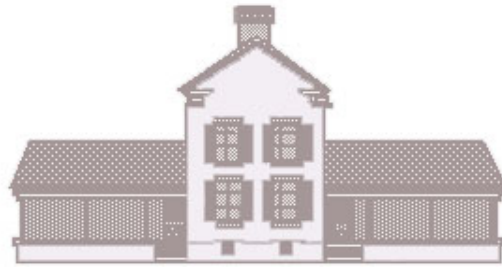


# Prospect Hill Prospectus



February 2002

edited by Chris Sturbaum

---

## **Around The Neighborhood**

The Holiday lights were charming this year. It is such a pleasure to see the decorations. We had a small fire over the holidays at the SE corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Rogers but the people had gone home for the holidays and the property damage was light.

There will be sidewalks fixed again this year and the Jackson Street Hill project between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> streets may happen this summer, after the final details are worked out.

There has been discussion of slowing down traffic on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and some talk of Howe having the same problem. There may be some action on that this coming year. An ordinance may be amended to keep garage sizes about the 2 1/2 car size.

Politically, this will be an interesting spring. The Growth Policies Plan will be at the Plan Commission and the City Council with the intention of adoption at the city council meeting of April 1<sup>st</sup> (things that make you go "hmmm"). Bloomington's future is very much on the line and it is important that we pay attention and participate as needed in the months ahead.

Quite a few of you neighbors contributed articles for this newsletter and that is always what makes our publication so interesting. Thank-you for your articles. Read and enjoy!

## **Who You Gonna Call? Prospect Hill Neighborhood Directory Is In The Works**

*Lucy Schaich*

- ⇒ Need work done around the house or yard, but don't know who to call?
- ⇒ Want to call a neighbor but don't know the phone number?
- ⇒ Want to help neighborhood kids learn new skills and earn some money?
- ⇒ Do you have a service or skill that you want to promote?

We're compiling a Prospect Hill Neighborhood Directory just for these reasons. The directory will include name, address, phone #, email, and a skill or service (optional). Youth are strongly encouraged to participate if they want to advertise services they will provide such as babysitting, lawn mowing, car washing, etc. Participation in the directory is totally voluntary and the information will not be given to outside sources.

Neighborhood block captains will be coming around in February and March to collect information for this Neighborhood Directory and Services Guide. Please call Sheri Benham at 336-7196 or shbenham@indiana.edu for more info or to volunteer for this project.

**Prospect Hill**  
**Awarded Small and Simple Grant**  
*Lucy Schaich*

Our neighborhood has been awarded a \$1000 grant from the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department at the City of Bloomington to complete a 3-part neighborhood project that includes documenting, connecting, and celebrating....and free food! Here's what it's all about...

**Part 1: Past – Present – Future**

What makes Prospect Hill Neighborhood such a diverse, vibrant, and friendly place to live? The people who live here of course! Young or old, new neighbor or long-time resident...we want to hear your voice. As a neighborhood, we are initiating a project to document our community with recorded oral histories of the people who live here.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP.**  
**SIGN UP NOW.**  
No experience required.

We can't do it without you! This is not going to be a documentary made by people who are peering in from the outside. The project and interviews will be conducted by Prospect Hill neighbors, young and old, as we shine a spotlight on the untold stories of our local residents and their contributions to the place we all live.

Do you have a neighbor who has lived in their house for "forever"? Know someone down the street with an interesting hobby?

Got a story to tell yourself? We want to hear it. Do you have photos of the neighborhood scenes from years past? We want to see them. Every one of us contributes to the neighborhood mix in some way. We need interviewers and folks willing to be interviewed about their life in the neighborhood. Young neighbors are especially encouraged to participate as interviewers.

Call **323-1882** or email **[lschaich@yahoo.com](mailto:lschaich@yahoo.com)** for more information, to sign up as an interviewer, or to offer your stories or photographs for this project. Interviewers are encouraged to participate in the **"Agents of History" Interviewer Training on March 2.** Call for details. The project will begin in early March and continue through May.



**"Sun Hat"** (*Prospect Hill Winter Visitor*)

In the end we will have created a permanent record of our shared telling and remembering for our community ...but wait that's not all ...as an added bonus we will also have added to an increased sense of neighborhood identity, connection, and pride, binding people to this place and to one another.

**Part 2: Know Your Neighbor**

Quick...can you name all of the neighbors on your block? How about the ones right next door? Do you know how to get a hold of them in case of emergency? What about when you go out of town and need someone to look after your pet? Your plants? Your house?

Knowing who your neighbors are isn't just a neighborly thing to do—it can also prevent crime, forge new connections and point out resources that you never new existed.

Information for the new *Prospect Hill Neighborhood and Services Directory* will be collected and assembled over the next two months and distributed to neighbors in Prospect Hill. Contact Sheri Benham for more information about the Directory Project at 336-7196 or **[shbenham@indiana.edu](mailto:shbenham@indiana.edu)** and get your services noticed. See article above.

**Part 3: Celebrate in the Streets!**

Food, fun and festivities in the street! Party with your neighbors, new and old, on Saturday, May 11th in an early summer celebration of all of the things that make Prospect Hill a great place to live. Mark your calendar now. More details will follow. Time to be announced.

**Photo Info:**

Visitors on Howe and Madison Streets  
Did you catch these fleeting visitors to Howe and Madison Streets on January 6th?

**Third Street Traffic Calming Initiative**

*Scott Kellogg*

As development increases on the west side, so does the volume of traffic on West Third Street. Over 1000 cars per day travel on West Third, and nearly all of them are going to the west side. Of these cars, over 40% of them travel faster than the posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour. The average speed is 29 MPH. Occasionally people will zoom through the neighborhood at speeds approaching 50 MPH!

The Third Street Traffic Safety Association (TSTSA) has begun to tackle the problem. The goal is to have the city place traffic calming devices on West Third Street. The type of device has not been determined, but types that have proved effective in other cities include speed humps, chicanes (special narrowings of the road), and stop signs.

In order to show the city that traffic calming devices are desired by the neighborhood, a petition must be submitted. This petition needs to be signed by 51% of the residents in the Prospect Hill area. After the 51% is collected, another round of voting begins wherein the residents choose what types of traffic calming devices are most desirable.

Representatives from the TSTSA will be canvassing the neighborhood with the petition. They will be happy to answer questions about the project. Let them know your feelings and concerns, so we'll be able to relate them to city officials. Let's get signatures and move forward! Traffic is going to get worse as development

increases, and we need to nip this problem in the bud.

If you have questions about the project, please direct them via email to [scott@kiva.net](mailto:scott@kiva.net) or by phone to 334-3021.



**"Lettucehead"** (*Prospect Hill Winter Visitor*)

**History For The Fun Of It**

*Chris Sturbaum*

I was reading some of Bloomington's early history the other day. On April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1818, at the first meeting of the new Monroe County Commissioners of the two year old state called Indiana, the order was given to lay out the county seat and call it "Bloomington". A pair of one year old log cabins graced the otherwise barren wheat field, built by land speculators David Rogers and Robinson Graham who had just sold the land to the state commissioner for the town site. As the future county seat, the land was much in demand and an auction was held. The county agent supplied a barrel of whiskey for the occasion and people came from as far away as Louisville, Madison, Vincennes and Cincinnati. . The land was auctioned for total receipts of \$14,326.85. The barrel of whiskey, which cost \$30.50, seems to have paid off nicely.

The public square was measured at 276 feet, surrounded by lots in what was then a wheat field. The street names running north and south beginning on the west side were Poplar (Rogers) ,Cherry (Madison), Spring (Morton), West (College), East (Walnut), Walnut (Washington), Blue (Lincoln), and Buck

(Grant). Note: The College wasn't here yet. The Seminary would begin in 1823 with four students. The Civil War hadn't taken place, so Generals Morton and Grant and President Lincoln were not to have streets named for them for another fifty years. Those running east and west beginning at the south side were: Water (4<sup>th</sup> Street), South (Kirkwood) , Professor Kirkwood would come to IU in 1856 and become world famous for a mathematical theory in meteoric astronomy, North (6<sup>th</sup>) and Washington (7<sup>th</sup>).

By the years end, not less than 30 families had built log houses or rough framed dwellings and the original log courthouse and school was built that same year. There was a saw-mill in place and a store and a tavern. It must have been one busy summer! A blacksmith shop and another store were under construction. The young town had a population of over 140 people at year's end and it was said to have grown to about 500 by 1824.

When the old Southern Sporting Goods store on East Kirkwood was demolished a few years ago, an original log cabin perhaps dating from this time was found within the walls. The Victorian at 514 W. Kirkwood, which is next to the Salvation Army to the west, has at its core, a log cabin. Extra thick interior walls betray its existence.

Like the sand inside a pearl, these original cabins were often encased within future construction, to remain hidden within the shells of time and wallpaper.

Prospect Hill's earliest wood houses, the double pens, (two front doors facing the street) probably date from the civil war era at the earliest. The Paris Dunning House was built around 1845 and the old brick house at 218 S. Rogers (across from Grant Street) dates from 1840. The town of Bloomington was just twenty two years old when those bricks were layed. Most of the early wood structures of Bloomington are long gone.

The majority of Prospect Hill was built in the "modern" times around the turn of the last century. Now that is what I call "Traditional Neighborhood Development".

TND is a term of the New Urbanism used to describe houses laid out in a grid pattern using alleys. The houses vary in size so that people of differing incomes may live together in

the same neighborhood. Stores and restaurants are supposed to be within walking distance in the urban center. Sound familiar? This is the most modern concept in urban architecture! Historic Prospect Hill has survived and its old pattern is to be a new model for the neighborhoods of the future. Our traditional downtown is just like our neighborhood: a modern model for the patterns of the past and future. Nice pattern.

## Free The Von Lee

*Chris Sturbaum*

Built in 1929, the VonLee was the last project of Bloomington's best-known architect, John Nichols. The Vonderschmidts bought the old Ritz Theater in 1948 and named it the VonLee after " Vonderschmidt" and their granddaughter, Barbara Lee. Over the years, the VonLee became the city's art theater, bringing the first foreign films to town and hosting summer **film festivals in conjunction with Indiana University**. Kerasotes' purchase in 1976 marked the end of local ownership, but the tradition of booking unusual films continued over the years. The gradual deterioration under Kerasotes ownership culminated with the theater's closing last year.



**Von Lee Theater, circa 1930**

*Courtesy: Mathers Museum of World Cultures*

Downtowns across America are experiencing a rebirth and movie theaters are important in bringing people downtown. Kerasotes Corporation, however, isn't satisfied with just closing a venue they find unprofitable.

They find it necessary to deny anyone the possibility of using these historic theaters for movies ever again! The architectural damage their blank concrete block wall inflicted and the harm caused by their lack of maintenance wasn't all the damage Kerasotes ownership had in store for the VonLee and the Indiana. *Kerasotes' action could end the VonLee's historic existence as a movie theater forever, in order to avoid competition of any kind in Bloomington.*

**HOW CAN YOU HELP?  
Join the Popcorn Boycott!**

Kerasotes representatives themselves have said that their spiralling admission price only covers the cost of their film. It is the concessions, coke and popcorn, whose ever-increasing prices create the profit for the corporation. So if you do go to the only show in town, express your displeasure with Kerasotes by boycotting the popcorn and coke.

**WHAT DO WE WANT?**

Simply for the Kerasotes Corporation to release their restrictions on the Buskirk Chumley and the VonLee theaters and allow them to show films of all kinds.

The only remaining historic movie houses in Bloomington are not allowed to show movies, thanks to Kerasotes' restrictions.

If you would like to help picket Kerasotes Theaters, call Kevin Bazur at **336-4879** or send e-mail to the editor at:

**[letters@heraldt.com](mailto:letters@heraldt.com)**

or directly to Kerasotes:

**[Dkerasotes@kerasotes.com](mailto:Dkerasotes@kerasotes.com)**

For more info:

**[b-vision@bloomington.in.us](mailto:b-vision@bloomington.in.us)**

c/o Chris Sturbaum

## **What To Do Now That The Von Lee Is Gone**

*Sonja Johnson*

Most of us living on Prospect Hill do so, at least in part, because we love being close to downtown, its shops, restaurants, and cultural events. Once Prospect Hill was even close to a movie theatre! I'm guessing that most of us did as much of our holiday shopping downtown as we could. My husband and I had a wonderful Saturday before Christmas visiting every little shop, upstairs and down, and found some real treasures. We had a good lunch in one of the new restaurants and a cup of tea in another, ran into friends, and had a great time. I have to admit that we drove, because we weren't sure how much we would buy, but the fact is that we



**"Lemonhead"** (*Prospect Hill Winter Visitor*)

easily could have walked just as we often walk to the grocery or out to eat.

Now to get back to those movies.... Getting a movie theatre back downtown looks like a major struggle. I hope we'll win it, but in the meantime, we have an alternative. The



Bloomington Playwrights Project, at 312 South Washington Street (just across the street from

Third Street Park) is a downtown treasure that can help fill the culture void created by the departure of the Von Lee. The Project has been around for more than 20 years. Its main subscription series of seven or eight plays is made up entirely of plays never produced elsewhere. More than 300 plays by more than 100 playwrights have been performed there in the last 22 years. The Project also stages Early Stages readings of works by mostly Indiana playwrights who are developing new works and a Dark Alley series of edgy new plays presented late at night for those adventurous (and awake) enough to look for something really different. In the spring, summer and early fall, the Youth Theatre Ensemble will present works by Shakespeare, a popular musical or a piece of classical American theatre. The Project co-sponsors the Mini Play Festival and runs a School of Dramatic Arts (SODA) where you and your kids can take classes ranging from playwriting to clowning.

The BPP offers a good alternative to a movie (at about the same cost as a movie plus snack) and a lot more. In fact, the Bellevue Gallery is now housed in the BPP lobby. Try it out. You won't regret it. Plays are always advertised in the newspaper, and you can also go to their website [www.newplays.org](http://www.newplays.org) or call 334-1188 to find out what's next. I hope to see you at the next production, *The Rites of Antigone*, beginning on February 8. The Bellevue is having an opening that evening as well, so come early, see some art and have a FREE snack. The movies can't do better than that.

### **Wildlife on Rogers Street**

*Sonja Johnson*

Our PHNA newsletter editor recently sent out a call for news from Rogers Street. Bravely answering that call, I submit that we residents of 344 South Rogers are proud to announce that we recently received a Backyard Wildlife Habitat certificate from the National Wildlife Foundation. We encourage others to try for the certificate, too. It was a pretty simple process; I had to complete an application form

and sketch our yard. It took about a month after I submitted the material. Our application may have been greatly helped by the fact that we have an ancient but functional pond in our back yard, but mostly we have just been trying to move from exotic to native plants and mindful of creating places where wildlife can shelter. I know that some of our neighborhood yards have



**"Carrotface"** (*Prospect Hill Winter Visitor*)

old ponds that have been filled over the years. So here's an excuse to dig around (literally) to see what treasures your yard may hold.

One benefit of going through the process was that, along with the certificate, we received great materials about creating butterfly habitats and managing pests naturally and responsibly as well as information about native plants appropriate for our areas and more. We purchased our application materials (they're not free, unfortunately) at Wild Birds Unlimited, and you can also buy them at the Parks and Recreation Department. The cost was about \$20.

### **Church for Sale: An Idea, Not Yet a Prospectus**

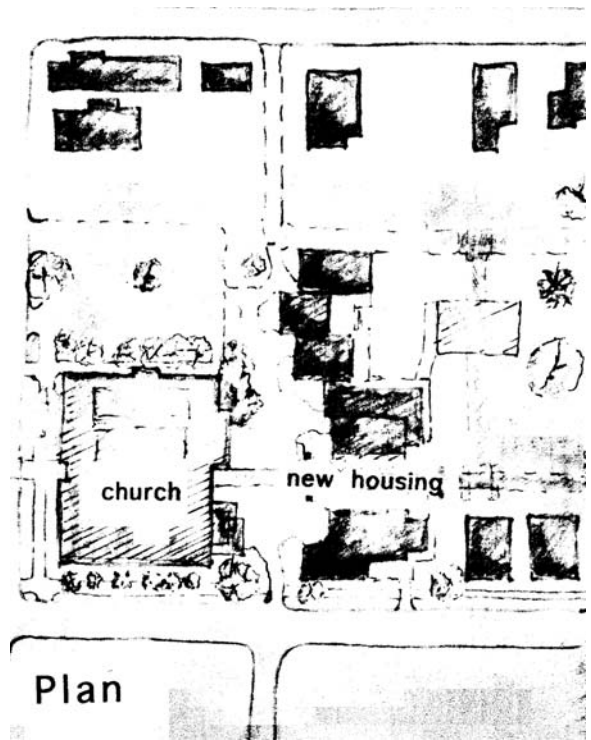
*Frank Hall*

The Nazarene Church on Howe, directly across from buildings and Trades Park, is for sale and has been for sale for more than two years. It seems that while its faithful used to be located in Prospect Hill and surrounding neighborhoods, this is no longer the case, and now they look to move toward the outskirts of

town. What will become of this building and the substantial land that goes with it?

Ideas are not hard to come by. Aren't there at least one or two things each of us could project onto that space? From community gardens to a gym and neighborhood center, from a performing arts and studio space to a pub, coffee house, and retirement living, or [your ideas here], many uses can be imagined. But a cost of over one million dollars might put a damper on some of these ideas. Still it is inspiring to think that, whatever happens, the neighborhood could have at least some little hand--and maybe a big hand--in the new usage of this building and land. The large property is right here in the middle of our neighborhood. What would \*we\* like to see there? What would enhance our neighborhood and quality of life?

A very selfishly motivated idea came to me when it was pointed out to me that this Church was for sale. I can't help thinking about my dotage, when I'm no longer able, or maybe even interested, to take care of my house and yard. How nice it would be to just slip down the block and around a corner and into an efficiency apartment and still be in the same neighborhood,



among the same friends, seeing some of the same trees, houses, streets and alleys that have become home. But I wouldn't want to live surrounded only by other old people. I don't really want to live in a retirement center \*per se\*. I'd like people of all ages around: children, young couples, a few college students, retired singles and couples, thirty-somethings, forty-somethings, fifty-somethings, sixty-somethings. So I would like to see different kinds of apartments and perhaps even houses or cottages developed as part of the complex.

But my own pet idea is a little different than the typical condominium in that I would like to see the complex integrated into the neighborhood in some ways. Maybe some of the common space even indoors, could be open to neighbors. Maybe there could be activities centered there that would be open to neighborhood participation. This could be anything from meals to musical gatherings, from a common workshop or tool room to a meeting or gathering space. It would have to be whatever the residents themselves wanted, and wanted to share.

Who would live there (besides me)? And how do we buy and retro-fit the complex? This is a gnarly question, but there are precedents and models which can be used. The first real question -- at least from the standpoint of neighborhood involvement -- is: who is interested? As an observer? As a participant? As a curious and possibly involved neighbor? Would you like to take a tour of the church and discuss ideas? Would you like to advance an idea of your own? Let me hear from you. Once we have a list of names, I would be happy to organize a tour and discussion of ideas. For more information contact Frank Hall: **339-8396**, [fhall@indiana.edu](mailto:fhall@indiana.edu).

I would like to thank Jane Henderson who organized a tour of the building for me, and who along with Jack Brubaker engaged in a first lively discussion. Thanks to Marion Sinclair who has explained to me much of Co-housing, a possible model for development. Also Phil Staffor, Lucy Schaich, and Chris Sturbaum gave me perspectives, ideas and encouragement in the development of this notion.

## Quilt Exhibition

*Terri Clausen*

For anyone interested, I have been working with Monroe County Historical Society Museum to put on an exhibit of quilts from African- American families in the Bloomington area. It is now open and runs through March 22. There are 60 quilts, tops and comforters from 20 different families, also photographs and biographical information on the makers. Admission is free. We hope you will come. An opening reception is 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10.

Quilts were loaned by: James "Bert" O'Bannon, Mary Terry (whose son Bruce lives on Howe Street), Mary Jo Longstreet, Suzanne Faulk, John & Helen Drake, Curtis C. Jackson, Sr., Betty Bridgwaters, Joni Clark, Cathy Rogers, Vivian Finnell, Ernestine Winters, Pat Efiom, Mary Gomez, Jim & Liz Mitchell, Arletha Dabney, Jim & Doris Sims, Bonnie Collins, Brittany Cheri' Laffoon, Beverly Calender-Anderson, and Carrie Lee Bing.



**"Top Hat"** (*Prospect Hill Winter Visitor*)

## **Is That Corn?**

*Laurel Cornel*

By now you know that it's not corn -- that tall grass at the side of my house at the corner of Rogers and Smith. It never had ears on it and now, at 15 feet tall, it's taller than any corn could ever be. It's not bamboo either. We're at the northern edge of bamboo's range, so most of the bamboos that grow around here are a lot more wispy than this.

It's called Giant Reed Grass, "Arundo Donax." A native of the Mediterranean, it was brought North America by Spanish explorers. Colonists used it like bamboo, for roofing and fodder. It's commonly known as reed grass because it's the original material for the Pan pipe. It is still cultivated to make reeds for woodwind instruments.

Arundo is invasive in California, where it competes with many native plants. Here it is not supposed to be, because it's too cold for the seedheads to mature. But given how well it's done in two years in my garden, I begin to wonder.

I enjoy Arundo for its dramatic architectural qualities. It's a big, bold statement about the beauty of grasses. Now it's a beautiful golden brown against the evergreens. It sways and makes a wonderful sound as wind blows through it. And anytime I need a stake, I just go out and cut one down. I hope you will enjoy Arundo through the winter until I cut it down in early spring.

## **Homeless Flowers**

*Terri Clausen*

Neighbor Betty Sander on Howe Street has notified me that during the renovation of the foundation and front porch of the house at 804 W. Howe, many flowers will be rendered homeless unless rescued -- we don't care if it is February -- we'll dig plants any time of year-type gardeners.

Up for adoption are the clumps of white iris, hyacinth, and spreading sweat pea (if you dare) in the front boxes. Clumps of Lily of the Valley and Hosta are hiding in the sod pieces that came from around the house foundation.



These are already dug and sectioned into stepping stone sized pieces located on the west side of the property against the stone wall.

Stop by the property to check out the selection. Contact Betty with any questions about the plants at [betricia@aol.com](mailto:betricia@aol.com).

### **Bloomington Restorations Annual Meeting**

*Chris Sturbaum*

This February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Fountain Square Ballroom beginning at 6PM, the wine corks will be pulled and the Bloomington Restorations Annual Meeting will be underway. For \$25 there will be wine and a delicious catered dinner. After dinner and preservation awards, Henry Glassie will speak on "The Architecture of Islam". Henry is an IU folklorist with an international reputation, a local preservationist and a former neighbor.

If you choose to forgo the dinner and festivities, please know anyone is welcome to come at no cost for the talk. Those who have heard Professor Glassie speak would suggest that you not miss this opportunity. So come and enjoy the evening dinner or come by late to hear the talk and see the ballroom. You may call BRI at **336-0909** for more information.

### **Attention Dog Owners!**

*Barb Clark*

Do you picture your pooch as another "Lassie" or "Rin Tin Tin?" Is that waggly bunch of fur at your feet a "Benji" waiting in the wings? Can you see that \*STAR\* over Fido's doghouse door?



**Be a good neighbor.  
Shovel your walk.**

Who would've imagined that "Totally Independent Films" by "juliarts" - located at 600 W. Howe Street - would be sending out a casting call for dogs?! Your faithful furry companion may just be the next "Near-Westside Star!"

This spring, production will begin on "Mona's Lost Toy" (working title), a short mystery featuring an "all-canine cast." There are roles for dogs of every age, size, and acting abilities (amateurs welcomed!) Please e-mail Julia at [julia\\_karr@hotmail.com](mailto:julia_karr@hotmail.com) for details. Note: this is a "totally independent film" with a "totally non-existent budget" - which means that payment will be in dog biscuits!

### **To My Fellow Dog Walkers!**

*Barb Clark*

I want to thank all of you who pick up after your dogs when you walk through the neighborhood. You know who you are! I also want to scold those of you who don't, and you know who you are, too. If you don't want it left in your yard where you can step in it, don't leave it in anyone else's yard. I use small sandwich bags for my little dog, plastic grocery bags work fine for bigger dogs. Thank you for being more considerate of your neighbors!

#### **Prospect Hill Neighborhood Association Voluntary Annual Membership Dues**

Household: \$5.00

Individual: \$2.50

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to:  
Teresa Miller (Treasurer)  
511 W. 3rd St.  
Bloomington, IN 47404