

ORCHARD HILLS-MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

www.ohmha.org

OHMHA NEWSLETTER

May 2011

Hear Latest News on North Campus Research Complex

**Friday, June 3, at 6:30 pm
at Thurston School Library**

Guest Speakers:

- Jim Kosteva, U-M Director of Community Relations,
- Sreyashi Dey, Marketing and Communications Office of the U-M North Campus Research Complex

Details:

Join your neighbors on the evening of Friday, June 3 for the OHMHA General Meeting and Election, starting at 6 pm (see page 6 and 7). At 6:30 pm there will be an update you won't want to miss from experts on the latest happenings at the North Campus Research Complex (the former Pfizer Complex). The presentation will be about 20 minutes long and will conclude with a question-and-answer period lasting about 15-20 minutes. The OHMHA Board looks forward to seeing you! ■



Photo: Courtesy University of Michigan,
available under a Creative Commons Attribution-
NonCommercial 3.0 license.

2011 Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale!

Saturday, May 14, from 9 am

OHMHA will run ads and will post signs at subdivision entrances and major intersections. All you have to do is set up your sale and enjoy the day!

*Easter Seals will pick up unsold items,
see page 2 for details*

Inside this Issue:

Easter Seals Donation, pg 2

Thurston Nature Center News,
pg 2

Urban Forest Management, pg 3

Pool News, pg 3

Rapundalo Summary, pg 4

Neighborhood Reminders, pg 5

Fall Festival, Bench, pg. 6

Budget & Elections, pg 6-7

Easter Seals Community Donation Neighborhood Garage Sale Pick Up



Easter Seals will have a truck in our neighborhood to collect gently used clothing and usable household misc. items left from your garage sale. They will provide you with curbside service and tax deductible receipts.

**Call Easter Seals by Friday, May 13
to schedule a pick-up. Call
1-800-708-2716**

- All your items must be at the curb or end of your driveway by **7am**. No porch or garage pick-ups.
- Clothing must be packaged in bags and fragile items in boxes.
- Furniture must be in "resale" condition and is subject to driver discretion.
- We are unable to take furniture items that are self-constructed, i.e., Sauder furniture, etc.
- We DO NOT take Baby Cribs, Infant or Toddler Car Seats, Large Appliances, Mattress/Box Springs, Console Televisions, Microwave Ovens, Food, Personal Products, Weapons.
- We cannot pick up your items unless you have called us and we have your address on the driver record.

Thurston Nature Center News *by Colin Brooks*

- Colin Brooks is the new Thurston Nature Center Committee Chair. His contact info is colinmargie@sbcglobal.net or 997-6541.
- Colin has updated the website at www.thurstonnaturecenter.org
- There is a new e-mail list that people can sign up for at <http://groups.google.com/group/thurstonpond>
- Thurston Nature Center is participating in the Thurston "Green Schools" program.
- There is a home on Facebook (search for "Thurston Nature Center" on Facebook).
- The next TNC Committee meeting will be on May 12 in the Thurston library from 7-8 pm and anyone interested is welcome to attend.
- According to the AA Public School System, work on repairing the Thurston Pond berm and improving the outflow is scheduled to start after May 15. ■



Thurston Pond

Urban Forest Management Plan *by Neal Foster*

We can probably all agree on this concept, found on the City of Ann Arbor website,

“Trees are a defining characteristic of Ann Arbor that make the city a desirable place to visit, work, do business, and live.”

The City of Ann Arbor has recently launched a process to **develop its first Urban Forest Management Plan** and an Advisory Committee of 17 members has been selected to work with the Working Group (City staff) to help achieve this goal. The mission of the Ann Arbor Urban Forest Management Plan (AzUFMP) Advisory Committee is to represent a diverse range of stakeholders, advise the Working Group on the development of Ann Arbor’s first Urban Forest Management Plan and provide input and guidance to ensure the sustainable management of Ann Arbor’s urban forest in the years ahead.

Neal Foster volunteered to represent both the Orchard Hills-Maplewood Homeowners Association and the Millers Creek Action Team and will be reporting on the progress of the AzUFMP in this newsletter. In the meantime, those interested in more details may visit the following websites:

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

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

OHAC and Dolfin Pool News for Summer 2011

The Orchard Hills Athletic Club (OHAC) is a separate organization from the Orchard Hills Maplewood Homeowner Association (OHMHA). Pool News is included here as a neighborhood courtesy.

Summertime will be here soon and your neighborhood OHAC and Dolfin pools are ready for you! OHAC is pleased to announce that **the pool tile is being replaced completely this year, making the pool a more attractive and safer place for your family to enjoy.**

Come check it out at our **OPEN HOUSE on Sunday, June 5, from 1-5 pm.** Bring your family and friends to either pool and swim for free.

If your children are interested in the swim and dive team or synchronized swimming, put Wednesday, June 1 on your calendar. The synchro team meeting starts at 6:30 pm at OHAC and the mandatory swim and dive team parent meeting follows at 7 pm. Both teams welcome beginners and invite you to come try it out this summer and see what the fun is all about.



The pools also offer private and group swim lessons, private party rentals, and lap swims. For more information or a membership application form, visit the website at **www.ohacpool.org**. ■

City Councilman Stephen Rapundalo Presents at March OHMHA Board Meeting, *By Greg Jagst*

On March 8, 2011, Stephen Rapundalo, Ann Arbor Ward 2 Councilmember and OHMHA resident, presented city government updates at OHMHA's March board meeting. In addition to the board, several neighborhood residents participated in the briefing and the Q&A.

Among the highlights of Rapundalo's presentation:

- Rapundalo stated that one of his main concerns centered on the City budget and the efficient implementation of City services. This need has become even more acute recently, partially due to the loss of City revenue through declining property tax revenues.

- The state of Michigan risks losing \$1.8 billion from a roughly \$8.2 billion state budget. These likely cuts have required the City to seek further efficiencies in its services; cross training of city personnel in some areas has helped. The City has also tentatively planned to two funding cut scenarios- one at a 2.5% reduction and the other at a 5% reduction. Presently City personnel compensation accounts for 51% of the City budget. Through his position as the chair of the labor committee, Rapundalo has sought to renegotiate collective bargaining agreements that had been very generous as negotiated sometimes twenty years ago.

- Areas of success for the City included social services, which remains one of the only programs in Michigan funded through the General Fund. Additionally, the City has benefitted in efficiencies in this area by coordinating with the County, streamlining

the process and making them more performance based. Refinements in City Parks through mowing cycles have also been made, trying to do more with less. Single stream recycling should also pay long term dividends in the form of reduced cost as the program matures.

- The City is seeking other revenue sources, according to Rapundalo. One possibility would be charging a nominal tax on the over 75,000 commuters who work in Ann Arbor but live outside the city limits. Though the University of Michigan occupies around 40% of the land

in Ann Arbor, it pays no property taxes to the City. It has given the City equipment, like fire engines, but has not paid cash for the various services the City provides it. State statute forbids a city from



Stephen Rapundalo shared thoughts on many aspects of City affairs with board members and neighbors.

levying taxes on a state university. The City has looked at privatization as a possible means of maintaining core services at a lower cost. Areas of consideration include the inspection and repair of City sidewalks, garbage pickup, among others.

- Several neighbors expressed irritation over the increase in the SEV values of their homes, given the declining value of homes throughout Michigan. Rapundalo pointed out that residents may contest their valuations through the proper city channels. 28% of property taxes collected go to the City budget; the rest goes to the County and for programs like the transit authority.

- Other issues that were discussed included the rationale used by the City in deciding which streets to plow first and the medical marijuana issue in the area. ■

Neighborhood Reminders For Spring

by Neal Foster

PETS:

Ann Arbor ordinances require that dog owners clean up and dispose of dog waste immediately. When walking your dog through the neighborhood, the Thurston Nature Center or City parks, the city ordinance also specifies that your dog must be under “reasonable control at all times,” which means always on a leash whenever the dog is not on your property.

The only areas in Ann Arbor where your dog may be off-leash are the Swift Run and Olson Park dog parks. However, to use the latter, you first will need to have a dog license from the City (\$16), County or other municipal jurisdiction in order to apply for an off-leash dog permit (costs an additional \$35 to \$60, depending on which dog park is used and whether or not your dog has been spayed or neutered).

The joint City-County Swift Run Dog Park (off-leash) is located at the northeast corner of the Swift Run landfill. It is bounded on the north by Ellsworth Road and on the east by Platt Road. The 10-acre Swift Run Dog Park is maintained in partnership with Washtenaw County with financial contributions from both the City and County. The half-acre, off-leash Olson dog park is located just south of the parking lot in the southern part of Olson Park, Pontiac Trail at Dhu Varren Road (Northeast corner). For more information about these off-leash dog parks, see: <http://www.a2gov.org/government/communityservices/ParksandRecreation/Pages/DogParks.aspx> ■



VEHICLES, TRAILERS, BOATS:

Trailers and boats, etc. must be stored behind your front setback line. Driveways cannot be obstructed by storing objects, structures, or vehicles that are inoperative, unregistered, even if for sale. If you need to store any of these on the street you will need a City permit to do so. If a vehicle has remained on the street and appears to be stored there or blocks visibility, that can be reported to Parking Enforcement. The vehicle will be tagged and if not removed, the City will tow it away. ■

SOLID WASTE:

We remind residents that grass clippings, Christmas trees, and other compostables should not be dumped in City parks or in the Thurston Nature Center---they can be placed in your compostable bin for pickup on trash day. Compostable pickups started April 6 and will end on November 30. Meanwhile, your recyclables, after being dumped from their brand new bin, will end up at Ann Arbor's Materials Recovery Facility. You can see what happens to them there in a fascinating video. Go to <http://a2city.pegcentral.com> (then search for “Single Stream Recycling” on that page). ■

PHONING THE CITY: Please remember that whenever you call the City with a concern, it is not necessary to identify yourself other than as a concerned neighbor. ■

About the OHMHA Elections

WHO:

You are eligible to vote if you have paid your 2010-2011 dues. Not a member but want to vote? Simply pay your '10-11 dues and then cast your ballot!

DEADLINE: Please turn in all ballots by June 3.

HOW:

- ◇ Turn in your ballot at the OHMHA General Meeting (same night as Thurston Ice Cream Social), Friday, June 3.
- ◇ Drop off or mail your ballot to Peter Mooney, 3352 Yellowstone, Ann Arbor, 48105

DUES: After June 1, we will be accepting dues (\$20) for the 2011-12 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.

WHY JOIN OHMHA?

Membership is voluntary, but your dues directly support our neighborhood by financing such projects as entryway landscaping and signage, newsletters, website costs, garage sale publicity, fall festival, maintaining a legal fund, and so on. ■

Fall Festival News

The OHMHA Board hopes to offer another Fall Festival this coming October. We invite and welcome **volunteers from the neighborhood** to make this a reality.



Please contact Greg Jagst at gjagst@aol.com if you can help out ■

OHMHA Proposed 2011-2012 Budget

	Budget 2010	Actual 2010	Budget 2011
Balance at Start of Year			
General Balance	7797	7042	8176
Legal Fund	3834	3834	3834
Anita Jones Memorial Fund	0	450	800
Total	11631	11326	12810
Anticipated Income			
Interest	5	5	5
Dues & Contributions from FY 2009		490	
Annual Dues and Contributions	4520	3805	4500
Total	4525	4300	4505
Anticipated General Expenses			
Replacement of Entrance Sign	600	0	600
Grounds Maintenance	750	0	500
Neighborhood Social Events	1000	1288	1500
Newsletter Expenses	2400	1105	1500
Garage Sale	100	103	120
Organizational Fee	40	20	40
Bank Fees	40	0	20
Website Fees	50	0	50
Donation to Nature center	300	300	300
Liability from previous year	0	0	162
Transfer to Legal Fund	0	0	0
Contribution to Anita Jones Memorial Fund			300
Total	5280	2816	5092
Anticipated Legal Budget			
Legal Expenses	0	0	0
Expenditure from Anita Jones Memorial Fund			
Installation of Memorial Bench			1100
Balance at Year End			
Operating Fund	7042	8176	7589
Legal Fund	3834	3834	3834
Anita Jones Memorial Fund	0	800	0
total	10876	12810	11423

Update on Memorial Bench for Anita Jones

The fund for purchasing and installing a memorial bench to honor Anita Jones, past president and 25-year member of the OHMHA board, has reached \$1100. There are a variety of tastefully designed benches available via the internet and one of these will be selected and purchased in the months ahead, a suitable concrete base for it laid and the bench installed on Orchard Hills Athletic Club property on the east bank of Thurston Pond. We thank all those who donated to the fund and the Orchard Hills Athletic Club for permission to install it on their property. Anyone interested in serving on a small selection and installation committee is asked to contact OHMHA Treasurer Wendy Carman at [<wjcarman@umich.edu>](mailto:wjcarman@umich.edu). ■



OHMHA 2010 Election Ballot

All residents who are paid members for the 2010-2011 fiscal year 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 (2010-2012), except as noted. Please vote for up to six candidates.

_____ Amy Seetoo
_____ Emily Eisbruch
_____ Neal Foster
_____ Wendy Carman
_____ Peter Mooney
_____ Yotam Rivlin
_____ Write-in* (name, address, phone)_____

Thanks to Monica Hanna

Thanks to retiring board member Monica Hanna for her service to the OHMHA Board and to the community.

*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 2011-2012 (see page 6 of this newsletter)

_____ Approve _____ Do not approve

HOW TO VOTE

- Drop ballot in OHMHA ballot box at Thurston Ice Cream Social, June 3, 6-8 pm
- Turn in to Peter Mooney, 3352 Yellowstone, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, by June 3

ORCHARD HILLS ~ MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR JUNE 1, 2011 ~ MAY 31, 2012

(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, Ann Arbor 48105

OHMHA BOARD MEMBERS

Jack Cederquist	2145 Ardenne	665-2282	President
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
Phil Savage	3304 Bluett	994-6560	
Anne Karabakal	2405 Bunker Hill	669-2084	Webmaster
Peter Mooney	3352 Yellowstone	213-0440	Vice President
Monica Hanna	2163 Ardenne	622-8113	
Chad Bailey	2776 Georgetown	929-2204	
Amy Seetoo	3111 Cedarbrook	332-0390	

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

John Hieftje (Mayor)	794-6161	jhieftje@a2gov.org
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@a2gov.org

Question: How do I get on the OHMHA email list? **Answer:** email wjcarman@umich.edu

Question: How do I get on the neighborhood watch list? **Answer:** email gjagst@aol.com

OHMHA

3352 Yellowstone

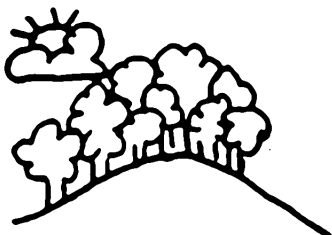
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

www.ohmha.org

You're invited to:

- OHMHA Board Meeting,
Tuesday, May 10 at 7:30pm at
Thurston School Library

- Annual General Meeting,
Friday, June 3 at 6pm at
Thurston School Library



NEWSLETTER

ORCHARD HILLS-MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
