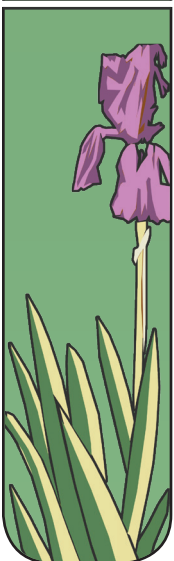


2012  
September

## Bates-Hendricks Newsletter



# September Meeting is a Cookout in Hendricks Park

On Monday, September 10 at 6:30pm, the Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Association will host its September meeting at the shelter house at Hendricks Park at the corner of Madison Avenue and Orange Street. The Association will provide hot dogs, drinks, and paper products. You can bring a side dish or dessert, a lawn chair, and a good appetite.



This is an opportunity to enjoy good food and to get to know your neighbors.

## More on the High Weeds & Grass Program

The high weeds and grass pilot program was started in our neighborhood this year, along with a few other test neighborhoods, to experiment with expediting the city process of reporting grass and weeds over 12 inches tall. The program works by giving a neighborhood resident access to the city system to report violations, with the idea being that other residents report the high weeds and grass to them. This reduces the load on city representatives and theoretically reduces the time it takes to get a lawn mowed. We can submit high weeds and grass issues in our neighborhood to [weeds@bateshendricks.org](mailto:weeds@bateshendricks.org). With so many vacant and abandoned houses in our neighborhood, this is a welcome asset in keeping lawns in control.

However, as has been mentioned by a few residents, this program born out of a need to maintain our abandoned properties, has also turned neighbor against neighbor in some cases. It is important that we, as neighbors, respect each other by not only maintaining our lawns, but by looking out for one another if our lawn has gotten a bit out of control. If you know a house with high weeds and grass is occupied, or suspect that it is, and feel comfortable approaching the resident(s), consider politely informing them of the city ordinance on high weeds and grass and your concerns. Or maybe they are aware and have had a family emergency or some other event that has prevented them from getting to their lawn. Maybe they could use your help!

The point is, you don't know what the situation is until you talk to your neighbor. So let's try to be neighborly and work together to keep the neighborhood as clean and well-maintained as possible!

## Connecting with the Neighborhood

You can connect with other Bates-Hendricks residents through a variety of ways. Keep up with news and discussions on the BHNA Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/pages/Bates-Hendricks-Neighborhood-Association/115713308457128](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bates-Hendricks-Neighborhood-Association/115713308457128). Resources, archived newsletters, and more are available on the Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood website at [bateshendricks.org](http://bateshendricks.org). Meet your neighbors and keep abreast of current issues at monthly neighborhood meetings (see the Monthly Calendar). Finally, if you have news to share, consider submitting articles to [news@bateshendricks.org](mailto:news@bateshendricks.org).

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## Letter from the President

### Good Neighbor Weekend, October 13 and 14

The Good Neighbor Weekend is fast approaching. You will likely hear about this frequently over the next month, because we need to take full advantage of this opportunity. 400 volunteers from Northview Church, in coordination with our very own Immanuel United Church of Christ, and the Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Association, will flood the neighborhood on October 13 and 14. We need to take advantage of this opportunity to make new friends and build lasting relationships, show our neighborhood pride, and accomplish many tasks throughout the neighborhood. We need you to help provide support and leadership for the event to ensure it is successful. Northview is looking for a neighborhood where they can continue to provide volunteer support throughout the year. Imagine what we could accomplish!

We are going to divide up the volunteers throughout the neighborhood to work on many different projects. Many of the volunteers will be divided between the four neighborhood quads to pick up trash, remove excess vegetation, clean street gutters and storm drains, edge sidewalks, paint over graffiti, etc. One group will support the Dat House with remodeling of the Community Center (former Sassy Kats). Various groups will be used to provide maintenance on our green spaces. Other groups will be disbursed to various other areas to work on specific tasks. Anyone choosing to provide leadership for this weekend could essentially lead a group of volunteers through your area accomplishing whatever it is you feel is needed.

We will meet at the Immanuel United Church of Christ at 8:30am on both Saturday, October 13 and Sunday, October 14 and work from 9:00am to 4:00pm each day. All volunteers from inside the neighborhood will receive lunch on both days. If you would like to participate, please contact me at 752-3664 or [president@bateshendricks.org](mailto:president@bateshendricks.org). I am excited about what could be the biggest volunteer event we have ever had! -- Rob Uppencamp



**BHNA President, Rob Uppencamp**

# Grass Bypass: Alternatives to Your Average Lawn

We just experienced one of the driest, hottest spells in the Bates-Hendricks neighborhood on record, and August is typically one of our driest months. So who could have seen this coming? The Indianapolis Star reported that August recorded 6.42 inches of rainfall, making it the 8th wettest on record. We essentially had as much rain in one month as we had in the last four combined. And the remnants of Hurricane Isaac brought us even more.

This is all great news for our lawns, shrubs, and trees. In this tough season we've learned several things firsthand about plant selection, survival, and care. Thanks to the recent rains, with the exception of some significant plant death, we won't miss a beat. Fall plantings should be possible as long as we continue to catch up to our average rainfall totals. The grass, which was ridiculously close to death just weeks ago, came roaring back to life. And many trees were spared, although some will likely still see resulting damage and death because of the now passing drought.

The big nugget to take from all this is that the lawn is not the only answer for our outdoors. Here are some tips and ideas on landscaping without (or at least less) lawn:

1. **Create Landscape Beds:** September is a great time of year to start new landscape beds. First, use a garden hose or outdoor marking paint to plan the area you want to turn into a planting bed. I recommend a bed depth in the 3-foot to 8-foot range, depending on the plantings. Once you're satisfied with the area, go nuts with the Round-Up -- I mean, follow the label instructions. Hit the weeds that you want to eliminate, but don't spray tree trunks or bark unless you mean to. Usually in our area, new beds will need to be sprayed on a dry day one weekend and again the next for best effectiveness. Landscape fabric is optional, unless you feel that you won't be able to keep up with new weeds without it. Either way, remember to keep the Round-Up on-hand for occasional spot spraying.

Once you've created your new bed space this month, feel free to apply the first 2- to 3-inch layer of mulch. This will help prevent new weeds from sprouting so quickly in the future. Or you can wait until next month, when I'll go into detail about plant selection and installation.

2. **Create a Xeriscape:** What is this fancy-sounding word? Basically, just the elimination of the lawn in the landscape, either by planted landscape beds, rock gardens, or groundcover. My favorite of the three for maintenance ease and a similar look to grass has to be groundcover. There are actually several good examples in the neighborhood of this form of xeriscaping, and the benefits are evident: reduced maintenance time each week; reduced fear of drought stress; and a clean look are just some of the pluses. And, creating these kinds of landscape is as easy as creating a normal landscape bed.

Have fun while creating your new space, and remember -- spring is for flowers, fall is for planting.

Allen Janke  
GreenApple Landscape Design

# 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](http://bateshendricks.org).

## Monthly Calendar



- Sep 8** Herbal Harvest, Garfield Park Conservatory, 10:00am to 11:00am, \$5. Expand your knowledge about herbs and their uses. Learn about harvesting herbs from the garden and make a unique craft using select herbs. Ages 16+, registration required.
- Sep 8** Family Nature Day: Dragonflies, Garfield Park Conservatory, 2:00pm to 3:00pm, \$1. Bring the family by for fun nature activities and crafts. Registration required.
- Sep 9** Garden Groceries, Garfield Park Conservatory, 2:00pm to 3:00pm, Free. Come enjoy the fruits of our labor! The summer's harvest should be ripe and ready for picking in the Children's Garden. Stop by and learn about the benefits of eating your fruits and vegetables and have the chance to pick some fresh produce to take home!
- Sep 10** **Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Association Cookout, 6:30pm, Hendricks Park, 1313 Madison Avenue.**
- Sep 11** Jungle Tales, Garfield Park Conservatory, 10:00am to 11:00am, \$3. Bring your preschooler to this program with a focus on the natural world, featuring a nature-related story, activity, and craft. Registration required.
- Sep 29 to Oct 7** Orchid Fest, Garfield Park Conservatory, Monday through Saturday, 10:00am to 5:00pm and Sunday 1:00pm to 5:00pm, \$3/person or \$8/family (2 adults max.). Don't miss this display of hundreds of blooming orchids set against the backdrop of the tropical Conservatory. Orchids and supplies will also be available during this special event.