



Photo by Ivona Hedin

By Carmen Siering
with Barb Berggoetz & Elisabeth Andrews
Illustrations by Mike Cagle

It's a Wonderful Town

100 REASONS TO LOVE BLOOMINGTON

It was no easy task honing down the wonders of this amazing town to a mere 100. But that was our mission way back in the dead of winter when we began compiling the list, writing the entries, gathering the photographs, and assigning the artwork.

This turned out to be one of those jobs we felt would never end. Just when we thought we were done, someone would suggest another wonder of our town that absolutely had to be included (at the expense of a lesser

wonder). So we had to resist the impulse to throttle the smarty pants suggester and get back to work. We were putting stuff in and taking stuff out right up until the time we dispatched the issue to the printer in Illinois.

So, here at last, in no particular order, for your pleasure and contemplation, are our best “100 Reasons to Love Bloomington.”
—THE EDITOR



(above) Aerial view of the IU campus. Photo by J. Bruce Baumann

1

INDIANA UNIVERSITY THE GREAT INSTITUTION IN OUR MIDST

Bloomington wouldn't be Bloomington without Indiana University. Established in 1820 as the State Seminary, construction began in 1822 at what is now the corner of College and 2nd Street. Since that time, Indiana University and Bloomington have grown up together.

Nearly half of Bloomington's population is made up of students, and many of us are connected to the university in some way. We bleed cream and crimson while we root for our favorite sports teams; take advantage of the numerous cultural opportunities afforded us by world-famous artists in world-class venues; benefit from the many faculty, staff, and students who work with local businesses and nonprofit agencies and serve on area boards; and are enriched by the multicultural exchanges generated by our contact with scholars, students, and their families from around the world. Away from campus, too, we have a great wealth of arts, entertainment, and recreational opportunities we might not otherwise enjoy if it weren't for the draw of Indiana University. Our businesses flourish because students and their families shop and dine out while they're here. And many students like Bloomington so much they end up staying beyond graduation, establishing businesses and professions and starting families of their own. No doubt about it, Bloomington is richer (in all kinds of ways) because of Indiana University. —CS



2



AP Images

LEE HAMILTON AN INDIANA HERO

Lee Hamilton spent 34 years representing Indiana's 9th District in the U.S. House of Representatives and a dozen more in a number of high-profile appointments in the nation's capital, including serving as vice chair of the 9/11 Commission. A Bloomington resident since 2010, Hamilton is now director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. Hamilton grew up in Evansville, Indiana, and played basketball, at Evansville Central High School and DePauw University. In 1982 Hamilton was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. And while basketball honors are lauded in Indiana, no one could have been prouder than his Bloomington family, friends, and neighbors when, in November 2015, Hamilton was awarded the nation's highest civilian honor: the Presidential Medal of Freedom. —CS

3

THE BLOOMINGTON- AFRICA CONNECTION

Three separate efforts developed by Bloomington groups, individuals, and IU have created programs improving education, health care, and day-to-day life for Africans in need.

Giving Back to Africa, a nonprofit organization founded in 2003 by Ann Marie Thomson and her husband, cardiologist Louis J. Calli, educates and empowers young people in the Democratic Republic of Congo to become agents of change in their communities and country.

Indiana Friends of Nyaka, headquartered at United Presbyterian Church, was an early supporter in 2003 of Nyaka AIDS Orphans



Giving Back to Africa's Ann Marie Thompson with children. Photo by Dena Hawes

Project in Uganda. The project has built three schools, a library, and a clinic.

For 24 years, the IU School of Medicine has led AMPATH-Kenya, a program involving North American academic health centers that work with a Kenyan university and hospital to deliver services, conduct research, and develop health care leaders for North America and Africa. After developing an effective HIV/AIDS control system, AMPATH-Kenya is expanding its scope to include delivery of essential primary care services and control of communicable diseases and chronic illnesses. —BB

4

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

From our renowned chefs to our expansive array of authentic ethnic fare, Bloomington cooks up a rich local food culture. Daniel Orr of FARMbloomington gained acclaim in top restaurants in France, New York, and Anguilla before returning to Indiana. Michael Cassidy features Cajun/Creole cooking at his Uptown Café. For sophisticated Greek and Mediterranean dishes (and wonderful opera nights), Topo's 403 is a treat. Excellent modern American cuisine can always be found at Malibu Grill. Janko's Little Zagreb serves up grilled steaks the equal of any you'll find in Chicago or New York City, and Chef Erika Yochum's imaginative fare at Feast has resulted in long lines at the small Hillside Drive eatery. We even have a seafood restaurant, NOCO (No Coast Reserve) on the west side of the downtown Square. If great pizza is what you crave, try King Dough on the north side of the



Eggplant parmigiana at The Uptown Café. Photo by Aubrey Dunnuck

When wanderlust takes over your taste buds, there's no limit to the territory you can cover with a stroll around Bloomington's downtown. Nearly every cuisine you can think of is represented: Afghan, Indian, Tibetan, Ethiopian, Moroccan, Burmese, Korean, Thai, French, Turkish, Mexican, Japanese, Chinese, Greek, and Irish. And, of course, there's no shortage of tasty American fare throughout the city, as well as vegan and vegetarian options.

5

THE B-LINE TRAIL

More than just a place to take a walk, the B-Line Trail is a 3.1-mile way to connect — with family, friends, and the city of Bloomington. This handicapped-accessible pedestrian walkway runs from North Adams Street through the heart of downtown to West Country Club Drive. It's a favorite



Photo by Erin Stephenson

with everyone, not just runners and bikers, but also parents pushing strollers and office workers out for a midday stroll. With art installations, pocket parks, benches, fitness stations, human and pet drinking fountains, and energy-efficient LED lights keeping things bright from dusk to dawn, the B-Line has become so popular that businesses such as Hopscotch Coffee and Cardinal Spirits have opened by the trail. Looking to the future, Bloomington's Switchyard Park will offer even more things to see and do, making this urban walkway even more of a gem. —CS

6

OUR NEIGHBORHOODS WE'RE NEAT AND WE LIKE TO FEEL CONNECTED

Maybe more than most cities, Bloomington celebrates its neighborhoods. Since 2000, the City has kicked off the summer with the Blooming Neighborhood Celebration, a chance for neighborhood associations to

show off what makes living in their neck of the woods so special. Many neighborhood associations are active throughout the year, making sure folks get to know one another up and down the block. The city is made up of an eclectic assortment of neighborhoods, from Elm Heights, just south of the IU campus, with its mix of grand old homes and student rentals to McDoel Gardens' 1920s' and 1930s' cozy bungalows and kit homes to the large lawns and quiet cul-de-sacs of subdivisions such as Sherwood Oaks and Hyde Park. But Bloomington neighborhoods are more than collections of houses. They're collections of homes, where people get to know one another, find community, and feel connected. —CS

7

DAWN JOHNSEN ADVISOR TO TWO PRESIDENTS



Photo by Jim Krause

If not for obstructionism in the nation's capital, Bloomington might have missed out on the presence of one of its most distinguished citizens, constitutional scholar Dawn Johnsen. After President Barack Obama was elected in 2008, Johnsen served on his transition team, as she had done for former President Bill Clinton. And when Obama asked her to be his assistant attorney general for the Office of Legal Counsel, she didn't hesitate to accept; she'd fulfilled that role from 1997–98 during the Clinton administration. But 14 months of political wrangling with no confirmation in sight convinced Johnsen to seek another path, one that led her and her family back to Bloomington. Since then, her husband, John Hamilton, has been elected mayor. Johnsen is focused on her career as a professor of constitutional law in the Maurer School of Law at Indiana University. And the Beltway's loss is B-town's gain. —CS

8

TAKE A TOUR OF THE KINSEY INSTITUTE BUT PERHAPS NOT ON A FIRST DATE!



Courtesy photo

Whether you're a serious scholar of sex or just a bit curious, The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction at Indiana University has got you covered. The institute was founded in the 1940s, and from then until now its mission has remained the same: to advance sexual health and knowledge through research on human sexual behavior. Dr. Alfred Kinsey's work continues today with active research studies. Kinsey researchers are investigating everything from the effects of sexual activity on the immune response to the ways people from different cultures, genders, and age groups define "sex." But the Kinsey is more than a research institution. In its library, archives, and art collection, it houses more than 2,000 years of human sexual history. Visitors are invited to take self-guided tours weekdays and guided tours are offered monthly. And The Kinsey Institute Gallery offers rotating exhibitions that are sure to generate stimulating conversation. —CS

9

WE'RE IN LAKE COUNTRY

While southern Indiana may be best known for its rolling hills, tucked among them are a number of beautiful lakes. The largest is Lake Monroe, located just 10 miles south-east of Bloomington. With more than 10,750 acres of water spread over Monroe and Brown counties, Lake Monroe is the largest lake situated entirely within the state of Indiana. It's a popular place for boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, water-skiing, and swimming. Lake Lemon, located just 10 miles northeast of Bloomington,

is one of Indiana's most popular fishing lakes and hosts several bass fishing tournaments annually. The most abundant species in the lake include largemouth bass, channel and flathead catfish, bluegill, and crappie. Closer to town, the 1,200-acre nature preserve around Griffy Lake offers kayak and canoe rentals and is a great place for hikes using Explorer Backpacks filled with activities to discover wildlife, plants, and natural environmental features. —BB



Photo by Steve Raymer

10

THE STONE AGE INSTITUTE



Kathy Schick and Nicholas Toth. Photo by Steve Raymer

Anthropologists Kathy Schick and Nicholas Toth founded the Stone Age Institute in 2003 as a base of operations for their far-flung research into human origins and technological development. A recent \$3.2 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation will go a long way toward funding the institute's ongoing archaeological and paleontological research, including work at Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania, and Nihewan Basin, China. The Stone Age Institute works with and supports researchers from around the world and close to home, especially those from Indiana University. It also makes science fun with its educational outreach programs into the Bloomington community and on the web. You can check out "From the Big Bang to the World Wide Web" (described as "the top 100 events you need to know about the universe, the earth, life, and the human species") or download original science-based rock songs from The Stone Age Institute Band when you visit stoneageinstitute.org. —CS

11

WE LIKE TO LAUGH THE LIMESTONE COMEDY FESTIVAL

Since its debut in 2013, the Limestone Comedy Festival has become a summer staple for standup comedians looking for appreciative audiences and a must-attend for out-of-towners and locals looking for laughs. This three-day, multivenue festival is produced by Jared Thompson, co-owner of The Comedy Attic, and local comedian Mat Alano-Martin. Each June they bring to town well-known national performers, such as this year's headliners Bobcat Goldthwait, Roy Wood Jr., Justin Willman, and Doug Benson. They also present up-and-coming comics, many local and very funny. How much can you laugh in three days? Come to the festival and find out. —CS



12



Photo by Lynae Sowinski

LIL BUB OUR HOMETOWN CELEBRITY FELINE

She's starred in a feature-length documentary (*Lil BUB & Friends*), hosted a 12-episode online talk show (*Lil BUB's Big SHOW*), published a book (*Lil Bub's Lil Book: The Extraordinary Life of the Most Amazing Cat on the Planet*), and made guest appearances on several big-time TV programs, including *Good Morning America* and *The View*, but Lil Bub hasn't gone Hollywood. She still resides right here in Bloomington with her dude, Mike Bridavsky; Mike's wife, Stacy; and their son, Rosco. She has a worldwide following, which has allowed her to raise thousands of dollars for animal welfare charities through celebrity appearances and online merchandise sales. Those sales have always been brisk, so in 2015 the Bridavskys decided to open a brick-and-mortar store — Lil BUB's Lil SHOP — in Bloomington. A few years ago, the polydactyl "perma-kitten" had about 70,000 Facebook fans. Today, Lil Bub has more than 2.7 million. That's a lot of meows! —CS

13

OUR SCHOOLS ARE TOP NOTCH

Bloomington is a great place to raise kids, and the schools are one of the reasons why. The public school system is the Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC), with 23 schools educating 11,000 students. It's been an Indiana "A" School Corporation every year since 2012.

The MCCSC offers five high school platforms: two traditional high schools, Bloomington North and South; plus Hoosier Hills Career Center; Bloomington Graduation School; and the Academy of Science and Entrepreneurship. In total, the schools offer 239 extra curricular activities, so you know high school students are sure to find something that fits their interests. The MCCSC also offers 19 preschool programs, including some free programs for qualifying families. Beyond the public schools, there's further diversity. Whether it's for the younger set at such places as Bloomington Montessori School and the Children's Corner Cooperative Nursery; charter schools such as The Project School; or Harmony School, the independent K-12 school that breaks the mold when it comes to education, it seems to us, no matter what you're looking for in education, Bloomington's got it. —CS

14

WE LIKE TO BIKE

Whether they're on a trail ride at the 46-acre Wapehani Mountain Bike Park (the first mountain bike park in the state) or simply making a commute across town, it's easy to see that folks in Bloomington like to bike. As a result of the city's investment in bike-friendly infrastructure and its commitment to pro-cycling programs, Bloomington has been named a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists since 2003. In 2014, we earned the gold-level recognition, the highest rating of any community in the state and are making efforts to reach the platinum level. With several great local bike shops, the Bloomington Bicycle Club, and the Bloomington Community Bike Project (where you can learn to fix your bike and, if you volunteer a few hours, build one for free) available to encourage the novice and support the experienced rider, Bloomington's streets and trails beckon. —CS



Photo by Mike Feske



Photo by Adam Kent-Isaac



Wayne Wallace. *Courtesy photo*

THE SUPERLATIVE IU JACOBS SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Free concerts by internationally renowned musicians. World premiere operas by Pulitzer Prize–winning composers. More than 1,100 performances each year. What’s not to love about the IU Jacobs School of Music?

Arguably the best music school in the nation, the Jacobs School counts among its faculty members piano virtuoso Menahem Pressler, Grammy Award–winning violinist Joshua Bell, two-time Grammy winner and former Metropolitan Opera star Sylvia McNair, harpist virtuoso Susann McDonald, nine-time Grammy nominee percussionist Michael Spiro, and seven-time Grammy nominee trombonist Wayne Wallace. You could easily pay \$100 or more to hear these musicians in the nation’s major concert halls — or you could catch them here in Bloomington, where they perform mostly for free as part of their faculty duties.

The school has five orchestras, 13 choral ensembles, three jazz bands, and dozens of chamber ensembles. There’s one ensemble devoted solely to new compositions, another for Baroque music, and one made up entirely of trombones. The school’s centers and institutes also offer something for everyone: go old school with the Historical Performance Institute or cutting edge at the Center for Electronic and Computer Music; groove with the Latin American Music Center or study up at the Center for the History of Music Theory and Literature.



Menahem Pressler. *Photo by Shannon Zahnle*



Susann McDonald. *Photo by Shannon Zahnle*



Joshua Bell. *Courtesy photo*

To really experience the school’s wow factor, attend an opera at the Musical Arts Center (MAC). It has the second-largest stage area in the country— surpassed only by New York’s Metropolitan Opera on which it is modeled, right down to the wagon system that can feature up to three elaborate sets in each performance. From Mozart classics to brand-new commissions, Jacobs stages five operas, one musical, and three ballets each year.

Among the ballet department’s annual performances is the perennial holiday favorite, *The Nutcracker*. Between the MAC’s majestic stage, the fanciful costumes and sets, and the talented student musicians and dancers, you have the makings of one of the most magical nights in Bloomington.

16

ART FESTIVALS WE’RE AN ART-LOVING TOWN, THAT’S FOR SURE



Photo by Lynae Sowinski

Bloomington is known as an artsy town — just ask residents in any other part of the state! We’re proud of our artists and artisans, and we love to show off their work at festivals throughout the year. Held over Labor Day weekend since 1977, the juried Fourth Street Festival of the Arts & Crafts attracts more than 40,000 people who stroll by 100 artisans’ booths and also enjoy live music, poetry readings, and storytelling. Just down the way, at Third Street Park, Bloomington Garlic Fest & Community Art Fair is held the same weekend. As the name suggests, it features local treats featuring all things garlic plus live music and local arts and crafts.

In mid-June, Arts Fair on the Square showcases 100 regional and national artists, a children’s art center, and lots of entertainment. And every February, more than 60 homegrown artists display their work at the Local Artists Showcase, presented by *Bloom* and Ivy Tech Community College–Bloomington. Throughout the year there are other opportunities to see locally and regionally produced arts and crafts at events such as A Fair of the Arts at the Bloomington Community Farmers’ Market the second Saturday of each month during the season and the twice-a-year Bloomington Handmade Market, meaning there’s never a time you can’t support the arts in our town. —BB



17

WE ARE PROUDLY DIVERSE

It may come as no surprise that, as a college town, Bloomington is pretty diverse. Still, for a city of 82,000 (including IU students), Bloomington boasts a remarkable range of people of all stripes.

Take a stroll downtown or through campus and you’re just as likely to encounter people from China, Africa, Tibet, Brazil, India, and dozens of other countries as you

are homegrown Midwesterners. The city’s diverse neighborhoods include longtime residents; new arrivals; young, middle-aged, and elderly couples (both opposite and same sex); retirees; and families of many ethnic backgrounds.

Bloomington is also home to people of nearly every religious persuasion. We have a synagogue and a Chabad House catering to the city’s thriving Jewish population, the Islamic Center of Bloomington and mosque, the Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center and Kumbum Chamtse Ling Monastery, a Baha’i Center, and dozens of churches of nearly every Christian denomination.

The really good news is that Bloomington is a place where people of all ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds live, work, and play together in harmony, creating something uniquely Bloomingtonian. —EA

18

OUR HOSPITALS

Bloomington residents are fortunate to have IU Health Bloomington Hospital in their midst. IU Health is a comprehensive health care system operating under a unique partnership with the Indiana University School of Medicine, providing patients access to innovative treatments and therapies. IU Health Bloomington Hospital has been named a Magnet Hospital, which recognizes excellence in nursing care and is the highest national honor an organization can receive for professional nursing practice.

In April, Indiana University, IU Health, and IU Health Bloomington Hospital officials announced the creation of a new regional academic health campus in Bloomington, which will include a new hospital facility, to be built on the current site of the IU golf driving range just off the State Road 45/46 bypass adjacent to the IU Technology Park. This will allow IU to expand its medical education programs and research opportunities on the Bloomington campus for students in health-related disciplines, including social work, nursing, hearing and speech therapies, and dentistry.

On the city’s west side, officials at Monroe Hospital, a Prime Healthcare facility, stress its unique physician-founded and physician-led organization that allows doctors and clinicians to guide health care at every level. —CS

19

DROOL IN THE POOL

All summer long, our doggie friends look longingly at the cool water of our city pools. When summer comes to a close, they finally get their chance. Just before Mills Pool is drained, the City hosts Drool in the Pool, a dogs-only event where, for just \$5, pups can splash in the shallow play area or swim in the main pool. Pet-related organizations and businesses are on hand, there are fun contests, and enough excitement that everyone is sure to end the summer with a splash. —CS



SATURDAY MORNING MEANS FARMERS' MARKET—YEAR ROUND!

You never know what or who you'll see at the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market, which is as good a reason to go as any. Sure we go to get fresh local farm products—everything from produce and baked goods to eggs, cheese, and meat. But we also go to meet our friends, enjoy the buskers, get a great cup of coffee, or find out what's new in Info Alley.

That might be why the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market has been around for more than 40 years. Started in 1975 in Third Street Park, the market is open in Showers Plaza every Saturday morning from April to November. When it closes for the season, the Bloomington Winter Farmers' Market starts up at Harmony School on East Second Street, offering farm products, crafts, fresh foods, bands, and a café, making it a community gathering spot as well. —CS

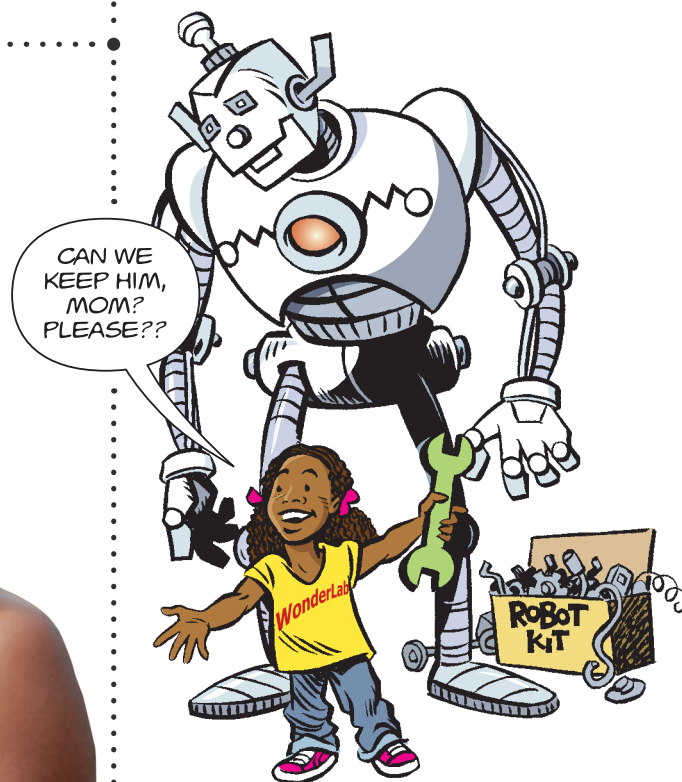


Photo by Marti Garvey

21

WONDERLAB

Where do we start on the wonders of WonderLab Museum of Science, Health and Technology? This award-winning museum invites children of all abilities to discover science through interactive, hands-on exhibits that entertain while they teach. It's all good, clean fun—especially in the “Bubble-Airium,” where kids learn about concepts such as evaporation, surface tension, and states of matter, all from soap bubbles.



Other popular exhibits include the two-story grapevine climber (only for the brave and smallish), a special discovery area set aside just for the 6-and-under crowd, and the second floor gallery that houses live insects, amphibians, reptiles, and tropical fish. Rotating exhibits encourage kids (and their grownups) to jump, dance, build, tear down, pound, play, and generally have a ball—all in the name of science. And there's nothing more wonderful than that. —CS

22

THE LOTUS FESTIVAL WE KNOW HOW TO THROW A PARTY!



Photo by M. Elizabeth Hershey

Established in 1994, the Lotus World Music & Arts Festival is Bloomington's best-known and, many would say, most-beloved festival. For one long weekend every autumn, downtown Bloomington is transformed into a 10-block pedestrian-friendly space filled with music, dancing, parades, workshops, exhibits, and food. Since it began, more than 120 different countries or culturally distinct regions have been represented at Lotus. The musicians not only entertain the multigenerational audiences, they also educate, answering questions and offering insights into their music, instruments, and cultures. While the majority of events are ticketed, Lotus offers more than 40 hours of free activities, including Lotus in the Park and the interactive Lotus Arts Village. And auxiliary activities pop up around the official festival events, making the celebration of music and the arts even more accessible on this most special of Bloomington weekends. —CS

23

THERE ARE SOME REALLY BIG BRAINS IN OUR TOWN!



Jill Bolte Taylor. Photo by Ben Weller

In 1996, at the age of 37, Jill Bolte Taylor, a Harvard-trained neuroscientist, experienced a massive stroke. She documented her eight-year recovery in *My Stroke of Insight: A Brain Scientist's Personal Journey*. After she gave an 18-minute presentation at the TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) conference in 2008, Taylor was catapulted to international fame. The video of her TED talk attracted 18 million viewers. Named one of *Time* magazine's “100 Most Influential People in the World,” her book has been published in more than 30 languages.

Taylor keeps us focused on our brains with projects such as “The Brain Extravaganza,” a 2012 public art exhibit that placed 22 anatomically accurate brains, each 5-foot-tall, around the city. In her latest venture, Taylor joined singer-songwriter Carrie Newcomer in *Transformative Stories*, a two-woman show blending Taylor's belief that understanding our brains allows us live our lives more fully with Newcomer's songs about the persistence of hope. We can't wait to experience the next brainy idea this Bloomington treasure dreams up. —CS

24

THE CHRISTMAS KICK OFF YOU'LL FEEL LIKE AN EXTRA IN A DISNEY MOVIE

Bloomington's holiday season is sure to be shiny and bright, thanks to the efforts of the City, nonprofit organizations, and local businesses.

The Canopy of Lights is the jumping off point. Eager Bloomingtonians come downtown the Friday evening after Thanksgiving to sip hot chocolate, nibble holiday treats, and await the lighting of hundreds of thousands of white lights strung from the top of the courthouse dome to buildings around the downtown Square. It might be a little chilly, but the oohs and aahs from the crowd after Santa throws the switch make it clear the wait was worth it.



Photo by Steve Raymer

The following day is the Holiday Market at Showers Common. This conclusion of the outdoor Bloomington Community Farmers' Market season features locally grown farm products and gift items from local artisans. Visitors enjoy hot cider or hot chocolate while they stroll the booths searching for presents, then make a stop to visit Santa and his reindeer.

One market event not to be missed is the Tuba Santa concert. This holiday ritual was the brainchild of Harvey Phillips, distinguished professor at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Phillips died in 2010 at the age of 80, but the tradition he started in 1974 with Tuba Christmas in New York City's Rockefeller Center lives on here. —CS

25

OUR AMAZING ART MUSEUM DESIGNED BY FAMED ARCHITECT I.M. PEI

The newly named Sidney and Lois Eskenazi Museum of Art on the Indiana University campus is one of the premier university art museums in the country. Now celebrating its 75th year, the museum contains more than 45,000 objects from ancient to modern times. Housed in I.M. Pei's iconic triangular building located at the heart of the IU campus, the museum offers visitors three floors of artistic treasures to explore, including outstanding collections from Africa, the South Pacific, and the Americas, as well as

an extraordinary collection of modern and contemporary art. Angles Café and Gift Shop on the second floor is a treasure in itself for visitors who like to shop. Outside the museum is another must-see work of art — local artist Rob Shakespeare's iconic *Light Totem*. This 70-foot-tall aluminum sculpture lights up the wall of the museum and is so revered it's on the IU Bucket List ("The official 'Must Do at IU' for the True Hoosier") and has become a feature on campus tours. —CS



Eskenazi Museum of Art. Photo by Michael Cavanagh and Kevin Montague

26



WFIU's "Brother" William Morris.

Photo by Shannon Zahnle

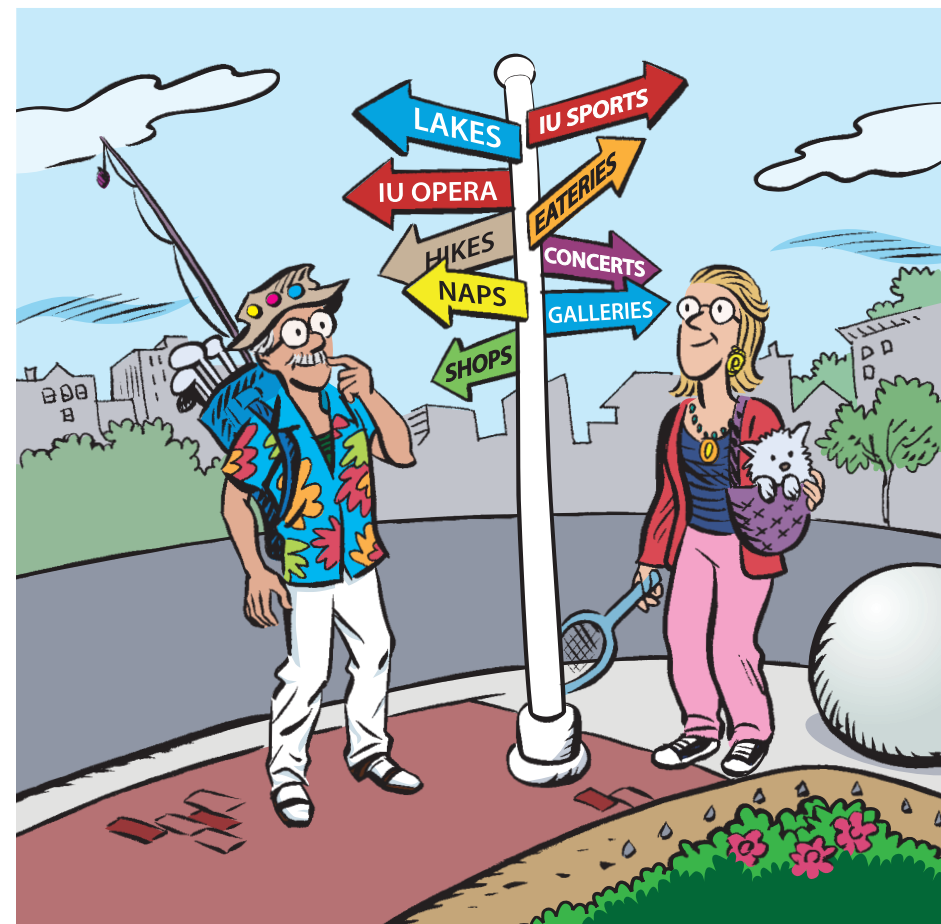
FIRST-RATE RADIO STATIONS KEEP US INFORMED AND ENTERTAINED

In Bloomington, radio is alive and well and much loved by the populace. Some might even say our local stations are like glue, helping to bond the community as well as representing its diversity and interests. There's something for everyone. Anchoring the radio scene are WFHB, our community, volunteer-run station and public radios' WFIU.

WFHB 91.3 FM features local news (for which the station has won numerous state journalism awards), programs focused on the LGBTQ+, African-American, and Hispanic communities, and local music scene. WFIU 103.7 FM is an NPR affiliate and also features excellent local classical music and jazz programming. As for rocking out, Bloomington radio has the goods: adult alternative on WTTS 92.3 FM, Top 40 hits on WBWB 96.7 FM, WCLS 97.7 FM for classic chart-toppers, 105.1 FM serving up the best in contemporary country, and IU's student-run station, WIUX 99.1 FM, playing the hippest college radio tunes. WGCL 1370 AM offers conservative talk-show fare. —JS

27

A GREAT PLACE TO RETIRE



Bloomington is consistently listed among the top 10 best places to retire, cited in the past few years by *Money Magazine*, *Forbes*, and AARP, among others. It's no wonder, with our high-quality health care and low cost of living (median home prices are around \$150,000). Culturally, Bloomington is a treasure, with near daily recitals and performances at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, high-quality theater, numerous art galleries, a world-class art museum, music clubs featuring jazz, folk, blues, and more, plus festivals galore. There

are plenty of outdoor activities, too, with a number of state parks and the Hoosier National Forest nearby, not to mention Lake Monroe, the state's largest. Add to that the lifelong learning opportunities at IU and Ivy Tech Community College, our Big Ten sports, and our many excellent restaurants, and it's easy to see why so many people think Bloomington is a great place to spend their golden years. There's even a term now for IU alumni who return to retire; they're called Bloomerangs! —CS

28

ADVENTURES IN NATURE



Photo by Alex Stewart

Whether you're looking to spend a day hiking or want to really get out and rough it, Bloomington's location near the 200,000-acre Hoosier National Forest, Yellowwood and Morgan-Monroe state forests, Cedar Bluff Nature Preserve, and McCormick's Creek and Brown County state parks makes getting back to nature easy to do. These wilderness areas offer adventure any way you like it, from hiking and trail running to backpacking and camping. And Brown County State Park's mountain bike trails are considered among the best.

Nearby Lake Monroe is the state's largest. Visitors enjoy boating, fishing, waterskiing, and swimming on its more than 10,000 acres of water surface.

Bloomington's city park system offers milder forms of adventure in town. The 46-acre Wapehani Mountain Bike Park, on the city's southwest side, was the first mountain bike park in the state. The City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department also maintains six fitness trails, eight multi-use trails with paved surfaces for walking and biking, and seven hiking trails with natural surfaces. —CS



Photo by Shannon Zahnle

wrecking ball and developing plans for a new justice center. Her tireless work for the community has earned her numerous accolades, including being named Bloomington's Woman of the Year and an Indiana Sagamore of the Wabash. In 2012 the justice center she helped create was renamed the Charlotte T. Zietlow Justice Center. A fitting tribute to a woman who is a role model to many and admired by all. —CS

CHARLOTTE ZIETLOW OUR GRANDE DAME

At age 81, Charlotte Zietlow, the grande dame of Monroe County, continues to serve on more than a dozen boards and committees. In the early 1970s, she was the first female president of the Bloomington City Council. From 1981–88, she served as Monroe County's first female county commissioner, and gave the downtown Square another boost, working with preservationists to save the deteriorating Monroe County Courthouse from the

30



IU Cinema founding director Jon Vickers. Photo by Shannon Zahnle

IU CINEMA

Since opening in 2011, IU Cinema has shown more than 1,500 films. While tickets are required to guarantee a spot in the 260-seat theater, more than half of all screenings are free and most others are just \$3–\$6. Theater-goers enjoy luxurious seats, historic Thomas Hart Benton murals, and period details reminiscent of cinema's heyday. Big-name guests are regular visitors, from director Peter Bogdanovich, who helped dedicate the space, to Werner Herzog, Glenn Close, John Waters, and Meryl Streep. In fact, nearly 200 filmmakers have visited Bloomington, interacted with members of the community, and made us all the richer for their presence.

The variety of films shown crosses all genres, from art house films and documentaries to independent films local audiences might not otherwise get the chance to see. And some films are shown just because we ask. The 2015 season kicked off with classic films that received the most requests through the Cinema's annual audience survey: *The Wizard of Oz* and the entire *The Godfather* trilogy. Proving, once again, that IU Cinema is "...A Place for Film." —BB

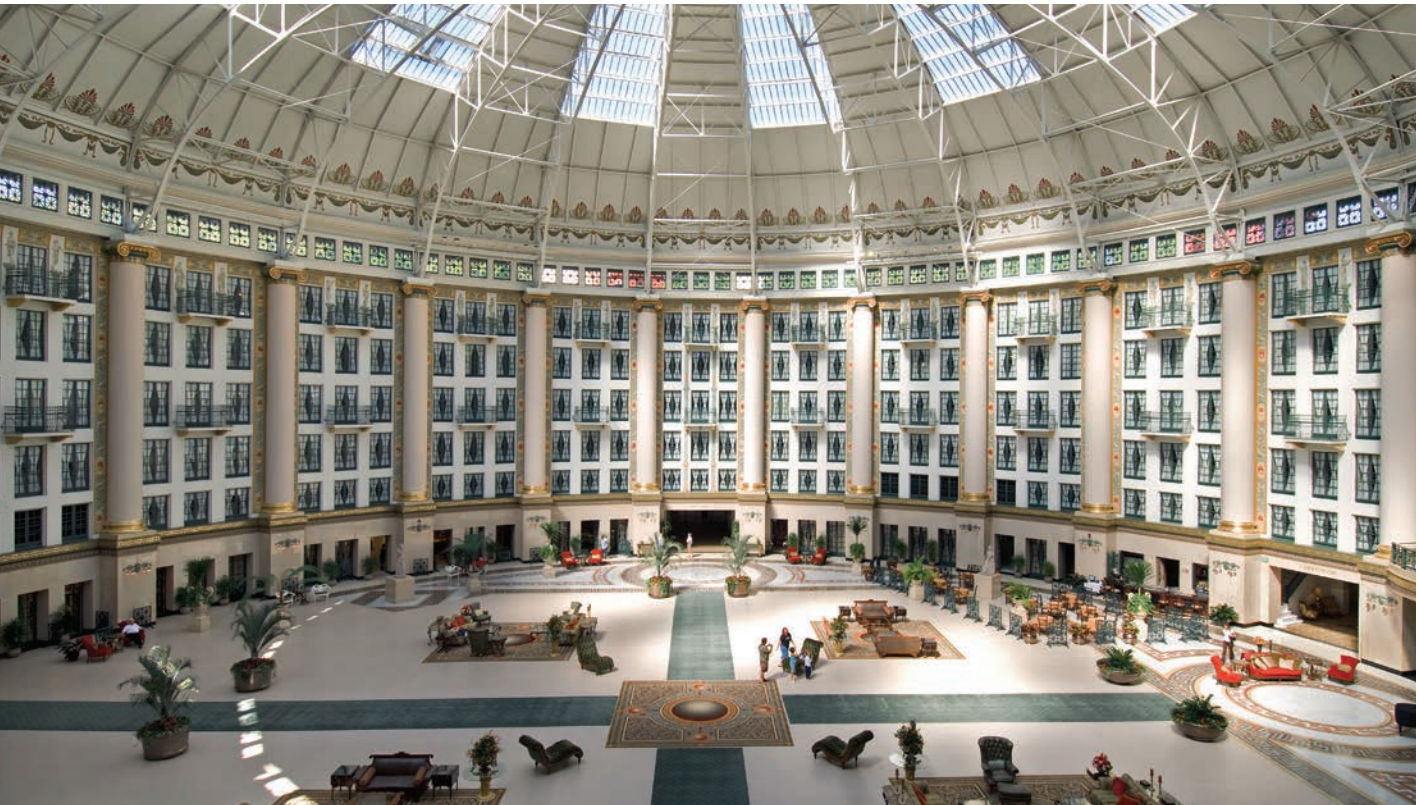
31

BLOOMINGTON WE'RE GENEROUS

If a need exists in Bloomington, chances are good it will be recognized and met. The giving nature of the city's residents and its hard-working social service agencies go a long way to help people stay sheltered, fed, clothed, healthy, and safe.

Organizations such as Shalom Community Center and Monroe County United Ministries provide broad services to people experiencing homelessness, poverty, and hunger; Community Kitchen of Monroe County offers free meals twice a day at two locations; and those experiencing domestic abuse can find shelter and aid at Middle Way House.

In our city, individuals and groups take it upon themselves to address needs, too. Food pantries have been established by Girl Scouts in Ellettsville, a student at IU, and residents at Walnut Grove Apartments. And people generously give — \$1.3 million to the United Way of Monroe County this year and to scores of other charities and nonprofits —and volunteer through Bloomington Volunteer Network, churches, schools, and other organizations. —BB



The West Baden Springs Hotel Atrium. Photo by Shannon Zahnle

32

FRENCH LICK RESORT

It's been a decade since the late, great Bloomington billionaire Bill Cook made the decision to bring French Lick Resort back to its former glory. Now it's one of the top resorts in the country, named Best Historic Hotel by *USA Today* in its 10 Best

Readers' Choice Awards for 2015. French Lick Springs Hotel and West Baden Springs Hotel offer luxurious getaways and are just 75 minutes from Bloomington.

The Pete Dye golf course is one of three at French Lick Resort. Designed by World Golf Hall of Fame course designer Dye, it hosted the Senior PGA Championship in 2015 and is one of Indiana's highest elevation points, with narrow fairways and rugged terrain. Spa lovers will find two luxurious spas (one at each hotel) where you can still

"take the waters" in a famous Pluto mineral springs bath. The resort is family friendly, with a KidsFest building and special youth activities. And there's a full-scale casino with hundreds of slot machines and manned gaming tables. Finally, let's not forget the place is just gorgeous. The 100-foot-high, 200-foot-diameter domed atrium of West Baden is awe-inspiring, and the opulence of the resort reminds you why it attracted movie stars, musicians, athletes, politicians, and gangsters to the Midwest in its 1920s heyday. —BB



PETS DIG IT HERE

Bloomington isn't just a great place for people, it's a great place for pets. Many businesses have pets on hand to welcome customers and clients. Visitors will find several hotels and inns that are pet friendly, and when locals need to get away, they can count on finding top-notch boarding, pet-sitting, and dog-walking services.

Any time you take a walk you're sure to meet plenty of dogs and their people on Bloomington's streets and trails, and in

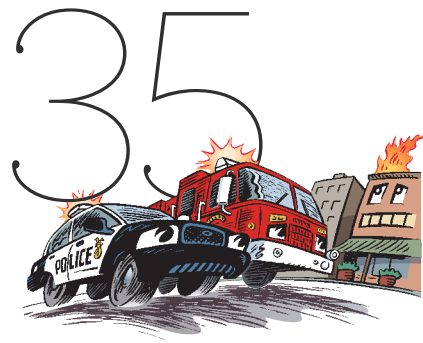
the parks, too. If Fido is looking for some free, off-leash fun, visit Ferguson Dog Park (4300 N. Stone Mill Road), an 18.7-acre park with a 3-acre fenced area where dogs can run. For a small fee, join Monroe County Parks and Recreation's Karst Dog Park and enjoy two fenced areas, one each for large and small dogs. Whether it's the Bloomington Animal Shelter helping homeless pets find loving families or Pets Alive keeping the animal population under control, this is a city dedicated to making animals' lives better. Maybe that's because we know when we do, we're making our lives better, too. —CS



Photos by Martin Boling

People in Bloomington often have great ideas, and they seem to know that if they work together, they can make great things happen. In 1955, residents Patti Pizzo and Dottie Saltzman joined forces to start the Children's Corner Cooperative Nursery School, an innovative educational co-op that is still going strong. In 1976, Bloomingfoods came into existence when a group of people decided to create a member-owned grocery that would give them (and everyone else) access to healthful food they couldn't find anywhere in town. Locally owned and operated downtown businesses have banded together to form the Bloomington Independent Restaurant Association (BIRA) and the Bloomington Fashion Collective, helping ensure Bloomington maintains its distinct dining and shopping character. Other cooperative efforts include housing arrangements such as Bloomington Cooperative Living, the recently established Glenn Carter Memorial Tool Share and Bloomington Wood-Works, and the Bloomington Community Orchard, a community-building and sustainable-living project that has brought together hundreds of volunteers who have proven, once again, that people in Bloomington know how to work together for the common good. —CS

WE'RE BIG COOPERATORS



OUR POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS LEND A HAND

The Bloomington Police Department is committed to community policing that puts resource officers into neighborhoods so they know the people they serve. There are six downtown resource officers, who frequently handle issues associated with the homeless, as well as 12 additional resource officers in neighborhoods across the city. These men and women act as problem-solvers, handling issues such as noise and other disputes and attending meetings of neighborhood associations and watch groups. More outreach occurs with the Bloomington Fire Department, which offers services such as preschool fire prevention programs and portable fire extinguisher training for businesses. And the Monroe County Sheriff's Department offers educational activities for children and neighborhood groups as part of its core mission. With so many public servants reaching out and working together, you just know Bloomington is a safer, happier, and more secure place for everyone. —BB



Courtesy photo

ART, ART, EVERYWHERE

Galleries and museums can't contain all of Bloomington's art. Take a walk down nearly any main street and you're sure to encounter public art. From the murals painted on traffic boxes at more than two dozen intersections to the sculptures along the B-Line Trail, keep your eyes open and everyday errand running can easily turn into an artistic adventure. Visitors to Bryan Park are enchanted by the brightly colored animals on the iron gate leading to the Tots Playground and the one-of-a-kind, 10-foot-long Indiana limestone dinosaur bench inside. City garages feature art, too, such as *Moving Parts (Roadie)*, the giant guitar made of traffic signage, car and bicycle parts, and license plates (pictured above and located at the corner of 7th and Walnut streets). Recent additions to our always-on-view, city-wide collection of artwork include *(C)olumn*, located at the corner of South Walnut and West 2nd Street and *The Shelter of Each Other* at Shalom Community Center. —CS



Tomi Allison. Photo by Shannon Zahnle

A PLACE WHERE WOMEN SHINE

It's hard to find an aspect of Bloomington life where women don't shine. Around here, we're used to seeing strong, competent females in positions of responsibility and influence. Many more work behind the scenes, making significant changes for families, neighborhoods, organizations, and the community.

Starting in the 1970s, women emerged as a force to be reckoned with in Bloomington's rich fabric — in government, politics, business, education, health care, and social services. One needs only to look at government leaders such as former mayor Tomi Allison; Charlotte Zietlow (see #29); Vi Simpson, for 28 years a state senator; and former state budget director Marilyn Schultz to see how women have served admirably in public office.

For many years, the Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women has advocated for and recognized the achievements of local women, naming a Woman of the Year and recognizing another recipient as the Lifetime Contribution Award winner. The Bloomington Chamber of Commerce also selects seven women annually for Women Excel Bloomington awards given to stellar business leaders. Candidates for all of the awards are plentiful. —BB

38

THE LITTLE 500 A RACE (AND A WEEKEND) LIKE NO OTHER

Indiana University's Little 500 has frequently been called The World's Greatest College Weekend. Maybe that's because of the fierce competition between the 33 four-person teams in both the men's and women's events. Teams train year-round for the chance to race, relay-style, around a quarter-mile cinder track for not much more than bragging rights. Or maybe it has to do with the week-long buildup to the racing events that includes parties, concerts, and a 5K/10K foot race. It could be (although we doubt it) because the event, run by the IU Student Foundation, has given more than



Photo by Chelsea Sanders

\$1 million in scholarship money to students working their way through college since the race began in 1951. Whatever the reason, Little Five has inspired the 1980 Academy Award-winning film *Breaking Away*, drawn a surprise visit from then-presidential candidate Barack Obama in 2008, and brings more than 25,000 fans to Bill Armstrong Stadium on the IU campus each April to cheer on their favorite teams. —CS



Courtesy photo

39

ANTIQUES, VINTAGE, FUNKY WE'VE GOT IT

If you can't find vintage clothing, mid-century modern furniture, antiques, or funky stuff in Bloomington, then you aren't looking very hard. Our town boasts antique and second-hand stores that appeal to everyone, from sustainability-minded shoppers to bargain hunters to serious antique collectors.

The Bloomington Antique Mall downtown and Westbury Antique Market on the west side offer large selections of collectibles, artwork, artisan-made crafts, retro furniture, and other rarities. Jeff's Warehouse on South College sells an eclectic mix of mid-century modern home furnishings and industrial pieces, plus decorative arts and other funky finds.



Photo by Lynae Sowinski

Those looking to stand out from the crowd know to shop vintage. Cactus Flower, a Bloomington staple for four decades, offers vintage and new fashions. To look good while doing good, shop The Bloomington Thrift Shop, a nonprofit that supports a number of local charities. Or check out My Sister's Closet, where you can get great deals on gently used clothes from an organization that provides free workforce attire to low-income women seeking jobs. —BB

40

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION WE'RE SITTING PRETTY

Situated in the rolling hills of southern Indiana, Bloomington is a beautiful place to live. Head out in almost any direction and in less than an hour you'll find a plethora of places to visit. Going north, you can take in Indianapolis Colts or Indiana Pacers games, visit the Indianapolis Museum of Art or the Indianapolis Children's Museum, or catch a plane at the Indianapolis International Airport. Head east and you'll find quaint local shops and galleries in Nashville, Indiana (see #68), a town with a history of talented artists. Also nearby is beautiful Brown County State Park. A tad further east, you'll find Columbus, Indiana, one of America's top 10 architectural sites, boasting 70 notable buildings and public art installations. And in Orange County to our south is the fabulous, restored French Lick Resort (see #32), with the famed West Baden Springs and French Lick Springs hotels, spas, casino, and championship golf courses. —BB

41

GALLERY WALK

The first Friday of every month, downtown Bloomington becomes the destination for art lovers. And food lovers. And get-out-of-the-house lovers. That's because Gallery Walk, the night when local galleries offer special receptions to highlight new exhibits, is now offered every month (it used to happen six times a year) and those nights coincide with Downtown Bloomington Inc.'s First Fridays, evenings when local shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues pull out all of the stops, encouraging everyone to head out for a night on the (down)town. No matter the weather, from 5 to 8 p.m. every first Friday, the sidewalks are amiable places with singles, couples, and families strolling to and from galleries (where many offer free refreshments), perhaps catching a busker's act, or simply enjoying an evening out in one of America's great small downtowns. —CS

43

OUR AUTHORS BOTH PROLIFIC AND PROCLAIMED

Our writers have shared with us — and the world — award-winning suspense novels, historical novels, memoirs, biographies, and poetry.

Though still in his early thirties, Michael Koryta is already considered at the top of the crime/mystery genre. A *New York Times* best-selling author, his latest and 12th thriller is *Rise the Dark*. Nine of his previous novels have been optioned for film or television development.

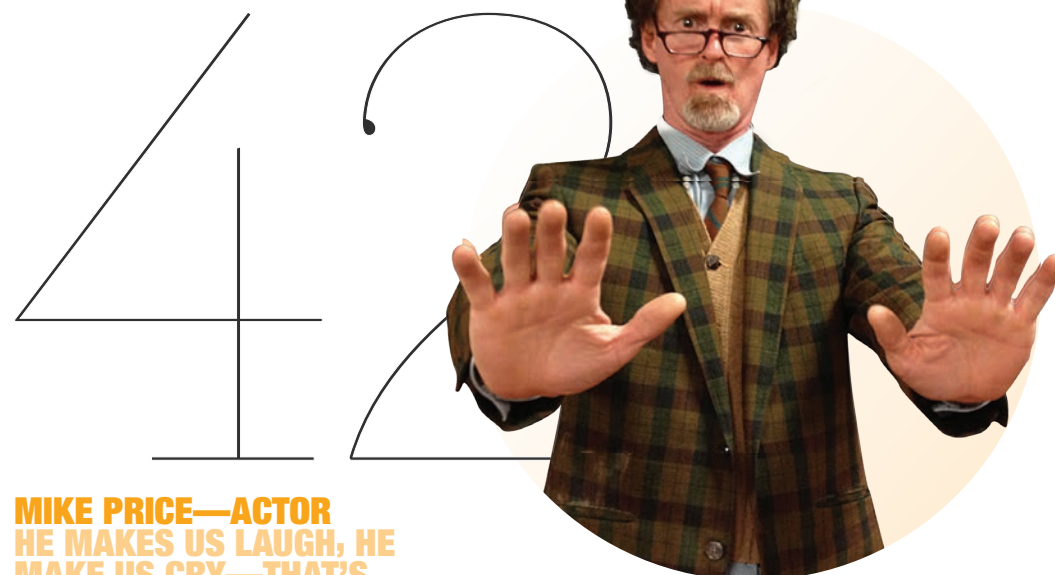


Photo courtesy Cardinal Stage Company

MIKE PRICE—ACTOR HE MAKES US LAUGH, HE MAKES US CRY—THAT'S WHY WE LOVE HIM!

Popular Bloomington actor Mike Price is the epitome of versatility. He has played Randle McMurphy in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Anne Frank's father in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, the innkeeper in *Les Misérables*, the psychotic brother in the comedy *The Lonesome West*, and Frog in the children's musical *A Year with Frog and Toad*. He dances. He sings. He makes us laugh and cry. In all, since Cardinal Stage Company was founded 10 years ago, Price

has starred in 40 plays, making him the most recognizable and beloved actor in Bloomington.

"I don't know anybody else who can play the range that Mike can play," says Randy White, artistic director of Cardinal Stage. "It's just a rare gift. He's incredibly malleable as an actor. I think Mike brings a joy and an energy to every part he plays." —BB



Poet Ross Gay. Photo by Jim Krause

Novelist James Alexander Thom, with his nine adventure-filled historical novels, and Scott Russell Sanders, with more than 20 works of fiction and non-fiction focusing on healing and restoration, continue to captivate readers. Poets Ross Gay and Adrian Matejka have both been recent National Book Award finalists. Michael Shelden has authored acclaimed biographies of George Orwell, Graham Greene, and young Winston Churchill. His latest is the just-published *Melville in Love*. Also of note are Alyce Miller's stories, poems, and essays; feminist scholar Susan Gubar's extraordinary *Memoir of a Debulked Woman*; and Samrat Upadhyay's novels set in his homeland of Nepal.

Local writers can share and learn from each other in groups such as the Writers Guild at Bloomington, Women Writing for (a) Change, and the Bloomington Creative Non-Fiction Writers Group. Authors have a good home here. —BB

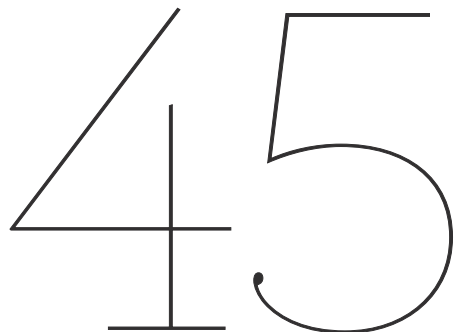


AP Images/Kevin Frayer

THE DALAI LAMA CONNECTION

Why does the Dalai Lama come to Bloomington? That question may sound like the setup for a joke, but in fact the spiritual leader has made several trips to our fair city to visit the Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center, founded in 1979 by his brother Thubten J. Norbu. Not merely an

oasis of Buddhist religion amid quiet corn fields, the center welcomes visitors to its 108-acre grounds, which include two traditional Buddhist stupas, a temple, teaching and retreat areas, and the Happy Yak Gift Shop. Ongoing classes and retreats in yoga, Dharma, art, and meditation are open to the community. —EA



INDIANA UNIVERSITY STATUARY LARGER THAN LIFE IU HEROES

While Herman B Wells, Hoagy Carmichael, and Ernie Pyle may have seemed larger than life, their bronze sculptures on the Indiana University campus are merely life-size. All three men were native Hoosiers and Indiana University alumni as well.



Hoagy Carmichael. Photo by Lynae Sowinski

Wells served as IU president from 1938–62, then chancellor until he died in 2000. His statue can be found just east of the Sample Gates. During freshmen orientation, parents are told that shaking Wells’ outstretched hand will bring their students good luck. They might even graduate in four years.

Carmichael’s statue, located on the north-east side of the IU Auditorium, features the “Stardust” composer and crooner at

his trademark Steinway piano. There’s still a lot of love for Hoagy; it’s not uncommon to find flowers tucked into his hand or a scarf around his neck.

The sculpture of Pulitzer Prize–winning World War II correspondent Pyle sits outside Franklin Hall, just inside the Sample Gates. He is sitting on an ammunition crate, typing up a story. Visitors can join him; there’s an empty ammunition crate across the way. —CS

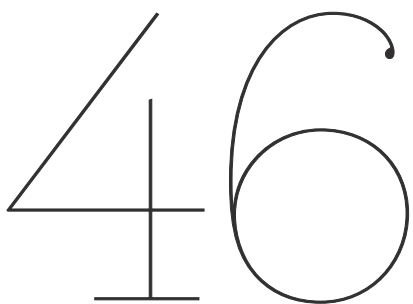


Photo by Craig Barton

THE BLOOMINGTON CHAMBER SINGERS

Founded in 1970 as the Bloomington Chamber Ensemble, this community-based nonprofit organization was renamed the Bloomington Chamber Singers in 1980. Offering amateur vocalists (approximately 60) the opportunity to perform major choral works under the direction of a professional conductor, the group is a win-win for everyone. The Bloomington Chamber Singers delights audiences with its concert series and holiday carols on the downtown Square. Plus, its annual performance and public singalong of the Christmas portion of Handel’s *Messiah* includes a canned food drive benefitting Hoosier Hills Food Bank. The Bloomington Chamber Singers isn’t just one of southern Indiana’s leading choral ensembles; it’s a local treasure. —CS



Photo by James Kellar

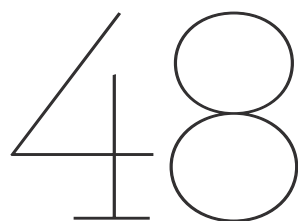
WE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Buying locally is easy to do here. Bloomingtonians never allowed the national chains to wipe out our local businesses—businesses that contribute so much to the character of our town.

The Book Corner has been the place to buy books for half a century; the proprietors at Goods for Cooks have been dishing out advice and selling their wares since 1989; and although Relish, that “urban marketplace” just off the Square, has been around for a mere 11 years, even people visiting from New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles make a point of shopping there. They come to shop at The Briar & The Burley, too, a specialty store selling luggage, exotic pipes, leather goods, and fine writing instruments.

Nick’s English Hut, open since 1927, is still the place to eat and imbibe before or after an IU game; it’s the same with Crazy Horse Food and Drink Emporium, around for a mere 35 years. For breakfast, lunch, or dinner, it’s hard to beat The Uptown Café, also in the downtown for 35-plus years; and the steaks at venerable Janko’s Little Zagreb are famous throughout the Midwest.

There’s no need ever to go to those impersonal big box stores or visit a chain restaurant if you live here. We’ve got every kind of local store and scores of local restaurants. Shop locally, help a neighbor, and keep the money circulating in Bloomington. —BB

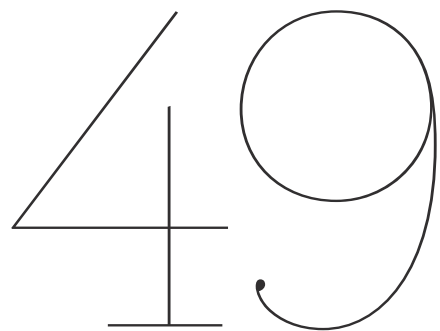


COST OF LIVING COMPARED TO THE COASTS, WE’RE A BARGAIN

For what a one-bedroom apartment costs in Manhattan, San Francisco, or Los Angeles, here you can buy a well-constructed four-bedroom, three-bathroom house or condominium with all of the modern amenities and have enough money left over to purchase a Mercedes-Benz (or make a generous contribution to one of our many nonprofit organizations).

While the cost of housing might not be quite so high in some other American cities, compared to most (Indianapolis being an exception) Bloomington is a bargain.

So don’t be misled by polls such as Sperling’s Best Places cost-of-living rankings that have us at 98, just slightly below the U.S. average at 100. When you put Bloomington up against cities with our caliber of theater, music, restaurants, sports, and recreational opportunities, we come out looking like money in the bank!



WRITERS AND ENTERTAINERS WHO COULD LIVE ANYWHERE, BUT... THEY CHOOSE BLOOMINGTON

If you want to make it in the arts and entertainment industries, conventional wisdom dictates that you need to hurry to Los Angeles or New York City. Yet our town is home to some of the country’s top performers and writers who don’t mind Skyping with their coastal collaborators in order to enjoy the Bloomington lifestyle. Among our townspeople are Angelo Pizzo and David Anspaugh, screenwriter and director respectively of such legendary films as *Rudy* and *Hoosiers*; author Scott Russell Sanders, whose more than 20 books have earned him support from organizations such as the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation; acclaimed



Angelo Pizzo and David Anspaugh.
Photo by Shannon Zahnle

mystery writer Michael Koryta; Pulitzer Prize–finalist biographer Michael Shelden; internationally touring singer/songwriters Krista Detor and Carrie Newcomer; poets Ross Gay and Adrian Matejka, both National Book Award finalists; and composer/choral conductor/hammer dulcimer virtuoso Malcolm Dalglish. It must be like the line in the John Mellencamp song, “I can be myself in a small town.” By the way, Hall of Fame rocker Mellencamp lives here, too. —EA

50

SYCAMORE LAND TRUST

Sycamore Land Trust was founded in 1990 by nature enthusiasts, biologists, and academicians with hopes of preserving land in Monroe County. Now, 26 years later, this outstanding nonprofit is conserving property in 26 southern Indiana counties—from Martinsville south to the Ohio River, and from Vincennes in the west to New Albany in the east — with the largest concentration of preserves in Monroe, Brown, Bartholomew, Morgan, and Green counties.

To date, 90 properties totaling nearly 9,000 acres are preserved in perpetuity. This year saw a big boost to conservation efforts when the state approved Sycamore’s proposal to make the Beanblossom Creek area in northern Monroe County a Bicentennial Conservation Area. The designation allots \$1 million to help conserve the Beanblossom Creek watershed, including the Beanblossom Bottoms Nature Preserve, Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, and parts of the Morgan-Monroe State Forest. And plans are underway to construct the Oxbow Nature Preserve, just off I-69 at the College Avenue exit, complete with parking facilities, trails, and a small education pavilion. What a great way to welcome visitors to Bloomington! —CS

51

OUR ECLECTIC GALLERIES

A wealth of artwork can be found in the distinctive galleries of Bloomington. Regardless of your taste or budget, there’s much to admire and buy.

“The galleries in Bloomington sell a rich variety of quality local, national, and international art and in doing so help support dozens of talented artists,” says Martha Moore, Pictura Gallery co-owner and chair of Gallery Walk Bloomington. Shoppers will find jewelry, pottery, paintings, wooden objects, glass creations, textiles, limestone carvings, photography, and more, she adds. “The downtown galleries offer something for every discerning art and gift buyer.” Pictura specializes in photography. By Hand Gallery, a 35-year-old cooperative shop,



Pictura Gallery. Photo by Steve Raymer

showcases the work of local and regional artists and craftspersons; The Venue Fine Art & Gifts has limited edition prints and original paintings; gallery406 features local artists’ photography and paintings; and The Vault at Gallery Mortgage shows drawings and prints by Indiana University faculty and area artists. Work by local artists can also be found in the six galleries displaying paintings, sculpture, collages, and textiles at the Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center, and at the Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center Gallery. —BB

52



Bill and Gayle Cook. Courtesy photo

THE COOK LEGACY

Entrepreneur and philanthropist Bill Cook, who passed away in 2011 at the age of 80, had long been an angel to the Bloomington community. The generosity he and his family have shown transformed crucial sites in Bloomington and nearby areas from crumbling relics into revitalized centers of commerce.

Cook, a trailblazer in the field of minimally invasive medical devices, rose from humble beginnings to become one of the country’s wealthiest individuals, with a fortune estimated at more than \$5 billion. Yet in Bloomington he and his wife, Gayle, continued to live in the modest three-bedroom home they bought in 1967. Cook is responsible for the revitalization of much of the downtown, including Fountain Square Mall, Graham Plaza, Bloomington Antique Mall, Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center, and the Showers Building. He also spearheaded the restoration of the West Baden Springs Hotel and French Lick Springs Hotel, now restored to their 1920s’ glory. Though the Cooks’ contributions supported everything from the local economy to the YMCA, Bill is perhaps best loved for the open-hearted attitude that found him, despite his billions, volunteering his time with such tasks as driving the bus for the Star of Indiana drum-and-bugle corps. —EA

53

WINE, BEER, SPIRITS WE MAKE 'EM ALL, RIGHT HERE

People come from all over to experience Bloomington-made wines, craft beer, and distilled spirits, but sometimes it seems locals take them for granted. Maybe that’s because they’ve been with us for so long.

It was way back in 1972 that Indiana University law professor William Oliver opened Oliver Winery, just a year after he helped pass the legislation making small wineries possible in Indiana. Now Oliver Winery, located at 8024 N. State Road 37, is a popular destination for both Bloomingtonians and visitors. Another popular spot is Butler Winery on East Robinson Road. Jim and Susan Butler, who’ve been growing

grapes for more than 20 years, opened the winery in 1983, and also have an in-town tasting room at 1022 N. College.

Bloomington’s reputation as a craft beer mecca got rolling back in 1994 with Bloomington Brewing Company (BBC), the first craft brewery in southern Indiana. You can find BBC brews on tap at Lennie’s and the BBC Brewpub on 10th Street and at many local bars and restaurants. Upland Brewing Company is another favorite. Its 11th Street location features the original Brewpub and, more recently, The Wood Shop, a facility for aging and tasting sour specialty beers. Function Brewing is Bloomington’s small-



Photo by Shannon Zahnle

est brewery. Its two-barrel system means owner Steve Llewellyn brews two or three times a week to keep his 12 taps flowing. And we can’t forget The Tap, located on the downtown Square or Nashville, Indiana-based Big Woods Brewing on North Grant Street.

Finally, those looking for something different should head to Cardinal Spirits. Located in a former sheet metal factory along the B-Line Trail, its hand-crafted gin, vodka, whiskey, and seasonal spirits are featured in an ever-changing array of cocktails. —CS



54

OUR LIMESTONE HERITAGE

A natural treasure, Indiana limestone is part of our cultural heritage. Known as the nation’s building stone, and found

only in Monroe and Lawrence counties, Indiana limestone is still extracted from nine area quarries. It has been used to build the Pentagon, the Empire State Building, and 35 of the 50 state capitol buildings. The stone is ubiquitous on the Indiana University campus — one of the largest concentrations of Indiana limestone in the world. Our limestone heritage was commemorated in the film *Breaking Away*, and for the past 20 years, stone artists and novice carvers have gathered each summer for the Indiana Limestone Symposium at the Bybee Stone Co. in Ellettsville, learning, carving, and keeping Indiana’s limestone heritage alive. —BB

55

THE T.C. STEELE STATE HISTORIC SITE

Visiting the T.C. Steele State Historic Site, located midway between Bloomington and Nashville, Indiana, is an opportunity to explore the surroundings that prompted the famed impressionist painter to settle in Brown County long before it was a thriving Midwest art colony. The 211-acre site combines art, history, and natural beauty, encouraging guests to explore the grounds, hike along scenic trails, and enjoy the restored historic gardens. Guided tours of Steele's home, the House of the Singing

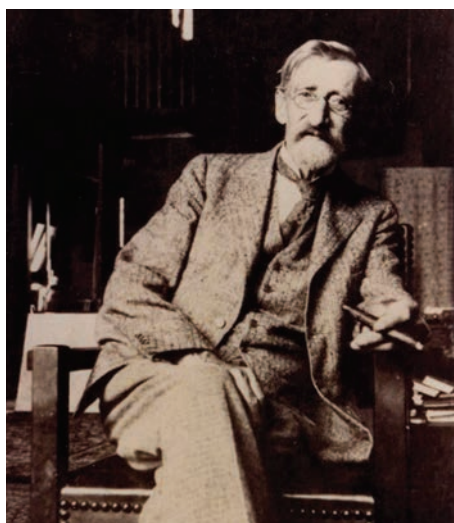


Photo courtesy T.C. Steele State Historic Site

Winds, and his Large Studio are available, and many of Steele's landscape, still life, and portrait paintings are on view. Artists are free to set up an easel and take advantage of the views, and the site offers year-round art- and nature-related programs that are sure to inspire the artist in all of us. —CS

56

OUR MUSIC SCENE HEY, WE'RE NOT AUSTIN, BUT WE'RE GETTING THERE

Musically speaking, is it fair to call Bloomington the Austin of the Midwest? That may be a bit of a push, but not by much. To the outside world, Bloomington owes its musical reputation largely to the IU Jacobs School of Music. But we natives know that the B-town music scene has much more to offer. In the mood for jazz? Bear's Place and Malibu Grill will hook you up. If rock, folk, bluegrass, klezmer, reggae, or pop are more to your liking, venture out any evening to catch local and touring acts at The Bluebird Nightclub, The Players Pub, The Bishop, Serendipity Martini Bar and Restaurant, and other venues. Plus, Bloomington is crawling



Jenn Cristy. Courtesy photo; Krista Deter. Photo by Steve Raymer; Carrie Newcomer. Photo by Shiv Ahuja

with homegrown talent. It's not uncommon to spot rock legend John Mellencamp around town or a dozen other nationally lauded singer/songwriters, including Carrie Newcomer, Krista Deter, Jason Wilber, Tim Grimm, Jenn Cristy, Tom Roznowski, and Michael White. We also have the outstanding voice of world-renowned soprano Sylvia McNair, plus Janiece Jaffe and Amanda Biggs. Not to be missed is Deter's annual December holiday concert. Look out Austin, Bloomington is coming after you! —EA

57



Courtesy photo

IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE-BLOOMINGTON TOUCHING THE LIVES OF SO MANY

With an emphasis on community, Ivy Tech-Bloomington offers programs that touch the lives of nearly everyone in town, from the students who take classes in its more than 30 degree programs to the employers who benefit from Ivy Tech graduates prepared to meet their needs. Then there are the multiple centers it sponsors: the Center for Civic Engagement, with its emphasis on volunteerism, service learning, and community involvement; the Gayle & Bill Cook Center for Entrepreneurship, which helps budding entrepreneurs develop skills and find resources to start new businesses; the Center for Lifelong Learning, which offers classes in everything from photography to retirement planning; the Indiana Center for the Life Sciences which works with regional life science firms to meet their training goals; and the Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center, where you can watch a play, visit a gallery, or take an art class. How has Ivy Tech touched your life? —CS

58

OUR DOWNTOWN

Unlike many small cities its size, Bloomington's downtown has not succumbed to domination by national chains or abandonment in favor of suburban malls. We have a thriving downtown made up of one-of-a-kind shops, restaurants, and drinking establishments that contribute mightily to the character of our city. And at the center is our magnificent limestone courthouse.



Photo by J. Bruce Baumann

Much of the credit for our beautiful downtown and its vitality goes to the late Bill Cook, our resident billionaire who passed away in 2011 (see #52). In the 1980s, he and wife Gayle championed the revitalization of the downtown. Since then developers have built a number of large residential buildings, many high-quality stores and galleries have opened, and quality restaurants have been added. We even have a comedy club that pulls in top talent from New York and Los Angeles. —EA

59

KIDS SPORTS

It's hard to drive by ball diamonds or athletic fields around Bloomington without seeing kids running bases, kicking soccer balls, and just having a good time enjoying all kinds of sports. Kids are moving, thanks to organizations like the Bloomington Junior League Baseball Association.

Children 5–12 years old play in association leagues starting in the spring, followed by a tournament for older youth, post-season play for kids with advanced skills, or a second season for others. Coaches stress fundamentals and sportsmanship — not winning (well, maybe just a little). Smithville Diamonds Little League, Monroe County's only chartered Little League orga-

nization, also encourages participation and character development and promotes teamwork. Another popular group, the Cutters Soccer Club, gives kids a chance to learn and play the game, and offers travel soccer for players making a higher level of commitment.

Kids psyched about hockey can join the Bloomington Blades, a competitive travel hockey program. To learn the game, younger players register for house hockey teams sponsored by Bloomington Parks and Recreation.

Parks and Rec also offers youth other sports opportunities, from the chance to play basketball and train for triathlons to learning how to swim. And so does the Monroe County YMCA, at two locations where kids can play T-ball, basketball, dodge ball, and racquetball, and participate in gymnastics, martial arts, and other activities. —BB



Photo by Darryl Smith

60

LIBRARIES GALORE

From the Little Free Libraries scattered around town (each holding just a few dozen books) to the Herman B Wells Library on the Indiana University campus (which holds more than 4.6 million volumes), Bloomington has a wealth of libraries — and the resources found in them are avail-

able to everyone. The Monroe County Public Library (MCPL), with branches downtown and in Ellettsville, is filled with books, DVDs, and an extensive CD collection, and its online resources are continually expanding. The MCPL Bookmobile makes services readily available to those who can't make it to one of the brick-and-mortar locations. On the IU campus, you'll find two dozen libraries beyond Wells, including the Black Film Center/Archive, the first archival repository dedicated to collecting, preserving, and making available historically and culturally significant films by and about black people, and the Lilly Library, home to rare books, manuscripts, and special collections (See #65). And if you're a native Hoosier, head to the Monroe County History Center's Genealogy Library and do a little digging into your own family's history. —CS

61

OUR PROUD LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY



Bloomington takes pride in being open and inclusive. That's especially true when it comes to making lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals and families feel at home.

In 2010, *The Advocate*, an LGBTQ+ interest magazine, named Bloomington the number four Gayest City in America and designated it as the number one gay- and lesbian-friendly small town.

Indiana University received the highest possible rating from the LGBTQ+ friendly Campus Pride Index in 2014 and 2015. The local community radio station WFHB hosts *bloomingOUT*, the state's only "out and proud" radio show.

Bloomington PRIDE, a nonprofit organization, works to create safe and inclusive spaces, challenges stereotypes, and sponsors community events, such as Summerfest, a family friendly event that will be held August 27 this year. It also hosts the PRIDE Film Festival, which will celebrate its 14th year in January. Youth of all sexual orientations and gender identities can take part in Prism, a social and support group that has made headlines for creating a teacher-training curriculum anchored by "10 Things We Wish Our Teachers Knew," that they presented to school administrators and more than 600 teachers in November.

For a good read, check out the Bloom February/March 2014 cover story "Gay Bloomington: Then and Now" available in the Archives at magbloom.com. —BB

62

BLOOMINGTON NATIVES GO ON TO BIG THINGS



Meg Cabot. Photo by Steve Raymer; John Mellenkamp. Photo by Kevin Mazur; Jared Jeffries. Photo by Chris Jacob

People born and raised in Bloomington go on to the most incredible careers. There are athletes such as NFL quarterback Rex Grossman, former NBA star Jared Jeffries, and racecar driver Steve Kinser. Authors such as award-winning crime novelist Michael Koryta; Meg Cabot, author of *The Princess Diaries* and more than 50 other books; and Ross Lockeridge Jr., whose *Raintree County* was made into a movie starring Elizabeth Taylor. We can boast about musicians such as violinist Joshua Bell and rockers John Mellencamp (okay, he's from nearby Seymour) and David Lee Roth. You can also see the work of Bloomington natives on the big screen — Angelo Pizzo wrote *Rudy* and *Hoosiers* and wrote and directed the recent *My All American*. Bloomington is so cool, television writers place fictional characters in our fair city: Note that *Star Trek Voyager* Captain Kathryn Janeway is a Bloomington native. And let's not forget legendary songwriter Hoagy Carmichael was born (and is buried) here. Not bad for a town with about 40,000 non-student residents. —EA



63

THE BEAUTY OF THE IU CAMPUS



Photos by Daniel Orr

In 1991, celebrated writer and architect Thomas A. Gaines published *The Campus as a Work of Art* (Praeger Publishers), in which he critiqued more than 100 college campuses for their artistic merit. The campus of Indiana University–Bloomington placed in the top five. Its limestone buildings, abundant green spaces, and pedestrian-friendly layout were among the features setting it apart. Gaines specifically mentioned the Indiana Memorial Union, IU Art Museum (recently named the Sidney and Lois Eskenazi Museum of Art in recognition of the couple's \$15 million gift to the museum), Maxwell Hall, Showalter Fountain, the IU Auditorium, and the floral landscaping and wooded areas. Thirty years and many construction projects later, the campus is even more lovely. It adds immeasurably to the quality of life in Bloomington, whether traversed as an IU student, as a member of the IU faculty or staff, or merely glimpsed through the Sample Gates during a stroll along Kirkwood Avenue. —EA



64

WE RUN FOR FUN

Running can be a solitary exercise, but in Bloomington opportunities abound to join diverse groups, learn to train, race till you drop, or just hit the pavement, trail, or hills with running friends.

Each year, some 100 novice and experienced runners join the Monroe County YMCA spring, summer, and fall endurance training programs. The Magnificent 7 race series, now boasting 29 area races each year, keeps hundreds of competitors fired up, too. Bloomington Area Runners Association



Photo by Steve Raymer

members meet during the week and week-ends to train or run casually. “It’s a great source of fellowship and camaraderie,” says Cliff Huggins, group secretary. And a new group, Indiana Female Fellraisers, attracts women who want to tackle trails or try ultra-racing. Alone or in groups, Bloomington runners can find their niche. —BB



Photo by Roni Griffith

SYLVIA MCNAIR THE FAMED OPERA SOPRANO AND ALL-AROUND GOOD CITIZEN

When internationally renowned soprano Sylvia McNair joined the voice faculty of the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in 2006, she said, “It just feels like it’s time to share with younger folks some of the things I’ve experienced.” A decade later, IU students and the citizens of Bloomington have gained immeasurably from her decision.

A versatile artist equally at home on the stage of New York City’s Metropolitan Opera House or in an intimate cabaret, McNair is a two-time Grammy Award-winner who has made an indelible impact on her students. In the words of Marie Masters, a former graduate assistant, “Sylvia is a teacher who exemplifies humility, courage, creativity, passionate commitment, and joy in art, as well as in life.”

A selfless participant in community life, McNair has given countless performances in support of Bloomington charities and nonprofits. She enriches our city with her presence. —BB

67



Artist Avi Katz at The Waldron. Photo by Eric Rudd

THE WALDRON A LIVELY LEARNING SPACE RIGHT DOWNTOWN

The Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center is a creative haven in the center of downtown Bloomington. When Ivy Tech Community College – Bloomington took over the building at 122 S. Walnut in 2010, it kept the things that made it great — including adult art classes and community performance spaces — then added even more, such as Ivy Tech’s for-credit and non-credit adult art classes and Ivy Arts for Kids.

The addition of an associate of fine arts degree program with concentrations in theater and dance to Ivy Tech’s curriculum set the stage for a boost to Bloomington’s already vibrant theater scene. Now artistic director Paul Daily oversees several student productions each year in The Waldron’s nontraditional space.

The Waldron is a member of the downtown Gallery Walk, meaning its doors are wide open the first Friday of every month, offering guests not only a taste of the latest works of art in its galleries but a taste of the treats created by students in the Ivy Tech Baking and Pastry Program. With six galleries, four classrooms, and two performance spaces, The Waldron encourages people of all ages to continue to learn and grow, and to have fun while they’re doing it. —CS

68

NASHVILLE, IN AN ARTISTS’ VILLAGE PRACTICALLY IN OUR BACKYARD



Courtesy photo

It’s a place to escape, and Bloomingtonians are lucky to have Nashville, with its historic artists colony, just a half-hour away. Artists who settled in Brown County in the early 20th century created a lasting legacy that continues to evolve. The 90-year-old Brown County Art Gallery features early art colony masters’ artworks and recently added an 8,600-square-foot addition including an art education studio where artists can work, teach, and experiment. You’ll find more art at The Brown County Art Guild, which displays the work of 45 local and regional artists, as well as the magnificent paintings of the four founding members of the Guild, Marie Goth, V.J. Cariani, Genevieve Goth Graf, and Carl Graf in the historic Minor House.

A trip to Nashville’s downtown means shopping, where you’ll find art galleries and stores filled with locally made handicrafts, antiques and collectables, vintage and new clothing shops, gift stores, bakeries, and more. But you can also take in live theater, concerts, and movies at Brown County Playhouse; enjoy a craft beer or a glass of local wine; or just stroll the quaint streets and appreciate this postcard pretty place. —BB

65



Courtesy photo

THE LILLY LIBRARY FOR A HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

The Lilly Library, located on the Indiana University campus, is a rare treasure indeed. Or maybe it’s a treasure box, full of wonders awaiting those who venture inside. The library houses more than 400,000 rare books, approximately 150,000 pages of sheet music, and 7.5 million manuscripts. The single most important book in the collection may be a first edition of the Gutenberg Bible (New Testament, circa 1450), one of fewer than 50 copies known to exist. Other gems include John James Audubon’s *The Birds of America*; the Slocum Puzzle Collection, with more than 30,000 mechanical puzzles; 11 of 007 author Ian Fleming’s manuscripts; George Washington’s letter accepting the presidency of the United States; the personal papers of poet Ezra Pound and writer Upton Sinclair; original sheet music and personal letters of songwriter and Bloomington native Hoagy Carmichael; and famously, Jack Kerouac’s original 120-foot-long manuscript of *On the Road*, the defining work of the postwar Beat generation. Maybe the best thing about The Lilly Library is, unlike most other libraries of its kind, visitors have permission to handle nearly everything it houses. —CS

69

THE MCROBBIES IU PRESIDENT & FIRST LADY

As Herman B Wells was the right president to lead Indiana University in the mid-20th century, Michael A. McRobbie, in his first nine years as president, has proven to be the right leader for IU in the 21st century.

He has been the architect of an expansive academic transformation, notably creating a School of Global and International Studies and reorganizing communication-related fields into The Media School. A new engineering program will debut this fall in IU's School of Informatics and Computing, and a new School of Art and Design has been created in the College of Arts and Sciences.

At times it seems as though McRobbie is in a different country every day, forming academic alliances with top universities around the globe. In fact, the president's international strategic plan identifies 30 countries of particular importance to IU, and he has focused on creating strong partnerships in those nations. As a result, IU ranks in the top 15 of 1,200 U.S. institutions in both the number of foreign students on IU campuses and the number of IU students who study abroad.

During McRobbie's tenure, IU has continued to grow its research enterprise, generating around \$500 million in external awards each year. Going forward, IU has launched a 5-year, \$300 million Grand Challenges research initiative that will provide seed funding to the university's top researchers, helping them tackle the most challenging issues facing the world today.

A commitment to affordability has been another McRobbie priority, and IU remains one of the best values in public higher education, in part because of a significant

increase in scholarship support, especially for Indiana resident students.

IU first lady, Laurie Burns McRobbie, has been a force for good, tirelessly immersing herself in the Bloomington community. She is a board member and capital campaign chair for Middle Way House, one of six National Domestic Violence Model Programs; on the board of WonderLab (see #21); on the community advisory board of the Academy of Science and Entrepreneurship high school; a director of the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County (see #78); and member of 100+ Women Who Care, to name a few of her involvements. She is also the driving force behind Serve IT, a service-learning course offered by the School of Informatics and Computing whereby IT students supply free information technology services to area nonprofit organizations.

It is doubtful that in its 200-year history, IU has ever seen a president and first lady as insightful, forward-looking, and industrious as Michael and Laurie McRobbie.



Photo by Darryl Smith

70



Chad Rabinovitz, Paul Daily, and Randy White

OUR IMPRESARIOS MAKE MOMENTOUS THEATER

The singular accomplishments of our impresarios — Randy White, Chad Rabinovitz, and Paul Daily— are significant. But taken together, their roles in developing a robust, high-quality theater scene in Bloomington are momentous. White founded Cardinal Stage Company in 2006 with the dream of developing a professional regional theater company. Ten years later, Cardinal has grown into the largest arts organization in Bloomington and arguably the best theater company in the state, presenting plays such as *August: Osage County* and *Les Misérables* that rivaled the quality of the Broadway originals. And where else, in a city this size, could theater lovers see original plays like those presented at Bloomington Playwrights Project? Rabinovitz, producing artistic director since 2009, has erased six-figure debt, doubled BPP's budget, purchased its building, and sold out every performance for two years running. Daily, artistic director of the Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center, has established a theater program that creates opportunities for students, artists, and community groups. "Bravi!" —BB

71

SERIOUS ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY

Bike lanes crisscrossing the city. Walkable neighborhoods and shopping districts. Dozens of organizations and hundreds of dedicated activists working to green our houses, businesses, public facilities, and everything else that's green-able. By any measure, Bloomington is a city dedicated to sustainable living.

Local nonprofits, including Earth Care, Southern Indiana Renewable Energy Network, and the Center for Sustainable Living (to name only a few) have initiated many successful efforts, including a faith-based initiative to raise awareness about climate change, programs to educate people about alternative energy sources, and recycling drives.

The City of Bloomington has also pitched in, creating more bike lanes and programs offering free energy audits to homeowners. Hybrid electric buses transport students and townspeople.

And IU, through its Office of Sustainability, has gone to great lengths to make the university more environmentally friendly. It offers a variety of programs for students, staff, and faculty, from the Energy Challenge that encourages friendly competition to see which buildings and groups can conserve the most energy to the Hoosier to Hoosier Community Sale that has intercepted more than 230 tons of reusable items from students and community residents since the event began in 2010.

Bloomington may not be perfectly sustainable, but thanks to our collective determination to do right by the planet, we're getting closer every day.

72



A game of pickleball. Photo by Jenn Hamm

GOLF, TENNIS, BOWLING, SKATING, BILLIARDS, AND PICKLEBALL WE'VE GOT IT ALL!

When it comes to getting and staying active, Bloomington makes it easy. There are public tennis courts at the Winslow Sports Complex, Bryan Park, Southeast Park, Park Ridge Park, Sherwood Oaks, and RCA Community Park.

Golfers need look no further than the IU Golf Course for an 18-hole championship course. The open-to-the public facility includes an adjoining nine-hole, par three course on the wooded 250-acre property. The City maintains what it calls three "fun, fair, and fast to play" nine-hole courses at Cascades Golf Course.

A large group of pickleball enthusiasts meets every Saturday morning and on evenings throughout the week at RCA Community Park where there are several public courts. Public courts can also be found at Karst Farm Park, and Twin Lakes Recreation Center has indoor courts available for members.

Classic Bowling Lanes has been completely remodeled and offers open bowling as well as leagues. The Indiana Memorial Union has 12 bowling lanes and nine billiards tables. And October to March, there's open skating every day of the week at the City's Frank Southern Ice Arena. —CS

73

BLOMINGTON AND THE MOVIES

For a town solidly situated in the Midwest, Bloomington sure has a lot of Hollywood connections. Of course there are films about our town, such as 1979's Academy Award-winning *Breaking Away* and 2004's *Kinsey*. But we also have outstanding filmmakers living in our midst, among them Angelo Pizzo and David Anspaugh, the writing and directing team that brought us *Hoosiers* and *Rudy*.

Films are made here, too. In January, Bloomington was the location for *The Good Catholic*, a film written and directed by IU alumnus Paul Shoulberg, who lives in Brown County. The film stars another IU grad, Zach Spicer, along with Danny Glover and John C. McGinley.



Scene from *Breaking Away*. Courtesy photo

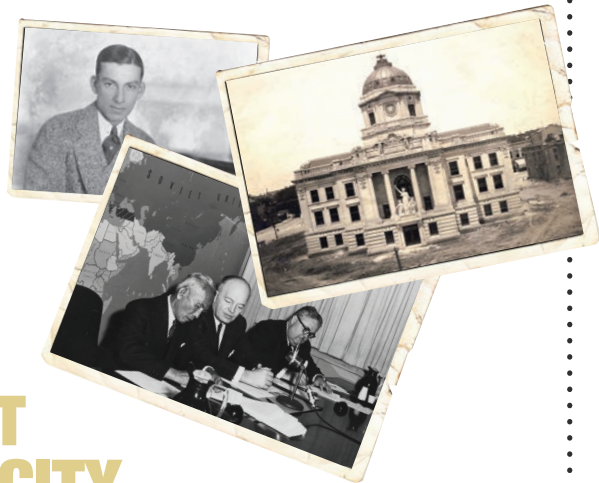
If you just want to catch a great flick, we've got that covered, too. Not only can you watch films and hear from award-winning filmmakers at IU Cinema (see # 30), but we also have two film festivals each year. Since 2003, the Bloomington PRIDE Film Festival has given us screenings, performances, and a celebration of the LGBTQ+ community that makes January a bit more bearable. And the Middle Coast Film Festival just celebrated its third year bringing films and filmmakers to Bloomington in July. —CS

74

OUR HISTORY BIG FOOTPRINT FOR A SMALL CITY

In 1910, Bloomington was the mean center of the U.S. population, reflecting the pivotal role the community has played in American history. In the mid-1800s, it was a stop on the Underground Railroad. After the Civil War, quarrymen began harvesting limestone that was eventually used to build the Empire State Building, the Pentagon, and Yankee Stadium, not to mention the Monroe County Courthouse and much of IU.

Meanwhile, T.C. Steele made his mark on 20th-century impressionist painting; Hoagy Carmichael lit up the jazz scene; and Herman B Wells made lasting changes to higher education both at IU and by his prescient emphasis on global intellectual collaboration, which he cultivated via international work during and after World War II, earning him a Nobel Peace Prize nomination.



The present town reflects this rich history, with many 19th- and early-20th-century buildings still standing. The downtown Square, laid out in 1818, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It contains the building that housed the 1847 Faulkner Hotel (now the Walnut Street Inn and an Indian restaurant) and the Wicks Building, part of which dates to the 1850s. The Monroe County Courthouse itself was built in 1907, and the fish atop its weather-vane dates to 1826. Other noteworthy sites include the Princess Theater, built in 1892; the Johnson Creamery building from 1912; and the Showers Building that once housed the world's largest furniture factory and is now Bloomington City Hall.

Photos courtesy Archives of Traditional Music at Indiana University, Monroe County History Center, and IU Archives

75

A FAMILY-FRIENDLY TOWN

Families take many different forms and Bloomington welcomes them all. Those with children find the city especially appealing. This is a place where youngsters are encouraged to attend concerts, visit museums, and eat at restaurants alongside grownups. But there are also plenty of kid-oriented

activities, from art classes at the The Waldron to exploring the wonders of science at WonderLab. There's plenty of recreational fun to be had, too, from swimming at Bryan Park or Mills pools in the summer to skating at Frank Southern Ice Arena in the winter to hiking at Lake Monroe and Griffy Lake any time of year. There's even a skateboard park at Upper Cascades Park (2602 N. Kinser Pike). Bloomington is known for its quality schools, but learning opportunities abound, from programs at Monroe County Public Library to the classes, shows, museums, and galleries on the IU campus. With so many ways to explore, play, and learn, it's easy to see why Bloomington is an exceptional place to raise a family! —CS

76



Photo by Ben Weller

ARBUTUS CUNNINGHAM STORYTELLER

You think you don't want to listen, that you haven't the patience, that stories are for children, that you'll be bored. Then suddenly you are transported, swept away by the melodious, mysterious, sweet-as-sarsaparilla voice of Arbutus Cunningham as she takes you on an exotic journey to her everyday world.

This is how she is described on her Facebook page: "Arbutus is a cranky old woman who doesn't like anyone and who likes to talk bad about the government, floss, smoke hand-rolled cigarettes and drink scotch. She occasionally shows up to co-host a weekly radio show, *Old Time Train 45*, on WFHB Radio.... Originally from South Texas, she's now happy as a clam in the rolling green hills of southern Indiana, but would, if fate would grant it, hop a freight train to a different destination every day of the week."

Cunningham is a much-loved Indiana icon who has performed with Carrie Newcomer, Krista Detor, and other notable musicians. An award-winning author and storyteller, she has released three CDs of short stories; her most recent is titled *Mostly Shorts*.

77

JOHN HAMILTON A MAYOR WHO CARES



Courtesy photo

Although recently elected, one thing we know for sure about our mayor: He cares. John Hamilton has served as secretary of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration where he oversaw the implementation of Medicaid and welfare programs, and services for the elderly, disabled, mentally ill, and children at risk. He has also served as commissioner of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management where he oversaw the protection of the state's air, water, and land. Locally, Hamilton has chaired the board of the Shalom Community Center, the daytime resource center for people living in poverty. Not only is he kind, "his honor" also comes from a good family — he's the nephew of Lee Hamilton (see #2) and the husband of Dawn Johnsen (see #7).

78

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF BLOOMINGTON AND MONROE COUNTY

Anyone can be a philanthropist and the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County makes it possible for everyone to make a difference. By connecting people with a wide variety of worthy causes, this nonprofit organization makes grants, offers expertise, and leads in collaboration to enhance the vitality of our community today and for the future.

Donors can achieve their charitable goals by creating new funds or by supporting one of 210 existing Community Foundation funds in a range of areas including education,

animal welfare, the arts, health, recreation, and the environment. Donors can also support unrestricted funds that allow the Community Foundation to address Monroe County's ever-changing needs through strategic grant-making and innovative responses to community challenges. As an example, the Community Foundation has provided more than \$1 million in resources over the last five years to improve the capacity and quality of early childhood education in Monroe County. Thanks to critical funding and training, more children have been able to access quality preschool programs and enter kindergarten better prepared.

In 27 years, the Community Foundation has awarded more than \$24 million to 400 nonprofit organizations and seeks to create lasting change and build a better community for all.

79

INDIANA UNIVERSITY GRADS IN ALMOST ANY FIELD, YOU'LL FIND A HOOSIER AT OR NEAR THE TOP

Spend a few years in Bloomington and you turn into a star — or so the careers of IU grads might suggest. Among the more famous faces are those of Oscar winner Kevin Kline, broadcasters Jane Pauley and Tavis Smiley, sportscaster Joe Buck, and Metropolitan Opera diva Sylvia McNair.

Music legends Hoagy Carmichael and Booker T. Jones were IU students, as was Chris Botti and violin great Joshua Bell. Three-time Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Michel duCille also studied here. We've turned out tycoons such as billionaire owner of the Dallas Mavericks Mark Cuban and Hollywood visionaries such as Batman movie producer Michael Uslan. Former Bloomington students reveal scientific mysteries, such as Nobel Prize-winner James Watson, who helped discover the



Kevin Kline. Courtesy photo; Booker T. Jones. Photo courtesy Shore Fire Media; Will Shortz. Photo by Ben Weller

structure of DNA. They also run the government. IU alums include former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and former members of Congress Lee Hamilton, Birch Bayh, and Evan Bayh. The latter also served as governor, along with IU grads Frank O'Bannon and Edgar Whitcomb. And, lest we forget, an IU grad also rules the crossword world — *New York Times* Puzzle Editor Will Shortz. —EA

80

WE CAN'T GET ENOUGH THEATER



Gladys DeVane (left) and Mijiza Soyini in *Having Our Say*. Photo courtesy Cardinal Stage Company

Live theater is our passion, our pastime, and part of our fabric. Opportunities to experience outstanding performances by local actors and visiting professionals in original plays and Broadway and off-Broadway productions are arguably unrivaled in a city of Bloomington's size.

Since its inception in 2006, Cardinal Stage Company has presented more than 50 productions, from children's shows and large-cast Broadway musicals to Shakespeare and avant-garde theater — and provided free and reduced-price tickets for disadvantaged children. Bloomington Playwrights Project is the only professional theater in Indiana dedicated to new plays and has given thousands of children the chance to perform and write their own plays. Since 2010, when Ivy Tech

Community College acquired the John Waldron Arts Center, Ivy Tech Student Productions has made steady progress as the new theater company in town, and IU Theater offers a season of seven or eight plays every year. The Jewish Theatre of Bloomington is celebrating its 10th season, producing works reflecting the Jewish experience and focusing on universal issues. Bloomington High School North and South have outstanding theater programs, while Stages Bloomington has provided theater education and performance opportunities for children and teens since 2005. And if you didn't make it to New York City to see that much-talked-about musical, chances are that a touring company will eventually bring it to IU Auditorium — probably more than once!

81

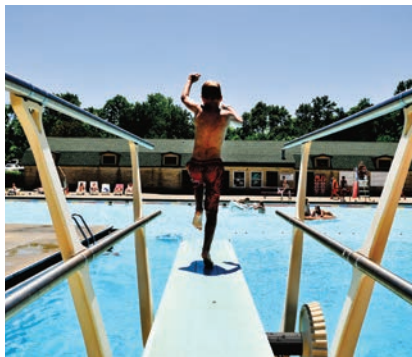


Photo by Ben Weller

WE HAVE PARKS APLENTY

Whether you want to walk your dog, ride your bike, play tennis, swim, take your toddlers to a jungle gym, or just sit and watch the world go by, with parks located all over the city, Bloomington is bound to have the right park for you. For nine consecutive years, Bloomington has been recognized with a Playful City USA designation by KaBOOM, a national nonprofit dedicated to increasing play spaces. Maybe that's because the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department oversees 19 parks with playgrounds. Centrally located, Bryan Park is popular for its wide-open spaces, walking trails, "tot lot" playground (complete with Dimetrodon dinosaur limestone bench), not to mention its huge swimming pool with water slides. Visit Cascades Park to play on the largest playground in the city. For other kinds of activity, visit Ferguson Dog Park or Wapehani Mountain Bike Park, the first mountain bike park in the state. Our parks also host concerts, storytelling, and movie nights. —BB

82



Photo by Shannon Zahnle

JENNIE VAUGHAN CHANCELLOR OF IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE- BLOOMINGTON

Following in the footsteps of the charismatic, dynamic Chancellor John Whitehart wasn't going to be easy, but Jennie Vaughan brought her own refreshing, disarming, collaborative style of leadership to the job and easily won over faculty, staff, and students. "I feel so fortunate to have worked with one fabulous boss and now another," gushed a senior administrator shortly after Vaughan was promoted to the post in May 2014. Since then, Vaughan has launched a \$4 million capital building campaign and surpassed the goal; acquired key partnerships with local industries to educate and credential employees through Ivy Tech's Achieve Your Degree program; engaged with the community through an e-newsletter and weekly radio program; and increased diversity hiring of faculty and staff, among other achievements. Plus, she probably knows more students personally than any chancellor in the universe!

83

HIGH FASHION—FUGGETABOUTIT!

Dress code? Doesn't exist in Bloomington. You can wear practically anything anywhere.

Women are free to develop their own sense of style, no need for conformity here.

Men donning ties are rarer than sightings of bald eagles. "In 10 years, I've worn a tie maybe 10 times," says Malcolm Abrams, editor and publisher of *Bloom*.

A night at the opera — a man in jeans and a short-sleeved shirt (to show off his tattooed "sleeves") and a woman in a tie-dyed granny dress sitting next to a gent in a tuxedo and his date in a formal gown. And no one feels under- or overdressed. That's Bloomington — the No Fashion Capital of mid-America.

84

cities, those in Bloomington ranked number one when it came to work-life balance. The study looked at commute time, income, and cost of living, among other criteria. While those things are all great, it doesn't hurt that the mean weekly hours worked were just 31.9, giving us more time to enjoy life outside of our 9-to-5 existence. —CS

WORK-LIFE BALANCE

When it comes to managing work-life balance, Bloomington folks are onto something. An August 2014 report released by *NerdWallet* and published in *Forbes* magazine found that among full-time, year-round workers in the country's 536 largest



85

MONROE COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

As Indiana celebrates its 200th anniversary, the Monroe County History Center is offering Bicentennial Tours tracing the

state's history — from the territorial years to early statehood to present-day Indiana. Upcoming tours to our first state capital in Corydon on August 20 and to Indianapolis on October 22 will let people learn from experts, visit places not otherwise publicly open, and walk in historical figures' footsteps. The center routinely provides hands-on educational programs to youth and lifelong learners at its site, 202 E. 6th St. There, visitors can peruse interesting permanent and rotating museum exhibits, use the library for research, and discover Monroe County history. —BB

86

WE LOVE TO CELEBRATE FOOD!

What's not to love about a city that celebrates winter doldrums with The Week of Chocolate? For more than 17 years, Bloomington has enjoyed a community-wide festival created to give local nonprofits an opportunity to raise money and awareness for their organizations while giving the rest of us the opportunity to enjoy a whole lot of chocolate. Events are held throughout the week, all with a chocolate theme, from Chocolate Bingo to the Art of Chocolate, where guests pair local wines with different chocolates.



Photo by Scott Higgins

The Taste of Bloomington is by far Bloomington's favorite food event, and it's been going on for more than 30 years. Each June, dozens of local restaurants, food trucks, breweries, and wineries set up in Showers Common. When you add in live entertainment and kids' activities, what you have is one of the best parties of the summer.

The star of the show may be the stinking rose, and you'll find it in everything from garlic burgers to garlic ice cream, but the

Bloomington Garlic Fest & Community Art Fair also offers a showcase for local artists, live music, a kid zone, and a beer garden. This free festival takes place over Labor Day weekend at Third Street Park.

And if you can't wait for a big event, there's always Food Truck Friday, hosted at Smith's Shoe Center on the south side and The Chocolate Moose closer to downtown. —CS

87

TOBY STROUT & MIDDLE WAY HOUSE

Middle Way House, a shelter and advocacy center for victims of intimate partner violence, has a long history in Bloomington, and Toby Strout has a long history with Middle Way House. When she was named executive director in 1987, Strout had already served on its board of directors for several years. Since then, Strout has overseen big changes in the nonprofit. While Middle Way House still offers a 24-hour crises line and emergency shelter to victims of violence, it also provides legal advocacy programs, transitional housing, sexual assault and human trafficking support services, and violence prevention education. A big boost for Middle Way House came when Academy Award-nominated actor Jesse Eisenberg offered to donate \$100,000 to help pay off the mortgage on the nonprofit's administrative headquarters in the historic Coca-Cola Bottling Plant on South Washington Street. Eisenberg, a Strout family friend, has seen the program grow over the past 15 years. In response to his offer, Middle Way House created the "I'm with Jesse" campaign and encouraged in-kind donations. By the end of June, the fund had raised \$350,000, and donations are still being accepted.

Strout says it is unfortunate the work of Middle Way House is still necessary. Instead of responding to crises, the goal is to prevent violent relationships, and to that end, she says, future programming will expand prevention education to even younger children. "The earlier you can start, the better," she says. "We need to develop critical thinking at a very early age and start getting people to evaluate their behavior on the basis of their values." —CS



Photo by Ben Weller

88

THE IU AUDITORIUM

Built as a Federal Works Agency Project out of locally quarried Indiana limestone, the IU Auditorium opened in 1941, and since that time, its 3,200-seat theater has offered the Bloomington community the opportunity to see touring Broadway shows, renowned musicians and comedians, and performing artists of every ilk. An evening at the IU Auditorium might mean seeing a revival of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *South Pacific* or hearing multiple Grammy winner Yo-Yo Ma, but you could just as easily rock out with local favorite John Mellencamp or get some laughs with former *Daily Show* host Jon Stewart.



Benton murals in the outer lobby of the IU Auditorium. Photo courtesy Indiana University

IU Auditorium also hosts university ceremonies and is home to Thomas Hart Benton's "Century of Progress" murals, the priceless Dailey Family Memorial Collection of Hoosier Art, two Robert Laurent sculptures, and the regal Indiana University Auditorium Organ. —CS

89

A CITY OF GARDENS

When the weather warms up, Bloomington residents gleefully dive into the dirt, resulting in the many beautiful gardens seen around town. The City of Bloomington also maintains splendid displays of flowers and greenery in sidewalk and roadway planters and public spaces. Community gardening is a long-valued tradition here as well. Gardeners grab plots at the City's Butler Park and Willie Streeter Community Gardens, growing mainly fruits and vegetables. But more than that, in 2015, community gardens around the city generated 21,000 pounds of fresh vegetables and fruits for the Plant a Row for the Hungry program, which was then distributed to various agencies by the



The garden of Emilie and Tom Schwen. Photo by James Kellar

Hoosier Hills Food Bank. The volunteers and staff at Mother Hubbard's Cupboard work with patrons to teach them how to start their own at-home garden in the Hub Community Garden Program, where they grow organic produce for the food pantry. Other gardening efforts include Indiana

University's Hilltop Garden and Nature Center where students and community members learn about gardening and the publicly owned and volunteer-maintained Bloomington Community Orchard, one of the only projects of its kind in the nation. —BB

90

WE'RE A CIRCUS TOWN!

When 17-year-old Henry Gentry started training his pets to do circus tricks, he couldn't have imagined he was setting a precedent for future generations of Bloomingtonians. Young Henry and his brothers bought a train car and began traveling with a show they called "Gentry's Equine and Canine Paradox." By 1887, they opened the Gentry Brothers Circus, which by 1910, was the largest traveling show in the United States. It finally folded in 1934.

But there must be something in the air. Literally. In 1985, Bernadette Pace founded a high-flying trapeze troupe — the Bloomington High Flyers. Over the years, the group has taught circus arts and performed shows all across Bloomington and the country. Members have gone on to perform with other troupes and have traveled in circuses around the world.

In 2009, Paula Chambers, Evangeline Fellows, and Laurel Leonetti founded



Photo by Darryl Smith

the Hudsucker Posse, a group that embraced the art of hula hooping. Now the group is a flow arts collective and includes folks doing everything from hooping and juggling to poi and fire staff. The group's contributions to the city's festivals and other special events, its free flow jams in Bryan Park, and its promotion of healthy body awareness were recognized last year when Mayor Mark Krusan named July 4, 2015, "Hudsucker Posse Day."

With other artists and studios offering classes in a variety of aerial and ground-based arts, Bloomington is the place to be, whether you want to join the circus or just spend a few hours a week feeling like maybe you could. —CS

92

WE GET MORE CREATIVE AS WE AGE

Life begins at 50 — or at least it seems like it does in Bloomington. The Area 10 Agency on Aging's Endwright Center gives those ages 50+ a place to learn new skills, brush up on old ones, and share their talents. There's something for mind, body, and spirit: fitness and nutrition programs, classes in creative arts and computers, gardening and outdoor education, and music lessons and performances. The City's Twin Lakes Recreation Center offers several Adult (50+) Free Programs (no membership required) Monday through Friday. Classes range from instruction in foreign languages to folk dancing to a



The Bell Trace Ukulele Club. Photo by Tyagan Miller

drop-in bridge club. And each May since 2011, the Creative Aging Festival has celebrated the artistic talents of older adults, promoted intergenerational understanding through shared traditions and storytelling, and increased awareness about the value of creative engagement to our health and well-being as we age. It's a city-wide celebration with lectures, art exhibitions, yoga workshops, musical performances, and a general sense that we're not just getting older, we're getting better all the time. —CS

93



Photo by Tall + Small Photography

BUSKIRK-CHUMLEY THEATER

The Buskirk-Chumley Theater is one of Bloomington's oldest entertainment venues. Built in 1922 as the Indiana Theater, it first showed silent movies accompanied by a pipe organ. Bands played on the bandstand, and rumor has it Hoagy Carmichael led his first band, The Collegians, there from 1925 to 1928. A 1933 fire destroyed much of the building; its reconstruction led to a new look, including the theater's iconic dog-bone marquee.

In 1995, Kerasotes Theatres donated the building to the Bloomington Area Arts Council to be used as a performing arts center. Now owned by the City of Bloomington and operated by the nonprofit BCT Management, Inc., the Buskirk-Chumley hosts more than 200 events each year, from local fundraisers such as Dancing with the Celebrities to big-ticket events. Stars who have graced its stage recently include The Temptations, Joan Baez, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Emmylou Harris, Tig Notaro, Lyle Lovett, Keb' Mo', and the Indigo Girls. —CS

94

OUR FUTURE TECH PARK

Developing The Trades District, a 12-acre tract within the 65-acre downtown certified technology park, is an exciting prospect that City officials hope brands Bloomington as a lively tech sector hub and a sought-after model of modern, sustainable urban redevelopment. The City is working with several technology companies interested in locating within the district north of West 10th Street and west of Morton Street, says Linda Williamson, interim director of economic and sustainable development. The first proposed project calls for 35–40 units of affordable housing featuring energy-efficient technologies, including solar. Mayor John Hamilton is leading efforts to create a street grid design to enhance connectivity within the area and with nearby amenities such as Butler Park and the B-Line Trail. The Bloomington Redevelopment Commission also has agreed with the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation to redevelop the Showers Dimension Mill for entrepreneurial ventures. These plans will go a long way to retain and attract employment and investment in The Trades District and downtown. —BB

95

THE UNITY OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITIES

Like any city, Bloomington is home to multiple faith communities. But in a time when there is division among religious groups in some places, here there is respect for the beliefs of all and an effort to work together for the common good.

Each month the Monroe County Religious Leaders meets to address its primary concerns: care for the earth, homelessness, health care reform, and criminal justice. Rev. Mary Ann Macklin, senior minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church, says, "Our interfaith efforts have addressed hate crimes with healing, ignorance with education, sorrow with comfort, and success with

celebration. What a gift as we each seek life's meaning together and separately."

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day this year, an interfaith celebration was held at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, with each faith offering blessings. An Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance at the Unitarian Universalist Church collected funds for Exodus Refugee Immigration in Indianapolis. And an interfaith Habitat for Humanity build is planned for 2017. These efforts are representative of the unity of our faith communities and their caring for our fellow citizens and those less fortunate around the world. —BB

91

TRAFFIC? WHAT TRAFFIC?

It seems whenever you ask someone how long it takes to get somewhere in Bloomington, the answer is "About 15 minutes." In fact, a *Forbes* article in 2014 noted that the mean travel time to work in Bloomington was just 15.2 minutes. You can even live in the country, deep in the woods on a secluded back road, and still drive into town in less than 30 minutes. Sure, we have our rush hours when everyone is trying to get to work or get back home at the end of the day. Then it might take you a good 20 minutes to make your commute. And there are times when the things that make Bloomington such a great place to live — like an IU basketball game or a festival — might make traffic snarl a bit. But given the amenities we enjoy, we can only say: Traffic? What traffic? —CS



IU's Yogi Farrell. Photo courtesy of IU Athletics

96

IU SPORTS

For the second time in the last four years, the IU men's basketball team won the Big Ten Championship and reached the NCAA's Sweet 16, defeating its archrival, the Kentucky Wildcats, along the way. The women's basketball team also made it to the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2002. IU was the only school to have both basketball teams finish the season with undefeated home records. The much-improved IU football team made its first bowl appearance since 2007, losing a close one to Duke

University in the New Era Pinstripe Bowl played at Yankee Stadium in New York City. Lilly King was named National Swimmer of the Year and is one of 14 IU athletes competing in this year's Summer Olympic Games in Brazil. And in the classroom, 243 IU student-athletes earned Academic All-Big Ten distinction.

Go Hoosiers!

97

OUR REPUTATION WE DON'T LIKE TO BRAG, BUT...

What can we say, Bloomington is well loved — and we have the accolades to prove it. In 2015, Bloomington was listed among *Business Insider's* “10 Best Cities for Educated Millennials” and *The Huffington Post's* “10 Best Cities for College Grads.” But Bloomington isn't just for those of college age or recent grads. In 2014, *Condé Nast Traveler* named Bloomington as one of its “Best College Towns for People Who Aren't in College,” and our fair city frequently shows up on lists of top places to retire, such as the 2012 *Forbes* list and the AARP list in 2011.

Forbes ranks Bloomington 23rd in its list of “The Best Small Places for Business and Careers.” We're also named as one of the 10 best places for small businesses and careers by *Forbes*, and one of the lowest-stress cities by *Psychology Today*.

Men's Journal has called Bloomington one of the top five places to live, *National Geographic* named it among its top 50 adventure towns, and *The Advocate* designated it as the number one gay- and lesbian-friendly small town in America.

And if you want to have fun, we've got you covered. Bloomington's been named one of “America's Quirkiest Towns” by *Travel+Leisure*, made the list of “America's 50 Best Farmers' Markets” in *Cooking Light*, and in 2016 we were once again named a Playful City USA by the national nonprofit KaBOOM! The list really could go on and on, but we don't like to brag. —CS

98

OUR ARCHITECTURAL TREASURES

The natural landscape surrounding Bloomington is stunning, but impressive architectural gems sprinkled all over add to the city's charm and historic vibe.

In the 1980s, a \$5 million renovation of the Monroe County Courthouse saved it from destruction. And the buildings that make up our downtown Square offer an interesting collection depicting the evolution of American architecture, says Eric Sandweiss, architecture historian.

On the IU campus, the Eskenazi Museum of Art, designed by architect I.M. Pei is a “big statement building” important for its unique design and representing IU's artistic aspirations, says Sandweiss.



Photo by Erin Stephenson

In town, Sandweiss points to lesser-known charms, such as the modernist, wood-framed houses dotting the east side, designed by Bloomington architect Elaine Doenges in 1940s to '50s. Add to that the renovated Showers Plaza, former location of Showers Brothers Furniture and now home to Bloomington City Hall and a research park, and it's easy to see that our town offers some truly distinct architectural treasures. —BB

99

WE'RE A LOW-STRESS PLACE

A report in *The Huffington Post* noted that college towns are often among the least stressful places to live. Why? Because universities tend to provide stable employment with good wages and reasonable work hours, plus the cost of living in college towns is generally lower than in cities of similar size despite a relatively high quality of life. The things that relieve stress count



as well, and Bloomington's got those: plenty of opportunities and places to exercise plus numerous entertainment venues. Add to that the results of a *CBS News* report that found Bloomington has 0.7 yoga studios per 10,000 residents (which is actually high) and it's no wonder we find ourselves less stressed than most folks. —CS

100

THE PEOPLE OF BLOOMINGTON

In the end, it's the people who make a place, and our town is filled with wonderful and interesting people. We are also caring, generous, and empathetic — supporting more than 1,000 charities and nonprofit cultural organizations.

We have all kinds of town characters and people of every economic and cultural bent, but what we almost all have in common is a love for this quirky small city. None of us have to live here. We weren't transferred here by some mega-corporation. Nobody moved here to make big bucks in a mine or factory. We were born here and stayed or came to study at IU and never left or went away and came back because we realized there was no place we'd rather live. Some of us had whole careers in other cities but retired here because it was our dream to return; we're known as Bloomerangs.

Here's a sample of the people in our town.

Photos by James Kellar

