

# Heritage Herald

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

The Newsletter of Heritage Hill

Volume XLV, No. 1



Heritage Hill Association  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year

*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.*

## 2018 Report to Neighbors

### The Heritage Hill Association's - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2018 Report to Neighbors

*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.*

#### **WHO WE ARE:**

The **Heritage Hill Association** is the neighborhood organization of the Heritage Hill Historic District. Our boundaries are the northern rear property lines of Crescent Street to the southern rear property lines of Pleasant Street (including the 600 block of Union SE); the eastern property lines of Union Avenue to the western property lines of Lafayette Avenue; also included is a jog down State Street to Jefferson Avenue to Fulton Street. **Everyone who lives within these boundaries is a member of the Heritage Hill Association.** Non-residents can also be members by contributing annual membership dues. **Resident neighbors and businesses are encouraged to support the work of the Association through its annual pledge drive.**

**Population Stats:** There are **1,300 Heritage Hill structures** that are occupied by **3,467 households**. The total population is 4,103 and that averages to 1.2 people per household. Of the total population, 81% are Caucasian, 9% are African American, 4% are Hispanic or Latino, 2% are Asian, the remaining 4% are mixed races; 70% are tenants and 30% are owners (Heritage Hill has the largest concentration of rental opportunities in the city of Grand Rapids) 64% are our residents are moderate to low income; 66% of our structures are either owner occupied or neighbor owned and 34% are absentee-owned. The concentration or density of our housing is over twice the GR average; 19% of our households do not own cars (this trend is growing as residents seek out non-auto alternatives; walking, public transportation, bikes).



HHA Founder Barbara Roelofs and Jan Earl, HHA Director appropriately celebrate HHA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**The Association's Programs:** Heritage Hill is an urban neighborhood and the Association's programs inform, assist and work with neighbors to **address urban problems** -- neighborhood safety, land use conflicts, increasing traffic and parking demands, institutional expansion/construction containment, housing and preservation issues, promotion of neighborhood schools, access to services, and other issues inherent in a densely populated, core city neighborhood. Just as with old houses, a neighborhood is dependent on a good and ongoing maintenance program!

## 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](mailto:heritage@heritagehillweb.org)  
WEBSITE: [www.heritagehillweb.org](http://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  
Amanda Cormier, Crime Prevention  
Maria Zache Starkey, Administrative  
Barb Lester, Office Assistant

### The Heritage Hill Association Board of Directors Co-Presidents

\*Lisa Baars, 139 Prospect NE, (C) 616-540-9356

\*Wesley Beck, 225 Fountain NE, (H) 456-5144

### Vice President

\*Sarah Green, 403 College SE, (C) 616-206-2089

### Treasurer

\*\*Erin Shupe, 427 Prospect Ave SE, (C) 633-8946

### Secretary

\*Suzanne DeHaan, 573 Prospect SE, (H) 742-0451

\*\*Kate Diedrich, 536 Prospect SE, (H) 451-9211

\*Wendy Verhage Falb, 350 Cherry SE, (c) 616-818-8873

\*\*Michele Giordano, 444 Union Ave SE, 616-862-7068

\*Christopher Grygiel, (C) 616-634-7018

\*Heather Hall, 225 Fountain NE, 508-344-8966

\*Nikki Hoort, 500 Cherry SE, (C) 616-813-6026

\*Wayne Norlin, 558 Morris Ave SE, (C) 292-8263

\*Nathan Slauer, 65 Union NE, (C) 616-304-5113

\* 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.

### Heritage Hill Association Contacts:

**Finance:** Erin Shupe, (C) 633-8946

**Newsletter:** Jan Earl, 459-8950

**Preservation:** Rhonda Baker, (H) 456-3451

**Traffic and Parking:** Jan Earl, (W) 459-8950

**Zoning:** Craig Nobbelin, 458-0471

**Home Tour:** Suzanne De Haan, (H) 742-0451

### Home Tour

**Sponsorship:** Jan Earl, 459-8950

**Social Media:** Amanda Cormier, 459-8950

**State Street:** Amanda Cormier, 459-8950

**Block Issues:** Amanda Cormier, 459-8950

*The Heritage Hill Association provides information and encourages neighbor participation to keep Heritage Hill safe and vital. This community organizing engages neighbors to work on issues that arise. As an association of neighbors, we have a strong voice but we have no regulatory authority.*

The GR Historic Preservation Commission regulates the City's Preservation Ordinance. Applications and approvals are needed from this city department before beginning any exterior work or repairs. Contact 456-3451 or [rbaker@grcity.org](mailto:rbaker@grcity.org).

### The Heritage Herald - Circulation 4,800

The Heritage Herald is published by the Heritage Hill Association Board of Directors six times a year (bi-monthly). The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Board of Directors. We reserve the right to edit. Address correspondence to The Heritage Herald, 126 College SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

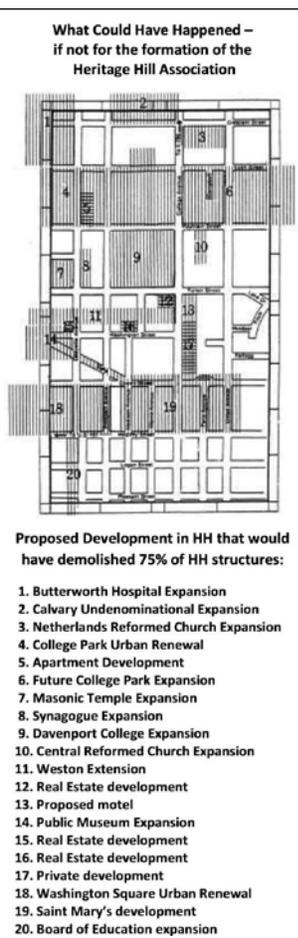
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## Annual Report *(Continued from front page)*

**Active, engaged, and mobilized neighbors**, working with our neighborhood institutions, the City of Grand Rapids, and all respective community resources, are the best indicators that Heritage Hill is a vital place to live and work. ***(Please be engaged! Email us your email address at [heritage@heritagehillweb.org](mailto:heritage@heritagehillweb.org).)***



Neighbor Joe Hubner bulldozes his way to the rescue and spreads mulch at the annual Pleasant Park clean-up.



**Heritage Hill is recognized** by the American Planning Association as **A Great Place in America**. This *Old House* magazine has named Heritage Hill as one of the **Best Neighborhoods in the United States**.

### A LITTLE HISTORY:

In 1968, neighbors organized together to stop mortgage red lining (banks would not loan money to buy a house in Heritage Hill) and urban renewal plans that would have demolished over 75% of Heritage Hill structures. The first goal of the Heritage Hill Association was to block the bulldozers. Neighbors worked diligently to invoke national preservation legislation that put Heritage Hill on the National Register of Historic Places. This stopped the demolitions and set a precedent throughout the U.S. that is still cited today. In 1988, the Association was the first Grand Rapids neighborhood to establish its own Master Plan of Heritage Hill. Today this plan continues to be updated and guides the Association and the City regarding life in the

neighborhood. A 200-300 Prospect Plan, the State Street Corridor Area Specific Plan, and the 50 College SE development report are additional planning guidelines developed by the Association and neighbors. And in 2018 – We celebrated our 50 years of service to Heritage Hill – and they said it wouldn't last.



HHA's Community Organizer, Tansy Harris, Maria Zache Starkey and Wayne Norlin.

**OUR SERVICES:**

**The Crime Prevention Program** is provided to increase neighborhood safety with services that activate neighbors in **Neighborhood Watch and Block Club Organizing**. Key components include free home security surveys, personal safety information, victim assistance, and producing and distributing crime information alert/e-alert notices and fliers. Block Club organizing keeps neighbors working together to prioritize problems, identify resources, and develop and implement action plans to resolve problems. In 2018, this program was primarily funded by federal Community Development Block Grants that the **City of Grand Rapids** receives and in turn funds a myriad of community programs, one being the Heritage Hill Association.



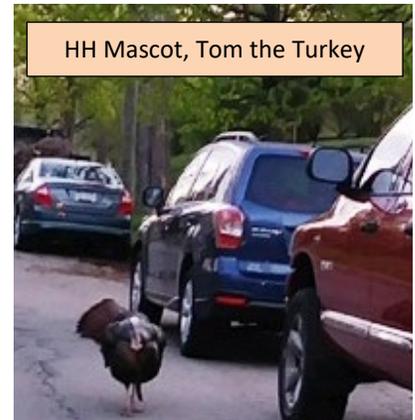
*A ping-pong table blooms in Pleasant Park. Let the tournaments begin.*

**The Neighborhood Improvement Program** addresses quality of life issues that are not crime related. Its purpose is to generate resident involvement, to educate, train and encourage activism to protect and strengthen the Heritage Hill neighborhood; to bridge commercial development with the residential nature; and to resolve issues of concern. Issues commonly include land use, traffic and parking, institutional expansion, neighborhood schools, etc. Additional elements include educating, referring and assisting residents with available City/community services and resources and implementing needs identified in the **Master Plan of Heritage Hill**. Like the crime prevention program, this program is partially funded by the federal **Community Development Block Grant** funds that the **City of Grand Rapids** awards to the Heritage Hill Association's program.

**Apartment and Homes Listing Service:** Due to our **large rental community**, the Association produces and publishes a list of available apartments in Heritage Hill whose landlords choose to list with us. It is an extremely popular service and Heritage Hill apartments are in demand.

Our list is free to tenants and available on our Web site ([www.heritagehillweb.org](http://www.heritagehillweb.org)) and at the HHA office. To list an apartment, landlords pay a fee: \$45 for a studio apartment; \$50 for a one-bedroom; \$55 for a two-bedroom and \$60 for 3 or more bedrooms. The listing is for 2 months or until the apartment is rented, whichever comes first. The list also includes **Homes for Sale** in Heritage Hill. **For Sale** listings cost \$100 and run for two months. Additional services that we offer landlords and tenants include assistance with their respective rights and responsibilities.

**The Heritage Herald:** The Association produces and publishes 6 bi-monthly newsletters that are mailed to a combined 4,500 addresses in Heritage Hill, non-resident members, businesses, city offices and other community resources. It publicizes events, issues, and other information of interest and concern to neighbors. The Herald provides information, promotes neighborhood identity and fosters community. The Association also uses **Email alerts and Facebook** to keep people informed and activated. Please forward your email address to us [heritage@heritagehillweb.org](mailto:heritage@heritagehillweb.org) to be added to this distribution list.



HH Mascot, Tom the Turkey



*The Voigt House opened for Tour in 2018 to the delight of many.*

**Heritage Hill Website:** The Association's website hosts a variety of information regarding our neighborhood. The apartment listing is posted on the website as well as the **guidelines of the City's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)** and the application for all exterior work. There is information and links to the Federal historic tax credits. Most every house in Heritage Hill has historical, architectural information and photos from 1969 and 2004 posted on our site. Go to the "about" heading on our home page and scroll down to the "house search". The Association's **Facebook** is also easily accessed from the home page of the website.

**The Weekend Tour of Homes (3rd Weekend in May):** This is the **largest fundraising and promotional effort** of the Heritage Hill Association. The funds are needed to sustain our Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Improvement programs. It also promotes our architectural heritage and neighborhood as a great place to live, work and visit! The date for **2019 is May 18 and 19**. We still need one more house to complete the line-up. You want to open your home don't you!

*(Continued on page 4)*

**The Heritage Hill Garden Tour:** A fun-raiser for Heritage Hill gardeners, the Garden Tour is held nearly every year. It is planned for 2019. Please consider opening your quiet space the third weekend in June. Please call or email the office and let's get you on our garden line-up.



**Social Events:** The Association hosts two annual neighborhood wide events to gather neighbors together. The **Neighborhood Night Out social** is the first Tuesday in August; the **Holiday Potluck and Annual Meeting** is typically the first week in December. The Association also invites neighbors to hold an annual neighborhood-wide **Yard Sales Day the first Saturday** in June. Beyond the Association's events, neighbors gather for backyard movie nights, evening concerts, yoga, tai chi, dance classes and all kinds of fun at Pleasant Park, block parties and whatever a connected community dreams up.

**Architectural Files:** The HHA office maintains the architectural survey files of each house in the neighborhood that were compiled in 1969. This survey was needed to place Heritage Hill on the **National Register of Historic Places** that effectively saved over 75% of the neighborhood from demolition. Much of the information from these files is posted by address on our website in the house search category under the "About" heading.

**Etc, Etc, Etc...** The **Heritage Hill Association office** is often the first place neighbors call with numerous requests. Common questions regard historic preservation guidelines, apartments for rent, ... who to call for ... how can I

handle "this problem" ... what is that house zoned for, landlord/tenant rights and responsibilities, service provider referrals, ... when is garbage day ... where do I vote, etc., etc, etc. We welcome you to call, email and we welcome you to come visit too.

*Make sure you stay in the know and are engaged! If you are not receiving our emails, please send us yours to [heritage@heritagehillweb.org](mailto:heritage@heritagehillweb.org). Also like us on Facebook.*

## **THE ASSOCIATION AND NEIGHBORS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2018:**

### **LAND USE ISSUES:**

Two major Heritage Hill developments, 50 College SE and 54 Jefferson SE, had their end-games in 2018:

- **50 College SE:** The visioning process of this 2.5 acre parcel began in late 2015 with the ground-breaking in the fall of 2017. Fall of 2018 saw the completion and official ribbon-cutting. See the inside on the 2019 Heritage Hill Tour.



- **54 Jefferson SE – GRPS Public Museum School:** The great renovation and reuse of this long shuttered building at State and Jefferson highlighted the fall of 2018. It is again an active gateway into Heritage Hill.
- **Pleasant Park -** is the neighborhood gathering green spot - a true public space embraced by its community. 2018 continued to plant this park in our hearts. Planned and spontaneous events happened including the Association's Night Out social, tai-chi, yoga,

dog trainings, kite flying, sledding, ball games, Frisbee flying, trick or treating and *everything* play for all ages. Pleasant Park won the City's ping-pong table contest and the table was installed in 2018. A new level of competition at the Park will evolve! HHA again organized

***The GRPS Public Museum School welcomes its first students in fall of 2018 with the ceremonial ribbon cut. The corner of State and Jefferson is back alive.***



the Pleasant Park Tenders to maintain the gardens under the leadership of **Joshlyn Litzenberger**. We are planning this orchestration again so if you want to adopt a plot this year, call Jan at 459-8950. Pleasant Park Pals Facebook page is a good way to stay connected to the impromptu happenings or just wander over to the Park.

- **Housing NOW – Zoning proposals:** 2018 ushered in proposals to substantially change the City’s zoning procedures in approving increased density developments in residential zones. These changes also eliminated neighbors’ voices in decision making. The proposals were explained as a way to increase affordable housing however very few guarantees to lower costs were included. It was a major organizing effort across the City to inform and engage neighbors to make their voices heard in opposition to these proposals. Meeting upon meeting was held with neighbors, developers, city staff, city commissioners to discuss concerns, data and alternatives. It was a year-long effort. Most recently, segments of the proposals that were not objectional were approved by the City Commission, others are undergoing additional study and language changes and the most problematic will be introduced in the City’s Master Plan development with will likely happen in late 2019, 2020.



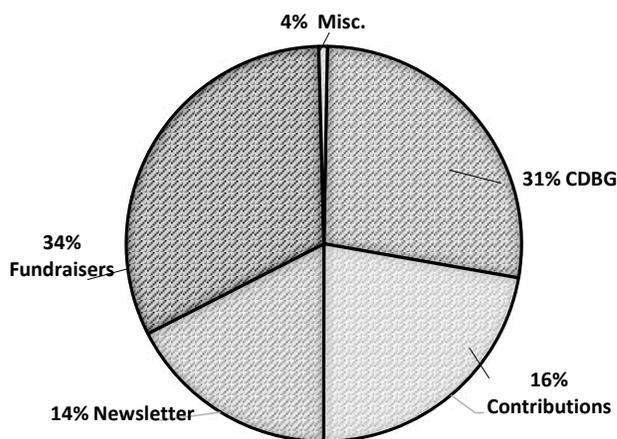
HHA co-President, Lisa Baars presents the Heritage Hill Association’s position at the City Commission’s Housing NOW public hearing on March 27.

- **Oakwood Manor – 547 Cherry SE:** Although there was a bit of a delay, both the fitness studio and restaurant were open by the end of 2018 and added fun amenities to Heritage Hill. This had been an active land use discussion with neighbors over the past two years. In easy walking distance, check out the Barre Code Fitness Studio and Commons Restaurant.

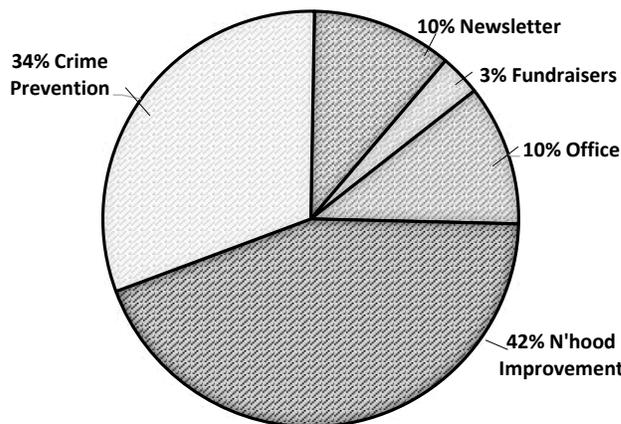
- **Potpourri of land use, housing and traffic issues:** The Association reviews and investigates all zoning variance requests, traffic reports, and monitors housing code violations in Heritage Hill. Neighborhood positions are based on the Heritage Hill Master Plan, the City’s zoning code criteria, and neighbors’ feedback. These are the larger issues address in 2018:

- **523 Lyon NE – Jellema House:** This former treatment facility was the hot topic of land use issues for near neighbors as new owners proposed options in plans for use. Nine months of meetings and city approvals established the building as a 5-unit apartment building. The lack of on-site parking in this highly populated corridor will require neighbors to be especially neighborly in working out the on-street parking dance.
- **402 – 430 Madison SE:** Major renovations to the main home at 430 Madison SE are continuing into 2019. There are no firm plans on the use of the 3 vacant parcels fronting Madison as owners concentrate on finishing the “big house”.
- **141 Wealthy SE:** Presented opposition to the demolition of the **McGraw Tire building** for a

### 2018 HHA INCOME - \$169,019



### 2018 HHA EXPENSES - \$175,913



(Continued on page 6)

surface parking lot. Wealthy Street is a vital corridor and active buildings are critical to its health, not an empty surface parking lot. The GR Planning Commission denied the request to demolish. An active development was encouraged.

- **Residential Permit Parking:** Changes to the City's process in establishing permit parking zones will likely see a zone request in Heritage Hill in 2019. Neighbors were notified of the new process. If and when a zone district is proposed, neighbors will be surveyed and a public hearing will be held. Stay tuned.
- **Mobility:** Various public transportation information was published in the Heritage Herald/Facebook. Updates were also provided regarding the **BRT Laker Line**.
- **Maintained a communication network** with each of our neighboring hospitals, colleges and universities, and neighborhood associations, businesses. Met with Mercy Health Saint Mary's to continue strong working relationship on areas of common interest; met with MaryFree Bed's CEO Kent Riddle to improve communications and strengthen interactions; various GRCC meetings, conversations on the college's development plans and input.



*Hello Amanda Cormier, the Association's new Crime Prevention Organizer. Amanda took over for Tansy Harris when she tearfully moved to Arizona in November.*

- **Preservation:** Co-hosted with the GR Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) a window's workshop to teach attendees how to fix broken cords, glazing and installation. Also partnered with HPC on a new resident information workshop. Applauded HPC 2018 Award recipients.

**Neighborhood Fun and Fund Development:**

- Organized and orchestrated the annual **Weekend Tour of Homes** in May. Recruited hosts, house captains and 223 volunteers to staff the homes and welcomed 4000 tourists.
- Compiled and produced 6 issues of the **Heritage Herald** that were distributed to 4,500 neighbors and friends.
- Produced and updated the apartment listings on a minimum weekly basis.
- Organized the **Heritage Hill Night Out Ice Cream social** at Pleasant Park in August;

Organized the annual Heritage Hill **Neighborhood-Wide Yard Sale Day** in June; and the **Holiday Potluck and Annual Meeting** in December.

- **Texas Hold-em** - Staffed 4 gaming events throughout 2018.

**Plus:** Assisted 1000's of calls and requests regarding a multitude of quality of life issues in Heritage Hill

**And in 2018 we celebrated our 50 years of working with you to make Heritage Hill the best it can be. Every HHA event in our anniversary year marked this 50th achievement. The celebratory year culminated at the Holiday Potluck where past presidents joined neighbors in honoring one of our key founders, Barbara Roelofs. The 50 Greatest Hits of Heritage Hill were compiled in a power point that is also posted on the Association's website. We have come a long way!**



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*And we go on .... we welcome all new neighbors in 2018 and encourage you to get active on your block and in your neighborhood. It's your community and our shared place! Plus we encourage all to think Local and in your neighborhood when seeking services and fun gathering places. Many new places to explore too including Marcona on Lyon, a Mediterranean restaurant; Heritage Hill Pizza that replaced GRPD, the Commons in the Oakwood Manor, the Barre Code fitness studio also at 547 Cherry and don't forget the Dollar General at State and Madison.*

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## Crime Prevention in 2018

**Neighbors are the heartbeat of Heritage Hill:** Board members, Committee members, Block Club Representatives and hundreds of individuals within our community who are invested in helping each other stay safe and healthy within our neighborhood. Without you, we simply could not be the community that we are! We recognize and thank you for all your continued efforts.

**New Neighbors:** For tips on keeping your home, apartment or business safe from burglaries, give Heritage Hill Association a call and talk to Amanda Cormier, our Crime Prevention Officer, at 459-8950. We offer FREE Home Security Checks to all of our residents, regardless if you rent or own your home.

### Crime Issues in 2018:

- One main crime issue in 2018 was the multiple Breaking & Entering reports we had in the fall. An individual entered several homes and stole small items that could be easily sold. Once again, it was a crime of opportunity. Doors that were left unlocked made it easy for the suspect to enter the home and start looking for stuff to grab. Thank you to all of the neighbors who contacted us and the police with information that eventually led to the arrest of the suspect. We cannot stress enough to **KEEP DOORS LOCKED**. Although this individual was non-violent, in some rare instances criminals are more confrontational and won't just run away when caught. This individual did not put much effort into breaking into homes that were locked, he just walked in to homes that were unlocked.
- Another typical crime of opportunity we see too much of is items stolen from porches, garages and cars. The best thing you can do is to keep these areas locked and free from valuable items. Petty criminals don't like to put forth a lot of effort, so don't make it easy for them!
- We saw a number of new scams out, some of them look pretty convincing. One looked like an absentee voting card but asked for donations. You should not

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have to donate anything to vote. And if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is! Feel free to call our office if you receive questionable solicitation and we can help you get to the bottom of it.

- The “indecent exposure” suspect was caught! A man who had too much time on his hands and not enough clothes on his body was seen sitting naked on a park bench near the school on Fountain. He was arrested after several neighbors poured tips into our office and the GRPD.
- We also had an unfortunate case of a death of a woman in 2018 near Logan Street. Although the death itself was due to an overdose, there was a criminal act of moving the body to an alley rather than contacting the proper authorities. This resulted in charges against those responsible for moving the victim’s body. What can we do? It is imperative for neighbors to continue to watch out for each other. Report suspicious activity to the police and talk to each other.
  - What to do if you suspect someone has overdosed:
    - CALL 911 – Getting help fast is really important to save the person.
    - Administer Naloxone if available
    - Breathe for the person if they aren’t able to themselves
    - Position the person on their side if they are breathing by themselves. They may vomit and you don’t want them to choke or inhale vomit into their lungs.
    - Stay with the person to keep them warm until help arrives.

**Housing Code Enforcement:** While Heritage Hill does not seek out Housing Code Violations in the neighborhood as we believe near neighbors have the best information, nor do we have any regulatory authority, we do help those who come to us with concerns and issues. We can help you learn how to navigate the process and provide information.

*(Continued on page 10)*



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**Crime Prevention**

*(Continued from page 9)*

- We received trash complaints for neighbors with overflowing garbage bins. We worked with new property owners to make sure they know where to find resources for trash & recycling.
- Other common complaints were concerns over tall grass and weeds. When property owners were brought to attention regarding tall grass and weeds, all complied and corrected the matter within 48 hours of contacting.

**Parks**

We saw very little crime activity in our parks in 2018 and I think we have continued resident ownership to thank for that. Neighbors near each of our parks have gone above and beyond picking up garbage, pruning bushes, planting flowers and that is what it means to love where you live!

Pleasant Park continues to be an amazing addition to the area. In 2018, we saw a new Table Tennis structure and Friends of GR Parks upgraded the plaques memorials. We also thank South Hill Area Neighbors which border this park for their continued investment in this park. Huge shout out to all the Pleasant Park Tenders and Pleasant Park Pals who continue to care for this park throughout the year.

**Landlord Tenant Issues**

In 2018, Heritage Hill Association advised both landlords and tenants on a variety of issues and rights. From Tenants not adhering to lease terms to issues with security deposits and apartments with issues, we help both sides. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Amanda at 459-8950 or [Heritage@heritagehillweb.org](mailto:Heritage@heritagehillweb.org)

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**What a 50<sup>th</sup>! Thanks to all for coming to the Holiday Potluck and Annual Meeting Celebration.**

**Big Applause to:**

**Martha's Vineyard, GRCC and Heritage Pizza for the holiday spirit.**

Newly elected Board members

**Heather Hall**

*And returning Board members*

**Suzanne DeHaan**

**Kate Diedrich**

**Michele Giordano**

Distinguished Service Award Recipients

**Suzanne DeHaan**

**Chelsea and Charles Roelofs**

**Brad Fisher, *Heritage Hill's***

***south end mail carrier***

**GRPS Museum School**

**Orion Construction**

**GR Public Museum**



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Margaret Gage  
Geoff and Susan Gillis  
Jim and Eileen Gould  
Khalid and Stefanie Goudeaux  
Jay and Amelia Grayson  
Green Castle Recovery Center  
Tom and Janel Guikema  
Coleen Hamman  
Dave and Cathy Hathaway  
Marilyn Heiss  
Jack and Susan Hessler  
Korry and Doug Hoeksema  
Jack Hoffman and Rebecca Smith-  
Hoffman  
Carl Johnson  
Mary Johnson  
Judy Jorgenson  
Scott Kammeraad and Deb Cloney  
Sue Karsen  
Liz Klinzing  
Lawrence and Roberta Kok  
Tammy Koop  
Diann Landers and Doug Dok  
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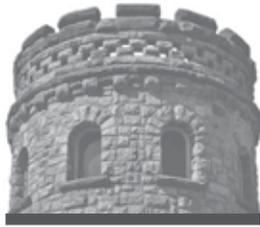
Dennis and Margaret Lieber  
Jack Lensink  
Lindquist Family  
Tom Logan  
John and Susie Logie  
Chris and Laura Martin  
Masonic Temple Association  
Chris and Laura Martin  
Chris and Roseann Masotti  
Jennifer McDermott  
Shannon McDevitt  
John Miles  
Laurent and Shari Morin  
Gary and Faye Myers  
Sander Niemeyer  
Wayne and Jana Norlin  
Phillip Ondersma  
Jim Payne and Char Kruzich  
Laurie Piersma  
Donna Marie Post  
Charles and Patricia Posthumus  
Michelle Richter  
Lisa Rios  
Beverly Pertilla Roberts  
Lynn Robinson  
Mary Robinson and Tom Simmons  
Milt and Barbara Rohwer  
Brian and Andrea Russel of  
Our House on the Hill  
Mic and Erin Schupe  
Don Smalligan and Mary Kenyon  
Mary Lou Smith  
Sweet House Foundation  
Steve Szczytko  
Shahin and Jeni Taheri  
Jim and Pat Talen  
Bridget DuPont-Tingley  
Paul Trowbridge  
Tom and Chris Truesdale  
Mark Van Allsburg  
Don and Ruth VanStee  
John and Gwen Varineau  
Richard Lee VanHouten  
Andy and Ann Vidro  
Gary and Janice Walker  
Sandy Ward  
Barbara Westrate  
Ken and Sharon Wieringa  
Steve Wilson  
Jim Winter-Troutwine  
Weldon Wooden  
Gay Works and John O'Connor

**The Heritage Hill Association publishes available apartments.**

Please remember us when your apartment needs renters. Your dollars not only find you tenants but also support the programs of the Heritage Hill Association! You can list your apartment right at the website or stop by the HHA office. We welcome you!

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# Neighborhood Potpourri

by Amanda Cormier

**Don't fall for it – It's a scam!** We've seen a few new clever fraud schemes going on around the neighborhood and we want everyone to be aware and avoid falling prey!

**Seniors & Voting** – Senior citizens have been increasingly targeted by mailers going out asking for monetary donations to the "The Seniors Center". The scam looks similar to an absentee

ballot. You should never have to send money to vote absentee.

**Puppies** – fake ads online selling bulldog puppies and then when the buyer is given a fake address in Heritage Hill to pick up the puppy, suddenly the ad disappears and the buyer has lost \$2,000 with no puppy to bring home. Report to the GRPD non-emergency number ASAP 616-456-3400

**Fake apartment listings** – asking potential renters to wire money through Western Union to secure an apartment. Heritage Hill does not use apartments.com. We only use our website to advertise available rentals.

**Is your home safe?** Suspicious persons have been seen lurking and even attempting to enter residences and vehicles on the SE side. Think about how much of a target your home is. Are all of your entry doors and porches lit up at night? Do you have dead-bolt locks? Burglars are less likely to approach a structure if it is brightly lit nearby. Don't forget, we offer FREE home security surveys to

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all renters, homeowners and business owners! Call Amanda at 459-8950 to schedule yours.

**Save-The-Date for the Pleasant Park Cleanup** Please keep Saturday morning April 13 (9am) open for our annual Pleasant Park Clean-up day. I'm collaborating with our South Hill neighbors to bring you a community lunch afterwards using the Neighborhood Match Fund from the City of Grand Rapids. You won't want to miss it! Until then, please send good vibes into the universe for lots of sunshine and warm weather. Inclement weather date will be Saturday April 20.

**Residential Permit Parking** Thank you for everyone who e-mailed in response to my e-alert about the RPP program. The City of GR will be conducting a survey in the next few months to see if there are heavily-parked areas in the Hill that qualify for permit parking. Currently, fees are quite reasonable at only \$15 for six months. Visit for more detailed information about rates, zones and implementation: <https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Directory/Programs-and-Initiatives/Residential-Parking-Permit-RPP-Program>

**Thank you good citizen!** I just wanted to say thank you to the unnamed good citizen who went out and spent his time scrubbing spray-painted profanities off of our historic brick street near the corner of Logan and Lafayette recently. I was working with the city to have someone come out and get it cleaned but this neighbor beat the city to the job! It's neighbors like you that keep Heritage Hill a great place to live.

**Fire Safety** Did you know the average number of smoke alarms you should have to adequately protect your home is 6-8? The GRFD Residential Safety Program is designed to assist homeowners get FREE smoke detectors installed in their home. If your alarms are dated or lacking, call 311 to schedule an appointment.

This grant for the GRFD does not provide funds for the installation of

carbon monoxide and smoke alarms for renters. However, The American Red Cross is allowed to install up to three (3) smoke alarms for renters. Please keep in mind that landlords, by decree in the city ordinance, are required to have smoke alarms

installed PRIOR to the renter moving in. There are circumstances where this is not always done. In those cases, renters can call American Red Cross to establish a date and time to have the devices installed. The Red Cross name and number to contact is:

*(Continued on page 16)*

# HERITAGE HILL

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Do you find my advice helpful? Did you make changes like sign up for

a security survey, call to get smoke detectors, start leaving your porch light on, or meet your community officer because of what you saw here? Our funders want your feedback. Let me know if you feel safer because of our Crime Prevention program! [heritage@heritagehillweb.org](mailto:heritage@heritagehillweb.org)

A 100 year old house, with a new garage door to match.



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## Board Notes

Discussion at the November, 2018 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:

**Board member volunteer expectations:** Erin S. and the Executive Committee members briefly discussed expectations of board members with the subject stemming from Participation in Texas Hold 'Em. The suggestion was made for each board member to put all board events on their calendar at the beginning of the year. The executive Committee stated that they would take up the subject again in the future as so many members were absent.

**Annual Meeting / 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:** Jan E. circulated the sign-up sheet for duties and also briefly discussed the Distinguished Service Awards.

**Treasurers Report** – Erin S. reported that at three-quarters of the way through the year, there were no surprises.

**Staff Reports:** *Written Reports were submitted.*

Jan E. reported that neighborhoods were meeting the following day with Planning Director Suzanne Schulz concerning the particulars of **Housing Now**. Some work has been done at **523 Lyon St. NE**. Jan relayed that there had been inquiries concerning surveying work that had been done at the **former GRCC track on Lyon St.** Jan has not been able yet to find out what the plans are but reported that Spectrum Health is in need of more space for the Emergency Room and related parking. Second Ward Commissioner Joe Jones has been paving a path for a meeting with **Mary Free Bed** CEO Kent Riddle. HHA is hoping to open a dialogue with Mary Free Bed and also discuss the former McGraw Tire property. Jan also noted an upcoming meeting with neighborhoods and the **new City Manager, Mark Washington.**

**Community Engagement:**

Hospitality – Holiday Potluck: Jan. E. provided an overview of the sequence of events and that the Herald would be out very soon advertising the event, as well as on the website and

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Facebook. She will also send out the cover of the Herald via email to Board members for posting. Jan reminded members that there are four candidates running for five board positions; the vote will be by acclamation. Lisa B. reported that the committee did meet, that they will solicit gift cards for a drawing, they will get a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake and that everyone on the committee will work at the event.

**Land Use:**

GRCC Addition / Expansion of the Technology Center on Fountain St. NE: Wayne N. reported on the meeting held with GRCC, the architects for the project and several stakeholders including Wes B. and his tenants. The architects provided a slide show of the proposed addition. Where the playground is now, a 25-foot utility easement is proposed. Stakeholders feel that this size of easement is too big and that it may damage the bank/hill and trees on the Heritage Hill side of the property. Wes. B. suggested going back to the drawing board concerning that part of the plan and that possibly the proposed retaining wall could be moved further to the west. The existing trees do provide substantial shade and screening. Jan E. suggested putting an inquiry in to the Historic Preservation Commission as GRCC may not be allowed to change the berm in an historic district. Wes also pointed out that this is an important entryway into Heritage Hill.

**Fundraising and Finance:**

Home Tour: Kate D. reported on the houses committed for the 2019 Home Tour and that we could use one more. Members discussed more possibilities. Suzanne D. circulated sign-ups for House Captains and Guides.

Pledge Drive: Jan E. reported that the drive is going very well and that the largest single donation ever had been received recently.

Texas Hold 'Em: Erin S. thanked The Roelofs for all of their years of work with this fundraiser.

Garden Tour: Kate D. reported that there will be a garden tour in 2019

and that coordination with Ottawa Hills could be an issue.

**Executive Session:** Members voted unanimously to approve the draft budget.

Discussion at the December, 2018 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:

**2019 HHA Board Welcome/ 2018 HHA Board Send-offs** – New Board

*Continued on page 18)*

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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  
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**Board Notes** *(Cont'd from pg 15)*

member Heather Hall was introduced and outgoing Board member Todd Hoort was thanked. It was noted that there are 2 vacancies – one full 3-year term and one 1-year term to fill. The Board will appoint these positions in 2019.

**2019 Officers Election – The slate as presented was moved and approved**

– Lisa Baars and Wes Beck as co-Presidents: Sarah Green, Vice President: Erin Shupe, Treasurer and Suzanne DeHaan, Secretary. All were thanked for their service.

**Erin and Mic Shupe were thanked** for their hospitality in hosting the holiday meeting.

*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](mailto:heritage@heritagehillweb.org))*

**REMEMBER HERITAGE HILL PROPERTY OWNERS:**

There is a City Preservation Ordinance that governs all exterior changes, repairs and/or additions to Heritage Hill properties. Call the Grand Rapids Historic Preservation Commission at 456-3451 for information on approvals. You can access the application form at the City's website, [www.ci.grand-rapids.mi.us](http://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.



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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.*

**Wednesday,**  
**February 20, 2019**  
**HHA Board Meeting – 7:00 pm.**  
 Mercy Health Saint Mary's  
 Hauenstein Center, H1  
 Community Room  
 Cherry Street, between Lafayette  
 and Jefferson Avenues

**Wednesday,**  
**March 20, 2019**  
**HHA Board Meeting – 7:00 pm.**  
 Mercy Health Saint Mary's  
 Hauenstein Center, H1  
 Community Room  
 Cherry Street, between Lafayette  
 and Jefferson Avenues

**Herald Deadline –**  
**March/April issue**  
 Monday, March 4th

**Annual Dates:**

**Saturday and Sunday,**  
**May 18th and 19th, 2019**  
**2019 Heritage Hill Weekend**  
**Tour of Homes**

**Yard Sales**  
 Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019



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 sidewalks shoveled and  
 ice free.**

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# SAVE THE DATE



**Heritage Hill Annual Weekend  
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