



The aim of Pathfinder Services is a community in which all people, regardless of abilities, are accepted and have control of their own destinies.

# “The Path to Homes People can Afford”



## Notes From the Director



I can remember, many years ago, when we first started talking about our “environment” and the ecology movement. This meant an awareness that issues as large as nuclear waste and as small as dropping a gum wrapper on the street were harmful to our environment. The term “ecology” has not been heard much lately, but just a few years ago, we started hearing about “going green”. The “green movement” also has a goal to save our environment and protect the Earth, but the focus is now more on protecting the ozone layer, saving energy, and using sources such as the sun for heating rather than depending on gas and oil.

April 22, 2008 is Earth Day. I know it is not a national holiday, but it is a time for each of us to think about what we can do to be a little more aware of protecting our land, water and air. This newsletter focuses on “green” issues to help us all see how easy it is to make small changes that can really make a large

difference.

Community Connections and Pathfinder Services, Inc. takes this movement quite seriously. In Huntington, we run a recycling service that picks up residential and commercial recycling on a regular basis. The homes we build through the grants we receive from the State meet several “green” and Energy Star standards. We encourage our staff to recycle and provide receptacles for bottles and cans. We recycle our paper waste, shredding confidential documents before bagging.

Please join us in this effort. Most things take very little, if any, extra work, and can make a great difference.

*Jan Baumgartner*

Jan Baumgartner  
Community Connections  
Director



### Go Green

A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons of water a day. Check for leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If you have a leak, color will appear in the bowl within 15 minutes. Flush as soon as you’re done with this test to avoid staining the tank, then fix the leak as soon as possible.

### Go Green

Replace older refrigerators with new, efficient ones. Refrigerators made before 1993 use twice as much energy as the new ENERGY STAR-qualified models. This will save \$45 to \$65 a year in energy costs.

### Go Green

Wash only full loads in your washer, or set the water level to a lower level for smaller loads. This can save as much as 3,400 gallons of water a year. Use the “cold” setting (with a cold-water laundry detergent) or “warm” setting whenever possible. Heating water to “hot” accounts for 90 percent of the machine’s washing energy; only 10 percent goes to power the motor. Switching to “cold” can save the average household more than \$400 annually with an electric water heater, \$300 annually with a gas heater.

## Newsletter Info

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Go Green Tips Throughout this newsletter!  
Call Community Connections at (800) 310-9510 with news, ideas, and comments on how

we can help you.  
Budgeting guidelines or suggestions? Tell us and we’ll tell everyone!  
Got questions on homeownership, maintenance, or anything else? Ask us and we’ll find the answer!





# Earth Day– April 22nd



The following article is from [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org), a website dedicated to environmental issues:

### 1. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

It sounds simple but it really works. Get in the habit of incorporating the “three R’s” into products you use on a daily basis. This process can have an effect on *what* you choose to buy. It also affects how you *use* and *dispose* of things you already have.

### 2. Green Your Garage

Chances are you’ve got more than a few items sitting in the garage that you don’t know what to do with. They could be:

- Household cleaners
- Paint/paint thinners, Electronics/ batteries
- Old sports equipment
- Car care products

Not all of this stuff can be recycled. But it can all be reused and/or properly disposed. Contact your local recycler. Your community may also be holding a special collection event for Earth Day.

### 3. Create a Compost Pile

Earth Day is in late April. Winter is over and gardens are in bloom. One of the key

ingredients to your perfect garden will be nutrient-rich fertilizer. Luckily, you can make your own fertilizer and reduce waste *at the same time*. This is known as composting. You just mix raw food scraps from your kitchen with leaves from your back yard and water.

### 4. Buy Recycled

You likely already do this without knowing it. When products are recycled, this material is used as the main ingredient for new products. So buying recycled content creates a market for recycling. Most times the packaging will be labeled if it is recycled content, so keep an eye out.

### 5. Party Smart

Late April is also a great time for parties. But parties can generate a lot of waste. Here are a few tips for an eco-friendly party:

- Set up recycling bins for aluminum cans, glass and plastic bottles
- Buy large quantities of food and drinks to reduce packaging
- Encourage guests to bring their own glasses and/or plates to reduce waste (there will also be less confusion

about which drink belongs to each person)

### 6. Take Advantage of the Weather

This time of year has some of the nicest weather. Try opening windows instead of running the air conditioning and/or heater. This will also **save some money** on your energy bill.

Nice weather is also a great excuse to **drive less**. Walking helps your health and is better for the air.

### 7. Use Water Wisely

Saving water around the house is important because it is a *limited resource*. Here’s a few easy ways how:

- Take shorter showers
- Put a filled bottle in your toilet tank (less water used per flush)
- Reuse water around the house, such as using cooking water for plants

### 8. Stay Informed

At Earth 911, we’re all about Making Every Day Earth Day™. You can keep the environment top of mind by subscribing to Earth 911’s monthly newsletter or weekly green tips e-mail. They may help you go green, but they won’t cost you any!

## Choose Energy Star

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices. With the help of ENERGY STAR, Americans saved enough energy in 2007 alone to avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 27 million cars all while saving \$16 billion on their utility bills.

ENERGY STAR helps consumers make energy efficient choices. If looking for new household products, consumers should look for ones that have earned the ENERGY STAR. They meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the EPA and US Department of Energy. If buyers are looking for a

new home, they should look for one that has earned the ENERGY STAR. If homeowners are looking to make larger improvements to their home, EPA offers tools and resources to help them plan and undertake projects to reduce energy bills and improve home comfort.

Homeowners who have five minutes and their last 12 months of utility bills, can use the ENERGY STAR Home Energy Yardstick to compare their home’s energy efficiency to similar homes across the country and get recommendations for energy-saving home improvements from ENERGY STAR. The ENERGY STAR Home Energy Yardstick, plus other information about ENERGY STAR can be found at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

## Go Green

Change the air filters in your furnace regularly to save up to 5 percent of heating costs.

## Go Green

Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television or operate a computer for three hours.

## Community Connections is starting a collection of our successes!

**We want you to send us pictures of the home you have purchased through our program! The picture should include your family in front of your house, so we can share with others.**

**Please e-mail the pictures to Jan Baumgartner at: [jbaumgar@pathfinderservices.org](mailto:jbaumgar@pathfinderservices.org), or you can send them via mail to Community Connections, 1316 Flaxmill Road, Huntington, IN 46750. Please call 800-310-9510 with ?’s.**



# Havilah's Dream of Home Ownership



The following story is courtesy of Sherri Divine an employee of Community Connections, about Havilah Bruce who has purchased a home through our program.....

Havilah Bruce originally applied with Community Connections in July of 2005. A single mother who made less than \$20,000 a year with no child support, she discovered that she would need to fix some credit issues before being approved. While waiting for her tax return to come in 2006, to pay off debt, she attended homeownership classes and never gave up hope that she and her

young daughter would be able to own a home of their own.

When that dream finally came true, she was able to meet the nephew of the woman who lived in the house that she decided to purchase. He had been worried about the kind of person who was buying his great aunt's house because of how wonderful she was and all of the happy memories he had of the house.

Havilah proceeded to tell him about how she felt a strange peacefulness in the house whenever she went to look at it and that she loved it and could not wait to move in. He was reassured that

it was "meant to be" that Havilah would be purchasing his relative's house.



Havilah Bruce with her daughter in front of their home

## "Green" Spring Yard Clean Up: Keeping Yard Waste out of Trash Trucks

One of the first yard tasks of Spring is to clean up debris left from last year. This includes leaves, matted grass, and leftover plants that did not get pulled last Fall. According to the website [www.in.gov/recycle](http://www.in.gov/recycle), during the growing season, yard waste can amount to 50% or more of the residential solid waste stream in some Indiana communities.

This website states that yard waste not only takes up valuable landfill space, but can contribute to landfill gas production, acidic leachate production and settling problems as well. Yard waste also reduces the efficiency of incinerators because of the waste's high moisture content. Keeping yard waste out of the trash truck saves money and protects the environment. Yard waste is banned from Indiana's landfills and the open burning of leaves and other yard waste is restricted in Indiana.

The alternative to filling landfills is to compost in your backyard.

According to another Indiana website, [www.in.gov/idem/who/media/factsheets/bkydcomposting.html](http://www.in.gov/idem/who/media/factsheets/bkydcomposting.html), composting is defined as, "A natural process of biological decomposition of organic materials into a stable, soil-like material called humus." More simply, it is material that is piled together to decompose and, over time, it becomes a rich type of soil, similar to the mulch on the floor of a forest. Composting allows insects, earthworms, bacteria, and fungi to "feast on your yard trimmings, turning them into valuable fertilizer."

This website also gives the following benefits of composting:

- **Composting can save you money.** You could save money on garbage collection and recycling fees.
- **Composting turns yard trimmings into resources.** Good compost is expensive to buy, but free for the making. Money does grow on trees with home composting.

- **Composting is convenient.** It's easier to compost yard trimmings than to bag and drag them to the trash can, curb or landfill.
- **Composting benefits soil and plants.** Using compost helps your plants grow healthier and faster by keeping the soil loose and well drained.
- **Composting saves landfill space.** Home composters are one part of the solution in meeting the state's long term disposal needs by reducing the volume of solid waste needing to be landfilled or incinerated.

If you are interested in starting to compost, check out the two websites listed here, or contact your local Department of Solid Waste Management.



## Go Green

Closing light-colored shades or blinds during the day can reduce your home's solar gain by up to 50 percent, thus relieving some of the load on your air conditioning system. In cold weather, closing drapes or blinds at night reduces your home's heat loss by about 5 percent.

## Go Green

Turning up your air conditioning thermostat by a mere 2 degrees in warm weather and turning on a ceiling fan cools with less energy. A/C costs will be lowered by as much as 14 percent over the cooling season, with no sacrifice in your personal comfort. Turn off the fan when you leave the room, though. Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms.

## Go Green

Don't over dry laundry. Not only is it better for your fabrics, it will save energy. An electric dryer operating an extra 15 minutes a load can cost you up to \$34 a year in wasted energy; a gas dryer, \$21 a year. Remember to clean the lint trap before every load.



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**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS,  
 A DIVISION OF PATHFINDER SERVICES, INC.**

1316 Flaxmill Road  
 Huntington, IN 46750

Phone: (260) 356-0521  
 (800) 310-9510

***"The Path to Homes  
 People can Afford"***

**South Pointe Open House set for April 26th**

**Go Green**



**Saturday, April 26th from 1:00 until 4:00**

South Pointe Subdivision off of  
 Highway 13 in Wabash,

*Tour New Homes, Free Food, Chance to win a free gift basket for  
 your home!*

**Tell your friends how they can:**

- *Build your own home for payments as low as \$398/month*
  - *Qualify for interest rates as low as 1%*
  - *Property Tax Abatement for the first 5 years*

**Only a few slots left to receive up to \$25,000 in Down  
 Payment Assistance in South Pointe!!!**

***Earn \$1,000 when your referral closes on a new home in  
 the South Pointe subdivision if you refer someone by April  
 30th! Give us the name and contact information and we  
 will do the rest!! It is that easy!***

**Please call Jan Baumgartner at (800) 310-9510 or  
 via e-mail at [jbaumgar@pathfinderservices.org](mailto:jbaumgar@pathfinderservices.org)**

Generally, it's best to wash dishes in the dishwasher (preferably with full loads) than to do them by hand. Save water by scraping rather than rinsing plates before loading. Dishwashers use 4 to 8 gallons of water per load. Washing by hand for 10 minutes with the faucet running can use as much as 20 gallons of water. Filling the sink uses about 5 gallons or less, but that's 5 gallons for washing, five for rinsing. If all of households without a dishwasher used the fill-the-sink method instead of letting the tap run, Americans could save as much as 100 billion gallons of water

