

ARCADIA NEIGHBORHOOD REMINDER



December 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 Krueger
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

Neighborhood Welcoming Team

We have a dedicated core of residents who prepare and deliver welcome baskets to new neighborhood residents. These baskets include information about Kalamazoo, our neighborhood, coupons, and cookies. If you know of a new neighborhood resident, please contact Ruth Krueger at 375-0114. The team is always grateful to have occasional help with baking or assembling/delivering baskets.

Arcadia Neighborhood Annual Meeting

The neighborhood met at Arcadia Elementary School on Wednesday evening, October 1, to elect board officers and hear a presentation by Bob Miller, WMU Associate VP for Community Outreach. Veteran board members and returning officers are Frank Kovach (Vice-President), Jamie Whitmore (Secretary), and Hans Engelke (Treasurer). Our new board president is Doug Williams.

We thank Bob Totten for his attentive service as president and are happy to announce that he will continue to serve on the board.

Bob Miller spoke to us about WMU parking policies, dramatically increased use of public transit by commuter students, and the general success of party/riot control partnership with city law enforcement. He also heard tough questions from residents about specific difficulties with noise from Jack Pine and inadequate law enforcement staffing for Fall Fling weekend.

Bob directed us to contact Bonnie Hanson (WMU Director of Student Life) about persistent student neighbor problems, but some residents claimed that this course of action had not helped in the past. Clearly, we need to continue to monitor and document ordinance violations in coordination with our Community Police Office program.

New CPO (Community Police Officer)

In September, our CPO Greg Cordes was promoted to a detective division with Kalamazoo Public Safety. His replacement, Officer Gary Gaudard, introduced himself at our board meeting on Oct 26. Gary has recently worked as CPO in the Vine Neighborhood and is familiar with campus-related housing issues. In addition to Arcadia, Gary serves the West Main Hill, Knollwood, and Westwood neighborhoods. We welcome Gary and look forward to getting to know him. Gary can be reached directly at 337-8510.

West Side Study update

The West Side Study final draft plan was introduced to the Planning

WHO TO CALL:

Public Safety
Emergency 911
Non-emergency 337-8120
Gary Gaudard, CPO,
337-8510
Animal Control 383-8775
Parking Violations 342-6383
Public Works 337-8002
Silent Observer 343-2100
KVET (suspicious drug
activity) 337-8880

Commission on October 23. Our board was given one day to review the plan before this meeting, but responded with a short list of corrections and recommendations to clarify the land uses specified for the undeveloped parcels north of the neighborhood.

The Planning Commission unanimously approved the draft plan for a 90-day review by adjacent townships and municipalities, but encouraged the City Planner to engage more directly with us in addressing our opposition to the proposed Drake-Howard connector.

The draft plan will be considered next by the City Commission on December 1. Our board is following the action on this closely. If things remain on schedule, the draft plan could come to the Planning Commission for final adoption sometime in March, 2004.

West Michigan Avenue Improvements

One of the major proposals in the new West Side Study draft is significant improvement of West Michigan Avenue to calm traffic, ease stop and turn disruptions, and improve non-motorist safety. The City of Kalamazoo 2004 budget includes funding for design and engineering of these improvements. An initial public meeting to "discuss the beginning stages" of this project is scheduled for 6 PM, Tuesday, December 16, at Grace Fellowship Church, 729 Farrell St..

Many of you are aware that the city has already committed funds to improve the Howard/West Michigan Avenue intersection. Construction is scheduled to begin next summer in conjunction with WMU construction of a new traffic circle in front of Haenicke Hall.

NEW - City Maps On-line

Go to the city Web site and click on interactive mapping to see city maps for zoning, land use, etc., (www.kalamazoo.org). Parcel owner and assessed values are optional overlays. You can even view your house and neighborhood by aerial photograph.

AYSO Vandals

Last Fall, the neighborhood boundary of the AYSO Kalamazoo Soccer Complex was fenced and closed to walker entry. This was in response to a pattern of recent misuse and vandal acts within the grounds of the complex.

AYSO has been a good neighbor to Arcadia and we support its charter to promote healthy athletic participation in our community. We are

seeking constructive help to prevent the attacks on AYSO property and build mutual benefit between the neighborhood and soccer complex.

If you have knowledge of the vandalism or ideas to share, please do not hesitate to reach an ANA board member.

Neighborhood Watch to Reorganize

The Arcadia Neighborhood Association plans to start a neighborhood watch program to report, track, and organize response to crime and nuisance violations that affect our quality of life. We hope to recruit at least 4-6 block captains who will serve to collect and report ordinance violations and meet with other block captains on a monthly or bimonthly basis. We also need an organized person to serve as recorder, maintain a file of violation records, and periodically notify the neighborhood association board of program summaries and trouble spots.

Please call Doug Williams if you are interested in learning how to participate.

Support Arcadia Elementary School

Don't like returning cans and bottles to the grocery store for your deposit? How about donating them to the neighborhood elementary school? Arcadia Elementary is actively engaged in collecting cans and bottles that can be returned for deposit in a fundraising effort for new playground equipment (one new slide runs about \$3000) as well as for other educational events for the children such as assemblies and field trips. If interested in helping out, please bring your cans and bottles to the school.

Reading Together 2004

The Kalamazoo Public Library has selected the bestseller *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich for its 2004 community Reading Together program. Last year, over 3000 county residents participated in reading Fahrenheit 451 through this program.

In 2004, the reading period is from January 26 – February 22 and discussion and special events from February 23 – March 31.

If you would like to organize or participate in a neighborhood group, please contact Joan Hawxhurst at 553-7913 or joanh@kpl.gov. Please let her know that you live in Arcadia neighborhood and if you would be willing to serve as a neighborhood contact for others interested in Reading Together.