My family was depending on me to put food on the table. Employment demanded my time and attention, not to mention the children. And my dreams were put on hold. Hasn't this happened to all of us to some degree? Idealistic goals evolve into more practical, realistic pursuits. Unfortunately, once put on hold, our dreams are seldom revived and acted upon-even when the time and resources become available. When this happens, we lose a bit of our passion for life.

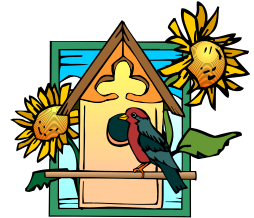
So, even though you may not be able to devote full time to your dreams, you might still be able to work on them. The immensely successful Harry Potter series was written by a single mother who struggled to keep food on the table and wrote in those rare moments when her baby was sleeping.

What have YOU put on hold? Is there something that you could be working on right now, that would add fulfillment, purpose, and passion to your life? If so, this spring

might be a good time to do something about it. Free up a little time today to do something you've always wanted to do. Consider freeing up a little time today to start working on something you are passionate about. I am not suggesting you quit your job or ignore your family responsibilities. Don't be afraid you won't be good enough, just start!

Bill's article really got me thinking about how important it is to take responsibility for our own well being and with just a little extra effort so much can be accomplished, new friends can be made and perhaps a dream realized.

Right now the Bloomington Housing Authority and the Resident Council are sponsoring an Adult Basic Education/GED class at the Community Building. Over 37 residents have attended the classes with a wide range of scholastic competencies. And while the main focus is academic, the class has sponsored speakers on topics such as nutrition and budgeting. There is a very strong support network among the students and several students have taken and passed the GED test. Maybe this class could help you realize one of your dreams!



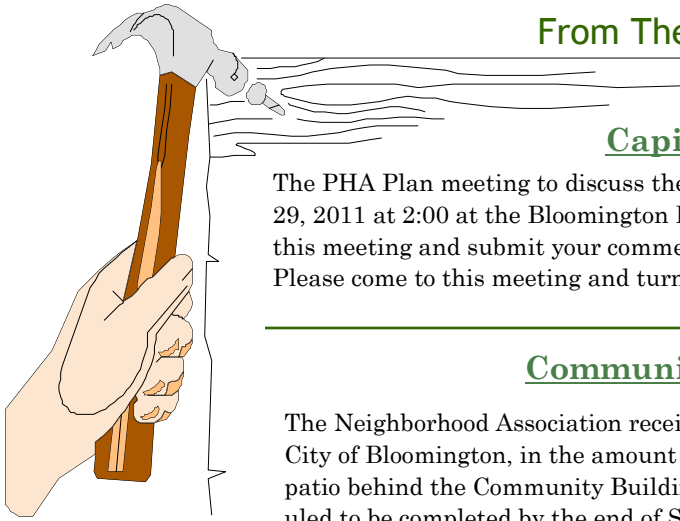
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## Special Notes:

- Remember to Vote on May 3<sup>rd</sup> while the office is closed
- The office will be closed on April 22 in observance of Good Friday
- Have a good Spring

## From The Desk Of Rhonda Moore



### Capital Improvements

The PHA Plan meeting to discuss the plans for the upcoming fiscal year will be April 29, 2011 at 2:00 at the Bloomington Housing Authority. You are encouraged to attend this meeting and submit your comments. Your ideas are very important to BHA staff. Please come to this meeting and turn your dreams into realities.

### Community Building Patio Roof

The Neighborhood Association received a Neighborhood Improvement Grant from the City of Bloomington, in the amount of \$27,607. This funding will build a roof over the patio behind the Community Building. This project is currently out to bid and scheduled to be completed by the end of Summer.

## Current Upgrades

Neidigh Construction is nearly completed with Phase one of the Crestmont 1-Bedroom Interior Renovation Project. Twelve residents will soon move into their new units. Phase 2 will begin in April. This will be a three phase project that meets the Bronze level of "Green Building Design Standards".

Advanced Restorations has started Phase II of the Crestmont Two-Story Exterior Renovations project. This phase includes eight buildings and six-

teen storage sheds, which are scheduled for completion before the end of May 2011. I anticipate two more years of Community Development Block Grant funding to complete all the Crestmont roofs, guttering, porch replacement, and shed roofs.

DO NOT HANG ANYTHING ON THE BUILDINGS or GUTTERING. This damages the buildings and you will incur charges for property destruction.

*Looking better every day!*

## ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A JOB?

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE SECTION 3 ACT OF 1968 IS?? Section 3 is a policy mandated by the United States Congress to ensure that employment and other economic opportunities are directed toward low and very-low income persons.

To fill out an application and sign a release allowing us to forward your application to companies that may be hiring, just ask Michelle or Loina at the front desk of the Bloomington Housing Authority, 1007 N. Summit St.. They will be happy to take your application and we will keep it on file for

contractors or Housing Authority positions that may come available. If you own a Section 3 business we would like to have your contact information as well. If your application indicates you have the required qualifications of open positions your application will be forwarded to the personnel reviewing applications. Public Housing residents will receive first consideration for open positions. Second consideration will go to Section 8 participants, then other low-income people living in Monroe County that make under 80% of the area median income.

**If you are interested in passing out fliers for one day in your neighborhood please submit an application at the front desk.**



If you have questions concerning any Capital Improvements contact Rhonda Moore at:  
(812)339-3491 ext 135.

## Resident Safety Tips

Lock your doors and windows even when you are at home, being sure to use the deadbolt.

Never sleep with doors and windows open.

Never answer your door unless you know who is on the other side. Be skeptical of anyone who asks to enter to use the phone.

BHA Personnel can easily be identified by shirt and should have a photo ID badge.

Be careful to whom you give your keys. If you have lost or misplaced your keys, you should make arrangements to have your locks changed, but there is a charge.

Keep emergency numbers posted next to every phone.

Immediately report to the BHA any needed repairs of locks, latches, doors or windows inside your unit.

Check your smoke alarms periodically to ensure it is working.

Close your blinds at night.

Never leave children alone without appropriate supervision.



## Maintenance Tips

### PLUMBING

- Do not put any grease down the kitchen drain. This can create a stopped up sink which will result in charges. Drain your grease into a container and throw it in the trash.
- There a hot and cold supply lines and shut off valves under the sinks (bath or kitchen), it is important to keep this area clear of debris, these can be hit with objects that can create a leak.
- If a leak starts in the sinks, bath or kitchen, put a bucket under the leak and call maintenance.
- The biggest problem with tubs and showers are hair clogs. Try to clean the drain are if you see hair building up.
- Use a good shower curtain to prevent water damage around the outside of the tub. The shower curtain should be inside the tub when taking a shower.
- If you notice any caulking that is deteriorating around the tub/shower area, please contact us.
- There is not much that can go wrong with toilets. They do require new parts, but not very often. The

*Avoid Maintenance Charges!*

main concern is foreign objects getting stuck in them. Do not flush feminine products or any other large items down the toilet. Never put paper towels, and or cigarette butts down the toilet. It usually works best not to store any items on back of the toilet, they could easily get knocked off and fall in. There are charges that will occur, if the toilet has to be plunged or snaked. It could also break the toilet: this would be a charge for parts and labor.

## Reminder From The Front Desk

Please bring your payment in the form of check, money order, or cash. We are unable to accept debit or credit cards. Also, if your payment includes any amount for maintenance fees, or pet deposits, please inform the person who is processing the payment. We want to be sure all payments are applied to your account properly. Remember, we **cannot** give change so be sure your payment is for the correct amount.

As always, remember to review and keep your receipts.



Are you having problems with a neighbor?  
Are you having trouble talking with your kids, spouse, or parents?

Are you upset with the Bloomington Housing Authority?

### **Try Mediation!**

It's free and confidential.

To speak with a volunteer mediator visit the BHA Crestmont Community Center on Mondays between 11am-1pm

Or call CJAM at 812-336-8677

# CALLING ALL TEENS IN 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE AND UP!

## WHAT ARE YOU DOING AFTER SCHOOL? THE V.I.P. PROJECT NEEDS YOU!

### We Meet

Monday—Thursday

2pm—6pm

Special Friday Events

Coming Soon

Get Involved Today!



- Meet new friends
- Get help with homework
- Make a video
- Publish your work online
- Facebook & You Tube
- Help your community

For more information, please contact Paxton Suggs, Teen Coordinator.

[psuggs@bgcbloomington.org](mailto:psuggs@bgcbloomington.org)

“You must get involved to have an impact. No one is impressed with the won-lost record of the referee.”—  
Napoleon Hill

## What’s going on with the Teen VIP Project?

Maybe you have noticed some activity around the community building Monday – Thursday from about 3pm – 6pm. That’s because the Teen VIP Project has been helping our teenagers come up with fun and enriching activities that will help them express themselves while giving back to the community. VIP Teens have made a short movie for publication on You Tube. They have also taken photographs and arranged them with music and voice recordings to create a slideshow. Their next big project will be collecting pledges to help encourage recycling in our community.

Are you a teen looking for something positive to do afterschool? The Teen VIP Project might be a good place for you to get some help with homework, check out what’s happening on Facebook and meet new friends. Maybe you have a teenage child, neighbor or friend who would like to get involved? If so, please ask them to check out what’s happening with our Teen VIP Program Monday – Thursday from 3pm – 6pm. The more teens we have involved, the more exciting our activities and projects will be! Contact Paxton Suggs at 812-336-6501 or [psuggs@bgcbloomington.org](mailto:psuggs@bgcbloomington.org).

Check us  
out on  
YouTube!

Calling All Inspired Teens...



<http://www.youtube.com/vipbgcbloomington>

## The Basics

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
Male/Female

School \_\_\_\_\_

## Contact Information

Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

## Permission

I grant my child permission to attend meetings of 'The V.I.P. Project,' create meaningful experiences, and engage in all-around awesomeness.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_



For more information please contact:  
Paxton Suggs  
Teen Coordinator  
Crestmont Boys & Girls Club  
1037 N. Crestmont Street  
812.336.6501  
PSUGGS@BGCBLoomington.org

Brought to you by:



## What is The V.I.P. Project?

The Visionary Idea Production Project is an after-school program for students in, or preparing to go to, high school that helps its students perceive, understand, and positively and consciously affect the world in which they live.

We will create and manage music, video, websites, blogs, articles, poems, and anything else that our V.I.P.'s can come up with, all with the aim of improving our skills in both the classroom and the real-world.

Meetings will take place at the Bloomington Housing Authority Crestmont Community Center right across the street from Tri-North Middle School Monday-Thursday 2:30-6:00 with special Friday night 'V.I.P. Room' activities from 7-10pm once a month.

## We Can't All Be V.I.P.'s

In order to join the V.I.P. Project you've got to:

1. Be in at least Seventh Grade
- And...
2. Be willing to have a great time making cool stuff with friends.

## What Else Can You Do at The V.I.P. Project?

1. Access to the Computer Lab (access to FaceBook)
2. Homework Help from a licensed Teacher
3. Weekly Special Programming
4. Play a variety of games and tournaments (Wii, Board and Card, etc.)

## You Want to Be a V.I.P.?

It's simple... If you meet the requirements fill out the back of this sheet and then stop by the Club (We are right across the street from Tri-North Middle School) and let us know that you're interested.

## Oh Yeah....

This program is FREE!!\*

But...

There are only so many spots so make sure you get your information to us as soon as possible. When you come in to drop this off, pick up a couple to give to your friends!

\* Provided you become a member of the Crestmont Boy's and Girl's Club (\$5 membership fee will be waived)

It is almost summer and oh are we ready at the Crestmont Boys and Girls Club!

**IMPORTANT:** The 2011-12 Membership Drive will begin April 25th and last through May 31st;

**ALL MEMBERS MUST APPLY BY MAY 31!** Membership to the Crestmont Boys and Girls Club includes:

- 9:00-5:00 summer programming which includes special clubs, games, and field trips.
- Daily snack and meals.
- After-school homework help.
- Transportation from school and home (school year only)
- Unique and exciting opportunities to meet with community leaders and attend special field trips.
- 2:00-7:00 programming during the school year
- FUN! FUN! FUN!

Membership is only \$5 for the ENTIRE YEAR!

April 30th from 1:00-3:00 join the Crestmont Boys and Girls Club and B97 for a Membership Renewal (or sign-up) Party! If you attend you will get free membership and the chance to win some great prizes! Food and drinks will also be available to anyone who registers!

Teen programming provided at the Community Building every Monday-Thursday 2:30-6:00! Free membership for all teens until May 31st! If you or your teen are tired of being bored after school, have them come check us out to see how much FUN they could have! Or, at least we can guarantee that they won't be bored!

Upcoming Dates and Other Information:

- April 20, Club closes at 5:30 (return van leaves at 5:15)
- April 22, Club closed
- April 23, membership renewal and summer registration begins
- May 2, Club closes at 6:00

**COME CHECK US OUT!**



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## Do You Know about 211?

### 2-1-1 Callers: Trying to Meet Basic Needs

In 2010, 6,422 callers dialed 2-1-1 to find human and social services in Monroe and Owen counties. People called for help with basic needs more than any other request, with some callers waiting to seek help until the situation was dire. Of the callers seeking help with rent, 10% were already facing eviction. Of the callers seeking help with utilities, 10% were already disconnected. Still others were past the point of needing help with rent – calls for emergency shelter increased 7% in 2010. Help with food closely follows rent and utility assistance - 6% of all referrals were for emergency food. Don't wait for a crisis - people in need, helping professionals, friends and family can dial 2-1-1 to find help 24-hours a day

## Free Summer Food Service Programs

The City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation will be running two summer food service sites this summer.

The Banneker Community Center will run a free program for children ages 5-17 from 10:00am-9:00pm. Children will be given lunch, dinner and an afternoon snack as well as daily swimming, games, and activities. Registration forms are available at the Bloomington Housing Authority Office as well as Fairview Elementary and the Banneker Community Center.

For the first time we will also be running a program out of the Walnut Woods area with similar activities and available meals. Look for more information to come.

Both programs will begin on June 13th and run through August 5th. For information call the Banneker Community Center at 349-3735

# Honor the Elders

A free luncheon to honor persons 55 and older who reside in Crestmont, Ernie Butler, and Walnut Woods.

Sunday, May 15, 2011

Noon, BHA Community Building

To register, call Michelle Hampton at BHA office 339-3491 ext. 111. Call soon, as space may limit participation.

MAY IS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

&

CREATIVE AGING FESTIVAL

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Pots and Plots: Community and Container Gardening with the FSSP  
Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> noon-2pm (Rain Date April 30<sup>th</sup>)  
Crestmont Garden  
Join the Family Self Sufficiency Program and MHC to learn the basics of container gardening and about the opportunity to garden in the Crestmont Community Garden. We'll discuss the basics of growing vegetables and herbs in pots as well as how to start growing fruits and vegetables with Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

Beth Underdahl-Peirce, an AmeriCorps member at Area 10, is starting a community garden to provide Area 10's food bank with fresh produce. Beth is also hosting garden classes once or twice a month. Each class is on a different topic that correlates to what is happening in the garden. If you would like to participate in the community garden or be involved in the garden classes contact Beth at 812-876-3383 ext. 534 or email Beth at bupeirce@area10agency.org

### EDUCATION

"Thanks again to the BHA for helping to fund the Crestmont Adult Basic Ed/GED Prep class. It's been a great success! And we look forward to having it again next year, luring lots of students interested in free learning and better opportunities. Meanwhile, at Broadview Learning Center, there will be some other changes for

next year, and we may even have summer classes, but that's still up in the air right now. Keep checking our website --<<http://www.adult.mccsc.edu>> - for info."



Are you committed to quitting smoking? Take advantage of a limited time offer to reach your goal! The Monroe County Health Department is offering FREE patches and gum to help you quit smoking. You must commit to a 4 week program, either in a class setting or you can meet with a health educator in your home, in order to get the free medications. Isn't it time to change for the better? If you're interested in signing up, please contact:

Mary Lowery  
Monroe County Health Department  
812.349.2150

REDEEM THIS  
CERTIFICATE FOR



# FREE Biotechnology Training!

Earn a certificate and 3 college credits in as little as 8 weeks. Evening classes are available.

**CLASSES ARE COMPLETELY FREE – NO TUITION AND FEES, NO BOOKS!**

## REDEEM THIS CERTIFICATE for FREE Training

### **BIOT 102: Survey of Biotechnology Manufacturing**

Through hands-on simulations, learn about the science behind the biotechnology industry, learn principles of quality, learn the specifics of making pharmaceuticals and medical devices, and more.

Certificates available in Biomanufacturing or Medical Device Manufacturing.

**Enroll today. Sessions start in March, August and October.**

To enroll, email Sarah Cote at [scote@ivytech.edu](mailto:scote@ivytech.edu) or call (812) 330-6310.

### **BIOT 105: Survey of Regulatory Affairs**

Learn how the biotechnology industry interacts with regulatory agencies, and laws and regulations that govern products from the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device industry.

Certificate available in Survey of Regulatory Affairs.

**Enroll today. Sessions start in June and August.**

To enroll, email Sandra Kattermann at [skattermann@ivytech.edu](mailto:skattermann@ivytech.edu) or call (812) 330-6090.

**EARN A BIOTECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATE  
UPON TRAINING COMPLETION!**



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Bloomington, IN 47404

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[ivytech.edu/bloomington](http://ivytech.edu/bloomington)

## Bloomington Housing Authority

1007 N. Summit St.  
Bloomington, IN 47404

(812)339-3491

Check Out Our Web Site

[www.bhaindiana.net](http://www.bhaindiana.net)



Brittany Myers will be representing the Crestmont Boys and Girls Club at the 2011 Annual State-Wide Youth of the Year Event in May. Brittany was selected among 8 youth to represent the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bloomington and will compete for the regional competition with approximately 20 other Boys and Girls Club members from Indiana. Brittany has dramatically changed in her time at the Club, and is excelling at school, her community, and at home. Simply, Brittany says this about her experience, "The Crestmont Club has changed my life." We are so excited for the incredible opportunity Brittany has before her, and support her as she is an incredible example for all youth at the Crestmont Boys and Girls Club!

