

ARCADIA

Now online at: www.kalamazoomi.com/arcadia

NEIGHBORHOOD

REMINDER



December 2004

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ARCADIA COMMUNITY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

Board of Directors

2004 - 2005

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 Krueger
3706 Barrington, 375-0114

Andrew Phillips
3649 Lancaster, 375-2393

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

WHO TO CALL:

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

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

IMPORTANT - West Side Study Nearing Decision

On October 22, we learned that the Kalamazoo Department of Community Planning and Development was going to add text to the West Side study plan to accommodate our concerns about development density and road construction on the undeveloped WMU Foundation properties. This was welcome news. The proposed revisions were incorporated into the draft plan and issued for public review on November 16.

The Planning Commission will receive public comment on the plan at their December 2 and January 6 meetings (7 PM, City Hall). Because of the holidays, we have asked the Department of Community Planning and Development to delay the second public hearing and approval until the February meeting. We are awaiting a response. MEANWHILE, we have scheduled a neighborhood meeting with City Planner Jeff Chamberlain and Neighborhood Planner Andrea Augustine for 7 PM, Tuesday, December 7 at Arcadia Elementary School.

This is your best chance to discuss the plan with City staff and your neighborhood board members. If you care about what kind of development is proposed for the property north of the neighborhood, you need to come to this meeting.

We received word on November 24, that the WMU Foundation has notified the City Planner that it intends to seek rezoning of 30 acres from the Drake Road edge of their property for commercial use. This rezoning hearing could begin in January.

The entire West Side plan can be viewed and downloaded from the Web site www.kalamazoo.org/docs/WestSidePlanFinal.pdf (note that it is a very large file, 38 pages, 15 MB, 60-90 min on a modem connection). The neighborhood board association members have a few printed copies in circulation. Please call Doug Williams if you would like to borrow a copy. You can also obtain a copy from the Kalamazoo Department of Community Planning and Development (337-8044).

Neighborhood Watch

Our November 23 meeting reviewed some general questions about the conduct of our Neighborhood Watch program. KDPS officers Ghiringhelli and Sgt. Randolph were on hand to address questions and provide guidance. We confirmed that our program DOES NOT conduct or endorse neighborhood patrols at this time. We also DO NOT endorse or encourage direct intervention in suspicious activity.

Residents who approach, question, advise, or confront suspicious persons are acting on their own accord and not as representatives of Arcadia Neighborhood Watch. Given the potential for mistakes and personal risk, our program is not sufficiently supported or trained to accept the responsibility (or liability) for an intervention program. However, we DO encourage residents to report suspicious activity when they see it.

Hot spot reporting and program information are available on our Web site (see the Neighborhood Watch page at www.kalamazoomi.com). The Watch team will not meet in December. Mark your calendar for the next meeting at 7 PM, Tuesday, January 25, 2005, in the cafeteria at Arcadia Elementary School. See the Web site or call Jamie Whitmore (345-5808) for more details.

Planning a party?

It's that time of year again. If you are having a holiday party and expect many of your guests to park on the street, please take time to inform your neighbors in advance and be aware of the parking rules in our neighborhood. A summary of parking rules can be seen on our Web site (Neighborhood Watch page).

West Michigan Avenue Update

The City held an open neighborhood meeting on October 26 at Grace Fellowship Church to describe the latest plans for widening of W. Michigan Avenue (see the Oct. newsletter for announcement). Some of the key features include widening of the road to include a center turn lane from Drake to Howard, continuous bicycle lanes and sidewalks with pedestrian lighting on both sides of the road, stamped concrete crosswalks, and shifting of Fraternity Village Drive to align with Dobbin Drive.

Placement of a new stoplight at Dobbin generated some concern. We are continuing to monitor this situation through board members Bob Totten and Frank Kovach.

Construction will begin sometime in Spring (April?), 2005 and is expected to last 5-6 months next year. Some of the improvements (crosswalks and landscaping) will be delayed until 2006. Construction will begin at Drake Road and move toward Howard Street. Michigan Avenue will remain open throughout the construction period with one lane of traffic each way in construction zones and no left turns permitted from Michigan Avenue.

For more information, call City Project Engineer, John Seelman, at 377-8766.

Tourette's Syndrome

Do you have a child with Tourette's Syndrome or Tics? Do you have a child (8 to 15) who makes uncontrollable movements or noises for no apparent reason? If this is the case, he or she may have motor or vocal tics. The WMU Psychology Department is conducting research on tics and is looking for children to participate. Although your child will not receive treatment, the research may help us better understand tics. The study will take 8 hours to complete and participants will be paid \$50 for their time in the study. For more information, please contact Amanda Firth, B.A.

Phone: (269) 387-4629

E-mail: firth_wmu@hotmail.com

Lock Up

Officer Cory tells us that we've had a couple of recent thefts from automobiles in our neighborhood. Please remember to close garage doors and to remove cell phones, laptops, etc. from your car and lock it up if it sits outside at night.

Gardeners' Survey

The Kalamazoo Area Food Systems Inventory is conducting a survey of gardeners in several neighborhoods in the city of Kalamazoo. We will be comparing data gathered in Kalamazoo with data compiled nationwide to help us further understand the contribution of gardening to the food system of Kalamazoo.

If you are a gardener (of any kind), please call Tyler Bassett between now and January 31, 2005 at 383-2569 after 7:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday, or email kafsi_info@yahoo.com for a survey.

Neighborhood Dues Notice

It's the end of the year and if you haven't paid your dues, maybe it's time to think about making a large holiday donation. Or you can wait until next year when we'll start reminding you to pay your 2005 dues. Either way, our treasurer, Hans Engelke will be waiting for your contribution. Have a great holiday season!