

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



January 2005

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ARCADIA COMMUNITY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

Board of Directors

2004 - 2005

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344-5305

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Sue Stapleton
632 Weaver, 383-3461

Bob Totten
3220 West Michigan,
375-5480

Jamie Whitmore
854 Weaver, 345-5808

Doug Williams
858 Dobbin, 375-6926

WHO TO CALL:

Public Safety - Emergency 911
Non-emergency 337-8120
Cory Ghiringhelli, CPO,
337-8391

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

Making Progress: West Side Study Update

January 6 was an encouraging evening for Arcadia Neighborhood. Over 100 of our residents and nearby friends from Stonebrooke Ave., Knollwood Neighborhood, and the Briarwood Association turned out to express our remaining concerns with the proposed land use plans for the WMU Foundation and AYSO properties. The Planning Commissioners agreed with our objections to the Drake-Kendall connector road and removed it from the plan (for now).

However, they were confused by the development density figures proposed by City staff and approved the remainder of the plan recommendations. We have spoken with several of the Planning Commissioners since the hearing and have been encouraged to sharpen our focus on the remaining density and open space protection issues.

More Effort Needed: Keeping on Track

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF ARCADIA NEIGHBORHOOD. PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING DATES AND PARTICIPATE!

Our opportunity: Final public hearing before City Commission, 7 PM or 8 PM (call City Manager's Office, 337-8047, after January 25), Monday, Jan 31, City Hall (MARK YOUR CALENDAR)

Our plan: Neighbors and friends will meet for a strategy session at Arcadia School on Tuesday, Jan 25 from 7-9 PM.

Our message: Keep the road out of the plan, reduce the proposed overall development plan for the WMU Foundation/AYSO properties by about 390 units, and specifically indicate which areas shall be preserved as open space. (See www.kalamazoomi.com/arcadia for more details.)

Questions/concerns: Call Doug Williams (375-6926). We'll add you to our e-mail group if you like and let you know how to help.

Neighborhood Watch

The Neighborhood Watch meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Jan 25 has been cancelled to accommodate our West Side Study planning. The next meeting will be at 7 PM on Feb 22 in the cafeteria at Arcadia Elementary School. See the Web site or call Jamie Whitmore (345-5808) for more details.

Keep using the hot spot forms on our Web site to report code violations or suspicious activity. There were a number of auto and apartment break-ins over the holidays. Officer Ghiringhelli reminds us to keep our cars and garage doors locked.

Neighborhood Coalition Honors CPO Program

The Kalamazoo Neighborhood Coalition has bestowed its annual City Employee of the Year Award to the entire officer corps of the Community Police Officer program. This award was presented by West Main Hill Neighborhood Watch coordinator Phyllis Marsh at the December 6 City Commission meeting. Arcadia Neighborhood participates in the KNC and fully endorses this year's award.

The CPO program was restructured in 2004 to provide more flexible and coordinated response to specific neighborhood priorities. Although the overall program will face loss of one officer due to budget cuts in 2005, it has clearly had a major impact of quality of life in city neighborhoods.

West Michigan Avenue Update

The City held an open neighborhood meeting on Oct 26 at Grace Fellowship Church to describe the latest plans for widening of W. Michigan Avenue (see the Oct. newsletter for announcement).

Some of the key features include widening of the road to include a center turn lane from Drake to Howard, continuous bicycle lanes and sidewalks with pedestrian lighting on both sides of the road, stamped concrete crosswalks, and shifting of Fraternity Village Drive to align with Dobbin Drive. Placement of a new stoplight at

Dobbin generated some concern. We are continuing to monitor this situation through board members Bob Totten and Frank Kovach.

Construction will begin sometime in Spring (April?), 2005 and is expected to last 5-6 months. Some of the improvements (crosswalks and landscaping) will be delayed until 2006. Construction will begin at Drake Road and move toward Howard Street. Michigan Avenue will remain open throughout the construction period with one lane of traffic each way in construction zones and no left turns permitted from Michigan Avenue.

For more information, call City Project Engineer, John Seelman, at 377-8766.

Neighborhood Dues Notice

Happy New Year! Did everyone resolve to pay their neighborhood association membership dues early this year? You already know that there's no pressure to pay. You'll probably get your newsletter no matter what. Volunteers do most of the work, but we also have a few overhead costs. We rely on dues to pay for newsletter copying, Web site maintenance, neighborhood sale advertising, supplies for the ice cream social, etc.

Please send \$5.00 dues (checks: Arcadia Neighborhood Association) to Hans Engleke, 640 Weaver, Kalamazoo, MI, 49006. If you have already paid for 2005, thank you.

Winter Sidewalk Forecast



Watch Your Step!!!