

ORCHARD HILLS-MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

www.ohmha.org

OHMHA NEWSLETTER

September 2014



Join Your Neighbors at the 8th annual

Fall Festival Sunday, Sept. 28

WHO: Residents of the Orchard Hills, Maplewood and Bromley neighborhoods, and Thurston School families are invited!

WHEN: Sunday, Sept 28, 2014, from 12:00-4:30 pm (rain or shine)

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

SPONSORSHIP: This year, in addition to the continuing participation of the Thurston Nature Center and OHAC, Bromley and the Thurston PTO will be participating. Welcome!

Highlights:

- Cider, donuts, and apples for all our neighbors to enjoy, courtesy of OHMHA (donations will be accepted at food table to help defer cost of festival)
- Live **Critters from the Pond**
- "Hunters in the Sky," a **wildlife demonstration** presented by the **Leslie Science Center**. This event will start at 1:45pm.
- A **Tree Labeling Ceremony** at 3:00pm followed by a **Tree Tour** by Mike Conboy, Thurston Nature Center Land Steward, at 3:45pm.
- A **RAFFLE DRAWING** for adults and children to promote our local businesses. 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.
- More cool activities and literature available from your neighborhood organizations.■



Neighborhood Entrances Looking Sharp

Thanks to Recent Efforts

Appreciation to all who helped with the improvements to the neighborhood entrances at Maplewood/Burbank (left, after being replanted in May 2014) and Plymouth/Georgetown (right, flourishing after relandscaping in Spring 2013). ■



WE INVITE YOU TO STAY IN TOUCH !

- **To join the OHMHA email list, email wjcarman@umich.edu**
- **To join the neighborhood watch list, email gjagst@aol.com**
- **LIKE OHMHA on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ohmhaneighborhood>**
- **To join the Thurston Nature Center list, go to thurstonnaturecenter.org and click "Join Email List"**

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Meet New Board Member Nadine Wong

My husband Jerry, daughter Claire (3) and I have lived on Lexington Drive since 2007. With a small child, our family is increasingly enjoying the wonderful aspects of the neighborhood and looking forward to serving the community and bringing a young family's perspective to the board. ■



Meet New Board Member Martin Torch-Ishii

I moved to Maplewood with my wife Jenny in 2013. We absolutely love the neighborhood and look forward to meeting other residents.

I am a professional cellist. I perform through my home concert series, organize a summer camp for cellists called Cellovation, teach private lessons from our home, and perform in a non-classical duo with a violinist. Jenny is a second year resident at the UM health care system and also enjoys art and writing.

I look forward to serving on the OHMHA Board and hope to meet you soon! ■



Would you like to Volunteer for OHMHA?

Then distributing the OHMHA Newsletter is an easy way to do that! Kathy Borysko and Vicki Botek helped distribute our recent newsletter, so a big thank you to them! Contact OHMHA Vice-President Greg Jagst (gjagst@gmail.com) to volunteer. You can do just a single street in your neighborhood, or more if you are willing, and maybe meet some new neighbors and, at the same time, save OHMHA postage costs. ■

Note on OHMHA Dues

If you have paid your annual dues of \$20 (due 1 June each year), your OHMHA Newsletter should arrive with your correct address on the label. If you haven't yet paid, the label will say simply "Resident."

This should be a convenient way for you to determine whether or not you have paid for the year. Although payment of annual dues is voluntary, the Board hopes you'll agree that in turn OHMHA provides useful benefits: the Fall Festival, Candidates' Nights, landscaping at the Plymouth-Georgetown and Green-Bluett entrances, Garage Sales coordination, the Newsletter, Community Forum and more.

The Board is also in the process of addressing the crumbling brick and wood structures at the Plymouth-Georgetown entrance. We aim for a cost-effective solution that also reflects neighbors inputs, but any solution will require significant expenditure. Look for more information at this year's Fall Festival! ■

Candidates Forum Helps Keep Neighbors Informed

-by Peter Mooney

On July 14, 2014, OHMHA celebrated Bastille Day not by storming the county jail, but instead by hosting a forum at the Traverwood library branch featuring 2nd Ward city council Democratic candidates Kirk Westphal and Nancy Kaplan.

The two candidates were competing in the Democratic primary to fill a seat vacated by Sally Hart Petersen, who has served a two year term, and who decided this year to run for mayor rather than seek reelection. All of the homes within OHMHA are in the 2nd Ward.

Forty to fifty people attended the forum, which was covered by both the Ann Arbor News and Ann Arbor Chronicle. Among the issues discussed were the possibility of a train station in or around Fuller Park, and the proposed development southwest and northwest of Dhu Varren and Nixon.

Kaplan expressed concern about using part of Fuller Park for a train station, and indicated that she opposed the Tolls Brothers development at Dhu Varren and Nixon. Westphal argued that the current train station was inadequate and, without stating where a new one should be built, emphasized that replacing the current station was a priority. On the proposed Dhu Varren/Nixon

development, he indicated that the density levels in the project appeared to meet the city requirements but encouraged residents to engage the developer regarding their concerns about its potential impacts.

On August 5, 2014 Westphal won the Democratic primary and, as there are no Republican or independent candidates running in November, he is the presumptive winner of the open seat. According to the city's website, Westphal won precinct 6, which contains our Association, 262 to 200. ■



Michigan 55th House District Rep. Adam Zemke speaks at OHMHA Annual Meeting

At his talk to the OHMHA Annual General Meeting at Thurston School on June 6, 2014, State Representative Adam Zemke highlighted the status of State budget and appropriations, commuter rail development, fracking regulations, road repair and the Detroit bailout. A first-term representative (elected in 2012), Zemke serves on the House appropriations committee. Within that committee, he is on the joint capital outlay, community colleges and education subcommittees.

An interested group of about 16 homeowners attended the meeting and engaged Representative Zemke in discussions on many issues. He is always open to communication with residents of the 55th House District. You can contact Adam Zemke or sign up for email updates at his website:
<http://055.housedems.com/> ■



Michigan House Rep. Adam Zemke

Anita Jones Memorial Bench

We hope you've seen the Anita Jones bench overlooking Thurston Pond. It's on the trail on the east side of the pond, just north of OHAC. Anita Jones was a tireless supporter of our neighborhood and a long-time member of the OHMHA Board. She would be honored to know that neighbors responded to our fundraising appeal and contributed most generously to the funding of this bench.

Contributions from donors totaled \$830; the bench and installation cost \$885. Therefore \$55 of the \$300 allocated from the OHMHA budget was spent, and the remaining \$245 was returned to the operating fund. ■



Thurston Nature Center News

- by Frank Commiskey

New Chair of The Thurston Nature Center Committee (TNCC)

After three years of outstanding leadership, Colin Brooks recently stepped down as chair of the TNCC. While we will certainly miss his governance we know that Colin, along with his wife Margaret, will continue to be dedicated and active contributors to the TNCC. Thank you Colin for all your hard work and guidance. Frank Commiskey has been appointed as the new Chair.

Thurston Pond & Wetland Restoration Project - Status

As many of you are aware we have been trying for many years to restore the health of the Thurston Pond ecosystem, which is the major aquatic feature of the Thurston Nature Center (TNC). While some in our community had lost hope, a few long term and committed volunteers have persevered and continued the effort required to restore the pond's health in a manner which would be consistent with the founding goals and intended use of the TNC.

The Thurston Nature Center Committee is pleased to report that the AAPS has issued a contract to Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. (ECT) for the "Detailed Engineering Stage" of the project. With the help of your donations and the wonderful support from the AAPS we are able to continue making progress.

We are planning to complete the engineering effort this year, and if we are able to raise the needed funds complete the construction work next summer.

Please join the Thurston Nature Center list to stay informed! Just go to **thurstonnaturecenter.org** and click "Join Email List"

The William Stapp Amphitheatre

Many thanks to Scott Morton and the Boy Scouts of America Troop 1 for their magnificent work in repairing and renovating our Thurston Nature Center amphitheater. The scouts have a long history of helping to restore the Nature Center (most recently - North Prairie clearing and planting), and Scott's execution of his Eagle Scout Service Project, without exception, reflects the continued excellence one can expect from their service. Scott and his troop deserves all the "kudos" in the world. Thanks again Scott.

The amphitheater will be dedicated as the William Stapp Amphitheatre on Sept. 28, 2014. Bill Stapp was instrumental in providing the leadership required to develop the Thurston Nature Center, which resulted in national recognition for him and the school district in 1967.



Thurston Nature Center News (continued)

GREEN-STEAM Program at Thurston Elementary School

STEAM education is an approach to teaching and learning that integrates the content and skills of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. It is an interdisciplinary approach to learning where rigorous academic concepts are coupled with real-world lessons as students apply these subjects in contexts that make connections between school, community, work, and the global enterprise. At Thurston Elementary School, we will be "Greening" STEAM.

The environment is a compelling context for teaching STEAM as it provides teachers a diverse range of challenges that engage students in explorative (hands on) opportunities. The Thurston Nature Center will be the portal for GREEN-STEAM learning.

Stay tuned for more information and activities, and give a holler if you want to get involved and participate in its implementation!

Tree Labeling

Ann Arbor's "Tree Town" nickname stems from the dense forestation of its parks and residential areas. Supporting this conception, at the Thurston Nature Center the Conboy Family has been planting and rescuing our trees for approximately 50 years! Mike Conboy has planted at least one of each of the major Michigan Trees. There are now 68 "native" trees documented, identified (GPS coordinates), and featured in our Nature Center. With the donations and leadership of Emily Eisbruch, Mike and the community have already labeled 30 trees.

We plan to label additional trees by this coming fall, including at a Tree Labeling Ceremony at the Fall Festival on Sunday, Sept. 28, 2014. ■

We urge neighbors to pay their dues, to help support OHMHA activities, including the Fall Festival, Candidates Forums, & maintaining the image and attractiveness of our neighborhood entrances.

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
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	
Rabia Shafie	3325 Bluett Dr	668-6430	
Martin Torch-Ishii	3366 Bluett	474-1249	
Nadine Wong	3092 Lexington	222-1716	
Frank Commiskey	2647 Antietam Ct	369-0992	

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

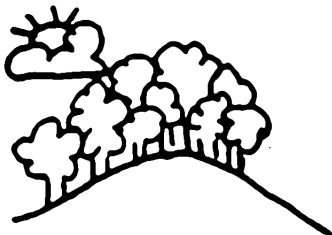
OHMHA

3352 Yellowstone

Ann Arbor, MI 48105

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**You're invited to:
OHMHA Board Meeting,
Tues., Sept. 9, 2014
at 7:00 pm at Clague
School Media Center**



NEWSLETTER

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