



ORCHARD HILLS-MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

www.ohmha.org

OHMHA NEWSLETTER

May 2021

OHMHA General Meeting and Election

Guest Speaker:
Tom Crawford, City Administrator

Wednesday, June 9, 7:00 pm
online

Program:

- Overview of OHMHA's activities
- Election of next year's Board members and approval of OHMHA's annual budget and by-laws changes
- Tom Crawford speaks on his role and plans as City Administrator, followed by an opportunity for discussion.



Tom Crawford, City Administrator, will be our guest speaker on Wed., June 9, 2021 on Zoom

Zoom link will be emailed prior to the event.

Please pay your OHMHA Annual Dues

Dues are voluntary but, for your \$20 each year, OHMHA

- Produces the Annual Fall Festival
- Holds Candidates Nights preceding elections
- Advertises and places signs for the annual Neighborhood Garage Sale
- Produces and distributes newsletters
- Supports the Thurston Nature Center
- Working to upgrade the Georgetown entrance structures

See page 7 to pay your dues.

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OHMHA Proposed 2021-2022 Budget

	Balances as of 4-19-2021
General Fund	\$9,195
Legal Fund	\$3,834
Georgetown Entrance Fund	\$6,500
Total Assets	\$19,529

	Budget 2020-2021	Expenses 2020-2021 (as of 4-19-2021)	Proposed Budget 2021-2022
Transfer from General Fund to Georgetown Entrance Fund	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$3,500
Income	\$4,200	\$2,836	\$4,200
Interest	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Dues and Contributions	\$4,200	\$2,836	\$4,200
General Expenses	\$7,140	\$580	\$5,140
Grounds Maintenance	\$200	\$80	\$200
Neighborhood Social Events	\$2,800	\$0	\$2,800
Newsletter Expenses	\$900	\$0	\$900
Garage Sale	\$300	\$0	\$300
Organizational Fee	\$25	\$0	\$25
Website Fees	\$200	\$0	\$200
Donation for Park Improvements	\$500	\$500	\$500
Room Rentals for School use	\$15	\$0	\$15
Candidates Night	\$200	\$0	\$200
City Fee for Georgetown Entrance	\$2,000	\$0	\$0
Liability from Previous Year	\$0	\$0	\$0

Vote in OHMHA Annual Election

WHO:

You are eligible to vote if you have paid your 2020-2021 dues. Not a member but want to vote? Simply pay your 2020-2021 dues and then cast your ballot!

DEADLINE: June 9, 2021

HOW:

See instructions on page 7.

DUES:

After June 9, we will be accepting dues (\$20) for the 2021-22 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. ■

Join us at OHAC Pools

by Bo Bunnell

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



OHAC is getting ready for 2021 and looking forward to a great summer pool season. Although we had incredible fun at Dolfin pool last summer while we undertook infrastructure projects at OHAC, we are very excited to announce that we are planning to have both OHAC and Dolfin pools available in 2021. As of press time for this article, the concrete work at OHAC pool still remains to be completed. But the electrical updates, including all new LED underwater lights, are finished! Barring any unexpected delays, we plan to have the OHAC concrete deck work completed in time for Memorial Day opening.

Although we do not yet know the details of the Washtenaw County Health Department guidelines, we are planning for operations similar to 2020 where the number of people at the pool each pool session (of one hour and 45 minutes) will be limited. We will be using an online system to allow members to book reservations for each session (with disinfecting occurring between sessions). Lap swimming will be offered from 6:45-8:45 am at Dolfin Pool and from 6:00-7:00 pm at OHAC Pool. We are also planning on having a Swim and Dive team, but sadly will not be offering other programs in 2021.

Four types of memberships can now be purchased online at www.ohacpool.org. All memberships purchased before May 15 will be discounted! Unfortunately, due to losses incurred during the shortened 2020 season, increased staffing costs, and long term maintenance expenses, membership prices increased in 2021 for the first time in nearly a decade. The OHAC Board decided this unwanted increase was necessary to continue to offer a fun and safe experience for our neighborhood and to maintain the long-term infrastructure at two pools that are more than 50 years old.



We have so many great things about our neighborhood—Sugarbush Park, Thurston Nature Center, and our two pools. We are so excited for summer and to see our neighbors at OHAC and Dolfin! Join today! ■

Thurston Nature Center News

by Elizabeth Morehead, Thurston Nature Center Committee Chair

The spring flowers have been beautiful at the Thurston Nature Center this year, as always. Thanks to all who participated in the recent events such as the May 1 and May 2 work days and the Breathe with the Wind Sound Installation and Sound Ceremony in April 2021.

This year several different projects are being worked on at the Thurston Nature Center, including:

- Cleaning up and replanting on the Peninsula by EMU environmental student Jake.
- Two Eagle Scouts who will be working on the rain garden and a Hugelkultur (raised garden bed).
- Our land stewards are doing more work on restoring the area by the nature center entrance on the Conboy Trail.
- We have conducted a few controlled burns in anticipation of replanting grasses and wildflowers in the area that was cleared by the goats in September 2020.

For more info and photos, please visit the Thurston Nature Center's website at www.thurstonnaturecenter.info. To sign up for the Thurston Nature Center email list, scroll to the bottom of the webpage for the easy sign up form. ■

Solarize!

by Wendy Carman

Are you interested in solar for your home? OHMHA will be organizing a Solarize event this June to bring neighbors and friends together to learn about residential solar, and customized solar installations from a selected vendor typically at significant savings. (Batteries and generators are optional.) If you would be interested in attending such an event, please contact wjcarman@umich.edu and put your name on our list of interested parties. We will reach out to you with a Doodle poll to pick dates for an outdoor socially distanced presentation.

Michigan is actually a great place to produce solar power. Cooler weather helps panel efficiency; trees don't have leaves part of the year. Technology has improved so more power is made in less space; panels cope better with shifting shade and suboptimal sun. Solar installers evaluate how much of your roof is needed to meet your electricity needs.



The costs have come down significantly over the last decade, and a 26% federal tax credit has been extended through 2022, then drops to 22% in 2023 (instead of this year). Lawmakers recently resumed no property tax increases from installing solar. Michigan Saves!, <https://michigansaves.org/>, a non-profit green bank, offers low interest loans. In combination with the bulk-buy savings realized through Solarize, residents can access this green energy source with greater ease. ■

Entrance Monuments at Plymouth and Georgetown

by Jerry Schulte

Several years ago, OHMHA had a goal of completely rebuilding the brick entrance monuments at the Plymouth Road entrance to Georgetown Blvd. The cost and permitting complexity of such a project ended up being beyond what OHMHA was able to take on.

We still have an interest in addressing the monuments. The current goal is to repair the existing structures. Repairs would include the removal of the wooden cupolas, lowering the existing structures, and repairing the remaining brickwork. Though this wouldn't be the long term fix for which we had hoped, it would address the most deteriorated parts of the monuments and significantly improve visibility of pedestrians where the sidewalk along Plymouth Road intersects Georgetown Blvd.



A photoshopped image showing what the entrance monuments could look like after repair.

The image here shows what the modified monuments would look like.

We are currently coordinating with the homeowners, who own the property on which the monuments are located, and seeking proposals for the work. It is possible a fundraising effort may be needed to offset some of the cost. If you have any questions feel free to contact OHMHA Board Member Jerry Schulte. ■

Welcome to the Neighborhood Initiative

OHMHA's "Welcome to the Neighborhood" initiative makes it easier for new families to find out information about our neighborhood and to feel at home. The way it works is that an OHMHA Board member or other neighbor stops by with a page of helpful information and website links.

If you are aware of new neighbors moving in, please contact OHMHA Board member Jerry Schulte (schulte6@comcast.net) with a street address so that we can be sure to welcome them. ■



Community Gathers on Zoom for Annual Forum

by Jack Cederquist

The 2021 Annual OHMHA Community Forum was held via Zoom on Sunday, March 21st. As usual, speakers from four local groups gave short overviews of their news and future plans.

Wendy Carman, president of the **OHMHA Board**, briefly reviewed the greater than 50 year history of OHMHA and noted that OHMHA is supported by voluntary dues of \$20. OHMHA organizes neighborhood events such as this Community Forum, a garage sale (except during a pandemic!) and the popular Fall Festival near Thurston Pond. Current developments affecting the neighborhood include possible participation in a City of Ann Arbor Solarize event, a community bulk buy solar program, to encourage installation of solar panel systems. Current concerns for some of our neighbors are City government changes to regulations and zoning codes that might allow some short term rentals (including existing ones in our neighborhoods) and accessory dwelling units in our neighborhood and allow high density mixed use/residential developments nearby on Plymouth Road.

Jim Vallem, Land Steward of the **Thurston Nature Center**, reported that the goats were successful last year in removing invasive plants and helped raise sufficient funds to cover their cost and to purchase seeds for planting this year. Some rain gardens, damaged by walkers last year, will be repaired and one section of phragmites will be treated. He reminded those who use the Nature Center to keep dogs on a leash and to pick up after their dogs. It would be helpful if walkers occasionally brought a trash bag with them and picked up trash they find. The best sources of information about the Nature Center, including workday scheduling and notices of planned burns, are their Facebook page and the website, thurstonnaturecenter.info.



Photos courtesy of Estelle Chiari-Fort

Bo Bunnell, president of the **OHAC-Dolphin Pool Board**, thanked all those who contributed to the fundraising campaign which raised \$98,000. The campaign enabled the installation of new tile at Dolphin, conversion of the malfunctioning main drain at OHAC to a side drain, installation of new LED lights at OHAC, and, still in progress, concrete replacement, also at OHAC. There will be a VIP party for the donors. Limited membership last year due to the pandemic meant that the pools incurred a loss of \$30,000 which had to be met by their rainy day fund. The plan is to open both pools on Memorial Day with no limitations on membership although there will be limitations on the number of swimmers at any one time via sign up on the OHAC website. A goal is to have a swim team this year although, again, numbers will likely be limited to 80 participants.

Praveena Ramaswami, representing the **Bromley neighborhood** and also steward of **Bromley Park**, announced that Bromley Park will be renovated in May with new play structures, tandem swings, sand boxes, and ADA improvements to the sidewalk. She is also organizing a mural to be painted on the fence facing Prairie Street at Dolphin Pool. Painting may be in May, so sign up if you want to help. The **Thurston Players** were once again unable to mount a community theatre production but they plan to continue their tradition in 2022!

To listen to the entire Community Forum, see the link on the OHMHA website at <http://www.ohmha.org/> ■

OHMHA 2021 Election

All residents who are paid members for the 2020-2021 fiscal year are eligible to vote, one vote per household.

OHMHA BOARD MEMBERS: The following candidates have been nominated for board membership, and would serve a two-year term (2021-2023). Please vote for up to six candidates

Wendy Carman Pete Mooney
 Emily Eisbruch Jerry Schulte
 Jane Klingsten Amy Seetoo
 write-in _____

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 name). If you are interested in becoming a board member yourself, please contact any current OHMHA board member or attend an upcoming OHMHA board meeting.

PROPOSED BUDGET for 2021-2022 (see page 2)

Approve Do not approve

PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGES

This year we are asking you to vote on changes to the OHMHA by-laws, which have not been updated since 2006. We have proposed changes for clarity, changes to reduce the work load of the Treasurer, and changes to maintain our fiduciary responsibilities now that banks will no longer accommodate our requirement that all Association checks must be signed by two officers. Please take the time to vote on these changes. You can view the changes at the website OHMHA.org

Approve Do not approve

HOW TO VOTE (by June 9, 2021)

-Drop off or mail to Dave Hibbs, 3196 Lexington, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

-Vote online at <http://www.ohmha.org/ballot.html>

ORCHARD HILLS - MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR June 1, 2021 - May 31, 2022

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Amt Paid _____

Email _____ Please remove me from email list

Dues are \$20 yearly. Additional Donations welcome. We also welcome suggestions and/or offers to volunteer on OHMHA projects.

TO PAY DUES: Mail or deliver dues to:
Dave Hibbs, OHMHA Board Member, 3196 Lexington, 48105
or
Pay OHMHA dues online via Paypal, see www.ohmha.org

OHMHA BOARD MEMBERS

Wendy Carman	2340 Georgetown	761-8693	President (wjcarman@umich.edu)
Greg Jagst	2080 Yorktown	846-6332	Vice President
Dave Hibbs	3196 Lexington	205-8993	Treasurer
Peter Mooney	3352 Yellowstone	213-0440	Secretary
Emily Eisbruch	2561 Bunker Hill	665-0533	Newsletter (eisbruchs@gmail.com)
Anne Karabakal	2405 Bunker Hill	669-2084	Webmaster
Jerry Schulte	3334 Yellowstone	668-2590	Welcome to Neighborhood Coordinator
Amy Seetoo	3111 Cedarbrook	332-0390	
Joe Trulik	2529 Bunker Hill	761-5561	
Jane Klingsten	2750 Georgetown	369-2348	
Jack Cederquist	2145 Ardenne	665-2282	

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Christopher Taylor (Mayor)	794-6165	CTaylor@a2gov.org
Kathy Griswold (Council Member, Ward 2)	657-7900	KGriswold@a2gov.org
Linh Song (Council Member, Ward 2)	210-1396	LSong@a2gov.org

How do I get on the neighborhood email list? go to www.ohmha.org/contact

How do I get on the neighborhood watch list? email gjagst@gmail.com

How to "like" the OHMHA Facebook page? <https://www.facebook.com/ohmhaneighborhood/>

OHMHA
2080 Yorktown
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
www.ohmha.org

**Thank you to everyone
who supported us in
2020-2021. Pay your
2021-2022 dues today
via the dues form in
this newsletter or via
paypal
(paypal.me/OHMHA)**



NEWSLETTER

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