



March, 2022

WELCOME TO HISTORIC EMERSON HEIGHTS

Provided by the Emerson Heights Community Organization
www.emersonheights.org

Founded in 1983, the mission of the Emerson Heights Community Organization is to preserve and protect the historic, cultural and economic value of our community through organization, education, empowerment, and action.

2021 Officers:

President; Joseph Tucker
Vice President: Rebecca Seifert
Secretary: Emily Nelson
Treasurer:
At Large: Mariam Alam

Committees and Representatives:

NESCO Representative: Susanne McNeely
Zoning Representative: Kevin Sweetland
Beautification Committee:
Welcome Committee: Dick Kramer
Newsletter Editor: Mariam Alam



Spring Clean Up and Community Picnic Saturday, April 23

Annual Spring Clean Up: meet at 9:00 am at the corner of Walnut and Dequincy to get assignments. Keep Indianapolis Beautiful is providing a dumpster, bags, and gloves. If you can't join us, please take the time to do a clean up around your home on your own. The dumpster is available for neighborhood residents (but please do not leave trash outside the dumpster.)

Neighborhood Get-to-Know-You Picnic: Noon at the Community Park, at Wallace and Michigan.

Come meet some of your neighbors. The community organization will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. There will be games and other fun activities for kids and adults. We look forward to seeing you.



EHCO General Member Meetings

3rd Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 pm

at the Living Faith Church (Corner of Wallace and Michigan Streets)

March 17, Presentation about the new Indiana State Senate District 46, by Ashley Eason, Candidate

Indiana is required by state and federal law to redraw Indiana's Statehouse and congressional maps following the nationwide census every 10 years. For many of Indianapolis' residents, this meant an entirely new district right in the heart of the city. Ashley Eason, candidate for the new district and an Emerson Heights resident, will explain the redistricting

April 21, Presentation about 2-way conversion of Michigan and New York Streets

Michigan and New York Streets, currently one, are slated to be converted to two-way streets. Construction is scheduled to begin

May 19, Speaker to be announced

Information about the May meeting will be posted on Facebook and the Emerson Heights E-Newsletter. (To get on the e-mail list, write info@emersonheights.org.)

- EHCO member meetings often include representatives from Marion County Health and Hospital, IMPD, Marion County Prosecutor's Office, and the Mayor's Office. Topics and guest speakers will be announced by e-mail and social media.
- Minutes of monthly member meetings are being posted on www.EmersonHeights.org.
- If you wish to add an item to future meeting agendas, please e-mail president@emersonheights.org.

Save the date: August 4 is Emerson Heights day!

On August 4, 2012, Emerson Heights celebrated our 100th Anniversary. On that day Mayor Ballard proclaimed August 4th to be Emerson Heights Day. This year is our 110th Anniversary and a party is being planned. If you enjoy party planning consider joining the team organizing the celebration by contacting president@EmersonHeights.org.

Results of the community meeting with Wellpath

Residents of Emerson Heights, Grace Tuxedo Park, Little Flower and Community Heights met with representatives from Wellpath on January 24. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live. Wellpath is the medical office locating in the former Family Video site. The representatives were very friendly and open, and answered many questions about the business.

Wellpath is a counseling center for individuals struggling with substance abuse disorder. The site will house offices for individual and group counseling. While walk-ins are welcome, clients are seen by appointment. For the most part medicine will not be distributed from the site. There will not be a line of people waiting for service.

The management team is organizing an open house for the surrounding community on May 10th from 5-7pm. This will allow staff to meet with neighbors and answer questions. An event for the media and local elected officials will be the following day, May 11 from 2-5p.

EMERSON HEIGHTS

A BRIEF HISTORY

By Mariam Alam

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010, the Emerson Heights neighborhood dates to the 1910s and is recognized as a prime example of a streetcar suburb developed as automobiles were just becoming widely used. Near Irvington, Ellenberger Park and the newly developed Pleasant Run Boulevard, the neighborhood was advertised as being situated in the very heart of the most desirable section of Indianapolis.

A Planned Community: Emerson Heights was not simply platted and divided into staked-off lots. It was a carefully planned community, with modern facilities including paved roadways and cement sidewalks. Water service, sewers, natural gas lines and electricity were provided to every lot. Electric street lights and fire hydrants were built on every street. It was the only new addition having “complete fire protection”. And as a complete community, two acres of land was set aside at the corner of Wallace and 10th Streets for the building of a modern brick school.

In addition to modern facilities, the neighborhood was designed to be visually appealing. Each structure was built at least 2 feet above the roadway. Each home was built about 20 feet back, lining up the front porches. Norway Maples were planted on every lot and no house could be built for less than \$1,200. Additional restrictions were placed on the properties to protect the buyers investment. No building could be used for the sale of liquor, or for other manufacturing, or for noxious or dangerous businesses. (It is worth acknowledging our history in that among the restrictions placed on the sale of properties included that “no lot is to be sold or leased to colored people”. This racism would of course not be tolerated today.)

Building Design: Most of the homes built in the Emerson Heights neighborhood can be described as Arts and Crafts or Craftsman style. It might also be referred to as the Bungalow style. The Arts and Crafts movement in domestic art and architecture was a deliberate turning away from the historic use of ornate decoration of previous styles, commonly the American Tudor and Queen Anne styles. Ornamentation became simplified, such as exposed rafters. Natural materials, such as wood and stone, were emphasized.

The Craftsman style was the most dominant style for smaller homes built throughout the country between about 1905 and 1930. The style began in California and was featured in magazines, spreading their popularity. A flood of pattern books featured the Craftsman bungalow, some available as packages of pre-cut lumber and details that could be mail ordered.

Houses in the Craftsman style have low-pitched roofs. They usually have wide, unenclosed eaves and overhangs with exposed rafters and false beams or braces commonly added. Most one story houses have front facing gables. Many two story houses have hipped roofs. Almost all have open porches. As with all designs, details make a difference. Porch columns are distinctive, often square upper column over a massive pier or solid porch balustrade. Windows often are a multiple pane sash over a large one-glass sash. Some common details include small windows on either side of the fireplace.

Historic Designation: Emerson Heights was listed on the National Register of Historic Places because it maintains so much of its original architectural character. This historic designation does not require special permits or requirements. However, as an incentive to return your historic Craftsman home to its former glory and maintain the character of the neighborhood, a substantial state tax credit is available. For more information about this incentive go to Indiana Department of Natural Resources: <https://www.in.gov/dnr/historic-preservation/help-for-owners/financial-assistance/rehabilitation-credit/>

References: Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, publisher, 1985.
Emerson Heights Realty Company. *Emerson Heights*. Sales Booklet. Circa. 1914.

KIB Adopt a block captains need to renew their registration.

Info about kib

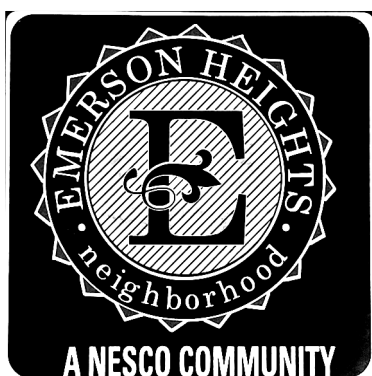
Laura Drascic (she/her) <ldrascic@kibi.org>

Adopt-A-Block & Great Indy Cleanup Programs Manager

317-960-4350

What's Happening on the Near East Side

- Find information about art programs on the east side at <https://www.10eastarts.org/10-east-events>
- Find some great information about restaurants on the East Side, check out: <https://www.nearindyguide.org/Do>



Community House Signs For Sale:

Emerson Heights house signs are available for sale at just \$10. Show your community spirit and order one today. Email: treasuer@emersonheights.org

Please consider joining the executive team in supporting the neighborhood by donating \$5.00 or \$10.00 monthly, or with any amount through our PayPal account. Your continued support will be used toward the costs of neighborhood activities

You can also support your community by getting involved. There are many opportunities to join EHCO committees and clubs. Or help out with the organization's activities on the Events Committee, Welcoming Committee, Beautification Committee and Newsletter Committee. Or help with special projects like the community picnics. To join, e-mail info@emersonheights.org.

Neighborhood Communications: How we're getting the word out

EHCO is striving to stay in touch with the residents and businesses in our neighborhood. Here's how —

- A paper newsletter is delivered door to door quarterly by neighborhood volunteers
- An e-newsletter is being sent out monthly. Sign up to receive the e-newsletter by sending a request to info@emersonheights.org.
- Join us on Facebook @ Emerson Heights (for business stuff) and @Emerson Heights Discussion Group (for more everyday neighborly stuff).
- A web site is in development at www.emersonheights.org. Check it out.

If you have additional ideas on how we can better communicate with the neighborhood, tell us at info@emersonheights.org.