As Seen on TV

You might have seen the local news coverage of the recent efforts of Heritage Hill’s very own Tom Ryan-Stout who lives on Paris SE. We asked him to share his inspiration here with us in his own words.

Pride on Paris: By Tom Ryan-Stout

My time living in Heritage Hill began as a student at Kendall College of Art and Design in 2006, living at the corner of Lyon and Lafayette. From there I’ve bounced around but have spent the majority of my time on South Paris.

“Pride on Paris” was a quarantine day dream at first. As Pride celebrations across the country were cancelled due to COVID-19, I quickly came to the realization that I’d be celebrating in solitude; an unwelcome, poetically-closeted, reality of the “new normal.” To me, Pride is an unapologetic celebration of one’s personal authenticity declared through bold displays of visibility. How could I meaningfully celebrate Pride while social distancing? In moving to this neighborhood, I recall how my neighbor’s year-round pride flag relieved and comforted my decision to call this home; a seemingly small message of visibility made a world of difference to me. I began to wonder if I could magnify that message. I counted houses, drafted a flyer, and purchased enough pride flags so that by the end of May I was ready to distribute one to every home on Paris Ave from Cherry to Franklin.

Over two days and five blocks, I went door to door passing out pride flags and flyers to each home, asking for donations to Black Lives Matter and/or the Black Trans Advocacy Coalition, a social justice organization led by black trans people to collectively address the inequities faced in the black transgender human experience. The response was emotionally overwhelming! I had high hopes that every home would participate with a realistic goal of 50% participation. The day after my final delivery, Paris was lit up with rainbow banners! It’s a delight to see, even though Pride month has come and gone, that Paris Ave is still flying the banners.

I received many voicemails and text messages from neighbors voicing support, thanks, and excitement. Even with those that greeted the idea with uncertainty, I was able to glean really authentic and meaningful conversations and identify some of the shared, overlapping truths of our life experiences.

This is why Heritage Hill is an amazing place to call home. I plan on making this not only an annual event, but to expand the borders beyond Paris Ave and throughout all Heritage Hill neighborhoods! It’s never too late to donate! Black Lives Matter | blacklivesmatter.com Black Trans Advocacy Coalition | blacktrans.org

Finally, some thanks is in order: Thanks to the Heritage Hill Association, for highlighting and spreading this message of love and compassion! Thank you to the neighbors that participated! Your choice to fly the banner has affected more people than you will ever know! Thank you for showing Grand Rapids the caliber of people live in Heritage Hill! Thank you to the close friends, family, and housemates that gave me council throughout this whole process. Pride on Paris wouldn’t have happened without you! I respect you all so much and value your shared thoughts and opinions! A special thanks to my mom, Peg Ryan, that was a huge proponent behind it all! I love you!
The Heritage Hill Association
126 College S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-459-8950 Fax 616-459-2409
Hours: 9 am - 5 pm, Mon. - Thurs.
Voicemail available for after-hours messages.
EMAIL: heritage@heritagehillweb.org
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 Zache Starkey, Office Manager

The Heritage Hill Association Board of Directors
President
*Wendy Verhage Falh, 350 Cherry SE, (C) 616-818-8873
Vice President
**Wes Beck, 225 Fountain NE, (H) 456-5144
Treasurer
*James Szczurek, 437 Prospect SE, Apt. 1, (C) 901-3475
Secretary
*Suzanne De Haan, 573 Prospect SE, (H) 742-0451

*Amy DeMott, 411 Paris SE, #1, (C) 616-322-1115
**Kate Diederich, 536 Prospect SE, (H) 451-9221
**Michele Giordano, 444 Union Ave SE, (C) 616-862-7068
**Sarah Green, 403 College SE, (C) 616-206-2009
J eff Martin (appt), 312 Logan St SE, (C) 616-915-2107
Wayne Norlin, 558 Morris Ave SE, (C) 616-292-8263
*Scott Opperman, 50 College SE, (C) 616-685-6897
*John Walsendowski, 546 Prospect SE, (C) 810-365-1709

* 1st Term  ** 2nd Term

The Heritage Hill Association Board of Directors meets at 7 pm the third Wednesday of each month at the Hausenfest Center - #1 Community Room at Mercy Health Saint Mary’s. The meeting is open to the public.

Heritage Hill Association Contacts:
Finance: James Szczurek, (C) 901-3475
Newsletter: Amanda Cormier, 459-8950
Preservation: Rhonda Baker, (H) 456-3451
Traffic and Parking: Amanda Cormier, (W) 459-8950
Zoning: Craig Nobbelin, 458-0473
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 rbaker@grcity.org.

The Heritage Herald - Circulation 4,800
The Heritage Herald is published by the Heritage Hill Association Board of Directors six times a year (bi-monthly). The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Board of Directors. We reserve the right to edit. Address correspondence to The Heritage Herald, 126 College SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

Typography & Printing: Storr Printing Services, Inc.

Window Workshop
Back by popular demand is the Window Workshop sponsored by the Heritage Hill Association, Midtown Craftsmen, Heritage Window Restoration, and the City of GR’s Historic Preservation Office! Postponed due to COVID, we have rescheduled the Window Workshop for September 18th and 19th. Up to 16 participants will spend an intensive, hands-on weekend with the pros learning how to re-invigorate and bring functionality back to our beautiful old windows after decades of wear and weather tire them out. Registration is only $95. Please contact either the Heritage Hill Association office 616-459-8950 [heritage@heritagehillweb.org] or Rhonda Baker 616-456-3451 [rbaker@grcity.us] at City of Grand Rapids Historic Preservation Office for registration information.

City of GR Master Planning
You might know that the City of GR is embarking on a project to update its strategic plan. It’s been 18 years since its debut and it is time for an overhaul.


Yours truly is part of a cohort of other GR residents selected to lead our neighbors in conversation. We want your voice to be a part of GR’s future iteration. I will be hosting 4 one-hour(ish) discussions around the neighborhood (virtually and safely in person, as warranted) between now and October. Each of the sessions will focus on different sections within the City’s current (2002) strategic plan to gather feedback pertaining to the successes, failures, strengths, and weaknesses so as to better inform a new plan.

We need 15-20 Heritage Hill neighbors to serve as the core group to review, discuss, and provide feedback on the current strategic plan. Please contact me at 616-459-8950 or heritage@heritagehillweb.org if you would like to be a part of shaping GR’s vision forward! It is very important that participants represent all facets of the neighborhood: owner-occupiers, owner-landlords, renters, business or nonprofit leaders (of organizations located within our neighborhood boundaries), individuals of all ethnicities and of varied professions.

(Continued on page 4)
Family Life in the Pandemic

Last March, like many parents, I found myself thrust into a new triple role of homeschool teacher, parent, and worker from home suddenly and seemingly without warning. It seemed like COVID-19 was a nebulous, far off thing one day, and an immediate threat to everyone’s safety the next. Our comfortable work and school routines had seemed busy before but they were nothing compared to what followed.

What followed were LONG days: homeschool from 9-12. Work from 12-6. No lunch. More work during bathroom breaks. In the middle of the night. During breakfast and dinner. Many of you know I own a small business and am a dog trainer, which meant I was working almost 24/7, receiving text message and voicemails at all hours from clients whose dogs’ anxiety or aggression either escalated due to being confined or for whom the existing aggression became unbearable once the families were forced to be home 24/7. I have helped rehome a lot of dogs recently, and unfortunately been a part of a couple behavioral euthanasias, oftentimes in snippets of time borrowed from homeschool time or family dinner.

More importantly, however, what followed was and is a new age for me and my family. The pandemic has forced me to be firm with boundaries and to cut work hours to tend to my child (and I recognize the incredible privilege that allows me to do so). It has created a sense of togetherness and urgency to fill the time we have together with wonder and joy. We are hiking every day, exploring new parks, seeing Lake Michigan more often. (My kiddo got in the water in MAY). We are making healthier choices about food because we get takeout less.

There are still struggles to be sure. As the restrictions seem to lift and the weather warms, we struggle to have safe play dates with kiddos outdoors at a distance (but do ten-year-olds really understand epidemiology?). Our eldest son is stuck in France, and we make daily calls to Homeland Security and the US Embassy to try to bring him home for a visit. Our home is ALWAYS messy. I don’t have enough time to train my own dogs, who are frustrated watching others play in the park (cobbler’s children, anyone?). My husband’s hair is so big and bouffant, it needs its own zip code.

Still, I hope I am able to maintain the good parts of this way of life long-term because we find sustenance and happiness in our family time, delight in each other. I am finding, in fact, that there is no one I would rather be stuck with than my family, and nowhere I’d rather be stuck than our little bungalow in Heritage Hill.

- Jenn Gavin
Pleasant Street
and socio-economic backgrounds. This will be a preliminary opportunity for community engagement. The City will spend time in the summer of 2021 doing a “deeper dive” with community members and expects the process to yield a fully developed strategic plan by 2022.

Annual Picnic
Heritage Hill participates in the annual National Night Out activities by hosting a picnic in Pleasant Park each August. COVID has pushed that back to the first Tuesday in October and we are left wondering how neighbors can and want to “commune”. Some neighborhoods are asking residents to bring the grills and picnic blankets out to their front yards that evening to “commune” COVID-style. Other ideas include BYO pumpkin to Pleasant Park to decorate at safe distances or chalk up the sidewalks around our homes and/or neighborhood parks with decorative designs. We would like to hear from you how YOU might like to honor the spirit of community this time. Send your ideas to us at heritage@heritagehillweb.org!

Yard Sales
Several residents have inquired about the annual neighborhood Yard Sale. COVID has prompted us to delay and rethink our approach. Hence, our 2020 version is scheduled for September 12. We encourage “sellers” to keep things cost-free to avoid any unnecessary contact for COVID safety. After all, isn’t the point usually just to clear out the clutter? This will be at the discretion of each yard sale host, but we think this could really make things neighborly: trading our treasures! Call your Heritage Hill Association staff by 5PM on September 10 at 616-459-8950 or heritage@heritagehillweb.org to register your address. We will post the list of participating addresses on our website and social media the following day.

Pan Handling: Follow Up
A resident responded to our last issue that addressed pan handlers at our doorsteps. In these times of re-evaluating how and when to engage the police department, she suggested that a more thoughtful solution is to call 211 for Heart of West Michigan United Way. Their mission is to connect residents with community resources to reduce poverty. We couldn’t agree more and appreciate the thoughtful response to our article.

Call for Board Candidates
Heritage Hill has a bright future and we want YOU to be a part of shaping it! Have you been quietly (or not so quietly!) contributing to the betterment of the neighborhood or City overall? Are you interested in bringing community together? Are you solution-oriented? Consider joining our neighborhood association board! We have openings and would love to consider your application! The Nominating and Election Committee will pull together its slate of nominees in early November for voting at the December meeting. Please contact us at heritage@heritagehillweb.org or 616-459-8950 for more information or to submit your written notice of candidacy.

- Barbara Draughon
Interim Executive Director
Greetings Heritage Hill Neighbors!

I am thrilled to be writing to all of you today. Family Promise provides emergency shelter and basic needs to families with children who are experiencing homelessness throughout Kent County. We work with families to help them find a place to call home and then we walk along-side families to ensure they don’t become homeless again!

It’s been 5 years since Family Promise of Grand Rapids moved into the neighborhood! We had no idea that being in Heritage Hill would have such a positive impact on the families and children we serve. When families enter shelter, they are usually afraid and scared of the unknown. As soon as they step foot into our building you can see walls and stress levels lower. They love taking their kids on a walk around the neighborhood. We have found Heritage Hill is part of their healing. Thank you for being great neighbors and partners to our staff and the families whom we serve.

Many people wonder how families end up in emergency shelter. The families we serve do not want to be homeless; they don’t choose it. The families we serve are just like you and I, but haven’t been able to overcome a life obstacle. It has been well documented that Grand Rapids is in an affordable housing crisis, and it’s affecting hard-working parents and their children.

The high cost of housing and basic needs in Grand Rapids, coupled with stagnant wages, has forced many families who never dreamed they would be

We have invited our non-profit neighbor, Family Promise, to tell us a little about themselves!

From the desk of….
Hello friends.
As of July 16 my tenure at the Heritage Hill Association has come to an end. The international Covid-19 crisis has forced the cut of the position I hold as part-time office staff. I have enjoyed 30 years working as Crime Prevention Organizer and the last four years working in the Association office. The best part of working for the Association has been the relationships with neighbors on every block and that includes tenants as well. I swear that I remember each of you!
All work accomplished in these years was in concert with neighbors, block clubs, other Neighborhood Associations in Grand Rapids, and the Grand Rapids Police Department, the Housing Code Enforcement, the City Attorney, our Commissioners and anyone else we could convince to help. I credit past Heritage Hill Association Director, Jan Earl, who was my mentor-in-chief and friend who always encouraged and supported staff. Maria Zache Starkey makes her mark as Office Manager which means she shares and contributes to every success and all work in the office. None of us has ever stayed within our job descriptions because of Jan's leadership style. And that was the secret of any successes we have had.
Thank you to those who have served on the Board of Directors over the years. It is vital that residents participate in working for all in the neighborhood. Thanks also to neighbors I have worked with for the fun we have had together and the good works we have accomplished.
And best wishes to our newer staff Barbara Draughon, currently Acting Director and Amanda Cormier, Director on furlough, and Maria Zache Starkey, who is taking on some crime prevention duties. They are on hand to work with all Heritage Hill Neighbors.

-Barb Lester
As a neighborhood of caring residents how do we say “So Long” to someone who devoted her career and her heart to maintaining a safe and secure quality of life for all who live in Heritage Hill. The short answer is we can’t. We couldn’t if we wanted to and we absolutely do not want to.

The Covid 19 pandemic and the resulting loss of home tour revenue has made it necessary to trim staff at the Heritage Hill office. Barb Lester served as the Association’s full time Crime Prevention Organizer for 30 years. After retiring at the end of 2015, Barb stayed on to work part time as receptionist, office assistant and all around sage advisor to any and all that needed advice. It took a pandemic to do it, but Barb will be leaving after 34 years of steadfast and heart felt service.

From organizing parks and alley clean ups to painting over graffiti; promoting safe practices for apartment security to building strong community relations with the police department; assisting reputable landlords and tenants to going after bad tenants and landlords ... the list goes on and on. Barb's marks in our community are everywhere. It did not matter if you've lived in Heritage Hill for 20 years or 20 minutes, if you needed assistance she was “there” for you. If you were a "troublemaker" causing problems and downgrading the quality of life in Heritage Hill .... Barb would be there for you too, but not in a good way!

We've barely scratched the surface of Barb’s contributions to all of us that call the “Hill” our home; but you don’t need “words” to get a sense of her imprint. All you need to do is go for a walk in the neighborhood.... She's all around us, all about us and always with us. So we’re not saying “so Long Barb”, we’re saying “See you around the neighborhood!”

- Jim Payne
College Ave NE

See you around the neighborhood Barb Lester!
Litter Clean Up, Foster Park, Mooney Park, Pleasant Park

In June, volunteers from around Heritage Hill helped beautify the neighborhood by picking up litter on our public rights of way and parks and pulling weeds or laying mulch in our parks. Here are a few pictures to show off their efforts:

1. Sarah Green, Anna Harpster, and Amy DeMott show off their litter pick up gear on the steps of the Heritage Hill Association offices.
2. Jeff and Ruth Martin were accompanied by the Gill family who worked together to spruce up Mooney Park with some weeding and mulching.
3. The “Pleasant Park Tenders” took the lead on the efforts to prepare that park for summer enjoyment!
4. The City of GR spent the spring months giving Foster Park some long-awaited and sorely needed love with .... [WENDY FALB]

COVID NOT ENOUGH FOR YOU?

Summer is here and so are mosquitoes and all their side effects. In particular, West Nile virus disease comes from an invasive species of mosquito that made its appearance in Michigan in 2002 and has been monitored ever since. Most don’t experience symptoms from West Nile disease, but those who do often experience neurological effects (both temporary and permanent). Kent County tells us that the most effective way to avoid West Nile virus disease is to prevent mosquito bites:

- Adults should use insect repellents when you go outdoors. Repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, and some oil of lemon eucalyptus and para-menthane-diol products provide longer-lasting protection.

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.
• Wear long sleeves and pants from dusk through dawn when many mosquitoes are most active. Cover strollers and carriers with netting.

• Install or repair screens on windows and doors. If you have it, use your air conditioning.

• Help reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home. Empty standing water from containers such as flowerpots, gutters, buckets, pool covers, pet water dishes, discarded tires, and bird baths.

**Fireworks**

Exponentially increased use of illegal fireworks has made national news this year. Heritage Hill residents have born and continue to bear the consequences of these activities, including PTSD symptoms, heart issues, pet anxiety, and much more. We have been receiving numerous calls about the negative impact these illegal activities are having on our health and quality of life.

We want to hear from you about your experiences (favorable and not so favorable) with the use of consumer fireworks as our staff and board leadership look at ways to work with our City Commissioners and state lawmakers to ensure all can enjoy holidays safely and legally. Email us at heritage@heritagehillweb.org. Of course, sharing your own stories and insights directly with our representatives is encouraged, as well.

• Milinda Ysasi [mysasi@grcity.us] and Joe Jones [jdjones@grcity.us], 2nd Ward Commissioners

• Rachel Hood, State Representative [RachelHood@house.mi.gov]

• David LaGrand, State Representative [DavidLaGrand@house.mi.gov]

In the meantime, please accept this reminder of what are the parameters for LEGAL use of consumer fireworks in the City of GR:

A person may only ignite, discharge, or use consumer fireworks in the City on the following days after 11:00 a.m.:

• December 31 until 1:00 a.m. on January 1

• The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Memorial (Continued on page 10)
Day until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days
- June 29 to July 4 until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.
- July 5, if that date is a Friday or Saturday, until 11:45 p.m.
- The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Labor Day until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.

Lastly and certainly not least, no person shall recklessly endanger the life, health, safety, or well-being of any person by the ignition, discharge, or use of consumer fireworks.

* (Ord. No. 2012-33, § 1, 6-19-12, eff. 7-1-12; Ord. No. 2013-27, § 1, 6-25-13; Ord. No. 2019-21, § 1, 6-11-19)
Board Notes

Discussion at the May 2020 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:

Discussion and Motion to Approve changes to the Personnel Policy – Wendy highlighted the fact the current policy was out-of-date with current practices and thanked Barbara D. for her work researching other policies in similar organizations. Barbara D. highlighted all changes; board members voted unanimously to accept all suggested changes.

Discussion and Motion to Decide the 2020 Garden Tour – Kate D. reported that Ottawa Hills canceled their Garden Tour recently. Kate outlined the difficulties with rescheduling Garden Tour with the restrictions of Covid safety. Kate also noted that the recurring Garden Tour sponsors are some of the businesses that have been hardest hit by the closures necessary during the stay-at-home orders. Discussion included the possibility of holding the tour in the fall; Kate noted that many gardens are in decline at that time and would not show as well. James S. made a motion to cancel the 2020 tour, Suzanne D. seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: James S. reported that HHA has been awarded a federal, Payroll Protection Plan forgivable loan which provides for eight weeks of payroll plus other allowable expenses. Heritage Hill’s Request for Funding Proposal to the city for CDBG funding was also approved. With both of these pieces of very good news, HHA has a temporary financial plan going forward. As of July 1, a new plan will be needed. Wendy F. expressed huge thanks to Maria Z. S. for seeing the PPP loan through to fruition and commented that Barbara D. had worked with Jan E. and Maria to project finances through the end of June and into the summer.

Staff Reports: Barbara D. echoed the good news about the CDBG

(Continued from page 12)
funding for the 2020-2021 contract year and noted that over the next six weeks, the board will take a much more detailed look at the financial picture and will likely have to make some hard decisions about staffing and services between August and the next Home Tour. Short-term, the staffing levels for May and June will help fulfill both the CDBG and PPP requirements as well as paying down some accumulated vacation hours. Barbara also reiterated the board’s intent to have a retreat for Strategic Planning to revisit the mission of the organization and the picture of long-term sustainability. Barbara asked members about applying for a NPTA (Non-Profit Technical Assistance which is a Grand Rapids Community Foundation entity) grant for monies for strategic planning, remote access for the HHA network and volunteer management. The application is due June 12 and awards are between $300 and $10,000. The board approved applying and Wendy F. commented that this was a fantastic idea and reflected acute needs of the association.

Committee/Liaison Reports:

Land Use: Wayne N. reported that he and Craig Nobbelin have been monitoring the agendas for the various commission meetings at the city which are currently all being held virtually.

Fundraising:

Home Tour: Members engaged in a brief review about the cancelled Home Tour 2020; Suzanne D. confirmed the good news that all home hosts had agreed to be on Tour in 2021.

Pledge Drive: Barbara D. reported that the Executive Committee has been discussing a letter to solicit neighbors and friends of HHA likely be included an upcoming Herald.

Community Engagement:

Litter Clean-Up: Michele G. reported that there have not been many opportunities of late to engage neighbors due to Covid-19 but that an E-Alert had gone out that day announcing a Litter Clean-Up neighborhood-wide event for Saturday, June 30th.

Neighborhood Survey: Barbara D. announced that the results were in for a Neighborhood Survey that had gone out to all Grand Rapids organized neighborhoods. There were 71 completed surveys from Heritage Hill. Strengths identified included walkability, neighborliness, safety, diversity, history, architecture and cleanliness. Weaknesses included lack of diversity, crime, parking and traffic safety issues, lead pipes, the need for
public trash receptacles, and the lack of a food market.

**Discussion at the June 2020 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:**

**Treasurer’s Report:** James S. gave a brief report commenting that reaching the end of the PPP loan and with fundraising slowing down, it is likely worthwhile to discuss cashing out one or more of the Association’s certificates of deposit that have been reserved as a “safety net”. Barbara D. commented that the cash flow year-to-date is what it is at the 50% mark of 2020. The PPP loan has bought the association time; in the next couple of weeks, staffing changes will need to be made (including the elimination of at least one position) with further guidance from the Finance Committee. Wendy F. commented that she is eager to see a draft of cash flow and to create a plan that depicts different scenarios. Member discussion continued about a possible pledge drive.

**Staff Reports:** Written reports submitted. Barbara D. noted that she has completed the Master Planning training course provided by the city and is excited about the process. Up to a $5,000 stipend will be available to reimburse participants for their time and expenses incurred while engaging the community in the planning process. Barbara highlighted a grant request to NPTA and noted that staff will be looking at other funding sources as well. HHA staff now has remote access to digital files through a Google platform suggested by webmaster Don Bryant. Barbara also provided a brief crime report, noting items stolen from unlocked cars as well as many complaints about the constant use of seemingly commercial-grade fireworks in the neighborhood. Wayne N. expressed thanks for the fireworks flyers (that went out to the neighbors of the Morris, College and Pleasant area) as well as the neighborhood-wide email, agreeing that the issue is certainly affecting quality-of-life. Wayne also commented that Barbara D. is very responsive, effective and valuable; James S. echoed the sentiment adding that Barbara deserves big kudos for taking her new role very seriously and navigating many transitions.

**Committee/Liaison Reports:**

**Land Use:** Wayne N. reported that fireworks continue to be a significant and widespread problem in the neighborhood. The issue is not a high priority for the police at this point in time but neighbors are encouraged to call the non-emergency number.

(Cont’d on pg. 14)
Board Notes (Cont’d from pg 11)

(456-3400) so that the instances can be tracked.

**Fundraising:**

**Home Tour:** Suzanne D. commented that while replacements have been found to compensate for Home Tour, that all ideas for how to hold a successful Home Tour in the future are being considered. Discussion included the pros and cons of a virtual home tour as well as ideas of how a virtual tour could be planned and what other organizations are doing. Kate D. commented that if Art Prize does not continue their event, that HHA might consider moving the Home Tour back to the fall. Wendy F. shared a successful, online Facebook event that her organization recently held.

**Community Engagement:**

**Litter Clean-Up:** Michele G. reported that though community engagement is challenging at this time that there is a planned clean-up at Pleasant Park and a neighborhood-wide litter clean-up on Saturday, June 20. Both events are planned to be Covid-safe; Barbara D. commented that participation might not be high for the litter clean-up considering that neighbors might be concerned about Covid risks.

**National Night Out:** Barbara D. reported that the national arm of NNO is encouraging neighborhoods to reschedule their events on October 6, 2020. Barbara commented that it is not likely to be safe to gather in large numbers by October and stated that we will need to be creative about how to bring people out but safely; people are craving social connectivity. Members discussed various ideas including a series of block parties, everyone eating / grilling in their front yards, throwing a football between houses, police and fire parades, sidewalk chalk and free yard sales. Kate D. commented that we need to engage the younger neighbors that seem to be moving in.

**Old Business:** Barbara D. noted that she had included the most recent iteration of a volunteer logo idea and requested that members review the proposal and weigh in with their opinion. Wendy suggested that HHA fold the logo decision in with a larger “branding” discussion as part of a long-term planning initiative for the board. Wendy F. commented that she very much values the effort that Barbara D. is making in meeting with all board members individually (to assess each member’s areas of interest and vision for the neighborhood).

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)
HANDS-ON WINDOW WORKSHOP

WHEN
September 18th, 5:30pm - 8pm
September 19th, 8am - 4pm

WHERE
Midtown Craftsmen Shop
1600 Marshall SE, Grand Rapids MI

INTENSIVE LEVEL HANDS-ON WINDOW REHABILITATION TRAINING - REMOVE & INSTALL SASHES; RE-ROPE SASHES; STRIP PAINT; REMOVE & INSTALL GLAZING; APPLY EPOXY. TOOLS PROVIDED. PIZZA PROVIDED FRIDAY NIGHT.

16 PEOPLE
THIS EVENT WILL BE CAPPED AT 16 ATTENDEES SO GET YOUR REGISTRATION IN NOW! TO RESERVE A SPOT SUBMIT COMPLETED REGISTRATION AND WAIVER FORMS ALONG WITH THE $95 FEE TO THE HERITAGE HILL ASSOCIATION.

HERITAGE@HERITAGEHILLWEB.ORG - 459-8950 OR RHONDA BAKER (CITY OF GR) - RBAKER@GRCITY.US - 456-3451

SAVE MONEY AND LEARN TO DO IT YOUR SELF.

REQUIREMENTS
- Masks must be worn inside at all times, except when dining
- Social distancing will be maintained.
- Bring your own sack lunch on Saturday. Pizza is provided on Friday and will be served to avoid additional contact with the food.
- Weather permitting, full group sessions such as lead discussions will be held outside.
- Hand sanitizer is provided.

SPONSORS
Midtown Craftsmen
Heritage Window Rest.
Heritage Hill Association
City of Grand Rapids
Planning Department/HPC

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

REASON #2
largest selection of school choices
DATES TO REMEMBER
All Heritage Hill Association Meetings are open to neighbors.

July, 2020
HHA Board Meeting
Canceled for Vacations

Wednesday, August 19, 2020
HHA Board Meeting – 7:00 pm. Currently Meeting Telephonically

Herald Deadline
September / October issue
Friday, September 11, 2020

Free Yard Sales
Saturday, September 12

Window Workshop
Presented by the Historic Preservation Commission
Friday and Saturday, September 18 & 19, 2020

Annual Dates:

Garden Tour
Canceled

National Night Out
Annual Picnic
TBD

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.

A university-quality education at a community college price.

GRCC | West Michigan’s Best Choice.

RAJAH
asset management

We provide financial plans based on your goals, and seek to PROTECT WHAT YOU LOVE with appropriate levels of risk management.

Gary Rajah • Financial Advisor
616-984-6050
invest@grajah.com • www.grajah.com

Securities offered through Securities America, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory services offered through Securities America Advisors, Inc. Rajah Asset Management and Securities America are separate entities.