

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



JULY 2007

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ARCADIA COMMUNITY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

Board of Directors

2006 - 2007

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375-5480

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345-5808

Rental Housing In Arcadia

In a few months it will be September and the yearly population surge occurs in our part of the city. And each year the possibility exists that someone will rent out their house, or a room in a house. While representing only a small number of dwellings, it can be unnerving to those of us who value our neighborhood and wish to preserve its residential status.

There is no law preventing anyone from renting out a home, or a room in a home; it happens throughout the city. However, it has to be done legally and therefore we should be vigilant and watch for violations. All residential rental units are required to be registered with the city and inspected for code compliance before occupancy is permitted. These requirements are sometimes circumvented, or the owner is unaware of the restrictions. City inspectors attempt to reach all these people but are not always successful. If you know of a home, or a room in a home, that is rented, we would greatly appreciate your taking the initiative and filing a report. Don't depend on someone else to do it; please take the time to handle the matter yourself. Collectively we are the eyes and ears of the neighborhood and we know better than anyone what transpires here.

The number to call is 337-8026 (the City's Housing Division) or use the hot spot form on our website — www.kalamazoomi.com/arcadia. Click on the Hot Spot Form in the left sidebar. You do not have to identify yourself so you need not have any fear of getting involved.

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



Occupancy Limits for Zone 8 (Family Residential District)

The Arcadia Neighborhood is in Zone 8, which is a family residential district. The following restrictions for zone 8 are the official city guidelines.

Owner occupied dwelling units:

A family or functional family could have one roomer.

Boyfriend and girlfriend living together could have one roomer.

Married couple could have one roomer.

Single person can have one additional unrelated adult and one roomer.

Two unrelated persons (both of which are on the title) could have one roomer.

Non-owner occupied dwelling units:

Occupied by a family or functional family.
Occupied by not more than two unrelated persons.

For further information call 337-8026 (Housing Division of the City's Community Planning and Development Department).

Parking

Parking violations seem to increase each September. Please note that no parking is allowed on any paved street between the hours of 2:00 A.M. and 6:00 A.M.

On uncurbed streets overnight parallel parking (with the vehicle not touching the pavement) is allowed in the "right-of-way"

strip at the edge of the street, but only if the strip has been prepared with an approved surface such as gravel (NOT grass or dirt). This strip must be approved by the City's Department of Public Works. If you have a complaint use the hot spot form on our website or contact Central City Parking at 342-6383 during 7:30 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. or email them at parking@centralcityparking.com. After hours and on weekends contact public safety at 337-8120.

Other numbers to call are listed in the sidebar of this newsletter. We strongly recommend that you retain the above information for handy reference.

Annual Contribution

If you have not made a \$5 contribution to the Arcadia Neighborhood Association this year we would like to encourage you to do so. This newsletter is dependant upon your financial assistance. We invite you to use the form at the end of this newsletter. Thank you very much.

MEETING REGARDING KENDALL

by Rex Brueggemann

The City of Kalamazoo held what it described as an "information exchange meeting" on June 12, 2007 at the Grace Fellowship Church. Notice of the meeting was sent by Deb Droppers by way of post-cards mailed to residents of the east side of the Arcadia neighborhood. The meeting was chaired by City of Kalamazoo engineer Frank Szopo.

The topic of the meeting was whether Kendall should be turned into a cul-de-sac. After a discussion which ran toward two hours in length, a vote was taken which indicated a consensus among east side of Arcadia residents in attendance, in favor of turning Kendall into a cul-de-sac.

Consistent with the

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

discussion during traffic study meetings held earlier this year, residents articulated concern with cut through traffic on Kendall. Residents repeatedly expressed concern with the speed of cut through traffic either entering or exiting the neighborhood by way of Kendall, along with the related noise. Given that the current volume of cut through traffic is seen as negatively impacting residents on Kendall and streets closely connected to Kendall, residents felt that additional cut through traffic that would be produced by the Arboretum through road would worsen an already undesirable situation.

In my opinion those present did a thorough job of discussing the pros and cons, from a neighborhood perspective, of turning Kendall into a cul-de-sac. Obviously, traffic from within the neighborhood that previously headed north on Kendall would instead have to turn on to West Michigan, and then head east to Howard, or west to Drake. Issues regarding public safety access, difficulties turning left onto West Michigan from east side Arcadia streets, and challenges inherent in designing a cul-de-sac on Kendall north of the existing homes on that street were discussed in some detail.

At the conclusion of the meeting Frank Szopo indicated that he would be in contact with the City of Kalamazoo Traffic Board to pursue the issue further.

Neighborhood Watch Update

by Jamie Whitmore

The time has come for a changing of the guard. After two years at the helm I have informed the Neighborhood Association that I have to step down from my position as Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. My business and personal obligations have increased to a level that I feel I cannot contribute the energy to Neighborhood Watch it deserves and needs.

So where does this leave us? I have agreed to help transition the program into

its new leader whomever that may be. If you are interested in leading the program please give me or another board member a call.

If you may be interested but are not sure what it involves, please call me or e-mail me via the hot spot form to discuss it further. This does not have to be a one-person job either – if you and neighbor work well together and would like to do it that works, too. Until we find a replacement please keep sending the hot spots and calling the board or myself and we will continue to work together to keep this neighborhood an enjoyable place to live!!! Thanks for your interest in Neighborhood Watch these past few years.

National Night Out - Ice Cream Social, Tuesday, August 7

It's that time again!!! The annual ice cream social in combination with National Night Out will be held on August 7, 2007, from 6-8 P.M. on the east lawn of Arcadia School. Come enjoy ice cream, meet neighbors, check out fire trucks, Public Safety K-9 Unit, and lots more!!

If you would like to volunteer to help by scooping ice cream for a half hour or so call Jamie Whitmore at 345-5808 and leave a message when a good time for you is that evening. The Arcadia Neighborhood Treasurer, Hans Engelke, will also be on hand to collect dues.



DON'T
Miss Out



ARCADIA NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2007

We're starting a new tradition in the Arcadia neighborhood. Previously the annual spring sale has seen a dwindling participation and attendance. Changing the date reduces conflicts with other city yard sales spring and sports commitments. This yard-garage sale is scheduled for Saturday, September 8, from 8:30 AM to 4 PM. Advertising will be provided. Look for more info at the Ice Cream Social.