



# EHCO Voice

*Published by the Emerson Heights Community Organization*

*Volume 5, Issue 3*

*March 2007*

## **Weather plays havoc with the meeting & the newsletters**

Due to Mother Nature's wrath, the February meeting was cancelled. EHCO President Don Bailey cancelled the meeting after determining the walking and parking conditions were too treacherous for residents.

The weather also caused the February newsletters to reach residents late. The newsletters are considered bulk mail and are a low priority for delivery during inclement weather. While every effort is made to insure newsletters reach residents before the meeting, we cannot control the weather or the Postal Service. This is one of the reasons we also send the newsletter to residents by e-mail in PDF form.

If you do not receive the newsletter by e-mail and would like to, please send an e-mail to us at [EmersonHeights@aol.com](mailto:EmersonHeights@aol.com). By getting on our e-mail list, not only will you receive the newsletter, but you will receive other valuable information about happenings in the neighborhood.

## **February meeting topic moved to March**

The main topic for the February meeting was bylaws and incorporation. Sheila Jenkins, with the Community Organization Legal Assistance Project (COLAP), has reviewed our bylaws and has recommended that EHCO incorporate as a non-profit organization. Jenkins has agreed to attend our March meeting to discuss her recommendations for EHCO.

Also on the agenda for the March meeting is John Workman with Indianapolis Department of Public Works. Workman will give a brief talk regarding heavy trash pick-up and will answer residents' questions.

## **Thanks to the newsletter delivery folks**

During the February snowfall, this newsletter reached you after our meeting date because its delivery was delayed by the postal service. However, before we started having our newsletters mailed, there were some neighbors who, before the meeting date, delivered this newsletter to your house. Once a month, these folks walked the streets in the rain or snow, heat or cold, to deliver this newsletter to you. They did this because they thought it was important for you to know what is going on in our neighborhood, whether you attend our meetings or not.

EHCO wishes to thank all of these dedicated people whose service, past and present, has been invaluable and much appreciated. They are (in alphabetical order): Miriam Alam, Rosemary Armour, Don Bailey, Al Brown, John Coe, Judy Coe, Debbie Davidson, Tom Davidson, Diana Dorsett and her children, Kelley Drexler, George Hanlin, Chrissy Lewellen, Jessica Moran, Jim Schrum, Ralph Schrum, Kurt Weigand, and Judy Wilson-Bailey.

### **Inside this issue:**

Oval Office	2
Marker Fund	3
Block Clubs	4-5
Fish fry	5
Ask Beth	6
Crime Watch	6
Numbers	7
Public Safety	7
Tourism	7
Next meeting	8
Dates	8

### **Contact Information**

#### ***EHCO Board***

Don Bailey, President  
Tommy Tabor,  
Vice-President  
Crystal Allison,  
Treasurer  
Donna Moore, Secretary  
Jim Schrum, NESCO  
representative  
John Yergin, EHCO  
Zoning representative

**Phone:** 353-6780

**Address:** PO Box 11686  
Indianapolis IN 46201

**E-mail:**  
[EmersonHeights@aol.com](mailto:EmersonHeights@aol.com)

**Website:**  
[www.emersonheights.org](http://www.emersonheights.org)

## Oval Office

Words from Don Bailey  
EHCO President

### THE BAYOUS OF BOSART

I think that everyone in Emerson Heights is familiar with the Bayous of Bosart. That wonderful fishing spot on St. Clair Street between Bosart and Drexel Avenues.



South Bayou of Bosart, March 12, 2006

The alley has been a hazard to vehicles and people for many years. It was bad enough in the spring when it would become an oily lake and in the summer when the skeeters would dare anyone to walk the back way from Kroger's. But the worse time was actually the winter, when ice would form then vehicles would break through and create these jagged potholes (rumor has it this is what happened to Jim Schrum's pickup truck. It fell into the lake and was never seen again).



North Bayou of Bosart, March 12, 2006

#### **Good News!**

EHCO has been working diligently for the past year to get this alley repaired. Now, thanks to EHCO, Katy Brett, the Mayor's Office, and the Department of Public Works (DPW), the bayou days are over. DPW is now working on



South Bayou of Bosart, March 22, 2007

the alley. They are installing new sewer drainage to carry the water away and will be re-surfacing the alley with a new composite material, reclamite, to make the alley drivable.

Remember that there are no votes in alley repair, so please express your thanks to Katy Brett, the Department of Public Works and the Mayor's Office. They all made



North Bayou of Bosart, March 22, 2007

this happen!

However, to make the result of this project last for years to come, we need to change. What we have to do is to park responsibly so that people can get through the alley instead of driving up in yards to get around parked vehicles. And we need to keep from dragging the mud from our backyard back into the alley (if we do, the sewer will be all blocked up again in a couple of years and we will be back where we started). If you are parking in your backyard, please either park on a concrete pad or have a load of limestone gravel laid for a solid base.

The most important point here is that this work shows what we, as a neighborhood, can do when we work with the city, when we are organized, when we are persistent, and when we put our collective mind to something.

We have lots of plans to make Emerson Heights a better place to live. Come to our meeting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March and be a part of these plans.

## You can help with the Emerson Heights marker fund

Donations are being accepted for the purchase of an Emerson Heights neighborhood marker to be placed at the corner of 10th Street and Emerson Avenue. Current estimation of cost is \$750 - \$1000. You can help with this project by completing the form below and either mail or give the form and your donation to an EHCO officer.

I want to help! Here's my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help with the marker fund.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to:  
Emerson Heights Community Organization

Mail form and donation to:  
Emerson Heights Community Organization  
PO Box 11686  
Indianapolis IN 46201



## Marker Fund donations

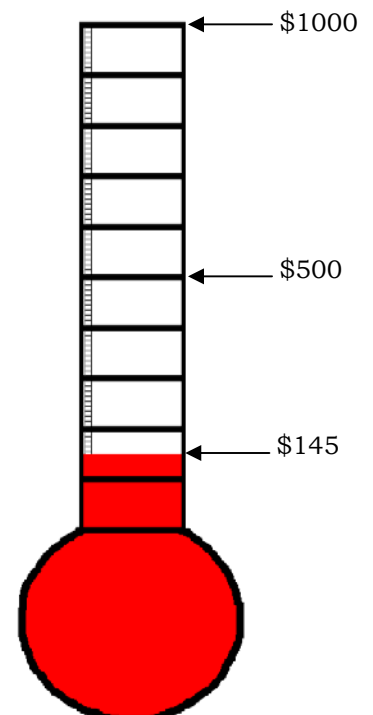
EHCO would like to thank the following people for their donation to the Marker Fund. Want to see your name here? Donate today by completing the form above and mail it to EHCO or give it to an EHCO officer.

\$100.00 \*  
Don Bailey - \$20.00  
Patricia Heberden - \$25.00

\* Awarded to EHCO after Don Bailey's completion of an INRC leadership course and designated to this fund by the residents in attendance at the January 2007 meeting.

If you can DREAM it, you can DO it!  
- Walt Disney

## Marker Fund



---

# Block Clubs—Get One Started On Your Block

By George Hanlin

A year and a half ago I decided to organize a block club on the 700 block of North Dequincy Street. I had been in the neighborhood for a few years, and while I had met some of the neighbors living around me, I didn't know many others down the street. I felt it was time to change that.

## **Why?**

Well, like many of you, ***I was becoming concerned about the state of the community.*** While I wouldn't say there was a crime wave going on, we were experiencing random break-ins and vandalism. Some neighbors weren't taking care of their properties very well. ***And in general I felt a sense of isolation on our street.***

So in late summer 2005 a few neighbors gathered for National Night Out and decided to join together to address some of these issues. We kicked off our efforts to start a block club, and we worked together to recruit members. By early last year, we had officially established one. ***Our block is long—we have 38 homes on it—but I'm proud to say that 24 of those homes are participating in our club!***

## **So what does our block club do?**

***We continue to gather occasionally***—at least twice a year (we should probably meet four times a year)—to socialize, to get to know one another better, and to discuss matters of concern on our street.

***We look out for one another.*** We have published a directory of all the homes that are participating in our club, so we know everyone's name and contact information. If we notice suspicious activities, we call to check in.

Because we're officially registered with the city as a crime-watch block, ***we use this as an opportunity to work closely with the police.*** We share with them our concerns, and they offer advice for combating crime and neighborhood nuisances.

***We work together to make our block an attractive place to live.*** We join together to pick up trash off the street, mow the grass in the median, pull weeds from the gutters, and so on. We've joined Operation My Town (OMT), a program of Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB). Through OMT, we're able to get a free dumpster for a block cleanup day. KIB also rates the cleanliness of our street, and because we got high ratings all last summer, this spring we'll receive 10 free flats of flowers to plant. Many of us have also received free trees through the annual tree-planting program that the Emerson Heights Community Organization (EHCO) sponsors along with KIB.

## **We want you to join us!**

Because block clubs do so much to improve neighborhoods, EHCO wants more of them. ***Our goal is to establish at least five more clubs throughout the year. This means we need you and your neighbors to get involved.***

## **So how do you start a block club?**

1. ***If you know some neighbors already, ask them to help you.*** It's not hard to start a block club, but it can be daunting if you feel you're doing it alone. So get others to help if you can.
2. ***Understand the difference between a city-recognized crime-watch club and a more informal block club.*** If you want the city to recognize your block club as an official crime-watch club—with signs for your street—you're supposed to include only neighbors from your own block, and you're supposed to have at least half of the homes on the block participating. But depending on your circumstances, you might not be in the position to do that. ***Even if you don't form an "official" crime-watch club, you can still form your own version of a block club!*** So if you and some neighbors in the block south of you want to join together, and if you have only 10 people to start with, go for it anyway!
3. ***Plan a kickoff party and invite neighbors.*** Set a date for the party, and send out invitations. Give an invitation to everyone on your block, not just the people you think will come. The goal is to get *everyone* involved, even people you don't like! (And if someone is causing problems on your block, this will serve as a good notice that the neighbors aren't going to put up with it anymore!) If you think you'll have a hard time getting many people on your own block to participate in a club, team up with an adjoining block and invite those neighbors too (for example, the 500 and 600 blocks could join together to form a club).

(Continued on page 5)

---

## Block clubs

(Continued from page 4)

4. **Invite Annie Kern, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department's northeast district crime-watch coordinator, to your meeting.** Do this even if you don't think you'll become an official crime-watch club. Annie is a great community resource and can provide good crime-prevention tips. Then if you do decide to pursue the crime-watch designation, you'll have established a relationship. Annie's phone number is 327-6265, and her e-mail is [k9901@indygov.org](mailto:k9901@indygov.org).
5. **At the kickoff party, put out registration forms so people can sign up for the block club and provide contact information.** This is a great way to get your core group started. By the way, don't be discouraged if only a small number of people show up. Many people are reluctant to go to parties, especially if they don't know the host.
6. **After the kickoff party, go door-to-door to sign people up.** Enlist other founding club members to help, especially if they live farther down the street. It's easier for you to ask the people who live immediately around you, and if you can get others to ask *their* immediate neighbors, you'll no doubt find it more convenient.
7. **A month or two after the kickoff party, have another get-together.** This shows people you are serious about the club, and it might inspire holdouts to join.
8. **Once you have established your club membership, create a roster with names and contact information.** Distribute this only to the members who have joined, not to everyone on the street. While you don't want your block club to appear exclusive, you shouldn't share this information with people who haven't committed to your cause.
9. **Once you have established your club, commit to having regular meetings (at least once a year, but preferably quarterly).** You can get creative with the content—maybe you'll want to have a street party for one of the meetings. Perhaps for another you can invite a local police officer. You can also plan community activities, such as block clean-ups or tree plantings. If you want to participate in the Operation My Town program, by the way, you can learn more by visiting [www.kibi.org/programs/litter\\_cleanup/omt/omt.htm](http://www.kibi.org/programs/litter_cleanup/omt/omt.htm) or by contacting Sarah Grain (264-7555 ext. 106 or [sgrain@kibi.org](mailto:sgrain@kibi.org)).
10. **Keep working on recruiting new neighbors!** As you continue to work together as a block club, you'll probably win over some neighbors who didn't join early on. And as new neighbors move in, don't forget to recruit them. Update your roster yearly (and if you're a crime-watch block, submit it to the crime-watch program to stay current).

Starting a block club is fun, and the rewards are great—it really does benefit the neighborhood! If you're interested in starting a club of your own, the 10 tips above should get you off to a good start. **If you have more questions or concerns, neighbors are here to help! Joe Wade is spearheading the effort to establish more block clubs in Emerson Heights, and you can reach him at 353-6002. I'm also glad to give you advice and suggestions. You can reach me at 322-0866 or [georgehanlin@yahoo.com](mailto:georgehanlin@yahoo.com).**



**Jin's Alterations  
& Tailor Shop**  
4742 E. 10th Street  
317-353-0799

### Little Flower fish fry

Little Flower Parish, 1401 North Bosart Avenue, will sponsor a weekly Fish Fry every Friday through March 30. Serving times will be from 4:30pm to 7:30pm. A choice of fried or baked fish, as well as an Ala Carte menu, will be available with a wide variety of side items. Prices for complete dinners are \$6.50 for adults, \$5.75 for seniors and \$3.25 for children under 10.

Please call 357-8352 for more information.

---

## Ask Beth White, Marion County Clerk

Dear Beth,

Recently, I've been following the news about efforts to sell our roads, define marriage, and merge local government. I want to choose my representatives, so how do I register to vote?

Sincerely,  
Future Voter

Dear Future Voter,

The fundamental vitality and strength of democracy rests in the hands of those who vote. And in this country, the power of the vote is awesome. Decisions made in the election booth have the power to begin or end a war, to fully educate our children, or to honor and take care of those who came before us. If you want a voice, then register to vote.

Here's how:

You must be a citizen of the United States; 18 years of age by the time of the next general election; lived in the same place for 30 days before the election; and not currently in prison after being convicted of a crime.

If you meet those requirements, you can register to vote by going to or calling your county's Board of Voter Registration. If you live in Marion County, the Board of Registration's address is 200 E. Washington Street, Suite W131 and phone is (317) 327-5040. They are open Monday through Friday from 8AM-4:30PM.

To register, you will fill out a form, which includes your name, address, telephone number, and either your driver's license number or the last four digits of your social security number. You will receive a card in the mail in about 2 weeks that verifies your registration.

So, my friend, if you want a voice, if it's better schools or roads or parks that you want, you now know how. Go out, make a difference, and help make our democracy work the way it is supposed to.

And if you want to run for office, give me a call (317) 327-4740. That's what I'm here for.

Best Wishes,  
Clerk Beth White

---

## Crime Watch Spring 2007 training

The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) will hold a Crime Watch training class on Tuesday, March 27, 2007, from 6:30-8:30pm with registration from 6:00-6:30pm. The training will be held in the 2nd-floor assembly room at the City-County Building, 200 East Washington Street.

Free parking is available in the Pearl Street lot, just south of the City-County Building (enter from Alabama or Delaware Streets).

Scheduled topics include homeland security, illegal dumping, trash ordinance changes, fire safety, crime watch groups working together, and animal control issues.

So that IMPD can ensure enough seating and class materials, please RSVP by calling Shirley Purvis at 327-3781 or by e-mailing [p1527@indygov.org](mailto:p1527@indygov.org).

---

## Important Phone Numbers

### Police/Fire/Medical

Emergency: 911  
Non-emergency: 327-3811  
Dope Hotline: 327-DOPE (3673)  
Gang Hotline: 898-GANG (4264)

### Local Government

Mayor's Action Center (MAC): 327-4MAC (4622)  
Abandoned Vehicles: 327-4622  
Animal Control: 633-3007  
Center Township Assessor: 327-4698  
Marion County Health & Hospital: 541-2000  
Pavement Markings: 327-2933  
Solid Waste: 327-2364  
Traffic Signals: 327-2933  
Traffic Signs: 327-2928  
Trash Collection: 327-2364

### Media

Herald Weekly: 356-2487  
Indianapolis Business Journal (IBJ): 634-6200  
Indianapolis Monthly: 237-9288  
Indianapolis Recorder: 924-5143  
Indianapolis Star: 444-4444

### Transportation

IndyGo: 635-3344  
Metro Taxicab: 247-8888  
Yellow Cab: 487-7777

### AT&T

Customer Service: 1-800-288-2020  
Repair: 1-800-868-9696  
DSL: 1-800-288-2020

### Bright House Networks

Cable Customer Care: 972-9700  
Digital Phone: 972-9700  
High Speed Internet: 1-866-713-FAST (3278)

### Citizens Gas

Gas Leak/Emergency: 924-3311  
Customer Service Call Center: 924-3311  
Toll-free Customer Service :800-427-4217

### Indianapolis Power & Light

Emergency "Lights Out" (24 hours): 261-8111  
Customer Service Line: 261-8222  
Toll-free Customer Service Line: 1-888-261-8222

### Indianapolis Water

Customer Service: 631-1431  
Emergency Service: 631-1431  
Hearing Impaired: 263-6308

---

## NESCO Public Safety meetings

NESCO Public Safety meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at the Englewood Christian Church, 57 North Rural Street. The meeting starts at 6:00pm.

At the meeting, residents can talk to representatives from the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, Marion County Prosecutor's Office, Marion County Health Department, Department of Public Works, Department of Metropolitan Development (Zoning), and the Mayor's Office.

All east-side residents are encourage to attend these meetings. They are an excellent opportunity to learn what is happening in Indianapolis and a chance for residents take their issues to the appropriate agencies.

---

## 2007 Indiana Tourism brochures now available

Want to know what to see and do around Indiana? The 2007 Indiana Tourism brochures are now available. The available brochures include a Travel Guide, a Travel Map, a Golf and Travel Guide, and a Festival Guide. You can request these brochures by calling 1-800-677-9800. You can also receive this information by visiting the Indiana Tourism website at [www.VisitIndiana.com](http://www.VisitIndiana.com) (move your cursor over "Travel Tools" and click on "Travel Brochures").



The website can give you trip ideas, based on a specific region in Indiana or on a specific activity you are interested in, as well as travel discounts. You can also learn about famous Hoosiers, fun facts, and state emblems or sign up for an e-newsletter. Travel Indiana and restart your engines.

# EHCO

*Serving the Emerson Heights  
Community*

Meetings begin at 6:30pm on the third Thursday of each month and are held in the basement of the Wallace Street Presbyterian Church (on the southeast corner of Wallace Street and 10th Street).

Meetings are open to all homeowners, tenants, landlords, and business owners in the Emerson Heights neighborhood and surrounding area.

Please come!



Emerson Heights Community Organization  
PO Box 11686  
Indianapolis IN 46201

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.

## Dates to remember in 2007

### EHCO Meeting Schedule

March 15  
April 19  
May 17  
June 21  
July 19  
August 16  
September 20  
October 18  
November 15  
December 20

### Heavy Trash Pick-up

March 9  
April 13  
May 11  
June 8  
July 13  
August 10  
September 14  
October 12  
November 9  
December 14

## Next Meeting...

The agenda for the February 15th meeting is:

- Call to order and introductions
- Reports from the City Neighborhood Liaison\*, the Prosecutor's Office\*, and the Indianapolis Police Department\*
- John Workman, DPW - Heavy trash
- Sheila Jenkins, COLAP - Bylaws & incorporation

\*Provided when information is available

**The deadline for newsletter article submissions is now 11:00pm on the evening of our monthly meeting. You can submit an article or an idea for an article by e-mail to [dmoore1220@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dmoore1220@sbcglobal.net). EHCO reserves the right to decline to print any article submitted.**