

# ORCHARD HILLS-MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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

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## OHMHA NEWSLETTER

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September 2015



**Join Your Neighbors at the 9th annual**

# Fall Festival Sunday, Sept. 27

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

**WHEN:** Sunday, Sept 27, 2015, from 12:00-4:30 pm (rain or shine).

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

**SPONSORSHIP:** Sponsored by the Orchard Hills Neighborhood Association (OHMHA) along with the Thurston Nature Center, Orchard Hills Athletic Club (OHAC Pools), and Bromley Neighborhood.

### Highlights:

- Cider, donuts, and apples for all our neighbors to enjoy, courtesy of OHMHA (donations will be accepted at food table to help defer the cost of the festival)
- "Hunters in the Sky," a **wildlife demonstration** presented by the River Raisin Raptor Center. This event will start at 1:30pm.
- 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. ■



# Thurston Nature Center Update

Thurston Nature Center Pond and Wetland Restoration began during the summer and is moving along steadily. Here are ways to keep in touch and stay informed:

- Keep up with the progress of the Pond and Wetland restoration by visiting this blog:  
<https://thurstonnaturecenter.wordpress.com/>
- Join the Thurston Nature Center E-Newsletter -- to get on the newsletter list, email [frank@thurstonnaturecenter.org](mailto:frank@thurstonnaturecenter.org)
- Check out all the endorsements, sponsors, and photos on our Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/ThurstonNatureCenter>
- Visit the Thurston Nature Center website at <http://www.thurstonnaturecenter.org>



*Impressive equipment for the pond and wetland restoration.*

## **WE INVITE YOU TO STAY IN TOUCH !**

- **To join the OHMHA email list, email [martin.torchishii@gmail.com](mailto:martin.torchishii@gmail.com)**
- **To join the neighborhood watch list, email [gjagst@aol.com](mailto:gjagst@aol.com)**
- **LIKE OHMHA on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ohmhaneighborhood>**
- **To join the Thurston Nature Center list, go to [thurstonnaturecenter.org](http://thurstonnaturecenter.org)**

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# Fantastic Summer at OHAC Pools, but Finances Remain a Concern

*-by Bo Bunnell*

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

Another memorable summer at OHAC pools has ended. If you didn't happen to swim in one of our warm, heated, neighborhood pools this summer, we hope that you'll consider it for next season. We have several highlights to share. First, our swim and dive team had an undefeated 5-0 regular season under first-year head swim-coach and long-time neighbor, Doug Wood, and returning head dive-coach Madeline Merlino. We also finished 8th in the WISC conference, up from a 12th place finish in 2014. Our synchronized swimming team wowed the community with a great show in early August, and everyone was treated with free ice cream!



We had several fun social events over the summer with large turnouts, and even started a few new traditions including an Opening Day Parade through the neighborhood- led by an Ann Arbor City fire truck. We also had several successful programs that drew members and non-members alike to Dolphin Pool- including Master's swimming, Water Polo classes, and Water Aerobics. Even after the pool closes, OHAC is still the place to be. September will bring our 2nd annual Dog Swim to OHAC pool, followed by our annual participation in the OHMHA Fall Festival.

Over the winter, the OHAC Board has several important goals to accomplish, including attaining 501c3 status and developing a long-term vision to share with the community as we embark on a 2016 fund-raising campaign. As we described in our two community meetings in 2015, the finances of the pools have been dwindling over the past five years as a result of needed investments to the 50+ year-old pools and declining membership revenue. These financial considerations will influence the long-term vision the Board develops. Please feel free to follow our website [www.ohacpool.org](http://www.ohacpool.org) for more information or email [ohacpool@gmail.com](mailto:ohacpool@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns. ■

## Friendly Reminder: Please Pay Your OHMHA Dues

Although payment of annual dues of \$20 is voluntary, the OHMHA Board hopes you'll agree that in return OHMHA provides useful benefits: the upcoming Fall Festival and Ward 2 candidates' forum, landscaping at the Plymouth-Georgetown and Green-Bluett entrances, Garage Sale advertising and signage, this Newsletter, a planned 2016 Community Forum and more.

To make dues paying more convenient, you can now pay your dues online securely via PayPal at our website: <http://www.ohmha.org>.

If you have paid your annual dues of \$20 (due 1 June each year), your OHMHA Newsletter should arrive with your name and address on the label. If you haven't paid, the label will say simply "Resident." Thus, the address on your newsletter should be a convenient way for you to determine whether or not you have paid for the year. ■

# Candidates Forum on Oct. 11, 2015 Features Lumm and Petersen

*-by Peter Mooney*

Although contested city council elections in November are becoming nearly as rare as unicorn sightings, this year one of our neighborhood's two representatives will be chosen in the late fall rather than the late summer primary. And, as in past years, OHMHA is sponsoring a forum between the 2nd Ward candidates, which will take place on Sunday, October 11 at 4:00 pm at the Traverwood library branch.

Our ward's race is arguably the most watched city election this year. In addition to being Ann Arbor's only contested November race, the two candidates have both served as 2nd Ward representatives, currently or in the past. Incumbent councilmember Jane Lumm won election in 2011 as an independent, having previously held office in the 1990s. Her challenger, Democratic candidate Sally Hart Petersen, served alongside Lumm from 2012-2014 in the council seat currently held by Kirk Westphal.

Both candidates have campaign websites. Lumm's site ([janelumm.org](http://janelumm.org)) emphasizes her support for a greater focus on infrastructure, public safety and parks over discretionary spending. Petersen's site ([www.a2sally.com](http://www.a2sally.com)) also focuses on services to residents, while proposing that Ann Arbor create a strategic fiscal plan and engage in more dialogue with the public schools and University around quality of life issues.

At the October 11 forum, there will be questions from the board about issues affecting our neighborhood and the city as a whole. We will then open the floor to written questions from the audience. We hope that you can attend, and will have questions at the ready. ■



***City Council Member Jane Lumm (left) and challenger Sally Petersen (right) will share their views at the Candidates Forum on Sunday, Oct. 11 at 4pm.***

# Ward 2 City Council Member Kirk Westphal speaks at OHMHA Annual General Meeting

*-by Jack Cederquist*

The OHMHA Annual General Meeting was held at Thurston School on June 5th, the evening of the Thurston Ice Cream Social. The meeting provides an opportunity for residents to vote both for the 2015-2016 budget and for Board members. OHMHA Board President Jack Cederquist began the meeting by reviewing OHMHA activities in the past year including a Candidates' Forum, the Fall Festival, the Community Forum and the Neighborhood Garage Sale. All of these events are also being planned for this coming year. Jack alerted those present to two emerging issues: one is recent vandalism and auto thefts in our neighborhood, the other is the possibility that City Council will consider zoning changes that would increase the likelihood of additional homes in our neighborhood being occupied by other than single families.

Council Member Westphal began by discussing issues such as the City budget, high density development, transportation and road repair. He then took questions on topics including the possibility of changing to non-partisan City elections, the status and future of the Nixon-Green-Dhu Varren intersection, the status of City Council consideration of the proposed housing developments on Nixon Road and how any additional needed infrastructure will be paid for, his position on higher density housing and what his decision-making principles are for City Council voting.

One question asked was how to report the knocked down pedestrian crossing signs on Green Road. The answer: When you see a problem that falls within the City's responsibility, report it using A2 Fix It - an app for Android devices and iPhones.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.a2gov.org/services/Pages/Report-a-Problem.aspx> ■



**City Council Member Kirk Westphal talked about budget, development and more at the OHMHA Annual General Meeting in June 2015.**

# Reducing Vandalism in our Area

*-by Jack Cederquist*

Although we live in a relatively low crime neighborhood, recently the neighborhood has experienced an alarming number of instances of vandalism at the Thurston Nature Center, Thurston School and Clague School as well as several thefts involving automobile wheels and tires.

## What you can do to help

- **Watch** for suspicious behavior of individuals and vehicles.
- **Report suspicious behavior and crime** to the police at 994-2911. The Ann Arbor Police Chief and both our City Council Members have encouraged us to report, so don't hesitate. The dispatcher will prioritize calls so you will not be delaying other emergency responses.
- **Make a formal report to the police of any crime** even if the police say it is not necessary. We need to have our reports in the official records.
- **Join our Neighborhood Watch email list** by contacting our Neighborhood Watch coordinator, Greg Jagst, at [gjagst@gmail.com](mailto:gjagst@gmail.com). Greg will not send you any email except to inform you of recent crime events in our neighborhood.
- **Email me**, your OHMHA Board President, at [john\\_cederquist@comcast.net](mailto:john_cederquist@comcast.net) of any crime you experience and of any ideas you have for reducing crime in our neighborhood. I can't help if I don't know. OHMHA Board representatives and interested residents are meeting monthly with the Ann Arbor Police, including with the new Police Services Specialist, Officer Jocelyn Haske, to coordinate efforts.
- Finally, as the police have reiterated, it is unlikely that a police patrol car will happen to see a crime being committed. The burden rests on the neighborhood to **be watchful and to report.** ■



# Brief Notes

## Many thanks to Wendy Carman for her work as OHMHA Treasurer

The Board extends its appreciation to OHMHA board member Wendy Carman who has served as Treasurer since 2006. Starting in Fall 2015, our new treasurer will be Martin Torch-Ishii.

## HVCN Decision to Close

The organization that has been the host for the OHMHA website and has provided us with mailing list services, Huron Valley Community Network (HVCN), has announced that they will no longer be providing these services as of November 2015. HVCN has been a wonderful resource, providing these services to community organizations at no cost. We are currently in the process of finding a new provider and are not expecting any interruption in the availability of OHMHA's website ([www.ohmha.org](http://www.ohmha.org)) or our ability to communicate with our neighbors via our email list.

## Developments on Nixon Road

Several OHMHA Board Members, led by Jack Cederquist, have been collaborating with other NE Neighborhood leaders to advocate for improvements to Nixon Road and other important issues related to proposed developments on Nixon. For more info, please contact Jack at [john\\_cederquist@comcast.net](mailto:john_cederquist@comcast.net)

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, 2015 ~ MAY 31, 2016

(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:** Martin Torch-Ishii, OHMHA Treasurer, 3366 Bluett, Ann Arbor 48105

**New Option:** You can now pay your dues online via PayPal at <http://www.ohmha.org>

### **OHMHA BOARD MEMBERS**

Jack Cederquist	2145 Ardenne	665-2282	President
Greg Jagst	2080 Yorktown	846-6332	Vice President
Martin Torch-Ishii	3366 Bluett	474-1249	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	668-6430	
Nadine Wong	3092 Lexington	222-1716	
Frank Commiskey	2647 Antietam Ct	369-0992	
Wendy Carman	2340 Georgetown	761-8693	

### **ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES**

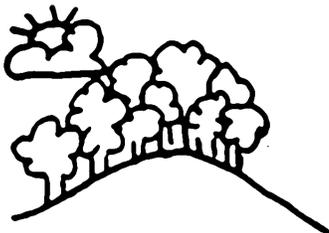
Christopher Taylor (Mayor)	794-6165	CTaylor@a2gov.org
Kirk Westphal (Council Member, Ward 2)	660-9955	KWestphal@a2gov.org
Jane Lumm (Council Member, Ward 2)	677-4010	JLumm@a2gov.org

## **OHMHA**

**2145 Ardenne**

**Ann Arbor, MI 48105**

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# **NEWSLETTER**

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