

2014
March

Bates-Hendricks Newsletter

March Bates-Hendricks Association Meeting

At the next Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Association meeting, which will be held at Immanuel United Church (corner of East and Prospect) at 6:30pm on Monday, March 3, Craig Boeck from Cognosante will be talking about the Affordable Care Act. He'll be available to sign people up for coverage before the meeting from 6:00pm to 6:30pm, and after the meeting from 7:30pm to 8:00pm.

Katy Brett, Executive Director of Renew Indianapolis, will also be coming to our March meeting to provide some details about the Renew Indianapolis program, as well as give a brief status update on their progress.

About Cognosante

Cognosante, in partnership with connect2help/211, has received a contract from the Federal government to provide in-person assistance with understanding and, if needed, enrolling in the Federal Marketplace through the Affordable Care Act. They will be providing general information about the Affordable Care Act, eligibility criteria for the Marketplace, and the various levels of coverage. They will also be available for one-on-one assistance – from answering specific questions about your situation, to actual help enrolling through *healthcare.gov*. If you are interested in having their assistance, it is helpful if you can bring the following with you:

- Social Security numbers (or document numbers for legal immigrants)
- Birth dates
- Pay stubs, W-2 forms, or “Wage and Tax Statements”
- Policy numbers for any current health insurance
- Information about any health insurance you or your family could get from your jobs

About Renew Indianapolis

The non-profit, Renew Indianapolis, has been working to help get City-owned vacant lots and homes back on the market. Many of these were tied up in the City's Landbank. Earlier this year, they launched their new website that has the lists of properties available, information on how to purchase a property, and an interactive map of the city showing where these properties are located.

Renew Indianapolis will bring additional capacity to the Indy Land Bank through:

- Transparency—*RenewIndianapolis.org* is a new streamlined and transparent website to help promote available properties and connect with potential buyers. It will also track pending and completed transactions.
- Accountability—Renew Indianapolis is working with the City to ensure controls are in place to monitor a property's improvements, notifying the City if a buyer attempts to sell to a third party before the rehabilitation is complete.
- Neighborhood Input—All potential buyers must notify the respective neighborhood association. Neighborhoods will be given the opportunity to speak before the Metropolitan Development Commission regarding proposed transactions.



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Southeast Congress is March 27 – Don't Miss It!

If you haven't been to a Southeast Neighborhood Congress or haven't even heard of it, you will have the opportunity again this March 27 to witness this exciting event. The March Southeast Neighborhood Congress will be held at 7:00pm at Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB) at 1029 Fletcher Avenue. Childcare will be provided.

The Southeast Neighborhood Congress is a gathering of Southeast residents and stakeholders to monitor quality of life in Southeast neighborhoods. Attendees work together to identify the issues facing the Southeast neighborhoods and implement action plans to address them, thereby updating the Southeast Quality of Life (QOL) Plan. If you wish to view the QOL Plan, you may visit southeastneighborhood.org.

The Congress is held three times a year in March, June, and October at a different location in the Southeast area. A new moderator is used for each session, elected with 75% approval by secret ballot at a previous congress. There is an open floor to any attendee wishing to speak for up to three minutes, unless delivering a formal presentation. There is a dedicated recording secretary and time keeper to document the actions of the Congress and update the Southeast Quality of Life Plan. Additions and amendments cannot be made to the Southeast Quality of Life Plan without a minimum of 60 participants in attendance at the Congress.

The Congress agenda includes celebrating accomplishments, acknowledging failures, addressing concerns that were brought to the moderator prior to the Congress, adopting actions, and monitoring progress. Between sessions of the Congress, the Community Building Team (CBT) monitors progress of the Southeast Quality of Life Plan goals and actions. Accomplishments, failures, issues, and concerns are identified. One week prior to the Congress, the CBT provides residents and interested parties with a summary and agenda for the upcoming session.

Those wishing to bring a concern or update to the Congress should contact either the March moderator, Kelli Mirgeaux, at kemirgeaux@gmail.com or Rob Uppencamp at ruppencamp@arcadis-us.com or Angie Calvert at angie.calvert@yahoo.com.

All agenda items for the March Congress must be submitted by March 13, 2014. Hope to see everyone there!



Neighbors Gather for the 2014 BHNA Chili Cook-Off



We had 12 entrants for this year's chili cook-off, which was held at the VFW Post 1120 on East Street. This year's cook-off winners were: Colby Shank – Best Red Chili; Sara Hess – Best Vegetarian Chili; John Baker – Best White Chili; and Rob Uppencamp – People's Choice Winner. Greg Allen took home the award for best decorated booth. Thank you to all of our entrants for bringing a variety of delicious chili dishes for us to eat!



Also, thank you to this year's judges: Jeff Miller, District 19 City-County Councillor; Don Hillman, Pure Eatery; and Lori Stump, Flanner and Buchanan.

Finally, a big thank you to all of the sponsors that made this event possible and fun! Flanner and Buchanan provided general sponsorship, VFW Post 1120 allowed us the use of their space, and the following businesses donated prizes for chili contestant and raffle winners: The Indiana Repertory Theatre, IMAX Theater, La Margarita, Mama Irma's, Pure Eatery, Rogue Decor, and Uber.

Ladies & Gentlemen, "Start Your Engines!" by Greg Allen

No it's not May. It's March and, if you are like me, this record-breaking snow and cold have made you feel like you are in hibernation. But winter is over! I repeat: Winter is over! I know it's hard to believe these words as another snow storm barrels toward us. But you must.

Planting season is upon us and if you haven't ordered your supplies soon, you will have to settle for your second choices. If you don't believe me, stop by Menard's, Home Depot, or your favorite hardware store. The seeds are out. St. Patrick's Day, March 17, is the official day to plant potatoes. And at Yellow House, we are testing our best martini recipes in anticipation of the day.

You see, our tradition is to sit on the back stoop, sip martinis, cut up seed potatoes, and toss them onto newspapers. Once they are evenly spread around, we cover them with a foot of straw. In late August, we will fold the straw back and harvest the most crisp, delicious potatoes you have ever eaten. Over the past year, friends and research have given us so many new creative ways to grow a garden with no space.

So here are some of the fun ways to will spring to come. Order your red, Yukon gold, or purple seed potatoes online from Park Seed, Burpee Seed Company, or Jung Seeds. Then try our technique or, if you have less space, plant them in bales of straw or stacks of old tires. Just be sure to water them once a week if the rains don't come. Order red raspberries, blackberries, or strawberries now to plant in horse watering troughs. These troughs are available at our local farm and home supply stores. And these wonderful plants are invasive. They multiply by sending out root runners. Unless you want to be beating back raspberries, plant them as if they were mint (that spreads the same way). Order your seeds now for patio corn from Burpee. This new variety of corn is bred to grow in pots on the patio. This is the first edible privacy fence I have heard of. Start your frost-hearty plants inside now so you can transplant them once they are a couple of inches high. Things like cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, peas, and lettuce should all be started indoors right now. And if you ordered strawberry plants, if you don't plant them in early March, you will not be eating strawberries in early June.

So get off the couch! Start your engines! After this Polar Vortex of a winter, you know we deserve a glorious spring.

If you have questions about gardening or food preservation, I am always at the monthly Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Meetings.

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 Kate Reinhardt, 1407 S. New Jersey Street, Indianapolis, IN 46225. More information about the neighborhood can be found online at bateshendricks.org.



Like Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Association on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/bateshendricks

Newsletters Online

This newsletter and previous newsletters available online at bateshendricks.org/news

Monthly Calendar

- Mondays** Garden on the Go, Southeast Community Services (SECS), 901 Shelby Street, 5:00pm to 5:45pm. Buy fresh, affordable fruits and vegetables.
- Mar 3** **Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Association Meeting, 6:30pm, Immanuel United Church of Christ.**
- Mar 4** Neighborhood Meeting on the Library's Strategic Plan, Fountain Square Library, 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Learn about the Library's proposed Strategic Plan for services through 2020, **including the possible closure of the Fountain Square Branch.** Community feedback is essential to finalize an effective and sustainable plan.
- Mar 10** Animal Tales, Fountain Square Library, 11:00am. Preschoolers ages 3-6 and an adult are invited for an animal-themed story time followed by an animal encounter presented by Animalia. Registration required.
- Mar 13** Afternoon Book Discussion, Fountain Square Library, 1:30pm. Adults are invited to this monthly book discussion program. The book to be discussed is "The Lemon Tree, An Arab, A Jew and the Heart of the Middle East" by Sandy Tolan.
- Mar 14 & 28** Senior Euchre, The Burrello Family Center at Garfield Park, 1:00pm, Free or \$1 to play in prize fund.
- Mar 14 to 21** Spring Bulb Show, Garfield Park Conservatory, Mon-Sat: 10:00am to 5:00pm, Sun: 1:00pm to 5:00pm, \$3 per person or \$8 per family (max. 2 adults). See the stunning display of tulips and other spring blooms.
- Mar 18** Family Game Night, Fountain Square Library, 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Families are invited to play a variety of fun and educational games, including Wii Brain Academy, with their children.
- Mar 22** Drawing Manga 101, Fountain Square Library, 2:00pm. Children ages 8 and up are invited to learn the basics of Manga-style drawing and how to incorporate storytelling through the characters' facial expressions. This program will be led by instructors from Art With a Heart. Registration required.
- Mar 25** ALA Teen Tech Week: Protect Your Tech with Duct Tape, Fountain Square Library, 3:30pm to 5:00pm. Teens and tweens are invited to create their own protective cover for a favorite piece of portable technology.
- Mar 29** Singin' Time With Miss Bobbie, Fountain Square Library, 2:00pm. Families with babies and preschoolers up to age 6 are invited to tune up their singing voices and put on their dancing shoes during this musical program with folk singer Bobbie Lancaster.
- Mar 29** ALA Teen Tech Week: DIY Permaculture, Fountain Square Library, 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Teens and tweens are invited to learn how to work with nature, learn about sustainable living, and make their own solar cooker.

