

# ORCHARD HILLS-MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

[www.ohmha.org](http://www.ohmha.org)

## OHMHA NEWSLETTER

February 2010

### New Growth at Thurston Nature Center - by Neal Foster

Recent efforts to raise money to improve our Nature Center have been fairly successful, thanks to grants from the Orchard Hills-Maplewood Homeowners Association, a grant from the Michigan DNR, a \$10,000 payment by Castle Rock Entertainment, and gifts by members of the newly-formed Friends of the Thurston Nature Center (form available at <http://www.thurstonnaturecenter.org/news.htm>).

#### Oak Savanna

The DNR grant enabled us to begin an acre-sized Oak Savanna in the northeastern part of the Thurston School property in late April 2009. The Nature Center Committee is deeply grateful to all the volunteers who helped plant the 20 native oak trees; these included



If sufficient funds can be raised from grants and gifts, the turbid waters of Thurston Pond may soon be clear, and many more forms of aquatic life may flourish there once again.

Thurston parents, neighborhood families, individuals and friends who donated about 70 hours of labor. Phase II of the Oak Savanna project began by transplanting from the Prairie many deep-rooted plant species immediately adjacent to the newly planted oaks. Another 110 hours were donated by those who watered the trees throughout the summer. So far, the monetary equivalent of all the hours donated to

the Oak Savanna is nearly \$2900. Fortunately, all the new oak trees survived, grew noticeably, and a few even began forming acorns. The transplanted prairie plants likewise did well.

#### Film Set to Wildflowers

Meanwhile, in late Spring 2009, Castle Rock Entertainment built a movie set (house) on a platform atop the Thurston Prairie. After filming finished in late Summer, the set and related materials were  
**continued on page 2**

### Georgetown Street Repairs Planned for Spring/Summer

The northbound side of Georgetown Blvd between Plymouth and Bluett will be resurfaced as part of a Water Main Replacement project during Spring - Summer 2010.

According to City of Ann Arbor Project Engineer Igor Kotlyar, "We are planning to combine the installation of the water main with reconstruction of the heavily cracked road surface on the east side while keeping local traffic going on the west side."

More detailed information will be sent to the residents by the city prior to starting any construction activities. ■

**Neighborhood  
Garage Sale  
Coming  
this  
Spring!**

**Save the date:**

**Saturday  
May 15**

## Thurston Nature Center (continued from Page 1)

removed. A sapling Sycamore was planted in one corner of the Prairie (a Sycamore figures in the plot of the movie). Spreading straw mulch and planting a special prairie seed mixture helped restore the area that had been disturbed. Thirty two near-blooming-size plants (plugs) of each of four prairie wildflower species were also planted; when these bloom in 2010, they will enhance the Prairie's attractiveness to passers-by.

### Quality Wildlife Habitat

In Summer 2009 the Thurston Nature Center was certified by the National Wildlife Federation as "quality wildlife habitat." In such habitats wildlife may find food, water, cover, and places to raise their young. Our Nature Center is now part of the NWF's worldwide network of mini-refuges. Added benefits of all the trees, shrubs and other vegetation--particularly during the warmer months--are that global warming pollution is reduced by absorption of carbon dioxide by their leaves and the amount and ferocity of stormwater runoff is reduced by uptake of water by their roots.

### Proposals to Dredge Portions of Pond

Recently, some members of the Nature Center Committee were hard at work on the first of various proposals to fund dredging portions of Thurston Pond to help restore its waters to the beautiful, clear-water condition that once characterized it. Although the pond has served Ann Arbor as a stormwater detention pond since 1968-- receiving runoff from adjacent school and high-density residential land, no sediments ever have been dredged from the pond even though the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commission "Best Management Practice" guidelines call for dredging every 5-10 years.

As a result, the deeper portion of the pond has accumulated a layer of sediments--especially high in phosphorus and nitrogen--that is more than two

## Councilman Derezinski Visits OHMHA Board

At the November 2009 OHMHA meeting, Ward 2 City Councilman Tony Derezinski briefed the OHMHA board and neighborhood guests on current hot topics before city council.

Among other topics, he discussed rezoning, Stadium bridge repair needs, Argo dam, downtown parking, and the city budget crunch.

For details on Councilman Derezinski's comments, see the minutes of the November meeting. Simply go to the OHMHA website at [www.ohmha.org](http://www.ohmha.org), click on **Meetings** and then click on the **November 2009** minutes. ■



**Ward 2 City Councilman Derezinski (right) talks with the OHMHA Board and guests.**

feet thick. In 2009, more stormwater was diverted to the pond via storm drains from an additional 38 acres (126 parcels, along part of Bluett, Bunker Hill, Lexington, and Antietam), causing nutrient-rich pond water to overflow into Millers Creek whenever there is more than 1.5 inches of rain.

If you wish to be kept informed about Nature Center happenings, email [nealfost@umich.edu](mailto:nealfost@umich.edu) to be added to the general and meeting notification mailing list. ■

## ORCHARD HILLS ~ MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR JUNE 1, 2009 ~ MAY 31, 2010

(Make check for \$20.00 payable to OHMHA ~ additional contributions gratefully accepted.)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT PAID \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Please remove my name from your email list.

COMMENTS (we welcome suggestions and/or offers to volunteer on OHMHA projects):

**Mail or deliver your dues to:** Wendy Carman, OHMHA Treasurer, 2340 Georgetown

# Memorial Bench for Anita Jones Planned

- by Peter Mooney

After approximately 25 years of service to the Orchard Hills Maplewood Homeowners Association, Anita Jones passed away October 1 of last year. As noted in a tribute in the May edition of this newsletter, Anita cared deeply about our neighborhood, and was particularly interested in the public spaces such as Sugarbush Park and the entrances at Burbank and Georgetown.



At the November OHMHA meeting, residents Joel and Shirley Berger asked the OHMHA board to consider some type of memorial to Anita in recognition of her extraordinary service to our neighborhood, and after discussion the board voted to allocate \$300.00 toward the cost. We expect that the memorial will be a bench with a plaque indicating that it is in honor of Anita's contributions. The Orchard Hills Athletic Club (OHAC) has agreed to allow us to locate the bench in a specific area on their land, between the Club and Thurston Pond.

We expect that the cost of the memorial will considerably exceed the amount allocated by the board, and we are hoping that neighbors and friends of Anita will support this proposal.

***To Donate:*** *If you are interested in donating to the Anita Jones Memorial project, please send a check to the OHMHA treasurer, Wendy Carman, at 2340 Georgetown, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, and reference Anita Jones in the memo section of your check. ■*

---

## 3rd Annual Fall Festival a Hit with an International Flair

- by Margaret Weiss

Thank you to all who attended our third annual fall festival. It was very well attended and this time Mother Nature smiled upon us, providing fall temperatures accompanied by zephyrs and sunshine!

Francie Krawcke from the Leslie Science and Nature Center thrilled young and old with her Hunters of the Sky presentation. Those of us familiar with the birds enjoyed seeing how the young bald eagle has matured over the past year.

Our Thurston Nature Center tree expert-in-residence, Mike Conboy, conducted nature center tours in which he described the extensive variety of tree species in the area and also catalogued the history of the larger flora growing around Thurston Pond.

Neighborhood residents and community youngsters enriched audience's experience by performances ranging from Indian movie songs to Chinese yo-yo demonstrations, from Asian stringed

instruments to violin and keyboard. Chinese face painting and Firefly the Magic Clown were sponsored by Michigan Taiwanese American Organization and AAUW-Ann Arbor Branch.



**Chinese Facepainting and a display of live pond critters were among the many treats at the Fall Festival in October.**

The Thurston Nature Center Committee's chair, Neal Foster, again provided a fascinating array of pond life for all to observe and in some cases handle. Michigan-grown refreshments were served and we were visited by Mayor Hieftje.

Special thanks go to Amy Seetoo for organizing a neat entertainment layout, to Bram and Lia van Leer for allowing us to utilize some of their equipment including keyboard, and last but not least to the Orchard Hills Athletic Club for once again being so supportive of our efforts and

allowing us to use their power and land for the event. Whether or not you attended the event, the OHMHA Board welcomes your input. Do you want to add something? Want to try something new? Let us know! It's your festival! ■



### **OHMHA BOARD MEMBERS**

Jack Cederquist	2145 Ardenne	665-2282	President
Stuart Baggaley	3111 Cedarbrook	332-1874	Vice President/Neighborhood Watch
Henry Brysk	3032 Cedarbrook	369-2986	
Wendy Carman	2340 Georgetown	761-8693	Treasurer
Emily Eisbruch	2561 Bunker Hill	665-0533	Newsletter (eisbruchs@aol.com)
Neal Foster	2115 Georgetown	663-0756	
Greg Jagst	2080 Yorktown	846-6332	Secretary
Monica Hanna	2163 Ardenne	622-8113	
Anne Karabakal	2405 Bunker Hill	669-2084	
Peter Mooney	3352 Yellowstone	213-0440	
Phil Savage	3304 Bluett	994-6560	
Margie Weiss	2215 Yorktown	997-6541	

### **ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES**

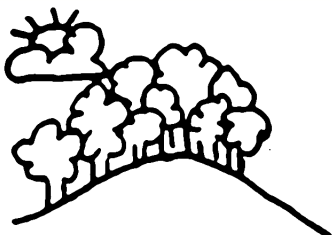
John Hieftje (Mayor)	1800 Traver	996-0493	jhieftje@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us
Tony Derezinski (Council Member, Ward 2)	1345 Glendaloch Cir.	995-2686	TDerezinski@a2gov.org
Stephen Rapundalo (Council Member, Ward 2)	3106 Bluett	476-0648	SRapundalo@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us

**Be in the know! Sign up for the OHMHA email list. Simply email [wjcarman@umich.edu](mailto:wjcarman@umich.edu)**

### **OHMHA**

3111 Cedarbrook  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
[www.ohmha.org](http://www.ohmha.org)

JOIN US AT THE NEXT BOARD  
MEETING:  
TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2010  
THURSTON SCHOOL LIBRARY  
7:30 PM



## **NEWSLETTER**

---

**ORCHARD HILLS-MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**

---