

ORCHARD HILLS-MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

www.ohmha.org

OHMHA NEWSLETTER

May 2014

What Are the Hot Topics in Lansing that Impact Us?

**Guest Speaker: State Representative
Adam Zemke**

Program:

Join your neighbors on the evening of **Friday, June 6** for the OHMHA General Meeting and Election, starting at **7 pm** in the Thurston School Media Center. At **7:30 pm** there will be a presentation you won't want to miss on Hot Topics in Lansing, how they impact us, and how we can get involved.



State Representative Adam Zemke will speak at the OHMHA Annual General Meeting on Friday, June 6 at the Thurston School Media Center.

2014 Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale!

Saturday, May 31, from 9 am

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



About OHMHA Elections

WHO:

You are eligible to vote if you have paid your 2013-2014 dues. Not a member but want to vote? Simply pay your 2013-2014 dues and then cast your ballot!

DEADLINE: Turn in ballot by June 6.

HOW:

Turn in your ballot at the OHMHA General Meeting (same night as Thurston Ice Cream Social), Friday, June 6. or Drop off or mail your ballot to Wendy Carman, 2340 Georgetown, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

DUES: After June 6, we will be accepting dues (\$20) for the 2014-15 fiscal year (6/1-5/31).

WHY JOIN OHMHA?

Your dues directly support our neighborhood by financing such projects as entryway landscaping and signage, newsletters, website costs, garage sale publicity, fall festival, and more. ■

OHMHA Proposed 2014-2015 Budget

	Budget 2013-2014	Actual 2013-2014	Budget 2014-2015
Balance at Start of Year			
General Balance	8926	8749	8242
Legal Fund	3834	3834	3834
Anita Jones Memorial Fund	245	245	245
Total	13005	12828	12321
Anticipated Income			
Interest	5	1	2
Annual Dues and Contributions	2500	2277	2500
Undeposited/ unlisted dues from previous fiscal year	120	480	465
recognition of previous liabilities not due		515	
Total	2505	3273	2967
Anticipated General Expenses			
Georgetown Entrance Garden Planting	1270	847	0
Burbank Planting	600	0	600
Grounds Maintenance	0	120	300
Neighborhood Social Events	1500	1107	1500
Newsletter Expenses	500	860	950
Garage Sale	120	87	120
Organizational Fee	40	40	40
Bank Fees	5	104	50
Website Fees	50	0	50
Donation to Thurston Nature center	600	600	300
room rentals for school use	0	15	155
Liability from previous year	500	0	500
Transfer to Legal Fund	0	0	0
Transfer to Front Entrance Repair Fund			1000
Total	5185	3780	5565
Anticipated Legal Budget			
Legal Expenses	0	0	0
Balance at Year End			
Operating Fund	6611	8242	5644
Legal Fund	3834	3834	3834
Anita Jones Memorial Fund	245	245	245
Entrance Repair Fund	0	0	1000
TOTAL	\$10,690	\$12,321	\$10,723



Thanks for supporting OHMHA through your annual dues of \$20. Your support enables us to maintain a strong community, including events such as the annual Fall Festival.

OHAC and Dolfin Pool News for Summer 2014



Lots of Excitement as Orchard Hills Athletic Club Turns 50!

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

Dreaming of warm weather and lazy days spent poolside? Make those dreams come true for this summer by joining Orchard Hills Athletic Club where membership grants you access to two conveniently located pools: OHAC (2300 Yorktown) and Dolfin (2050 Prairie).

OHAC is excited to celebrate its 50th Anniversary this season! The highlight will be a **Nifty Fifty Party at OHAC on Sunday, June 22**, where everyone is invited to reminisce and revel in our history and future. There are also plans for a **Nifty 50 Fundraiser at Carson's American Bistro on July 10**. Check our website for more information on all events

Many great traditions also return this summer, including our swim, dive and

synchronized swim teams (for kids of all ages and abilities), swim lessons, and holiday parties. The club is available for private party rentals and has grills and picnic tables.

In response to feedback from a recent online survey, OHAC is offering some improvements in the 2014 season:

- earlier opening at OHAC
- more options for lap swimming, and
- additional social events aimed at different age groups.

Plans are underway for two new programs:

- water aerobics and
- drop-in water polo.

Go to **www.ohacpool.org** for more information and application forms including early registration deadline and available discounts.

Both pools open Memorial Day weekend. If you wish to check out the pools, come to the OPEN HOUSE on Sunday, June 1 from 1-5 pm. Bring your family and friends to either pool and swim for free. Come see why so many people join year after year.

Be a part of the OHAC tradition! ■



Thurston Nature Center Pond & Wetland Restoration Project - A Vital Community Effort

by Frank Commiskey

The Purpose of the “Thurston Nature Center” (TNC)

- Educate students of all ages and the community about plants and animal species indigenous to Michigan as well as the value of preserving and conserving natural resources.
- Support the Ann Arbor Public Schools Environmental Education program (for an additional 50 years). This would allow the continued integration of what is taught in science curriculums inside the classroom with experiential education in the out-of-doors (GREEN-STEM).
- Provide all community members access to a certified wildlife habitat and conservation education reserve to use and enjoy on an equal basis.
- Provide a Stormwater Detention Pond

The Mission of the project is to “**Restore the Ecological Integrity & Health of the Thurston Pond & Wetland Ecosystems at the Thurston Nature Center**”

- Allow the TNC pond to be managed successfully, as a major aquatic open-water & wetland environment
- Support a diverse and abundant community of desirable native plant & animal species
- Maintain the continuous use of the pond as part of the Ann Arbor City’s Stormwater Management System as well as its role as a headwater for Millers Creek

The Goals of the project

- Improve the water quality (removing legacy sediment contaminated by very high levels of phosphorous)
- Provide better water level management (provide control valves on the outlet drain of the pond)
- Increase water storage capacity in the pond (re-contouring the pond)

The Status of the project

- The Thurston Nature Center Committee (TNCC) as appointed by Thurston School and PTO has developed and published plans and concept designs, recommending the strategy required to meet the goals and objectives of this project.
- A preliminary project “work-flow” schedule/plan and budget has been established for both the engineering as well as the construction and restoration work.



The TNC Pond - almost no water left during some summers.



Pond full of water – unfortunately during the spring so much water is received that it spreads horizontally and kills many of the nesting areas.



The berm falls apart 1 to 2 times per year and repair costs are adding up.

Thurston Nature Center Pond and Wetland Restoration Project Plan

- Concept Engineering Plan (completed)
- Permits
- Detail –Design Engineering
- Phase 1-construction:
 - Control outflow
 - Build sediment bay
- Phase 2-construction:
 - Re-contouring pond
- Phase 3-restoration
 - Restoring plant habitats
- Phase 4-restoration
 - Restoring wildlife habitats

Additional Info

- The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has approved recent requested plan modifications and adjustments– MDEQ permit expires Jan. 24, 2016.
- The TNCC acting as a liaison/agent for the AAPS Physical Properties Department is currently evaluating proposals to select and issue contracts to an engineering firm.
- The TNCC is reaching out to the AAPS, Ann Arbor city, school parents, neighborhoods, and local community for financial direction and support.

Funding

- There are two major components to this project which desperately require funding:
 - There is an immediate need for \$35K to contract an engineering firm and get them started on the detailed design activities.
 - The construction costs at this time are budgetary and estimated to range between \$150K and \$250K.
- The Thurston Elementary School Executive Board has approved the allocation of \$5K to “Saving our Pond.”
- The fundraising campaign “Save The Pond” is “gathering steam and moving ahead” - please contribute on the website or at other opportunities.

Stay in touch + get involved + pass the word!

- Join our E-Newsletter. To get on the newsletter list, email frank@thurstonnaturecenter.org
- Get news and event information at the Web site: <http://www.thurstonnaturecenter.org/>
- Check out the Thurston Nature Center on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ThurstonNatureCenter>) ■

Community Forum at Zoup Promotes Collaboration and Dialog

Approximately thirty community leaders and interested neighbors came out on Sunday February 23, 2014 for a community forum event at Zoup, the soup restaurant in Traver Village.

The program featured presentations followed by Q&A with leaders of:

- Thurston Nature Center
- OHAC Pool
- Clague Running Track Project.



In addition Praveena Ramaswani, a leader of the Bromley neighborhood shared neighborhood concerns about parking issues impacting their streets, especially in the winter months.

All agreed that it would be a great idea to convene community organizations again for more collaboration and information exchange, perhaps on a yearly basis. ■



OHMHA 2014 Election Ballot

All residents who are paid members for the 2013-2014 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 (2014-2016), except as noted. Please vote for up to seven candidates.

_____ Jack Cederquist
_____ Frank Commiskey
_____ Greg Jagst
_____ Anne Karabakal
_____ Rabia Shafie
_____ Martin Torch-Ishii
_____ Nadine Wong (to complete a 2013 to 2015 term)
_____ Write-in* (name, address, phone)_____

Thanks to Phil Savage and David Bizot

Many thanks to retiring board members Phil Savage and David Bizot (who moved to Wisconsin) for their 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 2014-2015 (see page 2)

_____ Approve _____ Do not approve

HOW TO VOTE

- Drop ballot in OHMHA ballot box at Thurston Ice Cream Social, June 6, 7:00-8:30 pm
- Turn in to Wendy Carman, 2340 Georgetown, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, by June 6

Your annual dues support OHMHA activities, such as the Fall Festival, this newsletter, and more

Thank you to all who mail in or deliver their dues.

ORCHARD HILLS ~ MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR JUNE 1, 2014 ~ MAY 31, 2015

(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
Greg Jagst	2080 Yorktown	846-6332	Vice President
Wendy Carman	2340 Georgetown	761-8693	Treasurer
Phil Savage	3304 Bluett	994-6560	Secretary
Anne Karabakal	2405 Bunker Hill	669-2084	Webmaster
Peter Mooney	3352 Yellowstone	213-0440	
Jerry Schulte	3334 Yellowstone	668-2590	
Frank Commiskey	2647 Antietam Ct	369-0992	
Rabia Shafie	3325 Bluett Dr	668-6430	
Amy Seetoo	3111 Cedarbrook	332-0390	
Emily Eisbruch	2561 Bunker Hill	665-0533	Newsletter & Facebook (eisbruchs@gmail.com)

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

John Hieftje (Mayor)	794-6161	jhieftje@a2gov.org
Sally Petersen (Council Member, Ward 2) 2976 Hickory Lane	996-5569	spetersen@a2gov.org
Jane Lumm (Council Member, Ward 2) 3075 Override Drive	677-4010	JLumm@a2gov.org

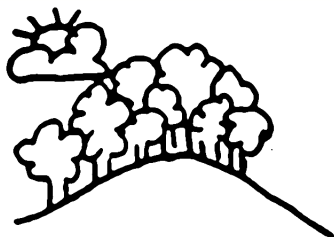
How do I get on the neighborhood email list? Answer: email wjcarman@umich.edu

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

Also remember to "like" OHMHA on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ohmhaneighborhood

OHMHA
2145 Ardenne
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
www.ohmha.org

You're invited to:
Annual General Meeting,
Friday, June 6 at 7pm
at the Thurston School
Media Center.



NEWSLETTER

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