

ORCHARD HILLS-MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

www.ohmha.org

OHMHA NEWSLETTER

October 2007

Join Your Neighbors at the Fall Festival!

WHO: The entire OHMHA neighborhood is invited!

WHAT: Fall Festival

WHEN: Sunday, October 21, 1-5 pm

WHERE: At the grassy area by Thurston Pond on Yorktown, next to OHAC pool

What better way to spend an October Sunday afternoon than by enjoying some fun and educational activities with neighbors by Thurston Pond?

Many exciting activities are planned—the festival is designed to be fun for all ages! Donuts, apples, and cider will be served, and the current lineup of events is:

- “*Hunters of the Sky*,” a wildlife demonstration presented by the Leslie Science Center and featuring a live bald eagle, a hawk, and an owl, at 1:30
- Thurston Nature Center tree tours with tree expert Mike Conboy at 2:30, 3:00, and 3:30
- Nature treasure hunt
- Leaf art activity
- Face painting booth
- “*What’s Happening to Thurston Pond?*”—talk by Neal Foster, Chair of the Nature Center
- Friendly acoustical musical talent show, 4:00-5:00 pm

You are invited to bring chairs or a picnic blanket. Also, please bring your musical instrument (don’t be shy—it’s just for fun!) for the friendly talent show that will end the afternoon’s activities. OHMHA has rented a large canopy tent in case of rain, a 4’ x 8’ stage, 6 tables, and 50 chairs. If you would like to volunteer to help us set up, please come at 11 am that Sunday morning.



This event is sponsored by OHMHA together with the Thurston Nature Center. For more information see www.ohmha.org or call Emily Eisbruch at 665-0533. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, October 21!

The Fall Festival Planning Committee has been working since summer to plan a fabulous festival, including this on-site meeting in early September.

WHAT IS OHMHA?

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For the benefit of all, but especially those new to our neighborhood, here is an overview of the Orchard Hills-Maplewood Homeowners' Association (OHMHA). Created in the early 1960s, OHMHA is a Michigan non-profit corporation whose purposes are to:

- represent the interests of the majority of residents
- promote the health and safety of residents
- prevent neighborhood deterioration
- provide information and education to all residents
- lessen tensions and promote harmony among all residents

Payment of membership dues (currently \$20 per year) is completely voluntary, but these funds do enable OHMHA to better achieve its purposes.

OHMHA has a twelve-member, volunteer board of directors elected for two-year terms by the OHMHA members. The board proposes a yearly budget that is approved by the members in an annual June election that also serves as an annual meeting of members. This usually takes place during the Thurston Elementary School Ice Cream Social.

OHMHA has no enforcement powers, including to collect dues or to settle disputes between neighbors, but this newsletter does contain some Good Neighbor suggestions, and board members are available to refer neighbors to appropriate authorities (such as the City of Ann Arbor) when issues arise. OHMHA is independent of the Orchard Hills Athletic Club (OHAC), although there is significant overlap in the membership of the two groups. OHMHA members are also active on the Thurston Nature Center Committee and the Miller's Creek Action Team.

Our board consists of twelve members, who elected our current officers:

Jack Cederquist, President
Stuart Baggaley, Vice President
Wendy Carman, Treasurer
Daniel Smith, Secretary

Thank you to Peter Mooney and Sandy Smith for serving as president and secretary, respectively, for the past term.

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The OHMHA board meets every two months. Residents are encouraged to attend and participate in board meetings, which are usually held in the Thurston School Library. Meeting schedules, along with other neighborhood information, can be found:

- in the OHMHA newsletter, distributed to all residents about four times per year
- on our website (www.ohmha.org), which also posts minutes of previous board meetings, the newsletters, a boundary map, links to useful sites, and more
- through the voluntary participation residents' email list (this list informs residents of current issues such as Neighborhood Crime Watch information, information on the preservation and restoration of Miller's Creek, and even news about coyotes; to be included on this list, contact Sandy Smith at patinfo@comcast.net)

Recent activities of OHMHA include:

- representing the residents at City Council, the City Planning Commission, and meetings with the developers of the Plymouth Green Crossings and Plymouth Road Plaza projects
- restoring the entrance cupolas
- renewing and maintaining the planting at the Georgetown entrance to Orchard Hills, and ongoing fertilization of the grass medians on Georgetown and Burbank
- organizing and publicizing candidate forums for City Council elections
- organizing and publicizing the annual neighborhood-wide garage sale

And, new this year, we are hosting a **Fall Festival**, on **Sunday, October 21, 1-5 pm** (please see cover article of this issue). This will be a great opportunity to meet new neighbors and learn about our lovely Thurston Nature Center. Please stop by the OHMHA information table and introduce yourself!

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Next OHMHA board meeting is Thursday, November 15, Thurston School Library, 7:30 pm.

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Be A Good Neighbor

Residents of our neighborhood often request information about the Ann Arbor city code. The Community Standards Unit of the Police Department enforces some city ordinances/codes, and the Ann Arbor government website (www.a2gov.org) provides full information on these codes. If you think you have a problem relative to a city code, please call Susan Smith, Complaint desk, at 994-1788. Please be assured that complaints will be handled in a professional and courteous manner. Contact will remain confidential.

Answers to some of the requests for information from residents about these codes are as follow:

~Ann Arbor city code states that trailers, boats, etc., must be stored behind the front setback line of your house. Driveways cannot be obstructed by storing objects, structures, or vehicles that are inoperative, unregistered, or for sale.

~The city code forbids signs in the public right of way.

~Ann Arbor city code does not allow grass and weeds on private property and on lawn extensions in excess of 12 inches. Unfortunately, the posted code on the city website is still showing the old height of 16 inches.

~There is no city ordinance that addresses cats that are allowed to roam free. Cats do hunt birds and lay in wait at neighborhood feeders and bird baths. They will also hunt rabbits. Other than appealing to the owner of the offending cat, there is nothing residents can legally do. Residents have suggested that it would be nice if these cats wore a collar with a bell and an ID tag.

~If city trees or other vegetation on public property are creating a hazard, place a request for trimming by calling the Parks Department at 994-2768. It is illegal to cut or trim city trees without proper permission.

~Mowing of the medians on Georgetown, Burbank, and Bunker Hill is the responsibility of the city. The mowing is done by a contractor working for the city. OHMHA pays for fertilizing these medians. For more information, call the Parks Department at 994-2768.

~Ann Arbor city code requires that dogs must be under "reasonable control at all times." Reasonable control means on a leash. It is the responsibility of the owner to clean up any excrement IMMEDIATELY. Enforcement is the responsibility of the Police Department. An animal control officer will respond. Call the non-emergency police number 994-2911.

For questions about other specific city services, please contact the city information and referral desk at 994-2700.

Another Tree Planting Coming Soon!

No town can fail of beauty, though its walks were gutters and its houses hovels, if venerable trees make magnificent colonnades along its streets. ~Henry Beecher Ward

In the spring of 2006, the Orchard Hills-Maplewood Homeowners' Association, along with the city of Ann Arbor and Global ReLeaf of Michigan, spearheaded a successful tree planting in the extensions on parts of Lexington, Antietam, and Bunker Hill. It was a tremendous success, with 30-40 neighbors participating. The effort, however, did not come close to replacing all of the ash trees that could be found throughout our area prior to the onslaught of the emerald ash borer.

To continue the effort begun last year, OHMHA, the city, and Global ReLeaf are planning another planting this month, on **October 27**, for three hours. We anticipate that the planting will take place from 9 am to noon, but we will provide more detail regarding the start time and initial meeting place via the neighborhood email list. Yorktown resident Margaret Weiss has agreed to coordinate this effort. (Residents in likely planting areas received a flier about the planning meeting that took place at Margaret's house on October 4.)

This year's replacement planting will be even more extensive than last year's. It will include parts of Yorktown, Bluett, Yellowstone, Lexington, and Rumsey. Global ReLeaf will provide the replacement trees, and will grind up stumps as well.

In order for this effort to be successful, we'll need at least two volunteers per tree replaced. While we anticipate that residents who receive new trees will be most likely to volunteer, not every house where an ash tree was lost will have two adults or teens who are able to take part. It is important, then, that anyone interested in beautifying our neighborhood volunteer. Last year's outstanding turnout of volunteers contributed to Global ReLeaf's willingness to include Orchard Hills/Maplewood in this year's planting.

If you are interested, please **contact either Margaret Weiss** at colinmargie@sbcglobal.net or **board member Peter Mooney** at pmooney@sflaw.com.

Sidewalk Website

The sidewalks of many homeowners are being marked by the city for repair next year. A number of streets are organizing to obtain lower rates from contractors. The website

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

has been prepared by Don Calahan (3139 Lexington) to keep OHMHA homeowners up to date on the issue, including an area map of slabs marked for repair, estimated to exceed 1000 eventually.

**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):

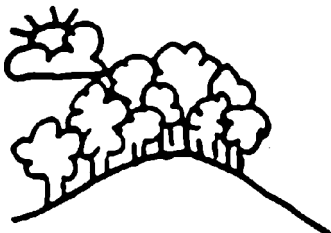
Mail or deliver your dues to: Wendy Carman, OHMHA Treasurer, 2340 Georgetown, or pay at the Fall Festival!

OHMHA BOARD MEMBERS

Stuart Baggaley	3111 Cedarbrook	332-1874	Vice President/Neighborhood Watch
Henry Brysk	3032 Cedarbrook	369-2986	
Wendy Carman	2340 Georgetown	761-8693	Treasurer
Jack Cederquist	2145 Ardenne	665-2285	President
Emily Eisbruch	2561 Bunker Hill	665-0533	Webmaster
Neal Foster	2115 Georgetown	663-0756	
Greg Jagst	2080 Yorktown	846-6332	
Anita Jones	3359 Yellowstone	761-2748	
Peter Mooney	3352 Yellowstone	213-0440	
Jill Rheinheimer	2518 Georgetown	663-1489	Newsletter (zooina2@sbcglobal.net)
Daniel Smith	2377 Georgetown	320-4494	Secretary
Sandy Smith	3188 Rumsey	769-2663	

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

John Hieftje (Mayor)	1800 Traver	996-0493	jhieftje@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us
Joan Lowenstein (Council Member, Ward 2)	502 Burson	761-5248	jlowenstein@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us
Stephen Rapundalo (Council Member, Ward 2)	3106 Bluett	476-0648	SRapundalo@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us



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