DATES TO REMEMBER

All Heritage Hill Association Meetings are open to neighbors.

Thursday, June 11th, 2009
Annual Night Out Picnic, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Foster Park at State, Cherry, Madison triangle

Tuesday, June 16th, 2009
HHA Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Davenport/GRCC Campus
Robert Sneden Academic Building Lecture Hall
415 East Fulton

Saturday, June 20th, 2009
2nd Annual Heritage Hill Garden Tour
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
See details on page 3 of this Herald

Next HHA Board Meeting is August 18th

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

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www.bartlett.com

You are invited to the
Annual Heritage Hill Night Out Potluck Picnic
In Foster Park
(triangle of State, Cherry and Madison SE)
Thursday, June 11, 2009
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

• Bring a dish to pass and a chair
• Brats, dogs, drinks and table ware provided

Grilling
Games
Good Neighbors
Great Door Prizes
Fun for All
It is summertime and the Association has its June fun covered. The annual Heritage Hill Picnic is June 11th from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Get lazy yet not too crazy, with your neighbors on the Foster Park picnic grounds. The more the merrier.

Second in the series of fun is the 2nd annual Heritage Hill Garden Tour on June 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It was such a great hit last year that we are doing it again. There are secret places in this neighborhood and the Garden Tour takes you into the private side of your neighborhood. Tickets are just $8.00 in advance and $10.00 on the day of. All of the details are in this issue of the Herald so take advantage of the fun, summer times in your own neighborhood!

We have finished all the scanning of the Tax Assessor’s files of Heritage Hill houses for posting on our website. Many thanks to Taylor Gebben for placing her City of Grand Rapids address on our website. Visitors to our website can enjoy Historical Preservation Tours and High/Middle School internships with the Heritage Hill Association and complete this project. Our ever-vigilant webmaster, Don Harnell, is working on preparing the files for web viewing and is posting them as he completes each block. Applause, applause to both for making this big project happen at last.

Congratulations to 2009 graduating seniors and wishing all the best on life’s new phases. Go explore, take a decade or two, but y’all come back to Heritage Hill — you won’t find a better neighborhood!! A special tribute to my daughter, Hannah, who graduated from GRP’s own City High School this May. A very proud mom says, “Whoa, where did that decade go?”

Enjoy a great summer!

Jan Earl
Executive Director

The Heritage Hill Association

Wilhelmina Daniels, Afternoon Receptionist
Jan Earl, Executive Director

WEBSITE:  www.heritagehillweb.org
EMAIL:  heritage@heritagehillweb.org

Hours: 9 am - 5 pm, Mon. - Fri.
Replace Or Restore?

Popular thinking suggests that your home’s existing wood windows need to be replaced with more efficient double insulated replacement windows. That is what we would have recommended four months ago. Because of our passion for restoring historic homes, we began researching ways to improve window efficiency while still preserving your existing windows.

We began by asking: what is the energy value of existing wood windows and how does it compare to new double insulated windows? The window industry uses what they call a U-value to rate window efficiency. The lower the U-value the better insulating capacity the window will have. A traditional single pane of clear glass has a U-value of around 1.10 compared to 0.31 for a double insulated low-emissivity (low-e) argon-gas unit.

Whether the window is double insulated or a single pane, glass in and of itself is not insulating, as you can see, by the difference of only .79 in U-value. Outside air infiltration – rather than heat lost through the glass – is the principal culprit affecting energy transfer; it can account for as much as 50 percent of the total heat loss of a building. Windows can typically account for 12 to 15 percent of that total heat loss. The key to window efficiency is to stop air infiltration. By installing a storm window over an existing window, the two windows function like double insulated glass without the expense or potential failure over their lifetime. Double insulated glass can and will fail at some point in its life cycle. This is usually noticed by the loss of vision (or fogginess) through the glass, which is due to condensation forming between the two panes of glass.

The most exciting information we found for those who reside in historic districts came from the National Association of Home Builders Research Center. A field evaluation compared the performance of low-e coated storm windows to standard clear glass storm windows. In actual conditions, the study showed that a low-e storm window installed over an existing wood window registered a U-factor of 0.30, matching the same U-value attributed to double insulated replacement windows. Studies showed that clear glass storm windows reduced the whole house-heating load by 13 percent with a 10-year simple payback. The low-e storms reduced heating load by 20 percent and with less than 5-year simple payback.

This is especially good news for the preservation of historic homes – and that’s where we are really sold. It is not necessary to sacrifice historical integrity to gain energy efficiency. Keep your old wood windows – don’t replace them – and continue to enjoy their historical context. Cover them with a good quality storm window with low-e glass and receive the same performance as a replacement window but with a better return on your investment.

If you would like more information regarding the possible tax credits and other points raised in this article, please visit us at www.mtcrestoration.com. Sources:


Replace Or Restore? Some Facts To Consider When Deciding What To Do With Your Existing Windows

SHOP LOCAL – EXPERT AUTO REPAIR – SHOP LOCAL IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
FOREIGN - DOMESTIC - BRAKES - EXHAUST - SHOCKS STRUTS - ALIGNMENTS - TUNE-UPS - MOST REPAIRS - FREE ESTIMATES & LOCAL TRANSPORTATION TO & FROM

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Keep your old wood windows – don’t replace them – and continue to enjoy their historical context. Cover them with a good quality storm window with low-e glass and receive the same performance as a replacement window but with a better return on your investment.

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Fax 616.827.8828
bcrenh.com@comcast.net
Cell 616.498.2004

McGRAW TIRE
PIERSON’S SINCE 1927
HERITAGE HILL AND DOWNTOWN
141 WEALTHY SE (AT LaGRANGE)
459-3393

The 2009 Heritage Hill Garden Tour is underwritten by these wonderful, local service agencies and merchants.

REDEEM BOOKS, CRESCENT FLORAL, AND CHERRY HILL MANUFACTURING

Tickets on June 20 are $10.00 and available only at the ticket booth at 415 E. Fulton, on the Davenport/GRC campus.

The Tour is walkable, self-directed, and garden locations and highlights are detailed in the ticket brochure. Locations are primarily on the north end of Heritage Hill. Volunteers are available at each of the gardens to answer any questions.

Parking is accessible at the 415 E. Fulton campus for both purchasing tickets and starting the tour. Street parking is also an option at the open gardens.

For more information, or to purchase tickets online, go to www.bergie8210003.org or call the Heritage Hill Association at 616-459-8950.
The Association applauds our Garden Tour hosts:

Bridgett and Bill Tingley
Mary Mangase
Jim Starkey and Maria Zache
Jane Lovett and Doug Wandergem
Laura and Chris Martin
Connie and Kim Taber
An Hile and Bob Roche
Tom Hicks, Scott Kuderik and Jim O’Rourke
Jim Boylan and Jack Hoppus
Sharon Osborn
Dawn and Roger Cornell

And salutes the committee that put it all together:
Chaire: Kathi Barkan and Nikki Hoort
Tom Tubeolle
Jack Sysmca

Heritage Hill Handy Man

My name is Pete and I have over 10 years of construction experience and have rehabbed 17+ units. Living in Heritage Hill has given me a deep respect for the homes and their architecture. If you care for your historic home as much as I care about mine, call today for a free estimate.

Areas of expertise include: Tile, Hardwood flooring, Water damage, Plaster/sheetrock repair, Painting, Paint stripping, Exterior wood repair, Bathroom remodeling, any project that you do not want to do/ or don’t have the time.

Pete Konyndyk  616.443.5798

Rental-go-Round Part II:

The Heritage Hill Association received another complaint about a rental owner who shows apartments, takes rent in advance and then never gets the deal weeks later, just days before the victims are to move into one of his apartments. Last summer the HHA staff talked with several dozen people who were angry about what they called a fraud. We have contacted the Grand Rapids Police Department and are working with a detective to put a stop to this scheme.

No one knows exactly why this owner would collect a year or six months rent weeks or months in advance then tell the tenants only a week or days before the moveon date that the apartment has been damaged by a plumbing problem. Some think it is for short-term investing, money laundering or a Ponzi-type scheme for cash to live on.

The victims all got their money back eventually but they were very upset to have to find adequate housing within a few days when they thought they had a nice apartment at a good price. All set.

One couple moved from out of state and never got the letter. Their moving van was set to unload within 12 hours when they got word. Other individuals had similar disasters. Most were college students who often have rent money when they get word. They were offered a break on the rent to pay all at once.

This owner has been banned from advertising with Heritage Hill, RentGR.com and with Craig’s List.

Tips to prevent this from happening to you:

• Don’t pay more than the first month and security deposit in advance.
• Make sure you get a receipt for the payment and that it states your name, the owner’s name, the exact amount you have paid and that what amount is for (rent, security deposit, cleaning fee, etc.) Make sure the owner or manager signs and dates the receipt.
• Make sure that the owner gives you a move-in check list that you fill out identifying any and all defects in the apartment before you move in (i.e. cracked window, burned or scratched counter top, hole in wall, scraped paint, etc.)
• This check list is mandated under Michigan State Law.

Take photos of any defects to document. Make sure to copy the check list after you have filled it out and have the owner sign your copy and date it.

• Call the Heritage Hill Association at 459-8950 if you have questions about your rights or rentals. We have free booklets that provide tenants and owners rights and responsibilities under State Law.

VanDerKolk
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Specializing in architectural paint restoration. For a free consultation, please call 616.475.4300
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“Gorgeous! But what’s really beautiful, it’s going to stay that way.”

“Gorgeous! They removed the peeling paint down to the bare wood. The siding on my historic home is like brand new. But what’s really beautiful, it’s going to stay that way.” — lani shepherd

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Gorgeous! But what’s really beautiful, they removed the peeling paint down to the bare wood. The siding on my historic home is like brand new. But what’s really beautiful, it’s going to stay that way.

— lani shepherd

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

— lani shepherd

The Heritage Hill Association

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Heritage Hill Handy Man

My name is Pete and I have over 10 years of construction experience and have rehabbed 17+ units. Living in Heritage Hill has given me a deep respect for the homes and their architecture. If you care for your historic home as much as I care about mine, call today for a free estimate.

Areas of expertise include: Tile, Hardwood flooring, Water damage, Plaster/sheetrock repair, Painting, Paint stripping, Exterior wood repair, Bathroom remodeling, any project that you do not want to do/ or don’t have the time.

Pete Konyndyk  616.443.5798

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616-451-8331
Grand Rapids, Michigan
www.VanDerKolkPainting.com

And salutes the committee that put it all together:
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be held. Tuesday April 28th

Neighborhood Safety Task Force – Mary reported that the meeting with stakeholders in the Heritage Square business district was productive and well attended. This has been a good “give and take,” and a follow-up meeting will be held on Monday, May 4th with a smaller representation.

Pepin – The June 11th date is approaching and works are underway to be distributed at the May board meeting.

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

- Treasurer – Mike reported that the board that this year’s budget is a balanced one and that we are off to a good start. Income for the Residential and Commercial Pledge Drives is on target at the end of April and most importantly, so is the Rental Service income. Tom also stated that expenses are at or about at expectations.

- Staff Reports: Accepted as Submitted.

- 2009 Board Goals and Objectives – Jackie went over the Fundraising Goals and Objectives (as they were not a part of the board packet) and restated that the major goals will be a successful Pledge Drive, Garden Tour and Home Tour. Mike stated that the stated in the developing area with each of HH’s neighbors institutions. The idea was to encourage residents to accept the Goals and Objectives as a whole at the June meeting.

- Liaison Groups:
  - Community Involvement – Nikki Hoot Block liaison – Nikki reported on the very successful Block Rep Mixer of April 28th, totaling approximately 60 attendees. 100% of board members were in attendance and Nikki thanked them, the committee and hosts Jewell and Doug Wangerdjem.
  - Neighborhood Safety Task Force – Mary reported that they had had a great second meeting at Wendy Fahl’s with the owner and manager of Clarks as well as City Commissioners Rosalynn Bliss and David LaGrand and other key stakeholders. Clarks is implementing many improvement plans such as recognition of stock items and considerable interior painting, but the committee feels that there is still much to be done to decrease the negative impacts on the neighborhood.
  - Pepin – Thursday June 11th, Foster Park, 5:30 – 8:30. Barb sent around the sign-up sheet for tasks for the evening of Pepin and stated that she will be asking Wisconsin.com Milking again to be Bratmaster. Mike Sak will again be Grillmaster. As of now, there is not a sponsor for the food.
  - Land Use Issues – Dave Havelay Housing – Mike reported that 322 Washington has been sold and hopes that this means a brighter future for this home.

- Garden Tour – June 20th, 10am to 5pm, rain or shine. Kathy reported that plans are going very well and that she is just waiting for the final count of volunteers from GRFD before placing all volunteers. She thanked DeB Briers for soliciting the 4 sponsors and reported that there are 12 gardens open including a formal tea on the veranda of the Vogt House. Kathy also stated that Jan is getting out the appropriate name releases and that 2 or more of the sponsors will likely have product displayed during the tour.

- Traffic & Parking – Barb was asked about the status of all streets in Grand Rapids and on the right lane. Justin Fales from Saint Mary’s commented that Jefferson (by the hospital) has reopened but that the Emergency entrance is still from Cherry St. to the Tangerine Plaza.

- Historic Preservation Network – Mike stated that the Executive Committee has assigned this program to the Development Committee as there is a need for better communications with the MHPN. Mike also re-stated the idea of a Phone-a-thon for June 9th and 10th in the evening at Elders’ Helpers.

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 Swenom Lecture Hall. Neighbors are welcome to attend. If you would like an item placed on the Board agenda, please call the HHA office at 459-8950 before 5:00 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. Special Board meetings last from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 to 9:00 p.m.

The Heritage Hill Association joins the accolades of both the Hoffmans and ICCF!
GIVE SMART

There are many helpful organizations that are an alternative to giving cash to panhandlers. They provide an amazing array of services and many are open every day of the year. Give your money to the following organizations and give this list rather than cash to the next panhandler!

Dégage Life Enrichment Center
12 Division, 49503
Breakfast, lunch, and supper, in-rutile Center and more

Westminster Presbyterian Church
17 Jefferson SE, 49503
Food Pantry for area residents on Tuesdays

God’s Kitchen
503 S. Division, 49503
Free hot lunch every day of the year, from 2:40 – 4:00 p.m.

Guiding Light Mission
255 S. Division, 49503:
Men’s Shelter, lunch and supper, substance abuse resources and more.

Second Harvest Gleaners
864 West River Center Drive, NW, Comstock Park, 49321
Your donation of $10 provides $100 in food given to local pantries and meals programs.

Please remember when your apartment needs renters. Your dollars not only find 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!

RENT HERITAGEHILLWEB.ORG

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RENT HERITAGEHILLWEB.ORG

Board Notes

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

The RAPID – Silver Line. Mike Clark recapped the email meeting decision of the HHA Board on April 17, 2009 that was sent to the RAPID Board. In brief, that decision stated that the Heritage Hill Association would oppose the transit millage unless the RAPID Board publicly removed the Silver Line route from the residential streets of Heritage Hill, specifically Lafayette NE. Following several days of intense conversations with numerous individuals, the HHA Executive Committee recommended that the HHA Board consider revising its position. Mike Clark asked County Commissioner Jim Tals to outline his negotiations with RAPID Board members over the preceding 5 days. Jim detailed his discussions and the process that the RAPID Board must follow with regard to changes in the stated route. The result is date is that the following motion will be presented to the RAPID Board at its April 22 meeting.

"Resolution - The ITP Board of Directors is aware of staff proposals for alternative routes for the Silver Line to the current proposal and believes these proposals warrant serious consideration and input from all constituents including potential environmental, historic preservation and neighborhood interests. Further, the Board strongly believes in the process of route evaluation established through Public Transportation Tomorrow/Task Force. Therefore, the ITP Board directs staff to explore other route options in keeping with this established procedure."

The HHA Executive Committee recommended that if the RAPID Board adopted the stated motion, that the Association would support the transit millage. HHA Board members debated the pros and cons of dropping its opposition to the millage without a guarantee that the route would be diverted from Lafayette NE. The Federal requirement of a ‘106’ environmental review was also discussed and the likely decision from the ‘State Historic Preservation Office’ that would rule that the intense bus traffic on Lafayette NE would be a substantial detriment to the integrity of the Historic District and its historic structures. With this perceived protection, a motion was made and seconded to rescind the motion of April 17 and create a new motion that stated that if the RAPID Board adopted the provided motion, the HHA Board would support the transit millage of May 5, 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: Jan reported that a $5,000 contribution was received from Saint Mary’s Hospital for HHA’s Neighborhood Improvement program.

Land Use Issues – Dave Hathaway Preservation: Mike reported that Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN) is seeking volunteers for its conference on May 14-16 and also that Tom Logan and Jim Winter-Houtrouw will be leading a tour in HH as part of the conference. The Board encouraged members to “spuce up” the neighborhood especially any vacant properties.

Traffic and Parking: Dave reported that the construction project at Jefferson and Wealthy is still scheduled to be completed by the projected June 16th and that the College at 196 closures continue as the work on the bridge proceeds.

Zoning: Jan reported on the April 20th staves Grand Rapids meeting and distributed a hand-out outlining outcomes of this meeting. A community meeting is scheduled in May to finalize the priorities.

Administrative – Mike Clark
Institutional Liaisons / Nominating: Jan reported that she met with Nicki Iuene of Saint Mary’s Hospital regarding the open seat on the HHA Board.

Fundraising – Jackie Taylor
Garden Tour – Nikki Hoort reported that plans are full-speed ahead. The tour is full with 11 gardens, 3 sponsors have been secured and news releases are being distributed to the various publications / media outlets. Jan reported that a full slate of 8 hours is lined up and that there would be a major city-wide announcement made soon about an event during Tour time. Pledge Drive – Jan reported the donations are coming in well in response to the pledge letter. Barb stated that she is working on securing a calling location for the phone-a-thon and Nikki offered her business, Elders Helpers. Community Involvement – Nikki Iuene
Block Issues – The Block Rep Mixer is to be held, Tuesday April 28th – Neighborhood Safety Task Force –

(Cont’d on page 12)
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.

Graydon’s Crossing, Located on Plainfield Ave near Leonard St.

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.

Marie Catrib’s, Located on Lake Drive and Diamond

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.

Cherry Deli, Located on Cherry Street

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.

You, your neighbors, and the Heritage Hill Association have an opportunity to voice any objections or to lend support to the variance request at the City’s Zoning Appeals Board’s or Planning Commission’s public hearings. If an owner is adding apartments to a home, a zoning variance is needed. Neighbors would be notified of the request and a public hearing would be held to hear if there are any concerns.

If an owner is adding additional units and/or more than 4 cars continually parked at one address, this use could be in violation of the Zoning Ordinance. If cars are parking on front yards, it certainly is a zoning violation and should be reported. The number to call is 456-3053.

Violations like these will probably continue if neighbors do not call attention to the problem. The Planning Department and Housing/Zoning Inspections office do not have the staff to monitor Zoning Ordinance violations throughout the city. How well the Zoning Ordinance is implemented is dependent upon the involvement of Grand Rapids’ citizens to monitor and report infractions.

If an owner is adding apartments to a home, a zoning variance is needed. Neighbors would be notified of the request and a public hearing would be held to hear if there are any concerns.

You, your neighbors, and the Heritage Hill Association have an opportunity to voice any objections or to lend support to the variance request at the City’s Zoning Appeals Board’s or Planning Commission’s public hearings. If an owner is adding additional units and you have not been notified of this request, call 456-3053.

In summary, be aware of conditions in Heritage Hill that you feel are amiss. Trust your instincts and report these conditions to the City’s Housing/Zoning Trust your instincts and report these conditions to the City’s Housing/Zoning Department and Kent/MSU Extension.

Members of the taskforce include our City Commissioners Bliss and LaGrand; Lt. Budzilek, GRPD; Micki Benz, Saint Mary’s Health Care; Marge Palmerelee, Dégagé; Mike Raymond, Grand Rapids Pizza & Delivery; HHA board members and staff, and near neighbors of State and Cherry. Panhandling, public drinking and the sale of very cheap alcohol that attracts inebriates to the area are targeted for change by the group. The impact of the behaviors interferes with the walk-ability of the area and the full use of Foster Park by the community.

Chances that you may have noticed already are less graffiti, the parking lot at the store is clean and potholes filled; already are less graffiti, the parking lot at the store is clean and potholes filled; already are less graffiti, the parking lot at the store is clean and potholes filled; already are less graffiti, the parking lot at the store is clean and potholes filled; already are less graffiti, the parking lot at the store is clean and potholes filled; already are less graffiti, the parking lot at the store is clean and potholes filled; already are less graffiti, the parking lot at the store is clean and potholes filled; already are less graffiti, the parking lot at the store is clean and potholes filled; already are less graffiti, the parking lot at the store is clean and potholes filled; already are less graffiti, the parking lot at the store is clean and potholes filled; already are less graffiti, the parking lot at the store is clean and potholes filled; already are less graffiti, the parking lot at the store is clean and potholes filled.
Numbers to Call:
Child Protective Services: 247-6300
Child neglect or abuse – provide an address
Immediate danger – call the police at 911
Housing Inspections: 456-3053
To file a complaint about:
- graffiti
- streets and sanitation
- panhandling
- zoning issues
- housing inspections
- garbage, recycle and yard waste
- non-emergency request for police response
Streets and Sanitation: 456-3232
Vacant House Watch: Several Heritage Hill neighborhoods pick up litter, old newspapers or flyers left at vacant houses on their blocks to keep the house from looking abandoned.
Earlene Oliver, a neighbor on the 600 block of Union SE. Mrs. Oliver had many friends on the block and was very involved in working with getting a block club started in the 1980s. She will be remembered for her nice smile and charming ways. She hosted some of the nicest block club meetings in the area. Her daughter Beverly and son-in-law Al Roberts are among those who will dearly miss Earlene.
Margaret Altruz
Paul Asselin & Jack Sysma
David Baak & Betty Zylstra
Mitch and Kerry Baldwin
Kathi and Glenn Barkan
Kenneth Bauer
Larry and Nancy Beckwith
Bogan Benton
William Boorman
Robin and Margaret Bowles
Joanna Braun
John Briel & Kathy Maguire
Becky Butela
Julie and John Colvin
John and Sylvia Cooper
Fred Coughie
Paul & Zora Carrier
Nancy Coulter
Evan and Jenna Dawdy
Donald Delhoog
Dave and Sue DeJonge
Dennis DeLano and Merritt Taylor
Tina Deming
Tom and Amy Dildho
Carol Dodge
Suki Droetell
Jerry Dreyer
Mark Dykstra
Julie Elster
David and Wendy Falls
James and Minnie Forbes
Geoff and Susan Gilles
Jim and Elden Gould
Jack and Linda Greenfield & Joan VanderWip
Coleen Hamman
Marilyn Harrison
Dave and Cathy Hathaway
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Dan Lantinga
Dennis and Margaret Leiber
Jack Lensink
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Marge Loughrin and Mike Cary
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Virginia Post
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Beverly Roberts
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