You are invited to the

2011 Heritage Hill Holiday Potluck & Annual Celebration

THURSDAY, December 1, 2011
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
GRCC DeVos Campus – 415 E Fulton

Use the parking lot entrance on Fountain
Enter the Welcome Center and turn to your left.

Festivities:
6:00 p.m. - Potluck:
Please bring a dish to pass for the community table. HHA will supply the rest.

7:00 p.m. – For Kids:
Santa arrives with treats for the young.

7:30 p.m. – Annual Meeting:
HHA 2012 Board elections and 2011 Distinguished Service Awards.

Local Taste Treats:
Enjoy tastes of local specialties from Bangkok Taste Thai, Big O Café, Cherie Inn, Cherry St. Deli, El Barrio, Electric Cheetah, Grand Rapids Pizza and Delivery (GRPD), The Green Well Gastro Pub, Grove, Jonny B’z, Marie Catrib’s, Stella’s, and The Winchester

Thanks to Grand Rapids Community College and Martha’s Vineyard for supplying the hospitality and holiday cheer! Also thanks to our local restaurants for adding their specialties.
The Heritage Hill Association

Purpose:
The purpose of the Heritage Hill Association is to provide neighbors a way of collectively building a healthy, historically preserved community in which people can live and work in a secure and stable environment.

Office Staff:
Jan Earl, Executive Director
Barb Lester, Crime Prevention Organizer
Maria Zache, Administrative Assistant
Wilhelmina Daniels, Afternoon Receptionist

The Heritage Hill Association Board of Directors

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**Mike Clark, 310 Washington SE, (C) 644-6453
Vice President
*Jim Payne, 27 College NE, (H) 454-2367
Treasurer
*Jackie Taylor, 5155 N Quail Crest Dr SE, 49546 (H) 942-5941
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"** 1st Term
* 2nd Term

The Heritage Hill Association Board of Directors meets at 7 pm the third Wednesday of each month at GRCC East Campus, 415 East Fulton. The meeting is in the Robert Sneden Lecture Hall #1 and is open to the public.

The Heritage Hill Foundation Board of Trustees

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Garden Tour: Jim Payne, (H) 454-2367
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Newsletter: Jan Earl, 459-8950
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Publicity: Tom Truesdale, 456-5448

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The Heritage Herald is published by the Heritage Hill Association Board of Directors six times a year (bi-monthly). The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Board of Directors. We reserve the right to edit. Address correspondence to The Heritage Herald, 126 College SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

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Appreciate

Applause to all of us who gave something in 2011. Whether big or small, we all contributed. If you’ve yet to do so, there’s still a month to go.

Participate in your community. It makes you feel good and working as a team makes good things happen!

Play in the leaves, play in the snow - the power of play makes life a lot easier.

Restore yourself, your house, your community and re-use what you can!

Energize those around you with a can-do spirit. Eeyores only exacerbate the gray winter days.

Cheers to all who contribute to this great place we call home. Give cheers to all who are close to you everyday.

Invest in your community ... local dollars stay local. Shop and play in your neighborhood and Grand Rapids!

Activate others with good examples. Witnessing good stuff makes it easier to pass it on.

Treat everyone as equals because we are. Many sizes, shapes, and colors share this community and we all are part of this great space.

Engage in Heritage Hill ... it's a great place to spend your time and energy.

... and give thanks everyday that we got through another year, together. On to 2012!

Jan Earl
Due to scheduling conflicts at the GRCC DeVos campus, the Association’s Holiday Potluck and Annual meeting is moving back to the old days of gathering on a Thursday night. We extend a special welcome to all new neighbors to join all “experienced” neighbors as we gather together from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the GRCC Campus at 415 East Fulton.

Thanks to Martha’s Vineyard, we will have plenty of beverages for toasting 2011 neighborhood accomplishments; Thanks to our near Heritage Hill restaurants for providing samplings of favorite offerings: Bangkok Taste Thai, Big O Café, Cherie Inn, Cherry St. Deli, El Barrio, Electric Cheetah, Grand Rapids Pizza and Delivery (GRPD), The Green Well Gastro Pub, Grove, Jonny B’z, Marie Catrib’s, Stella’s, and The Winchester. And thanks to you for providing your own neighborhood specialty to the community table. Jolly Santa is coming and taking lists while we mature kids take part in the Association’s Annual Meeting.

The Potluck and Annual Meeting Happens THURSDAY December 1

The HHA Annual Meeting ...is the time to recognize neighbors for their 2011 service to Heritage Hill. It is also time to plan for next year with the 2012 HHA Board of Directors Election ... There are five, 3-year terms up for election. Five candidates have provided written notice of their candidacy to the 2011 HHA Board of Directors per the HHA Bylaws’ required notification. With five candidates seeking five openings, one vote is needed to accept the slate.

Child Care and Activities ... Four Santa’s helpers will be on hand to assist children visiting Santa and oversee bingo games and ornament decorating. If you have very small children who want to see Santa, please accompany your child.

Meet the 2012 HHA Board Candidates: Peter Albertini, Suzanne DeHaan, Stephanie Eckert, Tansy Harris, and Mark Hutchison. Each has provided the following statement and their service to the Heritage Hill Association and neighborhood.

Peter J. Albertini
540 Prospect Ave SE

Always passionate about serving the community in which I live. I have been a HH Homes Tour volunteer twice (since I lived here 6/1/2010). I see many opportunities for Heritage Hill now and the immediate future in which I can be of useful service.

Currently serving on Grand Rapids Children Museum board (past president); Grand Rapids Downtown Rotary board (past president); Grand Rapids Dominican Associates board (associate member); Spectrum Hospital Chaplains Office (Eucharistic minister), Chamber of Commerce, American Legion (lifetime member).

I am always present, on time and awake.

Suzanne DeHaan
573 Prospect SE

I have lived in Heritage Hill for the past 12 years. I enjoy living in Heritage Hill, because of the diversity of the residents, the history that surrounds the area, and the friendliness of everyone. I am a retired educator and have found more time to immerse myself in the community.
many activities such as being a docent for the Voigt House and serving on the Parish Council and Music Ministry (no, I can't sing!!!) for the church I attend. I have volunteered for Heritage Hill Garden Tours and the Heritage Hill House Tours. My gardens have been on tour as well as my house.

Communication is a very necessary tool for any organization to be successful. If I am to serve on the board, this would be my commitment. I do feel it necessary that the board members be open and available for the residents in order for them to voice their concerns, share ideas that will help Heritage Hill continue their commitment in preserving the past, and become one strong unit that is needed to keep the Heritage Hill neighborhood flourishing.

Stephanie Eckley
533 Gladstone SE

I have a passion for historical buildings, my husband and I were very intentional in buying an older home in Grand Rapids and we spend our spare time driving around Grand Rapids admiring the architecture in this great community. And, now that I have been part of the Grand Rapids community for 9 years, I am looking for a way to give back. Helping to preserve the history seems like a great way to start the journey. Because Heritage Hill is one of the largest urban historic districts in the country, I feel this is a wonderful opportunity to do something that I truly care about.

I am a home owner, a parent, the daughter of a small business owner, I work for Saint Mary’s Health Care and I recently received Non-Profit Board Certification through the Johnson Center. I feel these are attributes/skills that will compliment your board. I have a place in my heart for historical architecture, and I believe in a cooperative effort between local businesses, tenants and home owners; an effort that preserves the history of Grand Rapids and Heritage Hill.

Tansy Harris
537 Prospect SE Apt 3

I have had the privilege of calling Heritage Hill my home since 2000. I fell in love with living in the Hill right away. Where else can you see such beautiful homes and interesting gardens? My French Bulldog, Lola, never grows tired for walks in our community. I find our neighborhood filled with creative characters. As a local artist I feel right at home here.

Over the years I have asked for help from Heritage Hill Association for all sorts of problems and questions. Now it is time for me to be part of the problem solving team. I want to help protect our neighborhood. I love my community and would enjoy the chance at serving on the Heritage Hill Association Board.

Mark Hutchison
38 Prospect Ave SE

Heritage Hill is a great place to live! This December 1st will mark my two-year anniversary for residing here in Heritage Hill. I am new to the area and hope that is OK. I am enthusiastic and would like to use that energy by serving on the Board. My activities with the association have been limited, but do include: attending a board meeting, covering a shift the last two years for the Home Tour, and help with weeding Foster Park. I have enjoyed the Garden Walk and most recently the Wine Tasting event!

I welcome the opportunity to serve on the Board and believe my “newness” to the community will be an asset.

Thank you.
The committee preparing for the Spring Heritage Hill Weekend Tour of Homes is readying for the second year in its new time slot. After more than 40 years of fall tours, establishing a new seasonal legacy will hopefully be made easier by the beauty the neighborhood offers in late spring. We weren't disappointed by the 2011 edition, nor do the organizers regret the change of seasons inspired, in large part, by the ArtPrize juggernaut. Even following a third ArtPrize celebration spotted by minor controversies and contradictions, it’s still plain to see that competing against such an event would have proven more fruitless as the years progressed.

Yes, I truly believe springtime in Heritage Hill is the most enchanting time of year to bring visitors in to our awakening yards and streetscapes.

As mentioned, the committee is readying for the May 19th & 20th, 2012 event even as you read these words. Meetings have been held, letters have been sent to prospective Home Tour hosts, and a few homes as well as institutional sites have already begun to gather on an exciting list of offerings for the 2012 tour. As always, we continue to look for volunteer hosts to make that ultimate donation and open their homes for the betterment of the neighborhood association and the education of our many and varied visitors.

The annual Heritage Hill Tour of Homes is the largest fundraiser for the Heritage Hill Association. Over 350 volunteers contribute to make the weekend a success. All proceeds go right back into programs for the Heritage Hill neighborhood. Some of these programs include block club organizing, crime prevention, community education and resources, land-use planning, and preservation of the district’s historic character. And while it’s sometimes more complicated than that, more often than not, the programs are simply focused on helping neighbors maintain and/or improve their quality of life in Heritage Hill.

The Heritage Hill Association and the many neighbors and friends who comprise the Heritage Hill neighborhood hope you or someone you know might be interested in opening your home(s) for the annual Tour. It cannot be stressed too much that the search for a homeowner’s “pride and joy,” or even an interesting “work in progress” goes on all year round. And as far as criteria for these homes — please note that the committee concerned with host recruitment constantly tries to “serve up” a good cross-section of Hill life from every corner of the neighborhood. No home is insignificant — whether a single family, apartment or multi-unit, there is a place -- and an appreciation -- for all!

And while the association is proud to have homeowners who feel "honored" to have the opportunity to open their homes for tour; make no mistake, it is the association and tour committee who are honored to have you and your homes on the tour.

If you’re interested but feeling a little uneasy about the thought of opening your house, and would like more information or would like to be put into contact with a previous Tour host, please call the office at 459-8950.

The Grand Rapids Public Museum sets the stage for great family memories this holiday season with festive offerings in several venues.

The Voigt House Victorian Museum, located at 115 College SE, will be open to visitors from 12 – 5 pm on December 3, 4, 10 & 11 for Christmas at the Voigt House. Guests can tour the home, decorated in its period-appropriate finery, and learn about Victorian holiday are $3.

Two seasonal favorites headline the Roger B. Chaffee Planetarium schedule beginning November 25 and running through the end of the year. The Tis the Season star play shows daily at 2 pm and Tuesday at 7 pm. The Holiday Magic laser light show plays Saturday and Sunday at 1 pm, Tuesday at 6 pm, and adds additional shows December 17-24 and December 26-31: daily at 11 am and 12 pm, and Monday – Friday at 3 pm. Tickets are $3 in addition to Museum admission.

During Snowflake Break, December 17-24 and December 26-31 from Noon – 4 pm at the 272 Pearl Street location, visitors will enjoy free seasonal games and crafts activities including the popular snowflake creation station. They can play Where’s Santa? and the “Elf Hunt” game throughout the Museum’s three floors, and enjoy the Museum’s free temporary exhibit, BIG STUFF from the Permanent Collection on display from November 12 – December 31, 2011. The train from the former Herpolshiemer’s Department Store toy department will be on display. General admission is $8 for adults, $7 for seniors, and $3 for children 3-17. Members, and children 2 and under are free.

For information call 616.456.3977 or visit www.grmuseum.org
Please Thank and Support Your 2011 Heritage Hill Weekend Tour of Homes Sponsors

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The Yoga Studio
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May 19–October 13
8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
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A featured recipe will be offered each week using fresh produce for sale by the local farmers.

We make healthy habits more delicious.

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www.smmmc.org
Both could set precedent in our neighborhood that would be a detriment to its residential nature.

(The public hearing before the Board of Zoning Appeals for both proposals was on November 17th, too early for the deadline of this issue. Its decision is posted on the Association’s website heritagehillweb.org.)

The Heritage Hill Association reviewed the two variance requests for (1) a 12-room boutique hotel and special events facility request for 44 Lafayette NE and (2) an expanded Bed and Breakfast request at 440 Logan SE as an 8-room B&B and banquet facility uses. The Association and many, many neighbors opposed both requests with similar rationale.

Both of these proposals may seem charming in an historic neighborhood. However, the charm quickly fades when you consider how these uses will impact surrounding neighbors and also how both will set precedent in our neighborhood. Please consider the following:

1. Land-use goes with the property, not with an owner. This is an issue that often is overlooked when neighbors are asked to support zoning requests. Regardless of understandings or relationships with the current applicants, when the properties are sold, the use ordinance stays with the property. Assumptions and promises, unless specific to the approved request, are meaningless under new ownership.

2. Land-use approvals set patterns. Once a pattern is established, it sets precedent that can be replicated much easier. Therefore if one or both of these requests for use as a banquet facility is approved, all applicants in Heritage Hill will have an easier time getting approval for similar requests - even the house next door to you. Both of these requests seek approvals to host large gatherings at homes in our neighborhood. Both requests offer limitations to 15 outdoor events but seek unlimited indoor events. Whether indoor or outdoor, events create the same concerns to neighbors: the parking on our streets of 50 to 150 guests, the noise and congestion of food, flowers, music, and linen deliveries as well as guests coming and going to the site; in warmer months, food and drink is served inside, but guests may mingle with their food and drink outside. Neighbors would experience these issues on a regular basis.

While there are two separate requests, the Heritage Hill Association opposed both variance proposals because each creates similar consequences. HHA Board members do not believe that either request meets the guidelines of the Heritage Hill Master Plan nor the Grand Rapids Zoning Code. Both can be considered as spot zoning.
Please abide by the City Ordinance that states that property owners are responsible for removing snow and ice from the sidewalks adjacent to their property. If the property owner does not comply with this ordinance, the City can notify the property owners by a physical posting on the residence of the violation. If the snow is not removed in 48 hours from the posting, the City may clear these sidewalks and charge the cost and fees to the property owner in violation.

As a courtesy to your neighbors, postal carriers, and school children, please keep your sidewalks and walkways clear.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the sidewalk division at 456-3243. Clear sidewalks are safe sidewalks!

Also please remember to clear all fire hydrants of snow. Plus watch out for your seniors on your block and offer your snow blowing assistance. Your neighborhood thanks you!

Our Quality is no accident

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<th>Free Loaner Program</th>
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<td>For Quality Body Repairs Come To Wealthy Body Shop Inc.</td>
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616-458-5698

Heritage Hill Apartment Rental and Home Sales Listings
All sizes and prices -- Spread the word!!!

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!

RentalHeritageHillWeb.org

Heritage Hill Apartment Rental and Home Sales Listings
All sizes and prices -- Spread the word!!!

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Historic Building Restoration
“Cool” could even be used to describe HHA’s Fundraiser Soirée in October at the beautiful and elegant Women’s City Club. One attending neighbor commented how nice it was to be attending a social event in the neighborhood and also how nice that “young people” had turned out. Everyone stayed all evening to continue enjoying the wonderful offerings from our local vendors and catching up on all the latest news with friends and neighbors.

This event could not have been possible without the Herculean organizational efforts of our own Amy Ruis, of the Art of the Table. Besides supplying samplings of really yummy and affordable wines to pair with the food tastings, Amy recruited the other food (and beer) donors, served on the committee and lent her strong back and excellent managerial skills throughout the event. We give heartfelt and huge thanks to you, Amy!

Thanks must also be given to the extremely generous Women’s City Club, who donated the venue, which could not have been more perfect. So many attendees commented on what a great space the club was for our event.

All of our vendors, volunteers and donors helped to raise $3,500 much-needed dollars for the Heritage Hill Association. Hearty thanks to all for a very fun event!

Wines from Art of the Table
Beers and cassoulet from Brewery Vivant
Food samplings from:
Chef Tommy Fitzgerald; Uncle Cheetah’s Soup, Erb Thai, Wealthy Street Bakery, Grand Rapids Pizza and Delivery and The Green Well
Silent auction and neighbor artists:
Jim Starkey, Margaret Farratell, Kate Diedrich, Esther Tanis VanAllsburg, Mei Chow, Roger Bruinekool and Matthew McManus
Brick by Brick Improvements at the Fulton Farmers Market

Act before December 31st

The Fulton Street Farmers Market is offering you a one-time opportunity to buy a brick or paver to help meet its fundraising goals for an improved market. Not only will your personal contribution last a lifetime, it will fund needed enhancements to the Market, including:
• Wider aisles
• Better traffic flow
• Improved wheelchair access
• Year-round, indoor vendor facilities
• And much more

BUY A BRICK and MAKE A STATEMENT.

Whether you’re looking to honor a friend, loved one or prized pet, your words engraved on a brick or paver will make an impact. Priced to sell, our bricks and pavers support essential enhancements to the Market. Bricks and pavers will be featured in the southeast corner of the Market.

Go to the website http://ourgoodnessisgrowing.org to purchase the following brick/paver(s):
• Bricks are $35 each; Half Pavers are $50; and Full pavers are $100 each. You’re welcome to buy as many as you like!

The deadline is December 31, so don’t miss your chance to be on the walk of fame!

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Huge thanks to our recent Heritage Hill Association contributors:

Joe Bauman
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John Briel and Kathy Maguire
Margaret Chamberlain
Robert and Ann Cooper
Doug Dok and Diann Landers
Dr. Roger and Rosemary Ellis
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Gary E Mitchell and Mary Beth Quillen
Ivan and Linda Nordstrand
Ken Schmidt
Bill Tingley and Bridget Dupont-Tingley
Chris and Tom Truesdale
Gordon and Joyce VanHaitsma
October Crime: There were only two burglaries; one in a large apartment complex where a door was kicked in and the other in a home where a small pane of glass in the door was broken. Two is a very low number for a neighborhood with over 3000 housing units. There was also some suspicious activity reports called in by neighbors who noticed something out of the ordinary. For instance a “persistent door knocking, bell ringer” on Madison SE was reported by a concerned neighbor. There were also several cars broken into in both the north and south ends of the Hill. There was one “animal running loose” call, and several “trouble with a person” reports.

Parking problems, family problems and disturbance problems were reported in relatively low numbers. All in all, crime was low in October.

WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON IN THE HHA OFFICE:

Daily Crime Incident Summary: Each day I review a summary of reported incidents and work with our Community Officer to address issues of concern to neighbors. The summary does not give details or names. It provides just the type of incident, location, date and time.

We have several “hot spots” that we keep on our front burner all the time. These are areas or specific addresses that have a high number of police responses. Drugs, violence or ongoing disturbances become designated hot spots. Any reports in those areas are carefully reviewed and responded to. We contact owners of properties and work with them too. We also file information or requests for assistance with the detectives or officers and pursue the problem using a variety of resources until it is resolved.

Recently we had a drug dealer/user move out of the Hill and a robber/assailant move out too, rather than be evicted. Both building managers and owners were cooperative. We work toward arrests but having trouble-makers move out is okay too. We are also currently working on a child welfare issue.

Fundraising

We held a “Phone-a-Thon” calling night and raised almost $1000 in just two hours. If you have not sent in a pledge for 2011, there is still time to do so before the end of the year. Thank you to our “callers,” Suzanne DeHaan, Mark Dykstra, Michelle Mott and Erin Magley. We had fun snacking, chatting and talking with neighbors we called. Thanks also to Nikki Hoort of Elders’ Helpers for letting us call from her office on Robinson Road.

The Soirée and Art Auction were even more fun and raised several thousand dollars to help our budget shortage. There is more on that wonderful event elsewhere in the Herald.

Housing Issues

Housing concerns are always on our agenda. For several years we have been working with neighbors and the city on buildings that have stood vacant for a year or more. 405 Lyon NE is one we have been monitoring because, though it was purchased for rehab well over a year ago, work has not begun. A vacant home on the 200 block of Morris has been on our other front burner for years as we worked with neighbors and the city. As a result, it was recently sold to a family that will be doing a complete rehab and is moving in! Diligence and persistence are key factors in making a difference and that is (Cont’d on page 12)
The Old House Expo is back in Grand Rapids
Saturday, March 24, 2012
Details in the next Herald

Happy Holidays
Your friends at SalonMaui would like wish you a Happy Holiday Season.
Celebrating 4 years in Heritage Hill
Mention this ad and receive $10.00 off any service

Don’t forget

Happy Holiday Pompom
(Cont’d from page 11)

what neighbors and HHA staff contribute to problem-solving. We appreciate the owners who respond right away when we alert them to trouble.

Heritage Hill Annual Meeting, Board Election & Potluck Dinner: We will be partying/meeting and voting at the GRCC De Vos Campus on THURSDAY, December 1, 2011 (Not Friday as we have done before.) Don Row will be doing Henna Art so we can all go home looking exotic. Bring a dish to pass and all else is provided. We have five excellent candidates running for the HHA board of directors. All who live in the neighborhood are invited; tenants included too!

Odds & Ends
Loose Dog Reunited with Owner: On Friday, October 29, HHA staff caught a loose dog named Coco. She was an extremely happy German Shorthaired Pointer. She got out of her yard and was threatening pedestrians with forceful wagging of her tail and a doggie happy-dance. Because she had a license tag and a tag with her name, the owner’s name, address and phone number, they were happily reunited within 10 minutes. This is a hint for all dog and cat owners. We hate to hear of pets being lost without any owner info to help get them back home again.

Tenant Issues: Free consultation with Cooley Law School Legal Aid attorneys on a walk-in basis on the first and third Mondays each month at Steepletown Neighborhood Services at 671 at Davis NW from noon to 2:00 p.m. Bring any paperwork regarding your case. E-Mail kym@kcrentersalliance.org with questions about the program. This project is sponsored by the Kent County Renters’ Alliance.

Parking Tickets: Walking up Washington SE today, I saw a city parking enforcement worker writing a ticket for a vehicle parked only 10 feet from the crosswalk. That looked far enough to me but he said the law requires 15 feet. Then I realized that this is the corner that I cannot see around on my way to work every day. I noted that it is an expensive mistake for students and he replied, “Students learn to drive in high school and learn to park in college”. A word to the wise!

Upcoming issues:

Snow: Tenants, check your lease or rental agreement to see who is responsible for raking and bagging leaves and shoveling snow this winter. Often, if you live in a multi-unit, the owner will do it or arrange for it to be done. Do not wait until the first storm to find out. If the sidewalks are not shoveled at any property, residents can complain to the city using the www.GReity.us web site. Obviously if you own the property you live in, you will be held responsible for your sidewalk.

Snowbound corners: Snow plows fill up the crosswalks and make extra work for people living on corners. Please do the best you can to keep the intersections walkable so children and others who walk to work, school or the bus stop, will have a clear path.

Leaves: At this time they can be composted or bagged in city bags for pick-up. Or they can be dropped off for free disposal at the city yard waste disposal site on the west side on Butterworth St., across from the Zoo. Please do not rake them into the street! That is a violation of a city ordinance.
what neighbors and HHA staff contribute to problem-solving. We appreciate the owners who respond right away when we alert them to trouble.

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**To Do:**

Please Think of the Heritage Hill Association In Your Holiday Thanks

If you have yet to submit your 2011 Pledge to the Heritage Hill Association, please think of us! We will put your money to good work right back into your neighborhood!

Thank You!

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**WE REMEMBER ...**

**Betty Forrest,** from the 200 and 300 block of Paris SE passed away in late October. Betty was a long-time activist on civil rights. She had the heart of a lion and a growl like one too. Her Letters to the Editor of the Grand Rapids Press were pithy and convincing. Betty was also instrumental in the creation and continuance of the West Michigan Jazz Society, which took up much of her time for several decades. She will be missed by her neighbors and family and all who knew her.
Board Notes

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

Public Comment for Agenda Items: - Mike Reagan and Glenn Barkan of Cherry Street Health Services detailed the merger of Proaction Behavioral Health (Project Rehab), and Touchstone with Cherry Street Health Services. The vision is to create integrated health care, combining physical, mental and cognitive care, as well as for substance abuse issues. The administrative services at 540 Cherry Street have moved to the new facility at 100 Cherry SE. (540 Cherry is currently on the market but the clinic at 550 Cherry SE will remain as a health services clinic.)

Zoning Request – 253 Prospect NE – former Bethlehem Lutheran Church: Jan Earl reported that there is not enough information at this point to vote on as an action item. 616 Lofts is a new investor and is requesting a variance to develop the church as 22, mostly one-bedroom, market-rate apartments, with the parking lot expanded to accommodate 28 parking spaces. Adjacent neighbors met and voiced objections to the number of units that is proposed due to the serious parking concerns. A larger neighbors’ meeting will be held next week. The HHA Zoning Committee will be in attendance and will submit a recommendation to the HHA Board following its research. The variance request will be before the Board of Zoning Appeals on October 20th.

Treasurer’s Report: Jackie Taylor commented that as of August 31st, the budget looks good, but we will fall several thousand dollars short before year’s end. Jackie stressed that the Wine Social is critical and encouraged everyone to personally ask their friends and neighbors to attend.

Institutional Liaisons: A meeting is scheduled with Saint Mary’s on October 5th.

Nominating/Personnel: Mike Clark reported that Justin Fales is leaving for a new job in Colorado and that the board might like to find another representative from Saint Mary’s. The board wished Justin well on his new adventure.

Fund Development: Mike Clark said that the initial name, Strategic Planning, confused the intent of this effort that was discussed at the August Board meeting. The Executive Committee has thus renamed it as Fund Development to more clearly define the goal – to develop a campaign to solicit substantial contributions to the Heritage Hill Association. With this clarification, Mike again solicited Board members that were interested in serving – Mary Robinson volunteered.

HHA Fundraising Soirée: Jackie Taylor reported that the Steering Committee held its first meeting for the 2012 Tour and that there are 5 houses on the slate so far, as well as Warren Hall and St. Marke’s Church, which is having its 175th anniversary.

Phon-a-thons at Elders’ Helpers (thank you, Nikki Hoort) and will recruit volunteers.

Texas Hold ‘em: Four confirmed events are scheduled for 2012, which could bring in significant revenue.

Block Issues: Members were directed to...

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jim@winter-troutwine.com
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Grand Rapids, Michigan
Barb’s staff report.

Education: The GRPS millage is coming in November; the Child Discovery Center is open and Jeanie Englehart is their new Executive Director.

Neighborhood Safety Task Force: Barb Lester reported that the second Visioning Session for State Street will be on September 28th, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., at the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Barb also commented that she is noticing more problems at the Stuyvesant.

Hospitality: Mike Clark announced that the date of the Annual Meeting may change due to the GRCC DeVos campus being closed on Friday nights. The tentative date is Thursday, December 1st. Mike also related that El Barrio restaurant has offered to donate several dishes for the Annual Meeting / Holiday Potluck.

Housing: Members were directed to Barb’s staff report. The proposed change in the housing ordinance for the city to inspect single-family homes was highlighted.

Preservation & Zoning: ICCF made a preliminary presentation to neighbors concerning the proposed, multi-use development of the Wealthy, Prospect, and Lafayette corner. Further neighbor meetings will be held if ICCF receives funding for the development.

Traffic & Parking: Jaime Misner reported the slow progress on Madison; various sewer projects in the neighborhood were discussed.

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

Public Comment for Agenda Items: Tony Baker of GRPS explained the need for the upcoming millage request on November 8th. Mr. Baker outlined that the millage is 1 mil per year for 5 years, and then expires. Mr. Baker detailed that the money would be spent for emergency-type building repairs and that if the millage fails, the money will come out of the general fund, i.e. the classrooms. Mr. Baker also outlined the steps for the new superintendent hiring process and stated that a new superintendent is scheduled to be in place by July, 2012.

Maria Zache’s Leave of Absence Request: Discussion included the length of the leave, the budget and the division of duties for staff throughout Maria’s absence. MSP approving the leave for Maria’s winter in Mexico.

Treasurer’s Report: The September report will be available October 20th

Finance: The Finance Committee will meet in the coming weeks to review and recommend HHA’s draft budget for 2012 that will be presented to the Board in November.

Institutional Liaisons: The Saint Mary’s Liaison met on October 5 with the Hospital reps and reviewed redevelopment progress of the St. Luke’s guest house. Neighbors reported on issues regarding the alley between Lafayette and Prospect that the hospital will address.

Nominating/Personnel: Mike Clark reported that Tom Czerwinski is resigning from the board as he had conflicts with the upcoming 4th quarter meetings. Tom will remain on the Finance Committee.

Fund Development: Jackie Taylor and Jan Earl had a great meeting with Micki Benz for her advice on HHA’s fund development plan, potential funders, and Saint Mary’s Hospital’s assistance.

HHA Fundraising Soirée: The event raised $3,500, everyone in attendance had fun; it was a nice “social” event, with various ages attending.

(Cont’d on page 16)
Board Notes  (Cont’d from page 15)

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Garden Tour: Jim Payne reported that the North College Block Club is still canvassing for new Chairpersons for 2012.

Home Tour/Friends & Sponsors: The Steering Committee will meet on October 25th.

Pledge Drive: Barb Lester organized a night of calling; there were not enough volunteers for two nights.

Texas Hold’em: Four confirmed events are scheduled for 2012, 2 weekends and 2 mid-week time periods.

Block Issues – Members were directed to Barb’s staff report.

Education – Jan is scheduled to meet with
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DATES TO REMEMBER

All Heritage Hill Association Meetings are open to neighbors.

***Note 2011-12 Board Meetings are held the third WEDNESDAY of the month***

Thursday, December 1st, 2011, 6-9 pm
Holiday Potluck and Annual Meeting
*Holiday cheer, great food and conversation with Heritage Hill neighbors. Santa comes, you should too!*

The HHA office will be closed for the Holidays
Thursday, December 22nd, 2011 through Sunday, January 1st, 2012
*Happy Holidays*

*****Wednesday, January 18th, 2011*****
HHA Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
GRCC DeVos Campus
Robert Sneden Academic Building Lecture Hall
415 East Fulton

*****Wednesday, February, 15th, 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:

Saturday and Sunday, May 19th and 20th
2012 Heritage Hill Weekend Tour of Homes
*We welcome you inside 8 or more historic homes*

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