



November  
2009

## **Bates Hendricks Wins Three Awards**

October was a good month for our neighborhood!

On October 13, we received the Collaborative Spirit Award from the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center for the best Indianapolis neighborhood project in 2008 – the New Jersey Street transformation. This award came with a \$250 cash award and a nomination for a national award. In May, we could be selected as the best neighborhood project in the United States. This would involve several residents attending the national conference in Little Rock, Arkansas and sharing our story with people from across the country.

On October 16, we received the Inspiring Places Award at the Neighbor Power Conference. This was for our work in 2009 on abandoned housing. This hand crafted award was presented to Jim Mulholland with a cash award of \$1,000. Our efforts in abandoned housing were showcased at the conference as an example of what residents can do. One city official said, “Your neighborhood is better organized on abandoned housing than the city is.”

Finally, on October 21, we received word that our work on the New Jersey Street esplanade received the national Keep America Beautiful Award as the best neighborhood beautification project of 2008.

All who participated in either the New Jersey Street project or the abandoned housing initiative should be proud. People across the country are recognizing the excellence of what our neighborhood has accomplished.

### **East Street Alterations**

It’s been exciting to see the new sidewalks and pavement on East Street this past summer. However, many have asked what can be done about the strange configuration as East Street goes from four lanes to two lanes between Morris and Sanders.

In October, the neighborhood association met with engineers from the Indianapolis Department of Works and looked at possible alterations. In those discussions, DPW agreed to create a left turn only lane on southbound East Street at Morris. This will hopefully alleviate the confusion people have as they come to this intersection.

In addition, there were preliminary discussions about adding a decorative median in the short section between Morris and Sanders, adding a bike lane from Morris Street to Garfield Park, and restricting parking on East Street. No decisions have been made on any of these issues, but the Economic Development Committee will be meeting with Bob Wilch, a city planner, in the winter months to map out a long range plan for East Street.

### **November Meeting Highlights Animal Control Issues**

On Monday, November 2, at 6:30 p.m. the Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association will meet at the Immanuel United Church of Christ at the corner of East and Prospect. Lieutenant Jerry Bippus, Field Manager of the Indianapolis Animal Control, will speak about animal control issues and take questions or complaints.

As always, we will also have reports from IMPD, the Abandoned Housing Task Force, the Economic Development Committee, as well as, information about other activities in our neighborhood. Come and be informed and empowered to make a difference.

---

*This newsletter is sponsored by:*

*Sister's Restaurant   Campbell Ventilation   Screenmobile  
Regions Bank   Immanuel United Church of Christ  
Dr. Philip Heller, DDS*

## **From the President:**

I wanted to get arrested.

In September, six of us trespassed at 422 Sanders, tore down its collapsing roof, cut down the high weeds, and painted the front of the house. This house, boarded up since 2003, had been identified as the worst in our neighborhood and we were tired of looking at it. So we trespassed hoping that either the owner would show up or the house would get cleaned. The owner didn't show up.



I'm sad about that. I really wanted him to try to stop us, to call the police, and to have me arrested for trespassing. I wanted to actually stand in front of a judge and have him ask me what I was doing. I wanted to tell the judge I was arrested for painting an ugly house. If you're going to be arrested, that seems like a wonderful reason.

That made me think about all the reasons I'd like to be arrested. I'd like to be arrested for chaining myself to the door of Sassy Kats on a Saturday night, or harassing a drug dealer, or for bulldozing an abandoned house, or replacing a sidewalk without a permit, or for putting a speed bump on my street. I'd like to be arrested for playing music too loud on my stereo outside the rental that partied until three in the morning the night before.

Years ago, Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. proved that there are lots of good reasons to be arrested. Sometimes the laws don't make sense. Sometimes they prevent the good from happening. Sometimes doing the right things is more important than doing the legal thing.

I don't know if I'll ever be arrested, but I'm realizing there are worse things than being arrested. One of them is being apathetic.

*Jim Mulholland*



## **NEW STREET BLOCK CLUB SUCCESS**

You saw the banners, you read the flyers, and you participated in one of the largest coordinated downtown cleanup and beautification projects in years!

The weekend of October 17 and 18 was a huge success thanks to the volunteer efforts of Quad 4 neighbors, churches, and businesses. Coordinating the planning of the nearly month long community event were the members of the New Street Block Club, formed in early 2007. The five-dumpster event was designed by these members as the main component of an IMAGINE grant obtained through the city.



Word was spread for two of the four weekends leading up to the main beautification/clean up event. Flyers were distributed and banners were displayed to welcome neighbors to the big event weekend. On October 9 and 10, a large group led by the New Street Block Club cut out alley brush and readied trash for the dumpster day. Over five tons of street curb debris was removed to restore the look and functionality of our streets. Focus was especially given to Beecher Street during this effort, and the results are remarkable.

Even more impressive than the cleanup was the after party! On Sunday October 18, the 1800 block of New Street was shut down to host the first ever New Street Block Party. The over 200 in attendance enjoyed carnival games, a bounce house, free cookout, and pumpkin painting—just some of the activities of the day. A raffle designed to reward those who had participated in the cleanup was held and gift cards were distributed to the winners.

While we were able to make a big impact in a fairly short time span, much of the real success was meeting many of our great neighbors. We all need to continue to build on this effort! Reach out and talk to the couple down the street who has lived there almost as long as you have. Take a moment and say “hello” to those you may see but never talk to. Get to know your neighbors and start a block club of your own. You’ll find a whole bunch of people who care just as much as you do.

Notes:

A special thanks to our two church affiliates on Iowa Street, Wesleyan Christian Church and Eastside Tree of Life Full Gospel Church, and Heat Exchanger Design, Inc. on Beecher Street. Also thanks to Foster Pilcher and Rob Uppencamp (Vice President of BHNA) for spearheading the IMAGINE Grant and playing a vital role in each cleanup. And, of course to all the members of the New Street Block Club—Keep up the good work!



## **Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association**

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.

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 6:30 p.m. Annual dues are \$3 for individuals, \$5 for families, and \$25 for businesses. Please mail dues to Emily Vanest, 720 Sanders, Indpls. 46203.

### **November Calendar**

**November 2 – Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Immanuel United Church of Christ.**

**November 7 - Creepy Crawly Critters, 2 p.m., Fountain Square Library.** Families and children of all ages are invited to learn about tarantulas, scorpions and more and meet them up close during this program presented by Snakehead Ed.

**November 8 - Migration Madness, 2—4 p.m. Garfield Park Conservatory.** Ready to fly south? Drop by the Conservatory to learn about some of our winged friends that head south for the winter. Learn about their journey and see what life is like for them once they get to the tropics. \$1. Ages 3+

**November 20 - 22 - International Festival, Indiana State Fairgrounds.** Central Indiana's largest and oldest pan-ethnic celebration. Hosted by the Nationalities Council of Indiana, the festival features authentic cuisine, ethnic music and dance, 50+ culture booths and international shopping. Adults- \$7 (advance) and \$9 (at the door), \$6 (children ages 6-12).

**November 27 – Conservatory Crossing, 10 a.m.—5 p.m. daily, Garfield Park Conservatory.** Come enjoy our winter wonderland! See the Conservatory decked out in its holiday best with a brilliant display of poinsettias and enjoy running model trains, a train village and thousands of twinkling lights. This display is provided in partnership with The Indiana Rail Road Company. All ages. \$2/adults, \$1/seniors and youth or \$5/family.

**November 27 - Indianapolis Circle of Lights, 6 - 8 p.m., Monument Circle.** Live entertainment, chosen from statewide auditions and national acts, begins at 6 p.m. with the televised show running from 7 – 8 p.m. The actual Monument light-up will occur at approximately 7:45 p.m. Free.

