



NEWS FROM

HISTORIC EMERSON HEIGHTS

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

December 2023

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 origination, education, empowerment, and action.

Stop the presses! If you want to see and give comments on the proposed logos, see the poll at <https://forms.gle/NZg2D9rZhptBuct96>

Annual Meeting of the Community Organization

Thursday, December 21, 6:30-8:00

at the Living Faith Church, Corner of Wallace and Michigan

- **Annual report: Looking back at our accomplishments this past year.**
- **Elections: Be a part of the Leadership Team!**
No nominations have been submitted for Vice-President yet. Nominations are accepted until the vote is taken.
- **The new logo: Drafts of various logo options will be presented with the opportunity to give your feed back.**

EHCO does not have membership meetings in January and February. The next meeting is **March 21, 2024**.

We will continue our **Guest Speaker Series** next year. If you have ideas for a topic or guest, or if you wish to add an item to a meeting agenda, please e-mail president@emersonheights.org.

2024 Event Calendar Mark your calendars now.

- **Spring Clean Up:** April
- **Neighborhood Yard Sale:** June
- **Emerson Heights Day Celebration:** August
- **Fall Clean Up:** October
- **Annual Meeting:** December



Indianapolis Community Building Institute, 2023

This fall, five Emerson Heights residents attended a training hosted by the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center. The Indianapolis Community Building Institute provided us with valuable leadership skills, empowering us to collaborate effectively within our community. Congratulations to Heather Keeney, Tess Mangine, Maaliyah Dixon, Mariam Alam, and Chuck Parsons for successfully completing the program. At the conclusion of the workshops, we were honored to receive a \$1500 grant. EHCO will use this grant to promote a feeling of neighborhood identity and to celebrate the Emerson Heights community.

We feel that anyone who would like to participate in next years workshops should take advantage of this opportunity, regardless of experience.

City of Indianapolis Neighborhood Grant Program

Another grant administered by INRC is the City of Indianapolis Neighborhood Grants Program. It provides financial resources—up to \$10,000—for “projects and activities that are designed to increase resident engagement, promote neighborhood action, and strengthen relationships among neighbors, community organizations, and other stakeholders.”

EHCO leadership applied for this grant this Fall. **We are excited to announce that we were awarded the funds!** This grant is to fund an ongoing effort to brand Emerson Heights as a vibrant historic neighborhood. These projects will promote a feeling of neighborhood identity and pride, and encourage participation with events and projects that maintain and improve our community. These projects include:

- **Replacing the historic marker which describes our listing on the National Registry of Historic Places and was run over this summer.**
- **Replacing and repairing the historic columns around the neighborhood, including 2 on Michigan that were destroyed in car accidents.**
- **Redesigning the logo and replacing the street signs posted around the neighborhood in 1998.**
- **And, printing new house signs, stationary, and banners.**

These projects are a continuation of initiatives that have been ongoing.

Some History:

In 2006, then EHCO President Don Bailey attended the Indianapolis Community Building Institute training (as described above) and brought many organizing and planning principles back to the neighborhood. EHCO members participated in a strategic planning process that identified our vision, goals, and a mission statement which are still in use today.

In the face of other neighborhoods dealing with crime and disinvestment, the EHCO leadership identified their weapon against decline to be promoting the neighborhood as a good place to live. One completed project to that end was having the Emerson Heights neighborhood listing on the National Registry of Historic Places in 2010.

In a 2012 planning process, EHCO identified the goal of promoting neighborhood historic identity through branding and logo design. It included revitalization of the entrance columns and other identity signs.

A Word from the President

Winter is upon us and the holiday lights are going up! Stay warm out there in the cold weather with a warm beverage of your choice (I like hot cider) and enjoy our lovely neighborhood's impressive decorations. I encourage you to wave at neighbors as you see them out walking babies, dogs or themselves amid the bracing winter air.

In more mundane news, the infrastructure transformation of Michigan street is expected to be fully underway early next year. When complete this transformation should help slow down traffic on Michigan and hopefully protect the many brick monuments which seem to be popular targets this year for vehicles that have trouble staying on the road. The executive committee is working on several grant proposals some of which will help repair damage done to the various monuments on the perimeter of the neighborhood. Thank you to everyone who has offered donations or services to repair those monuments.

Lastly, I would like to highlight the success of our many projects this year: three neighborhood cleanups; our fun Halloween decoration contest (thanks again to those who donated the prizes!); our very successful neighborhood yard sale; our excellent newsletter; our constantly improving website; our vibrant Facebook group; and our amazing speaker series. I also want to thank our wonderful residents! 2023 was a very active year and as a community. If you missed out this year then fear not, for 2024 will also be full of opportunities to be involved in your community!

Joe Tucker, EHCO President

Some Updates:

Michigan Street Two-Way Conversion

The two-way conversion of Michigan Street has begun with survey and utility work in 2023. Construction will begin in 2024. The project is scheduled to be completed in the Fall, 2024.

The project will see improvements to existing sidewalks, crosswalks, bus stops, and bike lanes. On December 5, the Department of Public Works held an open house to describe the project. That presentation as well as plans are available at <https://www.indy.gov/activity/major-transportation-projects>.

Animal Care Services no longer plans to develop in Sherman Park.

The Indianapolis Animal Care Services shelter is getting a new facility at a former public housing complex, located at 5001 E. Raymond Street. It will include a shelter, barn, dog park and garage.

August 2022 it was announced that the city would build a new animal shelter in Sherman Park, the former RCA plant site. But the Sherman Park site has turned out to be problematic. Cleaning contamination from its former industrial use is taking longer than expected, delaying construction of a new facility.

Moving plans to the Raymond Street site will enable progress on a new facility to accelerate.

Indygo Blue Line Construction

The Blue Line will provide rapid transit along Washington Street between Cumberland and the Airport. The service will use a dedicated center bus lane and raised but stops. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2024 in Section 1. The line between Arsenal Avenue and Ridgeview Drive, including Historic Irvington, is in Section 4.

Construction for the Blue Line will begin in 2024 and go through 2024. Emerson Heights' portion of the project will likely not start until after 2024. To learn more about the Blue Line, visit <https://www.indygo.net/blue-line/>

Pogue's Run Trail

The Pogue's Run Trail is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2023. This multi-use path will extend from 10th Street at Brookside Drive, through Spades Park and Brookside Park and exit on the northeast end of Pogue's Run Arts and Nature Park on 21st Street. The Nowland Avenue Bridge was completed in the Spring of 2023.

Dig Indy: Pleasant Run Tunnel

The DigIndy Tunnel System will store storm water and sewage during wet weather, and then slowly release it to the wastewater treatment plant when capacity becomes available. Construction is scheduled to continue at the Ellenberger Park drop shaft through December 2025. Once the 7.4-mile Pleasant Run Tunnel is complete in 2025, it will eliminate more than 95 percent of sewer overflows now occurring from more than 30 points along the creek. Cleaner waterways resulting from the DigIndy Tunnel System will enhance quality of life of communities along the previously polluted waterway. <https://info.citizensenergygroup.com/digindy>

From the EHC0 Speaker Series:



Samantha L. Spergel, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority

Spoke at the September Meeting about lead, radon and other dangers found in older homes.

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's (IHCDA) Healthy Homes Resource Program can remediate health and safety hazards for qualified households across the state of Indiana. Available to both renters and homeowners, income qualified families may receive free radon testing, lead paint assessment and inspection and a healthy homes assessment.

Repair work may include lead paint removal, radon mitigation, and address electrical, structural hazards and moisture intrusion. There is NO COST whether you own or rent your home. Visit <https://www.in.gov/ihcda/homeowners-and-renters/lead-protection-program/> or email healthhomes@ihcda.in.gov for more information on the program, and to download the pre-application.

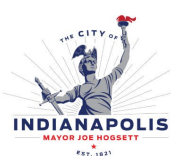
Stacie Jasorka

Spoke on Her Role as a Community Weaver for Eskenazi in August

As part of the Beyond Barriers Campaign, [Eskenazi Health](#) has created a new position for "Community Weaver" which partners with community health workers. This individual goes out in the community to find resources for neighbors and clients – connecting organizations together that might not know about each other.

It helps those with social determinants of health (i.e., food or housing insecurity, childcare, etc.). For example, the Community Weaver aids with outreach to food pantries to help the unhoused population.

Stacie shared that their community health workers work one-on-one with clients and neighbors to connect those in need with doctors, nurses, psychologists, etc. If you know of someone in need, Stacy encourages you to reach out to her for assistance or to help connect to partner organizations at Stacie.jasorka@eskenazihealth.edu or (317) 618-1880.



Jacob Barnes, the Mayor's Advocate

Regularly brings us updates and information from the Mayor's office.

One of the items included confirming that \$2 million for alleyway repairs were approved in the budget. Alley repair projects will be funded based on need throughout the city. (They were distributed by council district in the past.) Alley repair requests need to be submitted through RequestIndy (<https://request.indy.gov/citizen/home>) or call the Mayor's Action Center at 327-4MAC (4622). The RequestIndy site allows one to locate the needed repair on a map and to upload a picture of the problem.

Jacob Barnes will hold office hours:

Tuesdays from 10:30 AM-12 PM at Rabble Coffee
Thursdays from 2-3:30 PM at Neidhammer
No appointment is needed. Just drop by during that time if you want to chat with the Mayor's Neighborhood Advocate. Learn more about Mayor's Neighborhood Advocates here: www.indy.gov/activity/mayors-neighborhood-advocates

Neighborhood Communications: How we're getting the word out.

EHC0 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 your request to info@emersonheights.org
- Join us on Facebook @Emerson Heights (for business stuff) and @Emerson Heights Discussion Group (for more everyday neighborly stuff).
- We are now on Instagram, follow us at @EmersonHeightsIndy
- 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



Emerson Heights house signs are available for sale at just \$10. Show your community spirit and order one today. Email: treasurer@emersonheights.org. You can donate easily on PayPal to treasurer@emersonheights.org.

You can also support your community by getting involved. There are many opportunities join EHC0 committees. Participate on the Welcoming Committee, Beautification Committee and Newsletter Committee. Or help with the organization's activities and special projects like the community picnics. To join, e-mail info@emersonheights.org.