

# *Whitehills Neighborhood Association of East Lansing* *Spring NEWSLETTER 2015*



## **Paid Your Dues? Neighborhood Directory Coming!**

In addition to publishing this newsletter twice a year, the Board of the Whitehills Neighborhood Association is taking steps to foster communication among homeowners. In May, our dues-paying members who have requested a directory will receive a booklet with the names and contact information of their neighbors. The directory will provide an invaluable resource to those wishing to become better acquainted with their neighbors and inspire others to join the Association as dues-paying members. Contact Karen or Gary Quinn (517.332.8688) for more information. The Board is also launching a Facebook page. View us at “whitehills neighborhood” and join the group. Megan Busque (517.204.7722) and Hillary Henderson (517.449.2350) can provide guidance, if needed.



## **Hold Your Horses!**

If you plan:

- an addition to your home or garage
- an extension of your current driveway
- a swimming pool
- a storage or pool shed
- a porch or deck
- a fence
- a major landscaping revision

then your plans require pre-approval for compliance with covenants (contractual restrictions) that apply to Whitehills lots. These restrictions “run with the land” and are binding upon successive owners. Even if you just purchased your home from a prior owner, the restrictive covenants apply to you, as well. A building permit from the City of East Lansing (if required for your project) is only the first step. The second step is to submit your plans to the WNAEL Pride/Covenants Committee for review and approval in conformance with the restrictive covenants. This process assures that the beauty of the neighborhood is preserved, as well as the rights of your neighbors. For details, contact Tom Jones, WNAEL President, at 332-1683.

## **Landscaping and Gardening News**

Stay informed about issues affecting landscaping, gardening and more by signing up for MSU Extension e-news. MSUE offers a wide variety of topic-specific digests that are maintained by staff around the state and provides timely updates via regular email bulletins. One helpful example is weekly updates for landscaping/gardening, which identify current pest and disease problems, weather related information, management recommendations and more. Simply go to <http://www.msue.msu.edu> and choose from over 75 different topic digests to start learning more.



## **Neighborhood Watch**

Neighborhood Watch co-ordinator and WNAEL Board Secretary Roberta McElmurry maintains communication with the East Lansing Police Department and folks in the neighborhood to keep all WNAEL members aware of matters of interest related to safety and unusual criminal activity. There was one successful break-in on the east side of the subdivision over the autumn/winter. Thieves gained access through the back yard of the house, breaking dining room windows and making off with jewelry and other items of value. This crime was similar in method to one that took place within the last twelve months in the Glencairn neighborhood.

If you consider a security system, you might wish to discuss with the vendor whether motion sensors or window sensors are worthwhile inclusions. Generally, our neighborhood enjoys very low crime and incident rates, in part because we look out for each other, neighbor to neighbor and friend to friend.

However, each of us can take common-sense efforts to prevent both petty and serious crimes. Close your garage doors, even when you are home. Keep your cars locked at all times, especially if parked in your driveway. Do not keep valuable equipment near uncurtained windows where it is in open view. Make certain that workers and trades people who help maintain your home are bonded and insured.

If you hear of, or see, anything overtly suspicious, send an email to Roberta McElmurry at [mcel@gmail.com](mailto:mcel@gmail.com) or call her (517.332.1575). Of course, you should keep the emergency (911) and non-emergency (517.351.4220) numbers handy for the East Lansing Police Department .

## **East Lansing Prohibits Most Solicitation**

As the weather warms, unauthorized solicitors and vendors often try their luck in Whitehills. With few exceptions, they are prohibited by City ordinance from selling services or products, proselytizing, or seeking donations. A permit issued by the City must be obtained before solicitation activity is allowed. Thus, you might be properly approached by ELHS students raising money for the band/orchestra, or Clean Water Action seeking membership donations. These are two examples of groups that routinely comply with solicitation requirements. If you have any doubt whatever, ask to see the solicitor's permit, and check the dates to which the permit applies. Advise unwanted purveyors that they not allowed to solicit in Whitehills. Then, call the non-emergency number for the Police Department to report the intrusion, as well as the Neighborhood Watch co-ordinator, Roberta McElmurry (see contact information above). More information is available at [www.cityofeastlansing.com](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com).



## **Nocturnal Visitors**

Homeowners from all parts of the neighborhood have reported white-tailed, four-legged visitors at nearly all hours of the day and night. Plant-eating deer are posing real challenges for many property-owners. The City of East Lansing is quite aware of the problem and is taking steps to address it. Three steps are of note. First, the City has established a link on its website devoted exclusively to deer management: go to [cityofeastlansing.com/231/Deer-Management](http://cityofeastlansing.com/231/Deer-Management) for several sources of advice on how to deal with deer. Second, the City is partnering with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and MSU to explore alternative remedies. Finally, all residents are welcomed to attend community meetings on deer management. See the site above for details.

## **WNAEL Board Members:**

President: Tom Jones (517.332.1683);(Pride/Covenants Committee)

Vice President: Mike Perry (Pride/Covenants Committee)

Treasurer: Stephen Ivkovich (517.812.2128)

Secretary: Roberta McElmurry (Neighborhood Watch; Landscaping; Pride/Covenants Committee)

### Members-at-large:

Megan Busque (Social Media; Welcome Committee)

Jessica Cohen (Welcome Committee)

Hillary Henderson (Social Media; Halloween Parade)

Mary Ann Johnson (Welcome Committee)

Mark McDaniel (Community Development; Marketing)

Mary McDaniel (Community Development; Marketing)

Karen Quinn (Welcome Committee; Directory)

Gary Quinn (Pride/Covenants Committee; Directory)

Kevin Sayers (Landscaping Committee)

Meri Anne Stowe (Newsletter;Pride/Covenants Committee)

Elizabeth Vanis (Landscaping Committee)

Website Administrator: Michael Mackoul

Photographer: Fred Bauries

**Whitehills Neighborhood Association of East Lansing, P.O. Box 1213, East Lansing, MI 48826**

**[www.wnael.com](http://www.wnael.com)**