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: According to Census 2010 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% of 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).

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, etc.

Neighbor Joe Hubner comes to the rescue to make light work of spreading mulch at the annual Pleasant Park Spring Clean-up.

(Continued on page 2)
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.
Voice mail available for after-hours messages.
EMAIL: heritage@heritagehillweb.org
WEBSITE: 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:
Amanda Cormier, Executive Director
Barbara Draughon, Crime Prevention
Maria Zach 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 De Haan, 573 Prospect SE, (H) 742-8451

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

*Wendy Verhage Falh, 350 Cherry SE, (C) 616-818-8873
*Michele Giordano, 444 Union Ave SE, 616-862-7096

*Christopher Grygiel, (C) 616-634-7918
*Nikki Hoort, 501 Cherry SE, (C) 616-813-6026

Wayne Norlin, 518 Morris Ave SE, (C) 292-8263
*James Scouzari, 437 Prospect SE, Apt. 1, (C) 901-3875
*Nathan Slauder, 65 Union NE, (C) 616-304-5113
*Waylon Wendelowski, 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 Nobbein, 458-0471
Home Tour: Suzanne De Haan, (H) 742-8451

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 rbakier@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)

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.

OUR SERVICES:
The Crime Prevention Program is provided to increase neighborhood safety with services that activate neighbors in Neighborhood Watch and Block Club Organizing.

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
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 2019, 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.

**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@ heritagehill 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.

**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 Public Safety and Neighborhood Improvement programs. It also promotes our architectural heritage and neighborhood as a great place to live, work and visit! The date for **2020 is May 16 and 17**.

**The Heritage Hill Garden Tour:** A fun-raiser for Heritage Hill gardeners, the Garden Tour is held nearly every year. It is currently being planned for 2020. Please consider opening your quiet space the third weekend in June. Please call or email the office and we can add your garden to the lineup!

**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. Also like us on Facebook.*

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**THE ASSOCIATION AND NEIGHBORS’ ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2019:**

**Land Use issues:**
- **200 Madison SE:** Met with architect and owner/developer of the currently vacant 200 Madison (formerly Faith Ministry church) regarding plans for a 22-unit housing development. Organized info session for neighbors to learned about the proposed development. Construction should start mid 2020.
Cornerstone Church: Invited neighbors to a meeting at the Church, 48 Lafayette SE, to review plans for an addition to the church which is currently under construction and near completion.

GRCC Tech Building: Adjacent neighbors met many times with GRCC representatives in hopes to minimize impact on berm/hill that will be virtually replaced by a wall to afford the 25’ utility easement necessary in the expansion of the Tech Building.

33 Union NE: Worked in concert with the Historic Preservation Commission to make needed repairs to this vacant home. The City approved the Demolition by Neglect process and the funds needed to stabilize this house. The City’s expenses are now a lien against the property. The exterior has been painted, repaired and brought into compliance with the city code.

Residential Permit Parking: Changes to the City’s process in establishing permit parking zones may see a zone request in Heritage Hill in 2020. If and when a zone district is proposed, neighbors will be surveyed and a public hearing will be held. Stay tuned.

Parks: Worked with the GR Parks Department regarding improvements to both Pleasant and Foster Parks. Neighbors gathered to provide input to the city for improvements coming in 2020 for

Maintained a communication network with each of our neighboring hospitals, colleges and universities, and neighborhood associations, businesses. Met with Mercy Health Saint Mary’s new President, Dr. Kim to welcome him and 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.

Met with and reviewed possible plans for redevelopment of Circle K Gas Station on Michigan Street as well as Mercy Health campus plans on Cherry Street. Stay tuned in 2020 for more!

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 2019 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 2,000 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.
- Received the City of Grand Rapids’ Neighborhood Match Fund grant to provide breakfast lunch and a multitude of yard games for the Spring Clean-up day in April and paddles & balls to keep at the ping-pong table.
- Organized the annual Heritage Hill Neighborhood-Wide Yard Sale Day and Garden Tour in June; Organized the National Night Out at Pleasant Park in August; Organized the Heritage Hill Dumpster Day in October which we hope to make an annual event; and the Holiday Potluck and Annual Meeting in December.

Plus: Assisted hundreds of calls and requests regarding a multitude of quality of life issues in Heritage Hill.
Public Safety Issues in 2019:
Every individual who lives or works in Heritage Hill helps our community stay safe and healthy. Without each of you, we simply would not be the thriving community that we are.

New neighbors: Heritage Hill Association (HHA) can help you keep your house, apartment, or business safe from thieves with our FREE Home Security Survey. Call 616-459-8950 to schedule 30 minutes with us to survey your home for some simple tips. Renters, you have specific rights that we can help you identify, as well.

Crime:
A recurring theme during 2019 was breaking & entering into cars and garages. Contrary to the term, one does not need to “break” anything to commit the crime of “breaking & entering”. A significant majority of these crimes were committed against unlocked cars and garages. Please do not leave doors unlocked or things of PERCEIVED value in cars or unsecured garages. This not only puts you at risk of someone rummaging through or stealing your property, but it puts your neighbors at risk by encouraging thieves to “keep trying” until they find that unlocked door! Do not enable criminals. Make it hard and eventually they just might give up or move on. Also, with the increasing convenience of mail ordering, porch pirates hit the City hard this year. Get to know your neighbors and make arrangements with one another to receive or otherwise take care of delivered packages.

We also received reports of panhandlers arriving at all hours of the day and night at residential doorsteps asking for money. Do not answer the door if you do not know the person and DO call the police if you feel threatened.

Nextdoor.com: Heritage Hill Association loves all the ways we
can build our community via social media. Nextdoor.com has become a popular means to achieve this. However, we have noticed that many use it as an alternative to calling the police when cars are broken into or the contents of an Amazon box is suspiciously strewn over a front yard. Please do not skip the step of reporting these to the GRPD at 616-456-3400. You might feel it is too insignificant to call GRPD, but please know that these calls do not go unnoted and they definitely help the police identify trends and reunite owners with their goods.

Seven businesses located in Heritage Hill received information on how to register their security cameras with CityWatchGR. This voluntary program helps to reduce crime by serving as an “extra pair of eyes” for the police department as it works to investigate local crimes. Please call us if you’re interested!

Dog owners and their handlers were reminded to be considerate by picking up after their dogs in public areas and keeping all dogs on leash in public areas regardless of breed, temperament, age, etc.

An indecent exposure incident occurred mid-summer when a woman was walking her dog in the morning on the south end. A man grabbed her arm and exposed himself to her. She was able to get away and call the police. We quickly alerted neighbors to use caution while walking in the area.

**Traffic Calming:**
A neighbor was extremely fortunate to walk away from being hit by a car in a cross walk at College and Fulton. The car was turning right on red despite the presence of the pedestrian in the crosswalk who had the right of way. The Traffic Safety Department of the City of Grand Rapids worked with us to get a “No Turn on Red” sign at College and Fulton and re-training of Rapid bus drivers.
to heed the new traffic pattern. Crosswalks and walk signals were updated and improved at this intersection.

With some positive neighbor engagement, 4-way flashing red traffic lights have been installed as permanent fixtures to the intersection at Lyon and Union NE. Many users of Pleasant Park had inquired about the traffic speed and safety at the Madison and Pleasant St. intersection. The Heritage Hill Association worked with neighbors to approach GRPD about conducting a speed study. The results of the study revealed that the average speed is 27MPH and would need further discussion with relevant departments within the City before any alterations are made to the streets or traffic around the park. Speed limit signs will go in on the north end of College after a neighbor petitioned for a study at that section of College and found that proper signage was lacking. This is important as the traffic on the north end of college is connected to access to I-196.

THANK YOU to everyone who got involved, participated in community-building, served on a board, came to a gathering, lifted up a neighbor in need or worked on resolving an issue in 2019. YOU continue to make Heritage Hill a great place to live, work and play!
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

GRPS.ORG/ENROLLTODAY

CONGRESS ELEMENTARY
neighborhood school GRADERS PK-5

GRAND RAPIDS MONTESSORI
theme school GRADERS PK-12

INNOVATION CENTRAL
theme school GRADERS 9-12
Thank You to our recent contributors.

Paul Asselin & Jack Sytsma
Jean and David Bahle
Ron Beechem
Emily Brink
Don and Mindy Bryant
Brandon and Elizabeth Burnette
Tom Clinton
Deb Cloney & Scott Kammeraad
Nancy Coulter
Suzanne DeHaan
David & Sue DeJonge
Doug Dok & Dian Landers
Sean and Mary Dougherty
Kayem Dunn
Barry Eldridge
Juli Ellison
Suzan & Michael Fant
Jeremy Fawcett
Lynn Robinson Ferrell
First Park Congregational Church
Fountain Hill Center
Jay Fowler & Cathy Neis
Mary, Julia & Edith Freyer
Elizabeth Geenen
The Gifford Family
Khalid & Stephanie Goudeaux
Jim & Eileen Gould
Mitchell Hagerup
Coleen Hamman
Haney Law Office
Dave & Cathy Hathaway
Marilyn Heiss
Heritage Hill Dental
Doug & Korry Hoeksema
Jack Hoffman & Rebecca Smith-Hoffman
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Emily & Aaron Johnson
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Suzanne Karsen
Paul Kleving
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Lawrence & Robert Kok
Virginia LaGrand
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Chris & Rosean Mosotti
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Donna Marie Post
Brian & Andrea Russel
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Don Smalligan & Mary Kenyon
Shahin & Jeni Taheri
Bill and Bridget Tingley
Trinity Health
Tom & Chris Trusdale
Rich & Sue VanHouten
Gary Walker
Gerry Wheeler
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Winston Holdings
Winter-Troutwine & Associates

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“The professionals at Heritage Hill Dental are dedicated to performing high quality dentistry in a comfortable environment. Utilizing the latest technology and attending to detail, we provide the highest standard of patient care--the focal point of our practice.”

Matthew Lieto, DMD

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255 WASHINGTON SE • SUITE 4 • GRAND RAPIDS MICHIGAN 49503

cornerstone
church
HERITAGE HILL CAMPUS

SERVICE TIMES

9:30 AM & 11 AM
COME AS YOU ARE

cornerstonemi.org
48 Lafayette Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Fun was had at the Holiday Potluck and Annual Meeting Celebration. Thank You!

Heritage Hill Association thanks: Martha's Vineyard, GRCC and Heritage Pizza for the holiday spirit.

*Newly elected Board members*
Scott Opperman
Amy DeMott

*And returning Board members*
Wes Beck
James Scozzari
Wayne Norlin

*Distinguished Service Award Recipients*
Suzanne DeHaan – Board Recognition
Wayne Norlin – Zoning Committee
James Gordon – Public Safety
Tony Davis – Neighborhood at Large
Don Rietema & Tom Postma – Home Tour Committee
Snow Shoveling
Do you have mobility issues that prevent you from being able to shovel your walkways this winter? Do you know someone who does? Please reach out to us at the Heritage Hill Association and we will do our best to help find the assistance you might need this winter. Also, as neighbors, please keep in mind that an unshoveled walkway might be a signal that someone is down with the flu, out-of-town and unaware that their hired service didn’t show up, or limited due to mobility issues. Consider paying it forward and shoveling a walkway adjacent to your own on occasion. Or simply knock on their door to see if they need assistance.

Holiday Recycling
Did you get your dream French press and can’t wait to toss that plain ol’ coffee maker to the curb? Replacing old clothes with new ones from your hip Aunt Tilda? WAIT! Someone else might like those old items. If they’re still in good, working condition, you could donate them to a shelter or other non-profit. Also, there are several on-line groups such as Freecycle.org or Facebook’s “Buy Nothing Project Grand Rapids” whose members might like your “throw-aways”. Before you toss out (or worse yet,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Drop off location</th>
<th>Items typically accepted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arvron</td>
<td>4720 Clay St.; Grand Rapids; 616-530-1888</td>
<td>non-food, clean, block-style Styrofoam only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlas EPS</td>
<td>8240 Byron Center Ave.; Byron Center; 800-917-9138</td>
<td>non-food, used polystyrene foam including ice chests and protective packaging foam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harbor Foam</td>
<td>2950 Prairie St SW, Suite 300; Grandville; 616-855-8150</td>
<td>clean, white styrofoam. No packing peanuts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Foam</td>
<td>1820 Chicago Dr. SW; Grand Rapids; 616-452-9611</td>
<td>non-food, clean, dry, white-beaded style Styrofoam. Remove all tape and stickers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Kent Connect</td>
<td>10075 Northland Dr. NE; Rockford; 616-866-3478 ext. 352</td>
<td>Holiday light strings; old metal pots/pans/lamps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sealed Air</td>
<td>Mail-in program. 855-773-2533</td>
<td>bubble wrap, air pillow packaging, Instapak foam packaging, and polyethylene foam packaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPS Store</td>
<td>Multiple locations. 888-742-5877</td>
<td>clean packing peanuts, air packs, and bubble wrap for reuse. Individual store policies may vary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H&amp;M</td>
<td>Woodland Mall; Grand Rapids; bins at registers</td>
<td>textiles in any condition, any brand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PakMail</td>
<td>Multiple locations.866-905-9166</td>
<td>clean, square foam blocks or sheets, packing peanuts,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Kent Recycling &amp; Waste Center</td>
<td>2908 10 Mile Rd NE; Rockford; 616-632-7920</td>
<td>Holiday light strings; garlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Kent Recycling &amp; Waste Center</td>
<td>10300 S. Kent Dr. SW; Byron Center; 616-632-7920</td>
<td>Holiday light strings; garlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent Cty Recycling &amp; Education Ctr.</td>
<td>977 Wealthy SW; Grand Rapids; 616-632-7920</td>
<td>Holiday light strings; garlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Buy</td>
<td>Multiple locations. BestBuy.com</td>
<td>Charging cords; video game consoles; keyboards/mice; hair dryers; alarm clocks; too many to list</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Historic Building Restoration
Residential & Institutional
616-454-9337
WWW.GRANDRIVERBUILDERS.COM
store them another year in the attic) those strings of holiday lights that under-performed this season, remember that the County is accepting those strands and garlands at 3 drop off locations around town. Don’t know what to do with all that Styrofoam packing material or plastic wrap? Take a look at the resources below for answers to some of your most perplexing refuse challenges.

Postal Carriers Need Our Help
The USPS of Grand Rapids has asked for your help in keeping our mail carriers safe and injury-free this winter. Don’t forget that your front paths, steps, and porches can be treacherous. To meet postal requirements for mail delivery, please create a clear and safe path to your mailbox by shoveling and de-icing those surfaces.

Grab bars or hand rails are other important safety features for our carriers that many of our older homes lack. The Office of Historic Preservation at the City of GR reminds us that there are affordable handrail options for homeowners and landlords to install that meet city Code requirements without compromising historical guidelines. Please contact the city’s Historic Preservation Specialist, Rhonda Baker, at 616-456-3451 or rbaker@grcity.us with any questions or for reasonable ideas. Also, Home Repairs Services of Grand Rapids offers educational and repair services for all income levels. See their website at https://www.homerepairservices.org/.

ACES Program at GVSU
GVSU’s Alcohol (and other drugs) Campus Education Service (“ACES”) is available to students, faculty, staff and community members who want to stop using alcohol or other drugs or who are indirectly affected by addiction.

ACES offers 4 programs tailored to the needs of the community. Alcoholics Anonymous is a program for individuals who grew up in alcoholic or otherwise dysfunctional homes. Members learn how childhood affected their past and influences their present. Narcotics Anonymous welcomes any individuals who are trying to overcome any type of drug or alcohol dependence. NA is a program of complete abstinence from all drugs.

For more info, please call ACES staff at (616) 331-2537 or visit wv.gvsu.edu/aces/

Water Quality Report
The annual Consumer’s Confidence Report is in and details the results of water quality monitoring during 2018, as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. The City of Grand Rapids meets or exceeds all of the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water (SDWA). You can find the report online at https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/Departments/Water-System

Of course, top of mind is elevated levels of lead in drinking water which comes primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Infants and children who drink water containing lead could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities.

(Cont’d on pg. 14)
Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 800-426-4791 or at http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead/index.cfm.

**Industrious Thieves**

Garages and back yards are prime targets for thieves during winter months. Vulnerable shovels and snow blowers are stolen and often used by the thieves to launch a snow removal business.

- Be sure to lock tool sheds securely as well as service doors to your garage.
- Do not leave garage doors open and unattended any time of day or night.
- Consider sunset-sunrise security lights strategically placed to illuminate points of entry to garages and sheds.
- Curtains placed over garage windows will prevent thieves from seeing what you store there.
- If you must keep your snow blower outside, look for ways to padlock it and cover it with a tarp.

**Poo-Pourri**

Remember that picking up after your dog is a 2-part process outlined by our fair city’s ordinance that includes picking it up AND placing it in a trash receptacle. It is neither necessary nor acceptable to leave the poop bags leaning up against light poles like its James Dean, placed comfortably under the cool shade of a tree, or anywhere outside of a trash bin. Please remind your kids, dog walkers, roommates, spouses, robots, or SELF to complete the whole process or be susceptible to a fine.

**Life is Healthier with a Primary Care Doctor.**

At Mercy Health Physician Partners, we’ve got you covered with easy access to online scheduling and nearly 800 providers in over 90 locations in West Michigan.

Start your search online at FindaMercyHealthProvider.com

**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 456-3431 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.
Long Time Advocate Joyce Makinen Was the Voice and Heart of Heritage Hill

It’s impossible to say enough about what Joyce Makinen has done for Heritage Hill. To recount every issue, every project, every problem, every solution she took part in would take more pages than this newsletter publishes in a year. Suffice to say, Joyce was committed to the Hill.

Joyce passed away Monday night, January 13. She leaves behind her husband of nearly 56 years, Phil, son Leo, daughter-in-law, Rebecca Klesmith, grandson, Tyler Sobota and many nieces and nephews. She also leaves multitudes of saddened neighbors and friends whose lives she touched over the years.

Joyce Makinen’s involvement in Heritage Hill started out innocently enough, but once it took a foothold on her life, it snowballed into more than an obsession: It became her life.

Upon first moving to Heritage Hill in the mid-1960s, Joyce was living in an apartment in a house on College Avenue SE. Joyce was a nurse in a private practice on Lake Drive. She met Phil Makinen on a New Year’s Eve blind date – they married four months later. When she and Phil had the opportunity to purchase the house they were living in they jumped at it. Now they were married and owned a home in Heritage Hill. There was a lot of work to do and an upcoming sale in the WOOD-TV parking lot sponsored by the Heritage Hill Association – one that would have sales representatives for windows, paints and many other home needs – seemed just the ticket to get things rolling on their project. They had no idea; recalls Phil, visiting that sale would change their lives.

Scanning the sales booths and looking for bargains, Joyce started talking to Linda DeJong, one of the original founders of Heritage Hill and director of the Association at the time. The discussion inspired Joyce to get involved with the hill. “My involvement was strictly by association,” joked Phil.

Soon Joyce was working for the Association and became Linda’s right-hand person throughout the 70s. When Linda stepped down, Joyce continued as the Association’s Community Services Director until 1982. After the birth of her son, Leo, in 1972, and the eventual phasing out of her nursing duties, Joyce was determined to dedicate her life to the improvement of Heritage Hill. In fact, it was during her pregnancy – and the fact that at public hearings, a young family in the front of the proceedings was good PR (showing families wanting to raise kids in the Hill) – that Joyce really moved to the forefront of the historic preservation movement. Soon her name became as synonymous with the Hill as some of the other early founders and activists: Linda, Barb Roelofs and John Logie.

Joyce never stood still from that point on. She later admitted, she had been involved with, in charge of, or instigated more Hill neighborhood programs and issues than she ever intended. But Joyce’s desire drove her beyond what would have been most people’s burn-out point. Besides her work for the neighborhood, she took particular pride in also being the first board president of the then-fledgling Cherry Street Health Services.

Joyce’s goals were always to make the Hill better. While some people may not have always agreed with her methods, she always had the best interest of the neighborhood in mind. She acknowledged she occasionally tended to rub some people the wrong way, but also confessed that tact was not her best trait. There was no denying she got things done . . . or she motivated others to get things done.

Joyce stepped back from her involvement in the late 90s. A new opportunity as volunteer coordinator for the Grand Rapids Public Museum came to Joyce and she enjoyed it immensely. The pitfalls of spreading herself too thin as well as various neighborhood issues coming to a head made Joyce realize it was time to move to the background in Heritage Hill’s advocacy role. But as long as she lived in the Hill, many continued to regard Joyce Makinen as the voice and heart of Heritage Hill.

In keeping with Joyce and her family’s wishes, Joyce was cremated. In lieu of a visitation and services, there will be a celebration of Joyce’s life at LaFontsee Galleries, 833 Lake Drive SE, Saturday, February 29 from 4:00 to 8:00pm. Cards of condolence may be sent to Joyce’s family at 344 College Ave. SE, Grand Rapids MI 49503.
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Board Notes

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

Ice Breaker Question: What are you thankful for?

Annual Meeting Set-up: The Sign-up Sheet was circulated.

Board Distinguished Service Awards (secret ballot): Amanda C. reviewed the categories and proposed candidates for Home Tour, Crime Prevention and Neighbor at Large. The candidates were approved unanimously. Amanda then circulated secret ballots for the members to nominate one of their own.

Call for Executive Session: to be held at the end of the meeting to review recommended 2020 HHA budget. Motion made, seconded and passed to go into Executive Session at the end of the regular meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: Erin S. reported that there was nothing notable and that the budget would be discussed in Executive Session.

Staff Reports: Both Amanda C. and Barbara D. submitted written reports included in the board packet. Amanda C. highlighted the update for the development project at the former church at Madison and Cherry that will be converted to apartments: the architect and owner are awaiting approval for affordable housing tax credits and hope to have approval within the next few months.

Fundraising:

Home Tour: Suzanne D. Reported that 4 residential houses are confirmed and also confirmed is the Lettinga Center at GRCC as one of the institutions on tour. Don Rietema thinks that a neighbor on Crescent St. NE will confirm for the 5th residential house. Discussion from the Steering Committee included working on changes to sponsorship levels and further discussion about fewer guides and first floor only for some houses.

Garden Tour: Kate D. reported that 2 gardens are scheduled so far for 2020 and that yes, the HH Garden Club will help with the tour.
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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
- Reagan Marketing – Grand Rapids, MI
- Wealthy Street Theater – Grand Rapids, MI
- Graham Home – Lowell Museum, MI
- Women’s City Club – Grand Rapids, MI

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Old Business: Wes B. inquired about prior discussion around changing our language to refer more to “public safety” versus “crime prevention”. Amanda noted that we have started to use this language more.

Discussion at the January, 2020 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:

Community Development Block Grant Funding: Approval sought to submit request for funding proposal for continued CDBG funding for 2020 – 2021. Request is for same funding level as previous year. Board approved submission of request.

Board Vote to Approve James Scozzari as new Treasurer: Board members approved the motion made at the December board meeting.

Explanation of board committees/ liaison participation positions for new board members.

Other Action items: (Signing of Board Member Code of Ethics), (Hospitality Sign-Up) and (Updating of Official Signers – new officers/executive committee – on HHA accounts) all handled individually as meeting continued.

Treasurers Report – Amanda explained that the end-of-year Revenue and Expense Statement was pretty much normal down all categories. She did clarify two lines for the board: The 361% increase in the budgeted Foundation/Sponsorship revenue was due to a one-time closing of the Heritage Hill Foundation account with the remainder of that account donated to the Heritage Hill Association. The 1800% increase in the budgeted Website Hosting/Maintenance expense was due to ongoing enhancements to aid in content and usage of the Heritage Hill website.

Staff Reports: Written reports were submitted. No questions were posed regarding Barbara’s staff reports. Discussion points included: How can dog leash law in Pleasant Park be (more) enforced.

The city is providing Neighborhood Match Funds (NMF) again. Twice a year, neighborhood organizations, block clubs, residents, etc. can apply for up to $2,500 in matching funds for a qualifying community project. Applications are only accepted twice a year (December for projects running March 1 thru August 31, and June for projects running September 1 through February 28). Any ideas – contact the office.
**Scholarship Available**

The Michigan Sheriffs’ Association has put together a Scholarship for young adults who aspire to have a career in the Criminal Justice field. A $1,000 scholarship will be awarded to five students, one from each district. The Michigan Sheriffs’ Association Criminal Justice Scholarship will be available to graduating high school seniors who have been accepted to a community college, four-year college, or university in Michigan.

Nominations may only come from members of the Michigan Sheriffs’ Association - Citizen, Business, or Professional. Sheriffs are welcome to make nominations. The application is available online at [www.misheriff.org](http://www.misheriff.org). The deadline to submit is March 31, 2020. Recipients will be selected by May 1, 2020.

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.

**Fundraising:**

**Home Tour:** 2020 line-up is full. Some Home Tour logistics were shared including the streamlining of event (including new hours – normal Saturday shifts and one 4-hour shift on Sunday) to reduce volunteer needs. Appeal for House Captains made and sign-up sheet circulated for board members to sign up, etc.

**Land Use:** Brief discussion concerning GRCC’s Applied Tech Building expansion, the Cornerstone Church expansion, the 200 Madison SE low-income housing project, the stabilization of 33 Union SE, the “on-hold” status of parking permits and the evolution of Housing Now to Housing Next in the coming year.

If you would like a Board meeting to be held without the need of a break-out.

**Committee/Liaison Reports:**

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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.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

All Heritage Hill Association Meetings are open to neighbors.

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

Wednesday, March 18, 2020
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 2nd, 2020

Annual Dates:
Saturday and Sunday
May 16th and 17th, 2020
2020 Heritage Hill Weekend
Tour of Homes

Yard Sales
Saturday, June 6th, 2020