DAS DATES TO REMEMBER
All Heritage Hill Association Meetings are open to neighbors.

Tuesday, August 4th, 2009 (rescheduled)
Annual Night Out Picnic, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Foster Park (at the intersection of State, Cherry and Madison)

Tuesday, August 18th, 2009
HHA Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Davenport/GRCC Campus
Robert Sneden Academic Building Lecture Hall
415 East Fulton

Tuesday, September 15th, 2009
HHA Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Davenport/GRCC Campus
Robert Sneden Academic Building Lecture Hall
415 East Fulton

Annual Dates to Remember:
Saturday and Sunday, October 3rd and 4th, 2009
40th annual Heritage Hill Weekend Tour of Homes

Tuesday, August 4th, 2009
Holiday Potluck and Annual Meeting

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY WORSHIP
10:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Children’s Worship & Nursery Care Provided
www.westminstergr.com
456-4466
47 Jefferson - Downtown - Grand Rapids

LAgrave AVE NUE
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
“Reach out to the Neighbors with Grace”

A HISTORIC CHURCH
COMMITTED TO THE DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY

Worship Services
10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.
Education Classes
10:00 a.m.
Community Sewing Program
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
167 L出让 Avenue SE
(A block north and east of McCall)
616/435-7264 • rash@magnum.org

Remember Heritage Hill

Property Owners:
There is a City Preservation Ordinance that governs all exterior changes, repairs and additions. Address questions or concerns to Heritage Hill’s Graeme Martin at 616-455-3851 or to the City Planning Department’s Heritage Hill Preservation Commission at the Grand Rapids Historic Preservation Commission at 616-455-3851 for information on approvals. You can access the application form at the City’s website: graeme.c.martin@grandrapidsmi.us. This ordinance applies to all exterior changes, repairs, and/or additions to your home and property. Items such as doors and windows including storm, yard structures, sidewalk and streetway approaches, and fences need HPC approvals.

JULY/AUGUST 2009
Volume XXXV, No. 4

WE NEED YOU
to Volunteer
for the
Heritage Hill Weekend
Tour of Homes
Saturday and/or
Sunday, October 3rd
and 4th plus get a free
ticket to Tour!

Annual Night Out
Picnic
rescheduled for
Tuesday, August 4th, 2009
5:30-8:30 p.m. at Foster Park
(intersection of State, Cherry and Madison)

Bring a dish to pass,
something to sit on and
we’ll provide the usual tableware,
dogs, drinks and frivolity!

Good Neighbors! Great Door Prizes! Games!
On the National Night Out Date

Good Neighbors! Great Door Prizes! Games!
On the National Night Out Date

The grillmasters, Jim Tlak and Mike Sake, are ready for the

Heritage Hill is needed on
our largest fundraiser of
the year!

Call 459-8950, email heritage@heritagehillweb.org, or go to
www.heritagehillweb.org
and raise your hand to help
your favorite cause!
The 2nd annual Garden Tour was a 2nd anning hit. We heard from many vocal tourists who heaped praise on the neighborhood and gardens. Thanks to a committee to Kathi Barkley and Nikhil Hoort for orchestrating this great event and raising $5,000 for our neighborhood program. Thanks also to the 25 volunteers including those from the Grand Rapids Fire Department for helping the day run smoothly. Plans for the 3rd Garden Tour have already begun!

Land Use issues have really been sprouting in Heritage Hill over the last few months. The Heritage Hill Association addresses every issue before the City’s Zoning and Planning Departments but it is crucial for you to be in this mix. HHA is only as powerful as neighbors standing together with us and we are never a substitute for your voice. When our call goes out for neighbors to get involved, please join in.

The issues were working on include:

- The RAPID’s bus transit, the Silver Line
- Zoning issues that are not resolved
- Plans for the 3rd Garden Tour
- Pledge Drive

Congratulations to Heritage Hill’s own Wendy Fall on her election to the GR Public School Board. Wendy has been of great service to her neighbors and now she’s taking that passion to our school community. We are in good hands!

Remembering Jim Karsen who last summer to us one year ago. I’m really publishing his take on community so that his stories live on!

“When you live off by yourself away from others, you can do whatever you want. You can yell and scream, you can hoot and holler all day and all night. But when you live in a community, you have to respect others. You have to be respectful of others. That’s what it means to live in a community.”

* Enjoy the summer months and don’t forget that Home Tour is coming on October 3 and 4! Volunteer to help with event, invite friends, carry on!

Jan Earl
Executive Director

The Grand Rapids Historic Preservation Commission recognized several Heritage Hill activists with 2009 HPC awards. We too applaud James Rybaski for his recognition of the Louis Campau house at 426 E. Fulton; and Susan Shively and Joel Vandikter for their work on proposing that NE (you can get the inside scoop on Tour this year!) Jim Karsen was also recognized posthumously for his lifetime commitment to public service and community.

Save the Date
The date is set: Saturday August 29, 2009
Third time’s the charm.

The dresses are sewn and the guest list is complete.

and the “Happy Couple” is........

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Expires 8/31/09
All prices subject to tax. Must present coupon.
www.grandrapidspizza.net

Traditional, Stuffed or Specialty pizzas... They’re HOT, just ask the guys!

Double cheese and additional items extra. Valid at the State St. location only.

Invite you to create your own heat if you dare, or enjoy any one of our award-winning savory ingredients, to bring on the heat. Nothing is too hot for you.

Blazing Buffalo Sauce for our homemade pizza sauce and set your taste buds ablaze! We took it to the guys who know what heat is all about.

$20 (50%)
$18.50
$12.50
$12.99
$7.00
$6.00

Regular, Stuffed or Specialty Pizzas

Sunday 4pm-11pm
Saturday 4pm-12:30am
Friday 11am-12:30am
Open M-Th 11am-11pm

Double Oregano and Garlic and Fresh Banana, Jalapeno and Crushed Red Peppers...comingle with other fresh and savory ingredients, to bring on the heat. Nothing is too hot for you.

3-Topping Pizzas

YOUR CHOICE TRIPLE TOP

For students only. Present your current student I.D. and receive 20% off any menu item. Cannot be combined with other discounts or offers.

Do not hallucinate.
Citizen Advocacy Around Zoning Issues

Have you wanted to express your opinion on something happening in your neighborhood but didn’t really know how to go about it? Grand Rapids’ new Zoning Ordinance provides opportunities for you to impact development projects and zoning changes proposed for your neighborhood. Here are some examples:

- **Neighborhood Meeting**
  Developers of significant projects are encouraged to organize a meeting with residents and other affected parties to inform them about the project, answer concerns, and discuss any potential problems. The intent of the neighborhood meeting is to provide a forum so that the developer and affected parties can understand each other’s perspective and try to resolve any possible conflict. Neighbors should always attend these meetings. Usually the neighborhood and/or business association will assist the developer in organizing the meeting. Neighbors should use this meeting to make sure the development will be an asset to the area and to negotiate with the developer for improvements.

- **Public Hearing**
  A public hearing may be held by the Planning Commission, the City Commission, or the Board of Zoning Appeals when a project will have a significant impact on an area, require a special land use, or deviate from the Zoning Ordinance requirements. Affected citizens should make their voices heard at the hearing through written or oral testimonies. Neighbors who have organized to present a unified position are much more effective in affecting desired changes to a project than a few individual voices. Your neighborhood association should be in on this effort and provide tips on how best to present your case. Testimony must focus on specific criteria regarding the zoning issue and not just emotional reactions.

- **Report Violations**
  Good enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance is dependent upon citizen vigilance in reporting possible violations. This is done by calling Housing Inspection at 456-5053. You do not have to leave your name when filing a complaint if you do not want that as part of the public record. However, you should call back in a couple of weeks and ask for the inspector handling the complaint. Many times you can provide crucial information regarding the situation that will help the inspector. The inspector does not have to include your name in the file at this point.

- **Access Information/Review File**
  As a citizen, you can obtain all kinds of information regarding your name in the file at this point. The intent of the neighborhood meeting is to provide a forum so that the developer and affected parties can understand each other’s perspective and try to resolve any possible conflict. Neighbors should always attend these meetings. Usually the neighborhood and/or business association will assist the developer in organizing the meeting. Neighbors should use this meeting to make sure the development will be an asset to the area and to negotiate with the developer for improvements.

Carpentry.

But that’s not all.

Grand River Builders has been making historic properties work again and look beautiful with their expertise in not only carpentry, but architectural sheetmetal, historic roofing, masonry, and contracting.

What You Need to Know About Air Conditioners

Did you know that your window air conditioner can be a fire hazard? A/C units require a lot of electricity. If your house does not have appropriate wiring, or you are using an inappropriate extension cord, keeping cool can actually be putting you at risk.

Older homes, prevalent in much of Heritage Hill, have older wiring. If the wiring in your home has been updated, you may be dealing with 60-70-year-old wires with crumbling insulation that isn’t designed for the amount of electricity being conducted. Also, check to see if the electrical box in your building has the appropriate fuses/circuit breakers for the amount of electricity you are using.

Running your air conditioner through an extension cord can add risk. Extension cords are intended to be a temporary solution, which is defined in building codes as less than 30 days. Most of us have our window units in for 4-5 months. Cords are also rated for the amount of electricity they are supposed to conduct. If you are running an A/C unit through a cord that is too small, it is like trying to run a bowling ball through a garden hose. It can lead to heat build up or electrical shorts or heat build up in your outlet. When using an A/C window unit, make sure that (A) the house’s wiring can handle it. (B) If you are using an extension cord, that it can handle the amount of electricity being conducted and that you unplug it when not in use. (C) Make sure that the cord is in good condition and isn’t running under carpets. (D) Don’t run it through an adapter or surge protector.

Honestly, any of you may do one or more of the above and it may not start a fire. But you are increasing risk. So please be careful. Take care and have a good summer.

bestway

CLEANING SERVICES

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Fax  616.827.8473
bestway@iserv.net
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www.grandriverbuilders.com to see over 100 photos of our work
Board Notes

(Cont’d from page 11)

Home Tour – Jane reported that plans are going full speed ahead, the press releases are out and that an action plan is in place for volunteer recruitment. Pledge Drive – Jackie reported that nearly 100% of Board members have contributed to the drive and that the phone-a-thon that Barb organized was quite successful.

New Business: Jane discussed the ArtPrize event in late September and early October, stating that Peaches would likely be an art venue along with several others in and near Heritage Hill. These venues will be highlighted on the Tour map and advertising could be shared with Art Prize and Home Tour.

The HHA Board meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at Davenport University, 445 East Fulton at the Robert Sneden Lecture Hall. Neighbors are welcome to attend. If you would like an item placed on the agenda, please call the HHA office at 459-0570 before 4:00 p.m. of the second Tuesday 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 last from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 to 9:00 p.m.

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Helpful Tips for Water Pipes and Clogs

Water is running from somewhere beneath the cabinets and ruining your kitchen floor. HELP!

You can prepare for a crisis like this by knowing how to turn off the water to your home. You should locate the main water valve, know how to operate it, and tag it. Everyone in the household should walk through the drill.

For us lucky folks in cold climates, the water supply pipe is buried several feet in the ground. It comes from the street side of your house and enters through the basement. On that pipe is where you find the main water valve. Another hint is to follow the cold water pipe on your water heater to its source. Trace it to the end and you’ll find the main supply pipe.

Remember “right is tight” (off) with older turn valves. For valves with straight handles, the water is off when the handle is perpendicular to the pipe. If the valve is rusted or corroded, have a plumber test it and replace it if necessary.

Tired of standing in water when taking a shower. Next time you’re at the grocery or hardware store, pick up a drain cleaner – a flexible plastic stick with small hooks along its length. It looks like a very thin Christmas tree.

Without dismantling anything, you can push this thin plastic tool down the drain and pull out all that hair and junk. Have a rag or paper towel ready to catch the junk. Run very hot water down the drain for several minutes after removing the junk.

You can also try this with a length of thin wire and bent to form a hook on one end. It isn’t as effective but it can help!

Tips provided by The Home Examiner, www.thehomeexaminer.com

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Breakfast Seven Days

Don’t Miss the
TIMELESS TREASURES SALE
at the Women’s City Club
254 E Fulton

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
10am-6pm
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
10am-2pm

A unique sale of treasures from the members of the Women’s City Club - linens, china, crystal, silver, jewelry, collectibles, holiday decorations, silk flowers, lamps, scarves – and the list goes on. No clothing or books. The building is handicapped accessible. Two parking lots. Use the back door off of the Fulton Street parking lot.

---

Park Church

Helpful Tips for Water Pipes and Clogs

Water, fire, and wind don't care about the historic value of your home. Team does.

Call the Experts. Call the Team.
616.863.8118
www.teamrestoration.com

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Mark Levandoski hired VanDerKolk Painting to perform architectural paint restoration in the Heritage Hill District.

Mark, what would you like your Heritage Hill neighbors to know about VanDerKolk Painting? Tom seems to take a genuine interest in your property. He wants to do the right thing for you and will discuss the pros and cons on different approaches. He takes the time to achieve consensus.

What impressed you most about VanDerKolk Painting’s craftsmen? They work as a team and respect what each is doing, knowing it all is part of achieving a good job. I never noticed the “haughty “pack ing order” I have seen with past work crews.

How was your budget addressed for your painting project by VanDerKolk Painting? Well, good work is not going to be inexpensive. I think with painting you really do “get what you pay for.” While VanDerKolk “talks the talk,” they deliver what you pay for. Let’s face it, once a crew takes over your property, you are pretty much at their mercy. As the days went on, I felt better and better that I budgeted higher for my job because VanDerKolk delivered what I paid for.

Overall, how would you grade VanDerKolk Painting’s quality, value and customer service? I was pleased with the detail work, meaning the prep work; anybody can spread paint. The value of a good job takes some time to appreciate.

Tom communicates well; it is not a one way street. He calls you and stays in touch during the job’s progression. This is becoming rare and I know I made the right decision because the communication did not stop after the contract was signed.

“Gorgeous! But what’s really beautiful, it’s going to stay that way.”

“Gorgeous! But what’s really beautiful, it’s going to stay that way.”

Ask about VanDerKolk’s paint shaving system. It safely removes all old paint, the cause of chronic peeling. This non-traditional paint removal process utilizes HEPA equipment, safely containing even lead based paint. There is no need for pressure washing which can cause paint failure. This process provides 15 years of durability and has a 5-year warranty.

VanDerKolk

The Painting Craftsmen

Specializing in architectural paint restoration. For a free consultation, please call 616.475.4300

www.VanDerKolkPainting.com

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Board Notes

Discussions at the June, 2009 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:

Board Appointment – Justin Fales was approved to fill the open Board term (June, 2009 – December, 2011.) and 2009 Board Goals and Objectives - The final document was presented and approved.

Zoning – Two-family Variance Request at 559 Wealthy SE – A letter of opposition was approved to be presented to the Grand Rapids Board of Zoning Appeals. Discussion included adherence to the Heritage Hill Master Plan and the finding that there was not due diligence with respect to the zoning of this property before the property was purchased. A future Board discussion was requested regarding the new GR Zoning Code and neighborhood density.

Treasurer’s Report: Tom reported that as of the end of May, HHA is in the black. There is not much variation in expenses; the Rental Service income is keep pace with budget due to the $10,000 reduction in the 09 budget, and the Residential Pledge Drive is on par with last year. Jackie commented that while the residential pledge drive is going well, the Fundraising Committee has made it a goal to increase this income 10% over budget.

Staff Reports: Jan stated that there is discussion between the City and County on a possible land exchange for the former Department of Human Services campus. One huge financial consideration is the expense of “moth-balling” the Franklin and Madison building; the City’s ownership could pave the way for a possible park at the Madison and Pleasant parking lot.

Liaison Groups:

Community Involvement: – Nikki Fales

Neighborhood Safety Taskforce – Mary reported that they have not met again with Clark’s, but that the store is undergoing extensive painting, inside and out. Jaime stated that she visits frequently to encourage progress and make suggestions as to cleaning and brightening the store.

Picnic – Due to the rain of this year’s picnic, a rescheduled date is possible in August.

Land Use Issues: – Dave Hathaway Housing – Jan commented that the inventory of housing in “jeopardy” continues.

Foster Park / HH Founders tribute – Jan commented that HHA will not pursue a name change at the park, but would still like to investigate installing rocks with plaques for memorials and a tribute to the founders of the neighborhood.

Preservation – Jaime reported that the Michigan Historic Preservation conference has been very successful, well-attended and that visitors raved about Grand Rapids and how cool it is.

Traffic & Parking – Jan reported that the Rapid is still working to finalize a route for the proposed Silver Line and will be scheduling a meeting with GVSU, GRCC, Spectrum Health, HHA and the project consultants, etc. to try and reach a consensus.

Administrative:

Institutional Liaisons – Jackie stated the scheduling needs for Association meetings at the Davenport/GRCC campus have been arranged.

Finance – Jackie reported that the Executive Committee is continuing its resource development quest and Steve commented that a copy of the recent financial assessment was available in the correspondence files for review.

Nominating – The open seat has been filled with the appointment of Justin Fales.

Fundraising: – Jackie Taylor

Garden Tour – Nikki reported that the signs are up, there was a blurb in the Press, there will be many TV ads (courtesy of Elders Helpers) and more posters were distributed this year. The Committee has had very good response from the Board for volunteering to staff the event.

(Cont’d on page 12)
Scam Warning

Rental Owners & Prospective Tenants
We received word from an out-of-
town person who was looking for an
apartment on Craig’s List. Instead she
was scammed out of $300.

This is how it worked:

The victim wanted to moved to
Grand Rapids and put up an ad on Craig’s
List. A person responding stating he
was the owner of a home on Crescent NE (that had an apartment on Craig’s List) answered the ad. An agreement
was reached to rent the apartment to
the student. A $300 money order was
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“missionary”).

It turns out that the man is not
the owner of the property and is simply
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people renting apartments or seeking
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This notice is to warn against wiring
money to a foreign county. There are
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E-Notes from our neighbors:

Today I learned there is a new
bicycle shop in downtown Grand
Rapids. It’s called “Commute”
Bicycle Shop. The owner is Daniel
Koert. It is located at 120 S.
Division Avenue, #125. When I
walked in, I thought he was selling
new bicycles. But they are all
bicycles he has refurbished, or is in
process of refurbishing. They look
great! He obviously knows what
he’s doing. He also does service and
repair. His phone: 616-451-1894;
email: commuterep@gmail.com

There has not been a bicycle shop
downtown for over 30 years (the
time I’ve been in G.R.) at least. If
you are in the market for a bicycle,
or know someone who is, this seems
like a great business to support.

Pass it on! Peace,

Richa

Barb—
A disturbing incident happened
to me the evening of the 4th. I was
walking my dog and was standing
at the corner of Madison/Cherry
waiting for the light to turn, when
an old Ford Econoline van (green
on white, very rusty) buming n/b
on Madison, pulled up to the light.
The driver & the passenger both
called out to me - saying sexual
things - and the driver actually
opened his door and started to get
out of the vehicle. Fortunately for
me, a kind male neighbor heard the
noise and came out of his house to
see what was going on. As we talked
on the front porch, the man in the
van pulled into Clark’s parking
lot, opened the vehicle doors and
watched us 5 minutes…we
moved into the side yard - out of
sight - and the van pulled on to
Cherry street a couple of doors
down and sat there for a very long
time. What is especially disturbing
is that the neighbor noticed that
there was someone in the rear of
the van watching me from behind
curtains! It was a very, scary
incident!

Barb

FYI - I was just going to jump on
my bike and it’s gone…right off my
patio.

Barb

2nd Annual Heritage Hill Garden Tour, a
blooming success

While Holland and the lakeshore were bailing out from major storm flooding, the
skies opened up in Grand Rapids for the sun to shine down for our first true taste of
summer and a glorious day.

Twelve gardens in the north end of the neighborhood, including the Voigt house
with a Victorian tea on the rear and the Hill residence opened to tour-goers. Hosts and volunteers
were on hand to answer questions and to smile and agree that yes, it really was
such a lovely day, how lucky. Many tour-goers expressed wonderment at the size of
backyards in the city and how well-established the gardens were and at what all is
possible in relatively small spaces.

Plant species, water features and planting methods were assessed, discussed
and compared and many visitors left with ideas about what to do with their garden
spaces. One Garden host even divided her perennial borders during the tour and gave many
tour-goers a “doggy bag” plant gift to take home.

Garden tour raised over $3,000, met its budgeted goal and was a smashing
success. Committee Chairs Nikki Hoort and Kathi Barkan are to be highly
commended.

Thank you to all who keep me
updated. By using your reports and by
working with our Community Officer
Dan Myers we are able to spot patterns
of activity and develop strategies (not
to be described here!) to prevent more
incidents. Your neighborhood watching
and reporting suspicious activity to
the police and to me help a great deal.

Most of the incidents we have had
are property crimes. Replacing a bike
or GPS is a nuisance but we count our
blessings that we have had few home
incidents this year. Keep those doors
and windows secured.

Do you have questions about
personal safety at home? Give me a call
at 459-8950.

Barb Lester
Crime Prevention Organizer
The most sustainable green path for GR is to take care of what it has. Whether in the built environment or in the natural environment, preserving our existing resources make more economic and environmental sense than the alternative – demolition in the case of structures and deforestation in the case of trees.

There is no “one-size-fits-all” school or educational program to meet the varying and unique academic needs of every student.

That is why GRPS is proud to offer the largest, most diverse selection of educational choices and opportunities in all of West Michigan – so parents can choose the best schools and educational programs for their child’s academic growth and success.

For information on GRPS school choices or to request an enrollment application, contact 616-819-2150 or email at choices@grps.k12.mi.us

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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!

A Message for Heritage Hill from Commissioner Bliss:

I continue to be honored to serve you as your 2nd Ward City Commissioner. Please contact me at 889-1277 if there is anything I can do to be helpful.

Carol Moore, Easthills Citizen Activist
Presentation to the Grand Rapids City Commission - 6-23-2009

Explore the Many Choices at Grand Rapids Public Schools

If you have a GPS unit and are concerned about theft, mark the unit with your name and apartment security checks are also available at your convenience. Call me at 459-8950.

You are invited to HHA’s National Night Out. This year we have a new theme: “It’s all about prevention and safety!” Our June Neighborhood Picnic was rained out so the Heritage Hill Association will be holding a National Night Out when neighbors throughout the United States will be taking measures to prevent and sometimes other valuables in the car.

Trees have significant economic and environmental value, but they’re here to stay. I speak for them and ask you to view trees as the assets they are. Specifically, I ask you to stop the destruction of our city’s 10,000 ash trees and make a budget decision to treat them against the Emerald Ash Borer.

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Neighborhood Safety:

Each of us must carefully consider our routines and the choices we make. Our daily personal safety habits. HHA has developed a Guide to Personal Safety and Home Security that is free to any tenant and Home Security Guide to Personal Safety.

Join us on Facebook or blissforgr.org.

Please use our great curbisde recycling service! Save money and the earth. Go to the City’s website, www.grcity.us for all the details and schedule.

For Quality Body Repairs Come To
Wealthy Body Shop Inc.

Since 1962

HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 7:30-5:30; CLOSED SATURDAY & SUNDAY 313-947-8885 120 W. Michigan Ave. Grand Rapids, MI 49503

www.wealthybodyshop.com

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Trees have significant economic and environmental value, but they’re silent. I speak for them and ask you to view trees as the assets they are. Specifically, I ask you to stop the destruction of our city’s 10,000 ash trees and make a budget decision to treat them against the Emerald Ash Borer. Misapplied treatments work. Research at MSU continues to verify its efficacy at near 90%. Is it dangerous? Hardly. It’s very commonly used for grubs and available at any hardware store for $22.00. How much misapplied is in a 40 ounce bottle - 1.47%. The other 98.5% is fertilizer-nitrogen, phosphate, and potash. How much does a tree need? The contents of a bottle a little bigger than a bottle of dish detergent. That bottle, diluted in water, will treat a mature ash tree: 14” in DBH, 43” in circumference for a year.

The science is there. The product is cheap, available and safe. But left untreated all ash trees will succumb to the Emerald Ash Borer and Grand Rapids will lose a valuable environmental asset.

In 40 years a tree has sequestered - stored - a metric ton of carbon. Cut it down and the carbon goes back into the atmosphere whether the tree rots, or burns. The tree’s total value is lost. Without our trees we will have more carbon, storm water runoff, erosion, air pollution and energy consumption. Property values will decline along with city revenues. Cutting down trees makes neither environmental nor economic sense.

Today’s problem is the Emerald Ash Borer, tomorrow’s the Asian Longhorned Beetle, already in Chicago, and its favorite food is maple. We cannot afford to be outsmarted by an insect. Please stop the chain saws and start treating our ash trees. If the City can find the money to cut them down, surely it can find the money to keep them standing.

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Treating for Emerald Ash Borer

You are invited to HHA’s National Night Out Picnic at the June Neighborhood Picnic was rained out so the Heritage Hill Association is inviting you tostop by and want to keep it up there should you take it out of the vehicle at night. Thieves smash car windows and reach in to grab the unit and sometimes other valuables in the car.

Bikes are another hot commodity on the stolen goods market. Even bikes locked to a porch rail, tree or other inanimate object have been stolen. If there is any way you can bring the bike inside, that is the best plan.

Sign up to receive HHA E-Alerts:

Don’t wait to get the latest news about crime, events or interesting opportunities in Heritage Hill. Send me your name, address, phone number and e-mail address and you will receive updates several times a month or as needed. We encourage neighbors to forward the E-Updates and Alerts to other neighbors in the Hill. The more people “in the know” the better. We are a community and are stronger and more effective when we stay in touch.

Please remember when your apartment needs renters,
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Connect in Person!

COFFEE WITH BLISS:

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Thursday, Sept. 17
7:30am at Marie Catrib’s

Friday, Sept. 25, 9am
Zoe’s Cafe on Burkhart

The Heritage of Grand Rapids: 70+ Stories of Grand Rapids History

Since 2004

HISTORY REAPPROCHASE

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It turns out that the man is not the owner of the property and is simply scanning Craig’s List for ways to rip off people renting apartments or seeking apartments.

This notice is to warn against wiring money to a foreign country. There are a number of scams that “require” the victim to wire money out of the country to the scammer. That is a tip off.

Call Heritage Hill at 459-8950 and ask for Barb if you have any question about a transaction. We will try to follow up for you or direct you to the property law enforcement office.

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**Potpourri** (Cont’d from page 9)

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**Neighborhood**

**Glory be to Gardeners:**

Thanks to Keri Baldwin and her crew of kids on the 200-310 block of College SE who worked very hard in June to bring order and beauty to the College and Cherry SE corner garden. The back door Hollyhocks are gorgeous.

A pat on the back to Tami Vantil from the 300 block of Madison for her guerrilla gardening project or should I call it a midnight lily planting escapade. Guerrilla gardeners are those who fill up weed choked bits of earth on vacant lots or street corners with the extras plants from their own yards to beautify the landscape.

**E-Notes from our neighbors:**

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**Barb**

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Garden tour raised over $3,000, met its budgeted goal and was a smashing success. Committee Chairs Nikki Hoort and Kathi Barkan are to be highly commended.
Mark Levandoski hired VanDerKolk Painting to perform architectural paint restoration in the Heritage Hill District.

Mark, what would you like your Heritage Hill neighbors to know about VanDerKolk Painting?

Tom seems to take a genuine interest in your property. He wants to do the right thing for you and will discuss the pros and cons on different approaches. He takes the time to achieve consensus.

What impressed you most about VanDerKolk Painting's craftsmen?

They work as a team and respect what each is doing, knowing it all is part of achieving a good job. I never noticed the haughty “packing order” I have seen with past work crews.

How was your budget addressed for your painting project by VanDerKolk Painting?

Well, good work is not going to be inexpensive. I think with painting you really do “get what you pay for.” While VanDerKolk “talks the talk,” they deliver what you pay for. Let’s face it, once a crew takes over your property, you are pretty much at their mercy. As the days went on, I felt better and better that I budgeted higher for my job because VanDerKolk delivered what I paid for.

Overall, how would you grade VanDerKolk Painting’s quality, value and customer service?

I was pleased with the detail work, meaning the prep work; anybody can spread paint. The value of a good job takes some time to appreciate. Tom communicates well; it is not a one way street. He calls you and stays in touch during the job’s progression. This is becoming rare and I knew I made the right decision because the communication did not stop after the contract was signed.

“Gorgeous! But what’s really beautiful, it’s going to stay that way.”

Ask about VanDerKolk’s paint shaving system. It safely removes all old paint, the cause of chronic peeling. This non-traditional paint removal process utilizes HEPA equipment, safely containing even lead based paint. There is no need for pressure washing which can cause paint failure. This process provides 15 years of durability and has a 5-year warranty.

Board Notes

Discussions at the June, 2009 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:

Board Appointment – Justin Fales was approved to fill the open Board term (June, 2009 – December, 2011.)

2009 Board Goals and Objectives - The final document was presented and approved.

Zoning – Two-family Variance Request at 557 Wealthy SE – A letter of opposition was approved to be presented to the Grand Rapids Board of Zoning Appeals. Discussion included adherence to the Heritage Hill Master Plan and the finding that there was not due diligence with respect to the zoning of this property before the property was purchased. A future Board discussion was requested regarding the new GR Zoning Code and neighborhood density.

Treasurer’s Report: Tom reported that as of the end of May, HHA is in the black. There is not much variation in expenses; the Rental Service income is keep pace with budget due to the $10,000 reduction in the 09 budget; and the Residential Pledge Drive is on par with last year. Jackie commented that while the residential pledge drive is going well, the Fundraising Committee has made it a goal to increase this income 10% over budget.

Staff Reports: Jan stated that there is discussion between the City and County on a possible land exchange for the former Department of Human Services campus. One huge financial consideration is the expense of “moth-balling” the Franklin and Madison building. The City’s ownership could pave the way for a possible park at the Madison and Pleasant parking lot.

Liaison Groups:

Community Involvement: – Nikki Hoorn

Neighborhood Safety Taskforce – Mary reported that they have not met again with Clark’s, but that the store is undergoing extensive painting, inside and out. Jaime stated that she visits frequently to encourage progress and make suggestions as to cleaning and brightening the store.

Picnic – Due to the rainout of this year’s picnic, a reschedule date is possible in August.

Land Use Issues: – Dave Hathaway

Housing – Jan commented that the inventory of housing “in jeopardy” continues.

Foster Park / HH Founders tribute – Jan commented that HHA will not pursue a name change at the park, but would still like to investigate installing rocks with plaques for memorials and a tribute to the founders of the neighborhood.

Preservation – Jaime reported that the Grand Rapids Board of Preservation has been very successful, well-attended and that visitors raved about Grand Rapids and how cool it is.

Traffic & Parking – Jan reported that the Rapid is still working to finalize a route for the proposed Silver Line and will be scheduling a meeting with GVSU, GRCC, Spectrum Health, HHA and the project consultants, etc. to try and reach a consensus.

Administrative: Institutional Liaisons – Jackie stated the scheduling needs for Association meetings at the Davenport/GRCC campus have been arranged.

Finance – Jackie Taylor

Garden Tour – Nikki reported that the signs are up, there was a blurb in the Press, there will be many TV ads (courtesy of Elders Helpers) and more posters were distributed this year. The Committee has had very good response from the Board for volunteering to staff the event.

(Cont’d on page 12)
Board Notes

(Cont’d from page 11)

Home Tour – fans reported that plans are going full speed ahead, the press releases are out and that an action plan is in place for volunteer recruitment. 

Pledge Drive – Jackie reported that nearly 100% of Board members have contributed to the drive and that the phone-a-thon that Barb organized was quite successful.

New Business: Jane discussed the ArtPrize event in late September and early October, stating that Peaches would likely be an art venue along with several others in and near Heritage Hill. These venues will be highlighted on the Tour map and advertising could be shared with ArtPrize and Home Tour.

The HHA Board meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at Davenport University, 415 East Fulton at the Robert S. Berry Alumni Center. Members are welcome to attend. If you would like time placed on the Board agenda, please call the HHA office at 459-8950 before 4:00 p.m. of the second Tuesday 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 last from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Helpful Tips for Water Pipes and Clogs

Water is running from somewhere beneath the cabinets and ruining your kitchen floor. HELP!

You can prepare for a crisis like this by knowing how to turn off the water to your home. You should locate the main water valve, know how to operate it, and tag it. Everyone in the household should walk through the drill.

For us lucky folks in cold climates, the water supply pipe is buried several feet in the ground. It comes from the street side of your house and enters through the basement. On that pipe is where you find the main water valve. Another hint is to follow the cold water pipe on your water heater to its source. Trace it to the end and you’ll find the main supply pipe.

Remember “right is tight” (off) with older turn valves. For valves with straight handles, the water is off when the handle is perpendicular to the pipe. If the valve is rusted or corroded, have a plumber test it and replace it if necessary.

****

Tired of standing in water when taking a shower? Next time you’re at the grocery or hardware store, pick up a drain cleaner – a flexible plastic strip with small hooks along its length. It looks like a very thin Christmas tree.

Without dismantling anything, you can push this thin plastic tool down the drain and pull out all that hair and junk. Have a rag or paper towel ready to catch the junk. Run very hot water down the drain for several minutes after removing the junk.

You can also try this with a length of thin wire and bent to form a hook on one end. It is not as effective but it can help!

Tips provided by The Home Examiner, www.thehomeexaminer.com

Remebering the past

Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Park Church - 123 Broadway

Engaged in the Community

Progressive in Thought

Traditional in Style

208 Union NE • Phone: (616) 726-6609

Right next door to Martha’s Vineyard

Huge thanks to our recent Heritage Hill Association contributors:

Buggeroo and Donatella Batta
Joe Bauman
George and Maree Beckon
Mouldi Benmlouka
Delaine Bowman
Mike and Kathy Cavanaugh
Tina Demling
Nicholas and Susan Duesbery
Jill Eggars
Chuck Goldsmith and Kevin Machiela
Grand Rapids Community College Foundation
Nikki and Ron Hoort
C.M. Johnson
John and Elizabeth Kilbourne
Suzanne LaChance
Rozelle and Phyllis Lazenby
Sally Lowes
Ealty Lyons
Mary Manguse
Laura Martin
Craig Nobbelin
Seth and Amy Peters
Stephen and Marcia Peterson
Robert and Phyllis Rood
Steve and Amy Ruis
Donna and Doug Stirling
Storr Printing Services, Inc.
Barb Stoutjesdyk
Richard and Cindy Thornbury
Chris and Tom Truesdale
Clare: Wade & Thomas Koetsier
Sarah Weller & Randy Selba
Gerry Wheeler
Randy Winchester

Written by Carol Townsend, Kent/MSU Extension, as part of the Zoning Education Project – a partnership with the Grand Rapids Planning Department and United Growth for Kent County with funding provided by the Dyer-Ives Foundation.

HUGE

38.

40.

10.

10.

FALL.

SALE

At The Women’s City Club

10 East Park Place NE • Grand Rapids

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
10am-6pm

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
10am-2pm

A unique sale of treasures from the members of the Women’s City Club - linens, china, crystal, silver, jewelry, collectibles, holiday decorations, silk flowers, lamps, scarves – and the list goes on.

No clothing or books. The building is handicapped accessible. Two parking lots. Use the back door off of the Fulton Street parking lot.

Tips: Call the Experts. Call the Team.
616.863.8118 www.teamrestoration.com

Tips provided by The Home Examiner, www.thehomeexaminer.com
Citizen Advocacy Around Zoning Issues

Have you wanted to express your opinion on something happening in your neighborhood but didn’t really know how to go about it? Grand River Builders’ new Zoning Ordinance provides opportunities for you to impact development projects and zoning changes proposed for your neighborhood. Here are some examples:

- **Neighborhood Meeting**
  Developers of significant projects are encouraged to organize a meeting with residents and other affected parties to inform them about the project, answer concerns, and discuss any potential problems. The intent of the neighborhood meeting is to provide a forum so that the developer and affected parties can understand each other’s perspective and try to resolve any possible conflict. Neighbors should always attend these meetings. Usually the neighborhood and/or business association will assist the developer in organizing the meeting. Neighbors should use this meeting to make sure the development will be an asset to the area and to negotiate with the developer for improvements.

- **Public Hearing**
  A public hearing may be held by the Planning Commission, the City Commission, or the Board of Zoning Appeals when a project will have a significant impact on an area, require a special land use, or deviate from the Zoning Ordinance requirements. Affected citizens should make their voices heard at the hearing through written or oral testimony. Neighbors who have organized to present a unified position are much more effective in affecting desired changes to a project than a few individual voices. Your neighborhood association should help in organizing this effort and provide tips on how best to present your case. Testimony must focus on specific criteria regarding the zoning issue and not just emotional reactions.

- **Report Violations**
  Good enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance is dependent upon citizen vigilance in reporting possible violations. This is done by calling Housing Inspection at 456-3053. You do not have to leave your name when filing a complaint if you do not want that as part of the public record. However, you should call back in a couple of weeks and ask for the inspector handling the complaint. Many times you can provide crucial information regarding the situation that will help the inspector. The inspector does not have to include your name in the file at this point.

- **Access Information/Review File**
  As a citizen, you can obtain all kinds of information regarding what You Need to Know About Air Conditioners

Did you know that your window air conditioner can be a fire hazard? "A/C units require a lot of electricity. If your house does not have appropriate wiring, or you are using an inappropriate extension cord, keeping cord can actually be putting you at risk. Older homes, prevalent in much of Heritage Hill, have older wiring. If the wiring in your home has been updated, you may be dealing with 60-70-80 year old wires with crumbling insulation that isn’t designed for the amount of electricity being conducted. Also, check to see if the electrical box in your building has the appropriate fuses/circuit breakers for the amount of electricity you are using.

Running your air conditioner through an extension cord can add risk. Extension cords are intended to be a temporary solution, which is defined in building codes as less than 30 days. Most of us have our window units in for 4-5 months. Cords are also rated for the amount of electricity they are supposed to conduct. If you are running an A/C unit through a cord that is too small, it is like trying to run a bowling ball through a garden hose. It can lead to heat build up or shorts. Running a cord under a carpet or having kinks in it can also lead to problems.

Finally, running it through an adapter or through a surge protector strip can lead also to electrical problems.

**Carpentry. But that’s not all.**

Grand River Builders has been making historic properties work again and look beautiful with their expertise in not only carpentry, but architectural sheetmetal, historic roofing, masonry, and contracting.

**What You Need to Know About Air Conditioners**

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In my personal effort to provide full disclosure, let me first say that the line-up for Heritage Hills’ 40th anniversary of the Annual Weekend Tour of Homes didn’t end up to be what I had originally envisioned. That said, don’t think for a minute the homes open for this year’s Tour aren’t actually better than I had anticipated. In fact, though the regrets I received from many of the current owners of some of those original 1969 Tour homes were many and gracious, the path on which they led my wife, Chris, and me allowed us to find other gems in the neighborhood that quickly and abundantly filled our Tour bill better than we ever could have hoped.

That’s the end of full disclosure. Because I don’t want to give away too much here in this next-to-last build up to Tour (I like to save it for the “big” spread in the Herald’s September/October issue,) let me just say that a great combination of homes, history and fun will once again be the order of the weekend come October 3 and 4. We only have a couple of repeats from previous years, one being last year’s work-in-progress by Team Restoration on Logan Street SE. In just one short year, the home’s renovation is finished and, like the proverbial phoenix, a wonderful new bed and breakfast now stands on the corner where once stood a quickly dilapidating college rooming house.

Ten other houses, apartments and institutions, as well as Steelcase’s Meyer May house (the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home is celebrating its 100th birthday) and the Grand Rapids Public Museum’s Voigt house will offer tours this year. And don’t forget the Public Museum’s 3rd Annual, and increasingly anticipated.  In fact, though the regrets we received from many of the current owners of some of those original 1969 Tour homes were many and gracious, the path on which they led my wife, Chris, and me allowed us to find other gems in the neighborhood that quickly and abundantly filled our Tour bill better than we ever could have hoped.

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Martha’s is the choice for an outstanding selection of fine wines, liquors, domestic and imported beers. We also offer a full service deli featuring fine meats and cheeses, as well as gourmet desserts, ice cream, and delicious pastries. 

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The 2nd annual Garden Tour was a 2nd annual big hit. We heard from many vocal tourists who heaped praise on the neighborhood and gardens. Thanks to a group of volunteers, led by Kathi Barkan and Nikhil Hooft for orchestrating this great event today and raising $3,000 for our neighborhood endowment. Thanks also to the 25 volunteers including those from the Grand Rapids Fire Department for helping the day run smoothly. Plans for the 3rd Garden Tour have already begun!

Land Use issues have really been sprouting in Heritage Hill over the last few months. The Heritage Hill Association addresses every issue before the City’s Zoning and Planning Departments but it is crucial for you to be in the mix. HHA is only as powerful as neighbors standing together with us and we are never a substitute for your voice. When our call goes out for neighbors to get involved, please join in. The issues were working on include:

- The RAPID’s bus transit, the Silver Line
- The increase in the number of allowable units from 16 to 22. The Association met with the owner and contacted nearby neighbors. This increase in use at this already congested corner was too much for neighbors and the Association to support. We opposed this increase and the Zoning Appeals Board’s hearing is on July 16th.

- Spectrum Health’s request to demolish the former Rite Aid building for surface parking: The Association opposed this demolition without a replacement. We should include a mixed-use development that is directed in the City’s Master Plan. We need more than health services on Michigan Street; we also need life services for all the patrons of Michigan and the residents of Heritage Hill. The issue is before the Planning Commission on July 23.

If this piques your interest in urban planning, give me a call. The HHA Zoning Committee can always use new members.

Congratulations to Heritage Hill’s own Wendy Fall on her election to the Grand Rapids Public School Board. Wendy has been of great service to her neighborhood and now she’s taking that passion to our school community. We are in good hands!

Remembering Jim Karsen who last summer was fitting in with us one year ago. I’m sure he is publishing his take on community so that his stories live on!

“When you live off by yourself away from others, you can do whatever you want. You can yell and scream, you can hoot and holler all day and all night. But when you live in a community, you have to give up some of your rights. You have to be respectful of others. That’s what it means to live in a community.”

Enjoy the summer months and don’t forget that Home Tour is coming on October 2 and 4! Volunteers are needed, invite friends, carry on!

Save the Date
The date is set: Saturday August 29, 2009
The theme is: Garden Tour this year! (The dresses are sewn and the guest list is complete. And “the Happy Couple” is improper).

You are cordially invited to the 10th annual HH backyard BBQ. This year’s theme is Mamma Mia! and that night, two residents of Heritage Hill will be wed. It’s going to be a party that HH will long be remembered. Come and enjoy this wedding, you just might know the “happy couple.”

Each year we celebrate our wonderful neighborhood and invite non-HH residents to share with us, one last party for the summer. This year will be an outrageous event with, bridesmaids judging, a white elephant wedding gift exchange and a buffet of wedding cakes. And then there are some things that will surprise everyone.

For more information or to make your reservation early (tables of 6 or 8) contact kershekj@msn.com or call دون 459-9801.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

All Heritage Hill Association Meetings are open to neighbors.

Tuesday, August 4th, 2009 (rescheduled)
Annual Night Out Picnic - 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Foster Park (at the intersection of State, Cherry and Madison)

Tuesday, August 18th, 2009
HHA Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Davenport/GRCC Campus
Robert Sneden Academic Building Lecture Hall
415 East Fulton

Tuesday, September 15th, 2009
HHA Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Davenport/GRCC Campus
Robert Sneden Academic Building Lecture Hall
415 East Fulton

Annual Dates to Remember:
Saturday and Sunday, October 3rd and 4th, 2009
40th annual Heritage Hill Weekend Tour of Homes
Friday, December 4th, 2009
Holiday Potluck and Annual Meeting

The grillmasters, Jim Talen and Mike Sak, are ready for the
Annual Night Out Picnic
rescheduled for
Tuesday, August 4th, 2009
5:30-8:30 p.m. at Foster Park
(intersection of State, Cherry and Madison)

Bring a dish to pass, something to sit on and we’ll provide the usual tableware, dogs, drinks and frivolity!

Good Neighbors! Great Door Prizes! Games!
On the National Night Out Date

Remember Heritage Hill:
Property Owners:

There is a City Preservation Ordinance that
governs all exterior changes, repairs, public
address to Heritage Hill property. Call the
GRAND RAPIDS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
(616-455-3451) for information on approvals. You
can access the application form at the City’s
website www.grand-rapids.mi.us or the
Planning Department section of the
Heritage Hill Association’s
webpage at heritagehillweb.org. This
ordinance applies to all exterior
changes, repairs, and additions
to your home and property.
Items such as doors and
windows including storm, yard
structures, driveways and sidewalk
approaches, and fences do not
require HPC approval.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

SUNDAY WORSHIP
10:00 am (with 7:45 am, September 6)
CHILDREN’S WORSHIP & NURSERY CARE PROVIDED
www.westminsterg.com
466-1446
47 Jefferson · Downtown · Grand Rapids

Cathie Henry
459-2267
Child Development Center 458-8480
Food Pantry 456-6115

Lagrange Avenue Christian Reformed Church

A HISTORIC CHURCH COMMITTED TO THE DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY

Worship Services
8:45 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.
Education Classes:
10:00 a.m.
Community Sewing Program
Wednesdays at 1:45 p.m.
1611 Calder Avenue SE
(a block south and west of 1st Street)
616-456-7204 • lagrange.org

Good Neighbors! Great Door Prizes! Games!
On the National Night Out Date

Beginning in 1992, Camp Henry invited guests to celebrate National Night Out, an event that aims to
build community partnerships and a sense of safety.
In 2009, Grand Rapids joins in the celebration with a week of festivities called Heritage Hill Weekend.

Dr. Robert Sneden, the Founding Chair of the Heritage Hill Association and long-time advocate for the
preservation of Grand Rapids, passed away in 2008. He is remembered by many for his dedication to the
preservation of the city’s historic buildings and neighborhoods.

The City of Grand Rapids is proud to continue the work of Dr. Sneden and the Heritage Hill Association in
promoting the preservation of Grand Rapids’ historic resources.

Winter-Troutwine Associates, Inc.
Preservation Architecture and Planning

Specializing in historic:
• Restoration, planning and
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Nominations

Jim@winter-troutwine.com
616-451-6331
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Your help is essential to the
success of our largest fundraiser
of the year!

Call 459-8950,
email heritage@heritagehillweb.org, or go to
www.heritagehillweb.org
and raise your hand to help
your favorite cause!

The grillmasters, Jim Talen and Mike Sak, are ready for the
Annual Night Out Picnic
rescheduled for
Tuesday, August 4th, 2009
5:30-8:30 p.m. at Foster Park
(intersection of State, Cherry and Madison)

Bring a dish to pass, something to sit on and we’ll provide the usual tableware, dogs, drinks and frivolity!

Good Neighbors! Great Door Prizes! Games! On the National Night Out Date