As Downtown Grand Rapids continues to grow and develop, enhanced mobility and transportation options have become increasingly important to maintain a Downtown neighborhood that is vibrant, livable, and easy to navigate. In order to ensure that Downtown grows in a smart and sustainable way, the City of Grand Rapids, Downtown Grand Rapids Inc., and The Rapid are constantly working together to provide convenient and efficient options to get into and around Downtown, no matter what mode of transportation someone may choose.

On September 1st, some critical enhancements were made to the Downtown transportation network that are designed to make navigating the area easier. The Downtown Area Shuttle, known as the DASH, was reconfigured and the schedule was improved to cover more areas of Downtown and provide longer hours of service.

DASH originated as a shuttle strictly designed to transport Downtown workers from surface parking lots to centers of employment, and operated on varying schedules with limited hours. The reconfiguration simplified the system from 4 different routes down to 2 routes that cover many more areas of Downtown, operate on a consistent schedule, and provide service for longer hours.

The two new routes operate from 6:30am to 10:00pm on weekdays, and buses arrive at the stops every 7 to 8 minutes. The service is free to all riders, and connects the Westside, the Downtown core, the Medical Mile, Arena South and the Downtown Market, as well as the Monroe North neighborhood.

In addition to these two DASH routes, anyone can board the SilverLine without having to worry about paying a fare. These transit enhancements are complimented by new customer service tools such as GR Park, a smartphone app that provides real-time availability and pricing for all City-owned parking facilities Downtown (available for iPhone and Android). This tool helps drivers locate available parking near their destination or a DASH route without having to circle around and create unnecessary traffic.

All of these mobility options are designed to make it easier and more convenient to move around Downtown Grand Rapids. For anyone walking or biking Downtown, these free services can shorten travel times, and for anyone driving, they allow drivers to have a “Park Once” option upon arrival and then enjoy Downtown without the hassles of traffic of finding multiple parking spots.

More information is available at downtowngr.org, grparkingchanges.org, and ridetherapid.org.
Hasn’t 2015 just flown by …. oh yeah; it’s 2016. Hope you all had a great summer and know that that we have many great fall days to still enjoy being outside. Kick some leaves and pick some weeds at our neighborhood parks!!!!

***

The school bells were ringing with the announcement of the $10 million grant for the operations of the Museum High School that will be locating in the former Public Museum building at 54 Jefferson SE in 2018. A community engagement process will start soon to address traffic, parking and building alterations. State Street stakeholders and neighbors will all be invited to participate in this planning session.

***

Welcome all new neighbors who moved into our neighborhood over the summer. There are always ways to get involved in your neighborhood association. Give us a call or stop in and say hello – 459-8950.

***

I’ve learned that people will forget what you SAID, people will forget what you DID, but people will NEVER FORGET how you made them feel – Maya Angelou

Jan Earl
Executive Director
Five seats on the HHA Board up for election at Annual Meeting.

Per the Heritage Hill Association By-laws, five Board terms are open annually for election to the HHA Board. Board members are elected by the membership at the Holiday Potluck and Annual Meeting on December 6, 2016. (Save that date on your calendar). The Board terms are for 3 years that begin on January 1, 2017 and end December 31, 2019.

The absolute deadline for submitting your candidacy is November 6, 2016. This slate will appear along with a brief statement from each candidate in the November/December Herald. (The HHA Bylaws state that Board candidates need to submit their candidacy to the office 30 days before the Annual meeting.)

To serve, Board members must be residents of the Heritage Hill neighborhood or be paid non-resident members. It is very helpful to have been somewhat active in Association activities, committees or neighborhood block clubs, but this is not a requirement to serve on the Board. The duties of Association Board members include:

- Monthly Board Meetings - the third Wednesday of the month - approximately 2 hours long - 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.
- Chairing or active participation on a HHA committee - monthly or quarterly meetings. Some committees such as Tour demand more of a time commitment.
- Attendance at HHA sponsored events - i.e. Tour, fund-raising, and social events.
- Actively representing your neighbors to the Board.
- Actively representing the Board to your neighbors.

The Board wants and needs active leadership in the organization and representation from the entire neighborhood. If that’s not enough, there are treats at all meetings! If you want to serve please call the Association office at 459-8950 or email to heritage@heritagehillweb.org.

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* Grand Rapids Montessori (PK-12)
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* Congress Elementary (PK-5)
* University Prep Academy (6-12)
* Grand Rapids Public Museum School (6-7 for 2016/17)

INNOVATIVE School Choices in Your Neighborhood!

Visit WeAreGR.com for more information.
Our Community is Strong, Vibrant and Safe.  We Need to Keep Working Together to Keep it That Way.

Please Give Back. Your contribution directly and immediately benefits your neighborhood.

Your support is critical to:

- Maintaining Crime Prevention programs that keep you aware and safe.
- Working with the major institutions surrounding Heritage Hill to bridge the needs of our residents and our institutional neighbors. Our focus is to protect our neighborhood from development that could harm our residential quality. But our work also helps our institutions do their work efficiently and effectively in our community.
- Providing vital neighborhood information via our office, the e-alert network, the newsletter, HHAs website and Facebook page that keep neighbors connected and informed.
- Monitoring land use and zoning requests and voicing positions based on plans and neighbors consensus to maintain our neighborhood’s stability.
- Addressing parking and traffic issues (as best we can with what we have!)
- Promoting neighborhood occupancy through apartment listings, our Weekend Tour of Homes, and community building events.
- Assisting tenants and property owners with rights and responsibilities.
- Following the Master Plan of Heritage Hill that guides development in our neighborhood. This dog-eared plan is used in every issue faced by the Association and by city departments as a reference guide in planning projects in our neighborhood.
- And more planning: the State Street Corridor Area Specific Plan brings a vision to the redevelopment of this street that is happening; the 50 College SE neighbor visioning plan is guiding the current owner’s redevelopment of this 2.5 acre parcel.
- And Pleasant Park, the Central campus and the new Museum School’s entry on Jefferson all take engaged neighbors planning for the future. That’s what the Association does ... Keeps us working together!

For the 2016 continuation of the Heritage Hill Association, I pledge:

___ $25     ___ $35       ___  $50       ___  $75       ___ $100     ___  $250 __$500  ___ Other $ ______

Name  ________________________________
Address  ____________________________________________________________________
Phone ____________________________ Email ____________________________________________

Please return this coupon and check to: HHA, 126 College SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or pledge online: www.heritagehillweb.org

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Addie’s Evening Pantry 1st Sat of Month @ 5:30 - 7:00PM
Addie’s Afternoon Pantry 1st & 3rd Tues @ 10:00 - 12:00PM

www.centralreformedchurch.org
Improving the quality of life for generations of Kent County residents, John Ball Zoo and Grand Rapids Public Museum are more than just places to visit: they are part of who we are as a community.

On Tuesday, Nov. 8, Kent County voters will be asked to vote on a proposal that would establish a dedicated, stable source of funding for the care of animals, enhanced educational programs and the repair and renovation of exhibits.

The Zoo and Museum have lost significant public funding over time: the Zoo receives only minimal public funding and the Museum receives no annual public funding. The proposed .44 mils translate to an increase of about $37 per year, or approximately $3 per month, for the average Kent County homeowner. All millage dollars will be reported to Kent County and go through an annual, independent financial audit to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely.

Both the Zoo and Museum have served Kent County residents for more than 125 years providing quality exhibits and lasting memories. Today, the Zoo cares for more than 1,600 animals, including 140 different species. The Museum has more than 250,000 unique artifacts that tell the story of our community and bring the world to our doorstep. It is also home to the only planetarium in the area and cares for the Voigt House, located right here in Heritage Hill.

The Heritage Hill Association Board of Directors is providing this millage proposal outline for information purposes. There is additional information via the internet and various media outlets.
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.

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Heritage Hill’s National Night Out was a big success!

Thank you to all the friends and neighbors who celebrated with us at Pleasant Park on August 2nd. We had a great turnout and loved seeing so many neighbors enjoying the evening in the park.

For the first time, we had local restaurants, Donkey Taqueria and G.R.P.D., selling food. It was very popular and we plan to do this again next year.

We’d like to give a special thanks to Martha’s Vineyard, A Pleasant Dog, Jenn Gavin, Cornerstone Church, and United Bank for their help with this event. We could not have done it without you!

Our next neighborhood social event will be the Holiday Potluck on December 6th. We hope to see you all there!
PARKING RULES
With the start of school, many of us have noticed the influx of cars in our neighborhood. On a quick walk on Washington Street, there were countless cars in violation. Violations included everything from parking in front of fire hydrants to blocking driveways. Below are some of the Prohibited Parking rules for Grand Rapids. If you encounter these issues, please report to GRPD Non-Emergency 456-3400.

Sec. 10.45. - Prohibited Parking.
(1) No person shall park a vehicle except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with law or the direction of a police officer or traffic control device in any of the following places:
(2) In front of a public or private driveway or alley within three (3) feet of where the course of the curbline has been changed to start the driveway or alley approach;
(3) Within an intersection;
(4) Within fifteen (15) feet of a fire hydrant;
(5) On a crosswalk;
(6) Within twenty (20) feet of a crosswalk, or if none, then within fifteen (15) feet of the intersection, of the property lines at an intersection, unless otherwise designated by the Proper Authority;
(7) Within thirty (30) feet of the approach to any flashing signal, stop sign, or traffic control signal located at the side of a roadway. If such parking interferes with the visibility of oncoming vehicle operators, parking is prohibited;
(8) Within, or on, a marked bike lane;
(9) In any place or in any manner so as to block or partially block a bike lane.

Larceny from Vehicles
This continues to be one of our neighborhood’s biggest issues. Nearly all are due to unlocked cars; however we have had a few windows broken out with rocks. In those cases, the thief could see things of interest (bags, purses, and laptops). What can we do? The best thing is to remove the opportunity for theft. KEEP CARS CLEAN AND VOID OF BELONGINGS. If a thief sees a book bag, they will assume and hope there is something of value in there. If you must leave items in your car, make sure they...
are in the trunk. Most times, thieves do not have the time to open the trunk to see what is inside. **LOCK YOUR CARS.** We recently had a suspect arrested in our neighborhood after a resident woke up to the sound of a car door late at night. She went to the window only to see the suspect on a BMX trying door handles up and down the street and in driveways. He was caught, mostly taking loose change that was in cars. Also take a look around where you park. Do you have loose large stones in landscaping? Perhaps it’s time for some redesign with landscape. You do not want to leave criminals tools to use to gain entry. An empty car is not going to cause a criminal to want to cause a loud sound for nothing. All it takes is a gym bag and the criminal has hopes there is something of value. If you see anything in progress, call 911.

**Open Burn**

Want to enjoy the new ordinance for backyard fire pits? The City of Grand Rapids will start accepting applications on September 22, 2016. A Recreational Fire Permit is required to have a recreational fire within the City of Grand Rapids. A Recreational Fire Permit may only be issued for single-family or two-family (duplex) properties and may not be issued for properties containing 3 or more dwellings. Applications can be submitted using the Development Center kiosk if you do not have Internet access or need assistance from City staff. The Development Center is located at 1120 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 and is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM (excluding holidays).

**IMPORTANT:** The application fee is non-refundable. As part of the permitting process, a written notice of the application will be sent to the owners and occupants of properties within 2 lots of the property where the recreational fire is proposed, giving those neighbors twenty-one (21) days to respond with an objection to issuance of the permit. If one of the notified neighbors objects, the permit will automatically be denied. Therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their plan for a recreational fire with their neighbors before applying. Initial permit applications are proposed at $50 and annual permit renewals at $10. Once an application and applicable fee is submitted, the application will be reviewed to determine eligibility and completeness. If there are no objections received, the permit will be issued. Overall, the entire process should take approximately one month. Please note that an incomplete application may delay the permitting process.

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- Voigt House – Grand Rapids Public Museum - Grand Rapids, MI
- Senator William Alden Smith Estate – Grand Rapids, MI
- Hackley and Hume Estate – Muskegon County Museum, MI
- St. Mark’s 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
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Lot requirements are:

- Single-family or two-family property
- Minimum 5,000 square foot lot size
- Fire container must be at least 20 feet from any structure or combustible material
- Fire container must be at least 20 feet from any lot line, roadway, alleyway, or fence
- Fire container must be at least 15 feet from any overhead line

To determine the approximate size of a lot, visit the City Assessors website (http://grcity.us/treasury/treasurers-office/Pages/Property-Tax-and-Assessment-Lookup.aspx) to view property data online.

If you need assistance determining your lot size or have an irregularly shaped parcel, contact the City’s Development Center for assistance. City staff at the Development Center can be reached Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM at 616-456-4100.

The fire container must be a recreational outdoor portable fire pit, chiminea, or other free standing container designed for use in having safe and controlled outdoor fires. It may not be larger than three (3) feet wide, three (3) feet deep, and three (3) feet tall (exclusive of feet, legs, or chimney). It must be made of non-combustible materials and covered by a screen or other spark cover/arrestor. You CANNOT dig a fire pit.

A garden hose, fire extinguisher, or other means of extinguishment must be readily available for immediate use. Only seasoned dry firewood can be burned. Burning of yard waste, leaves, refuse, trash, building materials, or other materials is expressly prohibited. With a valid Recreational Fire Permit, burning is allowed between 7 AM and 10 PM, EXCEPT on high risk fire days, on Ozone Action Days, or on any day designated as unsafe by the Fire Chief. The fire must be attended by an adult 18 years or older at all times.

Complaints regarding recreational fires can be submitted by contacting the Fire Department at 616-456-3900.

Stay safe Residents! Feel free to contact me with any questions at 459-8950 or at Heritage@heritagehillweb.org

-Tansy Harris
Crime Prevention/Community Organizer
 Continuing thanks to our recent Association contributors:

Jonathan and Leslie Anderson
Michael and Tracy Clark
Dennis Delano and Merritt Taylor
John and Patricia LaGrand
Ivan and Linda Nordstrand
Park Church
Jim Payne and Char Kruzich
Milton and Barbara Rohwer
Mark Van Allsburg

Painting techniques to best preserve historic wood

Although the 2016 exterior painting season is nearing an end, this seems an appropriate time to educate homeowners who may be planning for next year by reviewing preferred painting techniques to best preserve historic wood and to minimize the creation and spread of lead dust. Whether you are painting yourself or hiring a painter, it is important to protect the investment your house represents by becoming aware of the best practices.

Painting preparation should include the following:

- Gentle cleaning – a garden hose, soap and water, and a scrub brush are the best tools. Power washing to clean or to remove peeling paint is not recommended because it can damage siding.
- Scrape peeling paint with a regularly sharpened paint scraper. The general approach should be to remove paint to the next sound layer using the gentlest means possible and then repaint.
- Hand sand only to even out the surface of scraped areas. Bear in mind that even hand sanding can send lead powder into neighbors’ yards, onto cars, and onto children’s toys.

Extensive removal of paint from historic buildings should be avoided. The purpose of paint is to protect the wood surface – the wood gains a patina over the life of the structure. Heritage Hill houses are decades old; having smooth wood siding as when the house was new, should not be the goal.

(Continued on page 12)
Because paint removal should be a painstaking process, costly and regrettable damage has been done to historic buildings through the use of blow torches, sandblasting, power washing, and harsh mechanical devices such as rotary Sanders and rotary wire strippers to speed up the process. These methods are not appropriate in the historic districts and money that may be saved initially by using them, will be spent later repairing the damage.

Some conditions that may require limited paint removal are:

- Crazing or surface cracking – an exterior surface condition that can be treated by hand sanding and repainting
- Intercoat peeling due to incompatible paint types or moisture problems
- Alligatoring – a more severe form of crazing

Since any house built before 1978 likely will have lead-based paint, an owner will want to think twice about a painter who insists on using methods that will spread lead dust. All painters should be trained in lead removal methods. Some tips to limit the spread of lead dust are:

- Remove screens from the side being worked on. Screens hold the dust of scraping (no question it’s lead) and when the window is opened at night, the dust blows into the room onto carpets or rugs. Once dust is in the carpet it becomes airborne every time it is walked on.
- Staple heavy plastic to the skirt of the exterior of the structure, which should extend out 20 feet, to catch paint chips.
- Window sills need to be vacuumed with a HEPA filtered vac. A regular wet/dry vac is inadequate because the filter is too coarse and will blow the dust into the air. Push brooms do the same when used on concrete when cleaning up.
- When cleaning up for the day the paint chips on the plastic should be misted with water. Once misted, the plastic can be rolled, placed in a 6 mil plastic bag, duct taped at the top to contain dust, and placed in the trash.
Board Notes

Discussion at the August, 2016 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting Included:

Bill Kirk, Mobility Manager, Downtown Grand Rapids Inc.: Bill presented a transit update that included the Silver Line, DASH routes, parking fees, changes to lots including making the remote lots more appealing, Bike Share, enhanced pedestrian experience, new parking apps, marketing and the possibility of the DDA expanding its district. Of note, Bill relayed that the stats for Millennials trend significantly away from cars. Bill also highlighted that starting September 1st, the Silver Line will be free north of Wealthy St. and that together with the expanded DASH routes (consolidated routes with much more frequent stops and greatly increased hours of operation), a “Park Once” model can be followed for downtown visitors.

City open fire ordinance: Board members voted unanimously to approve a motion from the Executive Committee to voice non-support for this ordinance citing that the ordinance in its form was flawed and that enforcement would be nearly impossible.

GRPD Central Team: Board members voted unanimously to approve a motion from the Executive Committee to send a letter to GRPD requesting that Heritage Hill remain in its current North Team Zone (and not be switched to the newly-formed Central / downtown zone).

Treasurer’s Report: Mary R. reported that as of the end of July, things look quite good. Yea, yea, yea for the Home Tour ticket sales numbers; some sponsor ad dollars are yet to come in. The pledge drive will be coming soon.

Staff Reports: Tansy H. commented that crime is pretty low, with a little more crime in August (car theft). A thief found spare keys in a car parked next to the one stolen; a home burglary was committed because a back door was unlocked while a homeowner was in the front yard.

Tansy also provided additional details concerning the proposed partnership with WMCAT to paint electrical boxes in Heritage Hill (to discourage graffiti). Stipends would be sought through a grant for the participating students, the design plan would be for Frank Lloyd Wright – style windows (stencils) and the project would likely start in the south end.

Jan E. commented that our neighborhood is in great demand as being seen by the numerous developments being pursued and being carried out and also provided additional updates about several of the projects. Newer issues to the mix are a proposed treatment facility at 221 John St. NE and the development of 54 Jefferson SE as the high school building for the GRPS Museum School. A proposed addition to 341 College SE was denied by HPC; the owner plans to revise the project and seek approval again in the future.

(Continued on page 14)
This portion of the meeting was brief following the somewhat lengthy transit update, action items and many issues being covered in staff reports.

Committee/Liaison Reports: Fundraising:
Home Tour: Peter A. reported that he is considering a new strategy for Home Tour House Sponsors, working with architects and contractors, possibly to create a partnership for an event or focus group to determine sponsor benefits.

Texas Hold ‘Em: Charles R. provided the update that Heritage Hill received notice of fine and that the association will lose two potential licenses in 2017. Maria Z. reported that staff and Charles are still working to confirm status for 2016 and to obtain licenses for the planned October 3-5 and October 13-14 events.

Administrative:
Institutional Liaisons: Jim P. reported that there are ongoing meetings with GRPM concerning the Voigt House and that a meeting is coming up with GRCC to discuss the details of Home Tour at the GRCC DeVos Campus.

Nominating: The committee has begun work to fill the vacant seat and plan for the December elections.

Community Engagement:
Night-Out Picnic: Eric S. commented that she thought that it was an awesome event, that lots of families attended (yes!), that Cornerstone Church did a great job with the kids games. About 240 people were in attendance (as counted by ice cream consumption); putting a Picnic line item in the budget was discussed.

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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We are close to finalizing a great Tour but we still need more houses.
Please consider opening your house this spring – May 20 and 21, 2017.
Your neighbors will be greatly appreciative!
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.*

**Wednesday, October 19, 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, November 14, 2016**
November/December Herald newsletter deadline

**Wednesday, November 16, 2016**
HHA Board Meeting – 7:00 pm.
Mercy Health Saint Mary’s
Hauenstein Center, H1 Community Room
Cherry Street, between Lafayette and Jefferson Avenues

**Annual Dates to Remember:**

**Tuesday, December 6, 2016**
Annual Meeting and Holiday Potluck
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Saturday and Sunday, May 20 & 21, 2017**
Weekend Tour of Homes

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**Home Portraits**

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