

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



January 2007

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ARCADIA COMMUNITY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

Board of Directors

2006 - 2007

Rex Brueggemann
806 Ellendale
372-2087

Lee Ann & Mike Claussen
1010 Dobbin Drive
544-1527

Hans Engelke
640 Weaver
344-1463

Bill Fritsch
925 Boswell Lane
375-5067

Lauren Keller
3615 Lancaster
372-6873

Mark Longstroth
936 Ellendale
375-3723

Bob Totten
3220 West Michigan
375-5480

Jamie Whitmore
854 Weaver
345-5808

MEETING REGARDING THE TRAFFIC STUDY – PLEASE ATTEND!

On Wednesday, January 10, 2007, at 7:00 P.M., a meeting will take place at Arcadia Elementary School, located at 932 Boswell in the Arcadia neighborhood. This meeting is an opportunity for neighborhood residents, and the community at large, to express ideas and concerns they may have relating to the traffic study that is going to be conducted in the very near future by a consultant, CESO, paid for by the WMU Foundation and the City of Kalamazoo. I expect that the consultant and the City of Kalamazoo will be participating in this meeting. This traffic study was anticipated by the 2004 West Side Land Use Plan, and directly relates to the Arcadia neighborhood and areas immediately adjacent to the Arcadia neighborhood.

Who should attend this meeting? To the extent you might ever have concerns about traffic either through or adjacent to the Arcadia neighborhood, you should attend this meeting. To the extent you may have concerns regarding traffic generated by the new middle school, traffic generated by commercial development along Drake road west of the Arcadia neighborhood, or traffic generated by development of at least part of the 80 acres of WMU Foundation property immediately north of the Arcadia neighborhood, you should attend this meeting.

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



Finally, if you are concerned with maintaining public access to whatever open space is ultimately preserved out of the 80 acres of WMU Foundation property immediately north of the Arcadia neighborhood, you should attend this meeting. The Arcadia Neighborhood Association Board looks forward to seeing you there.

REGARDING THE ARBORETUM ROADWAY

On a related topic, Mr. Frank Szopo, an engineer with the City of Kalamazoo, attended the Arcadia Neighborhood Association Board meeting that took place on December 3, 2006. Having heard from Mr. Szopo, and having read the current draft of the “scope of work” document describing the work to be done as part of the above-referenced traffic study (see copy attached), several important facts seem reasonably clear.

The City of Kalamazoo (almost certainly in cooperation with the WMU Foundation) intends to build a road through the 80 acres of WMU Foundation property immediately north of the Arcadia neighborhood. The road is intended to run from Drake to Kendall, or thereabouts. Construction of this road may well begin in the spring, meaning early in 2007. I note that I am not endorsing or agreeing to these things by describing them. Rather, I am simply writing to you about these things as my neighbors, because it seems like you ought to know.

Moving from what I take to be the facts, to

belief, it appears to me that the world has changed since the West Side Land Use Plan was finalized in January, 2005. The pace of change for Kalamazoo, and in particular for the west side of Kalamazoo, has accelerated.

The Kalamazoo Promise, among other things, helped create an environment resulting in the passage of the recent bond proposal, which in turn has resulted in a new middle school to be constructed immediately northwest of the Arcadia neighborhood. This project seems to in turn include a commitment by the City of Kalamazoo to build a road that is in part intended to enable development of at least a portion of the 80 acres of WMU Foundation property immediately north of the Arcadia neighborhood.

The Promise may have changed the perception of the market for residential housing within KPS boundaries, giving additional impetus to the idea of developing the property immediately north of Arcadia. Finally, all of this is occurring in the context of an ailing state economy, plummeting state tax revenues, and a City of Kalamazoo hungry for tax revenues to be generated from development within its boundaries.

In the face of all this, what can we do? First, let’s show up at the January 10, 2007 meeting. Again, the Board of the Arcadia Neighborhood Association looks forward to seeing you there.

Rex Brueggemann, President
Arcadia Neighborhood Association

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