



Upasana

HINDU TEMPLE OF BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Newsletter 1

January 2008

TEMPLE INAUGURAL PROGRAM

Please plan to attend the first event hosted by your temple.

Date:	Sunday, January 13th 2008
Time:	10:30 am – 2 pm
Location:	One Normal Plaza, Douglas Rd. (next to Mulberry School) off Beech St
Program:	10:30 am 12 pm Ganesh Puja Punyahavachanam Navagraha Puja Vaastu Puja Vishnu Sahasranama Stotra Parayanam Devotional songs Aarati
	12 pm – 1 pm Inauguration of the Temple Banner and the committee Introduction of the Temple Board and Trustees Update on Temple Activities Future Program details
	1 pm – 2 pm Prasaadam distribution.

Priest Srihari from Chicago will be conducting the puja.

Please contact Archana Shekara at 662.7891 and Rani at 663.6030 if you wish to sponsor the puja.
Please bring your copy of Vishnu Sahasranamam if you wish to participate in the chanting.
A limited number of copies of the English transliteration version will be available.

Don't miss this opportunity to participate in your temple's inaugural event.

TEMPLE MISSION & OBJECTIVE

Provide a permanent facility to cater the religious needs of the Hindu community in accordance with traditional Hindu Vedic philosophy that facilitates and encourages a platform for Hindu Vedic religious and spiritual learning.

Temple primary Goals and Objectives are:

- To provide an identity for our local Hindu community
- To provide a permanent place for Satsang, Pujas, Bhajans, Prayers, and related religious Vedic activities for all Hindu Sampradayas
- To provide a permanent place for children and youth to cultivate and nurture a better understanding and preservation of Indian culture, values, languages and related learning
- To provide permanent place for religious discourses, Gita discussions, Yoga, Meditation, and other spiritual learning
- Bring the community together and help serve as a link to our future generation

To achieve these objectives and goals, we need your active and generous support. We request you to join the volunteers list by returning the pledge form available on our website. We need your cooperation and help in contacting as many well wishers as possible. With your kind support and God's blessings we shall make our dream a reality for our children.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TEMPLE

WHAT IS A HINDU TEMPLE?

A place of worship built according to prescribed rules based on Vedic tradition, and is used by the local Hindu community for regular religious activities.

WHY DOES BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL NEED A TEMPLE?

Bloomington-Normal Indian community has grown very large (estimated 5000 people) and is in dire need of a place for community gathering and worship, and the nearest temple is in Peoria or Chicago.

WHAT IS THE VISION FOR PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE?

The proposed construction of the temple will be in several phases.

Phase 1: Land acquisition and zoning for the temple construction.

Phase 2: Temple hall with Utsava moorthi(s) and pictures. Hall is estimated to hold a gathering of approximately 200-300 people. Includes kitchen and bathroom facilities and parking space for approximately 100 cars.

Phase 3: Construction of Gharbhagudi (Sanctum-Santorium), and additional parking.

Phase 4: Temple Gopuram with Kalasham,

Phase 5: Kids library, playground, and flower garden.

Based on the fund collection and community response, these phases can be combined.

WHAT IS THE COST OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE?

Phase 1&2: approximately \$1 - 1.2 million including the land cost.

Phase 3-5: Will be estimated after the completion of Phase 1 and 2.

HAS LAND BEEN PURCHASED FOR THE TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION?

The temple committee has been exploring potential lands surrounding Bloomington-Normal area, and will select a suitable land based on temple funds/donation availability.

WHEN WILL THE TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION START?

The construction of initial phase is estimated to start in the summer of 2008, depending on the community support for temple construction fund.

HOW WILL THE TEMPLE GENERATE MONEY FOR ITS CONSTRUCTION?

Several donors have come forward and donated the seed money which has helped to gain momentum in the project. The temple committee requests the entire community in and around Bloomington-Normal to donate generously in the name of God so our community will be blessed with our own Hindu temple.

IS THE HINDU TEMPLE OPEN FOR ALL?

Yes, the temple is open for all. The temple activities are limited to religious, spiritual and cultural learning in accordance with traditional Hindu Vedic philosophy. Activities that can be conducted in the temple hall will require approval of the temple managing committee in accordance with the temple by-laws.

WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE PLANNED AT THE UPCOMING TEMPLE?

The activities will be decided by the temple managing committee. However, some examples of possible activities are shown below.

Daily/weekly puja for the moortis.

Weekly Balvihar activities

Weekly Bhajans

Regularly scheduled Gita and other scripture studies

Religious discourses

Group/Individual prayer/meditation

Cultural activities that promote devotional dance and music

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Donate generously to make our dream a reality for our kids and future generations. Become a temple volunteer by participating in the temple activities. Register your name, address and email contact using temple website: www.OurHinduTemple.org

Send your suggestions/comments to messages@ourhindutemple.org