



ORCHARD HILLS-MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

www.ohmha.org

OHMHA NEWSLETTER

September 2017



Join Your Neighbors at the Fall Festival on Sunday, Sept. 24



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

WHEN: Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017, 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 Alison Hendrix-who has just released a new CD--as well as the Thurston Elementary School choirs.
- Critters From the Pond - live interactive presentation of some of our aquatic wildlife at Thurston Pond.
- Local school charities fundraising - preceding the start of the festival will be the Kiwanis-Thurston 5K Run Walk and Family 1 Mile Fun Run. go to www.kiwanismorningedition.org to register.
- Many more activities, games, and presentations/literature available from your local neighborhood organizations.■



Wonderful 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 enjoyed another great summer season. Our swim and dive team finished the dual meet season with a winning record, and finished 8th out of 18 teams at the WISC championships (2nd in our Division). Neighbors also participated in our other aquatic teams and programs, including Synchronized Swimming, Masters Swimming, Water Polo, and Water Aerobics.

Thanks to our agreement with First Martin Corporation, we have been able to undertake significant capital improvements to both Dolfin and OHAC pools in 2017—please drop by and see the upgrades for yourself! We also plan to add more shade to OHAC pool before the start of next season.

Getting Involved

The community is responding positively to our increased social events and online marketing efforts as we enjoyed another strong increase in membership in 2017. We thank the community for their continued support of these neighborhood pools.

If you would like to become more involved in the oversight or leadership of the OHAC and Dolfin pools, we are always looking for volunteers to join our Board of Directors. Anyone with expertise in websites would be especially helpful to us in 2018. Please email us at info@ohacpool.org.■



It was a great summer at OHAC Pool (pictured above) and Dolfin Pool.

THIRD ANNUAL KIWANIS 5K RUN-WALK AND FAMILY FUN-RUN



Sunday, September 24, 2017

100% of money raised goes to local children's charities:

- Thurston Nature Center's Educational Fund
- Thurston Elementary School's Pantry, assisting Thurston families in need
- Clague Middle School's Village Fund, assisting Clague families in need
- Clague Middle School's 8th grade trip to D.C. Scholarship Fund (need-based)
- The Education Project, assisting homeless youth

REGISTER AT: **www.kiwanismorningedition.org**

Location: Orchard Hills Athletic Club, 2300 Yorktown Drive
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105

<u>Check In and Late Registration:</u>	11:00 a.m.
5K Run:	12 noon start
Family Fun Run (1 mile):	12:20 p.m. start

<u>Registration (ends 9/20 at midnight)</u>	<u>Late Registration (Day of)</u>
Age 4 and under = free	Age 4 and under = free
Age 5 – 18 = \$10	Age 5 – 18 = \$15
Age 18 and older = \$20	Age 18 and older = \$25

The OHMHA Fall Festival follows the Run. Come for the run -- stay for the fun!

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 OHMHA Board Member Jennifer Oldham (jennifer.caron@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

There are many exciting things happening at the Thurston Nature Center. This article provides a view into some of the priority setting and current projects. In setting the priorities for our daily stewardship activities and the coordination of the many active projects taking place at the Thurston Nature Center (TNC), there is often a need to balance the conflicting priorities of the local residents, the objectives of the schools, and the founding principles that established this nature center.

As in the past, every year presents its challenges in meeting the expectations of all interested parties. The schools are growing, “high density” urbanization is surrounding the TNC, demographics and mobility of residents is changing, and climate conditions are shifting.

This coming school year (2017/2018), which is the “50 year” milestone for the Thurston Nature Center, will once again provide the opportunity for the schools, neighborhoods, and surrounding community to re-confirm their support for the mission, re-affirm the desired future direction, and re-establish the desperately needed volunteers.

We will continue to try to set our objectives and tasks by visualizing the future as an extension to the years of commitments made by previous stewards and of the original purpose and principles that permitted this piece of school property to be established and dedicated by the founders (AAPS & MDNR) as a “Designated and Preserved Conservation Reserve for Education”. The mission remains the same, to promote and foster student, community, and family interactions and relationships as partnerships in the education, appreciation, stewardship, and enjoyment of nature and the environment.

Our guidelines as to what we have to accomplish have not changed significantly since the development of the 1997-“Management Plan”, the 2004 -“Thurston Pond and Wetland Restoration Project”, and more recently the 2017- update of the “Management Plan - Accommodating Human Impact - Spatial and Informational Organization”. There are detailed plans and there is much to accomplish in each of these broad areas:

- The ecosystem/naturalcommunity’s maintenance, restoration, and enhancements
- Accommodating human impact - spatial and informational organization
- Supporting educational programs
- Communications, Partnerships, Events

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*Eastern Tiger Swallowtail on Thistle,
photo by Estelle Chiari-Fort*

Thurston Nature Center News - continued

Staying Informed / Getting Involved

To continue to enjoy this nature center and improve our commitment to the mission, efforts in restoring and conserving the Thurston Nature Center will require a bigger team of committed volunteers and continuous yearly funding. It can no longer be maintained and managed by just a few participants. The much needed help would be appreciated.

Please join us at our next TNC meeting – Thursday Sept. 7, 2017 at the Thurston Elementary School from 7 to 8 PM. At the meeting we will post all the various tasks which will require a volunteer. The Thurston Nature Center website is currently being updated -- for any news, event information, and viewing beautiful photos please check out and “Like” our Facebook page: Thurston Nature Center <https://www.facebook.com/ThurstonNatureCenter>. For more information or to volunteer, please contact me, Frank, at frank@thurstonnaturecenter.org. ■

OHMHA to hold Ward 2 Candidates’ Forum Sunday, October 29, 2017

By Peter Mooney

College football teams and billboard-topping pop stars may strive to be number one, but when it comes to city council wards in Ann Arbor there’s nothing wrong with being “number two”.

For instance, all of Orchard Hills Maplewood is located within the cozy confines of Ward 2. This Fall, our ward features a rarity in Ann Arbor politics where most elections are decided in August primaries -- a contested November City Council election. Incumbent Jane Lumm, running as an independent, is being challenged for reelection by Democratic candidate Jared Hoffert. As it has since the early 2000s, OHMHA is holding a candidate forum where the candidates will answer questions from the Board and the audience.



Hope to see you at the Traverwood Library for the Sunday, October 29 Ward 2 Candidates Forum.

OHMHA's forum is scheduled for October 29, 2017 at the Traverwood Library at 4 pm. Updates will be posted on the OHMHA's Facebook page, and over the mailing list.

There are many issues before council – including the Nixon Corridor improvements and adjacent Woodbury and Nixon Farms developments, the library lot and the possibility of a new train station. What better way to get a sense of where the candidates stand than to ask them questions face-to-face?

If you'd like to learn more about the candidates prior to the election both have election websites – Lumm's is www.janelumm.org and Hoffert's is www.hoffertforcouncil.com. ■

Howard Lazarus Speaks on City Issues at OHMHA Annual Meeting

By Jack Cederquist

OHMHA had a successful Annual General Meeting on June 9, 2017 with special guest speaker, City Administrator Howard Lazarus. Lazarus reviewed the key developments and issues that he has seen in his first year as City Administrator and engaged in interesting Q&A with the neighbors. Key points included:

- The City has taken a data-driven approach to deer management so that future actions can benefit from past experience.
- Following the tragic student fatality on Fuller Road near Huron High School, twenty new flashing beacons will be installed this year to improve pedestrian safety. The City will also hire a transportation safety person to improve coordination between the City, the schools, and neighborhoods.

- Regarding the new train station, Lazarus stated that the rules of the Federal Railroad Administration have forced a lack of public transparency. Environmental assessments of the possible sites are now underway which, when completed, will then be followed by public review.



Ann Arbor Administrator Howard Lazarus met with neighbors at Thurston School.

- Of particular interest to the northeast neighborhoods is the allocation of \$1.2 million for City staff to begin the engineering study of the improvements to Nixon Road outlined in the recent Nixon Corridor Traffic Study. Although out-year funding is not in place to make the improvements, Mr. Lazarus indicated he wants to follow through and execute the upgrade. This upgrade includes several new roundabouts at critical intersections and should improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists on Nixon Road and access to Nixon during peak hours from the many side streets connecting to Nixon.
- A planned slight increase in stormwater fees will enable the City to plant 1000 new and maintain existing trees.
- There is interest in possibly extending the hours of operation of parking meters to generate more revenue for the City.
- The contract with Recycle Ann Arbor to operate the Materials Recovery Facility was terminated because of safety reasons and the city is looking at a regional solution to a recycling recovery facility and also a fee-based payment system to enable facility operators to cope with situations such as the recent lack of any market for glass. ■

**Welcome New OHMHA
Board Member
Joe Trulick**

Hello OHMHA neighbors, my family and I are long time residents of the neighborhood. My wife (Leah) and I have two daughters, one lives in Boston and the other is just starting her fourth year at college. We have always felt fortunate to live in such a wonderful community and I look forward supporting our neighborhood. Please feel free to reach out to me as I would welcome your thoughts and ideas. My best regards, Joe. ■



**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!

-Nadine Wong, OHMHA Treasurer ■

**ORCHARD HILLS - MAPLEWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR June 1, 2017 - May 31, 2018**

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

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		
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

How do I get on the neighborhood watch list? email gjagst@gmail.com

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

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