Dumpster Day
September 28, 2019

HERITAGE HILL RESIDENTS ONLY!
8am – 12pm
Central Reformed Church
10 College Ave NE

IMPORTANT!
• Bring photo ID to show you’re a Heritage Hill resident

• Bring the refuse to the designated location for collection. Do not leave trash at the curb.

• No yard waste will be allowed. No sod, broken concrete, wood or asphalt.

• No hazardous materials such as tires, oil, gas, paint, hot ashes or acid will not be accepted. For proper disposal, go to http://www.reimaginetrash.org/safehomes/safechem/

• No major appliances. Refrigerators, Stoves, Dishwashers, Washers, Dryers, Water Heaters, Air Conditioners and Dehumidifiers must be properly prepared for pick up (Freon free). You can purchase appliance tags for $25 and have it picked up at your curb. These tags are sold a local retailers such as Ace Hardware, Family Fare and Meijer stores. Here’s the link to where you can get an appliance tag: https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Services-Department/Trash-Recycling-Yard-and-Other-Waste

• No Computers/TVs/electronics. They have to be disposed of properly with an electronics recycler. You can check the Kent County site for more information: http://www.reimaginetrash.org/material/computers-tvs-electronics/

Well my friends and neighbors, the time has come … to slide my chair over and become a mentor for a year:

My 2-year plan to work for the Heritage Hill Association back in 1984 just kept repeating and repeating and here I am, 36 years later. It’s now time to enter my 3rd age as my wonderful co-worker Maria coined it. Time to step back from deadlines and stroll a tad lighter.

It has been an awesome ride being an activist, organizer, and stabilizer for this great place we call home. I have learned so much from this vantage ... from my co-workers and neighbors, from city workers, and from activists all over town. I have imparted this knowledge to the best of my ability so that neighbors are empowered to create change and resolve issues. I bow down to the early organizers of the Heritage Hill Association; those that saved this neighborhood from oblivion. They paved the way so that we could continue and create the neighborhood community that we value today. And oh my, how the neighborhood has changed in the past 4 decades.

There are so many special people in this neighborhood that I have had the pleasure to work with arm and arm. I am grateful for your activism and tenacity. And I am proud of all that we have

(Cont’d on pg. 2)
See You on the Streets (cont’d from pg 1)

accomplished in my tenure. The lasting accomplishments are all over this neighborhood - point to any street and I can tell you the story.

But are we done creating stories ... absolutely not! We face struggles inherent in a central city neighborhood that is densely populated, with aging structures and infrastructure, and pressured from institutional development all around us. We must pay attention and have a healthy respect for where we live. We must also embrace and guide changes that are happening within and around our neighborhood as Grand Rapids continues to grow as a major center and attraction in so many arenas. An organized community is critical to keeping us vital.

So let the music play on, keep shaking it, and work with the new Association staff members, Amanda Cormier, Executive Director and Barbara Draughon, Community Organizer. Maria Zache Starkey

and Barb Lester continue to be present in the HHA office and I too will still be around in a limited capacity ... for all those stories ... for another year. I’m not leaving Heritage Hill but maybe I can walk our blocks without feeling like I’m working all the time.

Thank you for my amazing role for 36 years. See you on the streets –

Jan Earl
For the 2019 continuation of the Heritage Hill Association, I pledge:

____  $25         ____  $35         ____  $50         ____  $75         ____  $100          ____  $250         ____ $500          ____  Other  $ _________________________

Name ______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Phone __________________________________      Email _____________________________________________________________

Please return this coupon and check to: HHA, 126 College SE, Grand Rapids, MI  49503

or pledge online:  www.heritagehillweb.org
Please remember us when your apartment needs renters. Your dollars not only find you tenants but also support the programs of the Heritage Hill Association! You can list your apartment right at the website or stop by the HHA office. We welcome you!

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Thank You To Our Recent Contributors!
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Nancy Coulter
Margaret Chamberlain and Paul VanOostenburg
Dave and Sue DeJonge
Linda Gill
Jim and Eileen Gould
Jim Payne and Char Kruzich
Mic and Erin Shupe
Shahin and Jeni Taheri
Tom and Chris Truesdale
Mark Van Allsburg
Step up to the Heritage Hill Association Board of Directors –
HHA Seeking 5 Board Candidates for Election at Annual Meeting

Per the Heritage Hill Association By-laws, five Board terms are open annually for election to the HHA Board. Board members are elected by the membership at the Holiday Potluck and Annual Meeting on December 10, 2019. (Save that date on your calendar). The Board terms are for 3 years that begin on January 1, 2020 and end December 31, 2022.

The absolute deadline for submitting your candidacy is November 10, 2019. This slate will appear along with a brief statement from each candidate in the November/December Herald. (The HHA Bylaws state that Board candidates need to submit their candidacy to the office 30 days before the annual meeting.)

To serve, Board members must be residents of the Heritage Hill neighborhood or be paid non-resident members. It is very helpful to have been somewhat active in Association activities, committees or neighborhood block clubs, but this is not a requirement to serve on the Board. The duties of Association Board members include:

- Monthly Board Meetings - the third Wednesday of the month - approximately 2 hours long - 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.
- Chairing or active participation on a HHA committee - monthly or quarterly meetings. Some committees such as Tour demand more of a time commitment.
- Attendance at HHA sponsored events - i.e. Tour, fund-raising and social events.
- Actively representing your neighbors to the Board.
- Actively representing the Board to your neighbors.

The Board wants and needs active leadership in the organization and representation from the entire neighborhood. If that's not enough, there are treats at all meetings! If you want to serve please call the Association office at 459-8950 or email to heritage@heritagehillweb.org.

WENDY ASKS FOR YOUR VOTE ON NOVEMBER 5th

Wendy Falb has deep roots in the Heritage Hill community. As a Neighborhood Association Board Member, as a leader on the GRPS Board of Education, and now helping families at the Literacy Center of West Michigan, Wendy Falb has a proven record of service to community.
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National Night Out Brings Us Together

Another truly happy, communal gathering we had at this year’s National Night Out. SO many newborn babies; it was quite the sight!

Big thanks to Grand Rapids Public Schools, Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc., Bridge Street Market, Jeff Martin AJS, Inc., Gordon Food Service, Celebration Cinema, Cornerstone Church, Meijer, Inc., Spartan Nash and also our really amazing volunteers and board members with a super-special shout-out for Tony Davis (Grillmaster Extraordinaire), Jennifer Hankinson, Joyce VanHaitsma, Chris Grygiel, and Suzanne De Haan. Thanks also to EMS, GRFD and GRPD as well as Commissioners Talen and Kelly for joining us – what a great night!
Trash too big for the bin?
Missed Dumpster Day but have large trash items that don’t fit in your trash bin? Just moving out and not sure what to do with that old sofa?

Or perhaps you just purchased a new mattress and you don’t know what to do with your old one? PLEASE get a tag from the city to place it on your large item for removal and have it out to the curb by 7am on the day of your trash collection. The city will pick it up right at the curb within 3 business days of collection...it’s that easy! The cost is $20 for bulk items and $25 for appliances. These tags can be purchased at Meijer, Ace Hardware and Family Fare.

Personal Safety Tips
While we live in an increasingly safe city, it is always wise to practice good personal safety habits to avoid potential danger.

Stay alert to your surroundings. Act like you have some place to be and appear confident, even if you’re lost. Stay on the sidewalk and do not approach vehicles if they stop to ask questions. It’s okay to be friendly from a distance!

If approached by someone looking to cause harm, the goal is to escape the situation. Run if you can. If not, yell loudly and try to get the attention of others nearby. In most cases, the perpetrator will not want to call attention to the situation.

So you’ve been doing all of these things but maybe you need to feel more empowered and possibly gain some tools to help you feel more confident? Ever thought about taking control and learning more about personal safety? I went to a brief intro course offered by R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) and learned a lot in a short time. I’ll be signing up for more! There are several classes offered throughout the year at GVSU and Calvin campuses in Grand Rapids. These classes are for any person, any age and I highly encourage you to attend,
Po p o u r ñ í  by Amanda Cormier

especially if you are new to city living or campus life.
To learn more, visit:
http://www.rad-systems.com/program_mi.html
There is a one-time $40 fee for the class, and that fee is for a lifetime.
You can come back to any training after that for free. You can sign up by contacting the colleges:

Calvin College
Campus Safety Department
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Phone: 616-526-6452

Grand Valley State University
Pew Campus Security
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
Phone: 616-331-6677

Theft increases over the summer
We’ve seen an uptick in bike thefts this summer as well as unlocked vehicles being ransacked for miscellaneous items. These simply are crimes of opportunity. If it’s sitting out in plain sight, it could be taken and is incredibly hard to recover.

Here’s what you can do:
• If you or your guests are carrying bikes or tools on your vehicle, bring them into the home or locked garage overnight.
• Bring phones, wallets, computers, etc with you when you exit your vehicle.
• Waiters and waitresses! Bring your aprons in at night, thieves often see these left in vehicles and assume that there is money inside.
• Continue to keep car and house doors locked.

Panhandlers knocking on doors
Over the past few months, we’ve had reports of an individual(s) going door-to-door asking for food or money. If you feel threatened, call 911 immediately. If you believe the person at the door is truly in need of food, shelter etc., please contact our office and we can help with a list of resources that may help. If someone is creating a threat such as entering the home without permission, vandalizing a home or vehicle, call 911 immediately.

Residential Parking Permit Update
In early spring, the city of Grand Rapids’ Mobil GR surveyed Heritage Hill to see if we were in need of the

(Cont’d on pg. 10)
RPP system for on-street parking. We have been in touch with Mobile GR and any further developments on this have been postponed until next year. Mobile GR is working on a implementing a new strategic plan before making any changes. I will be in touch again when I hear more.

GRPD is still looking for Victim Advocate Volunteers
Advocates provide assistance and comfort to individuals and families who have experienced a death, tragedy, or other trauma in their lives. “Our Advocates and the compassionate services they provide are priceless commodities to law enforcement and the communities they serve,” said VSU Training Coordinator Kam Bradman. “Seeing first-hand, how the Victim Advocates serve to meet the needs of others, can be summed up in 3 words: Character, Credibility, and Compassion.” Advocates will receive a 20-hour initial training with 12 hours of training throughout the year. If you are interested in more information on this program, please contact Julie Niemchick at jniemchick@grcity.us.

New four-way stop at Union & Lyon
We had a signal malfunction at this location a few weeks ago. The repairs were going to be extensive and the Traffic Safety Department at the City of Grand Rapids wanted to make sure the signal was still warranted and needed. Temporary Stop signs were installed on both northbound Union and westbound Lyon while the signal study was conducted. The results determined that the signal was no longer warranted and traffic volumes were not high enough to meet the minimum thresholds. Permanent Stop signs will be installed on both northbound and westbound and the city will install a new overhead flashing beacon that will display red lights in both directions.

Neighborhood Poppourri (Continued from page 9)
2020 Home Tour Wants You ... and your home

The Home Tour Committee is currently recruiting houses for the 2020 Heritage Hill Weekend Tour of Homes. Tour dates are May 17 and 18, 2020. If you would like to open your home for Tour, we’d love to talk. Call the HHA office at 459-8950. Your neighborhood association will be grateful!
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Rick Bylsma has given presentations to Historic Societies, Old House Expo events, and to the Michigan Historic Preservation Network.

Some of our projects:
- Frank Lloyd Wright/Meyer May – Steelcase – Grand Rapids, MI
- Frank Lloyd Wright Studio/Amberg home - Grand Rapids, MI
- Gibson Restaurant/Mangiamo’s - Grand Rapids, MI
- Voight House – Grand Rapids Public Museum - Grand Rapids, MI
- Senator William Alden Smith Estate – Grand Rapids, MI
- Hackley and Hume Estate – Muskegon County Museum, MI
- St. Marks Church – Grand Rapids, MI
- First Methodist Church – Grand Rapids, MI
- Westminster Presbyterian Church – Grand Rapids, MI
- Reagan Marketing – Grand Rapids, MI
- Wealthy Street Theater – Grand Rapids, MI
- Graham Home – Lowell Museum, MI
- Women’s City Club – Grand Rapids, MI

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Discussion at the June, 2019 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:

Public Comment: City Commission Candidates for the 2nd Ward Wendy VerHage Falb and Milinda Ysasi both presented their history, platforms and vision for the city.

HHA Personnel: Succession Plan – The board voted to approve the fluid plan recommended from the Executive Committee for Amanda Cormier to move into the position of Executive Director, for Jan Earl to stay on as a consultant on a limited basis for up to one year and to hire a new Crime Prevention Organizer staff member to start in October, 2019. Board approved unanimously.

Treasurers Report – Erin S. reported that as of the end of April, the budget was on track. The May report was not yet available but Home Tour was very successful. Advance Sales and Friends and Sponsors were down a little but Day Of ticket sales were up considerably compared to last year.

Staff Reports: Written reports were submitted. Discussion of Amanda C.’s report included reported incidents of a person on porches trying doorknobs and also of knocking on doors and panhandling. It is unclear if these incidents are related to the same person.

Jan E. added to her report that she and neighbors had met with the new Mercy Health President as well as with Mary Free Bed representatives. She discussed the Master Plan of Heritage Hill, the State Street Plan and provided an overview of the neighborhood for Dr. Kim (Mercy Health’s new President). Chris G. added that Pure Management at Heritage Place, 50 College SE, is offering incentives for Mercy Health employees to live there. Members also discussed the land parcels at Prospect, Lafayette and Wealthy that are owned by ICCF. Development will not be possible until the 20-yr. lease expires for the large billboard on this property; there are approximately 7 more years on this lease.

Community Engagement:
Hospitality: Chris G. stated that plans
were filling out for National Night Out and reported Sun Rental folks have closed the business. The committee will likely not rent a bounce house this year but perhaps will offer lawn games in addition to the kids’ activities offered by Cornerstone Church. The volunteer sign-up sheet for the event was circulated.

**Land Use:**

**Housing, Zoning and Preservation:**
Wayne N. notified members that Lyon St. Café (part of the Martha’s Vineyard complex) is requesting a letter of support for their application to the Planning Commission to add outdoor seating and alcohol sales. Though this address is technically in the Midtown neighborhood, the Zoning Committee will create a draft letter of support (that would include deference to Midtown) for the board to approve. Jan. E. reported that there are major speeding issues (including running over the traffic circle at College and Pleasant) on College SE from Wealthy to Franklin Streets. Jan and neighbors are working with the city in hopes of instituting a 2-way street if possible and if this change is supported by neighbors.

**Parks:** Jan E. reported that improvements to Foster and Pleasant Parks will likely be pushed out another year as the bidding process with contractors is running slower than in the past. Members questioned how the city would get bids without final plans in place for these two parks.

**Fundraising and Finance:**

**Home Tour:** Suzanne D. gave a big Thank You! to everyone for their participation. Jan E. stated that the tour should come in just over budget and that there were approximately 2,000 tour-goers. The Friends and Sponsors campaign raised $17,000; John W. said that he intends to solicit 2-3 sponsors for 2020 each month, starting now. Jan gave a specific, big thank you to Steering Committee Chairs Suzanne DeHaan, Kate Diedrich and Don Rietema. There are discussion and various measures that are being considering to streamline the event for next year.

*(Cont'd on pg. 14)*
Garden Tour: Kate D. reported that it was a seeming miracle that there was no rain for this event! Although it had been a challenge to find gardens this wet, cold spring, in the end there were 12 and it was a lovely tour. Kate commented that the event made almost $1,500 though Garden Tour should be thought of also as a fun-raiser. Discussion included the possibility of the Garden Club taking over organization of the tour as Kate D. was the only committee member for this event this year.

Discussion at the August, 2019 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:

Public Comment: Mark Washington, the city’s new manager, spoke to board members to relay his experiences in Grand Rapids to date and to get to know Heritage Hill Association and neighborhood. Mr. Washington stated that he has fallen in love with the community and is very impressed with Grand Rapids; he thinks Grand Rapids is functioning at a level well beyond the present and is a leader with a national identity. Mr. Washington also stated that he values building relationships and how to identify our mark in the future while never forgetting where we came from while making everyone feel included. Mr. Washington detailed issues that he is working on including Homelessness, staffing at GRPD and Public Safety in general, many aspects of Parking and Housing, stressing the need for affordable housing and the need for a Housing Commission at the city. Mr. Washington stressed that all issues and policies are being viewed through the lens of the city’s Strategic Plan. He also announced a brand-new position being added to the city, the next day: Public Oversight and Accountability Director. This person will work with both the Police Chief and GRFD and will be an alternate resource for residents other than Internal Affairs. Questions asked of the City Manager included the topics of Community Policing, Parking Enforcement, Cyber-Security at the city and personal safety and crime prevention.

CPO Hire — The board voted unanimously to approve the recommendation from the Executive Committee to hire Barbara Draughon as the new Crime Prevention Organizer to start September 23, 2019.

HHA Board appointment — Jeff Martin: The Executive Committee recommended appointing Jeff Martin to a term ending in December, 2021; the board voted unanimously to approve this appointment.
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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

All Heritage Hill Association Meetings are open to neighbors.

**Wednesday, October 16, 2019**
HHA Board Meeting ~ 7:00 pm.
Mercy Health Saint Mary’s Hauenstein Center, H1 Community Room
Cherry Street, between Lafayette and Jefferson Avenues

**Monday, November 4, 2019**
November/December Herald newsletter deadline

**Saturday, November 9, 2019**
HHA Board Candidate Deadline

**Tuesday, November 5, 2019**
Election Day
Be an engaged citizen and vote!

**Wednesday, November 20, 2019**
HHA Board Meeting ~ 7:00 pm.
Mercy Health Saint Mary’s Hauenstein Center, H1 Community Room
Cherry Street, between Lafayette and Jefferson Avenues

**Year End Events**

**Tuesday, December 10, 2019**
Annual Meeting and Holiday Potluck
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
GRCC DeVos Campus

**Annual Dates to Remember:**

**Saturday and Sunday, May 17 & 18, 2020**
Weekend Tour of Homes

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