

HISTORIC EMERSON HEIGHTS

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



June 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.

2023 Officers:

President: Joseph Tucker
Vice President: Rebecca Seifert
Secretary: Tracey Allen
Treasurer: Open
At Large: Mariam Alam

Committees and Representatives:

NESCO Representative: Open
Zoning Representative: Kevin Sweetland
Beautification: Open
Welcome Committee: Dick Kramer
Newsletter Editor: Mariam Alam
Social Media: Heather Keely



Neighborhood Wide Yard Sale

EHCO's neighborhood wide yard sale is June 16,17 and 18. We intend to do some promotion and are planning to create maps of the neighborhood showing the homes that will be participating. We are not asking for donations from participants this year. Our sister communities, Little Flower and Irvington, will also be having their community yard sales on the same weekend. We are hoping this helps to draw some additional traffic our way for people out hunting a bargain!

If you would like to be included on the map of participating residents, please take a brief moment to fill out this form <http://bit.ly/EHYardSale2023> by Wednesday, June 14. We will not share your name or any information other than the address where the sale will be taking place.

To get a copy of the map, visit the website emersonheights.org or the Facebook event @EmersonHeightsDiscussionGroup.

Clean up and Neighborhood Picnic Fun

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Spring Cleanup!

It was a beautiful morning. About 30 of us spread out to clean up the neighborhood. All participants received a 5-gallon bucket and a trash grabber provided by a grant through the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center. Keep Indianapolis Beautiful provided the dumpster (which we filled) and supplies.



After the cleanup, we had a picnic at the Living Faith Community Park. Children's activities and music were provided by Arts with a Purpose. EHCO provided the food and drinks. It was great to see so families enjoying the community event.

Congratulations to the Signal Box Art Winner

Congratulations to Heather Keeney, a resident on Bancroft, for having the winning design for the Emerson Heights Signal Box Contest. Final votes for the art contest were taken at the Community Picnic. Heather received the \$200 award.

She will work with renown muralist and former Emerson Heights resident, Carl Leck. Carl will then replicate her design on the box. The painting is expected to be done this summer so keep an eye out!

More Clean Up Opportunities

- Our sister neighborhood to the east is hosting a cleanup on Saturday, June 24th, from 8am to noon. Meet at the neighborhood garden on the corner of Michigan and Emerson.
- EHCO is trying to organize cleanup in the summer. Keep and eye out for information.
- **Annual Fall Cleanup is scheduled for October 14th. Put it on your calendar!**

Some Cool Things going on:

- SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 1 PM – 5 PM: **Irvington Garden Tour** starts at the Benton House. Tour private gardens in this historic community.
- WEDNESDAY, JULY 12th, 11am - 2pm: **IMPD East District Community Day** at Brookside Park, Specialty Police Units - Inflatables - Frozen Treats - Free Hot Dogs, Chips, and Water
- SATURDAY, JULY 15, 10 AM – 4 PM: **Raiders of the Lost Antiques** starts at Audrey's Place for antiques, thrift, drinks and adventure. Explore locations and sample Near Eastside drinks and food.
- SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 4pm—11pm: **Feast of Lanterns** at Spades Park.

Emerson Heights Community Organization has seen a few changes recently. First, Tracey Allen was elected as Secretary. Tracy lives on Bancroft and has a background in marketing, communication and journalism. Also, a new standing committee was established to keep up with Social Media. Heather Keeney, who lives on Bancroft, will chair. Now you can follow us on Instagram at @EmersonHeightsIndy.

Finally, we must report that Susanne McNeely is moving out of the neighborhood. She and her partner, Harold Crooks, lived on Wallace and have been very active with EHCO projects, including passing out newsletters on multiple streets at a time. Susanne also has served as EHCO's representative to NESCO for some years. We are going to miss Susanne and are now looking for someone to fill her shoes as our NESCO Representative.

The organization is also looking to fill the position of Treasurer and Beautification Committee Chair.

A Word from the President

This has been a busy year so far for our neighborhood. We have been doing a great job of cleaning up the neighborhood and keeping it clean. We have a fall clean up scheduled for October 14 and we are looking at hosting additional clean ups. We have planned a community Yard Sale with the intention of making it an annual event. We took some time to celebrate at our last cleanup with music and art for families, a contest for the signal box design and classic cookout with free food and drinks!

In addition to all of this we have brought in really amazing speakers to our monthly community meetings and we have several more speakers lined up for the rest of the year. Our website is looking better than ever as is our e-newsletter and the amazing newsletter you are reading right now. None of this would be possible without the amazing members of our executive committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their excellent work enhancing our neighborhood. If you would like to join the executive committee and enhance our neighborhood please let us know, there are opportunities available!

Joe Tucker, EHCO President

Neighborhood meeting Thursday June 15, 6:30-8:00

at the Living Faith Church, Corner of Wallace and Michigan
This Month's Speaker:

June 15: Sam Spergel from **Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCD)** on "CreatINg Places", a place-based crowd-funding grant program. And, the Healthy Homes Resource Program, an effort to remediate health and safety hazards in targeted households throughout the state.

Mark Your Calendars for Future Meetings:

July 20: Jessica Rohn with **Westminster Neighborhood Services** which provides support, basic need access and community connections to empower neighbors and strengthen youth and families on the Near Eastside of Indianapolis.

August 17: Shirley A. Holmes from **Eskenazi Health**

New York & Michigan two-way conversion project is scheduled to begin this summer EHC0 intends to invite DPW's project manager, Jordan Williams, back to our meeting to give us an update on the project.

If you wish to add an item to a meeting agenda, or if you have ideas for a topic, please e-mail president@emersonheights.org.



Recycle Force

Paul Sammons from Recycle Force presented on April 20. Recycle Force is a 501(c)3 that is committed to reducing crime through employment and job training, while improving the environment through electronics recycling. Since 2006, Recycle Force has safely recycled more than 65 million pounds of electronic waste while providing job training to thousands of returning citizens. They are accepting your old and unused electronic devices at their drop-off at 1255 Roosevelt Avenue. They can also take other recyclables.



FIDO Friends of Indianapolis Dogs Outside

Darcie Kurtz, Executive Director of FIDO, presented at the May 18 meeting. FIDO is a non-profit that focuses on working with dog owners to improve the life of their outside dog, especially dogs that spend most of their time chained up or in very small pens. Working with dog owners, FIDO shares options that encourage and help enable them bring their dogs inside, ensure they have a basic level of care, joy in their lives, and make them part of the family.

Many of their connections are made through their Alley Outreach Program, which is in partnership with Indianapolis Animal Care Services. Services offered by FIDO include fencing, a pet food pantry, and spay/neuter resources.

For those looking to help FIDO, they can take the following at their facility: Large igloo or plastic dog houses, large collapsible training crates, toys, treats, collars, leashes, and monetary donations. To learn more about FIDO or to reach out for questions, visit fidoindy.org.



Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB)

Ryann Davis, KIB's Manager of Clean Neighborhoods also presented on May 18. KIB is an environmental and community non-profit with a mission to engage diverse communities to create vibrant public places, helping people and nature thrive. To accomplish this, KIB works with neighbors and volunteers to plant trees and native landscapes, create community spaces, pick up litter, and engage students of all ages in nature. Some of their programs include "Adopt-a-Block" in which volunteer captains maintain a block, usually where they live. KIB provides resources like brooms, shovels, gloves, scoops/buckets, litter grabbers, trash cans, and reflective gear.

KIB also supports "One-Day Clean-Up Events" where residents or communities can receive resources from KIB to host one-day clean-ups. EHC0's Annual Spring and Fall Clean-up events are sponsored by KIB. They supply us with gloves, trash bags, sign-in sheets and a dumpster.

KIB also has many opportunities for volunteers to participate in larger projects like tree plantings and special clean-up events. KIB shared that through a Lilly Endowment Grant, they have new programs to clean busy thoroughfares, clean waterways and start a Business and School Adopt-A-Block program. To learn more about KIB and their many programs and volunteer opportunities, visit kibi.org.

Gunshot Detection System Test is Over

Chris Staub, President of NESCO (Near East Side Community Organization), gave us an update of the gunshot detection system. The city's test of three different systems is now over - the project ran from October through January 2022. Although the city's test is complete, some of the companies have left their gun detection equipment in the community. Any data those devices receive is no longer being sent to IMPD dispatch

IMPD said that the calls to 911 for gun shots are down substantially since before the detection test program was started. It seems like residents are now relying on the detection system to respond and notify 911. Again, **the Gunshot Detection System test is over**. Continue to call 911 if you hear gunshots. Call the Police non-emergency number (317-327-3811) or Crime Stoppers (317- 262-8477 or Crimetips.org) for crimes no longer in progress.

Update on the Emerson Heights Monument Pillar

In March, the decorative pillar at the corner of Michigan and Riley was badly damaged in a car accident. We have continued our efforts to have the brick monument repaired. Quotes for reconstruction of the monument so far range between \$900 to \$2,000. Discussion and decisions will be made at the June member meeting.

Unfortunately, another neighborhood marker was destroyed in an accident in May. A speeding car traveling south on Dequincy ignored the 10th street stop sign and ran head on into the large sign that describes the history of the neighborhood and its status as being listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. That sign was installed after much fundraising by residents. Former EHC0 President Rick McNutt, a resident on Dequincy, is looking into having the sign repaired or other options.

A special acknowledgement is due for the neighbors who ran out in the middle of the night to pull the driver from the burning car at the 10th and Dequincy accident. We are blessed to have neighbors who will come to the aid of strangers.

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

EHC0 is striving to stay in touch with the resident 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.com.

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.