Celebrate with Santa and Heritage Hill Neighbors

2017 Holiday Potluck & Annual Celebration

Monday, December 11, 2017
6:00 to 9:00 pm

GRCC DeVos Campus – 435 E. Fulton
Enter the Welcome Center and turn to your left.

Please be aware there’s a parking fee to park in GRCC’s lot. If you are using this lot, use the parking lot entrance on Fountain Street.

6:00pm- Holiday Potluck – Please bring a dish to pass.
7:00pm- Meet and Visit Santa
7:30pm- Annual Meeting- HHA 2018 Board elections & 2017 Distinguished Service Awards.

Thanks to Grand Rapids Community College and Martha’s Vineyard for supplying the hospitality & holiday cheer!

And to the following for their contributions to the festivities:

Good Pizza Co.
Martha’s Vineyard
Unbelievably we are at the close of yet another year and tradition is to be thankful. I am thankful to be a part of our community. It’s an amazing space we all share. It’s amazing because we work hard, share the vision of community, and believe that we are caretakers of this special neighborhood that we call home. Just like those before us, we will pass these houses and place to those that follow us.

I’ve amazed myself by working with neighbors in this place for the majority of my life (Crazy!) I didn’t start off thinking that it would go on and on but here I am still shaking it. It’s easily explained by my recent work with the Antisdel block of neighbors. This wonderful group has taken adverse situations on their narrow alley-like street and made their physical space work for them. They have created a ballet of cooperation to address every obstacle - parking, snow plowing, no yards, and so on. It’s energizing to be in the same room with all this cooperation and passion. I applaud Antisdel neighbors, you give me joy, and yes that’s why I’m still shaking it here.

So find your joy every day. It surrounds you if you are open to it. It’s my antidote to getting through all the other really hard stuff.

Join Heritage Hill neighbors as we gather to usher out 2017 with applause and Santa on December 11th.

Open yourself to your friends, family and neighbors throughout this upcoming winter season. Help out wherever whenever the opportunity presents itself.

... and give thanks that we got through another year working together to make our neighborhood a great place to live, walk, play, work in and visit. On to 2018 – it’s the Heritage Hill Association’s 50th Anniversary!

Jan Earl
Comfort and Joy is the agenda for the Holiday Potluck and Annual Meeting

**Monday. December 11th – 6 to 9 pm.**

Calling all Heritage Hill neighbors to celebrate our community at the Holiday Potluck on **Monday, December 11**. We do a special reach out to all children and all new neighbors to join in the fun from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the GRCC Campus at 415 East Fulton. Please come!

**Holiday Potluck:** We’ll have all the place settings and some food donations from area restaurants but please a “dish to pass” for the communal table. A huge thanks to **Martha’s Vineyard** for providing assorted beverages and cheer.

**Bring the kids to see Santa**

**Santa** will parade the kids to where they can visit with him so the adult kids can take part in the Association’s annual meeting. Santa’s helpers will be on hand to assist children visiting Santa but if you have very young children or simply want to see Santa too, please accompany your child.

**The HHA Annual Meeting** ...is the time to recognize neighborhood accomplishments and neighbors for their 2017 service. It is also time to elect the **2018 HHA Board of Directors**. There are five, 3-year terms up for election and 5 candidates have provided written notice of their candidacy per the HHA Bylaws’ required 30 day notification. Because there are 5 candidate for 5 positions the slate will be elected by proclamation of the membership.

Meet the HHA Board Candidates: Wendy VerHage Falb, Sarah Green, Nikki Hoort, Erin Shupe, and Nathan Slauer.

Each has provided their statement: **Why do you want to serve on the Heritage Hill Association Board of Directors.**

(Continued on page 4)
Wendy VerHage Falb
350 Cherry SE
When my husband and I purchased our home in 2000, I became actively involved in addressing crime issues, management of rental property issues, and care for the park in front of our house. I have been a volunteer on the tour and have helped to organize neighborhood events. As president of the PTO of then Ottawa Montessori, I successfully relocated the program to Heritage Hill when former Superintendent Burt Bleke made the decision to close Fountain School, renaming it GR Montessori. I worked to actively recruit HH families to the school. I then ran for the Board of Education and have served as trustee since 2009, as secretary, legislative chair, and Board President (twice). I was instrumental in the hiring of the current superintendent and the development of the Museum School. I serve on the DDA, and as part of that service, was able to include Central Campus in the GR Forward Plan. I also serve on the Smart and was able to include Central Campus as part of the GR Smart Zone. I am deeply committed to Heritage Hill, and am eager to use my knowledge of the neighborhood and the city to support the association and co-lead a vision for the future.

Sarah Green
403 College SE
I have been an advocate for ‘Active Transportation’ options i.e. walking, busing, and biking. I specifically looked for a neighborhood where I could live car free. I have volunteered on the tour of homes, night out at Pleasant Park, I also volunteer to walk a neighborhood dog on a team of neighbors assisting a woman who is unable to do so. I am involved and passionate about our neighborhood.

I have served on non-profit boards including Sheldon House, Kent County ARC, and ATI Association for Travel Instruction. I have worked at the Rapid for 19 years promoting transit as the ADA Coordinator and Travel Trainer assisting the agency in outreach to seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Nikki Hoort
500 Cherry St. SE
Heritage Hill feels to me like a small town and is a wonderful community. I have owned a home or business in Heritage Hill since 1981. I raised my children here and they received wonderful educations at our neighborhood schools.

I served two terms on the Heritage Hill Association board from 2007-2012. The very first committee I served on my first year as a board member is the one I loved the most. That year we started the Garden Tour and I would be very happy to serve again on that committee if elected.

Elders Helpers, my business, moved into 500 Cherry in March of 2015 and I very much enjoy this new chapter of my life in Heritage Hill. We have very good neighbors and I always feel like Heritage Hill is a place where I know lots of people. My son still lives in and runs a bed-and-breakfast in our family home and I love the continuity and also the changing roles with the generations.
Erin Shupe  
427 Prospect SE  
I have lived in Heritage Hill since 2013. My husband and I have owned three houses in different parts of the neighborhood during that time and we have loved each house and block for its unique character. I just completed my first term on the Heritage Hill Association Board, including serving as Treasurer for the past year, and I am seeking re-election.

I am a GR native and I have always admired the houses of Heritage Hill. Now, as an adult, I love living here and I love serving on this board. I enjoy working with neighbors to make an impact on our neighborhood. We have a two year old daughter and I look forward to raising her here. I hope to honor the history of the neighborhood while engaging our long-time and new neighbors.

Nathan Slauer  
65 Union NE  
In 2016, I moved to Union Avenue with my wife Meg. Welcoming neighbors made the community feel like home. This inspired me to welcome my fellow newcomers, while serving long-time residents.

As a public sector professional, I developed skills relevant to board service. After completing two AmeriCorps terms, I became District Organizer for State Representative Winnie Brinks. These roles involved volunteer coordination, fundraising, event planning, and marketing.

I also gained valuable experience through volunteering. I served on the Young Nonprofit Professional Network board, wrote for the Rapidian newspaper, and mentored youth at First United Methodist Church.

LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT GIFT?  
Your Neighborhood Association needs 3 more houses to open for Home Tour.  
Isn’t it your time to show off your house?  
Call us 459-8950 or email heritage@heritagehillweb.org
We are thankful to our great neighbors and for their Pledge donations. Big hugs.

John and Syliva Cooper
Kay Courtney
Lisa DeFerrari and Dan DeWitt
Suzanne De Haan
Sue and Dave De Jonge
Dave De Jonge
Kate and Dan Diedrich
Jerry E. Dreyer
Darrick Earegood
Barry Eldridge
Suzan and Michael Fant
Matthew Forbush
Themis and Linda Fotieo
Jay Fowler and Cathy Neis
Karen L Garibaldi
Jenn Gavin and Sylvain Stym-Popper
Clarice Geels
Elisabeth Geenen
Linda Gill
David Gish
Chuck Goldsmith and In Memory of
Kevin Machiela
Eileen and Jim Gould
Thomas Griffith
Coleen Hamman
Dave and Cathy Hathaway
Jennifer and Christopher Hankinson
Marilyn Heiss
Karen and Bob Henning
Jack and Susan Hessler
Ron and Pat Hoekman
Todd and Skyelar Hoort
Mark Hutchison
Susan Jackson
Judy Jorgenson
Madelyn Kehoe

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The Lindquist Family
Tom Logan
Kevin and Barbara Lowe
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Chris and Laura Martin
Edgar and Wendy Marty
Chris and Roseann Mascotti
Myron and Willa Mast
Lesley Mayer
J. Kevin and Cynthia McCurren
Shannon McDevitt
Laura and Adam McKeague
Michelle Mott
Sander Niemeyer
Craig Nobbelin and Mei Chow
Sabrina Norcia
O'Connor's Home Brew Supply
Ben and Allison O'Connor
Jeffrey Oxford and Mary Elizabeth
Kapen
Jim Payne and Char Kruzich
Leanna Pelham
Mary Pollock and Fred Host
Ellen Pool
Donna Marie Post
Lee Qomfoot
Michelle Richter
Don, Janette and John Ritema
Beverly Robert
Daniel Roberts
Erin and Michael Shupe
Mary Robinson and Tom Simmons
David and Susan Rowe
Brian and Andrea Russel
Ken Schmidt and Bill Russell
George R. Seamon
Erin and Michael Shupe
Tom and Shelly Sinas
Stonecastle Dentistry
Sweet House Foundation
Jim and Pat Talen
Chris and Sue Tallarico
Jacqueline Taylor
Doug and Dianne Thole
Cheryl and John Tully
Daryl VanDyke
Mike and Tammi Van Til
John and Gwen Varineau
Andy and Andy Vidro
Clare Wade and Tom Koetsier
Michael Wassenaar
The Waters House Apartments
Barbara Westrate
Jeff and Julie Wilbourn
Richard Williams
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HH Neighborhood Land Use Issues

Air BnB Legislation

Identical bills regarding short-term rentals (or Air BnB’s) were proposed in the House and Senate in April 2017 (House Bill 4503, Senate Bill 0329). There have not been any hearings or votes in committee since being introduced. The proposal would prevent local governments (such as the City of Grand Rapids) from zoning ordinances to control short-term rentals in residential areas. It would create a “one-size-fits all” situation in various municipalities across the State. This could cause problems for residents with noise and parking, contribute to the affordable housing crisis, and would not require similar safety and security measures for short-term rental properties that are required for hotels and bed & breakfasts.

Short-term rentals are a commercial activity in residential neighborhoods. Zoning is the mechanism that separates such uses from one another. The local zoning ordinance pertaining to Air BnB’s was approved by the City after numerous stakeholders worked to come up with a reasonable set of standards that must be met by someone who wants to operate a short-term rental. Grand Rapids classifies it as “one room short-term rental under Home Occupations Class B.” It has to meet certain criteria and be licensed through the City Clerk’s office.

The worst scenario if such a bill were to pass and signed into law by the Governor could result in having multiple rooms or even whole houses turned into short-term rentals. Do renters or homeowners want that in the Heritage Hill neighborhood?

In addition to the City of Grand Rapids, the following groups are opposed: MI Lodging & Tourism Association, MI Municipal League, MI Bed & Breakfast Association, MI Townships Association, MI Association of Conventions & Visitor Bureaus, MI Association of Planning and Upper Peninsula Travel & Recreation Association.

You can lend your voice to the chorus of opposition by contacting:

- Upper Peninsula Travel & Recreation Association
- MI Association of Conventions & Visitor Bureaus
- MI Association of Planning and Recreation Association
- MI Municipal League
- MI Bed & Breakfast Association
- MI Townships Association

Holly Hughes, Committee Chair, House Tourism & Outdoor Recreation Committee, 517-373-3436

Dale Zorn, Committee Chair, Senate Local Government Committee, 517-373-3543

Senator Hildenbrand (http://www.senatordavehildenbrand.com/contact-me/)

Representative David LaGrand, DavidLaGrand@house.mi.gov

(Continued on page 9)
Historic Central Reformed Church Welcomes New Pastor

Central Reformed Church (at College and Fulton) has had a presence in our city for many years. There was a First Reformed Church, founded in 1840, and a Second Reformed Church established in 1854, however, after overcoming many of their initial differences, the two congregations merged in 1918 to become Central Reformed Church. With characteristics of both previous congregations present, Central has always been a church with a wide embrace for people of varying theological perspectives. “Classic Worship, Liberating Theology” is the motto that Central uses to express its accepting spirit today.

In October the church welcomed The Reverend Dr. Steven D. Pierce as their 10th Pastoral Leader. He previously served Reformed churches in New York and Ohio, and most notably, Marble Collegiate Church in Manhattan. Rev. Pierce is a graduate of Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky and Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan.

Central offers many ways to serve, including opportunities to assist low income residents through Heartside Ministry as well as Addie’s Pantry & Diner. To learn more about the church, please call 616.456.1773 or visit their website: www.centralreformedchurch.org.

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HH Land Use Issues
(Cont’d from page 7)

523 Lyon Avenue NE
Plans to convert the house at 523 Lyon St. NE into a multi-unit dwelling have been dropped because the developer found it almost impossible to come up with a parking plan that met neighbors’ and the City’s requirements. The building had been built in 1894 as a Deaconess School, converted into a boarding house for girls who came into the city and then was used as a residential rehabilitation facility. It is currently owned by Pine Rest and remains for sale.

50 College SE
Have you driven past 50 College SE (just north of WOOD-TV)? The old medical office building was torn down this summer. The 86-unit apartment development is rising: retaining walls have been installed, foundations laid and the stairway towers built. Apartments at Heritage Place should be available by next fall, possibly before that.

402-430 Madison SE
Sale pending signs were just installed at this 5-lot package on the corner of Wealthy and Madison SE. Two lots include the majestic house at 430 Madison SE and the 3 undeveloped lots to the north. The Association will be working with neighbors and the prospective owner to assist the use and design of what is possible at this site.

363 State SE
The rehab of the former Clark’s store was completed and the grand opening of the Dollar General happened in October. Neighbors are giving rave reviews to this new store in Heritage Hill. The convenience of having everything you need to stock your home has been needed in our neighborhood for some time. If you have yet to check it out, give it a visit.

Antisdel Place
Neighbors have rallied on this alley-like street to save their much needed on-street parking. The City announced in October that it was removing parking on the east-side of the street to accommodate service providers - trash removal, fire trucks etc. Neighbors question why this is being proposed when trucks have maneuvered the street for over 100 years and met with City representatives recently. Further analysis is in progress and potential solutions are proposed to retain parking on this street that has few off-street options.

To Do: Please Think of the Heritage Hill Association In Your Year-End Thanks

If you have yet to submit your 2017 Pledge to the Heritage Hill Association; we need you more than ever! We will put your money to good work right back into your neighborhood.

Use the Donate button on our website:
http://www.heritagehillweb.org/

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Revue Magazine
Team member
Kelly Brown
is thankful for
Heritage Hill

I love old houses. There is something about beautiful, sculpted, towering exteriors and it puts a smile on my face. I suppose this is in comparison to the absolute rage I feel when I see a subdivision with house after house lined up, all the same siding, same large windows, two car-garage, perfectly manicured lawn ... so boring.

The Heritage Hill district is my comfort zone. It’s not only my favorite place to run in Grand Rapids but it’s also the place I feel the safest and most “at home”. I find myself returning from vacations anxious to head out on a walk through the tall homes that welcome me with warm lights, unruly gardens and chipped paint. I wander aimlessly looking in dimly lit windows at night, watching people lead their extremely normal lives. I wonder who they are, why live in this mansion, why they chose to add that specific sculpture in that specific location on their white front porch.

Maybe it’s the fiction writer in me that is too curious to look away. Who knows what stories lie in the history of those delicate and fragile homes. If the narrative of my life pulled me from Grand Rapids permanently, I know it would somehow loop and spiral back West Michigan every couple of years just so I could grab a beer and walk it off thorough my favorite streets, saying "hello again" to the neighborhood I love.
Tis the Season… For Odd/Even Parking
Seasonal Parking rules began November 1st and continue until April 1st. Where signs are posted, the following odd-even parking rules will be in effect:
- On an even numbered day starting at 1 a.m., park on the even numbered side of the street until 6 p.m.
- On an odd numbered day starting at 1 a.m., park on the odd numbered start of the street until 6 p.m.
Some streets go down to one sided only parking. Be sure to only park on the allowed parking side.

Tis the Season... For Sidewalk Shoveling
One of the issues of winter is clearing all that snow. City ordinance requires that property owners clear all ice and snow, full width, down to the concrete, from public sidewalks adjacent to their property within 24 hours of a snow fall. Tenants, be sure to CHECK YOUR LEASE. Many lease agreements specify that you are responsible for snow removal. If you have a fire hydrant in front of your residence, please keep this clear of snow as well.

It is also important to think about our aging in place residents and those with disabilities. If you live next door to someone who cannot clear their sidewalks and you have a snow blower, consider going a little farther and helping your neighbor out. If you are a resident in need of help, give Tansy a call at 459-8950 and we will look for some options that might be available.

After the 24 hour grace period you can report covered sidewalks to 311. Please let the Heritage Hill office know about any reoccurring issues of this you might be having in your neighborhood.

Keeping our sidewalks clear is imperative since we are a walkable community. I know I have firsthand fallen victim to ice covered sidewalks while walking my dog in the neighborhood that cost me four broken ribs.

Tis the Season... For Stolen Packages
As the holiday season approaches this often means more online shopping and gifts being sent to and from. This can mean an increase of theft from our porches with the opportunity of packages left by the door. Here are some tips and ideas to help you not fall victim of such crimes.
- Have packages shipped to your work. Ask your employer first, but many employers do not mind if packages come to your place of employment.
- Require a signature. This way packages can only be dropped off if you sign for them.
- The USPS can allow you authorize them to leave packages at locations other than the porch. They could include a back door, side door, neighbor or even a garage. To find out if this is an option, log into your account with USPS and enter your (Continued from page 12)
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half full during the winter. You also want to make sure you have enough gas to heat your car should you be stranded.

- Make sure you always have windshield wiper fluid and good wiper blades on your car. ALWAYS completely clear your car from snow. Snow that is left on the top of your car will blow onto the car behind you causing it to be hard to see for them. Make sure all of your lights are brushed off and visible. And be sure to always USE your lights when it is snowing so other motorists can see you.

- If you do slide off, make sure snow has not filled your exhaust/tail pipe. If it is safe to exit your vehicle, do so and make sure the tail pipe is clear. If it is packed with snow and you run your car to stay warm, you can easily get carbon monoxide poisoning. Keeping the window cracked is also a good idea.

- Turn on your hazard lights if you slide off or are on the side of the road. Road flares are also a good idea to keep in your car for such events.

- Invest in a good windshield scraper and brush.

- A small shovel and kitty litter, sand or road salt are good for when you get stuck.

- Keep a warm blanket in your car. I like to use a sleeping bag.

- Make sure you have an up to date first aid kit in your car.

- Extra hats, gloves and socks are a good idea to keep in the car as well.

- Jumper cables.

- Pocket knife and a flashlight.

- Nonperishable snacks.

- Stay in your vehicle: Walking in a storm can be very dangerous. You might become lost or exhausted. Your vehicle is a good shelter. If you must leave the vehicle, write down your name, address, phone number and destination. Place the piece of paper inside the front windshield for someone to see.

- Lastly, check the weather. If the forecast looks bad, consider not going out in the storm. No sale at the mall is worth traveling in blizzard conditions. And often stores, churches and organizations can close early due to conditions. Call ahead. Think ahead.

THE GRFD WANTS YOU TO BE SAFE IN YOUR OWN HOME!
The Residential Safety Program, or RSP, is a voluntary solution to help homeowners prevent fires. The RSP is designed to reduce the number and severity of fires in Grand Rapids. The GRFD are offering the following:

- Free in home fire safety assessments
- Free smoke alarm upgrades and installations
- One-on-one fire safety consultations specific to the residence

(Continued from page 14)
Neighborhood Popouli
(Continued from page 11)

Winter is a great time to get this done! Call 311 to schedule your appointment today!

Crime Watch
We still are seeing people leave valuables in their cars. We see a lot of laptops and purses/wallets being left in the vehicle. Even if these individuals locked their car, having such items left in the open is a sure way to get your window broken out. The best way to combat this issue is KEEP YOUR CAR CLEAN AND FREE OF ANY BELONGINGS. Remember when you first got your vehicle and it was spotless? Keep it up! A thief who looks into a car and sees nothing isn’t likely to try to gain access to the vehicle. They might however try your door handle to see if the center console or glove box contains anything of value. So keep it locked!

As we shop for the holidays it’s easy to leave things lying out in the open but it is best to bring it inside your residence. If you do need to leave something in the car, make sure to keep it in the trunk.

Interested in a free Home Security Check? Give Tansy a call at: 459-8950 and let’s talk. This service is available for owners and renters within our Heritage Hill Neighborhood.

Stay Safe and Have a Happy Holiday!

Thank You Heritage Hill

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The Griffin Properties team is here to assist you in all of your real estate needs in Heritage Hill and in the Greater Grand Rapids area. Call us today at 616.915.6060 for a free market evaluation of your home.
Board Notes

**Discussion at the September, 2017 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:**

**Treasurers Report:** Erin S. reported on the recent Finance Committee meeting and stated that the Association will depend on its cash reserve to survive this fiscal down year. There will not be expense cuts for now; the assumption being that the 2017 Home Tour sales drop was an “outlier” year as far as the general trend of Home Tour. The focus going forward will be to increase the revenue of Home Tour and Pledge Drive. Discussion included the creation of two task force groups to focus on fundraising: increasing individual and corporate donations, engaging new neighbors and increasing revenues/sponsorships for Home Tour.

**Staff Reports:** Jan E. added to her written report regarding neighbors planning on placement of a 3,500 lb. cement ping pong table for Pleasant Park. Neighbors were satisfied with the placement and the City agreed.

**Community Engagement:** Erin S. reported that Griffin Properties would be hosting a Pumpkin Patch event for the neighborhood at Mooney Park and would include hay bales, pumpkins, cider, etc. on Saturday, October 21st. Grand Rapids City Parks and Friends of Grand Rapids Parks will be in attendance to further plans for improvements to the park.

**Finance:** Jim P. commented that Finance Committee will be meeting again in November for the annual fiscal review.

**Administration:**

**Nominating:** Jim P. reported that 5 board positions will be up for election at the Annual Meeting on December 11th. A call out for candidates is in the upcoming Herald.

**Fundraising:**

**Home Tour:** Kate D. reported that the Home Tour Steering Committee had a first, energy-filled meeting and that three houses are committed for home Tour 2018. House Captains are being recruited and the potential of including a run/walk event on the Saturday morning of Tour.

**Texas Hold ’Em event** is scheduled for October 9 – 11, 2017; the sign-up sheet was distributed. Members and their neighbors were encouraged to sign up.

Association’s 50th birthday in 2018 included an all-year birthday theme, creation of a new HHA logo, a video to highlight the many accomplishments, specifically how the association has left its fingerprints on the neighborhood and city, recruiting guest writers to highlight each decade in the Herald, and encouraging advertisers to include a Happy Birthday in their ads. Also stressed was to speak to the next...
generation of activists and make community organizing relevant to carry on into the future.

Jan E. also commented that Meyer May will now have a donation box for Heritage Hill and that the Pledge Drive letter would be mailed soon with a very strong plea.

Land Use: Wes B. stated that the Open House and restoration at 221 John St. was spectacular and that there was a Special Land Use request to add two residential units to the apartment building 14 Jefferson SE (that had been commercial space). Wes also provided an update on the HPC Study Plan for Heritage Hill and that it will go before HPC and both the Planning and City Commissions in January, February and March of 2018 for approval. Wes commented that though the Study Plan committee did not have much input, there was good conversation, the updates will allow equal protection for all properties in the neighborhood and allow for good community engagement.

Ryan H. provided further comment and voiced concerns with the process.

Public Comment: Neighbor Julianne D. inquired about HHA’s investment strategy and also provided suggestions for branding.

Discussion at the October, 2017 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:

Treasurers Report: Erin S. reported that the Executive and Finance Committees met to complete the structure and to suggest members for the two suggested task forces. The committee members would be recruited based on specific skill sets and have short-term commitments and clear objectives. The committees would also be small and meet regularly. Erin stated that it could take 3-5 years to implement task force results. Discussion included capacity, accountability, analyzing Home Tour data and generating a list of specific event best planning practices.

Jan noted that nearly $3,000 had been raised at Texas Hold ‘Em and that Pledge Drive was off to a very good start – neighbors thankfully are taking the message of the SOS Pledge letter seriously.

Staff Reports: Written reports were supplied. Jan E. added to her report that there were seeds of effort for a possible area of permit parking in the neighborhood but nothing concrete to date. Construction at 50 College SE proceeds apace and there is very good communication from Orion.

Construction; only one complaint has been received at the office and the situation was resolved very quickly.

Tansy H. commented that crime overall has been low but that there was an accidental overdose of medication.

The stolen car in the south end was recovered with some damage. Tansy also reported that she had been elected as Co-Chair for the Neighborhood Association Coalition (which has been newly reformed) and that she had reached her 3rd anniversary for working at the HHA office and for its residents.

Committee/Liaison Reports:

Community Engagement:

Mooney Pumpkin Patch (Griffin Properties): The details were discussed and Wayne N. offered to bring HHA brochures.

Hospitality: Michele Giordano stated that the committee would start working on the Holiday Potluck; Tansy offered to contact Santa.

Administration:

Finance: Jim P. noted that the Finance Committee will meet in November to complete the fiscal assessment and to approve the 2018 draft budget.

Nominating: Jim P. reported that there are 7 people running for the 5 positions.

Institutional Liaisons: Jan E. noted that there is a meeting scheduled with Friends of Grand Rapids Parks and that it is time to meet with Mercy Health Saint Mary’s.

Fundraising:

Home Tour: Kate D. reported that 4 houses have committed to Home Tour 2018. Several committee members have feelers out for more homes. Suggestions are welcome and encouraged.

Texas Hold ‘Em: Almost $3,000 was raised at the early October event.

Garden Tour: Kate informed members that the Garden tour will consistently be held the third Saturday of June. A regularly scheduled date will help promotion.

Land Use:

Zoning and Preservation: Wes B. reported that two issues were to be discussed in a Community Zoning Code Discussion with the city. The first, accessory dwelling units by right, would

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Rick Bylsma has given presentations to Historic Societies, Old House Expo events, and to the Michigan Historic Preservation Network.

Some of our projects:
- Frank Lloyd Wright/Meyer May – Steelcase – Grand Rapids, MI
- Frank Lloyd Wright Studio/Amberg home – Grand Rapids, MI
- Gibson Restaurant/Mangiamo’s - Grand Rapids, MI
- 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. 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

No one in Michigan has more experience, expertise, or volume of projects in restoration painting.

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allow an owner-occupant to create an additional (income) unit whether by dividing or adding on to a home or by creating a separate, small structure on the property. Discussion included “by right” as opposed to a Special Land Use, required square footage, occupancy, the cost of permitting, the Affordable Housing Initiative and deed restrictions.

The second issue is that the state’s proposed bills to eliminate local control for Short Term Rentals (Air Bnbs). If passed, this legislation would restrict municipalities from applying any local Air BnB business regulations. Grand Rapids currently requires a business license that includes rules of owner occupancy, limiting numbers of rooms, and length of stays. There is a cap of 300 available business licenses annually in Grand Rapids – only ½ of which have been requested annually. Jan E. noted that she had contacted State House Reps David LaGrand and Winnie Brinks. Jan continued that local rights are very important to the well-being of a city and that this change would be one more example of cities being stripped of their ability to guide their community. In addition, licenses for Short Term Rentals are available in Grand Rapids and the process is not onerous.

Wes B. also raised the size of the sign on the new Dollar General store on State Street; Jan commented that she had inquired about the sign and that it was confirmed that the Historic Preservation Commission had approved it.

523 Lyon NE: Jan. E. relayed that HHA worked to get the proposed parking plan pulled from the HPC agenda. No other City departments had reviewed the request and the proposal violated traffic safety and the zoning code. A hearing before HPC was premature without other departments’ review. The parking plan was pulled from the agenda. Discussion included whether there is a viable development plan for this property considering the 21 bedrooms and zero parking.

State Street / Dollar General: Several board members reported being very happy with the new, clean, well-stocked store and were very pleasantly surprised that so far, no alcohol is available for sale. Suggestion was made to add a trash container and a (DGRI) cigarette butt recycling container. Members were encouraged to visit the store and to reiterate pleasure with the no alcohol policy.

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)

Welcome to First Church in the heart of the city — a progressive Christian community of faith that embraces all. We are committed to faith development that leads to engagement in acts of justice, mercy, and service.

We look forward to connecting with you!

Sunday Worship: 8:15 and 10:45 am

First United Methodist Church
227 Fulton St E • Grand Rapids
www.GrandRapidsFUMC.org

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Mercy Health serves patients across West Michigan, providing access to cardiovascular services, cardiac surgery and electrophysiology services through the same health care system for continuity of quality care.

In collaboration with University of Michigan Health, the Mercy Health cardiac surgery program is led by distinguished cardiac surgeons Dr. Richard Downey and Dr. Nabeel El-amir, who together bring 50 years of surgical experience and perform more than 350 cardiac surgeries annually.

Thanks to Griffin Properties for transforming Mooney Park into a fun Pumpkin Patch on October 21. Also thanks to Friends of Grand Rapids Parks for putting smiles on the faces of Heritage Hill kids and to the GR Park Department for joining the fun. Lots of pumpkins were carted home.
Our Community is Strong, Vibrant and Safe.
We Need to Keep Working Together to Keep it That Way.

Why do you need to Heritage Hill Association?

Safety: Our e-alerts deliver pressing issues to your Inbox and provide information to keep you safe and active in neighborhood developments.

Organization: The Association is well respected at City Hall and the greater Grand Rapids area for engaging neighbors and providing informed positions on issues that impact the quality of life in our neighborhood. We provide amplification to our communal voices.

Stability: We are about to celebrate our 50th year of preserving this important neighborhood. HHA is its public face and the first place most people turn to experience our neighborhood. We provide information and guidance on everything Heritage Hill. Our staff has a combined 70 years of living in and working for this neighborhood.

Your Heritage Hill Association will not continue to be here without your help.

For the 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
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.

Monday, December 11, 2017
Holiday Potluck and Annual Meeting
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Santa will be there; you should too!
Please bring a dish to pass; HHA will supply the rest
GRCC DeVos Campus
Robert Sneden Academic Building Lecture Hall
435 East Fulton

Heritage Hill Association office closed from December 21, 2017 through January 2, 2018
Happy Holidays to all!!

Wednesday, January 17, 2018
HHA Board Meeting – 7:00 pm.
Mercy Health Saint Mary’s
Hauenstein Center, H1 Community Room
Cherry Street, between Lafayette and Jefferson Avenues

Wednesday, February 21, 2018
HHA Board Meeting – 7:00 pm.
Mercy Health Saint Mary’s
Hauenstein Center, H1 Community Room
Cherry Street, between Lafayette and Jefferson Avenues

Further out:
Saturday and Sunday, May 19th and 20th, 2018
2018 Heritage Hill Weekend Tour of Homes

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.