Spring is In the ... Park.
April 13 Clean-Up; Community Lunch Gathering

Finally, the weather has started to turn warmer and we are seeing signs of life outside one again! Meet your neighbors and help welcome spring after a long winter.

The Pleasant Park clean-up (removing trash, weeds and spreading mulch) will begin at 9 am on Saturday April 13th and we will serve light breakfast fare.

A FREE Community lunch for ALL neighbors will follow at 12 pm, regardless if you can help clean up. Don’t miss it! This lunch is supported in part by the City of Grand Rapids Neighborhood Match Fund. We will have drinking water so please remember to bring your refillable water bottle to help cut down on waste.

The tool trailer from Friends of Grand Rapids Parks will be at the park on the 13th.

*Rain date will be Saturday April 27, same time.

5th Annual City-wide Neighborhood Summit – March 2, 2019
Theme: Connecting Our Stories – Connecting Our Power

More than 650 people attended the annual one-day experience for Grand Rapids residents, business owners and stakeholders to learn with and from each other about strategies, resources and opportunities to strengthen neighborhoods and advance equity. Summit opened with a welcome song by a local Anishinaabe community drum, followed by experiential theater performances of neighborhood-based scenes by Mixed Roots Collective.

The Neighborhood Association Collaborative (NAC) hosted a table to connect residents with neighborhood association information. We handed out over 200 NAC guides that highlight information on many of the neighborhoods within the city. We were able to connect several new residents to their associations and we had a great time meeting new people!

(Cont’d on page 4)
Shake off those Polar Vortex and Cyclone Bomb blues — At Pleasant Park April 13. We are gathering at 9 am for the annual park clean-up and then at noon for a community lunch. Come for the clean-up or just come for lunch. The operative word is come and shake off this crazy winter with sunshine (hopefully) and happiness. Get outside again. And yes, there is a free lunch.

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The 50th Annual Heritage Hill Weekend Tour of Homes is just weeks away. May 18 and 19 are the dates and 8 private hosts invite you into their homes to share their architecture, design, art and home's history. Please, please help spread the word - use all your social media tricks and your face-to-face charm and get people excited to see the insides of Heritage Hill homes. Send people to our website, heritagehillweb.org for more enticement. It will be a beautiful weekend to walk this great place that we call home.

There is a way to get a FREE ticket to Tour. We need volunteer guides right up the days of Tour to cover any cancellations.

Please call today, 459-8950, or email heritage@heritagehillweb.org and help Tour run smoothly with a 4-hour shift.

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Leaping into summer is the purge (or splurge) at the Association's annual Heritage Hill Yard Sales Day on June 1. Call or email the HHA office, heritage@heritagehillweb.org; 459-8950 and we’ll get you on the list that we’ll post on our website. And soon to follow, the Heritage Hill Garden Tour is June 15. And not to zoom through the summer but our Night Out Social is August 6. Mark your calendars and more details will follow.

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Two new Board members were appointed at the February Heritage Hill Association Board meeting. Welcome John Walendowski and James Scozzari and thank you for contributing your time and talent to the cause. Also welcome back Maria Zach Starkey (and Jim too) from their annual 4-month siesta in Mexico. Maria returned to work on March 18.

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Say Hi to each other
- Jan Earl, Executive Director

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**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!

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**Sunday Worship:** 10:45 am

**Summer Sunday Worship:** 10:00 am (Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend)

First United Methodist Church
227 Fulton St E • Grand Rapids
[www.GRFUMC.org](http://www.GRFUMC.org)
REASON #2

largest selection of school choices

The teachers are exceptional educators and kind mentors, the administration is engaged and open to change, and the attending community is incredibly rich and dynamic.”

Christy Vos GRPS PARENT

CONGRESS ELEMENTARY
neighborhood school GRADES PK-5

GRAND RAPIDS MONTESSORI
theme school GRADES PK-12

INNOVATION CENTRAL
theme school GRADES 9-12

GRPS.ORG/ENROLLTODAY

Weekend Tour of Homes Needs You
Please volunteer a shift on May 18 and/or May 19, 2019

We Need You to volunteer a shift for Tour.
Please help your neighborhood and get a FREE ticket to Tour.

May 18, 2019: 10:30 am – 2:30 pm or 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm
May 19, 2019: 11:30 am – 3:30 pm or 3:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Please email heritage@heritagehillweb.org or call 616-459-8950 with your preferred day and shift time.

Thank You!
Neighborhood Summit (Cont’d from front page)

The majority of the workshops were led by Grand Rapids residents. Workshops included:

- Public Transportation for Wellness, Connection and Equity
- Centering Community Voice in Neighborhood Construction Projects
- Advocating for An Effective IEP (Individual Education Plan) For Your Child
- Voting With Your Dollars
- Faith in Business
- Strategies for Creating Accessible & Inclusive Spaces
- Entrepreneurship
- Local Hiring Practices
- Home Maintenance & Safety
- City Event Organizing
- Community Storytelling
- Accessing Capital for Businesses
- Racial Healing & Equity
- Development without Displacement

The Kids Summit provided children ages 5-12 a fun and engaging leadership learning experience, art and games while parents were attended the Neighborhood Summit. Mayor Bliss stopped by for a visit with the kids.

Summit’s closing session included a special recognition of Grand Rapids residents who led projects supported by the City’s Neighborhood Match Fund as well as a drawing for prizes. The post-Summit Community Celebration recognized volunteers, sponsors and others for their contribution to this year’s Summit.

Restoration and repair services for your historic wood windows.
(616)446-3503
Check us out on Facebook!
heritagewindowrestoration@gmail.com

WHOEVER YOU ARE,
WHEREVER YOU GO IN GOD’S WIDE WORLD,
You are WELCOME at the corner of College & Fulton!

Communion every Wednesday
12:15 - 12:45 pm
Tis the Season for Pleasant Park Tenders Sign-Up!

Pleasant Park has wonderful flower beds but they need neighbors’ care to stay beautiful. The City’s Park Department cuts and edges the grass but the flower beds receive no attention.

We are again calling out to neighbors to sign up for a plot of Pleasant to tend. We need 13 persons/households/friend groups/teens who will commit to taking a section to maintain this summer. We are asking that you or your team commit to joining us for the initial neighborhood wide cleanup on April 13, if possible and to doing at least 4 hours of weeding in each of the months of June, July, August and September.

If you are interested in helping out but cannot commit to this much we could still use your help throughout the summer. We would like to have reserve volunteers in the event that someone needs extra help on their section. If you are interested please email Joshlyn Litzenberger at joshlynlitzenberger@gmail.com for more information.
Yes, I want to Sponsor the 50th Anniversary  
2019 HERITAGE HILL WEEKEND TOUR OF HOMES  
May 18 and 19, 2019

Please select your level of sponsorship:

1. ____ House Sponsor - $5,000  
2. ____ Pillar Sponsor - $2,500

3. Tour Page Sponsors:  
   ____ FULL PAGE - $900  
   ____ HALF PAGE - $500  
   ____ QUARTER PAGE - $275  
4. ____ FRIEND OF TOUR - $125

NAME: ____________________________________________  
(Please print your name exactly as you want it to be listed)

ADDRESS: ________________________________________

PHONE: ____________________________

Email: ____________________________

Please return this form and your ad copy by 4/30/19 to: Heritage Hill Association; 126 College SE; Grand Rapids, MI  49503 or email to: 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 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.
We still need gardens if you are willing to share your private space. Please call the HHA office, 459-8950 or email us: heritage@heritagehillweb.org. Thank You!

Historic Building Restoration
Residential & Institutional

616-454-9337
WWW.GRANDRIVERBUILDERS.COM
Recent Heritage Hill Land Use Issues

200 Madison SE:
Neighbors met with the developer at the former church on February 26 for overview of plans as a 22-unit housing development. After a review of neighbors' comments, the City standards for a Special Land Use proposal and the guidelines of the Heritage Hill Master Plan, the Heritage Hill Association Board sent a letter of support for the project. The public hearing is on March 28 before the City’s Planning Commission. If this gets approved, construction will happen in short order.

Cornerstone Church:
A neighbors’ information meeting was held on February 27 to review the Church's plan for a small addition to the north of the building. The City Historic Preservation Commission will decide the design at its meeting on April 3. The church presented a sensitive addition that is in keeping with the 1960’s addition and reaffirmed its commitment to remaining in the Heritage Hill neighborhood.

Housing NOW:
The City Commission will be deciding 3 zoning text proposals at its meeting on March 26. Two were discussed at a Community Engagement that the City hosted on Feb. 12 – Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) and a Density Bonus. The proposal for ADUs included a qualified approval process which means that neighbors within 300 feet of applications for ADU's would be notified of the request. If there are no objections, the project would be administratively approved if zoning standards were met. If one objection was received, the application would follow the current practice of a public hearing before the City's Planning Commission. The Density Bonus was added for developments within commercial zones that

(Cont’d on pg. 9)
included affordable apartments. Increased heights would be allowed for affordable housing.

A 3rd proposal was added that did not have recent community input – allowing 2-family dwellings on all corner properties by right. The Association is opposing this text amendment change unless an affordability component is added to the administrative approval. The Association also requested a qualified approval process akin to the ADU proposal.
Have clothing/home items to donate? Central Reformed Church (located at the corner of College Avenue and Fulton Street) will host the “In The Image” Donation Truck for our Heritage Hill neighbors to collect your new or gently used clothing, furniture, and working household items. Please check the website below for “Accepted and Unaccepted” donation items. The Donation Truck will be available for you to load your items on Saturday, April 27, from 9 am till 6 pm and Sunday, April 28, noon till 6 pm. The Truck will be located in the parking lot located behind the church. Please do not leave items outside the Donation Truck.

“In The Image” Donation Truck collects items for their “Free Store” for families in need. Check their website for the list of Accepted and Unaccepted Items at http://www.intheimage.org.

“My Neighborhood” – helpful online resources
The city of Grand Rapids’ website recently went through extensive re-design and looks to be a little more user-friendly. We now have access to a myriad of information just by typing in a home address. You will find your city commissioners and neighborhood association contact information, nearest schools and libraries. You will even see your trash removal & recycling service schedule, and you can also use this to report issues in your neighborhood. https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Residents/My-Neighborhood

End of Seasonal Parking!
Hooray! The seasonal parking restrictions will come to an end on April 1, so we no longer need to figure out where to park. Thank you to everyone who kept up with proper parking all winter. You made it easier for the city plows to do their work.

Crime Prevention Corner:
Now that we can see and feel spring in the air, being outside and getting back to our outdoor activities is exciting! Unfortunately, minor crime activity also tends to pick up when the temperatures increase. Remember to lock your bicycles or store your skateboards, etc. when you’re not near them. Keep valuables off of the porches, keep car and home doors locked to prevent simple thefts. All residents, (homeowners and renters) can call Heritage Hill Association and obtain a FREE home security screening.

Our funding partners always want to
know how we’re doing. Do you feel safer in your home or neighborhood because of the work of Heritage Hill Association’s crime prevention program with the GRPD? If so, we would love to hear from you! E-mail us at heritage@heritagehillweb.org.

Egg Hunt at Pleasant Park!
Bring the kids to Pleasant Park on Saturday April 20th at 11 am for a candy-filled egg hunt.

ALL ABOUT SPRING CLEANING!
Remember the Annual Spring Clean-up + Community Lunch at Pleasant Park – Saturday, April 13th
You don’t need to work the clean-up to enjoy lunch. Everyone is welcome. Clean-up is from 9 am – 12; Lunch is at noon.

Residential Yard Waste Disposal
There are several options for curbside collection.
Your curbside yard waste collection is the same day as your regular waste collection.
Yard Waste Cart – The cart is $27.50 to order. Each time you would like your cart emptied, attach a yellow Yard Waste Tag to the cart. Each tag is $6.00.
Yard Waste Paper Bag – You can use a yard waste paper bag for leaves, grass clippings and small twigs. Bags are $2.50 each or come in packs of 5 for $12.50. Items in the yard waste paper bag can’t weigh more than 30 pounds.
Yard Waste Bulk Tag – You can use a purple yard waste bulk tag for bundles of larger twigs or branches. You may also attach this tag to a non-city paper yard waste bag. These tags cost $2.50 each. Bundled branches and twigs shouldn’t be more than 4 feet long or 2 inches in diameter.

Yard Waste Drop-Off Site - We have a

(Cont’d on pg. 12)
Join the celebration of Tour’s role in saving Heritage Hill from demolition. The 50th Annual Heritage Hill Weekend of Tour of Homes is Saturday, May 18 from 11-5 pm and Sunday, May 19 from 12-6 pm. Step inside 8 restored private houses originally built for prominent Grand Rapids business and political leaders. Several of the featured homes were open on the original Tour in 1969.

Four historic public buildings complete Tour’s line-up. This year’s Tour will wow you.

2019 Tour’s highlights include an outstanding Georgian beauty with 3 sun porches, 10 bedrooms, an impressive mahogany staircase and a working original Aeolian pipe organ in the music room; A shingle style charmer with a working fountain in its solarium, an 1875 Italianate that houses a 2-story wood-lined library designed to replicate one in a castle of Sir Walter Scott and much more.

Neighborhood Pop-up (Continued from page 11)

free drop-off site. It is located at 2001 Butterworth St SW. The site is open from 9 AM - 6 PM. This is offered to Grand Rapids residents only, so bring your ID for proof of residence. Yard waste must be loose or in a paper bag. Plastic bags are not allowed. Not sure if your yard waste is eligible for drop off? Give the city a call 616-456-3000 or check out their website: https://www.grandrapidstmi.gov/Services/Yard-Waste-Services
Keep your Catch Basin Clean, too! Catch basins are storm sewer inlets designed to collect water during storm events and are generally located next to street curbs or in yards of residential areas. Did you know they empty into our streams and rivers? This means anything that goes down a catch basin goes into the river. This is why it’s so important to dispose of pet waste, oil, litter, and leaves properly. If you’re ready to formalize your commitment to keeping our catch basins free and clear of debris, you can Adopt a Basin! Check this out for more info: https://www.grandrapidstmi.gov/Services/Adopt-a-Basin-Buddy

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!

HERITAGEHILLWEB.ORG

Heritage Hill Apartment Rental and Home Sales Listings. All sizes and prices — Spread the word!!!
Board Notes

Discussion at the January, 2019
Heritage Hill Association Board
Meeting included:

Community Development Block
Grant Funding: Approval sought to
submit request for funding proposal
for continued CDBG funding for 2019
– 2020. Requesting same funding
level as previous year ($47,568).
Board approved submission of
request.

Board approved standing
committee’s liaison/contacts
list with one caveat: Wayne Norlin
will work in concert with Zoning
Committee chair Craig Nobbelin
as Craig’s right-hand person and
committee liaison.

Board members signed and
submitted Code of Ethics waiver.

Treasurers Report – December
31, 2018 report - With the absence
of Garden Tour in 2018 and Texas
Hold’em and the Tour Friends &
Sponsors both down, it was the
success of Home Tour that helped
shore up the year’s shortfalls.

Staff Reports: In addition to her
printed report, Jan stated she has
been preparing CDBG performance
reports and training Amanda on
her first CD report. She provided an
update to the status of 32 Union NE,
which was going in front of the HPC
board this same night. Being sought
is a ‘demolition by neglect’ status –
not to tear down - but to get much
needed help in providing the house
(empty for about 7 years) some
much needed care. No news at this
meeting as to the results of that HPC
decision.

In addition to Amanda’s report, she
announced a date for the Pleasant
Park clean-up this spring: April
13. She also said funding has been
secured to provide donuts and coffee
during the clean-up and for a light
picnic repast following the event.

Board members also broke into
groups to determine where members
– especially those new – would
channel their efforts committee-wise

(Cont’d on pg. 14)
in the coming year.

**Land Use:** Wayne N. talked briefly regarding neighborhood meetings called for the area impacted by the addition to the Applied Tech Center on Fountain between Ransom and Lafayette. The addition will go east of the building encompassing the area now occupied by a small playground area.

**Discussion at the February, 2019 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:**

**Board appointments:** The HHA executive committee recommended and the Board approved the appointment of John Walendowski to the unfilled 15th position on HHA board and to James Scozzari to a term ending December of 2019.

**Staff Reports:**

**Jan:** The city Planning Department administratively approved 547 Paris SE as a two-family dwelling. It has been used more for multi-family than single-family since the 1940s. Neighbors are upset with the Planning Department’s decision however the decision cannot be appealed. The use history of the home is the justification for the Planning Department’s decision. The HHA office received complaints over the use as well as the removal of the home’s rear windows. HPC was notified and is meeting with the owner’s reps. The owner is developing 2 four-bedroom units.

Jan also reminded board members of meeting February 26 with developers of 200 Madison SE. The now vacant church will be developed into 22 affordable/subsidized apartments with parking provided inside the lower level of the building as well as outside. There will also be a meeting the following night (Feb. 27) regarding an addition to Cornerstone Church, corner of Washington and Lafayette.

**ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units):** The City hosted engagement meetings proposing a qualified review process for development of ADU’s. This process requires that neighbors within 300 feet of proposed ADU be notified. If there is one complaint, the approval process will be as current – a Special Land Use hearing before the GR Planning Commission. If no complaints are voiced, the ADU
can be administratively approved if all standards are met. This Zoning text amendment will be considered for passage at the March 26 City Commission meeting.

The GRCC Tech building addition will begin with utility site preparation on or about 4/30/19. GRCC would also like to set a future meeting regarding additional campus planning including the college’s use of the Lettinga and Mabel Engle houses for college programing.

**Amanda:** She asked for thoughts regarding hosting a “Coffee with a Cop” type of event to introduce neighbors to the neighborhood officer. Suggestions were mentioned/offered... thoughts of maybe coupling it with the Pleasant Park clean-up in April.

**Land Use:** There have been odd/even parking issues this winter all over the neighborhood. The severity of the cold and snow was difficult for enforcement and the City’s snow plowing of secondary streets was not a priority.

**Administration:** There is now a full board with the 2 appointments.

**Fundraising:** Home Tour 2019 - Reminder that this is the 50th Anniversary of Home Tour. Garden Tour is progressing.

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

DATES TO REMEMBER
All Heritage Hill Association Meetings are open to neighbors.

Saturday, April 13, 2019
Spring Clean-up + Community Lunch at Pleasant Park
Clean-up 9 am - 12 pm
Lunch at Noon

Wednesday, April 17, 2019
HHA Board Meeting – 7:00 pm.
Mercy Health Saint Mary’s Hauenstein Center
H1 Community Room
Cherry Street, between Lafayette and Jefferson Avenues

Monday, April 29, 2019
May/June Herald Deadline

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

Saturday, June 1, 2019
Heritage Hill Yard Sales Day

Saturday, June 15, 2019
Heritage Hill Garden Tour