



Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association

March
2009

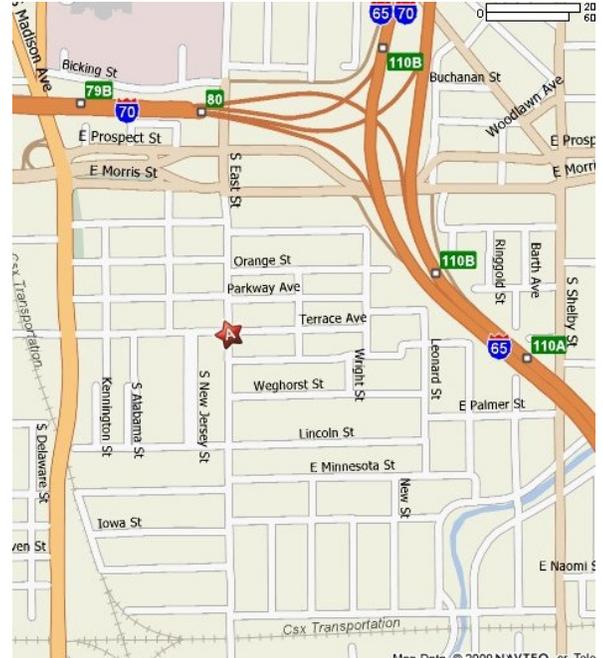
Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association
Bates Hendricks Newsletter

Is this the first Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Newsletter you have seen? Did you know you lived in the Bates Hendricks Neighborhood? Well, if you live south of I-70 and north of Beecher Street, and between Madison Avenue and I-65/Shelby Street, you do. Welcome to the Neighborhood! We're happy to have you as neighbors!

The Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association is looking to get more residents involved in making Bates Hendricks the next great neighborhood in Indianapolis. We would like to invite you to attend the upcoming association meeting on March 2nd at 6:30 at the Immanuel United Church of Christ. Come and meet fellow neighbors, and learn how we are preparing to take on the issue of abandoned houses in the neighborhood.

Not interested in abandoned houses? Well you can also meet city representatives, school officials, neighborhood police officers, and many other people who are working together to improve our community in a variety of areas.

The Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association does a lot more than meet and talk. We pull a wide variety of residents and community partners together for fun events and volunteer opportunities throughout the neighborhood. If you would like to join us in making our community better, please check out the additional information on the last page, give us a call, or better yet - see you at the meeting on March 2nd!



Neighbors gather for a block club cookout.



Lilly volunteers help out on New Jersey Street.

This newsletter is sponsored by:

Sister's Restaurant Campbell Ventilation Screenmobile

Regions Bank Immanuel United Church of Christ

Bates Hendricks Abandoned Housing Forum

Monday, March 2nd, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Immanuel United Church of Christ

Ever wonder how many abandoned houses there are in our neighborhood? Ever ask why the city doesn't demolish some of them? Or why SEND doesn't buy them and fix them up? Or why nothing seems to happen to the eyesore next to you? You're not alone. Many of us want the answers to these questions.

On Monday, March 2, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., we'll finally get some answers. The Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association, through a generous grant from IMAGINE, is sponsoring an Abandoned Housing Forum on March 2nd at the Immanuel United Church of Christ at the corner of East and Prospect Streets. This forum will introduce a grass roots initiative called "No House Left Behind."

"No House Left Behind" involves identifying every vacant or abandoned house in the Bates Hendricks neighborhood, highlighting the 30 worst properties, developing strategies to address them and establishing a crime and safety program to monitor the remaining properties.

At the forum:

- The Resident Assessment Team will list the addresses of every vacant and abandoned house in our neighborhood, report on how many violations for each property, reveal the status of these properties and show pictures of the thirty worst properties.
- Sherron Franklin, Indianapolis Mayor's Office, and Duane Ingram, Indy Land Bank, will discuss the strategies the City is using to address abandoned housing.
- Mark Stewart, SEND – Southeast Neighborhood Development, will talk about strategies to rehabilitate housing.
- A crime and safety initiative that allows neighbors to monitor abandoned housing with motion sensors will be introduced and the first thirty participants will be recruited.
- You will have an opportunity to ask questions and suggest solutions.

It's time to stop complaining and start acting. If you'd like to see the housing in our neighborhood transformed, don't miss this opportunity to be educated and engaged.



From the President:

On a wintery February day, Floyd Shoults and I walked the streets of Bates Hendricks examining houses, writing down addresses, and trying to keep our fingers warm. We were one of the abandoned housing assessment teams trained by the City of Indianapolis to canvass our neighborhood. Though you'll hear the full report from all five teams at the Abandoned Housing Forum, I thought I'd share my impressions after two hours of looking at neighborhood housing.



- The good news! Most of us are working hard to maintain and improve our homes. Though there are more abandoned houses than I'd like, I am proud of how many people in our neighborhood obviously care for their property.
- The worst houses are in bunches. Abandoned houses are like a cancer. When one house on a block is terrible, it pulls down the houses around it.
- Some houses have been neglected for many years. In some cases, we found homes with over 50 code violations. With the help of the city, this lax enforcement must end.
- Some areas of the neighborhood are worse than others. The greatest concentration of poor housing is in the northeast corner of our neighborhood.
- A majority of our homes are not beyond repair. While we identified a few that ought to be demolished. Many of our homes could be beautiful once again if they found the right owner.

Finally, I learned how much fun it is to spend time on the streets with my neighbors. If you want to make a difference, you can't hide in your own house. As we walked, lots of people asked what we were doing and offered their encouragement. In working together, Floyd and I became better friends. In the end, I'm convinced that it's walking, talking and befriending one another that changes a neighborhood.

Jim Mulholland

X10 Is Coming To a House Near You

In April and May, many of the vacant and abandoned homes in our neighborhood will no longer be easy targets for vagrancy, vandalism, metal theft, and arson. The Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association, through a grant from IMAGINE, has purchased thirty X10 monitoring systems to install in vacant and abandoned housing.

Here is how they work. A wireless motion detector is mounted in a vacant or abandoned home. A neighbor installs a transceiver in their home. If someone enters the abandoned house to do mischief, the neighbor is alerted and can immediately call the police.

At the March 2nd Abandoned Housing Forum, neighbors will be recruited to monitor homes, but if you'd like to participate in this program, simply contact Jim Mulholland at 636-5096. Once you've volunteered, we'll work with the owners of the abandoned homes near you to install the equipment and begin the monitoring. If the program is successful, we hope to expand it to cover as many homes as possible.



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.

For more information or with neighborhood concerns, contact Jim Mulholland at 636-5096.

March Calendar

March 2 - Bates Hendricks Neighborhood Association Meeting and Abandoned House Forum, 6:30 pm - Immanuel United Church of Christ.

March 6 - Escape to the Tropics, 6 - 8 pm, Garfield Park Conservatory - Free. Bring the family to enjoy a tropical festival at the conservatory. Enjoy crafts, refreshments, games and more. Learn what life is like for people just like you who live in the tropical rainforest.

March 12 - Fountain Square Afternoon Book Discussion: *Thieves of Baghdad* by Matthew Bogdanos, 1:30 pm - Fountain Square Library Branch: www.imcpl.org for information.

March 12 - Family Story Time, 6 pm, Fountain Square Library Branch. Families are invited for a bedtime story at the library.

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day, during library hours, Fountain Square Library Branch: www.imcpl.org for information. Preschoolers are invited to make a Shamrock Crown for St. Patrick's Day. Story times will be held at the top of every hour with shamrocks for everyone.

March 14 - Starting a Vegetable Garden, 1 - 2 pm, Garfield Park Conservatory - \$3. Not sure if your thumb is brown or green, but want to grow your own food? Come find out how to get started planning and planting your garden. Registration required (Ages 18+).

March 21 - Reptile and Amphibian Show, 10 am - 2 pm, Garfield Park Conservatory - Free. Come and see a variety of different reptiles and amphibians from both Indiana and the tropics.

March 27 - April 3 - Annual Spring Bulb Show, 10 am - 5 pm, Garfield Park Conservatory - \$3 adults, \$2 Seniors and youth, \$5 for families. It's springtime at the conservatory! See the stunning display of tulips and other spring blooms against the backdrop of our permanent tropical collection. Call 327-7580 for information.

