

May 2009



*Bates Hendricks Indy's Next Great Neighborhood!*

# Bates-Hendricks Newsletter

## ***Rebuilding Together” Rebuilds Bates Hendricks***

On Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> nearly 500 volunteers, many connected to local trade unions, descended on Bates Hendricks to offer their skills, sweat and assistance to over twenty residents. Rebuilding Together, a national one day home improvement program, chose Bates Hendricks as their 2009 target neighborhood and spent six months preparing for the one day blitz.

Last fall, neighbors were invited to apply for assistance and twenty homes were selected for work. These homes were concentrated on Orange, Terrace, New Jersey and Lincoln. The work was as complicated as new roofs and furnaces to painting and landscaping.



Major Ballard helped kick-off the day with a celebration in Hendricks Park and then the volunteers spread throughout the neighborhood. By 1 p.m., most had left, but the work they accomplished will make a difference for many years. Ken Gall, from SEND, estimates that the effort brought nearly \$100,000 to the neighborhood and thousands of donated hours of labor. A big thank you to all who made this effort possible!

## **Turning the soil at the next Bates Hendricks Meeting – May 4<sup>th</sup>**

As we prepare to switch from spring to summer, the flowers of May will fade and our thoughts will turn to tomatoes, corn, beans and many other veggies and fruit. The May Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association meeting will feature Matthew Jose, urban agriculture specialist and owner of Big City Farms on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30

p.m. at the Immanuel United Church of Christ at the corner of East and Prospect. Come and learn about gardening in an urban environment. If you don't have a green thumb, perhaps this meeting will help you find one? As always, there will be reports from IMPD and other city representatives.



## Letter from The President: Join the Eight Percent

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Last week, several Southeast neighborhood leaders were presented the results from a random survey of Southeast residents. This survey, conducted by the Southeast Learning Partnership, interviewed 100 local residents and asked them thirty questions about Southeast neighborhoods, their challenges, and their resources.

There was lots of interesting information, but I had a hard time concentrating after they presented the results of the survey's first question, "Is your neighborhood likely to get better, stay the same or get worse?" Out of 100 responses, only 8% said they thought their neighborhood was getting better. Over 75% said they thought their neighborhood was getting worse.

This was a shock to me. I'm so excited about what is happening in Bates Hendricks. I think there are many signs of hope and progress in our neighborhood. After hearing the results of the survey, I began to worry that I'm out of touch with reality, or at least the perceptions of my neighbors. If only 8% of us see our neighborhood improving, maybe we're fooling ourselves. Maybe the 200 of us who have become members of the neighborhood association are hopeless dreamers, unwilling to see what everyone else sees.

Or maybe there is another explanation. In the same survey, only 43% said they had ever gotten together with neighbors to do something to address a neighborhood problem. This means more than half of our neighbors think the neighborhood is getting worse and are unwilling to do anything about it other than complain in a survey. Frankly, why should I even care what the apathetic think?

A third of our neighbors have tried to do something positive and still think the neighborhood is getting worse. I can understand that group. When you clean your alley, fix up your house, help plant flowers, or paint a mural and then see others destroy or ignore your efforts, it is easy to get discouraged. Many eventually give up. I care about these people and hope we can recruit them to try again. I want them to rejoin the 8%.

Who are the 8%? They are people who are trying to make our neighborhood better. They are the ones who refuse to give up, who believe that our neighborhoods can be safe, vibrant, and beautiful places to live. They are the optimists who change the world. It is not that they are out of touch with reality. They are the ones who change reality and alter perceptions. I invite you to join the 8%!



**Jim Mulholland**

# ***School 31 to go KaBoom!***

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Can you imagine collaborating with friends and neighbors to build your local school students a new place to play? Can you imagine a new playground materializing in just one day?



KaBOOM! is a national non-profit that works with local communities to provide play areas that help make children happier, fitter, smarter, more socially adept and creative. There have been several group meetings to plan this playground, including the students at School 31. We want to send a message to the students at School 31 that the adults in their community support and care for them.

On May 20, hundreds of volunteers will gather at the school at 307 Lincoln Street, in the Bates Hendricks Neighborhood. Their goal is to build, in one day, a KaBOOM! playground. Lilly Day of Service will have over two hundred volunteers there that day. We in the neighborhood would like to show our support by participating some way. There are many behind the scenes jobs that need to be done. Additionally, on Monday May 18th a smaller number of volunteers are needed for a "prep day." This is the day equipment and materials will be delivered to the school and help will be needed to unloaded and inventory the material.

If you can help contact School 31 at 266-4231.

## ***Time for Spring Cleaning in Quad Three:***

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Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> has been selected as a cleanup day in Quad 3. The boundaries for Quad 3 are Prospect to the north, Terrace on the south, East Street on the west and I-65 on the east. This is for cleanup of public spaces (alleys, sidewalks, storm sewers). It would be great to have several two person teams helping clean out the storm sewers throughout the quad. Trash bags and gloves will be available. We need neighbors to help in other areas as well. The dumpster will be on the empty lot next to 1247 Wright Street. Rumor has it that SEND will be lending us a hand as well.

If you are willing to help with the cleanup please contact  
Lydia Brasher, 636-0831 or



# Bates Hendricks Indy's Next Great Neighborhood!

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The Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association will work 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.

Meetings are on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel United Church of Christ, 402 Prospect St. Annual dues are \$3 for individuals, \$5 for families, and \$25 for business. Please mail dues to Emily Vanest, 720 Sanders, Indpls. 46203.

For more information or with neighborhood concerns, contact Jim Mulholland at 636-5096

This newsletter is brought to you through the support of the following neighborhood businesses:

**Regions Bank   Sister's Restaurant   Philip Heller DDS   Screen Mobile**

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**Make certain to thank them for their support!**

## May Calendar

**May 2** – Free Comic Book Day – during library hours, Fountain Square Library. School-age children and teens are invited to pick up free comic books (while supplies last) and draw their own comic characters.

**May 2** – Stepping Stone Workshop, Saturday, 10:30am-12pm, \$6 – Garfield Park Conservatory. Everyone will enjoy creating a decorative stepping stone, just in time for Mother's Day and springtime gardening! All supplies will be provided, just bring your creativity. Please register by April 30th by calling 327-7580, as space is limited. Stones must be left to dry and can be picked up later.

**May 4** - **Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association Meeting, 6:30 p.m.** Immanuel United Church of Christ at 6:30 p.m.

**May 14** – Book Discussion: "*The Ride of Our Lives*" by Mike Leonard, 1:30 p.m. Fountain Square Library. Registration required, call 275-4390 for more information.

**May 17** – Chase 500 Festival Kids' Day – 12pm-4pm, Free – Monument Circle, Downtown Indianapolis.

**May 23** – IPL 500 Festival Parade – Noon – Downtown Indianapolis.

**May 30** - Master Gardener Plant Sale - Saturday, May 30, 9am-12pm, FREE – Garfield Park Conservatory. This is not just a sale! In addition to vegetable, annual and perennial plants for sale, the Master Gardeners will also be on hand to give advice and answer all of your gardening questions.

**May 30** – Family Planting Day - Saturday, May 30, 9am-1pm, FREE – Garfield Park Conservatory. All ages are invited to help plant annuals in our Children's Garden located behind the Conservatory. This event helps us to kick off a great year of growing for both our garden and our kids!