

ARCADIA Now online at: www.kalamazoomi.com/arcadia NEIGHBORHOOD REMINDER



May 2008

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ARCADIA COMMUNITY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

Board of Directors

2007 - 2008

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PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TOWARD SIGNS IDENTIFYING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD *by Rex Brueggemann*

We want people to know the location of the Arcadia neighborhood. Toward that goal, the Arcadia Neighborhood Association will be purchasing two signs stating, "Welcome to the Arcadia Neighborhood".

Our intent is to place one sign on Lancaster, and the other sign on Dobbin. This project is being done in cooperation with the City of Kalamazoo, but will be paid for through contributions by Arcadia neighborhood residents. Please contribute! The total cost of this project is projected to be approximately \$300.00, so your individual contribution can make a big difference.

Please contribute by sending your check made out to the Arcadia Neighborhood Association, and write "sign purchase" in the memorandum section of your check. Contributions should be sent to Arcadia Neighborhood Association Treasurer Hans Engelke at 640 Weaver, Kalamazoo, MI 49006. Please remember that the Arcadia Neighborhood Association is at this time an informal association, and does not have a 501 (c)(3) designation. Hence, you would want to talk to your tax preparer regarding the deductibility of any contributions. Thank you for your participation!

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH *by Doug Williams*

Arcadia Neighborhood Watch meetings take place at 6:30 P.M. on the 4th Wednesday of every month. Our next meeting will be in the Arcadia Elementary School Library on May 28. These meetings are an opportunity for neighborhood residents to voice concerns about zoning violations, crime or traffic problems to public safety and code enforcement officials of the City of Kalamazoo. These officials are very interested in our input and assistance in tackling quality of life issues for neighborhoods. We continue to receive excellent support from housing inspector Nancy Hess. Nancy has served our area reliably for several years. Our community

WHO TO CALL:

Public Safety - Emergency 911

Non-emergency 337-8120

Animal Control 383-8775

Zoning/Trash Violations
337-8221

Parking Violations 342-6383

Public Works 337-8002

Silent Observer 343-2100

KVET (suspicious drug
activity) 337-8880



**Congratulations
to our
Neighborhood
Graduates!**

police officer (CPO) is Jeremy Shaffer and neighborhood detective is Paul Bianco. All of these individuals have been regular participants in our meetings. Officer Shaffer has been preparing detailed monthly crime reports for our area.

Key issues of concern to area residents include enforcement of rental registration, single-family occupancy limits, noise and parking violations. If you observe activity that indicates violations of these laws and requirements, we encourage you to report them to appropriate officials (front page side bar) and report them on our Neighborhood Watch hot spot form (Web page under newsletter banner). These reports are faithfully forwarded to our officials and reviewed at our monthly meetings. It is more helpful to enforcement if you are willing to identify yourself but anonymous tips are also forwarded.

There are two new programs that Public Safety would like us to know about. (1) STOPPED is a voluntary and free program that allows parents to enroll any family vehicle that will be operated by a person under 21 years of age. Information will be stored in a Michigan Sheriff's Association database in Lansing and parents will receive a decal to place on the windshield. This decal serves as a visual reminder to young drivers to act responsibly. Any violations involving the vehicle will be reported to the parent or guardians. You can learn more about enrollment at www.michigansheriff.com or by calling MSA at 800-875-5500. (2) I'm not much of a blogger but the Kalamazoo Dept. of Public Safety has started a Web site that they hope will improve interaction with city residents. Check it out at www.kdpsblog.typepad.com

Our Neighborhood Watch web site is badly out of date. This summer, I hope to add updated lists of registered rentals, new zoning categories and more meeting information. Until then, please send a note to me at dwilliams@kalsec.com if you want to be added to our NW roster and informant list. Thanks for your patience.

CRIME STATISTICS

by Hans Engelke, Treasurer, ANA

About one year ago we asked the Public Safety Department if it could separate the Arcadia crime statistics from those of Knollwood, since virtually all the crimes reported in the combined areas were in Knollwood. The

Department said it could be done and proceeded with the project, which was completed in November 2007 under the direction of Lt. John Uribe and the IM analyst John Depierre, to whom we are very grateful.

This is an improvement; however, they could not separate our Arcadia residential area from the streets immediately to the west, which are Jack Pine, Red Pine Way, Emajeau, Hidden Hills, Little and 3700 W. Michigan and beyond. Running off of Drake Rd. – and also part of the Arcadia district -- are Dover Hills, Clayborne, Wimbleton, Hemmingway, Dillingham and Carrington. The statistics for these streets are about as bad as those in Knollwood. Therefore when you check the crime statistics remember that these streets are not part of the Arcadia neighborhood; virtually all the crimes in the Arcadia district are on those streets and none in the Arcadia residential neighborhood.

You can check the crime statistics anytime if you have a computer. The statistics are accessed through the NLO (Neighborhood Liaison Officer) map. The procedure is slightly cumbersome; just follow these instructions: go to: kalamazoo.city.org; at the bottom of the left sidebar click on "Public Safety"; on the next frame in the middle of the right sidebar click on "Crime Stats"; at the top of the page click on "Neighborhood Crime Stats and Information". A disclaimer will appear; just click on "I agree" and the NLO map will appear. To get to any particular neighborhood just click on that neighborhood to see the crime statistics.

On June 10 2007, the Kalamazoo Gazette reported the 2006 crime statistics, which lumped high crime areas with low or non-existent ones all over the city and caused consternation among our residents, as it put Arcadia in a rather bad light. We have alerted the Gazette to the changes in the Arcadia crime statistics so that hopefully future crime reporting will reflect Arcadia in a better light.

ARBORETUM DRIVE

by Hans Engelke, Treasurer, ANA

Work is continuing on the Arboretum Drive; a good amount of the work was already done last fall because of the good weather late into the season. Storm and sanitary sewer lines were also laid at that time. Curb and gutters have recently been poured and the first coat of asphalt

paving laid down. It should be ready for use soon, depending on when the city opens it up for public use.

The western end of the road exits onto Drake Road opposite Driftwood Drive; the eastern end terminates at Solon. For the present both Solon and Kendall will remain one way streets. The city is working on a configuration for the Arboretum/Solon/Kendall/Howard Street interchange; one possibility is a roundabout. But whatever is decided nothing will be done until next year at the earliest.

ANNUAL DUES — \$5.00/residence

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

I would like to hear more about serving on the Board or helping in other ways.

Mail to: Hans Engelke, 640 Weaver, Kalamazoo, MI 49006