

# ARCADIA NEIGHBORHOOD REMINDER



July 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 Dobbins, 375-6926

## 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

## Upcoming Events

### Ice Cream Social

Tuesday, August 5th, 6:30 - 8:30 P.M., Arcadia Elementary School

### National Night Out

Tuesday, August 5th, 6:30 - 8:30 P.M., Arcadia Elementary School

### Take Back the Night

Tuesday, August 5th, 6:30 - 8:30 P.M., Arcadia Elementary School

All of the above will include visits by the police and fire departments — hook & ladder, K-9 units, etc.

## From the President

-- The three simultaneous events listed above illustrate the evolution of a real social concern. I believe Take Back the Night was first. It emphasizes that women should be able to go out at night without fear of being attacked. This problem is illustrated by the fact that Western Michigan University offers safe escort home services to women leaving the campus library at night.

Where Take Back the Night started, I don't know, but to broaden its message it was renamed National Night Out. In Arcadia we make it our Ice Cream Social; with strong support from Public Safety. So come and enjoy the ice cream, socializing, fire trucks, etc. But remember the original message of the day — all people, regardless of gender, should be safe on our streets at night.

-- Hans Engelke, our treasurer, is back on the job after a serious fall out of a tree. His recovery has been tremendous. In fact, he feels well enough to collect the annual dues at the Ice Cream Social.

-- Do you have a problem that requires action by a City Department? Who should you call? On the newsletter we have a list of WHO TO CALL.

I was recently asked what the "NLO" stands for after Greg Cordes' name. He is listed under the heading of Public Safety of WHO TO CALL. "NLO" are the initials for Neighborhood Liaison Officer. Greg is assigned to the four neighborhoods surrounding the WMU campus. He does a great job. Greg also has the best attendance at our board

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meetings. We are very fortunate to have him so involved.

If you have a problem that you have called the City on, it is helpful to also call a board member so we are kept updated on neighborhood problems. And if you can't find the right person to talk to at City Hall, get help from a board member.

-- It's that time of the year again. In the winter we shovel sidewalks. In the summer we \_\_\_\_\_ . Well, what do we do?

We trim our bushes and trees back. Nothing should overhang the sidewalk unless it is over nine feet above the ground. Maybe I am overly sensitive because I live on Michigan Avenue — but there are a number of houses along Michigan Avenue that need sidewalk tree and shrub trimming in the worst way. Violators are subject to fines. All residents should know you don't have to live on Michigan Avenue to be in violation.

On the other hand, many of you are keeping everything nicely trimmed. Everybody appreciates your thoughtfulness.

P.S. Trees and shrubbery located at intersections also have to be trimmed back at the corners to provide a clear line of sight for vehicle drivers. This is especially important at night when there is increased pedestrian traffic along Michigan Avenue.

## **Brief Update:**

*The West Side Land Use Study*

Kalamazoo City Planner, Jeff Chamberlain, presented the final draft plan from the West Side Study to the Planning Commission at an informational retreat on July 2. The plan was presented in the same form as was presented to our neighborhood at Grace Fellowship Church on June 3. Our board has issued a summary of positions that expresses our support for the majority of elements in the draft plan. However, we continue to oppose the City's proposal to combine a Drake-Kendall connector road and single-family homes on parcels B and C of the undeveloped property behind the neighborhood. Our neighborhood survey indicated in May that the neighborhood opposes the connector road proposal by a 5 to 1 margin. We have obtained a 50% response to our survey. If you have not yet replied, you may still do so by sending or

calling your response to ANA board member Doug Williams.

At the end of June, the ANA board sent to the City Planner and to the Planning Commission a two-page argument against the connector road. Our argument points out that the new West Side draft plan proposes an increase in allowed residential density from 5.8 to 10.2 units per acre. We also argue that construction of the connector road on parcels B & C would critically undermine the quality and market value of new single-family homes on those parcels. If you would like to see a copy of this statement, please contact Doug Williams.

We are waiting for the City to tell us when the Planning Commission will consider the new West Side plan for possible approval or modification. We expect a public hearing to accompany this review. Stay tuned.

## **Board Activity**

In the past, your ANA Board has often worked with the City Administration and WMU on committees for resolving problems that arise from a large number of students learning to live away from home. The most recent committee we worked on was the Kalamazoo Alcohol Task Force. Frank Kovach was our adult representative and Danielle Simons was our youth representative. The final report may be out by the time this newsletter gets to you. Hopefully, the Kalamazoo Gazette will summarize the report or you may call one of our representatives.

Do the actions of the students affect everyone in our neighborhood, even those of you living the furthest from the dorms and Michigan Avenue? Well, look at the facts — two years ago, the Knollwood neighborhood had student riots twice. I recently got my house insurance statement. In two years it has gone up 50%. What do you think? Is there a relationship between the social unrest and the insurance rates?

## **Pioneer Spirit Of Cooperation Still In Demand**

Our neighbor, Connie Ferguson, made an insightful observation recently. The Department of Homeland Security as recommended,

in case of another terrorist strike, all of us need to help any victims of such an attack. True, but Connie pointed out there can be a need for help on a much smaller scale; not all disasters are terrorist related.

A tornado or even a power outage can leave people in dire straights. Especially vulnerable are elderly or mothers with young children. So next time the power goes off, the water main breaks, or there is a three foot snow fall, check with your neighbors. Those needing help should not be shy about requesting it. Historically, our pioneer ancestors readily helped one another and were willing to ask for help. Sometimes the failure of our technology or just Mother Nature throws us back to those times.

## Goofs

When we make errors in the Reminder, we make good ones! The newsletter in April told about the upcoming garage sale in May. That information was correct — but the newsletter had a JUNE date on it.

A bigger goof was not crediting the correct person for the great work done on writing our mission statement. Cathy Roschek worked with Jackie Mallinson on that project. I, Bob Totten, mistakenly gave credit to someone else for Cathy's good work.

## Thoughts on the Arboretum

Our attempt to save close to 80 acres of the Arboretum has many arguments of why it is needed. One point that has recently received little attention is the loss of the Arboretum as a Cross Country course for Loy Norrix High School and Kalamazoo College. It was also the course for WMU until the Athletic Department was told to use a course south of Schoolcraft — a heck of a commute.

Obviously, the WMU Administration is so desperate to prove they can live without the Arboretum, they are willing to cut off their nose to spite their face. And what it does to the other users in the community is none of WMU's concern or social responsibility.

## Are You Registered to Vote?

The League of Women Voters will be at our Ice Cream Social on August 5th to assist you in

registering to vote. How convenient is that?

You don't have to live in the Arcadia neighborhood to register, just in the county. So invite a friend that you know isn't registered. As the elections approach, you can find information about the candidates on the League of Women Voters website — [www.LWVKA.org](http://www.LWVKA.org).

## U.S. Mail Alert

*by Diane Hungerford*

Recently, I have noticed an incredible decline in the quality of service with regards to my mail delivery. Has anyone noticed this as well in our neighborhood? I have seen my mail sent to the neighbor across the street, I have received other persons mail and my own mail was sent to a wrong address only to be re-routed one week later to the correct address on the envelope. I also have not received my mail until after 5:30.

I was finally fed up with this poor service and contacted the Post Master. The bottom line is that they are hiring temporary help to try and cut down on costs. I explained to him the type of service I have seen within the last three months. He wanted me to alert the neighborhood to call him directly on the day or the next when an error has been made so that he can track it to the carrier that delivered. If it is not done that soon, he would have difficulty tracking it to the source. His name and phone number is:

Anthony Bradley, 343-2560

I would encourage all of you to do this when it happens. Now, I realize we all have better things to do than call the Post Master when we happen to get our neighbors mail, but it is only by us bringing it to his attention that this can be addressed.

### **Warning**

There have been several breakins recently in the Knollwood and Arcadia neighborhoods where a white male has exposed himself to women. Screens in doors or windows are easily cut. All of us should rethink how secure our homes are and take defensive action. Be especially careful of opening up everything on warm nights.

**MSU Spartan Marching Band  
at  
Kalamazoo Central High School  
Friday, September 19, 2003 7:00 P.M.  
Admission \$3.00**

You are invited to attend the public marching performance of MSU Spartan Marching Band and Kalamazoo Central High School Marching Band. Student, parents, band members from other schools are encouraged to attend this special event.

The MSU Band members need housing for Friday night before they leave Saturday morning for the Notre Dame football game. We need housing for 300+ band members, at least 2 to a house. Band members need to sleep in a bed — not floor — because they will have a very long day on Saturday. They do share beds when traveling.

**Host responsibilities**

After the evening performance pick up your band members at the Kalamazoo Central High School gym (around 8:30). Take them home for the night. Feed them breakfast on Saturday morning and drive them to the Kalamazoo Central High School gym by 8:00 A.M. Questions? Call Ron or Carol Grant (Arcadia Neighborhood residents) at 375-0321.

e-mail [MSU2KZOO@hotmail.com](mailto:MSU2KZOO@hotmail.com).

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**ANNUAL DUES — \$5.00/residence**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ST. 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