



ORCHARD HILLS-MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

www.ohmha.org

OHMHA NEWSLETTER

May 2008

Annual General Meeting and Election at the Thurston Ice Cream Social

Join us **Friday, June 6, at 6 pm,**
in the Thurston School Library,
to cast your ballot and to hear about the
Miller's Creek Rainwater Project,
presented by the Huron River Watershed Council.

WHO: You are eligible to vote if you have paid your 2007-2008 dues. Your paid status is stamped on this newsletter. Not a member but want to vote? Simply pay your '07-08 dues and then cast your ballot!

DEADLINE: Please turn in all ballots by June 6.

HOW:

- ◇ Turn in your ballot at the Social.
- ◇ Vote at www.ohmha.org
- ◇ Drop off or mail your ballot to Stuart Baggaley, 3111 Cedarbrook, A2, 48105

DUES: After June 1, we will be accepting dues (\$20) for the 2008-09 fiscal year (6/1-5/31).

MEETINGS: Board meetings are open to the public, and your participation is welcomed. OHMHA aims to maintain and improve our neighborhood and to help with community issues. Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 22, in the Thurston School library.

WHY JOIN OHMHA? Membership is voluntary, but your dues directly support our neighborhood by financing such projects as entryway landscaping, newsletters, website costs, garage sale publicity, maintaining a legal fund, and so on. This past year, we again helped organize a tree planting, and we sponsored the neighborhood Fall Festival.

Clutter crowding your closets?
Outgrown toys toppling from shelves?
Just need some extra space?

We have the solution!

2008 Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale!

Saturday, May 17, 9 am

OHMHA will run an ad in the *Ann Arbor News* and will post signs at subdivision entrances and major intersections. All you have to do is set up your sale and enjoy the day!

Sugarbush Park Clean-Up: An Invitation

Dear Sugarbush Park neighbors:

Over the past year and a half, the city has been working to drop and/or remove dead ash trees (and other hazardous trees which have the potential to fall on homes or other structures) from the perimeters of our parks. This has been primarily in response to the Emerald Ash Borer infestation, which has killed a vast majority of ash trees in southern Michigan. Due to Sugarbush Park's high concentration of ash trees, this work has created unsightly conditions in some locations of the park. We would like your help in solving this problem!

On **Saturday, June 7, from 10 am to noon** we will have a public workday where you can come pull some of this wood out of the park and take it home for your personal use. We'll meet at the Yellowstone entrance between the two cul-de-sacs. If you're interested in doing this at other times, contact me to discuss this possibility. Please be advised that this is a one-time offer; besides this opportunity, it is illegal to remove native plants and downed trees from Ann Arbor parks. The removal of ash from southern Michigan is against the law. Please do NOT transport these logs from Ann Arbor.

On a related note: the northern trail section of Sugarbush (between Rumsey Drive and Green Road) will be closed to allow the ash in this section of the park to fall. We hope to re-open this trail in 2009 or 2010 after most of the dead ash have fallen.

In an attempt to recover from the tragic loss of our ash trees, we are looking for assistance in re-planting our urban forest. If you'd like to help us in this work, please contact us!

To discuss Sugarbush Park or tree planting in parks, please contact Natural Area Preservation at 996-3266, nap@a2gov.org, or www.a2gov.org/nap. For information about the ash tree removal program and street tree plantings, please contact Forestry at www.a2gov.org/trees or 994.2768.

Thank you for your ongoing patience with this issue. It will take our whole community to recuperate from this difficult time.

~Jason Frenzel
Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator
Natural Area Preservation
Adopt-A-Park Program
[Jfrenzel@s2gov.org](mailto:jfrenzel@s2gov.org)

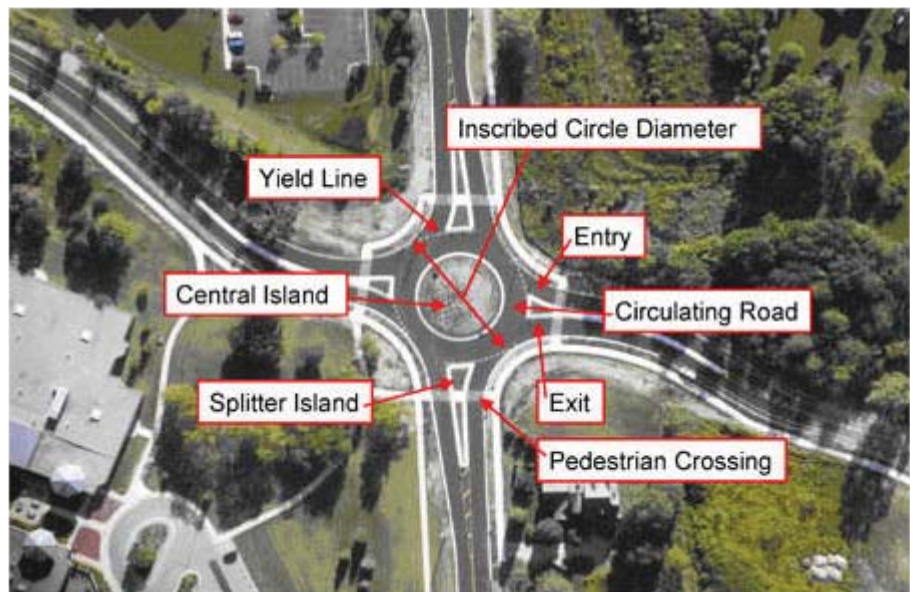
Nixon-Huron Parkway Roundabout

Big changes are planned for the Nixon-Huron Parkway intersection in 2009. Ann Arbor's Project Management Department did much analysis and design work—and convened four public meetings—and the plans are now final. The current four-way stop is going to be transformed into a modern roundabout. Details can be found on the city's website at

http://a2gov.org/government/publicservices/project_management/upcomingprojects/Pages/HuronParkway-NixonRoad.aspx.

Or, you can just take the shortcut and visit www.ohmha.org (use the link on the home page to get directly to the city's website information).

At one point, the construction on the roundabout was slated for summer, 2008. However, the latest news is that the project will begin no sooner than April or May of 2009. Project Engineer Igor Kotlyar reports that the primary reason for the delay is that some of the federal funds for the project will be available only in October, 2008. Rather than starting work in the fall, it makes more sense to begin in spring, 2009. For more details, contact Mr. Kotlyar at 994-6087 or ikotlyar@a2gov.org.



Example of a modern roundabout.
Image courtesy of DLZ Michigan, Inc.

Subscribe to the OHMHA-Neighborhood Watch E-Mail List

The OHMHA e-mail list sends out occasional messages about crime and other topics concerning our neighborhood. The e-mail list is managed by an OHMHA board member and is hosted by hvcn.org (Huron Valley Community Network). If you want to subscribe (or unsubscribe) or wish to post a message to the list, send an e-mail to patinfosmith@comcast.net.

Be A Good Neighbor: Part 2

In response to questions from residents, here are some more city codes.

The Community Standards Unit of the Ann Arbor Police Department will enforce ordinances for the city that protect the public health, welfare and safety of the residents. The Community Standards Unit will enforce the following:

- * Containers placed on the curb 24 hours before collection day.
- * Containers left on the curb 12 hours after collection day.
- * No person shall stop or park a vehicle on a sidewalk or on that portion of the highway between the property lines and the curb or curb line (parking regulation Chapter 126 of the city code).
- * Vehicles parked in the yard instead of on the driveway.
- * Trash accumulation on private property. While storing materials on the front porch of a home may appear to be a hazard in the case of fire or appears to be unsightly, there is no code that addresses the issue.
- * Parking of trailers, boats, campers, and similar vehicles in residential zones.

Copies of these codes can be obtained by contacting the City Clerk's office at 994-2725 or online at Ann Arbor Code of Ordinances. If you think you have a problem relative to a city code, please call Susan Smith, Complaint desk, at 994-1788. Be assured that complaints will be handled in a professional and courteous manner. Contact will remain confidential.



Trumpeter swans on Thurston Pond.

New Neighbors Coming

Construction is currently underway at the northeast corner of the Bluett and Nixon intersection. Eight to ten detached homes have been approved to be built on this site, with an egress from Nixon between Bluett and Traver. The site plan was approved over a year ago.

Sidewalk Repair Deadline

Residents who had their sidewalks marked for repair in 2007 have been promised a packet of material by the city describing what must be done by the homeowner this summer. Most importantly, the sidewalks must be repaired by July 31, 2008, to avoid the risk of the city performing the repair at a much higher cost.

The OHMHA board declined to try to organize the entire association neighborhood; any organization will have to be done by local neighborhoods to take advantage of any economy-of-scale offered by a contractor.

In the fall 2007, there was concern that the city was too strict in their marking criterion. It has since been decided that they have not.

The city link, including the contractor list, is:

<http://www.a2gov.org/government/publicservices/fieldoperations/Pages/SidewalkInspectionsandMaintenance.aspx>

The neighborhood link is:

<http://geocities.com/aasidewalks/>

Compost Cans

OHMHA Proposed Budget

Dear resident,

We want to bring to your attention the compost collection change coming to Ann Arbor.

Compost Carts Being Introduced

96 gallon wheeled compost carts are being introduced in the city. These have the same capacity as three standard cans. During the month of June, the city will be distributing these new compost carts directly to residents' homes. In order to receive one of these, residents must order their cart by May 31, 2008. The cart cost is \$25 per cart for the first cart at each address. Carts ordered after that date will cost \$50, and will not be delivered. Carts can be ordered online at www.a2gov.org/carts or by calling 994-2807.

Compost Can Service Ending

Resident supplied compost cans will no longer be serviced after June 30, 2008. There will be a one-week curbside pickup from July 7 to 11 for residents who would like the city to remove their old cans.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 994-2807.

Thank you!

Tom McMurtrie
Ann Arbor Systems Planning Unit-
Public Services

	2007-08 Proposed Budget	2007-08 Actual Budget	Proposed 2008-09 Budget
Operating account, beginning balance	\$9205	\$9205	\$10,000
Legal fund	1834	1835	1835
Total Assets	11,030	11,040	\$11,334
Operating Budget			
Annual dues and contributions	4400	4500	\$5000
Interest	10	10	10
Total Income	4410	4510	\$5010
Expenses			
Grounds maintenance	700	550	\$600
Neighborhood social events	1000	1190	1500
Newsletter expenses	1800	1900	1800
Garage sale expenses	220	300	300
Mail permit/postage	100	182	350
Copy fees/bank fees/check supplies	90	-	-
Bulk mail fee	-	-	-
OHMHA organizational fee	25	20	30
Website expenses	75	-	120
Donation to Thurston Nature Center	500	300	300
Total Expenses	4510	4440	\$5000
Transfer to legal fund	-	-	\$2000

ORCHARD HILLS ~ MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR JUNE 1, 2007 ~ MAY 31, 2008*

(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
OR: Drop off at the OHMHA meeting at the Thurston Ice Cream Social

*Membership dues for June 1, 2008-May 31, 2009 can be turned in after June 1.

OHMHA 2008 Election Ballot

All residents who are paid members for the 2007-2008 fiscal year (as stamped on this newsletter) are eligible to vote, one vote per household.

BOARD MEMBERS: The following candidates have been nominated for Board membership, and would serve a two-year term (2008-2010). Please vote for up to six candidates.

- _____ Henry Brysk
- _____ Jack Cederquist
- _____ Greg Jagst
- _____ Dan Smith
- _____ Write-in* (name, address, phone) _____
- _____ Write-in* (name, address, phone) _____

**If submitting write-in candidates, please make sure they are eligible for board membership (that is, they are current OHMHA members, and you have their permission to submit their names). If you are interested in becoming a board member yourself, please contact any current board member or attend an upcoming meeting.*

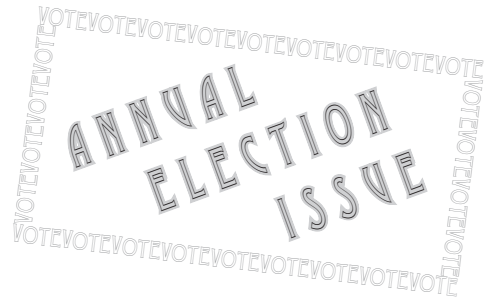
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2008-2009 (see page 5 of this newsletter)

_____ Approve _____ Do not approve

HOW TO VOTE

- ~Drop ballot in OHMHA ballot box at Thurston Ice Cream Social, June 6, 6-8 pm
- ~Turn in to Stuart Baggaley, 3111 Cedarbrook, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, by June 6
- ~Vote online at www.ohmha.org

OHMHA
2145 Ardenne
Ann Arbor, MI 48105



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