Celebrate with Santa and Heritage Hill Neighbors

Holiday Potluck & Annual Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 2019
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- Santa arrives

7:30pm- Recognize our leaders, HHA 2020 Board elections & 2019 Distinguished Service Awards.

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

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:
Amanda Cormier, Executive Director
Barbara Draughon, Crime Prevention
Marta 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 Red, 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 De Haan, 573 Prospect SE, (H) 742-0451

**Kate Bedrich, 536 Prospect SE, (H) 451-9211
*Wendy Vettage Falh, 350 Cherry SE, (C) 616-818-8873
**Michele Giordano, 444 Union Ave SE, 616-862-7068
*Christopher Grygel, (C) 616-634-7018
*Nikki Hoert, 501 Cherry SE, (C) 616-813-6026
*Wayne Norlin, 518 Morris Ave SE, (C) 292-8263
*James Sczurri, 437 Prospect SE, Apt. 1, (C) 901-3475
*Nathan Sauer, 65 Union NE, (C) 616-304-5113
*John Walendowski, 546 Prospect SE, (C) 810-305-1709

* 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: Amanda Cormier, 459-8950
Preservation: Rhonda Baker, (H) 456-3451
Traffic and Parking: Amanda Cormier, (W) 459-8950
Zoning: Craig Nobbelin, 458-0471
Home Tour: Suzanne De Haan, (H) 742-0451
Home Tour Sponsorship: Amanda Cormier, 459-8950
Social Media: Barbara Draughon, 459-8950
State Street: Barbara Draughon, 459-8950
Block Issues: Barbara Draughon, 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 rbaecker@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.

Typography & Printing: Storr Printing Services, Inc.
Annual Meeting & Holiday Potluck
Tuesday December 10th – 6 to 9 pm.

All Heritage Hill neighbors are invited to celebrate our amazing and historic neighborhood Tuesday, December 10th. Let’s us join together in celebration from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the GRCC Campus at 415 East Fulton. Lots of drawings for fun prizes! Please come!

Holiday Potluck: We’ll have all the place settings and some food donations from area restaurants but please bring 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 ... We will recognize neighbors for their 2019 service to our neighborhood. It is also time to ready for next year with the 2020 HHA Board of Directors Election. There are five, 3-year terms up for election and five candidates have provided written notice of their candidacy per the HHA bylaws’ required notification. Because there are 5 candidates for 5 seats, the slate will be elected by proclamation by the membership.

Meet the HHA Board Candidates:

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

Wayne Norlin
558 Morris SE

My wife Jana and I have lived in Heritage Hill since 1976, and at our current home on Morris Ave SE since 1981. Our two children both graduated from City High, when it was still located in the Hill. I spent my entire architectural career in Grand Rapids. During that time, I became familiar with the procedures of local government, such as planning, zoning, utility, traffic, parks, school districts, etc. pertaining to land use and development. I retired in 2016, and the following year was asked to fill an open position on the Heritage Hill board. Since then I have served on the Zoning Committee, and reported on Land Use issues at the Board meetings. I look forward to continuing to serve in that capacity.

Scott Opperman
50 College Ave SE

I moved to Grand Rapids in March 2019 for a Senior Leadership position at Mercy Health Saint Mary’s. After exploring neighborhoods, I chose to reside in Heritage Hill. Besides being close to work, I greatly value Heritage Hill’s history, architectural riches, residential diversity, and community engagement.

Saint Mary’s is a proud, supportive neighborhood anchor in Heritage Hill. As Director of Mission Integration, I report directly to the President and help to foster key community relationships. Given my role and residency in Heritage Hill, my service on the Association Board could help take our mutually beneficial relationship to the next level.

Wesley Beck
225 Fountain NE

With an urban planning/architecture educational background, I was drawn here by the incredible diversity of building styles and purchased my home twenty-three years ago. For six of those years, I was pleased to serve on the Historic Preservation Commission. I believe that those pioneers of the preservation movement who saved this neighborhood and who created it as an historic district were part of a significant movement in the rich history of Grand Rapids.

It is my desire to carry forth, in my own small way, the work of maintaining its integrity, its public safety, and its enhanced desirability and to be considered for a final term on the HHA Board.

(Cont’d on pg. 4)
Annual Meeting & Holiday Potluck (Cont’d from page 3)

James Scozzari
437 Prospect Ave SE, Apt 1

I have lived in downtown Grand Rapids for 10 years now and as an attorney and business owner I believe I can provide the board with invaluable insight into legal issues and those faced by small businesses. I have also worked in local government and can provide the board with the skills it needs to navigate a very polarized landscape. I have a deep seated passion for my neighborhood on Prospect Ave and Heritage Hill as a whole. I hope to continue being an invaluable member of the HHA board with your support.

Amy DeMott
411 Paris Ave SE #1

My daughter and I have resided in Heritage Hill for about the past 7 years. From day one, we explored the neighborhood: met neighbors, played at the local parks, shopped at the local businesses and so much more. The welcoming presence of Heritage Hill residents and business owners made it so easy for us to do so! Today, as the area continues to change, we continue to remain steadfast of our commitment to our community. Whether we are helping a neighbor by walking their dog, or volunteering at the Pleasant Park clean-up, or participating in the Annual Heritage Hill Home Tour, we love the impact we are making on the lives of those around us – on our community. I believe my service-minded attitude, and my commitment to my community and surrounding neighborhoods will enhance the Heritage Hill Neighborhood Association Board.

Thank you for your consideration.
Mike Graham
Jack & Linda Greenfield & Joanne VanderWilp
Chris Hammontree
Heritage Place Development
Earl & Berys Heuer
Ron & Pat Hoekman
Jim & Lena Honeycutt
Susan Jackson
Kristine Jacobson
Carl Johnson
Jim & Linda Jones
Matt & Sarah Jones
Moana Kutsche
Bob & Thea Leunk
Kirsten Lundeen
Ealry Lyons
Leo Makinen
Myron & Willa Mast
Lesley Mayer
Michael Mesnak
Shannon McDevitt
Mic & Erin Shupe
Phillip Ondersma
Jim Payne & Char Kruzich
Moana Kutsche
Josh & Sarah Pfennig
Donald G. Piotrowski
Ellen Poole
Tom & Carol Postma
Pregnancy Resource Center
Lee Quarfoot
Michelle Richter
Lisa Rios
Beverly Roberts
Milt and Barbara Rohwer
David and Susan Rowe
Sanford House
George Seamon
Schoolmeester Family
Josh Schnoor
Mic & Erin Shupe
Mike & Heather Slater
David Sparks
Shahin & Jeni Taheri
Chris & Sue Tallarico
Tom & Chris Truesdale
John & Gwen Varineau
Ann Vidro
Clare Wade & Tom Koetsier
Sandy Ward
Fred & Wendy Wooden
Richard and Romel Winn
Betty Zylstra & David Baak

Thank you to our recent Contributors!!

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Dumpster Day 2019 saw a great turnout as we filled 4 dumpsters and 6 recycle bins full. It was great meeting all sorts of new faces and we decided to set up a little “salvage corner” next time for residents to trade items that are too good to toss.

Special THANK YOU to the City of GR for providing the dumpsters and to our neighbors at Central Reformed Church for letting us use their parking lot!
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?

S tability: We are celebrating our 51st 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.

O rganization: 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.

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

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
Dancing with the Cars Friday, November 1 at 1AM was the start of our own little reality show here in our fair city. Think ahead and park your car appropriately before the clock strikes 1AM each night (or run outside in the snow in your jammies in a panic at midnight). By remembering to park on the even side of the street on even dates and on the odd side on the odd dates, we can allow space for the city’s snow plows and street cleaners to clear our streets of snow and debris. The hours between 6PM and 12:59AM are not restricted. No one wants a $20 parking ticket! Keep up the good work until April 1, 2020. Look online for details about your specific street: https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works-Department/OddEven-and-One-Side-Parking-Map

Winter Traffic Safety
Remember, that regardless of snow cover, the city ordinance calls for drivers to STOP for a pedestrian crossing the street within any marked crosswalk or any unmarked intersection. During the winter, marked crosswalks are hidden beneath inches of snow and essentially become "unmarked" intersections at which drivers are still required to stop for pedestrians trying to cross. Likewise, pedestrians crossing at any point other than an intersection are to yield the right of way and wait for the oncoming traffic to pass.

City Sidewalks, Busy Sidewalks
Remember to keep your public walkways clear of snow within 24 hours of the end of a snowfall to ensure safe passage for everyone and to avoid fines from the city. Please check on your neighbors! Make sure they are safe and offer to help shovel walk ways before assuming they are simply negligent. Likewise, make arrangements with neighbors or relatives to have your sidewalk cleared if you plan to be out of town or home late from work. This also keeps your non-presence at home a mystery to potential thieves. Landlords: communicate clearly with your tenants about who is responsible for clearing the public walkways. Sweep snow away from fire hydrants on or near your property will help keep the hydrant visible and accessible in the event of a fire emergency. Also, keeping public catch basins near your home clear of
Snow helps avoid flooding during a warming flare up. It takes a village!

**Winterize Your Pet**
To help protect your pet in the cold weather, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals offers the following advice:

- Don’t leave pets alone in a car during cold weather, as cars can act as refrigerators that hold in the cold and cause animals to freeze to death.
- Massaging petroleum jelly or other paw protectants into paw pads before going outside can protect from salt and chemical agents.
- Use pet-friendly ice melts on your sidewalks and driveways.
- Clean up any antifreeze from driveways, as it is a lethal poison for dogs and cats.
- Make sure your pet has a warm place to sleep, off the floor and away from all drafts.
- If a wintertime bath is a must, use a moisturizing shampoo to avoid dry, itchy skin.

**'Tis the Season**
Beware of porch pirates this season. These proactive tips will help protect you from becoming a victim of package and mailbox theft or holiday thieves looking for signs of an empty household:

- Before traveling, consider placing a “Hold Request” with the USPS and have them re-start delivery of mail and packages when you return.
- Firmly close your mailbox. An open mailbox with mail in view is an inviting target.
- Consider installing a lockable mailbox that makes it easy to deposit mail but only the keyholder can remove it.
- Arrange for your mail order packages to arrive at your place of work or a friend with a secure mail room.
- Installing wireless mailbox chimes will let you know when your mailbox is being opened.

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*Matthew Lieto, DMD*

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2020 Meeting Schedule Planning Commission

Please TAKE NOTICE that the Grand Rapids Planning Commission meets in regular sessions the second Thursday of each month at the Development Center, 1120 Monroe Avenue NW. The Commission meets for lunch in Room 327 on the 3rd floor beginning at 12:00 p.m. The business meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. Public hearings are held in the 2nd floor Public Hearing Room 201 beginning at 1:00 p.m. Additional meetings may be scheduled the fourth Thursday of the month, if necessary.

NOTE: Applications are scheduled on a first-come/first-served basis and submittal by the filing deadline does not guarantee inclusion on the agenda. Incomplete applications will not be scheduled until all necessary information has been received. Submit applications to the Planning Department, 1120 Monroe Ave NW 3rd floor, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. For assistance, contact the Planning Department at (616) 456-4100 or planning@grcity.us.

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Kristin Turkelson, Acting Planning Director

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Historic Building Restoration
Residential & Institutional

Historic Building Restoration

Review of adopted Planning Department budget
Election of Officers for following calendar year
Review of Annual Report to City Commission
Annual retreat
Adoption of meeting schedule for following calendar year

City of Grand Rapids, Michigan

HISTORIC BUILDING RESTORATION
“Snowy” is my favorite season. After spending more than 20 years in the hot, humid Washington, DC area, I relocated to GR a couple months before the polar vortex of 2019 and knew I had made the right choice! I am so pleased to serve as the new Crime Prevention & Community Organizer for Heritage Hill Association as Amanda Cormier now moves into the seat of Executive Director.

I might be new to Grand Rapids, but I’m no stranger to community engagement. For nearly 15 years, I served in various roles on my own neighborhood association board: starting as a recording secretary and finishing as president. It was a small but mighty neighborhood just across the Potomac River from DC, built in the 1940s as housing for railroad workers of the Potomac Yard railway, one of the busiest along the Eastern U.S. at the time.

Fast forward to 2018 and Amazon selected the former rail yard site for one of its new headquarters. Needless to say, years of steady economic development surrounding the neighborhood kept the neighborhood association board and residents quite busy interfacing with urban planners and city officials while maintaining safety for the residents. All of those efforts made the former rail site attractive to the likes of Amazon.

My professional life there was spent fundraising for museums, international environmental conservation organizations, and universities. It was glorious work that introduced me to incredibly generous people, fascinating geographies, and institutions that are admired by people around the world. But, few really call DC “home”.

It was a “girls’ weekend” in Saugatuck in the late summer of 2017 with my Ohio-based sisters that introduced me to the fabulousness of West Michigan. A quick follow up trip to GR during the holiday season of 2017 confirmed that it was the city for me: an economy on the upswing; beautiful pocket neighborhoods teeming with locally-owned businesses; and proximity to all that the Mitten has to offer each of the 4 seasons. I returned home to DC, turned my notice in to my employer a few months later, sold my house, and moved to Grand Rapids.

I now live in one of those neighborhoods that sold me on my big move: Heritage Hill. It was a thrill to volunteer as a guide for the 2019 Tour of Homes and then to visit many of the luscious gardens during the Garden Tour later in the spring.

Members of the Heritage Hill Association staff and board were among the very first people I met after my move and they regaled me with stories of how Heritage Hill was preserved from bulldozers by the very voices and actions of its residents and friends. I knew I wanted to be a part of the forward momentum of my new old neighborhood and am excited to be on the team here at the Heritage Hill Association!
Discussion at the October, 2019 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:

**Treasurers Report** – Erin S. reported that the Finance Committee will meet before the November board meeting to approve the budget.

**Staff Reports**: Written reports were submitted. No further comments.

**Committee/Board information groups**:

**Administrative**:
Board Nominations: Wes B. invited board members to look at their networks for candidates to nominate to the board. James S. shared that he has spoken to 2 neighbors who might be interested. He will continue to cultivate them. Wayne N. inquired about the status of his own term. Jan E. reminded him that he was appointed to a 2-year term that is coming to a close and now he is up for his 3-year elected term which requires that he submit a bio for himself to the staff. Kate D. asked about the upcoming vacancies and Jan noted that Lisa will be stepping off while Chris G. and James S. are each up for re-election.

**Fundraising**:
Home Tour: Suzanne D. reported that she has begun to reach out to homeowners for their participation. Amanda C. and Barbara D. are reviewing the sponsorship list.

Pledge Drive: Amanda C. reported that the first letter has been sent and that the response seems positive.

**Community Engagement**:
Membership/Hospitality: Lisa B. reminded the group that the next event is the Annual Meeting / Holiday Potluck which is set for December 10 at GRCC. Amanda C. reported that Santa is secured. There was discussion around the need to secure Todd H. for bartending and reach out to Kameel about his inclination to renew his contribution to the event. Erin S. reported that she has started to secure some items for the drawing and asked the board to seek donations of gift cards or other items, as well. Erin suggested approaching local restaurants with a large aluminum foil baking dish and asking them to consider “filling it up”
for the annual meeting as a means to secure some items for the potluck portion of the event. Some discussion ensued about which restaurants and various methods for soliciting them. Staff agreed to review past issues of the Herald for lists of past food donors. Jan E. reminded the group that this is a very successful way to acquire potluck items; however, it is labor intensive as we need to make the rounds that afternoon to pick up all the donated food items.

Land Use:

Parks: Wayne N. attended the meeting at Pleasant Park on October 15 hosted by the Parks Department to review 3 draft plans for improvements. The one that received the most votes from attendees included the addition of “shade sails” over the playground. The other 2 plans that were not as widely accepted included adding more concrete surface area to incorporate more picnic seating and adding a swing set near the SE corner of the playground. The department also shared other ideas including a rain garden, fencing along Madison, a new drinking fountain to include a low-bowl for dogs, planting 2 new trees, signage describing the park’s origination and a pergola. Each came with hefty price tags. There was a brief discussion surrounding the addition of a 4-way stop at Madison and Pleasant. Wayne will retrieve the petition from Tony Davis.

Mercy Health: Amanda C. reported that members of the staff, board and a selection of neighbors were invited to and attended a meeting called by Dr. Yong Kim, CEO of Mercy Health/Saint Mary’s. Dr. Kim was accompanied by Michelle Rabideau, VP of Mercy Health Foundation. Dr. Kim shared with the group that the hospital is looking to modernize how it provides care and is considering building a one-stop-shop, of sorts. They envision a place where one can take care of 90% of their medical needs in one building and on one day. The facility would be flexible and “modular” so as to accommodate the changing service needs of their patients. They are looking to place this at the NW corner of Cherry and Lafayette which would mean removing the current white, mid-century medical building. Dr. Kim noted that the hospital would also want to add a parking structure at Jefferson. Various attendees described to Dr. Kim that the City will push back on parking structures at the street level and encourage a more pedestrian-friendly experience. Mark Miller described a recent conversation with the DGRI about parking options, including widening Cherry St. and/or offering valet parking. All come with

(Cont’d on pg. 14)
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Board Notes (Cont’d from pg 13)
compromises to be considered during the planning stage. Dr. Kim emphasized that the timeline is unclear, as the idea is in its infancy stage and he wanted to be sure to engage the community at the onset. Plans and conversations will continue.

GRCC Tech Building: Wayne reported that he has noticed that, as the structures are being constructed, there seem to be significant variances from the presented plan including location of a retaining wall, a cooling tower and air handling equipment. GRCC representatives insist the construction is as planned and presented to the community with no changes. Wes and Wayne concluded that though the communication lines are open between GRCC and HH, the onus is on HH to stay on top of the project.

Proposed Bed & Breakfast: Wayne N. reported that the HH response to the application for a 3-room B&B at 611 Madison SE has been sent. The letter indicates approval with an exception to their parking plan which isn’t sufficient to keep all guest parking off the street.

Other: Lisa B. observed that the 4-way stop signs at Union and Lyon are now permanent.

New Business: Kate asked if new neighbor “welcome packets” were available and Jan noted that they are easily created with materials on-hand in the office. John W. inquired about sidewalks “repaired” with tar. Jan replied that those are temporary fixes by the city which will soon be replaced with new sidewalk squares. Amanda encouraged citizens to report such issues via 3-1-1.

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)
Pleasant & Foster Park Updates

Final input for Pleasant Park updates were gathered from neighbors by the GR Parks Department on Tuesday, October 15. Park improvements include shade sails to go over playground equipment to keep them from getting too hot during the summer, trees and landscaping and updates to the water retention area of the park.

Thanks to all who shared their ideas!

Foster Park Improvements will include fencing around the perimeter of the park, updated landscaping and the addition of new seating. The changes to these parks are expected to occur in the spring/summer of 2020.
DATES TO REMEMBER
All Heritage Hill Association Meetings are open to neighbors.

**Tuesday, December 10, 2019**
Holiday Potluck
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Santa comes; you should too!
Please bring a dish to pass; HHA will supply the rest
Celebrating our 50th Anniversary
GRCC DeVos Campus
Robert Sneden Academic Building Lecture Hall
435 East Fulton

Heritage Hill Association office will be closed from December 23, 2019 through January 1, 2020
Happy Holidays to all!!!

**Wednesday, January 15, 2020**
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 19, 2020**
HHA Board Meeting – 7:00 pm.
Mercy Health Saint Mary’s
Hauenstein Center, H1 Community Room
Cherry Street, between Lafayette and Jefferson Avenues

Further Down the Road:
Saturday and Sunday, May 16th and 17th, 2020
2020 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.