



April  
2010

Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association

## Bates Hendricks Newsletter

### United We Stand, Divided We Fall Off Broken Sidewalks

In 2009, Jeff Miller, Fletcher Place resident and SEND Board member, spearheaded an assessment of every street and sidewalk in Southeast Indianapolis. What Jeff discovered was shocking. While 13% of the residential streets in Indianapolis were in disrepair, over 35% of streets in Southeast neighborhoods were in need of attention. While 25% of the sidewalks in the city were substandard, over 40% of the sidewalks in Southeast neighborhoods were missing or in need of replacement. These statistics proved what many Southeasterners have known for years – we've been neglected.

How can our neighborhoods be so far behind others? Why do some neighborhoods in Indianapolis receive governmental attention while others are allowed to disintegrate? How is it possible that the 30,000 residents of Southeast neighborhoods aren't receiving the same service as those living in Meridian Kessler?

In fairness, the answer is complicated. Resources are limited. City officials blame the age of our infrastructure and the high cost of repair. They say their hands are tied. They don't publically acknowledge other factors – the low voter turnout in our neighborhoods, a low homeowner rate and property tax base, and that we have few wealthy and connected residents. The truth is that we've been easy to ignore.

This is especially true when we don't work together. The Southeast neighborhoods (Bates Hendricks, FACT, Fletcher Place, Fountain Square South, Irish Hill, North Square, SECO, Twin Aire, and We-Can) have all been successful at addressing minor issues within their boundaries. There are many dedicated, hard working people in all of these associations. Unfortunately, we have not always been very good at addressing major issues together. We have not spoken with a unified voice to City Hall. However, in 2010, this may change. In January, neighborhood leaders began talking about how we can better work together. How can we pressure institutions and government officials to care about our broken streets and sidewalks? How can we identify other issues and problems we all share? How can we do this in a way that avoids the petty turf issues of the past? How do we hear each other and then speak with one voice? One possibility used by similar neighborhoods in other cities has been a neighborhood congress.

A neighborhood congress is a periodic gathering of anyone who lives, works, or cares about a specific neighborhood. It is a chance to celebrate accomplishments, acknowledge failures, identify arising concerns, and agree on unified action. It is an opportunity for people to speak and vote. It is a place where people can unite around certain actions. And the more who gather, the more powerful their voice.

**On Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 7-9 p.m. at the Fountain Square Theatre Building, we will hold the first Southeast Neighborhood Congress.** We'll celebrate accomplishments like the sidewalk and street assessment. We'll acknowledge efforts that have failed. We'll discuss new concerns and consider further actions. For too long, the city of Indianapolis, local foundations, and institutions have ignored the plight of Southeast Indianapolis. It is time for that to change.

For more information about the neighborhood congress, contact Jim Mulholland at 503-5852. To view the street and sidewalk assessment, go to [www.sendcdc.org/psinfrastructure.html](http://www.sendcdc.org/psinfrastructure.html).

### April is Annual Meeting

On Monday, April 5th, at 6:30 p.m. the Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association will have its annual meeting at the Immanuel United Church of Christ at the corner of East and Prospect. As always, we will also be short reports from IMPD, the Abandoned Housing Task Force as well as information about other activities in our neighborhood. However, we will also have election of new Board members and Officers. 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***

If you are not already aware, the Indiana Department of Corrections (IDOC) has located Parole Office #3 (serving Marion County) at 512 East Minnesota Street, right in the middle of our neighborhood. The location was previously used as an IDOC women's release center. The locating of this office in the densest residential neighborhood in the city is irresponsible government. Parole representatives have told us that approximately 2900 parolees, including, violent criminals, sex offenders, drug dealers, thieves, and non-violent offenders will be handled by this office, many of which will be visiting our neighborhood continuously. This is problematic for several reasons. Many of our children walk to and from school during the same hours this parole office is open. There are over 100 homes within 500 feet of this facility. Additionally, there are 8 schools, 5 churches, 12 parks, and several businesses and historic attractions located in close proximity of the parole office. The facility is approximately 650 feet from IPS elementary school #31 and a public playground. By law, sex offenders are not allowed within 1000 feet of a school (unless they lived there prior to the offense).

The parole office is not even well located for the parolees. There is inadequate public transportation to this location. Parolees may take the bus to their parole meeting, but will then have to find other transportation to leave and will likely end up walking through our neighborhood to go home or to another bus stop. There have frequently been parolees lined up outside of the office before it opens in the morning. I observed this last week while a group of children waited for the bus immediately across the street.

There is also inadequate parking provided around the facility. The facility does not meet Indianapolis requirements for adequate parking. The facility has one-quarter of the parking required by city ordinance and it is causing problems. We have been told that since it is a state owned facility, they are exempt from the city ordinance requirements. This has caused many problems with traffic and congestion at the location. There are also cars frequently parked on the public sidewalk.

And, there is the safety issue. While many parolees who have served their time will become law-abiding productive citizens of society, many will not. Nearly 650,000 people are released from state and federal prisons yearly. Far greater number reenter communities from local jails, and for many offenders, this may occur multiple times in a year. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics over 50 percent of those released from incarceration will be in some form of legal trouble within 3 years (U.S. Department of Justice).

In addition, the location of the parole office is in direct conflict with recent city and state investments in our neighborhood. The East Street Quality of Life committee has been working hard with city officials to revitalize the East Street corridor, which you will begin to see changes in the coming months. Southeast Neighborhood Development (SEND) has also received funding to purchase and rehabilitate homes in our neighborhood. Funding has also been provided by other entities for the revitalization of the East Street corridor and our neighborhood. The presence of the parole office in our neighborhood is a significant blow to these efforts. Our progress as a neighborhood has us in the running to become National Neighborhood of the Year. Representatives of Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) from around the country recently visited Indianapolis and took a bus tour of our neighborhood. We have recently heard that we are a finalist and will be presenting at the NUSA national conference in May.

While this is an issue to our neighborhood, I want to remind you that our fight is not with the parolees, or even the parole office employees. In fact, parole office representatives have been volunteering in our neighborhood. I ask you to not harass the parolees or employees. Our fight is with the people responsible for locating this office in an area that logistically does not make sense. Collectively, our neighborhood can fight to remove the parole office and continue our forward progress. We have a petition, and if you would like to sign one, please contact me and I will make sure to get it to you. Please also take some time to write a letter to the Governor, Mayor, and your State Senator and Representative asking them to remove this parole office. If no progress is made within the next week, a public meeting with the media is being planned for April 12. Hopefully, this meeting will not be necessary.

*Rob Uppencamp*

## Thank You!

A big thank you to all the neighbors who deliver the neighborhood newsletter. These folks are: Jim Mulholland, Jeff McDonald, Robyn Toole, Dennis Burton, Joyce Maynard, Sally Nordoff, Chris Dockery, Mary Goad, Esther Hollas, Charlie McDowell, Foster Pilcher, Lydia Brasher, Samara Duff, Ray Cunningham, Martha Myers, Carolyn Quinett, Emily Vanest, Amanda Bowling, Debbie McNeely and Stacy Hudson. If you are interested in helping deliver to streets not currently covered, please contact Lydia Brasher at 636-0831 or [lydia.brasher@gmail.com](mailto:lydia.brasher@gmail.com).

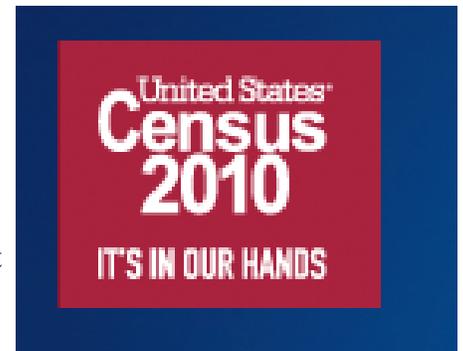


## Accurate Census Poll Means Cash for Indiana

The headlines in March 9<sup>th</sup> edition of The Indianapolis Star, screamed at me and since cash has a nice ring to it I read on. The article pointed out how the census count affects the amount of federal funding states and local governments receive. “About 27% of the federal funding Indiana gets each year is distributed on the basis of census figures. Indiana got \$7.4 billion in census-related funding in 2008. About 47,000 Hoosiers were not counted and that cost the state more than \$227 million in federal funding. Indiana ranked 41<sup>st</sup> on a per capita basis in census-related funding. The bulk of census-guided federal assistance goes to state governments, making it particularly important that states do what they can to ensure everyone is counted.”

“The state is focusing on populations that are particularly important to educate, such as college students. Indiana is the country’s second-largest net importer of college students and many students incorrectly think they are counted on their parents’ census form. A full-time student living on campus or elsewhere should complete a form and report that residence. Local community leaders need to get involved in promoting participation.”

“Medicaid, funded jointly by the state and federal government, is the largest source of federal funding tied to census figures. Highway and other transportation funding is next, followed by housing programs and education grants.”



## Trash Cans Coming To Bates Hendricks

The city of Indianapolis has announced that our neighborhood will begin automated trash collection sometime this summer. As early as April, the city will begin delivering 96 gallon DPW rolling trash cans to each residence. In June or July, new trucks will begin emptying these cans.

This is something that we’ve been asking for from the city for some time. We believe replacing all the bagged trash with these containers will cut down on the litter that is created when animals tear open bags. In addition, we believe these cans are more attractive.

However, these cans will come with certain restrictions. Once the program begins, no bagged trash will be picked up. If you can’t get your trash into the 96 gallon container, you will either need to buy an additional can from the city, or reduce your trash by recycling. Bagged trash will not be picked up and will be treated as illegal dumping.



For more information about this program, please contact Lisa Laflin,

## **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.

### **April Calendar**

**April 5 – Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Immanuel United Church of Christ.**

**April 22 – Southeast Neighborhood Congress.** Join neighbors from across the Southeast neighborhoods from 7-9 p.m. at the Fountain Square Theater Building to hear about street and sidewalk repair, abandoned housing, a possible Food Coop, and much more. Be part of the solution.

**April 27 – Cultural Trail Update.** The public meeting for the Indianapolis Cultural Trail will be from 6-8 p.m. at the Fountain Square Theater Building. At this meeting, Trail organizers will provide an update on the plans, Trail funding, and construction timeline.

**May 22 – Triangle Tree and Flower Planting.** CSX employees and neighborhood volunteers will plant trees and flowers in the green space on either side of Morris street west of the Burger King. To volunteer, contact Jonathan Mirgeaux at [jsmirgeaux@gmail.com](mailto:jsmirgeaux@gmail.com).

**June 5 – Alabama Street Esplanade Planting.** Join your Alabama street neighbors in planting trees and flowers in the esplanade. In addition, we'll have a dumpster to clean up alleys. To volunteer, contact Jim Mulholland at [jim@sendcdc.org](mailto:jim@sendcdc.org) or call 503-5852.

