

2012
July

Bates-Hendricks Newsletter



Help Needed to Survey Abandoned Houses

The Abandoned Housing Task Force will meet on Monday July 2, immediately after the Association meeting. We are asking interested residents to gather to prepare for our annual street-by-street inventory, which attempts to count every vacant or abandoned house in Bates-Hendricks and prioritize the worst properties for action. At the meeting, we will also go through the latest Demolition list. For more information, or to volunteer, contact John Winter at (317) 414-9108 or housingtaskforce@bateshendricks.org.

Part-Time Watering Engineer Needed

With this drought upon us, Southeast Neighborhood Development (SEND) is watering more and more of the recent public landscaping projects. They have a small grant that allows them to hire someone part-time to water public landscaping once a week. The watering would take 4 to 6 hours a week at three or four locations. SEND can pay someone \$15 an hour. They would need a vehicle to cart around hoses, but SEND will supply a hydrant meter and the hoses. If you are interested, please contact Jim Mulholland at 503-5852 or jim@sendcdc.org.

Southeast Neighborhood Congress Reconvenes

The Southeast Neighborhood Congress will reconvene on Thursday, July 26 at 7:00pm at the Wheeler Arts Community Theatre at 1035 Sanders Street. More than a hundred neighborhood leaders from across the eleven Southeast Indianapolis neighborhoods will meet to celebrate accomplishments, address failures, discuss emerging concerns, and adopt goals and actions. Brenda McAtee will serve as moderator.

The Congress is our process for revising and updating the Southeast Quality of Life Plan developed in 2005. To see the full version of the plan, visit southeastneighborhood.org. This site includes the entire plan and status reports on the many initiatives.

The July Congress will be addressing various issues. There will be a celebration of the Cultural Trail in our neighborhood. We will also be addressing concerns around parking and voting on goals involving economic development. Those with other concerns for the Congress should contact Angie Calvert at seindycongress@gmail.com. Come be part of the solution!

Southeast Neighborhood Kiosk in Fountain Square

After months of construction, winter, and a series of technical glitches, the Southeast Neighborhood Kiosk at the Fountain Square library branch is working well. What is needed now is content. Please include the Kiosk in your communication plans for any neighborhood event. In addition, businesses can advertise on the kiosk very inexpensively. With the warm weather and many people walking around the Fountain area, it is expected use of the kiosk will explode, so make certain your information is on the kiosk.

To post articles, flyers, or advertisements, go to southeastneighborhood.org and look for the kiosk link on the right hand-side of the page.

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Letter from the President

Bates-Hendricks Still Aggressively Tackling Abandoned Housing

In case anyone is wondering, I wanted to let you know we are still working hard toward resolving, or at least significantly improving upon, the abandoned housing issue. This is certainly one of the biggest issues in the neighborhood, and many of the other issues we have spiral from the abandoned housing issue.

We've been continuously keeping an eye on the abandoned housing in the neighborhood, and now that we are part of the city's pilot program for reporting high weeds and grass, hopefully they are at least getting mowed. As you have probably seen, many of the dilapidated homes that are beyond repair are being demolished. Our number one house on the most recent "dirty thirty" list was recently demolished (422 Sanders).

John Winter (BH Vice President) has made it his personal mission to tackle these abandoned houses, one way or another. John is actively and regularly participating in the Southeast Neighborhood Congress' Alternatives to Demolition Task Force meetings that include residents from the greater southeast area. Many houses are being purchased and rehabilitated through the SEND Transfer and Transform program. We are currently trying to track down the owners and banks that are responsible for many of the abandoned properties so that we can hold them accountable.

We are currently gearing up for another abandoned housing survey to check our progress and establish a new "dirty thirty". The abandoned housing survey first initiated in the Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood has become a model for other inner-city neighborhoods to use. I would say that tackling this very difficult issue has been successful so far, but we have a long way to go. We realize this, and we'll not give up until the momentum is moving in the right direction. However, we need everyone's participation. After the next Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Association meeting on July 2, the BH Abandoned Housing Task Force will meet again to begin preparation for the next survey. If you would like to participate, please feel free to attend, and/or contact us. Have a safe and wonderful summer! --Rob



BHNA President, Rob Uppencamp

Proper Times to Set Off Fireworks

The City of Indianapolis wants to remind everyone that it is only legal to set off fireworks during the following times:

- June 28 through July 3 between 5:00pm and two hours after sunset
- July 4 between 10:00am and 12:00 midnight
- July 5 through July 9 between 5:00pm and two hours after sunset
- December 31 and January 1, between 10:00am on December 31 and 1:00am on January 1



For the first offense in any twelve month period, violators shall be subject to admission of violation and payment of the civil penalty. For the second offense in any twelve month period, the civil penalty is fixed at a minimum of \$500. For the third and subsequent offenses in any twelve month period, a civil penalty of up to \$2,500 shall be imposed.

This does not have anything to do with selling or purchasing of fireworks. For anyone concerned about the sale of fireworks in residential areas, a resident in Fountain Square is working on that issue. If you would like to get in touch with her about what she is working on, please contact Lisa Laflin at lisa.laflin@indy.gov and Lisa will put you in touch with her.

NUSA Tours Bates-Hendricks



The people attending the Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) 2012 Conference May 23-26 in Indianapolis had an opportunity to tour various neighborhoods. On Thursday, May 24, a large bus arrived on the scene in Bates-Hendricks. Starting with the new Morris/Prospect Gateway, the bus rolled by the Triangle Project on Morris/Prospect between East and Madison Avenue and wound its way on to Terrace and parked. The attendees were very much interested in the rehabbing going on with the shotgun houses on Terrace. From there, the tour continued on Alabama to see the refurbished esplanade and the rain gardens. Rounding the

corner to New Jersey, they were very impressed with everything that had been done there. The New Jersey Street Project won third place in the nation in the Revitalization Project of the Year competition at the 2010 NUSA Conference.

At the Bates-Hendricks House, Lois Allen showed off her new gardens and Jay Allen gave a history of the house and the surrounding area. Providing background music was Greg Allen on the esplanade piano. After heading north on New Jersey, the tour group got back on the bus and went south on East Street to the railroad tracks and then back north again, where they were able to see the site for the East Street Flats project. A big thanks to John Winter and Lydia Brasher, who provided leadership on this tour.



Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Association

The Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Association strives to improve the quality of life of those living in the neighborhood through efforts to assure safety, to maintain or improve the living environment, and to enhance the spirit of cooperation and neighborliness among all residents. We meet monthly on the first Monday of the month at the Immanuel United Church of Christ at the corner of East and Prospect at 6:30pm. Annual dues are \$3 for individuals, \$5 for families, and \$25 for businesses. Please mail dues to Craig Dukate, 1435 S. New Jersey Street, Indianapolis, IN 46225. More information about the neighborhood can be found online at bateshendricks.org.

Monthly Calendar



- July 2** Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Association Meeting, 6:30pm, Immanuel United Church of Christ.
- July 5, 12, 19, & 26** Garden Stories, Garfield Park Sunken Garden, 2:00pm, Free. Bring the family and a blanket or chairs to enjoy a story show-and-tell.
- July 5, 12, 19, & 26** Outdoor Scavenger Hunt, Garfield Park Conservatory, 3:00pm to 4:30pm, Free. Stop by the Conservatory and pick up a copy of this year's hunt that will send you around the Gardens and surrounding areas with your eyes peeled. Bring your finished hunt back and receive a prize.
- July 6** Summer Films for Teens: Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol (PG-13), Fntn. Sq. Library, 2:00pm. Ages 12-17.
- July 7** eBook Tinker Station, Fountain Square Library, 10:00am to Noon. Learn how to select and use eReaders and search and download materials from the Library's collection of eBooks, audiobooks, and digital music.
- July 10** City Critter Chats: Animalia, Fountain Square Library, 6:00pm to 7:00pm. Children of all ages are invited to meet an animal face-to-face and spend time learning about them. They can ask questions about the animal and try their hands at sketching it.
- July 10, 17, & 24** Garfield's Great Explorers, Garfield Park Conservatory, 2:00pm to 4:00pm, \$20. This "mini" summer camp includes a rainforest journey, a garden adventure, and lets you become an insect detective. Children will meet live animals, enjoy fun crafts, play games, and explore the Conservatory and Children's Garden. Registration is required by July 6, 327-7580. Ages 8-12.
- July 11** Summer Showtime: Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG), Fountain Square Library, 1:00pm. All ages.
- July 14** Garden Folklore, Garfield Park Conservatory, 10:00 to 11:00am, \$5. Learn about some of the folklore surrounding popular plants, and try your skills at making herbal tea. Registration req'd., 327-7580. Ages 18+.
- July 16** Digital Science Mobile Lab: Gears, Gadgets & Crazy Contraptions, Fountain Square Library, 3:00pm. Please call to register for this event. Children ages 10-14 are invited to create gears, gadgets, and crazy contraptions using laptops and LEGO We Do Robotics. Each participant will receive a USB drive to keep.
- July 20** Summer Films for Teens: Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13), Fountain Square Library, 2:00pm. Ages 12-17.
- July 28** Conservatory Scavenger Hunt, Garfield Park Conservatory, 11:00am to 12:30pm, \$1. Stop by the front desk and pick up your family scavenger hunt to enjoy while you visit the Conservatory.
- July 28** Steampunk Inventor's Journal Workshop for Teens, Fountain Square Library, 2:00pm. Please call to register for this event. Ages 12-17. Teens are invited to create an "Inventor's Journal" using a simple bookbinding process and metal bossing techniques to decorate the cover and to learn about the origins of Steampunk.