

2015
November

Bates-Hendricks Newsletter



Upcoming Neighborhood Meetings

Our next Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Association meeting is Monday, November 2 at 6:30pm at Immanuel United Church of Christ at the corner of East and Prospect Streets. We'll have an update on abandoned housing in the neighborhood. We're also sure to have updates from elected officials and candidates in the upcoming election.

The December 7 Bates-Hendricks meeting will be our annual holiday pitch-in dinner at the same time and place. The Neighborhood Association will provide ham and turkey, buns, condiments, lemonade, water, utensils, and napkins. Everyone else, please bring a side dish or dessert. Hope to see you there!



Get Out and Vote on November 3!

Regardless of who you vote for in the City of Indianapolis municipal elections on Tuesday, November 3, be sure to vote! When people in an area get out and vote, that neighborhood has a stronger political voice in the future. Politicians and others pay more attention to areas where people care and vote. They don't have to worry about serving areas where people aren't voting.

To verify your polling location and voter registration, and to see your list of candidates, visit the Voter Information Portal at maps.indy.gov/VIP. We have several voting polls in our neighborhood and it's fast and easy to vote.



Note that our neighborhood will no longer be in District 19, but will instead be divided up between two City Councilors, which will go into effect at the beginning of 2016. The new Districts are 16 and 21.

Indianapolis Mayor Candidates

Chuck Brewer
Joe Hogsett

City/County Council, District 16 Candidates

Emily Shrock
Jeff Miller (District 19 / Bates-Hendricks incumbent)

City/County Council, District 21 Candidates

Anthony Davidson
Frank Mascari (District 20 incumbent)

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Letter from the President

Bates-Hendricks 2015 Abandoned Housing Report

Every year for the past seven 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 September of 2014, there were 168 vacant or abandoned houses in our neighborhood. In the past year:

- At least 14 were rehabbed / repaired
- 4 were demolished
- Average condition of the vacant houses is slightly better; this is partially due to the fact that homes are being stabilized prior to rehab

This October, we found 165 vacant and abandoned houses. This is a small decrease of 3 vacant houses. In the past year, 53 houses became vacant or abandoned; the average condition of these houses was just over 6 points. This actually means that many of the newly vacant properties are in better condition than what they were in the past. I feel that this is partly because many of the homes in better condition are being rented/sold much more quickly.

Of the present 165 vacant or abandoned houses:

- 53 are in serious disrepair
- 47 are in some disrepair
- 43 are vacant, but in repair
- 22 are vacant, and are in good shape



BHNA President, John Winter

The big takeaway that excites me about this is that for the third year in a row, many more homes have been rehabbed than demolished. Even more exciting is that in the previous years much of the rehab work was spurred by non-profits working in the area. This year, the rehabs were all taken up by private investors and/or homeowners. Additionally, there are many more rehabs in progress – soon we will no longer know the meaning of abandoned houses in this neighborhood!

The Abandoned Housing Survey will be discussed in detail on Monday, November 2 as part of the Neighborhood Association Meeting. At that time, we can further discuss the results from the survey and determine the strategy we want to address our worst houses. For more details, please contact me at (317) 414-9108 or housingtaskforce@BatesHendricks.org.

–John Winter

Leaf Collection Starting Up Again Soon

The Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) will collect leaves from Marion County residents from Monday, November 9 to Friday, December 4.

Residents may place up to 40 bags of leaves per household at the curb for collection each week in addition to their regular trash. Residents should place leaf bags curbside on the day of their regular trash pickup for collection. Residents need to have leaf bags and regular trash at the curb by 7:00am to ensure collection.

Guidelines:

- Place leaves in plastic or specially built paper yard waste bags.
- Place leaf bags outside by 7:00am on your regular trash day.
- Residents with trash carts must keep all leaf bags at least 3 feet away from trash carts. Regular trash that is not inside the cart will not be picked up.
- Clear leaves and debris from storm drains to avoid flooding and drainage problems.

Please remember that open burning of leaves is illegal in Indianapolis/Marion County.

Leaves collected during the 2015 leaf season will be taken to Southside Landfill where they will be turned into compost. When ready, the compost is made available to Indianapolis residents at no charge. Please call Southside Landfill at 247-6808 for availability of compost.

For more information about Fall leaf collection, visit www.indy.gov/dpw. Click on trash, then click on leaf collection from the drop-down menu.

Storm Water Rate Change for Fall 2015 Tax Statement

The storm water rate change should be reflected on your Fall 2015 property tax statement (due by November 10). Because of the change, the amount due for the Fall will probably not match what you paid for the Spring 2015 installment.

Storm water fees for all types of parcels (residential, commercial, churches, schools, etc.) will now be calculated based on the City's measurement of the impervious surface area on the parcel. Due to our small urban lots, this means most of us will only be facing about a \$1/month increase.

With the storm water user fee restructuring, the City can begin addressing the \$320 million in storm water capital infrastructure needs and better maintain the existing system. An updated storm water master plan, including a high priority list with \$81 million in projects to be completed through 2018, will alleviate neighborhood and street flooding, improve water quality in our rivers and streams, improve streets and sidewalks, and resolve many drainage complaints.



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 Laura Tease, 402 Orange Street, Indianapolis, IN 46225. More information about the neighborhood can be found online at bateshendricks.org.



Like Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Association on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/bateshendricks

Newsletters Online

This newsletter and previous newsletters available online at bateshendricks.org/news

Monthly Calendar

- Nov 2** **Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Association Meeting, 6:30pm, Immanuel United Church of Christ.**
- Nov 3** **VOTE !!! See page 1 for details.**
- Nov 7** Herb Society: Holiday Workshop, Garfield Park Conservatory, 10:00am to 11:00am, \$5. In this program, adult participants will be able to make holiday gifts using herbs from the garden. Registration required. Payment will be collected by instructor.
- Nov 10** Jungle Tales, Garfield Park Conservatory, 10:00am to 11:00am, \$4. Bring your preschooler to this program with a focus on the natural world. Registration required.
- Nov 13 & 27** Senior Euchre, The Burrello Family Center at Garfield Park, 1:00pm, Free or \$1 to play in prize fund.
- Nov 14** Early Morning Meditation, Garfield Park Conservatory, 8:30am to 9:30am, \$5. Adults are invited for a tranquil morning in the tropical Conservatory with an instructor-led meditation and breathing exercise and free quiet time. Registration required.
- Nov 17** Family Game and Craft Night, Fountain Square Library, 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Families are invited to play board games and have fun while hanging out with friends and family.
- Nov 20** Tonic Ball 14, A Benefit for Second Helpings. For more information about this benefit concert spanning several Fountain Square venues, visit www.tonicindy.com.
- Nov 26** Thanksgiving!
- Nov 27- Dec 31** Conservatory Crossing, Garfield Park Conservatory, Mon.-Sat. 10:00am to 5:00pm, Sun. 1:00pm to 5:00pm, \$3 per person, \$8 per family (2 adults and 1 or more children). See the Conservatory decked out in its holiday best with a brilliant display of poinsettias and enjoy model trains, train village, and thousands of twinkling lights.
- Dec 7** **Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Association Holiday Pitch-In, 6:30pm, Immanuel United Church of Christ. See page 1 for details.**

