

# ARCADIA NEIGHBORHOOD REMINDER



April 2004

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THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ARCADIA COMMUNITY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

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## Board of Directors 2003

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Bob Totten  
3220 West Michigan,  
375-5480

Jamie Whitmore  
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Doug Williams  
858 Dobbins, 375-6926

## We have a Web site!

After much time and consideration, we are launching our own Web site. Sometime in the next week or so you will be able to check us out at [www.kalamazoomi.com/arcadia](http://www.kalamazoomi.com/arcadia). We give special thanks to residents Griff Herriman and Keith Knapp for their assistance in this project. The site contains maps, upcoming events, recent newsletters, information about development issues, and links to City and community resources. Please direct comments and suggestions to board member Doug Williams.

## Calendar — see the rest of the newsletter for details

Apr 20 – Michigan Avenue Project Meeting (6 PM, Grace Fellowship Church)

Apr 27 – IMPORTANT West Side Study info and feedback session (7 PM, Arcadia Elementary)

May 12 – KVET Drug Awareness Program (7 PM, KPS, Crosstown Parkway)

May 15 – Neighborhood Rummage Sale (see March Newsletter)

Aug 3 – Neighborhood Night Out and Ice Cream Social (6-8 PM, Arcadia Elementary)

## Learn More about the Michigan Avenue Road Widening

Our March newsletter described some of the design options for widening and improving Michigan Avenue between Drake and Farrell. To collect neighborhood opinion on these options, City staff and the project engineers have scheduled a second public meeting for 6 PM, Tue, Apr 20 at Grace Fellowship Church, 729 Farrell St. This meeting will provide details about proposed lane and intersection configurations, median placement, design alternatives, and results of recent traffic analysis. If you are not able to attend, please contact an ANA Board member to share your concerns.

## IMPORTANT: West Side Land Use Study – Opportunity for Neighborhood Feedback

The West Side land use study is approaching the approval and adoption phase this summer. ANA Board members met with City Staff on Mar 25 and with the West Side Study advisory board on Mar 30. We have requested:

- (1) limitation of overall development density to that of our current land use plan,
- (2) explicit consideration of our neighborhood proposal for development of the property north of the single-family neighborhood, and,
- (3) description of the traffic analysis which was used to justify the Drake-Kendall connector road.

In our neighborhood survey last May, residents favored single-family homes on the undeveloped property with NO connector road by a 5:1 margin over the City's proposal to build homes WITH a connector road. Details of this survey and of our stated position

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## WHO TO CALL:

Public Safety  
Emergency 911  
Non-emergency 337-8120  
Cory Ghiringhelli, CPO,  
337-8391

Animal Control 383-8775  
Parking Violations 342-6383  
Public Works 337-8002  
Silent Observer 343-2100  
KVET (suspicious drug  
activity) 337-8880

can be viewed on our Web site (click on Neighborhood Development). The City Planning department strongly favors the connector road and has asked us to describe conditions (if any) under which we would accept their proposal. This is troublesome because they have not convincingly explained the expected traffic value of the connector road (see item #3 above). **We will hold a neighborhood meeting at 7 PM, Tue, Apr 27 at Arcadia Elementary School to describe recent deliberations and gather your opinions on our next steps.** To negotiate an acceptable outcome at this critical stage, WE NEED TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS. Please try to attend this important meeting. If you are not able to attend, please call a neighborhood board member to express your opinion. Our neighborhood representatives to the West Side Study advisory board are Doug Williams, Sue Stapleton, and Bob Totten.

## Get Ready for Construction at W. Michigan and Howard

Asst. City Engineer John Seelman met with interested neighbors at Arcadia Elementary on Mar 25 to describe upcoming construction to the West Michigan Ave./Howard Street intersection. Work will begin on Monday, April 26 and is designed to increase traffic flow through this very congested intersection. Construction is scheduled to last approximately 70 working days, with all work to be completed by the time students return.

Highlights of the project are:

- Northbound Howard between Stadium and W. Michigan will be **CLOSED** throughout the construction. Detours will send cars down Stadium to Drake and back up W. Michigan.
- W. Michigan east of Howard onto campus will be closed. This traffic will be routed down Howard to the Valley campus entrance.
- We have voiced our concerns about campus traffic detouring through Arcadia. The city will put up temporary stop signs throughout construction if warranted.
- The new intersection will have 2 northbound left turn lanes off Howard onto W. Michigan. There will be one straight thru and one straight/ right turn lane on NB Howard.
- W. Michigan will be expanded by one lane to provide 2 straight, 1 right and 1 left turn lane eastbound, and 2 lanes westbound.

In general, the intersection is going to be a mess this summer but will provide much needed relief when completed. Please bear with the mess.

## Community Police Officer (CPO) Newsletter

Our CPO, Cory Ghiringhelli, has put together a newsletter to address public safety issues that pertain to West Side neighborhoods. Cory plans to distribute his newsletter

by e-mail. If you would like to be on his distribution list, please send him a note at [ghiringhelli@kalamazoo-city.org](mailto:ghiringhelli@kalamazoo-city.org) or call him at 337-8391.

## KVET Drug Awareness Program Offered

The Kalamazoo Valley Enforcement Team (KVET) will give a program on illegal drug awareness at 7 PM, May 12 at KPS Headquarters, 150 E. Crosstown Parkway. This program is highly recommended by other neighborhood leaders who have seen it. Those who are interested in helping with Neighborhood Watch are especially encouraged to attend. Questions about the KVET program should be directed to Sgt. Earle Martin, 337-8976.

## Arcadia Elementary School playground renovations

The Arcadia Parents Association at our elementary school has been raising funds to replace or acquire new playground equipment. Each piece of equipment costs an average of \$3000. Current plans to purchase a slide, a jungle gym, and a new structure with handicap access are contingent upon budget. If you have any questions or if you know of grants or funds available for this purpose, please contact board member Sue Stapleton.



**Great Minds make for Great Neighborhoods —**  
become involved in the Arcadia Neighborhood Association.