

2013  
October

## Bates-Hendricks Newsletter



# Some Ways to Help Beautify the Neighborhood

At the August Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Association meeting, Joe Jarzen from Keep Indianapolis Beautiful brought us up to date on the Adopt-A-Block program, especially the Singleton Park Project. This large project is located on the corner of Beecher and Singleton on our neighborhood's southern boundary. A lot of cleanup has taken place and now it is time to do some building up. One project is to build a shelter for the area and to put in some grills and benches. Someone has also donated some playground equipment. There are two work days being planned for planting, sod or seeding, and spraying weeds. There will be a need for many volunteers to help on these two days. To get involved, contact Rob Uppencamp at [vicepresident@bateshendricks.org](mailto:vicepresident@bateshendricks.org).

Tami Stevens, also from Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB), was also present at our last meeting to talk about the Great Indy Cleanup in our area on Saturday, October 26. KIB has 100 volunteers coming in to the neighborhood to help and there is a need for neighborhood volunteers to work alongside these outside volunteers. KIB will provide necessary tools and the city will provide packer trucks. The neighborhood will develop a list of projects all these volunteers can help us with. To get involved with this effort, contact John Winter at [president@bateshendricks.org](mailto:president@bateshendricks.org).

Finally, Immanuel United Church of Christ and Northview Christian Church will once again be in our neighborhood on November 2 and 3 to help with various projects. With all these volunteers coming into our neighborhood, it would be great if the neighborhood could also turn out a great number of volunteers!

## Identity Theft: The Fastest Growing Crime

The risk of identity theft is a lot like germs – you can be aware and take precautions but you cannot avoid the risk completely. You can only be smart about the behaviors you use and educate those around you. Identity theft happens when someone steals your personal information and uses it without your permission. It is a serious crime that can wreak havoc with your finances, credit history, and reputation—and it can take time, money, and patience to resolve. Approximately 15 million U.S. residents have their identities used fraudulently each year with financial losses totaling upwards of \$50 billion dollars. In Indiana, several thousand occur each year.

To help us understand the problem and hear about some helpful solutions, join us at our October 7 Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Association meeting, where Michelle Mayer from the office of Outreach Services of the Indiana Attorney General's Office will be our main speaker. The Neighborhood Association will meet at Immanuel United Church of Christ at the corner of East and Prospect at 6:30pm.

Michelle Mayer is the Director of Outreach Services for the Office of the Indiana Attorney General. She is part of the Consumer Protection Division and works to bring the services of the office directly into communities and provides forums to educate Hoosiers on protecting themselves from becoming victims of scams, fraud, and identity theft. She and her staff have directly reached more than 80,000 Hoosiers since their program started in 2009, conducting programs in all 92 counties.

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## Letter from the President

### Bates-Hendricks' Award-Winning Float

For those who have not heard, the Bates-Hendricks float won the Community Spirit Award in the Art Squared Art Parade on September 21! This was truly a community effort and I think that we can all be proud of the collaboration from so many people.

Special thanks go to Greg Allen for coordinating all of the meetings and the building of the float. Thank you to Allen Janke for the use of his truck and trailer for the float. Thanks to our piano performers Greg Allen (Miracle Mile) and James Winter (Art Squared). I would also like to thank everyone that showed up to the planning meetings, helped to purchase items for the float, build the float, and walk with it during the parades! In total, there were close to 40 people that helped the float come together! –John Winter



**BHNA President, John Winter**

## SE Education Task Force Creates Parent Mentoring Workshops



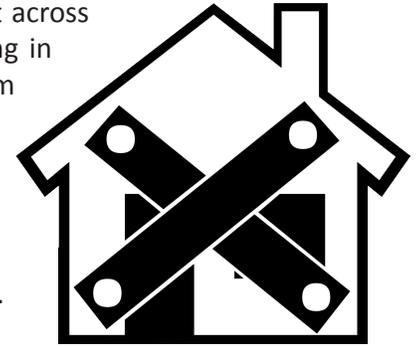
The Southeast Education Task Force members believe that family leadership in student learning takes place in homes and in the neighborhood. That leadership can also make a difference in classrooms. To better understand the power of family and community in schools, members of the Task Force visited Chicago in 2012 to observe parent and community organizing in action. During the visit, Task Force members were inspired by many parents, teachers, and community members of Chicago neighborhoods who are working together to improve their neighborhood schools and community. Since the trip, Task Force members have been planning their own Southeast parent mentoring program based off of the findings and experiences in Chicago.

Knowing that parents and families are the most important adults in helping students to learn and grow, the Task Force plans on building a program specially tailored for parents and families in the Southeast community. The program is aimed at empowering parents or family members from IPS 31 and SENSE Charter School with leadership workshops centered around improving communication within schools, being advocates for their children, and much more! The workshops are planned to begin next Spring. For more information contact Angie Calvert at [angie.calvert@yahoo.com](mailto:angie.calvert@yahoo.com).

The Southeast Education Task Force is an open group of volunteer parents, school staff, organizations, and community members working to improve education in the Southeast. The task force meets every 4th Thursday at 5:00pm at Southeast Community Services, 901 Shelby Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room.

# Bates-Hendricks 2013 Abandoned Housing Report

Every summer for the past four years, Bates-Hendricks residents have fanned out across the neighborhood to identify, count, and rate the vacant and abandoned housing in our neighborhood. This information has allowed us to create an annual “problem property” list of the worst properties as well as keep abreast of trends in our neighborhood. In addition, it has positioned us to better inform and influence City policy around demolition and rehabilitation in our neighborhood. Based on the recent survey, we can draw many conclusions about housing trends.



In August of 2012, there were 191 vacant or abandoned houses in our neighborhood.

In the past year:

- 14 were rehabbed, repaired
- 7 were demolished
- 75 are now occupied, though some of these may not have been repaired
  - 33 of those now occupied from last year were merely vacant (0 points)
- Average condition of the vacant houses has gotten worse
  - This is mainly due to the lower number of vacant properties in good condition

The big takeaway that excites me is that this is the first time in recent memory where more homes have been rehabbed than demolished. Also, while completing the survey and walking around the neighborhood, many other homes can be seen to be improved, or in the process of being rehabbed.

This August, we found only 157 vacant and abandoned houses. This is a reduction of 34 vacant and abandoned houses or 18 percent!

In the past year, 38 houses became vacant or abandoned; the average condition of these houses was less than 6 points. This actually means that many of the newly vacant properties are in worse condition than what they were in the past. I feel that this is partly due to many of the homes in better condition are being rented/sold much more quickly. This is also apparent since 67 became newly vacant or abandoned in the 2012 survey.

Of the present 157 vacant or abandoned houses:

- 53 are in serious disrepair
- 46 are in some disrepair
- 58 are vacant, but in repair

Of these 157 vacant and abandoned houses, two are severely burnt and need to be demolished as soon as possible. Due to budget concerns, this may not happen for awhile, but we will continue to work with the City to see that these are taken care of in a timely fashion. There are also the properties owned by DMD (Department of Metropolitan Development.) Many of these are in very poor condition and may need to be demolished as well if they cannot be moved to responsible property owners.

One tool that is starting to show results in the neighborhood is the County Surplus Auction. Over the past year, more than 20 abandoned houses have been sold! We are now beginning to see the results as some of these houses have been rehabbed. Hopefully, we will continue to see improvement of the homes sold at the latest sale in July. Even more exciting is that there will be another 15 properties up for sale in the auction on October 18. At this rate, we should be able to work through our supply of surplus properties within another year or so.

The Abandoned Housing Task Force will meet Monday, October 7 at 6:00pm at Immanuel United Church (at the corner of Prospect and East Street) just before the Neighborhood Association meeting to further discuss the results from the survey and to determine the strategy for our worst houses. For more details, please contact John Winter at 414-9108 or [housingtaskforce@bateshendricks.org](mailto:housingtaskforce@bateshendricks.org).

# 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](http://bateshendricks.org).



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## Newsletters Online

This newsletter and previous newsletters available online at [bateshendricks.org/news](http://bateshendricks.org/news)

## Monthly Calendar

- Oct 7** Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Association Meeting, 6:30pm, Immanuel United Church of Christ.
- Oct 10** Afternoon Book Discussion, Fountain Square Library, 1:30pm. Adults are invited to this monthly book discussion program. The month's book is "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald.
- Oct 11 & 25** Senior Euchre, The Burrello Family Center at Garfield Park, 1:00pm, Free or \$1 to play in prize fund.
- Oct 12** ALA Teen Read Week: Ghostbusters, Fountain Square Library, 2:00pm. Teens are invited to a special movie night to view the film, "Ghostbusters".
- Oct 14** ALA Teen Read Week: Haunted Indianapolis, Fountain Square Library, 5:00pm. Teens are invited to learn about local haunted sites from authors of the book, "Ghost Hunter's Guide to Indianapolis".
- Oct 15** Celebrate German Culture: Cartooning Gothic Sculptures, Fountain Square Library, 2:00pm. Children ages 5 and older are invited to study photos of German Gothic sculpture and create their own cartoon character inspired by it. Young children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required.
- Oct 15** Family Game Night, Fountain Square Library, 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Families are invited to play a variety of fun and educational board games with their children.
- Oct 16** Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month: Music & Culture of Latin America, Fountain Square Library, 6:00pm. Families are invited to explore the rich culture of Latin America through an interactive, bilingual blend of music, folk dance, and more. Also learn about Latin American historical characters, artists, and writers.
- Oct 19** City Write, Fountain Square Library, Noon to 2:00pm. Individuals of all ages can participate in a city-wide memoir writing project exploring written memories and reflections associated with their communities.
- Oct 26** **Great Indy Cleanup, neighborhood-wide, all day. For more details, contact [president@bateshendricks.org](mailto:president@bateshendricks.org).**
- Oct 26** Celebrate German Culture: German Cooking, Hoosier Style, Fountain Square Library, 2:00pm. Families are invited to learn how modern Germans and their modern Hoosier descendants have embraced new foods from other cultures, beyond the traditional wurst, sauerkraut, and dumplings. This program will include a food demonstration and tasting. Registration required.
- Oct 31** Scare in the Square, Fountain Square Library, 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Families and children are invited to wear their Halloween costumes and visit the Smallest Halloween House in Fountain Square.

