

# ARCADIA Now online at: [www.kalamazoomi.com/arcadia](http://www.kalamazoomi.com/arcadia) NEIGHBORHOOD REMINDER



December 2005

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THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ARCADIA COMMUNITY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

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## Board of Directors 2005 - 2006

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

Ruth Krueger  
3706 Barrington, 375-0114

Andrew Phillips  
3649 Lancaster, 375-2393

Bob Totten  
3220 West Michigan  
375-5480

Jamie Whitmore  
854 Weaver, 345-5808

Doug Williams  
858 Dobbin, 375-6926

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## 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

## Summary of Annual Meeting 2005 *by Doug Williams*

The Arcadia Neighborhood Association annual meeting was held on Monday, September 26 at Arcadia Elementary School. Guest speaker, Deputy City Attorney Randy Schau, graciously answered resident questions about residential zoning rules, noise and parking controls. Jamie Whitmore and Hans Engelke were reelected as secretary and treasurer, respectively. Mike and Lee Ann Claussen were elected as new directors and join other reelected directors, Rex Brueggeman, Bill Fritsch, Ruth Krueger, Andrew Phillips, Bob Totten and Doug Williams. There were no candidates for President or Vice-president. These positions remain unfilled. Leadership roles are being divided among various board members for the coming year. All board members are interested in your questions and suggestions. Please let us know what's on your mind.

## Responsibilities in Winter Wonderland *by Doug Williams*

Get your shovels out! City ordinance states that owners or occupants are responsible for maintaining sidewalks in front of their property clear of snow and ice. If you receive a summons or notice of a snow removal violation, you will have 48 hours to clear the sidewalk before it will be cleared by City staff or contractor at your expense (in addition to any fines for the violation).

## Arcadia Welcomes Hurricane Family to Kalamazoo

*by Doug Williams*

Many of you are aware of the wonderful work done to refurbish the home at 3422 W. Michigan Avenue this Fall. We are proud to welcome the family of Randall Anderson to Arcadia and grateful for their willingness to give Kalamazoo a chance in their relocation after Hurricane Katrina. We are especially thankful to Arcadia resident Lynn McLeod for her vision and leadership in making this happen. She thinks that it is wonderful that many of us pitched in to help and accomplish a positive result for our community. We're glad that she thought we could. Lynn also reminds us that there are other relocated families from Hurricane Katrina residing in Kalamazoo that need our help. If anyone has questions or desire to help further, please contact Lynn at 353-9084 or [byrancmcleod@aol.com](mailto:byrancmcleod@aol.com). Lynn also invites neighbors interested in Christmas caroling to give her a call.

## Volunteers and Donations Needed

*by Lee Ann Claussen*

The 13th Annual Greater Kalamazoo Area Holiday Food Drive will provide a week's worth of food to 1400 area families who need a helping hand for the holiday season. Families are nominated by The Salvation Army, the Department of Human Services, the Kalamazoo County Family Court, and participating schools. Each food basket contains fresh meat, vegetables, fruit, and bread along with nonperishable food items.

How can you help?

- Food donations are accepted at all Kalamazoo Public Schools.
- Money donations can be dropped off or mailed to the Woodward School for Technology and Research at 606 Stuart Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007. Checks should be made out to the Greater Kalamazoo Area Holiday Food Drive
- Volunteers (individuals and families) are needed to sort, pack, and deliver food on:  
Friday, December 17 from 5:00 - 8:00 P.M. and Saturday, December 18 beginning at 9:00 A.M.

Volunteers can do either/or both days. You do not need to sign up—just come to the Kalamazoo County Fair Grounds at 3900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

What an opportunity to share with others for the holidays! Many families have made this a tradition. Children are welcome, but need to be supervised. There is usually a visit by Tony the Tiger and other Kellogg characters.

If you have further questions, check out [www.kalamazooholidayfooddrive.com](http://www.kalamazooholidayfooddrive.com) or contact Hugh Hoyle at 269-349-8023 or Ann Triemstra at 269-385-2361.

## Update from Neighborhood Watch

by Jamie Whitmore

Have you called in a noise violation and felt that nothing was done? This may be why. If an officer arrives at a violation site and there is no noise and no answer there is little an officer can do without a witness. If you are willing to file a complaint the officer can pursue the complaint without actually hearing the violation themselves but they need a witness. This is important to remember when filling out a hot spot. All hot spots are forwarded to the appropriate officials (generally the housing inspector or police department) and if it is an after the fact report they might not be able to witness the violation but would like to address it. It is not that your information is being ignored -- we don't know who you are to pursue it any further!

## An Enormous Thank You

by Jamie Whitmore

Our Community Policing Officer (CPO), Corey Ghiringhelli, has moved on. Corey recently accepted a position with Kalamazoo Valley Enforcement Team (KVET) and will no longer serve as our CPO. Corey's service to the Arcadia Neighborhood was endless and well appreciated. From Hot Spot reports to junk autos to Party Patrols to loud car stereos; Corey always kept us informed and did a remarkable job dealing with the issues we presented him. He will be greatly missed.

As for a new CPO - Sergeant Randolph, who oversees the CPO program, says they are in the process of setting up

interviews but we may not have our new CPO in place until January. If you have concerns or issues please use the Hot Spot form on the web site and the information will get to the appropriate people. In the meantime, watch the web site, newsletters, and Neighborhood Watch updates for the announcement of our new CPO.

## West Michigan Avenue Reconstruction Update

by Bob Totten

We are all being choked by the West Michigan Avenue construction. A quick review of what is planned and some approximate completion times are in order. The reconstruction of West Michigan Avenue is from Drake Road to Howard Street.

- There will be two lanes of traffic in each direction—same as before.
- There will be a center turning-lane along the full length—before there were only a few spots with a center lane.
- There will be bicycle lanes on both sides of the road—this is new.
- The sidewalk on the south side of the road will be made five- or six-foot wide—before it was four-foot wide. The sidewalk on the north side of the road will remain four-foot wide.
- Retaining walls will be built, as needed, between the widened road and the sidewalks.
- Fraternity Village Drive, currently intersecting from the south with West Michigan Avenue, will be moved one hundred feet west to line up with Dobbin Avenue, which intersects with West Michigan Avenue from the north.

Due to the widening of West Michigan Avenue, many trees have been cut down and new power poles have been erected farther back from the road. The electric, phone and cable TV lines will be moved to the new poles by the end of the year. New trees will be planted after all the construction is done. Also, many sections of sidewalk have been removed. Temporary patches to the walks will be made to accommodate pedestrian traffic through the winter.

Is all this disruption on our streets worth it—especially since we know we will have more construction all next summer? The answer is yes! Think of what the intersection of Howard and West Michigan was like two years ago. Today, we come up the hill on northbound Howard to make a left-hand turn onto West Michigan and it's a dream—there are TWO left-turn lanes. Suffering through the construction for another year may not be heaven, but it will be better when it's done.

The City has assigned Debbie Droppers the responsibility of answering our questions about when the various phases of the construction are to take place. Her phone number is 388-2830 and her e-mail is [eventkzoo@chartermi.net](mailto:eventkzoo@chartermi.net). You can get on her "e-mail update file" for the latest news concerning the scheduling of construction.