



# ORCHARD HILLS-MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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

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## OHMHA NEWSLETTER

September 2016

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### Join Your Neighbors at the 10th Annual Fall Festival on Sunday, Sept. 25

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

**WHEN:** Sunday, Sept. 25, 2016, from 12:00-4:30 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.
- Musical Entertainment will highlight the Community High School Jazz Band, Thurston Elementary School's choirs, Tom Teller, Tim and Kelly Krohn, Allisson Hendriks, and Kira Lesser.
- Critters From the Pond - live interactive presentation of some of our aquatic wildlife at Thurston Pond.
- A Raffle Drawing for adults and children to promote our local businesses. Items will be raffled throughout the afternoon.
- Local school charities fundraising - pre-empting the start of the festival will be the Kiwanis-Thurston 5K Run Walk and Family 1 Mile Fun Run.
- Many more activities, games, and presentations/literature available from your local neighborhood organizations.■



# Fantastic Summer at 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 had a fantastic year. Our first piece of good news was from the IRS, who approved our application to become a 501c3 organization, based on our by-laws that were revised last year to reflect our mission of providing swim education and fostering future national and international amateur athletes. The 501c3 means that donations to Orchard Hills Athletic Club will now be tax deductible.

Speaking of amateur athletes, our swim and dive team finished the dual meet season with a 4-1 record, and finished 7th out of 18 teams at the WISC championships. We are really proud of this achievement given how much larger some of the other teams are, and this puts us at the top of B division!



Our second piece of really good news is that OHAC membership enjoyed a big increase, up 16% over our 2015 season. We attribute the rise to more marketing, more options to come swim at the pool (e.g., punch cards), and, of course, this summer's hot weather. We thank the community for their continued support of these neighborhood pools.

## Getting Involved

Learn more about OHAC at <http://www.ohacpool.org>. If you would like to become more involved in OHAC oversight or leadership, we are always looking for energetic volunteers in many different capacities. Email us at [info@ohacpool.org](mailto:info@ohacpool.org).■



*Thank you to all who contributed time, efforts and funds to help make the pools a wonderful place to be. Thank you to Rick Taylor Real Estate for their generous donation of the Gazebos.*

# Kiwanis-Thurston 5K Run/Walk

## Sunday, September 25

The entire neighborhood is invited to join the Second Annual 5K RUN-WALK AND FAMILY FUN-RUN event on Sunday, Sept. 25, sponsored by Kiwanis Morning Edition. Runners, walkers, strollers, and dogs are welcome! Start times are:

- The 5K run starts at 12 Noon
- The 1 mile Family Fun Run starts at 12:20pm
- See all the details and register at [www.kiwanismorningedition.org](http://www.kiwanismorningedition.org)

Last year with the joint support and in conjunction with the 50 year anniversary of Thurston Elementary School, funds were donated to the school's Thurston Nature Center's education funds and PTO's GREEN-STEAM initiative. The GREEN-STEAM classes were introduced using the various facilities of the Nature Center. The Butterfly-Hummingbird Garden is a prime example (the trellis) of a site that benefited from this event. It is used for the Life Cycle and Habitat instructions.

This year's funds will not only go to further improve the Thurston Nature Center's educational facilities and activities but help families of students at Thurston and Clague in need, as well as Clague's 8th grade Trip to Washington DC Scholarship Fund.

Here's a friendly reminder: the Kiwanis Run-Walk is followed by the neighborhood Fall Festival. Come for the run - Stay for the fun (see page 1)■



### Welcome to the Neighborhood Initiative!

OHMHA has launched 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.

If you are aware of a new neighbor moving in, please contact OHMHA Board Member Nadine Wong ([nadinewong@gmail.com](mailto:nadinewong@gmail.com)) with a street address so that we can make sure that we include them in this initiative.



# Thurston Nature Center News

*by Frank Commiskey*

It's been a fascinating and productive spring and summer at the Thurston Nature Center. Here are some updates:

- The pond has struggled with the lack of rain.
  - After a beautiful wet spring, the recent drought permits us to view the bottom of the pond and in many areas it is covered with the perennial, native, and aggressive growth of *Ludwigia palustris* (water/marsh purslane).
  - It was not anticipated but we were warned of the possible germination of aquatic and semiaquatic plants from last year's draw down and disturbance.
  - Yes, we are constantly dealing with the uncertainty and marvels of Mother Nature! It is the consequence of us (humans) messing with her!
- We continue to work on the goals of the Thurston Pond and Wetland Restoration Project (phases 2 and 3).
  - We are controlling the spread and in many areas removing the threat of *Phragmites* taking over the pond
  - We stocked the pond with 250,000 Golden Shiners
  - We are restoring and adding vegetation (natives plants/shrubs) where we removed



invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle

- Nobody can recall seeing so many Egrets at the pond at one time, as were sighted this summer - accounts of up to 20! The wildlife is in great shape and we continue to improve its presence and diversity.

## Rain Gardens

- Thanks to the recent support of the Thurston-PTO, Kiwanis, Washtenaw Cty. Water Resources Commissioners Office, and the community at large we now have 2 more Thurston Rain Gardens - Heron and Butterfly-Hummingbird (officially designated as a Monarch Waystation). With the inclusion of the Thurston Turtle Rain Garden we now have a total of 3 Rain Gardens.



# Thurston Nature Center News - continued

*by Frank Commiskey*

## Tree Labels

- The continued effort to protect, identify, document, and mark/label our wonderful and precious trees is as strong as ever and so much appreciated.

## Thanks to the Scouts for their contributions to the Nature Center!

- Once again the Scouts of Troop 1 have been wonderful in initiating a number of projects
  - Oak Savanna restoration
  - Turtle Basking Platforms
- and currently in progress of implementing the addition of new
  - Picnic tables
  - New kiosks

## Thurston Vegetable Garden

- The Thurston Vegetable Garden has been expanded (addition of 4 raised beds) and was made available to the community for the first time this summer.

## Staying Informed / Getting Involved

- To sign up for the Thurston Nature Center E-Newsletter contact [frank@thurstonnaturecenter.org](mailto:frank@thurstonnaturecenter.org)
- Reminders are often posted on the Thurston Nature Center Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ThurstonNatureCenter>.
- For more information on the various tasks that need volunteers, please contact [frank@thurstonnaturecenter.org](mailto:frank@thurstonnaturecenter.org). ■

Hasn't the Georgetown entrance planting looked great this summer? Many thanks to local high school student, Suzan Karabakal, for weeding and maintaining the entrance!



# Ann Arbor Police Chief Jim Baird Speaks at OHMHA Annual Meeting

*By Peter Mooney*

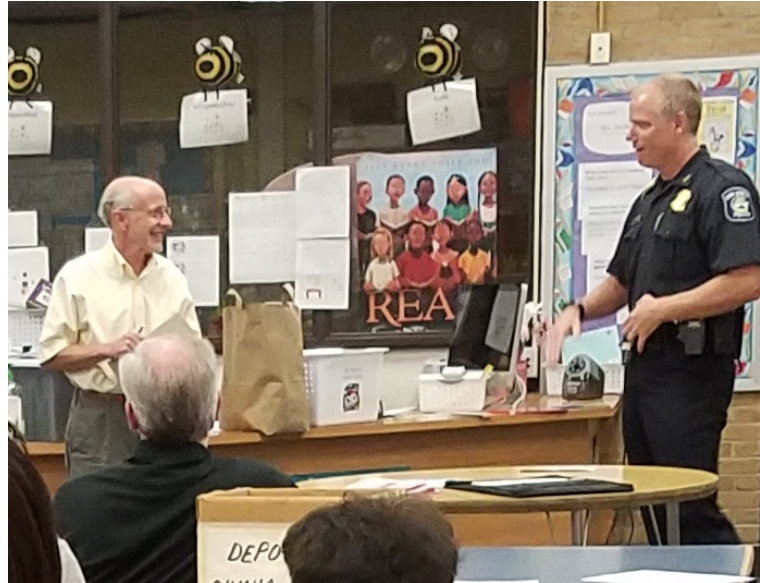
Jim Baird's first day with the Ann Arbor police in 1993 was an eventful one. Baird stopped his patrol car on Main St., near the stadium, to investigate a fender bender in a downpour. After donning his rain gear, Baird took a report from the drivers and felt that his first incident had gone well – that was until he realized that he'd locked himself out of his patrol car and had to stand in the rain while another key was delivered. It was a long time before his fellow officers let him forget that inauspicious start to his career.

This mishap didn't prevent Baird from rising through the ranks to his present position – Ann Arbor's chief of police, a position to which he was appointed in February of this year, where he supervises 149 employees and is in charge of a \$26 million annual budget. Chief Baird spoke about his first day on the job, and answered questions, at the OHMHA annual meeting on June 10, 2016.

One question related to the size of Ann Arbor's department, and whether it was adequate for the tasks it performed. Chief Baird gave a nuanced response, indicating that the level of staffing was sufficient for the role the force has right now, but that if citizen expectations were to demand a higher level of police visibility and presence his answer might change.

He also spoke about diversity in the police force, and the importance of police officers reflecting the community they protect. He said that one area where Ann Arbor's department fell short was among Asian-American officers, although he added that his immediate predecessor, John Seto, is Asian-American.

Finally, Chief Baird was asked about gun control. He indicated that while he understood concerns about firearms ending up in the wrong hands he also believed that most gun owners were law-abiding.■



*Ann Arbor Police Chief Jim Baird (right) is introduced by OHMHA Board Member Jack Cederquist.*

**Want to be part of making our neighborhood safer?  
Please join the Neighborhood Watch List.  
Simply email [gjagst@gmail.com](mailto:gjagst@gmail.com)**

**Welcome New OHMHA  
Board Member  
Jennifer Caron Oldham**

My family moved to Maplewood in 2015. My husband, Kenn, and I have two kids who love the parks, woods, pool, sledding and ice skating. Presently, I am staying home with our kids. I am also a medical social worker interested primarily in geriatrics. Being home with my kids has reinforced my belief in the importance of neighbors and neighborhood. ■



**Friendly Reminder: Please Pay  
Your OHMHA Dues**

Throughout the year, OHMHA provides a variety of services to its residents: the annual Fall Festival, political forums, landscaping projects at entrances, a garage sale, this newsletter, a community forum, and much more.

With your voluntary contribution of \$20 in annual dues, we can continue to provide these services, and even expand on the work we do for our neighborhood!

Dues can be paid online securely via PayPal at our website: <http://www.ohmha.org>, or you can also mail a check (written out to "OHMHA"). If you have paid your dues, your OHMHA newsletter should arrive with your name and address on the label.

If you have not paid, the label will say "Resident." The address on your newsletter should be a convenient way for you to determine whether or not you have paid for the year.

Our fiscal year begins June 1, but feel free to contact me if you are unsure as to whether you have paid dues for this year. As always, thank you very much for your support! -Martin Torch-Ishii, OHMHA Treasurer ■

**ORCHARD HILLS - MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR June 1, 2016 - May 31, 2017**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Amt Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Please remove me from email list

**Comments (we welcome suggestions and/or efforts to volunteer on OHMHA projects)**

**TO PAY DUES:**

Mail or deliver dues to:

Martin Torch-Ishii, OHMHA Treasurer, 3366 Bluett, 48105

or

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



## **OHMHA BOARD MEMBERS**

Greg Jagst	2080 Yorktown	846-6332	President
Jack Cederquist	2145 Ardenne	665-2282	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	
Nadine Wong	3092 Lexington	222-1716	
Jennifer Oldham	3337 Yellowstone	834 0775	
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

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  
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## **NEWSLETTER**

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