

January



Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood

# Bates-Hendricks Newsletter

## *Happy New Year*

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### *Major Jim Reno of IMPD Will Speak*

On Monday, January 7th, at 6:30 p.m., Major Jim Reno of the IMPD South District will speak at the Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association meeting. Major Reno was appointed District chief this fall and will share his vision for law enforcement in the inner city.

Major Reno has spent most of his life on the southeast side of Indianapolis. He grew up near the intersection of Raymond and Arlington and lives on the southeast side today.

He has spent 31 years with IMPD, being as an officer. He has been a detective, worked in internal affairs, human resources, public information, and as the deputy of chief of administration. This fall, he replaced Major Benjamin as the head of South District.

Come prepared to listen, learn, and share your concerns. When the police department and neighbors work together, crime always decreases. Come be part of the solution rather than the problem.

### *Wright Street Block Club Receives \$2,000 Grant*

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The Wright Street Block Club, covering the 1200 and 1300 blocks of Wright Street, has been active for the past three years. These neighbors have discovered the power in working, playing, and living together. They recently participated in the Indianapolis Study Circle program.

In August and September, about a dozen members met for five weeks and discussed their hopes and dreams for their neighborhood. They were provided with \$1,000 to pay for meals, childcare, facilitators, and rewards. At

the end of the process, they identified two major projects for 2008 – establishing more block clubs and creating a neighborhood youth brigade. They will be given \$2,000 in grants to help initiate these projects.

The Youth Brigade will involve a dozen neighborhood youth between the ages of 10-14 in Saturday morning projects that clean up and beautify the neighborhood. They'll earn prizes and participate in celebration events. If you have a youth who might be interested in this program, contact Jim Mulholland at 636-5096.

The Indianapolis Study Circle program is preparing to fund a new set of study circles in 2008. Any block, street, or group of neighbors can apply to be a study circle. If you would like to help organize one on your block, contact Elizabeth Ryan at 974-5741 and she will help you apply.

One lesson seems evident. When neighbors organize, they change their neighborhood. When neighbors hide behind doors and fences, their neighborhoods disintegrate.

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# From the President: The Good Old Days

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I often hear people speak fondly of the good old days in our neighborhood. They talk about feeling safe, of talking to neighbors over backyard fences, of sharing meals and helping each other, of watching each other's children, and of knowing their neighbors. They suggest those days are gone. They also imply those kind of neighborhoods just happened.

I suspect, as with many memories, they are remembering all the good and forgetting all the work. We all do that. My wife tells our children many stories of their birth, but she never tells them how much it hurt. I

don't think good neighborhoods just happen. I think they are created by people willing to put out the effort, to take some risk, and to open their doors.

I've experienced this on Wright Street. I feel safe. I talk to my neighbors over our fences and in each other's homes. We share meals together. We help each other when there is a need. We watch each other's children (and dogs). We know each other.

This is not been easy. It has taken time and work. We've had to open our doors and knock on each other's doors. We've had to learn to

trust one another. But, slowly, we've created the good old days.

I do not think what we've done is special. I think any block in Bates Hendricks can create this experience. It usually takes one or two neighbors to be the first to open the first door, but soon others unlock theirs. I encourage you to come on Monday night and hear more of this story.

Remember, together we can create the next great neighborhood!

*Jim Mulholland*

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## *Fab for Less 2008 Update*

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On October 25<sup>th</sup>, neighbors gathered on the New Jersey Street esplanade to review the initial drawings and ideas for the New Jersey Street transformation. The following ideas are moving from thought to action:

It looks likely that New Jersey Street will get new sidewalks in 2008. We are negotiating with the city about widening the street and adding a sidewalk or path to the middle of the esplanade.

We are working with IPL and SEND on a plan to add 8 historic lights to the esplanade. This will involve trimming the lowest limbs of the present trees.

A landscaping plan for the esplanade is being developed that will probably include planting trees to fill the present gaps, adding a walkway, adding space for public art, and new shrubbery.

We are identifying neighbors willing to work with SEND to transform the fronts of their homes. This may include adding picket fencing to as many homes as possible.

Beginning in January, the three houses owned by SEND will begin to be rehabbed.

If you would like to be a volunteer on the committees that are beginning to form, contact Julie Beaubien at SEND – 634-5079, ext. 21.

**Mark your calendar! The next meeting is Monday, January 7th at 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel United Church of Christ, 402 Prospect St.**

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