

HISTORIC EMERSON HEIGHTS

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



September 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: Open
Secretary: Tracey Allen
Treasurer: Tess Mangine
At Large: Mariam Alam

Committees and Representatives:

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

Grant Opportunities Need Community Input

The Executive Team has been discussing the application for some major grants available for neighborhood organizations. We need your input on projects ideas and priorities. And also give approval to apply for grants toward those projects.

The first grant on the table is \$1,500 available for communities that attend the Indianapolis Community Building Institute provided by the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center (INRC). Classes started September 13 and we have 5 residents representing EHCO.

The second grant is also through INRC and is funded by the city (from Federal Recovery funds). The grant is for \$10,000! A lot of projects can be done with that kind of money. Therefore it is important that members of the community have the opportunity to give input on project ideas and priorities. The Exec Team is leaning toward replacing the historic marker that was runover, rebuilding the brick column that was also run over. Actually there have been many suggestions for a wide range of projects.

So your project ideas are needed. Send your ideas to info@emersonheights.org. In addition to our speaker and brief reports, time will be given at the September 21 EHCO meeting review some ideas and narrow down projects for the grant applications.

Annual Fall Cleanup & Community Get Together

Saturday, October 14, 9:00 till Noon
Meet at the corner of Walnut and Dequincy

Join your neighbors as we work as a team to keep our neighborhood the wonderful place it is. We will meet at 8:30 am to sign in and pick up supplies. EHCO provides garbage bags and gloves.

After the cleanup, we're going to celebrate with a Community Picnic from Noon till 2:00 in the park at Michigan and Wallace. You don't have to attend the cleanup to come to the picnic, but we hope that you do.

EHCO will provide hot dogs and drinks.

Some other cool things to do:

- Join Westminster Neighborhood Services for a 90s Rom-Com Trivia Night Fundraiser!

Don't miss out on an evening of dressing up, 90's movie trivia, popcorn, and fun! Friday, October 6 from 5:30-7:30 PM. 2325 E New York St.

Get your ticket today! <https://www.westmin.org/triviafundraiser>

Name that movie: "When you realize you want to spend the rest of your life with somebody, you want the rest of your life to start as soon as possible."

- The Historic Irvington Halloween Festival is a fun-filled celebration of our heritage and community, October 21-28.

The festival and events are designed to bring awareness to the community, bring commerce to local businesses, and to provide fun for the children of Irvington and Indianapolis. To see the full events program go to www.irvingtonhalloween.com/events.

- 2023 Waterman's Fall Harvest Festival, September 30 through October 31

Waterman's Family Farm has been a local favorite for more than 40 years. The festival is open every day of the week, but there are no hayrides to the pumpkin patch offered on Mondays. Wagons are provided to haul your pumpkins back from the patch and as a bonus, admission on Mondays is free! 7010 East Raymond Street

SATURDAY OCT. 14

Join us for
The Fall Clean Up & Cookout
at Value High School

9am Clean up @
Walnut & Dequincy
Coffee and Doughnuts

Noon Cookout at
Michigan & Wallace
Hotdogs & Apple Cider

ISO: Neighborhood Graphic Designers and Artist. EHCO is looking into investing in new signs of various kinds. The organization wants to hire a local artist to update the logo. If you are interested, please write Info@emersonheights.org.

A Word from the President

Fall is upon us and we have our last neighborhood clean up coming up on October 14th. The neighborhood is looking really good and our summer clean up was rather successful with 10+ volunteers participating and a pretty full dumpster to show for it. Fall also means Halloween, certainly my favorite holiday, and based on our neighborhood's lively and elaborate decorations I am guessing it is a favorite of a few of our other residents. I love walking around and seeing the decorations, especially at night when the ones that light up are vibrant and startlingly alive!

I hope everyone is benefiting from our increased communication through Facebook and the Emerson Heights website this year, not to mention our continued newsletter and e-newsletter. You have the wonderful efforts of our amazing Executive Committee members to thank for that. If you would like to join us on the Executive Committee we do have a Vice President position open, just send us an email or attend one of our monthly neighborhood meetings and let us know you are interested. There are lots of ways to be involved!

Joe Tucker, EHCO President

Neighborhood meeting Thursday

September 21, 6:30-8:00

at the Living Faith Church, Corner of Wallace and Michigan

Every meeting we try to have guest speakers to give us information relevant to Emerson Heights. This Month's Speaker:

Sam Spergel from **Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCA)** on "CreatINg Places", a place-based crowdfunding 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:

October 19: 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.

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



Will Pritchard, IPS Board Commissioner

Spoke on school activities, capital referendum and Rebuilding Stronger.

<https://myips.org/rebuilding-stronger/>



Will Pritchard, District 1, representing this district on the IPS School Board, shared a variety of IPS updates at our August 17 meeting. He was excited to share that the eastside will now have its own gifted and dual-language schools. Other updates include:

- **Howe** will re-open as an IB (International Baccalaureate) Middle School and will also have Pre-K too
- **IPS School 14** will now be managed by Thomas Greg Neighborhood School.
- **George Julian School 57** in Irvington will become a CFI (Center for Inquiry) school for the 2024-25 school year
- All IPS middle schools will provide language, sports programs, math classes and advanced music programs
- **Harshman Middle School** will become a dual-language middle school
- **Sidener Academy** will move its middle school to Harshman Middle School, which is a more centralized location, and grades 3-5 will eventually move into a new building near Keystone and 10th Street
- **Theodore Potter School 74** will become a true language immersion school
- **Arsenal Tech High School** has a new principal
- Pre-K options have been expanded on the near east side, as well as special education seats

Will encourages residents to contact him with any IPS-related questions, comments, concerns or issues at PritchardW@myips.org

IPS has several vacancies to fill for teachers, bus drivers, and more. See myips.org/employment/join-teamips/ for more information



- **Indy Achieves:** The Indy Achieves Promise Program allows qualifying Marion County residents to receive a Promise Scholarship which fills any remaining financial aid gaps in academic costs for Ivy Tech or IUPUI. In addition, Indy Achieves also offers Completion Grants for those students whose debt is preventing them from receiving their credential or degree. Learn more at www.indyachieves.org/promise-scholarships



Jacob Barnes, the Mayor's Advocate

Spoke about the latest updates and information from the Mayor's office.

Michigan and New York Street Two-Way Project Update: For the remainder of 2023, utility work will be done (i.e., adding ADA-accessible ramps on sidewalks). Actual construction and closures will begin in 2024.

Pogue's Run Project Completion Update: 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. Learn more about Pogue's Run at popindy.org.

Indy Parks and Recreation Updates: [Indy Parks and Recreation](https://www.indyparksandrec.org) is looking program partners to use recreational spaces more. This could include yoga, arts and crafts, youth and senior programming and more. They encourage anyone with ideas or who would like to partner to contact IndyParksCS@indy.gov.

Office of Education Innovation Looking for Part-Time Reading Tutors: The [Office of Education Innovation](https://www.indy.gov/office-of-education-innovation) is seeking part-time reading tutors for the [Circle City Readers](https://www.circlecityreaders.org) a project of RISE INDY and the City of Indianapolis. This opportunity is a semester-long commitment during the hours of 10 a.m.– 2 p.m. with compensation ranging from \$20-\$22 an hour. Contact Jacob Barnes at jacob.barnes@indy.gov or (317) 327-5128 and he can connect you with this opportunity.

Office of Public Health and Safety: Officer raises: Funding for [IMPD](https://www.indypd.org) officer pay raises has been approved to be competitive within salaries across the Midwest. [Indy Peace Fellowship](https://www.indypeace.org) (IPF) provides up to 18 months of life coaching and other programming for offenders. This includes support with resume building, housing, food resources, cognitive behavioral therapy and more.

Infrastructure: One of the items included in the budget includes **\$2 million for alleyway repairs**. Alley repairs need to be requested through RequestIndy (request.indy.gov/citizen/home) or call the Mayor's Action Center at 327-4MAC (4622).

School Infrastructure: The installation of flashing beacons at Marion County schools in close proximity to thoroughfares that do not currently have pedestrian infrastructure.

Clinician-Led Response Team: A Clinician-Led Response Team pilot program that responds to mental health crises will now expand to the east side. The program has gone well in downtown Indianapolis, which allows 911 operators to assess certain mental health calls and use criteria to dispatched this team instead of the police.

During 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.

EHCO 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.org.

You can also support your community by getting involved. There are many opportunities join EHCO 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.