

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

NEIGHBORHOOD

REMINDER



February 2009

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ARCADIA COMMUNITY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

Board of Directors 2009

Rex Brueggemann
806 Ellendale
372-2087

Emily Decker
613 S. Kendall
349-9140

Hans Engelke
640 Weaver
344-1463

Bill Fritsch
925 Boswell Lane
375-5067

Ken Larson
530 S. Kendall
344-6585

Mark Longstroth
936 Ellendale
375-3723

Mark MacInnis
3319 St. Antoine
353-7377

Michael Millar
835 Boswell
544-0337

Terri Thomas
1104 Berkshire
344-7333 ext. 12

SIGNS IDENTIFYING THE ARCADIA NEIGHBORHOOD ARE INSTALLED

Our sign project has come to fruition! Signs stating "Welcome to the Arcadia Neighborhood" have been installed on Eldridge and Dobbin, just a short distance from West Michigan Avenue. As you may recall, these signs are intended to identify the neighborhood to visitors, and in that way make more people aware that our neighborhood - the neighborhood they are entering - is the Arcadia neighborhood. Hopefully our new signs are up to the task.

Thank you to Bruce Merchant, Public Services Director for the City of Kalamazoo, for arranging the installation of these signs. Thank you to Jeff Chamberlain and Andrea Augustine of the City of Kalamazoo Community Planning and Development Department for their words of encouragement in connection with this project.

Finally, thank you to the following Arcadia neighborhood residents who contributed money toward this project:

Bruno and Barbara Bragagnini
Rex Brueggemann and Namita Sharma
Mike and LeeAnn Claussen
Hans Engelke
John and Barbara Esch
Vera Fielding
Gary and Sharon Giever
Jim Howell
David Isaacson
Deb Jokela
Diane Jones
Ken and Leanne Larson
Michael and Katherine Millar
Judith Ott and Wendy Walsemann
David and Leah Pratt
Myron and Lois Schmidt
Joan Shipley and Jan Willard
Hermann and Dolores Smith
Byron and Rolene Trefft
Brian and Gretchen Underwood

835 Farrell
806 Ellendale
1010 Dobbin
640 Weaver
951 Berkshire
817 Boswell
825 Boswell
912 Weaver
3659 Lancaster
927 Dobbin
3641 Lancaster
530 S. Kendall
835 Boswell
3309 St. Antoine
949 Boswell
943 Eldridge
850 Dobbin
806 Boswell
3302 Dublin
1219 Boswell

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
Weed & Tall Grass Violations
337-8847

What should our next project be? Is there a small project that could impact our neighborhood in a positive way? Or is there some larger project that the Arcadia Neighborhood Association should try to take on? Either way, try to think of something that a significant majority of neighborhood residents would at least tacitly support. If you have an idea, call me or another member of the Arcadia Neighborhood Association Board of Directors.

Rex Brueggemann

Neighborhood Watch News

by Doug Williams

From September to December, there were several reports of personal assaults near our neighborhood. In most cases, the victim was walking alone at night. With this in mind, we urge residents to take appropriate caution and avoid putting themselves in risky situations. Some safety tips from our Community Policing Report are below.

Neighborhood Watch meetings are held from 6:30-7:30 on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Arcadia Elementary School library (enter through the side doors). Our next meeting is on February 25. These meetings provide an opportunity for residents to meet neighborhood enforcement officers and to report and hear about suspicious activities and violations. Alternatively, tips can be reported through our Hot Spot web page: <http://www.kalamazoomi.com/arcadia/hot-spot-form.html>. Please contact Doug Williams (375-6926) for additional information on how to participate in our program.

Community Policing Tips for Personal Safety

Avoid dangerous situations.

1. **BE ALERT.** Know where you are and what's going on around you. Keep your eyes, ears and hands open.
2. **BODY LANGUAGE IS IMPORTANT.** Keep your head up, swing your arms and stand up straight.
3. **WRONG PLACE / WRONG TIME.** Don't walk alone in unlit parking lots or pathways.
4. **EYE CONTACT.** When approaching someone, make eye contact. Eye contact may scare off a potential "attacker."
5. **BE PARANOID/SUSPICIOUS.** It's better to be safe than sorry. If you feel that you are being followed, call the police.

If you find yourself in a violent situation, the most important thing to do is react.

1. **CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY.** Report the incident to police as quickly and safely as possible.
2. **RUN.** Try to run towards a well-lit area where people or traffic may see you. Avoid areas where your chance of being seen is low.
3. **FIGHT BACK.** Hit the attacker where it counts. Move fast and forceful and be ready to flee.
4. **TRY ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING.** Don't give up. Offer your wallet or phone. Run into traffic. Make a scene.

ARBORETUM IMPROVEMENTS

by Hans Engelke

The notable development in 2008 was the completion of Arboretum Drive. Those of you with time and inclination could stroll or bike on the road while enjoying the quiet and restful nature of the surrounding land. Come this spring or early summer the road should be open for traffic.

Frank Szopo, the City Engineer, shared with me the following information: (1) The promised bike/pedestrian path, to run parallel to the road, will be completed before the new middle school opens in September. (2) Also on the agenda is the conversion of Kendall Ave. hill into a cul-de-sac. This change will greatly enhance the eastern part of the Arcadia neighborhood and help in our efforts to upgrade and revitalize it. This work will likely begin in the summer.

Finally, the City was considering a new traffic configuration where Howard, Solon, Kendall and Arboretum drive converge; one possibility was a roundabout. However, this is still in the conceptual stage and as far as is known, there will be no change at this four-way intersection at this time.

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