



May  
2010

Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association

# Bates Hendricks Newsletter

## First Southeast Congress Successful

Over 80 Southeast neighborhood leaders met on Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Fountain Square Theatre Building for the first Southeast Neighborhood Congress. Mike McCormick, of Fletcher Place, moderated this inaugural event and helped the attendees understand this “radical attempt to democracy.” Everyone who came had a voice and a vote.

During the evening, the Congress watched a video celebrating the accomplishments of the past three years, removed two failed sections from the Southeast Quality of the Life Plan, identified three new areas of concern – abandoned housing, affordable and healthy food and retaining the Fountain Square library, and adopted a new strategy for addressing the disrepair of sidewalks and streets.

Perhaps most exciting was the presence of about ten Spanish speaking residents, who through an interpreter, participated in the gathering. Elizabeth Hernandez spoke at the end of the congress, saying, “This is the first time we have really felt like part of the neighborhood.” The next neighborhood congress is scheduled for July 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Immanuel United Church of Christ in our own neighborhood.

For those interested in seeing more about the Congress and the Southeast Quality of Life Plan, please visit the new website: [southeastneighborhood.org](http://southeastneighborhood.org).

## Fountain Square Library Threatened With Closing

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Indianapolis Public Library announced the possible closing of six neighborhood libraries in the next two years. They announced that the property tax cap had led to decreased revenues and created this crisis. One of the libraries slated for closing would be the Fountain Square branch many of us use. If plans do not change, the Fountain Square branch would close in December of 2011.



Almost immediately after this announcement, neighborhood residents began to organize to oppose the closings. Many attended the April 15<sup>th</sup> Library Board Meeting and argued the Fountain Square Library is vital for the continued success of our neighborhood and that, if expenses must be cut, that this should be done equitably across the city.

In the days ahead there will many opportunities to make your opposition known to Library, city, and state officials.

On May 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, the Library is holding Public Forums at the Library Services Center at 2400 N. Meridian at 6:30 in the evening. On May 10<sup>th</sup>, local residents are meeting at 901 Shelby to carpool to this event.

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m., local residents are invited to a meeting of support and strategy at 901 Shelby.

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, the Library Board meets again.

All residents are encouraged to write their city and state representatives concerning this issue.

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Dr. Philip Heller, DDS*

## **From the President:**

Dear Neighbors,

This year has proven to be a challenging year so far. Yet, our neighborhood has proven to be strong and we are continuing to improve one project at a time.

If you have been following the issue with the parole office then you are aware that the Indiana Department of Corrections (IDOC) had initially committed to remove the parole office from our neighborhood, but then rescinded their commitment. However, we have not given up on our fight. A group of neighborhood leaders met with our State Representatives and Senator on April 23 at the Statehouse to discuss the matter. I want to let you know that State Representative Mary Ann Sullivan (if you live west of East Street), State Representative John Day (if you live east of East Street), and State Senator Brent Waltz have been very active on our behalf in seeing that this parole office gets moved.

We were told that the IDOC is actively pursuing alternative locations for the office. While we cannot provide a time frame, I can assure you that our representatives and senator will be following the matter closely. You can also thank Principal Ginder at School 31 for his leadership and dedication in the matter. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to write letters or send email to the IDOC, Governor and Mayor letting them know we are still watching and will not go away. I have provided their contact information below. I am proud of everyone in this neighborhood for pulling together and fighting this matter. I can tell you that I know IDOC was shocked at the response they got from the neighborhood. I will be following up occasionally to keep everyone informed of the status.

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.  
Office of the Governor  
Statehouse  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2797  
317-232-4567  
[mdaniels@gov.in.gov](mailto:mdaniels@gov.in.gov)

Mayor Gregory A. Ballard  
2501 City-County Building  
200 East Washington Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Edwin G Buss, IDOC Commissioner  
302 W. Washington St., Room E-334  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
317-232-5711  
[egbuss@idoc.in.gov](mailto:egbuss@idoc.in.gov)

As you have also probably heard by now, the Indianapolis Marion County Library has reached the point where their financial resources do not meet the pace of their growth. As such, they are proposing to close several library branches. Please read the enclosed article for more information.

Lastly, the East Street Quality of Life Committee, headed by Greg Allen, has been working hard on plans for the East Street Corridor. You will start seeing some subtle improvements in the near future with small landscape projects. We are also very close to having neighborhood banners installed along the street.

Hope to see everyone at the neighborhood meeting this Monday night.

Sincerely,

*Rob Uppencamp*

## Paint the Town Needs Volunteers!

We are excited to announce the inaugural year for Paint the Town (PTT) Indianapolis. PTT is a successful program from Cincinnati that we are bringing to the Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood this summer as part of the SEND revitalization of South Alabama Street. House exteriors contribute greatly to a neighborhood's image and some neighbors in SE Indy want a new coat of paint on their homes. PTT identifies residents in need of a new paint job and then works with the homeowner to meet their needs. We provide supplies, expertise and volunteers in order to do the job. We need plenty of volunteers for our May work dates. We have morning shifts (8am-12pm) and afternoon shifts (1pm-5pm) on May 8th, May 15th and May 22nd.



Come be part of a project with neighbors helping neighbors to improve our homes and neighborhood. Volunteers will be expected to scrape old paint, sand wood, apply paint and/or clean up. Please contact Matt Impink if you are interested in signing up for a shift or if you have questions.

Matt Impink, Program Coordinator phone: 317-443-3535 email: [mrimpink@gmail.com](mailto:mrimpink@gmail.com)

## Triangle Gateway Project Prepares to Take Off

In just a few short weeks, the Triangle Gateway Project will begin to take shape. Through generous grants from Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc., Eli Lilly, and CSX/City Year, the Triangle Gateway Committee has been able to acquire the materials and most of the volunteers necessary to bring a new vision of Morris and Prospect Streets to life. This spring, approximately 50 ornamental trees and several hundred juniper bushes will be planted on the site. Although these trees and shrubs will be planted over two days this spring, volunteers are needed on Friday, May 21 to help kick off the planting. The day will start at 9 a.m. and go until 1 p.m. Lunch will be provided at the Immanuel United Church of Christ at the corner of East and Prospect. Volunteers can meet at the church parking lot. If you have any questions, or would like to throw your name in as a volunteer, please contact Robyn Toole at 634-2389.



## **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.

### **May Calendar**

**May 3 – Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Immanuel United Church of Christ.**

**May 8 - Celebrate Urban Birds - Garfield Park Conservatory 2:30pm.** Join the Indiana Young Birders Club and help count the birds near the conservatory. This information will be used by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to help monitor bird population. We will also be giving away a Kaufman Field Guide to Birds of North America!

**May 15 - Master Gardener Plant Sale - Garfield Park Conservatory, 9am - 12pm,** 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 help answer all of your gardening questions. FREE

**May 15 - Paper Jam - Garfield Park Conservatory, 1-4pm,** Come to Garfield Park and learn how to fold, cut and make paper- and even make it soar though the air! You can make and fly paper airplanes and kites at the Burrello Family Center, make "plantable paper" at the Conservatory, and study the art of paper folding and paper cutting at the Arts Center. You can make paper instruments and jam along with live music at the Arts Center. All ages. FREE.

**May 21 - 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 [jmirgeaux@gmail.com](mailto:jmirgeaux@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.

