

# ORCHARD HILLS-MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

www.ohmha.org

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## OHMHA NEWSLETTER

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September 2012

Join Your Neighbors at the 6th annual



# Fall Festival Sunday, Oct. 14



WHO: Residents of the Orchard Hills and Maplewood neighborhoods are invited!

WHEN: Sunday, October 14, 2012, from 1-4:30 pm (rain or shine)

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

Highlights:

- Cider, donuts, and apples for all our neighbors to enjoy, courtesy of OHMHA
- Live **Critters from the Pond**, including Plankton - display by Neal Foster, Thurston Nature Center Committee
- "Hunters in the Sky," a **wildlife demonstration** presented by the **Leslie Science Center**. It will feature a bald eagle, that will be presented for the 6th year in a row; this event will start at 1:30pm
- A **Tree Tour** by Mike Conboy, Thurston Nature Center Land Steward, will enlighten participants with an interactive experience; tour will start between 3:30pm - 3:45pm.
- For a third year, we will have a bigger **RAFFLE DRAWING** for adults and children to promote our local businesses. Last year, over 160 items were given away by raffle drawing and this year we hope to reach out to even more businesses and offer more items to be given away; make sure you sign in to receive your complimentary raffle ticket! Items will be raffled throughout the afternoon.
- Musical entertainment will be offered again this year by local musicians.
- "Count What's in the Jar" game will offer prizes to the three closest guesses.
- Neighborhood Watch & OHMHA Membership materials will be available to those individuals interested



To volunteer in any of the above activities, please contact Greg Jagst at [gjagst@aol.com](mailto:gjagst@aol.com) or call (734) 846-6332 by Sept. 28 ■

## In this Issue:

- Fall Festival 2012 - pg 1
- Bench - pg 2
- New Entrance Signs - pg 2
- Neighborhood Safety Focus - pg 3
- Invasive Species Presentation - pg 4
- Plymouth Green Crossings - pg 5
- Garage Sale Success - pg 6
- Candidates Forum - pg 6
- Meet New Board Member - pg 7
- OHMHA on Facebook - pg 7
- Membership Form - pg 7

## Anita Jones Memorial Bench Fund

The Anita Jones Memorial Bench fund now has \$1130. Thank you to all who have contributed.

We would like to install a bench on the east bank of Thurston Pond this fall. Newly elected board member Jerry Schulte and former board member Neal Foster will work to complete this project. ■



## New Orchard Hills Signs at Georgetown Entrance

The old Orchard Hills signs were looking decidedly weathered.

Michigan sign painter Jerry Youmans made new, weather-resistant signs

Thanks to OHMMA Board member Jack Cederquist (pictured at right) who managed the project and installed the signs. We hope you like the new entrance look. ■



# Neighborhood Safety Focus

— by David Bizot

Let's look out for each other and make this neighborhood as safe as it can be.

A series of burglaries has been reported in the neighborhood. According to **crimemapping.com**, between July 19 and Aug. 8, three homes were burglarized, once each in the 3500 blocks of Yellowstone Drive, Richmond Court, and Gettysburg Road. While two of these home invasions occurred without forced entry, in one case a locked window was forced open while the residents were out of town.

Residents are reminded to lock their doors and windows when unattended, take precautions when leaving town (like putting lights on timers, arranging for mail pick-up, and notifying your neighbors), and report any suspicious activity to police.



To stay informed, there are two important things you can do:

1. **Subscribe to neighborhood block watch email notifications by contacting Greg Jagst at [gjagst@aol.com](mailto:gjagst@aol.com).**
2. Sign up for **crimemapping.com** (see below from that website).

**CRIMEMAPPING™.com**      [Map](#)   [Contact](#)   [Help](#)   [About](#)   [Sign Up](#)   [Omega](#)

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## SIGN UP AND RECEIVE CRIME ALERTS

*We'll send you community alerts and crime reports via Email*

**Note:** Be sure to add **do-not-reply@crimemapping.com** to your safe senders list.

<b>Step 1: Email Address</b>	Your Email address: <input type="text"/>
Enter the email address that the email alerts will be sent to.	Confirm Email address: <input type="text"/>
	Email Format: <input type="text" value="Formatted HTML"/>
Note: Your email address will not be shared with any third parties.	
<b>Step 2: Location of Interest</b>	Location: ex: 3rd Ave & Laurel St, San Diego CA

### HOW IT WORKS

When a crime occurs in your area we will send you an e-mail with a detailed **report** telling you exactly what crimes occurred and where they happen.

### YOUR PRIVACY

Your email address and

For the Ann Arbor Police Department's explanation of how crimemapping.com is used, see <http://www.a2gov.org/government/safetyservices/Police/Pages/CrimeMaps.aspx>

## **Invasive Species Presentation at June 1st OHMHA Annual General Meeting – by Jack Cederquist**

Dave Borneman, Natural Area Preservation manager for the City of Ann Arbor, gave an excellent presentation on invasive species on June 1, 2012. He began with a historical look at the Ann Arbor landscape. Before the arrival of European settlers, the landscape consisted of large oaks, widely spaced, with grassy areas between them. Travel through the landscape was not obstructed by shrubs or fallen trees. This native ecosystem was maintained for thousands of years by means of fires set by the resident native Americans. They desired a landscape suitable for hunting small game. Mr. Borneman illustrated this point with quotes from settlers of the early 1800s describing the beautiful landscape in the Ann Arbor area. In the early 1800s, Europeans introduced plants from Europe and did not continue the practice of setting fires. Some of these plants, e.g., buckthorn, garlic mustard and purple loosestrife, were not controlled either by man or nature and grew extensively in the landscape, resulting in the invasive species problem we have today.



**Buckthorn in Sugarbush Park**

Mr. Borneman continued by explaining that, in Ann Arbor parks, the Natural Area Preservation department seeks to return them to their previous state, the native ecosystem. They do this by a combination of controlled burning, introduction of insects that eat undesired plants (an example is the effective control of purple loosestrife by a beetle), physical removal and careful use of herbicides. Areas with invasive plants can be categorized as those that are heavily infested, areas that are at the boundary of the spread of the infestation and those in which only a very few invasives are present, so called “satellite infestations.”

Mr. Borneman stressed that the most effective approach is to remove the satellite infestations first, then attempt to push the invasive boundary back a small amount each year. This approach will keep the infestation from spreading. The less subtle approach, sometimes adopted by well-meaning groups and individuals, of first attacking the heavy infestation usually results simply in the regrowth of the infestation the following year.

The audience asked many questions after the presentation. In response to a question about control of invasives in the Thurston Nature Center forest, Mr. Borneman noted that, while controlled burning might reduce invasive species, the goal of the Nature Center is not to become a native “oak openings” ecosystem. Instead, the Nature Center serves an educational purpose and contains many different types of trees planted over many years, some of which may be harmed by fire. The Nature Center is however starting an oak savannah just south of Thurston Pond in an attempt to establish a native ecosystem area. ■

**For more information on invasive species visit:**

- [mipn.org](http://mipn.org)
- [www.stewardshipnetwork.org](http://www.stewardshipnetwork.org)
- [www.a2gov.org/government/publicservices/fieldoperations/NAP/Pages/NaturalAreaPreservation.aspx](http://www.a2gov.org/government/publicservices/fieldoperations/NAP/Pages/NaturalAreaPreservation.aspx)

Dave Borneman can be reached at [dborneman@a2gov.org](mailto:dborneman@a2gov.org)  
The Natural Area Preservation department of the City of Ann Arbor is funded by the 2007-2012 Park Maintenance and Capital Improvements millage. ■

# Changes Proposed for Plymouth Green Crossings

– by David Bizot

Changes are planned for the Plymouth Green Crossings development located on Plymouth Road at Green Road. The site developer is proposing changes to the design that was originally approved by the city. The original plan for this site called for three mixed-use buildings, along with a free-standing bank and restaurant. Two of the mixed-use buildings and the bank were built, but the developer delayed construction of the remaining buildings due to market conditions.

The developer is now proposing to delete the planned restaurant and leave that portion of the parcel as surface parking, as it is presently. The developer is also asking for some flexibility as to what is allowed on the first floor of the final mixed-use building (“Building A”). This floor was originally approved for retail, but they want to have the option to use it instead as either “flex space” for retail or special events, or, more likely, for 17 interior ground-level



parking spaces. Nothing else about future Building A will change from the original approval; there will be 12 residential units on the 2nd and 3rd floors, similar to the buildings already built. The existing buildings also will remain unaffected by the proposal.



**Building C tenants now include Sweetwaters and Anytime Fitness.**

The developer, Midwestern Consulting, LLC, held a lightly attended, on-site public meeting on June 6, 2012 to discuss these changes. The developer has indicated they would like to move forward with construction later this year, as the existing residential units are fully leased and they have a

waiting list.

For more info, including a drawing of the plan, see the writeup at <http://www.annarbor.com/business-review/plymouth-green-crossings-developer-drops-plans-for-restaurant-but-looks-to-add-more-apartments/>

The city needs to approve any changes to the site and is currently reviewing the proposal; interested residents can follow the project’s status via the city’s eTRAKiT system (<http://etrakit.azgov.org/etrakit2/>). It is project SP12-021. ■



**Building A will be constructed on the existing pilings, some of which are visible at left.**

# Neighborhood Garage Sale a Success

– by Jack Cederquist

Fifty homes, or about ten percent of the Orchard Hills - Maplewood area, participated in the May 2012 Neighborhood Garage Sale. An informal survey of those who participated indicated that all considered the event a success.

Comments, in addition to those about good sale results, included these:

*“The sale encouraged us to rid ourselves of unneeded items.”*

*“The sale gave us the opportunity to meet, or renew friendships with, our neighbors.”*



Many felt an old-fashioned sense of community and encouraged the OHMHA Board to continue this neighborhood tradition in future years.

OHMHA will therefore advertise and post signs for the event again next year. Suggestions for improvement include one house on each block hosting the garage sale to draw more buyers, advertising on the new OHMHA Facebook page and avoiding the Picnic Pops and Prom weekends.■

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## Candidates Forum Well Attended

- by Peter Mooney

OHMHA hosted a candidates’ forum featuring 2nd Ward incumbent Tony Derezinski and challenger Sally Hart Petersen on July 31 at the Traverwood library branch.

The discussion included sharp disagreement over the proposed Fuller Road transit center, with Derezinski supporting the plan for the center proposed by Mayor John Hiefe and Petersen suggesting that improvements could be focused on the existing train station on Depot. Other issues included the crosswalk on Green Road, AATA county-wide expansion and the appropriate size of the police and fire departments.



Over 50 individuals attended the forum – many of whom offered questions for the candidates. Petersen won the Democratic primary on August 7, and is unopposed in November’s general election. ■

**Meet New Board  
Member  
Jerry Schulte**

My wife, Claire, and I have lived on Yellowstone for 18 years. We have four sons. Our oldest two are starting their sophomore year in college and we have a son at Huron and Thurston. Our family enjoys this neighborhood very much.

I work for the University of Michigan in their capital projects delivery group. The last ten years has been an exciting time of growth on campus.

I look forward to serving on the OHMHA Board.



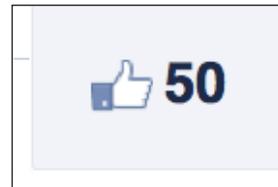
**“Like” OHMHA on Facebook**

The OHMHA Board is happy to announce our new Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ohmhaneighborhood](http://www.facebook.com/ohmhaneighborhood).

If you are a Facebook user, give this page a “LIKE” in order to keep up with the latest neighborhood news.

Thanks to the residents who encouraged the board to get going with social media.

As of August 2012, the OHMHA Facebook page had 50 “LIKES”.



**ORCHARD HILLS ~ MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR JUNE 1, 2012 ~ MAY 31, 2013**

(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**

Peter Mooney	3352 Yellowstone	213-0440	President
Greg Jagst	2080 Yorktown	846-6332	Vice President
Wendy Carman	2340 Georgetown	761-8693	Treasurer
Phil Savage	3304 Bluett	994-6560	Secretary
David Bizot	3359 Yellowstone	240-888-3295	
Henry Brysk	3032 Cedarbrook	369-2986	
Jack Cederquist	2145 Ardenne	665-2282	
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	
Rabia Shafie	3325 Bluett Dr	668-6430	

## **ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES**

John Hieftje (Mayor)		794-6161	jhieftje@a2gov.org
Tony Derezinski (Council Member, Ward 2)	1345 Glendaloch Cir.	995-2686	TDerezinski@a2gov.org
Jane Lumm (Council Member, Ward 2)	3075 Override Drive	677-4010	JLumm@a2gov.org

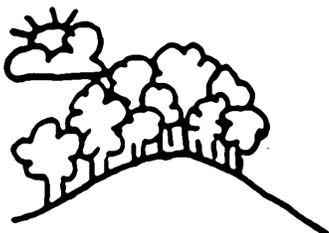
**Question: How do I get on the OHMHA email list? Answer: email [wjcarman@umich.edu](mailto:wjcarman@umich.edu)**

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

## **OHMHA**

**3352 Yellowstone  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105  
[www.ohmha.org](http://www.ohmha.org)**

**You're invited to:  
OHMHA Board Meeting,  
Tues., Sept. 11 at 7:30 pm at  
Clague School Media Center**



# **NEWSLETTER**

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**ORCHARD HILLS-MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**

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