

October



Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood

Bates-Hendricks Newsletter

Shirley Lukens, Neighborhood Gardener

When Shirley Lukens retired, she could have chosen a variety of activities – golf, traveling, or simply sitting on her porch at 2315 Prospect. Instead, Shirley decided to take her love of plants and flowers and become a neighborhood gardener. Shirley says, “I began by planting a few flowers at Nelson’s Marathon (at the corner of Shelby and Pleasant Run) and one thing lead to the next.” Today, with the help of Nelson Gum and others, she has transformed a block of Pleasant Run North Drive into a flowerbed of beauty.



Shirley says, “I began by mowing the parkland by the creek. Then I looked into getting permits for planting some flowers, but that was too complicated. I just decided to plant flowers.” Now Shirley has planted one hundred feet of flowers and added a bench. Others helped her by cleaning out the invasive

species growing on the creek banks. Slowly with work and help, a jungle became a garden.

Shirley often gets positive responses about her work with people stopping their cars to thank her. She hopes to continue the transformation with another hundred feet of flowerbeds. When asked why she started planting flowers, Shirley has a simple answer. “No one else was.” One has to wonder how many other things in our neighborhood would change if everyone thought like Shirley does.

“Rebuilding Together” Introduced at October Meeting

Acey Byrd of Rebuilding Together will be our speaker at the October 6th meeting of the Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association at 6:30 p.m. at the Immanuel United Church of Christ at East and Prospect.

Rebuilding Together is an annual event in which union craftspeople focus on making home repairs to a city neighborhood. In April

of 2009, Rebuilding Together will focus on the Bates Hendricks Neighborhood.

Mr. Byrd will explain their program, its history, and their plans for next April.

In addition, he will explain how residents can apply to be one of the homes selected for this program. Ken Gall, of SEND, will be assisting Rebuilding

Together in gathering applications for this program. Ken Gall, of SEND, will be assisting Rebuilding Together in gathering applications and making selections.

As always, the meeting will also review issues of crime, trash, and neighborhood needs. Please join your neighbors as we seek to make Bates Hendricks the next great Indy neighborhood.

Home Repair Program Taking Applications

In April of 2009, hundreds of union craftspeople will descend on Bates Hendricks to offer their expertise to homeowners in our neighborhood. This program, entitled Rebuilding Together, will work on homes and offer electrical, plumbing, and carpentry services. In 2005, homes in the Fountain Square South Neighborhood received bathroom remodeling, painting, new sidewalks, drywall and plaster repair, landscaping, new doors and windows, etc. This work is all done at no cost to the owner, and with no lien. Rebuilding To-

gether worked on about 25 sites in 2005, including a small neighborhood church. They hope to do at least as many sites in Bates Hendricks. Special consideration will be given to senior citizens, minority, or low income homes, but anyone can apply.

Rebuilding Together applications will be available at the October 6th meeting of the Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association or from Ken Gall at SEND, 1030 Orange Street,

317-634-5079 ext. 108. Applications should be turned in by October 10th.

From the President: City Hall and Apathy Jeopardize Downtown Quality of Life

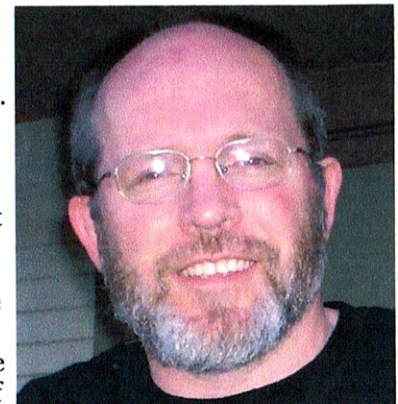
I wanted to cry, to laugh, and to scream.

Mayor Ballard announced in August that he might sell neighborhood pocket parks. He suggested they were a drain on the city budget and might be of commercial value. I wanted to cry when I heard his plan. His comments suggested the mayor is out of touch with neighborhoods. If he lived in the city, he'd know our children have too little green space. They play in the streets. We should be adding and not subtracting parks in city neighborhoods.

But then I had to laugh. As a city dweller, I realize the Mayor isn't going to be able to balance his budget by cutting the dollars they spend on maintaining pocket parks. Why? Because I've seen how little they spend to maintain or improve these parks. They mow them occasionally, but that's about it. If they're spending lots of money maintaining pocket parks, there needs to be an investigation because someone is embezzling from the city.

But then I wanted to scream. The Indianapolis Star printed a series of letters to the editor where people demanded that city dwellers take care of their own parks. That made me angry. First, because I was reading these letters as many of us worked on the New Jersey Street esplanade. I wondered how often these letter writers volunteer their services. Second, because no one suggested that suburbanites take responsibility for Eagle Creek Park. These letters implied city dwellers were lazy and didn't deserve parks.

As I write today, all I can do is sigh. Green space is critical to a vibrant neighborhood. We know that even if Mayor Ballard doesn't get it. The Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association will continue to protect and improve our green spaces. We will make Bates Hendricks the next great Indianapolis neighborhood even if the Mayor doesn't help.



Free Spaying and Neutering

SNSI recently received a grant from the Efroymsen Family Fund, a CICF fund, to provide free spay and neuter surgeries. This grant is targeting unaltered cats and dogs in 46203 zip code since Indianapolis Animal Care & Control impounded hundreds of animals from that zip code in 2007.

SNSI is partnering with the following five veterinarians: Animal Medical Center, Emerson Pet Clinic, Englewood

Veterinarians (domestic cats only), FACE Clinic, and VCA Beech Grove. Proof of residence location will be required. Veterinarian required vaccinations and services are included with the surgery. Additional/optional vaccinations or services will be at the owner's discretion and expense.

Please email your certificate request to info@spayneuterservices.org or call the voice mail line

317-767-7771. Please be sure to include your complete mailing address. Once you have your certificate, you can call the vet to schedule the surgery.

Quad Two Cleanup a Success!

On Saturday, September 13th neighbors and supporting partners came together for a cleanup in Quad 2. Thanks to Community Courts for helping clean up the alleys in the neighborhood. Another thanks to our neighbors in Quads 1, 3 and 4, Martha Myers, Robyn Toole, Gail Brown, Chris Dockery, and Lydia Brasher. These people spent the morning cleaning out and around all the storm sewers in the

quad which was a tough job. A big thanks to Chris Dockery for bringing his pickup truck, it was a great help! Also, a big thanks to all the neighbors who gave us words of encouragement while we worked!

If you live near a storm sewer or see a storm sewer that is overgrown, try to get together with your neighbors and help keep all of the storm sewers in the neighborhood

cleaned out. That will be helpful when we have a lot of rain and the water can go to its proper place instead of our basements or pond in the street making driving hazardous. This is especially helpful in the winter when those puddles freeze and become sheets of ice.

Once again a Big Thanks to our volunteers!

Newsletter sponsors

Regions Bank Sister's Restaurant Out of Sight Screens Capitol City Glass Immanuel United Church of Christ Philip Heller, DDS Dave Fishburne

Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association meets monthly on the first Monday of the month at the Immanuel United Church of Christ at the corner of East and Prospect at 6:30 p.m. Annual dues are \$3 for individuals, \$5 for families, and \$25 for businesses. For more information or with neighborhood concerns, contact Jim Mulholland at 636-5096