

# ARCADIA NEIGHBORHOOD REMINDER



March 2004

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THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ARCADIA COMMUNITY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

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## Board of Directors

2003

Dave Bruininks  
1109 Berkshire, 372-9313

Alma Dietz  
2929 Memory Lane,  
344-5305

Clifton Ealy  
615 Weaver, 342-0044

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

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

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## WHO TO CALL:

Public Safety  
Emergency 911  
Non-emergency 337-8120  
Cory Ghiringhelli, CPO,  
337-8391  
Animal Control 383-8775  
Parking Violations 342-6383  
Public Works 337-8002  
Silent Observer 343-2100  
KVET (suspicious drug  
activity) 337-8880

## Neighborhood Welcoming Team

Do you enjoy meeting new people? Is "Hospitality" your middle name? We need residents to help prepare and/or deliver welcome baskets to new neighborhood residents. These baskets include information about Kalamazoo, our neighborhood, coupons, and cookies.

As always, if you know of a new neighborhood resident, please contact Ruth Krueger at 375-0114.

## Important Neighborhood Traffic Meeting

The City of Kalamazoo and WMU are preparing to make some significant improvements to the intersection of W. Michigan Avenue and Howard Street and nearby campus roads this spring and summer. On Thursday, March 25, we will hear Asst. City Engineer, John Seelman, tell us more about these plans and describe how the City is going to manage traffic during the construction period. The meeting will begin at 6 P.M. in the Arcadia Elementary School cafeteria. If you have concerns about your driving options or about the options of others to cut through neighborhood streets during this period, please join us.

## New CPO (Community Police Officer)

Wait a minute! Didn't we just announce a new CPO in our last newsletter? Yes, indeed, we have another change in staff at Kalamazoo Public Safety, but we think you are going to be pleased. Our last CPO, Gary Gaudard, was reassigned and has been replaced by Officer Cory Ghiringhelli. Cory is a transplanted "Yoooper" who thinks that winter in Kalamazoo is just about right. He has been with Kalamazoo Public Safety for about six years and most recently served as a CPO in the Edison Neighborhood. In addition to Arcadia, Cory serves the West Main Hill, Knollwood, and Westwood neighborhoods. We hope to have Cory at our meeting on March 25 (see above) so that he can introduce himself to more of our neighborhood. Cory can be reached directly at 337-8391 or by e-mail: [ghiringhellic@kalamazoocity.org](mailto:ghiringhellic@kalamazoocity.org).

## Neighborhood Crime Stats On-line

Did you know that you can view local crime reports on line? Go to the city Web site ([www.kalamazoo-city.org](http://www.kalamazoo-city.org)) and follow the links to Public Safety – Operations – Neighborhood Liaison Officer (old name for CPO program) – scroll down to Neighborhood Map and Information – click on Arcadia Neighborhood in the map.

## Neighborhood Watch Update

Since our last newsletter, we have received interest from a handful of residents in a Neighborhood Watch program. We'd like to have an inaugural meeting in April, but we are still looking for more residents who are willing to meet on a monthly or bimonthly basis to review neighborhood enforcement issues. Please call Doug Williams if you are interested in learning how to participate.

## Neighborhood Garage Sale

Mark your calendars! The annual Arcadia Neighborhood Garage Sale will be on Sat, May 15. We will advertise in the Gazette and place signs around the neighborhood. You just need to organize and present your "previously enjoyed" treasures for public offering.

## A Change in the Board of Directors

We gratefully applaud the dedication of long-time neighborhood board director, Jackie Mallinson. This spring, Jackie will move to a lower maintenance residence in Parkview Hills. Many residents are already aware that Jackie has worked tirelessly and given generously to preserve open space and quality of life in Arcadia. We will miss her gracious service deeply. Assuming Jackie's position on the ANA Board is Dr. Clifton Ealy. We welcome his timely and enthusiastic interest in serving our neighborhood.



## Mail Delivery Problems

Residents on Westfall and Weaver have complained about not receiving their daily mail delivery. The Post Office has a policy of not delivering mail if cars are parked in front of the mail box. (Note: the east half of Arcadia Neighborhood has mailboxes at the curb, the west half of Arcadia have mailboxes by the front door because they have sidewalks.)

The many cars parked along our streets tend to be WMU students who are avoiding buying the expensive WMU parking permits. There is no law against parking on the streets, except when they block driveways and mailboxes.

### *Solutions are varied*

1. Residents have been calling AutoPark to come and ticket the cars in front of their house. Drawbacks are that usually a different student parks there everyday, therefore the learning process by the students will be drawn out for weeks and months until they learn the law. Another drawback is that nobody is home to call AutoPark at many houses. All they know is that all their mail seems to come on Friday and Saturday when students don't have classes.
2. "No Parking, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M." signs can be requested of the City. Needed is a petition signed by 51% of the residents on the street that requests the signs.
3. One suggested solution is to put sidewalks in so the Post Office will make door-to-door delivery. However, the Post Office has said they will not start new door-to-door delivery

— instead they are discontinuing door-to-door whenever they can.

4. WMU is aware of the problem and is trying to educate the students. Recently there was a good article in the student paper, *The Herald*, concerning parking.

### *The inflation effect of the parking problem*

If individual streets solve their parking/mail delivery problems by requesting “No Parking” signs, that will force the students onto the neighboring streets. All of these streets should be concerned: Farrell, Westfall, Westmorland, Weaver and Dobbin.

### *So what do we do?*

The ANA Board needs input from you. Should petitions be circulated for “No Parking” on certain streets? Should we call a meeting for residents on the affected streets to discuss the options and action to be taken? What other solutions do you suggest? Please call Board member, Bob Totten, with your suggestions covering the problem.

## **West Michigan Avenue Construction Notes**

The project to widen West Michigan from Drake to Farrell is in full swing with the first ‘stakeholders’ meeting held on February 10, 2004 at Mayor’s Riverfront Park. This meeting followed the city sponsored neighborhood meeting that occurred last December at the Grace Fellowship Church.

The city plans to widen W. Michigan from Drake to Farrell with construction beginning in 2005. The portion of W. Michigan between Farrell and Howard will be reconstructed this summer as part of the Howard-W. Michigan intersection upgrade.

During the stakeholders meeting, road



design options including boulevard and regular 5 lanes were discussed. Based on the limited right-of-way available it appears the only viable option is a 5-lane design with a continuous left turn lane between two east- and west-bound lanes. Many residents expressed interest about a boulevard at the Westside Plan meetings. However, based on road surveys taken in the fall there is not enough room for a boulevard without significant land acquisition.

Other key points discussed were:

- An option to bury utility lines along W. Michigan was discussed. This comes with a hefty price tag. The city estimates a cost of \$1.5 million of which it could fund \$150,000. The rest would fall to property owners along W. Michigan under a special assessment of approximately \$110 per frontage foot. Addi-

**Little things help in a big way!  
One good idea on other side.**

tionally, Consumers Power estimates a hook up charge of \$5,000 per property. This does not include cable or telephone service.

- Preliminary plans include closing off Kimbark and Euclid to direct W. Michigan access, rerouting their traffic to Greenwood. The owner of the 7-11 store at W. Michigan and Lafayette did not oppose closing Lafayette to W. Michigan. The engineers will review.

- Some land will need to be acquired, but at the time of the meeting it was not known what properties would be affected.

- Plans discussed also included limiting Dobbin Ave. to a right turn only street onto W. Michigan. The purpose here was to limit congestion with cars turning left onto Fraternity Village Dr.

- To calm traffic, intersections and crosswalks will utilize stamped concrete that will provide a different road sound to drivers. The stamped concrete sections are not rumble strips, but more of a decorative feature. A sample of these sections can be found on S. Burdick south of Downtown.

- Bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides of W. Michigan will be installed. It was suggested to make the south side sidewalks as wide as possible, six feet or wider to encourage pedestrian traffic.

- There are no plans to add traffic lights to those already in place. The lights in place may be upgraded to 'mast style' poles. Timing of the lights may also change to improve flow.

The next stakeholders meeting will be held in mid April and another full neighborhood update will be held in or around June.

If you have questions or comments about any of these items you can e-mail me at [fkovach@yahoo.com](mailto:fkovach@yahoo.com)

## A Message...

*from the Girl Scouts*

*Jon Riccio, 343-8828, x3026*

At Girl Scouts of Glowing Embers Council, not only do we encourage girls to develop their full potential; we teach them to contribute to the improvement of society.

Using their abilities and leadership skills, they promote elements of good citizenship throughout the community. In the art of good citizenship, we welcome this opportunity to say hello to our neighbors in Arcadia.

We invite you to learn more about our organization and especially encourage you to find out or rediscover that, indeed, we are a place where girls grow strong.

## A Message...

*from the WMU Crew Club*

In order to raise funds for our new rowing team, we will perform manual labor for you, your family, or your business.

We will come to your house with a team of well-trained college students and help you with yard work, furniture moving, snow shoveling, or heavy cleaning. Our rates are \$10 per hour per rower – \$20 minimum; 6 hour maximum.

You must provide necessary equipment and drinking water. You will not only receive the help of cheerful, energetic young men and women, you will be supporting club sports and rowing in your community.

For details, call Dale Winling at (269) 599-6117 to schedule a work team, to inquire about future availability, or to set up a regular service schedule.

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## ANNUAL DUES — \$5.00/residence

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ST. ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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