

2016
April

Bates-Hendricks Newsletter



Important Neighborhood Meeting April 4

Our April meeting will be our annual meeting, where Board appointments come up for a vote. This meeting will be the last one our current President, John Winter, will run. Vice President Lance Boehmer is prepared to take up the charge as President, pending the outcome of the vote. We also have a few Officer and Director positions needing a renewal vote. Read about the candidates below.

Finally, we'll also be voting on BlueIndy location(s) in the neighborhood. At the last meeting, there was a lot of interest in having one or more BlueIndy stations, so we would like to send a letter of support to add BlueIndy to the Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood. Come help us shape the future of the neighborhood!

Lance Boehmer, current VP, up for President

A native of Michigan, Lance moved to Indianapolis six years ago to pursue a career in public relations and marketing. As an avid downtown dweller, Lance has a passion for neighborhood and community development. He currently serves as the Vice President of the Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Association, sits on the Board of Directors for the Southeast Neighborhood Development (SEND) community development corporation, and actively volunteers with a local non-profit for young professionals known as IndyHub. Professionally, Lance uses his experiences gained while working in the non-profit sector for his Fraternity headquarters and in the public sector for IndyGo, to now lead BlueIndy's marketing and sales teams.

Lydia Brasher, up for re-election as Secretary

Lydia has lived in Bates-Hendricks for 65 years. She attended School #18, graduated from Manual High School, and has a BS and MS from Indiana University. Lydia was an elementary school librarian for thirty-eight years – the last thirty-five in Pike Township Schools, retiring in 2004. She has seen a lot of changes in the neighborhood, both good and bad. She is pleased with the direction of growth and improvement over the past several years, due in great part to the leadership of the neighborhood association. Lydia is currently a Bates-Hendricks Board Director and serves as Secretary. She is responsible for printing the newsletter and distributing it to the carriers and is at most neighborhood events and projects.

John Winter, current President, up for Director

John has been a resident of Bates-Hendricks for over 8 years. He has spent much of his time in the neighborhood working to eliminate abandoned housing and negligent property owners as well as implementing beautification projects. He has been the chair of the abandoned housing committee for the last 3.5 years and in that time has worked to target the worst properties in our area. John has also spent time working on many

of the neighborhood public spaces, including Coburn Park and the public urban garden, Czerny Gardens – a memorial to his mother who loved to garden and feed people.

Rob Uppencamp, up for re-election as Director

Rob has been a resident for over 12 years and has been on the Bate-Hendricks Board of Directors for 10 years, serving as President from 2010-2013. Rob lives on Singleton Street with his 4-year-old son, Oliver, and Weimaraner, Luke, in a historic house that he is rehabilitating. He helped design and build, and is the curator of, Baumann Park. Rob also serves as Vice Chair of the SEND Board of Directors and is a member of the Southeast Neighborhood Community Building Team. Professionally, Rob is an environmental scientist.

Nick Zimmerman, up for re-election as Director

Nick has lived in Bates-Hendricks with his wife since 2009, during which time he has been actively engaged in improving the area. He is currently a Bates-Hendricks Board Director and chairs the Bates-Hendricks Marketing Committee. He also edits the newsletter, manages the website, and regularly picks up trash around his block. He's at most neighborhood events and projects, ready to help out.

Stephanie Pilcher, up for open Director spot

Stephanie and her husband, Foster, moved to New Street in 2007. She is a full time K-5 music teacher and mother of 3 boys. Her job and children keep life exciting and busy, but caring for our neighborhood is a priority to her. She has written several grants over the past few years that have helped launch projects throughout the neighborhood, most recently the grant through KIB for Baumann Park. She and Foster hold monthly block club meetings at their home, lead alley cleanups, and enjoy helping to mow Baumann Park. Stephanie loves our neighborhood and working behind the scenes to help care for the Bates-Hendricks community.

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Letter from the President

As I write my final letter from the President, I look back with pride at all of the amazing accomplishments the neighborhood has achieved over the last three years.

We drastically reduced the number of abandoned homes. Over the last few years, we completely eradicated the County Surplus backlog of 70+ homes, many of which have been fixed up and are home to new residents in the neighborhood. The reduction in abandoned housing has encouraged housing improvements, which in turn has created a hopping real estate market that multiple media outlets have covered in the last two years.

Our infrastructure continues to improve. Six streets have been repaved, including East Street with its new medians that encourage drivers to come into the neighborhood.

The two side medians just north of Morris are completely planted, and the two main medians south of Morris will be planted later this year and have a "Welcome to Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood" sign, finishing off our northern gateway. With this work, East Street is much more inviting to drive and walk down. With Indy All Night's plans to expand their building, commercial activity is moving into the heart of the neighborhood.

We have continued our push for beautification by partnering with groups like Keep Indianapolis Beautiful and Northview Church to create beautiful new spaces like Baumann Park. We revived Coburn Park and landscaped the corner of East and Orange Streets. Additionally, we have planted over 11,000 bulbs over the last few years, bringing a splash of color in the spring to the neighborhood! Last November, with the help of Big Car, we completed a gateway mural welcoming people to the neighborhood on the south side of Morris Street under I-65.

While we have built many great things in the neighborhood together, I am most impressed by the amazing sense of community we have built. In addition to a dedicated group of neighbors that have been around for many years, every month new residents are moving into the neighborhood and making it their home. These neighbors are engaged almost as soon as they finish unpacking their last box! The strength of the neighborhood comes from its residents; and because of the residents, Bates-Hendricks continues to grow and thrive. With a great group of neighbors, all things commercial – retail, service, etc. are possible. Meanwhile, we can continue to enjoy each other's company with porch parties, progressive dinners, and random meet-ups at each other's houses.

As I conclude my final Letter from the President, I want to thank everyone for your tireless work that has supported me in the roll of President over these last three years, without which none of this would have been possible. I leave the office knowing that it's in good hands with our next President, Lance Boehmer, whose tireless dedication and relentless work will steer Bates-Hendricks into a new era as one of the great neighborhoods in Indianapolis.



BHNA President, John Winter

Community Yard Sale at East Street Apostolic Church

East Street Apostolic Church, located at East and Beecher Streets, is planning on hosting a community Yard Sale in their parking lot on Saturday, May 7 from 8:00am to 3:00pm. They will have some tables set up with items for sale, along with a food booth. They also plan to have a sound system set up for music to be played that day.



They want to invite people from the community to come and participate in this event by setting up a table to sell items if they so desire. Space will be provided to sell, along with a table and 2 chairs for a \$10 donation. The donations will be going to help improve the landscaping around the building. To sign up to purchase booth space, please e-mail Pastor Daniel Parnell at paulparnellhairdesign@gmail.com.

IMPD to Transition to Beat Policing

In an effort to enhance the collaboration between citizens and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, the process to implement beat policing will begin in late April, when new recruits hit the streets. A three-year plan will be developed to address staffing needs and responsibilities.

The current configuration of beats includes 33 zones citywide. The new plan will add 19 new beats across IMPD's jurisdiction. Fifteen of the areas were selected by District Commanders to concentrate resources based upon crime/quality-of-life data. There will also be four entertainment zones: Broad Ripple (North District); Fountain Square (Southeast District); Mass Ave. Corridor (Downtown District); and the South Meridian Corridor (Downtown District). The six previous Focus Areas will now be comprised of eight beats. A number of the new beats encompass the LISC Economic Development areas. There are no plans for beats in Bates-Hendricks at this time.

At the end of 2016, IMPD will add approximately 70 more new officers and conduct a thorough review of personnel. In 2017, they will make changes as result of that personnel review and monitor the possibility of expanding the beat concept. Additional new hires are also expected in 2017.

Agreement Reached in Citizens Sewer Rate Case

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC), industrial customers, and Citizens Energy Group have reached a settlement agreement in Citizens' pending sewer rate case. If the agreement receives approval from the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), it will save customers more than \$25 million annually when compared to the increased revenues sought under the utility's original request. The IURC will review the agreement as part of its deliberations. Any settlement agreement filed with the IURC may be approved, modified, or rejected.

Under the agreement's terms:

- Citizens' will receive an overall increase of ≈\$61.3 million (≈27.6%) in its annual operating revenues. By comparison, Citizens had requested an increase of ≈\$87 million (≈42%). The increase will be implemented in two phases.
- The monthly fixed base charge for residential and commercial customers will rise from \$13.82 to \$18.75. The utility's original request would have raised this charge to \$24.63.
- The settling parties agree not to challenge the IURC's authority to approve an order regarding the wholesale wastewater treatment rates Citizens charges to seven neighboring utilities. Wholesale charge issues are being addressed in a separate subdocket pending before the IURC.
- A crisis fund will also be established to assist income-eligible customers with wastewater bills. Citizens will contribute \$100,000 annually to the fund from non-rate revenues.

The requested rate increase will be used for major capital projects aimed at eliminating combined sewer overflows and septic tanks, as well as addressing other environmental concerns within the City of Indianapolis. This request includes major remediation projects that are required to meet certain obligations imposed under a federal consent decree.

The agreement will have no effect on rates for water, natural gas, or other utility services. A settlement agreement on Citizens' water rate request is pending in a separate case before the IURC.

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

- Apr 4** Bates-Hendricks Neighborhood Association Meeting, 6:30pm, Immanuel United Church of Christ.
- Apr 5, 12, 19, & 26** Bluegrass in the Garden, Arthur's Music Store, 931 Shelby Street, 5:00pm to 8:00pm. All skill-levels welcome! More info at discoverfountainsquare.com/events/bluegrass-in-the-garden-2/
- Apr 8 & 22** Senior Euchre, The Burrello Family Center at Garfield Park, 1:00pm, Free or \$1 to play in prize fund.
- Apr 12** Jungle Tales, Garfield Park Conservatory, 10:00am to 11:00am, \$5, ages 2-5. This program focuses on the rain forest and our local environment and includes a story, activity, and craft. Registration required.
- Apr 14** Afternoon Book Discussion, Fountain Square Library, 1:30pm. Adults are invited to this monthly book discussion program. The book to be discussed is "Orphan Train" by Christina Baker Kline.
- Apr 15** Third Friday Music on the Plaza, Fountain Square, 6:00pm to 9:00pm. A free concert series featuring live local bands on the third Friday of the month April–October, outdoor on the Fountain Square plaza! April 15th: Megan Hopkins & Dave Vogt/ Carey Goodspeed.
- Apr 16&17** Orchid Show & Sale, Garfield Park Conservatory, 10:00am to 5:00pm, \$4/person, \$10/family (limit 2 adults).
- Apr 19** 2016 Cooking Workshop Series: What a Crock, Fountain Square Library, 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Learn the basics of how to use a slow cooker. Includes live demonstrations, food tastings, and a lecture. Registration required.
- Apr 23** Kite-Making Class for Kids, Fountain Square Library, 3:30pm. Children ages 6-12 are invited to get ready for spring by making a kite to fly! Registration required.
- Apr 27** April Showers, Garfield Park Conservatory, 10:00am to 11:00am, \$5, ages 2-5. Have fun with water with a story, craft, and fun activity about nature. Fee also includes admission for one adult. Registration required.
- Apr 27** Teen Tech Week: Hour of Code Session, Fountain Square Library, 4:00pm. Teens and tweens are invited to use iPads and the LightBot application and try their hands at the basics of coding. Registration required.
- May 7** Community Yard Sale, East Street Apostolic Church, 1909 S. East Street, from 8:00am to 3:00pm. See page 3 for details.

