



# ORCHARD HILLS-MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

[www.ohmha.org](http://www.ohmha.org)

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**OHMHA NEWSLETTER**

**September 2018**

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## Join Your Neighbors at the Fall Festival on Sunday, Sept. 30



**WHO:** Residents of the Orchard Hills, Maplewood, and Bromley neighborhoods, and Friends of the Thurston Nature Center are invited!

**WHEN:** Sunday, Sept. 30, 2018, from 12:00-4:00 pm (rain or shine).

**WHERE:** On Yorktown Drive at the grassy area by Thurston Pond and parking lot next to OHAC pool.

**SPONSORSHIP:** Sponsored by the Orchard Hills-Maplewood Homeowners Association (OHMHA) along with support from the Thurston Nature Center, Orchard Hills Athletic Club (OHAC), Bromley Neighborhood, and our local schools.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Delicious Eatables and Drinks; Cider, donuts, and apples for all our neighbors to enjoy, courtesy of OHMHA.
- Once again our favorite eagle, hawk, and owl will be on hand for a Wildlife Demonstration presented by Francie Krawke of Michigan Avian Experience.
- A variety of musical acts.
- Critters From the Pond - live interactive presentation of some of our aquatic wildlife at Thurston Pond.
- Presentations and literature available from your local neighborhood organizations.
- Many more activities and games. We look forward to seeing you! ■



# Great Summer and New Logo for OHAC Swimming 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.

Orchard Hills Athletic Club has enjoyed another great summer season in 2018. At OHAC pool, we have received positive feedback regarding the new Shade Sail and replastering of the pool. At Dolfin pool, we have worked hard to continue to improve the facilities, including new paint, mirrors, showerheads, and faucets in the bathhouse and we will upgrade pump-room plumbing this fall. Members have also enjoyed a busy schedule of social events, from potlucks to Wine-Down parties to evening swims. We also appreciated feedback received at our annual Community meeting in July, and have already responded by increasing lap swimming opportunities at Dolfin. Most importantly, we are grateful to the community for responding with another high year of membership!

In terms of programs, our swim and dive team finished the dual meet season with a 4-1 record, and finished 6th out of 18 teams at the WISC championships- the highest finish in at least a decade. This means we will be moving up to "A" Division next summer- an exciting new opportunity for our growing team. Synchronized Swimming completed an excellent neighborhood show in early August, and Masters Swimming and Water Polo continue to draw a dedicated group of participants. Yoga has been a successful addition to our programs this year that we hope to bring back.

We thank the neighborhood for their continued support of these two pools, and especially thank those neighbors who volunteer to sustain them! Email us anytime with questions or suggestions at [info@ohacpool.org](mailto:info@ohacpool.org). ■

## ***Pool Hosts June 6 Neighborhood Event***

*Thanks to everyone who joined for the OHMHA Annual General Meeting on June 6, 2018.*

*Our special guest speaker was Josie Parker, director of the Ann Arbor District Library (see photo at right).*

*The OHMHA Neighborhood board thanks the OHAC Pool for hosting this annual neighborhood meeting, it made for a fun time and great atmosphere. ■*



*A fresh new logo for OHAC Pools.*



# Bluett Traffic Calming Update

- by Jack Cederquist

Residents of Bluett will know that there was sufficient resident interest in traffic calming on Bluett that a City-led Traffic Calming Project was begun. The project is now complete. The project followed a multi-step, City established process that includes several on-site public meetings with interested residents. During the Project, various traffic calming devices and locations were suggested and discussed. It should be no surprise that, for any specific device and location, resident input varied from "yes, let's do it, " to "no way is that a good idea! "

A plan of proposed traffic calming was put to a survey and vote of Bluett residents and, while it did not obtain sufficient support to be adopted, the vote did indicate support for parts of the plan. This resulted in a further, revised traffic calming plan which was put to a survey and vote of Bluett residents. The result of the vote is that no further action will be taken with respect to the petition for traffic calming on Bluett. To see the full results, google "City of Ann Arbor Traffic Calming." On the page that you get, scroll down to see info on the "Bluett (Nixon to Yellowstone)" project.

In summary, of the 101 homeowners asked to participate in the survey and vote, only 55% did, and that does not meet the City process requirement of 60%. It should be noted that of the 56 responses received, 68% supported the entire revised plan and that does meet the City requirement of 60% support. However, the project must meet both criteria and it did not. The City engineer, Luke Liu, can be contacted with further questions at 734-794-6000, ext. 43637 or at [YLiu@a2gov.org](mailto:YLiu@a2gov.org).



Independently of the Bluett traffic calming project just discussed, City of Ann Arbor staff publicized and held a public meeting, on the sidewalk at the intersection of Bluett Road and Antietam Drive, on Thursday, August 16 to inform local residents, especially the eight residents living nearest the intersection, of three options for implementing a crosswalk at that intersection.

After giving some background information and explaining the options, City staff took questions from the approximately 40 residents in attendance. The options were two different versions of a street bumpout at the intersection or implementing a no parking zone along the south side of Bluett at and near the intersection. City staff organized a vote on the three options with a fourth option, "do nothing" added as requested by those present. About 80% of votes cast were for "do nothing" with the two bumpout options receiving three votes each. As of August 28, the City has decided to put any changes at this intersection on hold for at least one, and possibly two, years. ■

## Welcome to the Neighborhood Initiative

OHMHA has the "Welcome to the Neighborhood" initiative to make it easier for new families to find out more information about our neighborhood and to make them 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 links. If you are aware of a new neighbor moving in, please contact an OHMHA Board Member (see list on back of newsletter) with a street address so that we can make sure that we include them in this initiative. ■

# Thurston Nature Center News

- by Elizabeth Moorehead

## Project Update: AAPS Water Main

Earlier this summer, Ann Arbor Public Schools began a major project along the southern corridor of the Nature Center. The large project began just off Renfrew/Prairie Street, and went into the Nature Center through the prairie and woods, cutting across the Thurston/Clague and Conboy Paths before going into the grassy area towards the elementary school.

This project was done for the safety of students at Thurston Elementary, some of whom now have classes in the modulares on the back side of the school. Per code requirements of having a fire hydrant accessible in case of emergency in the portable classrooms, the District has completed its project within the boundaries of the Nature Center. There is grass seed and straw scattered along the southern edge. A special thank you to Physical Property Director Emile Lauzzana for working with the Committee. If you have any further questions or concerns about any of this project please contact me at: [elizabeth.e.morehead@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.e.morehead@gmail.com)

## Coming Soon to the Thurston Nature Center

- Fall Festival, Sept 30, 2018, noon-four. Please come check out our table featuring information on the Nature Center, the 2018-19 Calendar, and two programs launching this fall. We are also hoping to have something special for the kids!
- The last informational kiosk will be installed and trails (Conboy and Clague/Thurston) re-established in the southern portion of the Nature Center.
- DTE will be back to finish clearing the area along the lines in the Oak/Hickory woods.
- Restoration Committee for Prairie and South Woods, October 2018.

## New and Noteworthy

- The New Shed is in! It is already doing a fine job of housing our supplies and tools.
- New Signs are everywhere! Trail Signs-a special thank you to the Clague Girl Scout Troop who have diligently worked on those. Safety signs-thank you to Liz Margolis and the District.
- Information kiosks - many thanks to Isaac Brooks.
- An existing trail was reopened thanks to Eagle Scout Robert Morton.
- #Do1Thing. At the Fall Festival please check out our calendar and interest survey. Please consider the #Do1Thing (or more) this next year as we kick off with some special events and the ever needed maintenance to keep the Thurston Nature Center looking great.■



*New information kiosks at Thurston Nature Center.*

# Nixon Road Developments and Traffic Flow Update

- by Jack Cederquist

As we all know, traffic on Nixon Road continues to increase, residents and commuters using Nixon experience delays at peak morning and evening traffic hours, and residents needing to access Nixon, sometimes unavoidably as it is the only outlet of their street, can find it difficult to make a left turn onto Nixon. The two additional housing developments on Nixon Road between Dhu Varren and the M-14/US-23 overpass will bring increased traffic in the coming years.

The City has undertaken two traffic studies of Nixon Road. The result of the most recent study was presented to the public on June 7, 2018. The plan included a possible five additional roundabouts on Nixon between Huron Parkway and the M-14 overpass. The reaction of those residents in attendance was mixed.

There is support for, and opposition to, each and every roundabout and location. The City instituted a survey about the possible plan with a deadline to respond of July 29, 2018. As of this writing, survey results are not yet available, but many public comments during and immediately after the meeting, along with much other information, are available at:

<https://www.a2gov.org/departments/engineering/Pages/Nixon-Corridor-Improvement-Project.aspx>



*Roundabout at Nixon / Green / Dhu Varren has helped the traffic flow.*

Any current plan is not final. There is time for significant discussion between residents and the City. Funding for any construction is at least a few years away. When the results of the survey are available, interested residents need to study them carefully and be involved in the discussions with the City that must follow.

## Rainbow Childcare Center Proposal

Yet another issue that affects traffic on Nixon Road is the proposed Rainbow Child Care Center, to be located at the site of the former Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, immediately south of Clague Middle School. Since the site is zoned single family residential, the Rainbow Child Care owner needs a Special Exception Use for a Child Care Center to be approved by the City of Ann Arbor Planning Commission.



The Planning Commission considered this petition at their August 21, 2018 meeting. Numerous community leaders spoke in the public comment section of the meeting.

In the following discussion, Planning Commission members were concerned about additional traffic and student safety while also recognizing the positive of the provision of additional local childcare. Planning Commission asked for more complete and up to date traffic information, both from City staff and the petitioner, suggested that the AAPS and the petitioner coordinate to address safety concerns, and voted to postpone a decision to a future meeting. The date of that meeting was not determined. ■

# Mayoral and City Council Candidates participate in Traverwood forum, interrupted by protest

- by Peter Mooney

On July 15, 2018, the Orchard Hills Maplewood Homeowners Association (OHMHA), as it has for over a decade, hosted a candidates' forum featuring Mayor Christopher Taylor, running for reelection, and challenger Jack Eaton as well as 2nd Ward incumbent Kirk Westphal and challenger Kathy Griswold. The event was in anticipation of the August 7 Democratic primary in which all four candidates were running.

The forum was held at the Traverwood library branch's common room before an overflowing crowd in excess of 100 that filled all available chairs with many people standing along the walls and in the hallway. The forum began with 2nd Ward candidates Westphal and Griswold taking questions from the moderator, OHMHA secretary Peter Mooney, developed in consultation with the OHMHA board, followed by questions from the audience. After the 2nd Ward section was completed, the mayoral candidates discussed issues following the same format.

Among the topics debated by the candidates were the future of the library lot, with candidates Eaton and Griswold criticizing the 17-story Core Spaces proposal which includes office space and a hotel, and candidates Taylor and Westphal supporting the sale. Other issues raised during the forum included the Nixon road developments, traffic calming, the use of county funds from the mental health/public safety millage, and recent changes to the structure of city water rates.



*The Candidates Forum in July 2018 featured candidates for mayor and city council*

Just after the beginning of the mayoral portion of the forum, there was a surprise interruption as activists Blaine Coleman and Mozghan

Savahestafani burst into the room, chanted and held up signs relating to issues in the Middle East. This delayed the event for several minutes, and featured angry exchanges between the protesters and audience members. Eventually the library staff persuaded the protesters to leave. Library Director Josie Parker addressed the issue following the forum.

The election was held on August 7. Taylor was returned to office, defeating Jack Eaton 16,867 to 11,741. In a nail biter, Kathy Griswold defeated Westphal in the 2nd Ward race by 53 votes 2484 to 2431. The majority of OHMHA residents live in the 2nd Ward's 6th precinct (there are 9 precincts in the ward). Taylor won our neighborhood 503 to 312 for Eaton while Westphal received 445 votes to Griswold's 363 in the same precinct. The 6th Precinct had the highest overall turnout in the 2nd Ward.

As there are no other candidates on the November ballot, the August election assured that Taylor and Griswold will be elected to four-year terms.■

## Many Thanks to Our Volunteers

The OHMHA Board thanks resident Helen Fox for maintaining the Georgetown entrance garden this summer (it looks great!) and residents Vicki Botek, Kathy Borysko and Jody Linn for being a major part of our Newsletter distribution network, not only with this issue but with so many past issues.■

**Welcome New OHMHA  
Board Member Debbie Torch**

My husband, Ken Ishii, and I have lived in the neighborhood since 2011. Our son, Martin Torch-Ishii, served on the OHMHA board previously, so I guess my serving creates a dynasty! Both Ken and I are self-employed. Ken teaches cello; I teach violin and have a private practice as a speech and language pathologist. We enjoy many aspects of living in the neighborhood, especially meeting people from all over the world, having access to parks, and being able to walk/bike to many places. I look forward to working with my OHMHA board colleagues on behalf of the neighborhood.



**Welcome New OHMHA  
Board Member Dave Hibbs**

I moved to the Orchard Hills neighborhood in 1998 with my wife, Linda, and three kids, Derek, Ryan, and Jamie. I work in Ann Arbor as a civil engineering consultant.

Over the years we have been involved with the kid's schools, rec & ed sports, boy scouts, and the OHAC pool. I look forward to working with some new faces on the OHMHA board.



**ORCHARD HILLS - MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR June 1, 2018 - May 31, 2019**

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:

Nadine Wong, OHMHA Treasurer, 3092 Lexington, 48105

or

Pay OHMHA dues online via Paypal, see [www.ohmha.org](http://www.ohmha.org)

## **OHMHA BOARD MEMBERS**

Jack Cederquist	2145 Ardenne	665-2282	President
Greg Jagst	2080 Yorktown	846-6332	Vice President
Nadine Wong	3092 Lexington	222-1716	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	
Amy Seetoo	3111 Cedarbrook	332-0390	
Joe Trulick	2529 Bunker Hill		
Debbie Torch	3366 Bluett	369-1244	
Dave Hibbs	2196 Lexington	205-8993	
Wendy Carman	2340 Georgetown	761-8693	

## **ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES**

Christopher Taylor (Mayor)	794-6165	CTaylor@a2gov.org
Kirk Westphal (Council Member, Ward 2)	660-9955	KWestphal@a2gov.org
Jane Lumm (Council Member, Ward 2)	677-4010	JLumm@a2gov.org

How do I get on the neighborhood email list? go to [www.ohmha.org/contact](http://www.ohmha.org/contact)

How do I get on the neighborhood watch list? email [gjagst@gmail.com](mailto:gjagst@gmail.com)

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

OHMHA  
2145 Ardenne Drive  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
[www.ohmha.org](http://www.ohmha.org)

**Wondering if you paid your dues? Check the mailing label - if your name is listed, we thank you for your contribution for this fiscal year. If not, please consider contributing by using the attached form or online.**



# **NEWSLETTER**

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**ORCHARD HILLS-MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**

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