Who we are:

The Heritage Hill Association is the neighborhood organization of the Heritage Hill Historic District in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It was formed in 1968 to save 75% of Heritage Hill structures from demolition. Since that successful start, the Association provides programs that assist and work with neighbors to address urban issues -- neighborhood safety, land use proposals, traffic and parking demands, institutional expansion/construction, housing maintenance and preservation, promotion of neighborhood schools and resources, access to services, and other issues inherent in a densely populated, core city neighborhood. Just as with old houses, a neighborhood is dependent on a good and ongoing maintenance program!

Active, engaged, and mobilized neighbors, working with all our neighborhood institutions, the City of Grand Rapids, and any and all community resources, are the best indicators that Heritage Hill is a vibrant and vital place to live and work!

(Continued on page 3)
Happy New Year Heritage Hill

The snow and cold may be testing our heartiness but there’s a warm glow from our neighborhood.

What’s warming Heritage Hill these days is the great news that the Vandenberg School is on track to be a new school. The Child Discovery Center has purchased the building and will open its doors to K-5th graders in the fall of 2011. We have long promoted this site as a school but had almost lost hope when UPrep left. This purchase adds a walkable school alternative for neighbors with children and also brings a playground and green space for the community. Check out their website at www.childdiscoverycenter.org.

More Schools:
Our other very walkable education opportunities are housed at the Central High Campus. Centered here are the Montessori PreK-12 and the Central High’s Small School of Health, Science and Technology. Information on both of these programs is at www.grpublicschools.org. Also at the Central Campus is the University Preparatory Academy, an alternative middle school (6-9). UPrep will be adding a grade each year so that it will be a middle and high school within 3 years. Their website is www.uprepp.org.

There are many other choices at Grand Rapids Public Schools including the Martin Luther King Academy that is close to Heritage Hill. The complete list can be found at the website cited above. Also research the Grand Rapids Christian, Catholic, and other charter schools.

Make sure you check out these choices when considering your educational opportunities for your kids that are right here in your own backyard! It is the time to be applying to programs for the fall of 2011 so do it soon so that you won’t be left behind. Choices are plentiful if you take the time to investigate and it’s a whole lot easier than moving!

Wealthy Corridor:
The addition of the Child Discovery Center is a welcome one for the Wealthy Street Corridor. Envision what is coming – the Urban Market at Wealthy and 131; the mixed-use commercial buildings that ICCF will likely be breaking ground in this summer at Wealthy and Division. Planned is what is called liner buildings that will retain a traditional business district feel while at the same time disguise the potential for a much larger development behind them. A national marketing effort is underway to find a grocer that wants this large area. It is all a grand dream right now but there is room for a grocery store the size of the D&W Gaslight Village store at this location. Know anyone that would be a candidate for this spot? Spread the word!

Continuing on our visioning east up Wealthy, the Child Discovery Center school with a playground and large greenspace areas at Lafayette … and then on to the fun shops, restaurants that already a thriving on the Wealthy Street Corridor. Yes, Wealthy Street is alive and we thank all those that had the dream 20 some years ago and have been working on the street ever since to make it a reality. We still have much to do but it is becoming way better than any of us even dreamed.

Other Updates:
The UPrep Academy needs more space at its building for the additional grades that were described above. Three Neighborhood Input meetings are scheduled. The first was on January 25 but there are two more to continue - Tuesday February 15, and March 15. Each begins at 6:30 p.m. at the former City High Building, 111 College SE. Be a part of this process that will make the proposed addition(s) work for both Heritage Hill neighbors and the school. It can be done!

Home Tour is coming this spring – May 21 and 22. Make sure you spread this word as it is a big change and we need to reorient our tourists.

With Tour’s season change, some of our annual events are also getting moved. The annual Yard Sale is now planned for the fall – September 3 and the Garden Tour is likely in July. A specific date is still being researched. Sorry to upset the calendar but flexibility is good!

The Pleasant Park is in the fundraising mode. Grant applications are in the works and we’ll keep you posted on any successes. Actual construction is planned for 2012.

Stay warm and keep checking with your neighbors on any help they might need to get through these winter months. Keep the lights on and … stretch before shoveling!

Jan Earl

BSylma Painting Company
Excellence since 1972
616-308-8849
Our experience ranges from the Meyer May house to the Steelcase boardroom.
www.bylsmapainting.com
The Heritage Hill Association boundaries are the northern property lines of Crescent Street to the southern property lines of Pleasant Street; the eastern property lines of Union Avenue to the western property lines of Lafayette Avenue; also included is a jog down State Street to Jefferson Avenue to Fulton Street. The Heritage Hill Historic District includes all these plus the 600 block of Union SE. Everyone who lives within these boundaries is a member of the Heritage Hill Association. Non-residents can also be members by contributing annual membership dues.

FACTS AND FIGURES:
Census data from the 2010 census is not yet available so we are continuing to report the 2000 census information. There are 1,300 structures in the neighborhood that house 3605 households. Of these households, 82% are tenants, 18% are owners. Our population totals 5,599. Of that total, 75% are Caucasian, 17% are African American, 5% are Hispanic or Latino, 2% are Asian, the remaining 1% is a mix of Native American, Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander and mixed races; 64% are our residents are low to moderate income. As of 2002, 66% of our structures are either owner occupied or neighbor owned; the remaining 34% are absentee owned.

A LITTLE HISTORY:
In 1968, neighbors banded together to fight mortgage red lining and urban renewal plans that would have demolished over 75% of Heritage Hill structures. The first goal of the Heritage Hill Association was to stop the bulldozers. Neighbors worked diligently to invoke national preservation legislation that put Heritage Hill on the National Register of Historic Places. This stopped the demolitions and set a precedent throughout the US that is still cited today. In 1988, the Association was the first Grand Rapids neighborhood to establish its own Master Plan of Heritage Hill. Today this plan continues to be updated and guides the Association and the City regarding life in the neighborhood.

OUR SERVICES:

The Crime Prevention Program: This program is provided to increase neighborhood safety with services that activate neighbors in Neighborhood Watch, Drug Watch, and Block Club Organizing. Key components include free home security surveys, personal safety information, victim assistance, and producing and distributing crime information/alert notices and fliers. Block Club organizing keeps neighbors working together to prioritize problems, identify resources, and develop and implement action plans to resolve problems. In 2010, this program was primarily funded by federal Community Development Block and JAG Grants that the City of Grand Rapids receives and then funds a myriad of community programs, one of which is the Heritage Hill Association’s.

Neighborhood Improvement Program: This program addresses all the other quality of life issues that are not crime related. Its purpose is to generate resident involvement and leadership to preserve, protect, and maintain the residential nature of Heritage Hill; to resolve issues of concern; and build upon neighborhood strengths that improve the quality of life in the neighborhood. Issues commonly include land use conflicts, traffic/parking struggles, institutional expansion, promoting neighborhood schools, etc. Additional components consist of educating, referring and assisting residents with available City services and community resources and implementing and re-evaluating needs identified in the Master Plan of Heritage Hill. Like the crime prevention program, this program is partially funded by the federal Community Development Block Grant funds that the City of Grand Rapids awards to the Heritage Hill Association’s program.

Apartment/Homes for Sale Listing Service: Due to our large rental community, the Association produces and publishes a weekly list of available apartments in Heritage Hill whose landlords choose to list with us. It is an extremely popular service. This list is free and available at our office and also on our Web site (www.heritagehillweb.org). For landlords, the price to list an apartment is $45 for a studio apartment; $50 for a one-bedroom; $55 for a two-bedroom and $60 for 3 or more bedrooms. The listing is for 2 months or until the apartment is rented, which ever comes first. The list also includes Homes for Sale in Heritage Hill. For Sale listings run for two months, are purchased by the owner or the owner’s agent, and cost $100. Additional services that we offer landlords and tenants include assistance with their rights and responsibilities.

The Heritage Herald: The Association produces and publishes a bi-monthly newsletter that is mailed to the 4,800 addresses in Heritage Hill. It publicizes events, issues, and other information of interest to neighbors. It is also used to promotes neighborhood identity and fosters community. New in late 2010, is the e-newsletter that will continue in 2011. This is a monthly update of news and issues and is distributed to those that supply their email addresses to us. Please forward your email address to us heritage@heritagehillweb.org to be added to this distribution list.

The Heritage Hill Web Site: The Association maintains and updates a website that hosts a variety of information regarding our neighborhood. The weekly apartment listing is available here along with the guidelines of the City’s Historic Preservation Commission as well as the application for any exterior work. There is also information and links to the State and Federal historic tax credits. “Heritage Hill at your fingertips” offers photos and information on every structure in Heritage Hill. Most addresses have an inventory card that was completed when the historic district was nominated in 1969, a photo from that same time, an updated photo from 2003-04, and new last year, the City Assessors’ photos from the 1930’s survey. All this information is a click away and allows access to the Association’s historical house records. Check it out at www.heritagehillweb.org. The Association’s Facebook is also easily accessed from the home page of the website.

The Annual Tour of Homes: This is the largest fund-raiser and promotional effort of the Heritage Hill Association. The funds are needed to sustain our Crime Prevention and Neighborhood
HHAs 2010 Report to Neighbors

Improvement programs. It also promotes our architectural heritage and our neighborhood as a great place to live and work! The Home Tour has moved to the spring starting in 2011 (May 21 and 22). The fabulous ArtPrize was too tough to compete with so we’ve moved out of its way!

**The Annual Heritage Hill Garden Tour:** The third garden tour was well received in 2010. With the change in seasons for the Home Tour, we are partnering with the North College Block Club for the 2011 Garden Tour that will be held in mid to late summer.

**Social Events:** The Association hosts two annual neighborhood wide events to bring all neighbors together to celebrate our community. The Neighborhood Wide Night Out Picnic is in August; the Holiday Potluck and Annual Meeting is the Friday after the Thanksgiving weekend. The Association also schedules the annual Yard Sales Day that is now planned for the Saturday of Labor Day Weekend in 2011.

**Architectural and Historical Survey Files:** The HHA office maintains the architectural survey files of each house in the neighborhood that were compiled in 1969. This survey was necessary to place Heritage Hill on the National Register of Historic Places that effectively saved over 75% of the neighborhood from demolition. Most of the information from these files is posted on our website.

**Etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc,
• Reviewed monthly Grand Rapids Zoning and Planning Department agendas for issues affecting the neighborhood.
• Maintained communication network with each of our neighboring hospitals, colleges and universities, institutions, and neighborhood associations.
• Continued to hold neighbors meetings with Saint Mary’s Hospital representatives to address mutual issues. The redevelopment of Saint Luke’s (corner of Lafayette and Cherry) has been approved by the Historic Preservation Commission and is in the fund development campaign.
• Began preliminary discussions and investigation for developing a site specific development plan for State Street. The stakeholder planning sessions will begin in the early months of 2011.
• Supported a planning project for the Michigan Street Corridor from the river to the Beltline. This process had initial meetings in late 2010 but the real work will take place in 2011.
• Had two meetings with ICCF regarding progress on the Wealthy Jefferson Neighborhood Initiative. Hoping for construction to begin of mixed-used commercial buildings along Wealthy Street at Division in mid 2011.
• Assisted 5 residents with necessary documentation for the State’s Historic Tax Credits program.
• Participated in the City’s Code Compliance Project and monitored open housing cases with the City’s Housing Team Leader on a monthly basis. How the project works is that property owners receive a first notice of a complaint about exterior conditions from their respective neighborhood association. If repairs are made before the due date, there are no fees, no fines, and no problems. If not corrected, the city gets the case back and proceeds.

Crime Prevention and Community Organizing:

• Communication: In 2010, we continued our communication network that includes Crime Alert fliers, the Heritage Herald, E-Alerts, and word of mouth - all ways to keep our neighborhood safe, stable, and a pleasant place to live and work. Neighbors are urged to watch out for each other, to report crimes when they occur and to call the police on suspicious activity while it is “in progress”. Neighbors call the police and they also call the Heritage Hill Association at 459-8950 and get the entire neighborhood involved.

• Burglary: Our communication network helped put down a burglary problem that cropped up this fall. Neighbors called the police and the Association about break-ins at their homes or on their blocks. Detailed flyers were sent out in E-Alerts and door-to-door to hundreds of other neighbors with tips to prevent burglaries. Although the total home burglaries were only 10 in the eight weeks of October - November 30, (out of 4000 households), police officers made an arrest in late November and only two incidents occurred in the next two months! Patrol officers like to get calls about a crime-in-progress. It is an opportunity to make an arrest that could stop a crime wave. Don’t ever think your calls to the police are a bother. They are vital.

• Graffiti: During 2010 graffiti nearly disappeared from the State Street corridor due to our focus on getting it removed quickly. Owners were contacted and requested to get it cleaned or painted right away. The city has a graffiti hotline you can call when you see the markings on utility boxes in your area of the Hill (456-3666). Or call the Association office (459-8950) with the exact location, what surface is the graffiti on, and the color of the surface. The markings we see are done by high school and college students, not gangs.

• Broken Windows: There is a theory that broken windows encourage more broken windows. It is a signal that no one cares about the building or the area. When several windows were broken at a vacant building on State Street this summer we urged the owner to replace them instead of boarding them. The breakage stopped.

• Home and Apartment Security: This year we
performed free home security surveys to six households and showed owners and tenants ways an intruder could get inside quickly and quietly. While checking a dwelling where a burglar kicked in a door, we found a window next to the door was unlocked as were most of the other windows on the first floor. Other surveys found deadbolts that are too short, windows with broken or weak locks and no window stops, basement windows that would allow a quick entry; or faucets, ledges and flat roofs that can be used to get to unlocked windows. We give advice on how to make doors secure against force. Owners of rentals are provided a copy of the survey and the recommended changes on the request of the tenant. Call Barb at 459-8950 if you want a safety check of your apartment or home. They are free and part of our Neighborhood Watch.

- **Hot Spots:** A “hot spot” is a site that has a great many calls for police service. Heritage Hill neighbors and businesses targeted one business area as a hot spot due to repeated problems.
  - The 300 blocks of State Street celebrates a 66% decrease in crime problems since 2008. In 2008 police responded 201 times; in 2009 they came out 169 times and in 2010 the police visits were down to 89. What happened? We organized a series of meetings over the last five years where panhandling, graffiti and public drinking were targeted as core problems by business owners, residents and the police.
  - Foster Park was the site of major improvement. In 2010 there were only seven incidents requiring police service to the park, down from two dozen each in 2008 and 2009.
  - Problems at Clarks Food Center dropped over 40% from 87 incidents in 2008 to 39 last year.
  - State Street merchants filed a petition with the City of Grand Rapids Parking Commission to remove the parking meters on the 300 blocks of State Street.
  - What’s next on State Street? The Association is working to organize a State Street Strategic Planning Process for neighbors, businesses and owners to develop a long range plan that will guide future development, identify possible resources and encourage further investment on the State Street corridor.
  - Residential Hot Spots have also benefitted from our networking with the Grand Rapids Police Department, block clubs and individuals. Several owners received letters this year alerting them to police responses for problems at their buildings. They often do not realize there is a problem and are sometimes grateful for the notice. In three instances the owners cooperated and the problems were resolved. One involved a disturbance problem, another, altercations and disturbances and the third a variety of problems including housing code violations.

- **Urban Litter:** Our campaign to reduce the urban litter and damage to painted light poles has been somewhat successful. In several issues of the Herald photos of posters glued or taped to the black utility poles were highlighted. Since then an unidentified poster stripper seems to be keeping poles clean on Wealthy Street in the Hill. Local nightclubs and groups are urged to promote events with signs in businesses, yards signs, college bill boards, blogs, Face Book, websites and twitter. Yard Sales signs can be placed on wires and removed after the sales are over.

- **Everyday nuisances and everyday solutions:** We get calls about the frustrations of loud music, loud voices and laughing at 3:00 a.m., fast food litter thrown from cars, garbage in yards, in garages and on porches, tall grass, dead trees, fallen limbs and piles of brush; peeling paint, broken windows and vacant houses; pot holes, and icy sidewalks, cars blocking sidewalks and driveways, parking in yards and in shared driveways; street lights out, leaves in gutters, recycle bins stored on streets and porches; barking dogs inside and out. We have some of the same problems and know how it is when it seems there is no apparent answer. We are not the solution but dozens of times each year we work with neighbors to resolve the everyday nuisance that is driving them crazy.

- **Clean ups:** The Association worked with City Parks staff and neighbors to keep Foster Park at State and Madison a lovely little green space in the heart of the Hill. In 2010 a group of neighbors got together one night and tore a mountain of weeds from the flower beds at the park. Then Job Corp students came and planted 50 donated tulip bulbs in the park. We can’t wait to see them this spring! And finally we were glad to work with the energetic Calvin College first year students who dug up all the overgrown day lilies under the trees on State Street and saved the trees from choking to death. In 2010 we were also grateful for the help of the Social Security Administration’s Inspector General and staff over on College SE who helped senior citizens on the 400 block of Union SE with lawn clean ups.

- **Tenant Assistance:** We’ve met with many students and their parents who are seeking nice, safe and moderately priced rental housing in Heritage Hill. We offered our Rental Listings, a Tenant/Owner Rights and Responsibilities booklet and a Personal Safety Guide to get them started.

- **Tenant Organizing:** In 2010 we met with the Tenant Right’s Collaborative, a city-wide organizing and educational effort to enhance rental practices, improve housing conditions and provide training on tenant rights and responsibilities. Coming up in 2011 are three
tenant focus groups that will identify major issues of concern for tenants in Grand Rapids.

Parking/Traffic/Street Construction:
- Parking and traffic concerns continue to be issues for neighbors, primarily in the north end but also pockets of concern in the mid and south end of Heritage Hill. We continue to respond to issues as best we can with limited tools to effect change.
- Monitored the neighborhood sewer replacement projects and I-196 construction; assisted individual neighbors with various needs through the duration of these projects.

Neighborhood Promotion:
- Organized and orchestrated the annual Home Tour; showcased 9 open houses and recruited 272 volunteers to staff the homes. Officially moved Home Tour to the spring beginning in 2011 after losing the competition to ArtPrize that now controls the Fall events calendar. Home Tour’s move will open time for all of us to have the days and days needed to relish ArtPrize!
- Organized the third annual Garden Tour. The successful event will continue in 2011 but a later date in the summer is planned.
- Compiled and published 6 issues of the Heritage Herald and distributed to 4,800 neighbors and posted at our website.
- Compiled, produced and provided weekly apartment listings at the HHA office and website. Advertised the Association’s rental listing service and available apartments in GVSU’s student newspaper and Craig’s List.
- Organized the Heritage Hill Night Out Picnic at Foster Park in August.
- Organized the annual Heritage Hill Neighborhood-Wide Yard Sale Day. This too is moved to the Saturday of Labor Day weekend in 2011.

Fundraising: While most of our fundraising also involves neighborhood promotion, this year we needed to turn to gaming to help us through these tough times! Applied and received State licensing for Texas Hold-em events that were conducted far, far away from our neighborhood at a licensed gaming facility. Raised $3,000 at a 3-day commitment.

And: Handled 1000’s of calls and requests regarding a multitude of quality of life issues in Heritage Hill

And we continue working with you in 2011 ...

Remember Heritage Hill Property Owners:
There is a City Preservation Ordinance that governs all exterior changes, repairs and/or additions to Heritage Hill properties. Call the Grand Rapids Historic Preservation Commission at 456-3451 for information on approvals. You can access the application form at the City’s website, www.ci.grand-rapids.mi.us or at the Planning Department section of the City’s website, www.ci.grand-rapids.mi.us. This ordinance applies to all exterior changes, repairs, and/or additions to your home and property. Items such as doors and windows including storms, yard structures, driveway and sidewalk approaches, and fences do need HPC approvals.
Martha’s Vineyard has been catering West Michigan’s events for over two decades; providing superior service for a host of events - casual or elegant, indoors or out, business or pleasure, large and small.

Family Gatherings, Weddings, Holiday Parties, Business Meetings, Fundraisers, Reunions and more....

Martha’s Vineyard offers Full Service Special Event Planning which includes Food & Beverage Catering, Deli Trays, Baked Goods, Tables, Linens, Chairs, Tents, Coolers, China, Glassware and more....


Phone: (616) 459-0116
E-mail: catering@mvwines.com
Web: www.mvwines.com

For the second year, Jane Lovett did a great job organizing a mini TASTE of the neighborhoods. The generosity of local restaurants with donations of their specialty dishes has been a delicious addition to the banquet table. Thank you to The Green Well Gastropub, Cherie Inn, Marie Catrib’s, Viceroy, Jonny B’z, The Winchester, Big O Café, Hong Kong Express, Big Bore Barbeque, Cherry St. Deli, Grand Rapids Pizza and Delivery (GRPD) and the Electric Cheetah. Neighbors so like the food that there were not even crumbs left over!

Martha’s Vineyard provided all the assorted beverages and we thank them too for providing the toasting supplies!

At the Annual Meeting portion of the night, Jaime Misner, Mary Robinson, Jim Payne, Jackie Taylor and Steve Yared were re-elected to the HHA Board of Directors. Volunteers recognized the following to receive the 2010 Heritage Hill Association Distinguished Service Awards: Kathi Barkan, Nikki Hoort, Tina Demling, Justin Fales, Jim Payne, Jack Sysmsa, Steve Yared, Grand River Builders, Scott Kuderick, NCBC, Esther Tanis-VanAllsburg, Brian Deyo and Mayra Fortes, Tom and Anne Logan, Andrew Knauf, Joe Krzeminski, Greg McNeilly and Doug Meecks, Hannah and Jeremy Monsma, Steve Tinelshof and Lindsay Ellis, Deb Zondervan, Heather Williams, Connie Bohatch, Wendy Falb, Jack Hessler, Bob Partridge, Suzanne Schulz, Spectrum Health, Tami VanTil and Cyndy Thornbury. Jim Talen delivered each with humor and appreciation as recipients paraded through the crowd.

The special Jim Karsen Public Service Award honored Bill Reed for his long contribution to Heritage Hill and the City–at-Large. A standing ovation greeted his family as they accepted his recognition.

The Pleasant Park progress was overviewed by Suzanne Schulz and the hat was passed to kick off the year of fundraising for the Park’s construction. Neighbors collected $349 for that effort.

Santa and Santa’s helpers delighted the many kids that supplied their lists. The word on the street is that each child received everything on their list on Christmas morning.

A Happy New Year to all!
Historic Building Restoration
Residential & Institutional
616-454-9337
www.grandriverbuilders.com
Meeting with Community Officer: Early in January the neighbors on the 200-300 block of Madison Block invited our Community Officer Kristen Gibbons to talk about neighborhood safety. Officer Gibbons said that knowing our neighbors is the first step in stopping crime. Recognizing suspicious activity on your block is another. She and other officers rely on neighbors to call in suspicious activity while it is happening. She described how a recent arrest solved a several burglaries and suddenly the crimes stopped. Using descriptions that neighbors call into the police, allows officer to do “field interrogations” to seek out suspects.

Field interrogations are times when officers receive a suspect’s description from a caller. Officers responding to an auto break-in or any suspicious activity report will use your description of the suspect to stop anyone that matches this description. Officers will check for identification and ask a few questions. Sometimes a suspect still has the stolen item or a tool used in the crime. Other times the person that officers question is not involved at all.

Police Officer Files: In one incident Officer Gibbons described, an officer had heard about a home burglary that happened that morning. He saw a young man that he knew had been involved in burglaries in the past. He stopped the teen and found him with a pocket full of loot. When they checked the teen’s bedroom they found more stolen goods from the home that had the break-in that day. The “mental filing system” in each officer’s head is a great tool that helps the police help us.

When you call in a crime in progress, why don’t the police come right away? You often won’t see the officer right away because officers first search for the suspect who might be hiding or running from the scene. After that an officer will come to take a report and might have you identify a suspect that they caught.

There were lots of other tips and questions at the meeting. If you would like to invite neighbors over for coffee and a crime chat please give us a call at the Heritage Hill office at 459-8950.

Burglary: In 2009 there were 26 home burglaries. In 2010 there were 40 incidents. This upwards trend is seen city-wide. In the past entry was often the result of a thief getting in through an unlocked door or window. In 2009, 17 of the 26 burglaries were the result of forced entry (door or window entry) because officers first search for the suspect who might be hiding or running from the scene. After that an officer will come to take a report and might have you identify a suspect that they caught.

There were lots of other tips and questions at the meeting. If you would like to invite neighbors over for coffee and a crime chat please give us a call at the Heritage Hill office at 459-8950.

Burglary: In 2009 there were 26 home burglaries. In 2010 there were 40 incidents. This upwards trend is seen city-wide. In the past entry was often the result of a thief getting in through an unlocked door or window. In 2009, 17 of the 26 burglaries were the result of forced entry (door or window entry) because officers first search for the suspect who might be hiding or running from the scene. After that an officer will come to take a report and might have you identify a suspect that they caught.

There were lots of other tips and questions at the meeting. If you would like to invite neighbors over for coffee and a crime chat please give us a call at the Heritage Hill office at 459-8950.
window broken). In 2010, thieves forced a door or window in 34 of the total 40 home break-in incidents.

Many were done during the day-time hours when the occupants were out for the day. Lt. Warwick at the GRPD told us the police are dependent on our Neighborhood Watch Programs and urged neighbors to continue to call in suspicious activity. Calls from neighbors are what lead to arrests.

To defend against this trend, we neighbors must work harder on prevention. All neighbors, not just home owners but all tenants and all rental owners too. Each year we see an influx of new people moving into the Hill. Some are not aware of the basics of personal safety and home security. Laptops, phones, wallets and even cash are stolen from their cars. Flat screen TVs, iPods and other electronics are taken when they leave their apartment door unlocked while they run to the store for a minute. Many newcomers are from smaller communities and rural areas where they were never responsible for safety. These are the folks that are the most vulnerable.

So, where do we start? To bring these crime stats down, I will be asking block reps and neighbors for their advice on how we can best reach out to new neighbors to include them in block meetings and information sharing. We can also produce a New Neighbor Packet that can be dropped off. Rental owners are not generally included in our prevention activities. They are a resource that we want to work with more effectively this year. Other suggestions are welcome.

What about forced entry? It is not only new folks that got hit. So we must work on ways to strengthen home security against forced entry. Door kick-ins and window breaking needs to be addressed. Working with those that have had the experience of a burglary and finding out what they have done to protect their homes, might help those working to avoid this fate. A neighborhood meeting on burglary issues might be a good idea for this spring.

Give us a call or e-mail your ideas. If you are new and interested in getting e-updates send a note with your name, address, phone and e-mail to heritage@heritagehillweb.org. If you want to help with a neighborhood meeting do the same, please. Keep in touch!
Huge thanks to our recent Heritage Hill Association contributors:

Peter and Nedra Agnew
Margaret Andrews
David Annis
Lisa Baars
Ruggiero and Donatella Battan
Deb and Bill Bryker
Rick Bylsma
Ed Clifford and Leslie VanBecker
Tom Clinton
Ann and Robert Cooper
Curtis Laundry & Dry Cleaners, Inc
Tom Czerwinski
Karen Dahl and Richard Machado
Lisa DeFerrari and Dan DeWitt
James and Maria DeVries
Tom and Amy DiLillo
Bruce Drotleff
Kayem Dunn
Julie Eister
First Park Congregational Church
Gerald and Donna Foy
Walter Foote
Steven and Susan Frasier
Margaret Gage
Gerontology Network
Alessandro Giovannelli and Gisella Gisolo
Blair and Lisa Heethuis
Barbara Hehuis
Cynthia-Lee Hobbs
Korry and Doug Hoeksema
Jack and Rebecca Hoffman
David and Sandy Jinkins
Judy Jorgenson
Sue Karsen
Michael Kelly
Kendall College of Art & Design of Ferris State University
Sandra Kommit
Mark and Barbara Levandoski
Valeria Long
Jane Markey and Curt Benson
Masonic Temple Association
John A. Miles.
Joe and Ryan Miller
Dorothy Munson
Patty Neva
Wayne and Jana Norlin
North College Block Club
John O’Connor and Gabriel Works
Planned Parenthood of West-Northern Michigan
Tom and Carol Postma
Ben Rietema
Steven J. Szczymko
Jim and Pat Talen
Ben Tamminga
Tom and Chris Truesdale
Gordon and Joyce VanHaitsma

Richard and Susan Van Houten
David Vriesenga and Sarah Ver Meulen
Gary and Janice Walker
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Ken and Sharon Wierenga
Richard A. Winn

Greenridge Construction, Inc
Since 1996
- Custom Copper and Sheet Metal
- Half Round Gutters & Downspouts
- Chimney Flashings & Roof Repairs
Licensed & Insured
(616) 291-3435

Ruth Kelly sworn in as 2nd Ward City Commissioner
Building Bridges for Heritage Hill!

Join us on Facebook or kellyforgr.com

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Ruth Kelly
940 Monroe, Apt. 219 - Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
Heritage Hill Weekend Tour of Homes
May 21 and 22, 2011

We’re piecing together a terrific tour for you!
Join us this spring because it no longer in the fall!

Early bird tickets on sale now for $12.00 at the HHA office or Online at www.heritagehillweb.org. After April 1, tickets are $15.00.
Board Notes

Discussion at the November, 2010 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:

2010 Distinguished Service Award for the HHA Board – Secret Ballots were distributed for the members to vote for DSA's.

Treasurer's Report: Tom C. reported that as of October 31st, we are up about $4,500. Friends and Sponsors’ will come in below budget, but that we will likely end the year in the black due to the one-time ARRA grant.

Staff Reports: Jan E. reported that there is a zoning issue at 517 Wealthy SE. This property is a single family and the new owner was discouraged by the City's Planning department concerning the possibility of turning it into a two family. Jan will get further feedback from neighbors and the HHA Zoning Committee. Jan also reported that the office has had a great paint job by Jam Crawford.

Liaison Groups:

Fundraising:
Garden Tour - Jim P. reported that NCBC had talked about a northern 2011 Garden Tour briefly during their board meeting and though it needs more discussion, the subject was received well.

Home Tour – Jan E. stated that the line-up will be solidified by the first of the year and then full steam ahead with publicity and further plans.

Community Involvement – Mary Robinson
Block Issues – Barb L. commented that with the recent break-ins, Neighborhood Watch is vital. Thieves have been breaking windows and back doors in the daytime. Neighbors need to be watching for any suspicious activity and to call the police. Several e-alerts have been sent along with door-to-door distribution.

Hospitality – Holiday Potluck - Jane L. confirmed that neighbor restaurants are again donating specialty dishes.

Land Use Issues – Jaime Misner
Parks – Jan E. provided an update on plans for Pleasant Park; a DNR Trust fund grant will be submitted in March, 2011. This grant requires a 20% local match and a plea will go out in the December Herald for neighbor donations. Friends of GR Parks will apply to local foundations for the bulk of the necessary local funds and neighbor donations would help secure these funds. Discussion included the passing the hat at the Annual Meeting.

Traffic & Parking – Jane L. reported that some neighbors on Gay are unhappy with the new unlimited parking on both sides on Gay near Fulton. Jan E. reminded that neighbors may complain to the city and that a postcard survey would go out to determine neighbors’ preferences.

Administrative – Mike Clark

Institutional Liaisons – Mike C. reported that he will be meeting with John Helmholtz of GRPS soon and there is also collaboration in the works for a State...
Street Corridor improvement planning process.
Nominating – Mike C. reported that the full slate of candidates’ profiles is in the Nov/Dec Herald for elections at the Annual Meeting. Mike also stated that there are two officer openings on the 2011 Executive Committee and he encouraged members to consider these positions.
Personnel - Jackie T. reported that she did meet with Jan and they updated Jan’s

Goals and objectives for 2011.
New Business: Maria Z. reported that the Association had nominated Sue Karsen for the Humana Company’s StarLight award that recognizes wonderful 65+ year-old volunteers. Sue was selected as a finalist and attended the award ceremony. Though not the grand prize winner (who is given $10,000 to donate to the nonprofit of their choice), Sue was wined and dined, gifted and very much appreciated.
HHA 2011 Budget – Executive Session – Tom C. reported that the draft budget was reviewed and accepted by the Finance Committee. The motion to accept the budget as submitted was approved.

Discussion at the December, 2010 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting that is customarily an abbreviated meeting included:

2011 Board Officers Election: A motion was made to amend the slate presented to include President, Mike Clark; Vice President, Jim Payne; Treasurer, Jackie Taylor; and Secretary, Deb Bryker. The slate was approved and clapping followed.
Old Business: Jan overviewed her discussions regarding Vandenberg School and the great news that it is 99.8% for sure that the Child Discovery Center (a charter school) will be purchasing and moving into this school building in the Fall of 2011. She continued with her meeting with ICCF and the progress on the Wealthy Jefferson Initiative. Mike Clark outlined his conversations thus far on developing a site-specific plan for State Street. Mark Miller, a neighbor and fellow planner is working with him. The planning process will likely begin early in 2011. Mike also talked of the former Gateway School Building and its current occupancy of two tenants and future prospects. Justin Fales provided an update of the Cherry/Jefferson corner and the beginning of the construction of the Advantage Health Professional Office Building.

Discussion at the January, 2011 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:

Vandenberg School: Architect Ted Lott presented an overview of the Child Discovery Center’s (a K-5 charter school) purchase and use of this building. Plans were reviewed for the proposed two additions on the south and west side of the building. Plans also include a playground and removing the bulk of the asphalt parking lot for green space.

(Cont’d on page 16)
Members of the Center’s staff and Board also commented on the schools programs and plans. The additions’ design will be going to HPC in February and March.

Occupancy of the school building is planned for the Fall of 2011. HHA Board members expressed support and welcomed this opportunity for Heritage Hill parents, students and community.

Central High Campus/UPrep:
Representatives from GRPS and the University Preparatory Academy (UPrep) outlined plans for community input sessions for the proposed addition to 111 College NE. UPrep is remaining at this location and needs additional space for the 10, 11, and 12th grades that it will be adding each year. Architect Tom Nemitz has joined the design team and will be working with neighbors as well as Progressive A&E on developing plans. Neighborhood meetings are planned for January 25, February 15 and March 15 and each begins at 6:30 p.m. at the former City High building. GRPS representative John Helmholdt discussed addressing the parking and traffic patterns at this location for improvements. GRPS’s upcoming millage request could provide funding for these upgrades. Board members thanked all for engaging Heritage Hill neighbors.

Treasurer’s Report: Jackie Taylor presented the year-end statement. Jan explained that the Association operates on a cash basis rather than an accrual accounting due to the requirements of its funding sources. The report is a snapshot of the Association’s finances as of December 31, 2010. The Association ended the year in the black due to additional funding grants that will not be available in 2011.

Staff Reports: Board members referred to the written staff reports that were provided.

Committee/Liaison Reports: Mike Clark reviewed the 2011 Board structure and Committee List and Board members adjusted where they will be serving this year. Board Liaison groups then broke into their respective groups and planned times that they would gather and develop Board goals and objectives for presentation at the February Board meeting.

The HHA Board meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third WEDNESDAY of every month at the GRCC DeVos Campus, 415 East Fulton, at the Robert Sneden Lecture Hall. Neighbors are welcome to attend. If you would like an item placed on the Board agenda, please call the HHA office at 459-8950 before 4:00 p.m. of the second WEDNESDAY of the month. If you would like to address the Board regarding an agenda item, public comment is taken at the beginning of each meeting. For non-agenda items, public comment is taken at the end of each meeting. Typically, Board meetings run from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.
We are missing

Hoort
Heritage Hill’s # 1 Neighborhood Booster

The masses applaud and appreciate your big, big role in saving our neighborhood.

Welcome to Heritage Hill

Join us for classic worship & liberating theology every Sunday at 9:30 am
Child care provided

Downtown Good Friday Service
April 22 noon - 2 pm

Barker Concert Series
Benjamin Britten’s Noah’s Flood
a Chancel drama
April 29 & 30

Serving Grand Rapids from the heart of Heritage Hill with Addie’s Pantry & Addie’s Diner

“...I was hungry and you gave me something to eat”. Matthew 25:35

www.centralreformedchurch.org
COMING TO GRAND RAPIDS!
OLD HOUSE EXPO
Saturday, March 19, 2011
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Fountain Street Church - 24 Fountain St. NE
$7 for adults, $5 for Seniors Children under 12 are FREE

Whether you already own the old house of your dreams or are thinking of buying one or you just love old houses, you are not alone. On March 19th, the Sixth Annual Old House Expo will come to Grand Rapids. After five successful expos in Kalamazoo, the Expo is going on the road bringing together old house owners, contractors, suppliers and advisors. Three tracks of programming will run from 10am to 4pm covering topics from energy audits to window repairs and replacing mortar.

In the Vendor’s hall there will be continuous demonstrations of paint stripping techniques, replacing window sash ropes and using wood consolidants. The hall will also contain a wide variety of old house contractors and suppliers.

Historic District property Owners
SAVE YOUR POSTCARDS!! Annual postcards will be sent out from the City of Grand Rapids HPC that will contain a buy one entry get one free entry to the EXPO!!
Questions - contact Rhonda Baker: 616-456-3451

Looking for Historic Preservationists and Projects

17th Annual Historic Preservation Award Nominations are now being accepted until March 10th. The nomination form is on the City Web page - www.ci.grand-rapids.mi.us.
Click Departments; go to Design, Development and Enterprise Services; go to Planning; and to finally to Historic Preservation. The nominating form link is on that page.
To be eligible the property must be within the Grand Rapids City limits, but need not be within an historic district. Nominations will be judged based on the following criteria: the positive impact towards Historic Preservation within the City of Grand Rapids; the affect the work has had on other projects; the success of the project or work as a whole; and how closely the project adhered to the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation. The Commission reserves the right to make multiple awards or no awards in any category and to nominate projects that they deem worthy of consideration.

Visit blissforgrn.org for periodic newsletters and to join us on Facebook!
Paid for by the Committee to Elect Rosalynn Bliss
P.O. Box 3643 Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

A Message for Heritage Hill from Commissioner Rosalynn Bliss:
I hope you are all handling the cold weather! Please contact me at 889-1277 if there is anything I can do to be helpful.

Connect in Person! COFFEES WITH BLISS:
Monday, February 28th
7:30am at Marie Catrib’s
Monday, March 21
Noon at Vitales on Leonard
Monday, April 25th at 5pm
at the Greenwell

Advantage Animal Control
Problem Wildlife Removal
• Moles
• Bats
• Raccoons
Licensed & Insured
901-2212

Team Restoration Inc
Remodeling & Repair Specialists
Call the Experts. Call the Team.
616.863.8118
www.teamrestoration.com
GRAND RAPIDS PIZZA & DELIVERY

**To Prepare and Serve**

**PIZZA & DELIVERY**

Order online now  [www.grandrapidspizza.net](http://www.grandrapidspizza.net)

340 State St. S.E.  (616)742-GRPD (4773)

**Open** M-TH 11AM-11PM,  FRIDAY 11AM-12:30AM  SATURDAY NOON-12:30AM  SUNDAY NOON-11PM

**Late Night Delivery Thursday, Friday and Saturday until 2:30 AM**

---

**TASTE**

**FRESH**

**Local First**

Support Locally Owned Business

Greek Spaghetti shown with fresh tomato, spinach and homemade sausage added

Chef Salad shown

Deluxe Pizza shown on Gluten Free Crust (available in 12” only)

---

**GRAND RAPIDS**

**To Prepare and Serve**

**PIZZA & DELIVERY**

---

**Personal Pizza and a Pop**

10” Personal 2 Topping Pizza

—one 20 oz. Pop

$5.99

---

**Feast for 4**

16” Large 2 Topping Pizza and breadsticks w/ sauce

$14.99

---

**Free Breadsticks with Cheese**

Buy any 14”, 16” or 18” Specialty pizza & receive one order of breadsticks with cheese & sauce FREE

---

**Double Deuce**

Two 2 Topping Pizzas

2-12” Small  2-18” X-Large

$14.99  $26.49

---

**XL Special**

18” Extra Large 3 Topping Pizza

$15.49

---

**Free Dessert w/ Dinners**

Free Cinnamon Breadsticks or 4 Chocolate Chip Cookies when you purchase 2 pasta dinners

$13.99

---

**Free Food**

Save proof of purchase seals off your boxes for FREE FOOD ITEMS

10=14” 1 Topping Pizza FREE

10= Any Oven Baked Sub FREE

10= 6 pc. Wings FREE

5= House of Chef Salad FREE

5= Regular or Cinnamon Breadsticks FREE

5= 3 Fresh Baked Chocolate Chip Cookies FREE

---

Order online now  [www.grandrapidspizza.net](http://www.grandrapidspizza.net)
DATES TO REMEMBER
All Heritage Hill Association Meetings are open to neighbors.

Tuesday, February 15, 2011
Neighbors’ Input Meeting – University Prep Academy – 6:30 p.m.
111 College NE

Wednesday, February 16, 2011
HHA Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - GRCC DeVos Campus
Robert Sneden Academic Building Lecture Hall
415 East Fulton

Tuesday, March 15, 2011
Neighbors’ Input Meeting – University Prep Academy – 6:30 p.m.
111 College NE

Tuesday, March 15th
March April Heritage Herald Deadline

Wednesday, March 16, 2011
HHA Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - GRCC DeVos Campus
Robert Sneden Academic Building Lecture Hall
415 East Fulton

Wednesday, April 20, 2011
HHA Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - GRCC DeVos Campus
Robert Sneden Academic Building Lecture Hall
415 East Fulton

Annual Heritage Hill Association Events to Remember:

It’s a Spring Tour now!
Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22, 2011
2011 Heritage Hill Weekend Tour of Homes

Tuesday, August 2, 2011
Heritage Hill Night-Out Picnic
Enjoy a summer night with fun and food!

Saturday, September 3, 2011
Neighborhood-Wide Yard Sales Day
50+ yard sales scattered throughout the Heritage Hill Neighborhood!

Friday, December 2, 2011
Holiday Potluck and Annual Meeting
Holiday Cheer, Great Food and conversation with Heritage Hill neighbors.
Santa comes, you should too!