

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



November 2006

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ARCADIA COMMUNITY OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

Board of Directors

2006 - 2007

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NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL TO BE BUILT IN ARCADIA *by Rex Brueggemann*

On October 23, 2006, representatives of the Kalamazoo Public Schools (hereinafter KPS), the City of Kalamazoo, and the Western Michigan University Foundation announced the sale of property west and northwest of the Arcadia neighborhood by the WMU Foundation to KPS, for use as the site of the new KPS middle school.

In making this announcement, the involved parties asserted that each had made a contribution toward a deal that was good for the community. According to the parties, the WMU Foundation sold the subject property to KPS at a bargain price. KPS made good on its commitment to locate the new middle school in the City of Kalamazoo, while securing a site in the geographic center of the KPS District. The City of Kalamazoo, for its part, pledged two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00) in infrastructure in support of the project.

In terms of benefits to the neighborhood, some believe that the location of the new middle school should serve to stabilize and strengthen Arcadia as a single family residential neighborhood. One might also note that a multi-family use of the larger, northwest portion of the site would have been possible, and that use of the site as a school poses less short and long term negative impacts for Arcadia than having more apartments built close to the neighborhood.

Having noted these positives, and remembering to be thankful (once again) for the Promise, I believe that a question needs to be posed. What are the possible downsides of this development for the Arcadia neighborhood? I believe that this question needs to be discussed and ultimately answered by individual Arcadia neighborhood residents. Each of us has our own perspective on our neighborhood, and our own priorities when it comes to quality of life issues. I spoke briefly with

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



Mayor McKinney on October 23, 2006 at the announcement ceremony, and she promised an inclusive process as decisions are made in the development of this site and related infrastructure. Individual neighborhood participation was spectacular in the recent West Side Land Use Planning process. The intelligence and commitment shown by neighborhood commentators at various meetings, as well as the number of neighborhood residents who spoke, clearly made an impact on members of the Planning and City Commissions. Let's all get involved – this is our neighborhood and our city.

What do I believe to be the possible downsides of this development for the Arcadia neighborhood? At this point, I am personally inclined to answer this question with more questions. Where do the roads go? Placement of ingress and egress roads generally will impact the neighborhood in terms of traffic through or near the neighborhood. What, if any, roads are to be built through the eighty acres immediately east of the new KPS site (and immediately north of the Arcadia neighborhood)? Building a road through the eighty acres immediately north of the neighborhood could effectively destroy the opportunity for neighborhood residents and others to enjoy that property as a natural place to walk and enjoy the views. How does the placement of a particular road or roads in turn shape future development of the property north of the neighborhood? Road design and placement may in turn at least seem to dictate the future placement of single family homes and/or condominium units at certain locations on that property.

Let us all get in touch, and stay in touch, as we go forward.

DATE OF ANNUAL YARD SALE CHANGES

by Lee Ann Claussen

The season for the annual Arcadia neighborhood yard sale has been changed. Instead of spring time, the sale will now be held in the early fall in hopes of improving turn out with returning students. If you are like me, you'll have lots of house-

hold stuff to offer students setting up households. The new date is Saturday, September 8, 2007, which is the first weekend after Labor Day and after students start classes at WMU. As always, the Arcadia Neighborhood Association will provide newspaper advertisement--all you have to do is clean out those closets and basements and sell your stuff!

PARKING REQUIREMENTS IN SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL ZONING

by Doug Williams

Our Neighborhood Watch program received a higher than usual number of complaints about overnight parking violations in September and October. We have worked closely with parking enforcement officials in the neighborhood to bring more attention to this matter. The most straightforward way to avoid getting a ticket is to park all cars in the driveway at night. Please make note of the following rules.

1. It is unlawful for any person to park any motor vehicle on any paved surface of any public street of the city between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

2. Overnight parallel parking (with vehicle not touching the pavement) is allowed in the "right-of-way" strip on uncurbed streets only if the right-of-way area has been prepared with an approved surface such as gravel (NOT grass or dirt). Preparation of a parking surface in the right-of-way area requires prior approval of the City of Kalamazoo Department of Public Works.

For additional detail, see the City of Kalamazoo Code of Ordinance Sections 36-170, -173 and -186 (www.kalamazoo.org). Please let us know about persistent neighborhood parking violations with our hot spot form at www.kalamazoomi.com/arcadia/NWatch.shtml. You can also report parking problems yourself by contacting Central City Parking at 342-6383 (7:30 am-5:30 pm) or parking@centralcityparking.com.

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

SHOVELS READY?

by Doug Williams

With winter on the way, we remind all residents that City ordinance requires home owners or occupants to remove snow and ice from sidewalks in front of or adjacent to their property. (Section 33-18).

<<< LAST CHANCE TO PAY 2006 DUES