

Heritage Herald

JULY/AUGUST 2016

The Newsletter of Heritage Hill

Volume XLII, No. 4

You're Invited!

Heritage Hill is Celebrating National Night Out!

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and a picnic if you like

Food will be available for purchase from G.R.P.D. and Donkey Taqueria

HHA providing ice cream and water; bubbles and water games

Meet neighbors, City officials, and the Grand Rapids Fire Department!

**Tuesday, August 2, 2016
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Pleasant Park
400 Pleasant SE**



The Heritage Hill 2016 National Night Out is sponsored by
**A Pleasant Dog, Martha's Vineyard, United Bank of Michigan and
Cornerstone Church**

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.
Voicemail 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
Tansy Harris, Crime Prevention
Maria Zache, Administrative
Barb Lester, Office

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*Jackie Taylor, 5155 Quail Crest Dr SE, (H) 942-5941

* 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.

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As HHA President **Jim Payne** states in this Herald's page 4 article that outlines big development projects coming to Heritage Hill ... *"We've always known what a great place Heritage Hill is; apparently the secret is out."* From the small house being built on Pleasant St., to the micro units on State Street, to the larger developments at 50 College SE and the reintroduction of commercial use to the Oakwood Manor ... Heritage Hill is in demand. I am very proud that the Association and neighbors had the foresight to plan for this day. Each of these projects is being guided by visions and proactive plans that the neighborhood put together for specific areas and parcels of the neighborhood that were ripe for redevelopment. From the Master Plan of Heritage Hill that was written decades ago to the more recent State Street Corridor Area Improvement Plan and the 50 College SE report are each critical to shaping these projects. Admittedly not all of us are excited about every aspect of these projects. But we live in a vibrant neighborhood and city that is experiencing rapid growth. The plans that have guided these projects are a consensus of our community and that is what living in a community is all about. Sharing and shaping our communal space for the future.

Big hugs go out to the Pleasant Park tenders. This great group responded to the need for some TLC for the park that was being a tad strangled in weeds. The following volunteered to weed and tend a zone of the park throughout the growing season. Thank you so much for making the park beautiful: **Scott Kammeraad, Tom and Shelly Sinas, Heather Bryant, Sara Wild, Vicki Hudson and Gary Korreck, Joshlyn Litzenberger, Delia Venema, Amanda Rimer, Gwen Varineau, Judy Clowney, Randy Curry, Kathy Siegie, Lora Sieg, Mariam Wassenaar, and Nicole Kosheba.**

More big hugs to GRPS for "righting a wrong" as Superintendent Teresa Neil put it at the demolition ceremony of the former Kent Skills Center at 111 College NE this past June. The land freed by the removal of this controversial building will provide the needed space for a comprehensive and unified redesign of the Central Campus. Many neighbors say thank you!

Please join the fun at the Park for National Night Out, Tuesday, August 2.

Jan Earl
Executive Director

NEUROSCIENCES

COMPASSIONATE CARE OR COMPLETE CARE?

PHYSICIAN

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And The Walls Came Tumbling Down

111 College Ave. NE is no more.

The GRPS building constructed as the Kent Skills Center in the late 1960's and later used as City High and then UPrep Academy has stood vacant for the last several years. Deemed unsalvageable, the building was slated for demolition; GRPS in partnership with HHA is working to develop a final vision for the site.

As part of the city's GR Forward plan, the space will become green space and also will accommodate a reworking of traffic flow for the Montessori campus.

A few cheers may have been heard around the neighborhood...



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Development Projects in/adjacent to Heritage Hill

Another potential project has been added to the four proposed development projects may be coming to or near

our neighborhood. The Heritage Hill Association (HHA) leadership is aware of all these developments and

has been consulted on three of these projects. The fourth and fifth projects are only a potential at this stage, but warrant interest or concerns among nearby neighbors. Rest assured that HHA is involved and is tracking these developments. Here is the breakdown:

Oakwood Manor, 547 Cherry St. SE: An application for retail development on the garden level of this apartment building was submitted to the city by the Oakwood Manor owners earlier this year. A restaurant and other retail services have existed at this address in the past. The applicants met with neighbors, before the proposal was reviewed by the city's Board of Zoning of Appeals. HHA and neighbors felt the proposal needed changes. The application was tabled in May. The applicants have responded to neighbors' and HHA's concerns by making some changes and have met again with neighbors. Another neighbors' meeting will be scheduled, expected to be in September.

50 College Ave. SE, former medical and Social Security building: No formal application has been submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the development of this site (as of July). Orion Construction invited HHA input on



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their preliminary plan for “four, 4-unit buildings along College Avenue (about the size of a large house) and an L-shaped apartment building” (due to the grade of the site, four stories from the west & almost three from the east). Sixty-three, one-bedroom and ten, two-bedroom comprise the 83 capacity development. The two historic dwellings on the site will be repurposed. The driveway would be moved to the north edge of the property.

Several members of the 50 College SE Report met with Orion on June 27 to provide its perspective. The project is consistent with recommendations in the 50 College SE Report and several suggestions were readily received by Orion. Orion requested an advisory opinion by the Historic Preservation Commission to ensure that the development was headed in the right direction. As this project moves forward, there will be additional opportunities for association and resident input. In mid-July, Orion applied to the City’s Planning Commission to change the existing zoning from Neighborhood Office Services to Traditional Neighborhoods – Mixed Density Residential.

363 State St. SE – Old Clark’s Market: HHA Executive Committee and Zoning Committee members met with the architects and the potential developer on June 20 to learn more about the building proposed. This is the second large development along State Street that falls within the area covered by the *State Street Corridor Area Specific Plan*. The developer wants to tear down the existing building and build about 71 micro-units (or fewer, depending on mix of sizes) with four stories on State Street (with ground level retail) and three stories along Madison. About 36 parking spaces are proposed. An advisory opinion from the Historic Preservation Committee resulted in the declaration that the existing building is not a contributing structure to the historic nature of this historic district. The HPC board also suggested ideas that might help the development fit within this area. Again, as this project moves forward, we expect additional input meetings with the developer.

Sale of 430 Madison Ave. SE: This sale includes Glen Reed’s old house and three additional lots to the north. Glen was a 50-year plus Heritage Hill homeowner. His estate is selling the home; its lot stretches all the way through from Madison to Morris as well as three vacant lots to the north between Glen’s house

(Continued on page 6)

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Development Projects

(Continued from page 5)

on Madison and Wealthy St. The entire package is listed for just under \$2 million. Nearby neighbors have stated they are concerned about a large development going in along Madison Ave. HHA will keep an eye on this sale. Our goal as a neighborhood association is to make sure any development that may occur is consistent with the HHA Master Plan, the current city zoning code and fits in aesthetically with the neighborhood.

Sale of GRCC Track (and practice football field) to Spectrum Health (Crescent to Lyon, adjacent to Heritage Hill Historic District):

The track has been sold to Spectrum Health. This area lies with a City Center Transition Zone, where any development has to take into account adjacent lower-density zones. Heritage Hill is in a low-density residential zone. HHA will be tracking any development that is proposed.

HHA, the board and its committees would like to reassure residents that the developments for both 363 State Street SE and 50 College SE are in the early planning stages. If these projects move forward as anticipated, there will be meetings and opportunities for residents to ask questions and have their concerns addressed prior to any approvals by any of the city commissions or the Heritage Hill Association Board. Neighbors have been and are currently engaged in the Oakwood Manor retail application. You will hear more about these projects through the Herald newsletter and E-alerts.

There is a lot going on in and around Heritage Hill in terms of new development. The HHA board is committed to staying engaged with all that is happening and to keeping you informed. We've always known what a great place Heritage Hill is; apparently the secret is out. Please feel free to contact the HHA office with any comment, question or concern; neighbors working together keep our neighborhood strong.

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**Continuing thanks
to our recent
Association
contributors:**

Lisa Baars
Kristin and Ken Bauer
Julie and John Colvin
Nancy Coulter
Dennis Delano
Carol Dodge
Darrick Earegood
Dave and Cathy Hathaway
John and Patricia LaGrand
Lesley Mayer
Craig Nobbelin and Mei Chow
Jim Payne and Char Kruzich

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- * **University Prep Academy** (6-12)
- * **Grand Rapids Public
Museum School** (6-7 for 2016/17)



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As home sales are still going strong and a new crop of students start to move into our neighborhood, I would like to take the time to welcome all of our new residents to Heritage Hill. We are happy to help in any way we can. Let us know if you would like to know how to get involved, the history of your home, anything concerning the City of Grand Rapids, resources for home projects, the Historic Preservation Commission, E-Alerts or our FREE Home Security Checks! If you have any questions about your neighborhood, feel free to give us a call 616-459-8950 or email Heritage@heritagehillweb.org.

FREE Home Security Checks

Just moved into a new apartment or home and wonder how safe you are? Give us a call to schedule your FREE Home Security Check. From the outside to the inside, no matter if it's a small studio or a full estate, our Crime Prevention Organizer (Tansy Harris) will inspect windows, doors, lighting and all things around the house to make sure you are minimizing opportunities for burglars to get inside your home/garage. This program is great for students who are first time renters as well as new homeowners but valuable for all as reminders on how to stay safe. Give Tansy a call 616-459-8950 or email Heritage@heritagehillweb.org to schedule your appointment today.

Pokemon Go Safety Reminders

Pokémon Go is a free-to-play location-based augmented-reality mobile game that has caught on quickly. The game is doing a fantastic job getting gamers out into the world to explore and be social within our communities. Please be aware of your surroundings while playing. Watch where you are in regards to driveways, streets and sidewalks. Be sure to never play while driving or riding your bike. Remember to be aware of private property. When playing at night, be sure to go out with a group. And lastly, have fun and be active!

Biggest Crime Issue Currently

The Hill has been pretty quiet lately in regard to crime issues. One that seems to never go away is things being stolen from inside cars. One of the biggest reasons is that the car was left unlocked. For the most part, we do not see car break-ins with tools being used to gain entrance. Mostly a burglar will walk along and try door handles; they want to work as quickly as possible. Burglars will look for items of interest. Gym bags and book bags should never be left in sight in your car. If you must leave them in your car, make sure you put these items in the trunk of your car. Never leave computers, tablets, phones, iPods in your car. These are all big ticket black market items. Make sure you

do not leave spare keys in the car or any mail that may have sensitive information on them.

Bonfires In Our Backyards?

Want to have a backyard fire? Are you willing to pay for a permit? Currently, all backyard firepits are illegal in the City of Grand Rapids. There is a proposal to change that. The proposal sets the permit fee at \$50.00 the first year and \$10 for the renewal. These would be available to single- and two-family residential properties that are at least 5,000 square feet. Other proposed rules include:

- Only dry firewood may be burned, not yard waste, leaves, trash or building materials.
- Fires may be burned between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m.
- Fires may only be in a container like a chiminea or portable fire pit that has a screen or cover and is no larger than 3 feet wide, 3 feet deep and 3 feet tall.
- Fires must be at least 20 feet from any buildings, fences and property lines.
- Fires must be attended by someone at least 18 years old, with a fire extinguisher or garden hose nearby.
- Fires would not be permitted on ozone action days.



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This proposal will be heard at the City Commissioners Meeting on July 26th, 2016 and we will keep you updated on what the outcome of that meeting is. This permit would be similar to the Backyard Chicken permit, requiring neighbor's input.

Driving Change

Grand Rapids has a fatal bike crash ratio that is almost three times higher than the state average. To address this critical issue, the city of Grand Rapids, with the support of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), has launched a campaign to raise awareness of bicycle safety. The goal of this campaign is to reduce bicycle crashes by helping the people of Grand Rapids understand the new infrastructure and "rules of the road" that foster respect between motorists and bicycles and make us all safer.

"We all share the responsibility to make sure Grand Rapids roads are safe for everyone, including pedestrians and bicyclists," said City Planning Director Suzanne Schulz. "Safe places to walk and bike are essential to supporting vibrant, active communities."

- Vehicles passing a bicyclist must give the bicyclist at least a 5-foot separation between the vehicle's right side, including all mirrors or other projections, and the bicyclist's left side. Even if you have to slow down and wait for enough room to pass the bicyclist, you are required to leave 5 feet of space. This includes passing bicycles in the designated bike lanes.
- Watch for bicyclists coming from behind your vehicle at intersections. The smaller size of bicycles can make it difficult to judge their distance and speed.
- At intersections, treat bicyclists the same as any other vehicle. If a bicyclist is riding ahead of you in the road and stops to complete a left turn, motorists must yield to the bicyclist just like you would for another car.
- Before turning right at an intersection, into a driveway or off the road, check for bicyclists coming up from behind your vehicle. As appropriate, yield and allow them to pass before turning. Do not pass bicyclists and turn right in front of them unless it is safe to do so.
- Do not use a bicycle lane as a passing

or turning lane.

- If the intersection has a right-hand turn lane, motorists turning right should wait to move into the right-hand turn lane until the bike lane becomes a dashed line. Carefully check the bike lane for bicyclists

before merging into the right-hand turn lane. Motorists who are turning right are required to yield to a bicyclist before crossing the bike lane.

- At some intersections, the bike lane is

(Continued on page 10)



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eliminated to provide room for added vehicle lanes. At these locations, be aware that a bicyclist could be looking to merge into the appropriate vehicle lane.

- If the intersection has a bike lane and no added right-turn lanes, be aware that bicyclists may be passing on the right. Allow the bicyclist to continue straight before completing your turn.
- Just as any other driver on the road, bicyclists must stop at stop signs and red lights. This makes them more predictable to drivers, and safer on the road.
- Riding more than two people side-by-side is not allowed. Remember, sharing the road is a two-way street. Riding two abreast is legal in Michigan. Bicyclists, however, can receive citations for riding more than two abreast. Be courteous and “single up” when other road users are present and it is safe to do so.
- All nighttime rides should include a front light and rear end reflector that are visible for at least 500 feet from the front and 100–600 feet from behind. A rear light and light-colored clothing or reflective clothing will also help you be seen and be safe.
- If the intersection has a right-hand turn lane, bicyclists going straight through the intersection should follow the bike lane as it shifts from the right side of the road to the left side of the right-turn lane. Although motorists who are turning right are required to yield to a bicyclist before crossing the bike lane, be certain that the motorist is aware of your presence.
- At some intersections, the bike lane is eliminated to provide room for added vehicle lanes. At these locations, the bicyclist should merge into the appropriate vehicle lane when it

is safe to do so. It is dangerous for bicyclists to pass cars on the right because that is the motorist’s blind spot.

- If the intersection has a bike lane and no added right-turn lanes, the bicyclist may proceed to the intersection, but should be cautious when passing stopped or slow-moving cars; the motorist may

decide to turn right unexpectedly at a driveway or at the intersection.

Ultimately, cars have the ability to severely injure or kill cyclists given the speed and weight of the vehicles we drive. Please be cautious and courteous on the roadways. A life is not worth the rush you may be in to get from point A to point B. Find out more at www.grdrivingchange.org

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Board Notes

Discussion at the June, 2016 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:

Public Comment for Agenda:

A) Lynee Wells provided an update of the progress of the BRT Express Enhanced Laker Line and reported that they are at about 60% of the design and are at the final engineering stage. The stations are set and groundbreaking is scheduled for the winter of 2017-18. The route will run year-round, the buses will have on-board bike capacity and there will be smart-card technology for the GVSU students.

B) Dave Hathaway, a Heritage Hill neighbor as well as a volunteer for the Child Discovery Center, reported on a very successful fundraising campaign of \$120,000 to implement a Greening project at the school to convert a 30,000 sq. ft. parking lot into a play area and rain garden. Dave outlined many details of the plan, including changes that will be made to student/parent traffic as well as deliveries. Work will begin this summer.

C) Suzanne Schultz highlighted the "Driving Change" bike safety campaign including the research and resident surveys used to implement the campaign. Grand Rapids has triple the state rate of bicycle crashes; cyclists and motorists are equally at fault. Education is key.

The campaign is funded by MDOT and some city money; it is the biggest campaign in the country and other communities nation-wide are using it as a model. The city is working in partnership with the Grand Rapids Bike Coalition.

Further discussion with the Planning Director included Vital Streets, the Wealth St. Business District, a Tiger Grant for Michigan St. being sought in partnership with Spectrum Health, the GVSU development in Belknap Hill, Division Corridor Planning, Affordable Housing and an update on the Michigan Historic Preservation legislation.

D) Neighbor Curt Benson announced that he is running for Kent County Circuit Judge in the August 2 primary. Curt highlighted his career as well as stating his longevity in the neighborhood as well as he and his wife happily raising their children in Heritage Hill.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Treasurer's Report: Mary R. reported that as of the end of April, finances look good and that she was looking forward to the May Treasurer's Report which would reflect the very successful Home Tour.

Staff Reports: Jim P. commented on Tansy's report, highlighting that she has been integral

in solving a case of illegal dumping at the Stuyvesant! Tansy was asked about the possibility of painting electrical boxes in the neighborhood to discourage graffiti; Tansy reported that she has continued to research this issue and will be contacting Historic Preservation to discuss what would be possible. Tansy also commented

(Continued on page 12)



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THE ART IS IN THE DETAILS

Board Notes

(Continued from page 11)

on the most recent meeting at the Oakwood concerning a possible restaurant, etc. as well as announcing the possibility of a new retail / coffee shop on State Street.

Committee/Liaison Reports:

Fundraising:

Home Tour: Peter A. reported that Home Tour was very successful and was up \$8,500. Peter also commented that he is still committed to soliciting house sponsors. Discussion concerning Home Tour included line management at the houses as well as the solicitation of volunteers.

Texas Hold 'Em: Maria Z. reported that the state continues to throw up numerous road blocks but that Charles R., Jan E. and Maria are all working to resolve all issues relevant to licensing.

Administrative:

Finance: Jim P. reported that the Finance Committee will be meeting in the fall.

Institutional Liaisons: Jim P. commented briefly that there has been lots of interaction with many institutional neighbors of late.

Community Engagement:

Deanna S. reported that the Night Out Picnic (Tuesday, August 2 at Pleasant Park) will again include ice cream, as well as food trucks, a dog trick(s) presentation as well as the possibility of music. Discussion included the possibility of adding a budget line item, city requirements and the possibility of soliciting donations.

Land Use:

Zoning: Ryan H. reported that the tiny house being built on Pleasant Street is going up; the foundation is in. Ryan also commented that there was some neighbor opposition in the area of quality of life issues at the most recent meeting about the potential Oakwood development.

(The July, 2016 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting is canceled.)

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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Heritage HILL



Weekend Tour of Homes May 21 and 22, 2016



Thank You, Thank You
For a great Tour!



The Heritage Hill Association's 2016 Weekend Tour of Homes was BIG. The weekend was a perfect spring weather and attendance was up 500 tourists over last year. We haven't seen those numbers in 10 years. In total, 3500+ people strolled our neighborhood. YES!

Thank you to all hosts, committee members, house captains, and Tour volunteers for your big part in making the Heritage Hill neighborhood a great place to live, work, walk, and visit. Applause to you!

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Update from HQ, Runaway & Homeless Youth Drop-in Center

Youth ages 14-24 sometimes find themselves experiencing homelessness for any number of reasons. For too many, "home" becomes a car, a tent by Kent Trails, an abandoned building, a friend's

couch or a shelter.

HQ believes that no young person should have to live in these conditions. We believe that youth are the experts in their own lives and hold the potential to thrive.

We believe that thriving begins with belonging – having a place in life where people know and care about you unconditionally, where you are welcome and safe, where you can get what you need



to succeed. These were our founding principles in 2014; 550 youth members later we're still blown away by how great the need is for a place like HQ. What's even more astounding is the creativity, resilience and courage of HQ members.

In the year and a half that we've been open to youth, we've seen some pretty remarkable growth. Volunteers make sure our space is clean and welcoming during drop-in, build relationships with youth, prepare meals and more. Through partnerships with local organizations, youth find jobs and apartments, address their mental health and medical needs and regain the sense of self that's so easily lost during an unsafe or unstable housing experience.

We're proud of how far we've all come together, and are excited for to what's to come. A Heritage Hill location was strategic for us – we're located within walking distance of downtown and right on a bus line, making it easy to access and safe for youth. Last year, we partnered with the Heritage Hill Association (and Westminster Church) to throw a neighborhood block party and we're looking forward to growing in this neighborhood. We've seen amazing things happen when community comes together to care for youth; thank you for believing in us! Great things are in store and we're excited to share them with you.

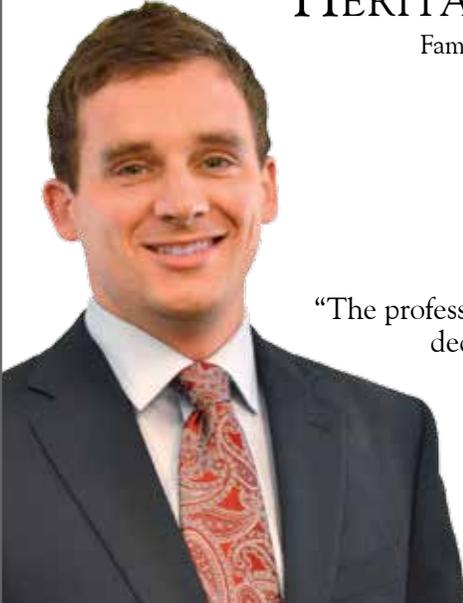
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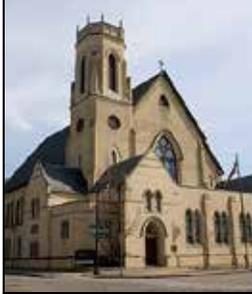
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The 2016 Historic Preservation Awards and Ceremony

Rounds of applause go out to the 2016 Historic Preservation award winners that were recognized at the May 26th ceremony.

Special Recognition: Heather Edwards and Pleasant Park

Residential Preservation Project: MLM Property LLC, 22-28 Lafayette NE; Ann and Andy Vidro, 119 Lafayette NE; Trang Vuong and Thach Le, 333 Fountain NE.

Preservation by a Group: GRPS and East Hills Council of Neighbors, Congress School, 940 Baldwin SE

Commercial Preservation Project: Matt Smith, 1106 Wealthy SE, Innes Street LLC, 615 Lyon NE; CWD Real Estate Investments, Trust Building, 40 Pearl NW

These eight projects and one individual were honored for their efforts that have had a positive physical, social and economic impact on their neighborhood and subsequently on the city as a whole.



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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.

Tuesday, August 2, 2016

Night-Out Picnic 6 - 8 pm Pleasant Park

Also election day VOTE!

Wednesday, August 17, 2016

HHA Board Meeting - 7:00 pm.

Mercy Health Saint Mary's

Hauenstein Center, H1 Community Room

Cherry Street, between Lafayette and Jefferson Avenues

Monday, August 22, 2016

September/October Herald newsletter deadline

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

HHA Board Meeting - 7:00 pm.

Mercy Health Saint Mary's

Hauenstein Center, H1 Community Room

Cherry Street, between Lafayette and Jefferson Avenues



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Senator William Alden Smith Estate - Grand Rapids, MI
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
Wealthy Street Theater - Grand Rapids, MI
Graham Home - Lowell Museum, MI
Women's City Club - Grand Rapids, MI

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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](http://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.

