

ARCADIA NEIGHBORHOOD REMINDER



April 2003

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ARCADIA COMMUNITY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

Board of Directors

2003

Dave Bruininks
1109 Berkshire, 372-9313

Alma Dietz
2929 Memory Lane,
344-5305

Hans Engelke
640 Weaver, 344-1463

Bill Fritsch
925 Boswell Lane, 375-5067

Frank Kovach
921 Berkshire, 372-2204

Ruth Kreuger
3706 Barrington, 375-0114

Jackie Mallinson
535 S. Kendall, 342-2255

Sue Stapleton
632 Weaver, 383-3461

Bob Totten
3220 West Michigan,
375-5480

Jamie Whitmore
854 Weaver, 345-5808

Doug Williams
858 Dobbin, 375-6926

Our long time board member and Treasurer, Hans Engleke, fell off a ladder while trimming his trees. We are all hoping for his full recovery. He had injuries to his back and pelvis as well as several broken ribs. The Board sent him flowers. For the time Hans is convalescing, our assistant Treasurer Sue Stapleton will be handling this responsibility. If you are mailing in your dues please use her address.

The existing by-laws for Arcadia Neighborhood Association have always contained a brief Mission Statement. Your Board felt that a more up-to-date Mission Statement was needed. Thus, the following Mission Statement has been adopted.

Arcadia Neighborhood Association

Mission and Goals

March 31, 2003

Mission Statement

The Arcadia Neighborhood Association has been established to provide support for, and give a united voice to, the interests and concerns of the residents of the single-family, owner-occupied homes located in that region of the City of Kalamazoo known as the Arcadia Neighborhood.

Goals

To accomplish this mission, the Board Members of the Arcadia Neighborhood Association are committed to working toward the following goals:

- Preserving the character of the Arcadia Neighborhood in a manner that will continue to insure a safe and pleasant residential location for young families with children, single professional people, older families, and retirees.
- Developing and maintaining a cooperative working relationship with the City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo Township, and Oshtemo Township in helping to solve present and future problems related to road maintenance, traffic control, density of housing, and the need for designated parks and open space areas.
- Developing and maintaining a cooperative relationship with its closest neighbor, Western Michigan University, and its students, in working to solve the problems of student housing, increased traffic, and other situations that impact the residents of the Arcadia Neighborhood resulting from a rapidly growing student population.
- Acquiring defined open space and/or park areas for this high population density region of the City. (As of the early 21st Century, there is only one designated City Park in the region - Knollwood Park - which is currently surrounded by student housing, thus limiting use by families in the Arcadia

WHO TO CALL:

Public Safety
Emergency 911
Non-emergency 337-8120
Greg Cordes, NLO, 337-8391
Animal Control 383-8775
Parking Violations 342-6383
Public Works 337-8002
Silent Observer 343-2100
KVET (suspicious drug activity) 337-8880

Neighborhood.) It is the vision of the Arcadia Neighborhood Association that a substantial portion of the area known as "The Basswood Preserve" (The Arboretum) be designated as open space and/or a legally defined park area.

- Monitoring, on a continuing basis, the zoning restrictions applicable to those Arcadia Neighborhood residences that are occupied by unrelated adults so that those residences conform to City ordinances in this single-family neighborhood; monitoring the enforcement of ordinances related to the care, maintenance, and upkeep of nearby properties; and monitoring the enforcement of parking regulations throughout the Arcadia Neighborhood.

- Monitoring plans for the use of the property, known as "The Arboretum," currently owned by the Western Michigan University Foundation, especially in regard to proposed zoning changes, road development, and use of open spaces; and providing input from the residents of the Arcadia Neighborhood about the most desirable uses for this property.

Farmers' Market

A reminder that the Farmers' Market at 1200 Bank Street starts in May.

Hours

May and November

Saturdays only

7 A.M. - 2 P.M.

June, July, August, September, October

Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays

7 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Board Members Have Been Active

Jackie Mallinson and Ruth Krueger spearheaded the drafting of the new Mission Statement.

Frank Kovach did the recent survey of the neighborhood. Actually that was the second survey he has done.

Did you know we have a neighborhood welcome wagon? The Board felt we needed to do a better job in welcoming new residents. Ruth Kreuger and Jackie Mallinson put together a packet of information about the neighborhood and city. Not guaranteed, but often included are home baked cookies. WOW! These are dedicated ladies.

Dave Bruininks coordinated with WMU students and Arcadia residents the trash pickup on West Michigan Avenue between Howard Street and Drake Road. I am writing this before the event has occurred, but have no doubt of its success.

Thoughts From the President

Having moved several times over the years I have always found getting integrated into the new neighborhood was easy - it just happened automatically. How did it happen? My two boys would go out

and make friends with the other kids, so then the mothers of the kids make a point of meeting each other. Come the weekend, when the husbands are home, the wives introduce them and the integration into the new neighborhood just happens.

Why am I telling you this, not so stunning, sociological fact? Because, even though we are a single-family neighborhood, we have and always will have students living in our neighborhood.

When there has been friction, in the past, between families and students a reoccurring theme from the students has been, "Nobody talks to me, nobody living here is friendly."

Good point, there are no kids and wives out making the initial contact with the student's wives and kids. Usually there are none.

The recent neighborhood welcome wagon mentioned earlier is a start to make all newcomers welcome, but it is going to take extra effort by the immediate neighbors of students to meet them and make friends. It should pay off in better relations and resolution of differences if we are all talking to each other.

PS. WMU is also telling their students to try to fit in when they move into single-family neighborhoods.

-- other thoughts --

Not many from Arcadia attended the City Council meeting for the West side, held at Winchell Elementary School. The subject was the City budget and the rapidly disappearing State Financial Aid that was reduced this year. The forecast is continued reductions in State Aid next year. We can expect fewer services and probably less maintenance of the roads. The City Council and City Manager are looking for everybody's input on what should be cut. There are still other meetings planned in the neighborhoods and with City Council if you are interested — and you should be.

Your Dues at Work — Annual Garage Sale

This is the ad that will be put in the Kalamazoo Gazette and The Flashes.

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

ARCADIA NEIGHBORHOOD

SATURDAY, MAY 17th, 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

We are just west of WMU main campus on West Michigan Avenue between Howard and Drake. Rain date - Sunday, May 18th, noon to 4 P.M.