Heritage Hill

Neighborhood Association of the Heritage Hill Historic District

2015 Weekend Tour of Homes

May 16 & 17

Saturday, 11:00 – 5:00 pm
Sunday, 12:00 - 6:00 pm

Advance Tickets $15.00

Available at
Family Fare and D&W Food Stores
Lake Michigan Credit Unions
Martha’s Vineyard
Wealthy Street Bakery
Art of the Table
Heritage Hill Office and
Online at heritagehillweb.org

On the weekend of Tour, tickets are $20.00 and on sale only at GRCC DeVos Campus, 435 East Fulton

For more information:
Heritage Hill Association
126 College SE
Grand Rapids MI 49503
(616) 459-8950
www.heritagehillweb.org
The Heritage Hill Association

126 College S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-459-8950 Fax 616-459-2409
Hours: 9 am - 5 pm, Mon. - Thurs.
Voice mail available for after-hours messages.
EMAIL: heritage@heritagehillweb.org
WEBSITE: www.heritagehillweb.org

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
Tany Harris, Office Assistant

The Heritage Hill Association Board of Directors

**President**
*Jim Payne, 27 College NE, (H) 454-2367
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*Charles Roelofs, 572 College SE, (C) 446-2730
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*Mary Robinson, 220 Union SE, (H) 459-2119
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**Vice President**
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*Stephanie Kolbe, 334 State SE, 248-787-0961
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*Charles Roelofs, 572 College SE, (C) 446-2730
*Erin Shupe, 420 College SE, (C) 633-8946
*Deanna Smith, 346 Morris SE, (C) 295-3223
*
* 1st Term
** 2nd Term

The Heritage Hill Association Board of Directors meets at 7 pm the third Wednesday of each month at the Hauenstein Center - H1 Community Room at Mercy Health Saint Mary’s. The meeting is open to the public.

The Heritage Hill Foundation Board of Trustees
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Barbara L. Roelofs, 227 College SE, 459-0091
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Newsletter: Jan Earl, 459-8950
Preservation: Ryan Huizenga, (H) 634-2417
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Sponsorship: Peter Albertini, 291-3758
Staffing: Debbie Hauenstein, 616-850-0451
Distribution: Don Rietema, 776-1716
Publicity: Jan Earl, 459-8950
Social Media: Tany Harris, 459-8950
State Street: Tany Harris, 459-8950

The Heritage Herald - Circulation 4,800
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.

Typography & Printing: Storr Printing Services, Inc.

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George Dennis, 2685 Cascade Springs Dr., 456-9353
Rebecca Smith Hoffman, 454-5373
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Milt Rohwer, 30 College SE, 844-2728

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Plan your Sale! - Call the Association office at 459-8950 or email heritage@heritagehillweb.org to let us know the location (address) of your sale. We’ll put a list together and post it on our Web site and social media sites. Please call by June 1 for inclusion on this list.

For best results, advertise your sale with signs in the neighborhood. Remember to please take down your signs after the sale date!

SCHEDULE YOUR TOUR TODAY!
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* Innovation Central High (9-12)
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- **SPECTRUM HEALTH**
  - 100 Michigan NE
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<th>Contact Information</th>
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| Art of the Table                    | 606 Wealthy SE
| 301-1885 / www.artofthetable.com    |                                                        |
| Elders' Helpers                     | Live on Your Own with a Helper in Your Home
| 500 Cherry St SE                    | 454-8305 / www.eldershelpers.com
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| Martha's Vineyard                   | P.O. Box 2848 Grand Rapids, MI 49501
|                                    | www.mywines.com
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| Mercer Health Saint Mary's Hospital | 200 Jefferson SE
|                                    | 685-5000 / www.smmc.com
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| Wealthy Street Bakery               | 610 Wealthy SE
|                                    | 301-2950 / wealthystreetbakery.com

### 2015 TOUR SPONSORS

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| 616 Development/Lofts               | 16 Monroe Center Ste 200
|                                    | 616.504.1715 / www.616development.com
|                                    |                                                        |
| Access Health                       | 1200 Ransom / Muskegon, MI 49442
|                                    | (231) 728-5180 / Access-health.org
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| Afendoulis Cleaners and Tuxedos     | 1138 Michigan (at Fuller)
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| Aquinas College                     | 1607 Robinson Rd. SE
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| Blyker Properties                   | 6601 36th Ave, Hudsonville, 49426
|                                    | 616.550-1168 / blykerprop1725@sbcglobal.net
|                                    |                                                        |
| John Buckley and Jamie Misner, Realtors | 301 Crescent St. NE
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|                                    | (616) 331-2025 / www.grcc.edu
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| Coldwell Banker AIS-Schmidt          | 3744 28th St. SE Grand Rapids, MI
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| Cornerstone Church                  | 40 Lafayette SE
|                                    | 698-3170 / www.cornerstonemich.org
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| Cottage Bar                         | 18 Lorraine Ave. SE
|                                    | 454-9088 / www.cottagedbarrington.com
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| Overhead Door Company of Grand Rapids | 5761 N. Hawkeey CT SW
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| Pregnancy Resource Center           | 415 Cherry Street SE
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### 2015 TOUR FRIENDS

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| Big O’ Cafe                         | 80 Ottawa NW
|                                    | 451-1887 / www.bigocafe.com
|                                    |                                                        |
| Cherry Health                       | 100 Cherry St SE
|                                    | 965-8208 / www.cherryhealth.com
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| Consumer’s Energy                   | 400 Clay Ave. SW
|                                    | www.consumerenergy.com
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| Grapids Heating and Cooling, Inc.   | 429 Corel Ave. NW
|                                    | 453-1137 / www.grheat.com
|                                    |                                                        |
| G.R. Downtown Market                | 363 State St. SE
|                                    | (616) 454-9031
|                                    |                                                        |
| Heritage Hill Dental                | 255 Washington St. SE
|                                    | 451-2336 / www.heritagehilldental.com
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| Ruth Kelly, 2nd Ward Commissioner    | 616-238-9370 / rkelly@grcity.us
|                                    |                                                        |
| Past Perfect                        | 303 Briarwood NW
|                                    | (616) 581-4416 / www.pastperfectinc.com
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| Peninsula Trading                   | 972 Cherry St. SE
|                                    | (616) 776-1628 / www.peninsulatrading.com
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| Marie Catrib’s of Grand Rapids      | 1001 Lake Dr. SE
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| The Shade Shop                      | 422 Leonard St. NW
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Please visit to see over 100 photos of our work.
How Does “OUR” Garden Grow?
Pleasant Park Ready for our Part

When Pleasant Park plans were drawn up, two areas were designated for perennial gardens. Now the Pleasant Park Pals, a group of neighbors and Friends of G.R. Parks staff, are ready to bring those plans to fruition. But your help is needed.

On Friday, May 29, beginning at 3 p.m. and Saturday, May 30, beginning at 10 a.m., the Pals will organize what they hope will be dozens of neighbors to get the bed preparation done. In addition to native shrubs purchased by Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, the Pals would like you to bring perennial cuttings or divisions from your own gardens so that the results will truly be “our” garden! If you’d like to contribute plant stock, please let the Pals know by calling or emailing Jenn Gavin at (616) 633-6323 or jenn@apleasantdog.com.

If you don’t want to do any digging, be a pal and just send over your plants! If you are unable to drop them off, call Vicki at 719-0719 for a May 28 pickup.

A little piece of each of our gardens will make our park even more pleasant.
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Spring is Here and the Hill is in Bloom

Now that you know your garden had the spunk to survive the Polar Vortex, don’t you want to celebrate and share it with the world? We have the sunshine, we have the date - **Saturday, July 18**, now all that we need are the GARDENS for the 2015 Heritage Hill Garden Tour! Still just thinking about it? Consider....

**THE PROS**

- Your garden is beautiful
- You love to spend time in your garden
- Other people will love to spend time in it
- You will be helping your neighborhood
- You will get free tickets to share with friends
- There will be an eat, drink and be merry Eve of Tour Party with a preview tour of all the gardens
- You can give Mother Nature a great big THANK YOU

**THE CONS**

× You might have to weed a bit

Please decide to be part of the garden tour this year. We welcome all varieties of gardens- great and small, formal or a bit on the wild side, with or without ponds, fountains or gnomes, rocked, bricked or stoned. Gardens don’t have to be weed less to be wonderful. Wildflowers are gorgeous too. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Jim at 454-2367 or paynejim@sbcglobal.net Thanks!
Do you feel safe in the Hill? We recently sent out an e-mail request for feedback asking that question. Our Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement programs are partly funded by city grants and the City finds your opinions useful in documenting success of our programs. It wasn’t that long ago that crime kept people away from core city neighborhoods. There is no move to defund the programs. Thank you to all who responded. We did edit for length and could not fit in all the responses due to space limitations.

“I feel much safer in my home than I would have without Barb’s personal visit when I first purchased my own home. Barb showed me how to drill holes in my window frames and put 4 inch pins in so that the sashes cannot be lifted far enough for an intruder to get through, yet I can get a few inches of breeze in my house on a summer’s evening. With those pins in the windows, I feel safer in my home.”

Crescent NE

“We feel the HHA does a great job helping to keep residents on the Hill posted on important crime stats, events and programs. We look forward to getting information via the HH newsletter, emails and the like and request that the program continue. We believe all of the components of the crime prevention program are critical to residents in our area. In turn, we have taken steps to help alleviate crime in our small area as well. Thank you and keep up the good work.”

Prospect NE

“I absolutely feel safe in the hill that’s part of why I’ve lived here 41 years.”

Lafayette NE

“Without a doubt, our neighborhoods are safer so it follows that we feel safer. Having a neighborhood association and

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Frank Lloyd Wright Studio/Amberg home - Grand Rapids, MI
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Hackley and Hume Estate – Muskegon County Museum, MI
St. Marks Church – Grand Rapids, MI
First Methodist Church – Grand Rapids, MI
Westminster Presbyterian Church – Grand Rapids, MI
Reagan Marketing – Grand Rapids, MI
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Tuesday, May 5 at noon at Kitchen 67
Friday, June 14 at 7:30 a.m. at Sparrows Coffee Shop
Thursday, July 9 at noon at SpeakEZ on Monroe

Paid for by Bliss for Mayor | P.O. Box 3655 | Grand Rapids | 49503

Working Hard for Heritage Hill and the city of Grand Rapids
a crime prevention organizer has been and continues to be vital in empowering neighbors to be vigilant and assertive on matters of crime and safety. They are the foundation for what makes us feel safe in our homes.” College NE

“I feel safer in Heritage Hill than I do almost anywhere in Grand Rapids.” College NE

“We do feel safe in the Hill District. We appreciate the E-alerts, and already practice your prevention techniques. It’s great that the Association office keeps a conversation going and keeps good contact with authorities.” Fountain NE

“I believe we at the Waters Towers Condos do feel safer due to the efforts of our HHA Crime Prevention Program. The updates on criminal activity in the area are very helpful. Our Crime Prevention Worker did an inspection of our building and several improvements and updates which we implemented. It’s also helpful to have someone to consult with when we have questions.” College SE

“The real answer is yes, I feel VERY safe. Safe enough not to generally do the other stuff. 22 years and the only issues have been bikes stolen (repeatedly), but that happened elsewhere in GR, in Lansing, & in Philly also. Safe walking at night, safe leaving doors unlocked, (don’t tell anyone), safe leaving truck unlocked.”

“Yes, I feel safe in the Hill.”

“As a new resident I have been pleasantly surprised with the degree of attention paid to security and safety. I love the e-alerts and the timeliness of them. As someone who experienced a home invasion in my previous home I feel a high degree of comfort that we are alerted to certain activities. I love walking and have felt very secure in doing so around the neighborhood day and night (night most often frequenting local restaurants & stores). All in all, I am secure in the knowledge that I made a great choice when moving to the HH district.” College SE

“Yes I feel very safe in Heritage Hill! I appreciate all the crime updates/tips for staying safe that are sent. I always lock my doors at night and when I’m not at home. (Well, except for one time when I forgot to lock the back door while I was gone on vacation for 4 days...oops!!! Good news, nothing was taken. I got lucky!) I always put everything away in my car (really, everything) if I have to park on the street overnight.”

“We’ve lived and worked in Heritage Hill since 1999. We have continually felt safe in the neighborhood in part because we know we can turn to the Association office. We own dozens of (Continued on page 12)
For Dorothy in the land of Oz, there was “No place like home,” and on the Tour of Homes this year, eleven Heritage Hill families of all kinds are opening their homes to us, from a small Queen Anne gem to a Romanesque mansion, from a Prairie Style Four squares to an ornate Italianate, from several charming Queen Annes to a formidable High Victorian Gothic. Two houses that once belonged to prominent families in the Hill, one a showcase of Frank Lloyd Wright’s genius, the Meyer May House, and the other, the current home of one of the city’s most respected organizations, The Women’s City Club, are included on the tour. You will also be able to stroll through a place that was home for many generations of neighborhood children, the old Central High School, now Innovation Central.

When standing in front of the beautiful, and sometimes overwhelming, architecture on the outside of these homes, it is easy to forget that inside, behind the columns and the cornices, the leaded glass and the gables, are warm and welcoming homes and families of all types, from empty-nesters to busy working couples to families with young children. The tour will give everyone a chance to pull back the curtain to reveal the wonders of the original, century old detailing: rich hardwood floors, decorative moldings and grand staircases, the glowing windows, the many lovely fireplaces, the nooks, arches and alcoves that give grace and character to a room. While respecting this legacy of the past, you will see how this year’s hosts have made creative changes, including the removal of walls for a more open floor plan, the remodeling of kitchens and baths and the innovative use of outdated spaces, that bring these homes into the 21st Century. To this canvas, each family has added their unique brushstrokes with color and fabric, family heirlooms and fine art. Masterpieces all!

Though you may encounter a poppy or two, we guarantee there will be no wicked witches or flying monkeys on the tour route this year. So pack up your courage, look with your heart and use a bit of brain power to order your tickets to this wonderful event. Put on those ruby slippers and start clicking your heels for, truly, there is no place like (a Heritage Hill) home!

404 FOUNTAIN NE
This extraordinary three-story 1893 Richardsonian Romanesque mansion sits on the highest point in Heritage Hill. Long neglected and damaged by fire and a tornado, a courageous couple has completely refurbished this 7600 square foot neighborhood landmark. Built for a member of the wealthy Berkey furniture family, this type of opulent architecture which featured Roman arches and heavy limestone detailing was usually reserved for grand public buildings. The current owners have made their home in the sky on the third floor of this 6 unit. Their space is a wonderful blending of original features, including doors, hardware and an ornate fireplace, with some of their family heirlooms and an eclectic collection of furniture and artwork. One of the newly renovated apartments will also be on the tour.

139 PROSPECT NE
Straight out of a Mary Shelley novel, this 1885 High Victorian Gothic Style home is imposing, with its steep rooflines and tall, narrow windows. Inside, a shared hallway, with a one-of-a-kind staircase, leads to a small apartment in the front of the house and the owner’s spacious home in the back. With a large fireplace, tall windows and an arched nook, the living room is pleasant and bright, but the room that truly shines is the sunroom that overlooks the backyard garden and shares its view and its light with the nearby kitchen. The creative use of colors and fabrics throughout make this home a very personal work of art. Several apartment units are also included in the tour.

159 LAFAYETTE NE
Hidden within this 1906 Queen Anne Style house with its characteristic front-facing gable, steeply pitched roof and mixed-material façade, is a bright and airy, open-concept home perfect for a family with two active children. The removal of several interior walls created the best of both worlds; the arches, fireplaces, cove moldings, trim and numerous windows that are original to the house accent the new open living space. A lovely slate fireplace with incised designs sits in a large, but quirky, living room where you can count 13 corners! The den and playroom on the north side of the house were once used as a law office and a dentist’s office.

230 FOUNTAIN NE
This gorgeous three story brick 1873 Italianate was built by William Shelby of the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad and was later owned by Edmund Booth, the founding manager and editor of the Grand Rapids Press. His addition to the home was the garage, the first in Grand Rapids built specifically for the automobile and topped with a cupola for ventilation of the gas fumes. The home’s opulent roots are obvious and abundant; a floating staircase, 11 foot ceilings, mosaic tiled floors, mixed wood pocket doors, floor to ceiling windows and large mirrors that capture interior and exterior light. The current owners are respectful of the home’s preservation past, and recently completed an extensive renovation which earned them a 2015 Grand Rapids Historic Preservation Award.

43 UNION SE
This 1890 Queen Ann is one of two formerly identical houses being featured on the tour that were constructed by Charles Perkins. Thought to be built for siblings and located next door to each other, the houses started off with matching floor plans, but over the years have evolved into unique personalities. With now three stories of living space, this home gives a gracious nod to its past but has been reimagined to accommodate all kinds of modern living, including creating an extra first floor bathroom and opening up walls. The contemporary furnishings reflect the tastes and needs of a young family with children and also the interior design profession of one of its owners. It’s hard to imagine this house once hosted 6 apartments, but has been reassessed back to a spacious, single family home.

47 UNION SE
This 1894 Shingle style home was the second home built by Charles Perkins. Unlike its twin next door, this house has retained its original floor plan but is uniquely different, and not just because of the addition of a solarium. Known as “The Christmas House”, its present owner is an internationally known collector of unique and rare vintage Christmas decorations which are displayed year round. With its numerous antennas and lavish holiday displays, stepping into this home feels like entering a magical Christmas museum. Visitors will also notice a nod to other holidays, as well as an extensive vintage glass collection.

450 MADISON SE, the Meyer May House
Designed in 1908 by Frank Lloyd Wright for a prominent Grand Rapids clothier, the Meyer May House is an example of Wright’s now-famous Prairie style of architecture. The house has been painstakingly restored by the Steelcase Corporation.

421 FOUNTAIN NE - Innovation Central High School
Central High School’s heritage began in 1849 making it the oldest school in Grand Rapids and the 2nd oldest school in Michigan. This building was constructed in 1911 by the distinguished local architectural firm of Robinson, Campus and Crowe. It features decorative elements of Gothic overtones, particularly the use of gargoyle statues. The inlaid design in the floor of the main hallway is of Helios, the ancient sun god in Greek mythology who rode daily across the heavens giving light to gods and mortals. Today, Central houses the 4 high schools of innovation within Grand Rapids Public Schools.

254 EAST FULTON – Women’s City Club
This Italianate Villa was built by Martin Sweet circa 1860. Sweet was a prominent figure in Grand Rapids, a Pennsylvania entrepreneur who had an agricultural and real estate business, and was known for his interest in architecture. His entrepreneurial endeavors included cattle farming, railroads, banking and he even served one term as Mayor. The house is filled with fine arts, paintings, antiques, china and crystal, chandeliers and imported wallpaper. Debuting in 1927 as the Women’s City Club, it is a historic treasure to be shared with the community and future generations.

2015 HOME TOUR TICKETS:
Advance tickets are $15.00 and are available through the close of business on Friday, May 15, and are sold online at wwwwheritagehillweb.org or at the Heritage Hill Association office, 126 College SE, Grand Rapids MI 49503. Advance tickets are also available at Grand Rapids area Family Fare and D&W Food Stores, Lake Michigan Credit Union branches, Martha’s Vineyard, Art of the Table and Wealthy Street Bakery. Tickets the weekend of the tour are $20.00 and are sold only at the ticket booth at GRCC DeVos Campus, 445 East Fulton. Free shuttle bus transportation is provided between featured properties.

Proceeds benefit the Heritage Hill Association which supports the historic preservation of this unique neighborhood and assists with land use planning, engaging community resources, crime prevention and block club organizing. Please call 616-459-4950 for more information.
apartment units in the neighborhood. We provide your contact information to tenants who have any safety concerns. We’ve been alerted to crime activity and then are updated on subsequent police successes when a suspect is caught. Heritage Hill is the first place we call when we want to report a non-emergency safety concern in the neighborhood. We feel safe in large part because Heritage Hill Association is the nucleus in our part in the City for safety, community and a general sense of neighborhood.” College SE

“We feel safe in HH, we absolutely do. We are very thankful for the information relayed to residents on crime and prevention. Having lived in HH since 1966, we are so pleased we stayed and made it our permanent home. HHA has been wonderful in notifying residents of crime and preventive measures to be taken for avoidance. We now winter in Florida and have referenced HHA’s crime prevention measures to our condo board. An informed and observant neighborhood goes a long way in deterring crime.”
Union and Windsor Terrace SE

“I feel perfectly safe in Heritage Hill.”
Morris SE

“In the past 12 months I have kept windows and doors locked when I’m asleep or gone from home. I’ve kept my outside lights on at night and I take my valuables out of my parked car to prevent a theft. I also installed an alarm system!”

Thank you again for all who responded. We will be thinking of you when we draft our reports to the City of Grand Rapids!

Crime Activity Updates:

 Several new reports of phone scams about Jury Duty have been received.
 Two incidents of large amount of garbage and furniture dumped in dumpsters belonging to someone else. We are tracking down the “dumpers”
 There have been a number of loud music or loud talking late at night or early morning hours from residents. Please call the non-emergency number at 456-3400 if it gets out of hand.

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Sunday Worship:
9:15 and 11:00 am

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www.GrandRapidsFUMC.org

“Remember Heritage Hill Property Owners:
There is a City Preservation Ordinance that governs all exterior changes, repairs and/or additions to Heritage Hill properties. Call the Grand Rapids Historic Preservation Commission at 456-3451 for information on approvals. You can access the application form at the City’s website, www.ci.grand-rapids.mi.us at the Planning Department section or at the Heritage Hill Association’s www.heritagehillweb.org. This ordinance applies to all exterior changes, repairs, and/or additions to your home and property. Items such as doors and windows including storms, yard structures, driveway and sidewalk approaches, and fences do need HPC approvals.”
can do some follow up too.

- Even in good weather it is important to focus on home security. Prowlers love open doors and open windows. Open garage doors are tempting too, especially those with bikes or lawn equipment inside.
- If you need tips on being safer and still getting lots of fresh air at home call Barb at the Heritage Hill Association – 459-8950.
- Report suspicious activity to the police while it is occurring or shortly afterwards, at 456-3400. There will be a menu of choices. You will generally want an officer to respond and try to find the suspects. They often will not contact you back unless they find a suspect.

Bike Safety for Drivers

With all the street construction, potholes and brick streets it is difficult for drivers to be safe. Now with warm weather, bikers are hitting the streets in great numbers. In trying to avoid the problems above, biker riders are sometimes in danger of a serious injury or death. Watch out for bikers at intersections and give them a break if you see they have little room to maneuver on busy or broken-up streets.

Tips for Tenants

- Its move-out time for some student renters. Do a good job on clearing out your apartment and photographing the inside of empty cupboards, the oven and stove top, the refrigerator, the closets, entire rooms and walls to prove how you left it. Call Barb at the Association to find out more about getting your security deposit back. Call the city at 311 to cancel your trash or recycling carts if you are the person responsible for them.
- Party on the Porch! It’s great to have a gathering on the porch on summer evenings but your neighbors will appreciate your good manners if you quiet down after dark. It’s important to remove beverage containers and other items that need to go into the trash.
- Make sure you give a month’s notice in writing before you move. This helps when you want to get your security deposit back.
- Park responsibly. No lawn parking. It’s against the city code and you can get an expensive ticket for it.

Have fun on Home Tour!

Barb Lester,
Community Organizer, 459-8950
Board Notes

Discussion at the March Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:

The Dyer/Ives Foundation approved HHA's grant for the State Street Corridor Area Specific Plan. It allows $25,000 for organizing and involving stakeholders and $25,000 for direct streetscape improvement. A sustaining group will be nurtured/organized in the coming months to work together in directing/driving the improvement of State Street in the coming year.

ICCF New Construction Proposal at 562, 566, and 572 Lafayette SE:
Ryan Schmidt of the ICCF presented the organization’s proposal for building three new duplexes on 3 lots it owns on Lafayette just north of Pleasant. Classified as moderate/workforce housing, there will be a total of six home ownership opportunities. They will be side-by-side duplexes in traditional-influenced architecture, roughly 1700 – 1800 square feet per unit, providing a massing that won’t look out of place in the company of nearby homes. ICCF will make it one multi-family site – something akin to a condo association to take care of the exteriors and lot. They are working with HPC to finalize and will present to that board later in May for approval. ICCF wanted to make this information available to the Heritage Hill Association and will forward specifics to the office via e-mail for further examination. They were looking for the HHA boards’ consideration and possibly a letter of support to further the success of their project.

Committee/Liaison Reports:
Fundraising – Peter Albertini – Talked about (Home Tour) sponsorship fatigue becoming more evident and recommending personal intervention to acquire funding. Since the peak “asking time” for sponsorship is 6 to 8 weeks prior to the event . . . we are there! The concept, he says, is to raise the consciousness of those folks we meet as board members with regards to Heritage Hill and of Tour - to impress upon potential sponsors/donors the importance of both. Tour is already well-regarded, he observed, but efforts must be made to continue that regard – and growth – for the future well-being of the neighborhood. With the Tour booklet, the Herald, the website and social media avenues, the potential advantages for the neighborhood and its sponsors have never been more plentiful.

Land Use Issues – Ryan Huizenga – Members are working/looking at ways to tailor the focus of the group. Focus includes working with surrounding institutions, communicating with residents, acting as “communication central” for people and land-use issues. Zoning issues will remain under the current umbrella, but members of this group see things like parks, preservation (regular attendance of board hearings) and things going on in surrounding areas (“trend watching”) paramount in strengthening the neighborhood.

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Mentioned State Street also as important in its role as gateway to city (and vice versa).

Craig Nobbelin announced that the Citywide Michigan Street Corridor Steering Committee will be signing off on the plan at the end of March and it will be presented to city officials in April. Also, the 50 College SE (old Social Security building) facilitators are putting their report together and will finalize a draft plan (wish list) by the end of March of concerns voiced by neighbors. It will be presented to those neighbors in April.

Community Stewardship (formerly Community Involvement) – Mary Robinson – Creating welcoming committee and turning block reps (and others) into welcoming reps rather than just crime reporting/fighting messengers. Try to revitalize the blocks by creating the same stakeholder mentality between older and newer residents. The neighborhood picnic/night out this year will be held in the new Pleasant Park.

Administrative – Jim Payne – The executive committee has been and will be meeting with surrounding institutional liaisons at St. Mary’s, Innovation Central, etc. Also announced a soft roll-out of the Legacy Fund (see February Board Meeting Minutes).

Discussion at the April Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:

ICCF Lafayette Duplex development:
The HHA draft position letter in general support of the development was approved unanimously. The letter will be presented to Historic Preservation Commission and cited the many 3-stall garages found throughout the neighborhood that are included in this proposed development.

Treasurer’s Report – Mary Robinson commented that the income and expenses are where they should be expected to be but that measures will have to be taken to compensate for a couple of budgeted income line items, including the continuing downward trend for rental listings; the neighborhood seems to be at its highest occupancy rate ever.

Committee/Liaison Reports:
Fundraising – Peter Albertini reported that for the Home Tour Friends and Sponsors campaign an “ask” in person works very well. Peter also proposed a year-long campaign that would encompass Home Tour, Garden Tour, the newsletter and the website.

Garden Tour – Jim Payne reported that July 18th is the date and that gardens are being recruited; the Voigt House garden will be on tour.

Texas Hold ‘Em - Charles Roelofs reminded members of the June event and stated that he would be circulating a sign-up sheet via email. Past volunteers again encouraged other members to work,

Land Use Issues - Ryan Huizenga reported that there had been good discussion at the most recent neighbors meeting about the visioning report for the 50 College SE property. Some changes to the draft report will be made and it will eventually be presented to the HHA board for review. There were lots of compliments made to neighbor experts Jay Fowler, Jim Winter-Troutwine, Craig Nobbelin, Wayne Norlin and Tom Logan for their work compiling the report which was based on the first neighbors’ meeting. Discussion also included that fact that 2/3 of the building is less than 50 years old (not historic) and is a “mish-mash” of construction materials.

HPC: Ryan has been attending HPC meetings.

(Continued on page 16)
Zoning: 302 Fulton St. would be before Zoning Appeals Board (ZBA) the next day with a dimensional variance request for 5 residential units with the support of HHA.

State Street Plan: Jan reported that she is working with Tansy to establish good rapport with State Street stakeholders such as Westminster Church, Downtown GR and Mercy Health Saint Mary’s.

Pleasant Park – Deanna provided a detailed description of an incident in the park related to inappropriate teen behavior. Members encouraged all to use the resources of our crime prevention organizer, community officer and the police (in general) when concerns or incidents come up. Discussion included planning outreach to near neighbors relating to ongoing maintenance, park plantings and the possibility of a “cop in the park” program. Discussion also included the myriad of positive experiences that have been happening daily since the park opened, including the recent impromptu Easter egg hunt.

Community Stewardship (formerly Community Involvement)
Welcome Committee: Marie commented that she and others on the Home Tour Steering Committee have a lot of contact with (enthusiastic) new neighbors and that maybe coordination between Home Tour and Community Stewardship is something to pursue.

Education: Erin reported on initial plans for the Central campus which include greatly increased green space, physically connecting Fountain School with Central High, the demolition of the building at College and Fountain and the possibility of making Fountain and Lyon streets two-way. Members commented that if these two streets are made two-way, it should be for the entire length of both streets. Erin also reported that plans continue to create a museum school that will be housed both at the new and old public museum buildings.

Communication – Deanna reported that a neighbors organized garden club has been formed in the hill and that many new neighbors are members; coordination with Pleasant Park is a possibility.

Administrative
Finance - Jim commented that work continues on the Legacy Fund; he also has met in person with Meijer and will do so with Huntington bank to encourage their sponsorship of HHA.

Institutional Liaisons – Jan, Craig N. and Tansy H. will meet with Bill Manns, President of Mercy Health on 4/20/15 regarding the State Street plan.

Neighbors are welcome to attend monthly Board meetings. The HHA Board meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third WEDNESDAY of every month at the Mercy Health Saint Mary’s campus, Hauenstein Center 220, Cherry SE, 1 Community Room (main floor; turn left at the first hall and first room on your left). There is a possibility that the meeting location would need to change so please call the office (459-8950) or visit the website (www.heritagehillweb.org) to confirm the exact meeting room.

If you would like an item placed on the Board agenda, please call the HHA office at 459-8950 before 4:00 p.m. of the second WEDNESDAY of the month. If you would like to address the Board regarding an agenda item, public comment is taken at the beginning of each meeting. For non-agenda items, public comment is taken at the end of each meeting. Typically, Board meetings run from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

If you would like to receive monthly Board agendas via email, please email us your request (heritage@heritagehillweb.org).
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**Rejuvenate State Street**

Thanks to the Dyer Ives Foundation’s grant, our office staff has kicked into high gear and the ball is rolling! Our first priority is initial meetings with those who are stakeholders of this fine little street. There are many so we just starting this nurturing. So far we have:

- Met with Executive Pastor Reverend David Baak from Westminster Presbyterian Church to discuss the State Street Corridor Plan. Westminster is eager to see growth on this corridor and are confident that their parishioners will be happy to help.
- Had meeting with the President of Mercy Health, Bill Manns, and others in their newly renovated office. Everyone seemed very committed to the project at hand and they are happy to help.
- Met with residents of the Stuyvesant Apartments. Many residents talked about the food desert issue. They also expressed the lack of affordable clothing options since the closing of Goodwill on Cherry and Division.

The State Street Corridor Area Specific Plan is making headway through the City’s approval process. Mike Clark, Craig Nobbelin and Tansy Harris went before the Grand Rapids Planning Commission on April 23rd. The Commission adopted the plan and it now moves to the Historic Planning Commission for approval. The final stop will be the City Commission. Inch by inch, we keep getting closer!

Several people have also emailed and called our offices about being part of Team State Street. If you would like to find out more or would like to join the action feel free to contact us by email, Heritage@HeritageHillweb.org or by phone at 616-459-8950. Tansy Harris is the HHA staff contact.

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Neighborhood Improvement & Public Safety organizing efforts of the Heritage Hill Association are in part funded by the City of Grand Rapids’ Community Development Block Grant Programs.

DATES TO REMEMBER

All Heritage Hill Association Meetings are open to neighbors.

Saturday and Sunday,
May 16th and 17th, 2015
2015 Heritage Hill Weekend
Tour of Homes
Tickets on sale now at the HHA website, heritagehillweb.org
$15 in advance/ $20 weekend of Tour

Wednesday, May 20, 2015
HHA Board Meeting – 7:00 pm.
Mercy Health Saint Mary’s
Hauenstein Center,
H1 Community Room
220 Cherry Street, between Lafayette and Jefferson Avenue

Saturday, June 6, 2015
Annual Heritage Hill area
Yard Sales Day

Wednesday, June 17, 2015
HHA Board Meeting – 7:00 pm.
Mercy Health Saint Mary’s
Hauenstein Center,
H1 Community Room
220 Cherry Street, between Lafayette and Jefferson Avenues

Monday, June 22, 2015
July/August Herald newsletter deadline

Annual Dates to Remember:

Saturday, July 18, 2015
Annual Heritage Hill Garden Tour

Tuesday, August 4, 2015
Heritage Hill Night-Out Social

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