



NEWS FROM HISTORIC EMERSON HEIGHTS

December 2024

Provided by the Emerson Heights Community Organization

PO Box 69602, Indianapolis, 46201

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 origination, education, empowerment, and action.

2024 Officers:

President: Joseph Tucker
Vice President: Jaden Drury
Secretary: Tracey Allen
Treasurer: Tess Mangine
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

There is a new occupant coming to the old Family Video building.

A Better Way Outreach is an opioid dependency treatment center, including medication assistance treatment and behavioral counseling. Beth Miller from A Better Way Outreach will be attending the neighborhood meeting to discuss what services they offer and how they plan to integrate into the community. Please attend this meeting if you have questions about the facility. <https://abetterwayoutreach.org/>

Emerson Heights Community Organization's Annual Meeting

Thursday, December 19, 6:30-8:00
at the Living Faith Church, Corner of Wallace and Michigan

Neighborhood Business:

- **Annual report:** Looking back at our accomplishments this past year.
- **EHCO Officer Elections:** Be a part of the leadership team! Nominations for all offices are accepted until the vote is taken. To run for any office, please email president@emersonheights.org to get on the ballot.
- ◆◆ **No nominations have been submitted for Secretary yet.** ◆◆

President presides over meetings, signs off on all expenditures and represents the organization to other organizations.
Vice-president fills the duties of the president in their absence, acts a parliamentarian and performs other duties as assigned.
Secretary produces minutes, is responsible for maintaining correspondence and records.
Treasurer is responsible for receiving and depositing income and recording expenses.
Member At-large performs duties as delegated by the President.

Guest Presentation

- **Beth Miller from A Better Way Outreach Center** will present what the center does and how it will affect the community. Beth will answer questions and address concerns from the neighborhood. This is the community's opportunity to get information about this center.

Minutes of monthly member meetings are being posted on www.EmersonHeights.org
EHCO does not meet during January or February. The next membership meeting is March 20, 2025

A Word from the President, 2024 in Review

It has gotten cold and the year is coming to an end. I would like to thank our amazing Executive Committee and neighborhood volunteers for all of their efforts and highlight our impressive 2024 accomplishments:

1. Created 4 issues of the newsletter, including this one, and delivered each to 1,000 homes with help from volunteers.
2. Executed a very well run and fun neighborhood yard sale for the whole neighborhood!
3. Ran three very successful neighborhood cleanups with 20 to 40 participants. We collecting 3 dumpsters of trash.
4. Successfully administered 2 major grants from the City and the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center, which paid for many of successes below.
5. Created a new neighborhood logo with a volunteer sub-committee and the input of over 100 individuals!
6. Designed and purchased new Emerson Heights house signs. (*They're for sale, by the way*).
7. Designed and purchased Emerson Heights t-shirts (*also for sale*).
8. The grant that allowed us to buy t-shirts and house signs to sell, also allows EHCO to keep EHCO 100% of the income of these items will raise. This will significantly seed our future raising activities!
9. Purchased new 18x18 inch signs with the new logo to replace the old ones along the neighborhood border streets.
10. Repaired the brick monuments around the edges of the neighborhood having hired a local mason.
11. Replaced the sign at 10th and Dequincy. This sign describes the neighborhood's history and listing on the National Registry of Historic Places. It was originally paid for through community donations. After it was destroyed in 2023, grant money allowed us to replace it with the help of volunteers.
12. Hosted a very successful Emerson Heights day with fun activities, notable guests and free food! It's been too hot in August for the last couple of years, so the plan is to celebrate Emerson Heights Day in September next year.
13. Continued efforts to reach to more of our neighbors and encourage participation in the community are ongoing. The Facebook groups are administer by an executive committee member. The website is in construction by another executive officer, and the e-mail newsletter by another officer.
14. Hosted a fun house decorating contest for Halloween and are doing another for the Holidays.
15. Reaching out to new neighbors, our Welcoming Committee sent almost a dozen letters to new home owners in the neighborhood.
16. Held 10 regular community meetings attended by representatives of the Police, the Health Department, and this year, the construction company doing the Michigan Street conversion.
17. And, we continued the Guest Speaker Series with representatives from 11 different organizations that provide services to our neighborhood.

Honestly, with other meetings and committee work, this is not all the organization and executive committee did this year. Its is just all I space for in this newsletter. If you see one of the committee members around please thank them for their efforts this year. Though they might be modest, I can assure you they will appreciate the thanks!

Joe Tucker, EHCO President

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If your business is interested in sponsoring a newsletter, contact: News@EmersonHeights.org



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AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS**



DECEMBER 24 AND 25-CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24 – 4:00, 5:30, 5 10:00 p.m.
Full Christmas Choir at 10:00 P.M. (Music begins at 9:15 p.m.)
Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25 – 9:30 a.m.

The Importance of Communities: Communities play an important role in every aspect of our lives. We have communities in our friends, our families, our jobs, our neighborhoods, and in so many other places. We find community in the sports teams we support, or the artists we enjoy, even the food that we like. Having a sense of community unites us. Being a part of a community can make us feel as though we are a part of something greater than ourselves. A neighborhood is an important type of community providing a sense of identity and a place where we belong. No place is perfect, but you should always feel a sense of security that we're looking out for each other when we're a part of a community.

But participation in that community may not look the same for everyone. For some, getting together for the cleanups and picnics means community. Some of our neighbors are very busy and the way they participate is just by donating or showing off some swag. Even this newsletter binds us together as we share information about our common interests and goals. So, no matter what it looks like, thank you for being a part of the Emerson Heights Community.

Get ready to light up Emerson Heights!

Our annual Holiday Lights and Decorations Contest is back and we can't wait to see your creative displays. Whether you go all-out or keep it cozy and classic, this is your chance to spread holiday cheer and show off your festive spirit. Winners will receive a special prize provided by the Emerson Heights Community Organization and, of course, neighborhood bragging rights! Register your

house by filling out the form accessible at the URL below or scanning the QR code. Post a picture of your masterpiece. Vote for your favorite house display on Facebook. Please have your submission made by December 22nd. Let's make our neighborhood shine this season!

<https://forms.gle/1ovBTiiZpr3c189v5>



More Opportunities to Get Involved:

Emerson Heights Neighborhood Cats: A group of residents have partnered with Indy Neighborhood Cats in an effort to trap-neuter-return free roaming cats in the neighborhood. INC provides ongoing colony care support such as warm winter shelters, food, Spay/Neuter resources and medical care to cats living outdoors. If you are interested in volunteering with some neighbors, send a message to Tess Mangine at info@EmersonHeights.com.



Put Up Neighborhood Signs: Emerson Heights has its brand-new logo on brand-new signs. Joe Tucker is spearheading this effort. Evidently, the signs on the wooden poles were put up with spikes. Joe is looking for someone who has ideas and equipment to remove these signs. If you're interested in helping please contact Joe at info@emersonheights.org.

Keep Indianapolis Beautiful: Many neighbors participate in the KIB Adopt-A-Block Program. Block captains volunteer to adopt an area they will keep clean, usually the block they live on. KIB provides tools, bags and gloves to Block Captains. KIB encourages block captain volunteers to also participate in community activities that revitalize the neighborhood. Street by street, neighbors inspire each other and dramatically improve the neighborhood's quality of life for everyone. For information go to www.kibi.org/program/adopt-a-block/



Emerson Heights Community Organization has officer positions and volunteer opportunities. Consider running for office. Elections are usually held in December. In addition to officer positions, there are committees to work on and events to plan. There are also a couple of opportunities to represent EHCO to other bodies.

The Near East Side Community Organization (NESCO) is an umbrella group in which EHCO is a member. **We are currently seeking a regular NESCO representative.** There is also a representative to NESCO for zoning issues.

There are a couple of Standing Committees you can participate in: Beautification (which is currently dormant because of a lack of interest), the Welcoming Committee, and the 10th Street Joint Land Use Committee.

There are some special projects you might be interested in. There is the newsletter which includes the e-newsletter, and Social Media which includes Facebook. There is also building and maintaining the website. There

are events such as the Neighborhood Yard Sale, which takes quite a bit of work, and the Emerson Heights Day event that could use volunteers.

With all that, there are still some projects that people have talked about but none have been able to run. There is no one organizing the Median Gardens. There is no organized Neighborhood Watch or Crime Prevention committee. And many times the issue of speeding cars and run stop signs has come up, but no one has stepped up to lead a traffic calming effort.

Do any of these things interest you? If so, please reach out to the executive committee at info@emersonheights.org.

Coming in 2025

- ✓ April: Spring Cleanup
- ✓ June: Neighborhood Yard Sale
- ✓ July: Summer Cleanup
- ✓ September: EMERSON HEIGHTS DAY!
- ✓ October: Fall Clean up

Get Your EHCO Swag Here!

Historic Emerson Heights house signs are now available and cost \$20.

Emerson Heights t-shirts are also available for \$25. Adult sizes M-2XL

The easiest way to buy a sign or shirt is:

- Step 1. Use PayPal to treasurer@emersonheights.org and donate the amount required.
- Step 2. Make a note in the memo what it's for.
- Step 3. Then email info@emersonheights.org with information about how we can deliver the items to you.

Fundraising Efforts Year End Report

Thank you Emerson Heights, for your incredible support in 2024! This year, we raised \$260 from the sale of our newly designed house signs, \$275 from our stylish neighborhood t-shirts, and \$291 in general donations to EHCO. Every dollar goes directly toward community projects, events, and improvements that make our neighborhood a better place to live.



Letter from the Editor: If you don't know me, my name is Mariam Alam, I live on Riley, and I "do" the newsletter. Writing the newsletter does take some time and mental energy but I want all my neighbors to know that writing it would mean nothing if it weren't for the volunteers who pass it out. There are 16 community volunteers who are on the distribution roster and a handful of neighbors who have retired from the list. There are a couple of people who have volunteered every quarter for a few years. It takes 9 volunteers to hand out 1000 copies for each edition. I want to acknowledge and thank all of newsletter distribution volunteers for your dedication to the important role you play in keeping our community connected.

While I'm grateful for all the volunteers, I still have trouble lining up distribution for some editions. I'm always looking for more volunteers to "deepen the bench" for the team. Write me at news@emersonheights.org to volunteer.

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 www.emersonheights.org or scan this QR code.
- Join us on Facebook and @Emerson Heights Discussion Group and @Emerson Heights (for business 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

