

Whitehills Neighborhood Association Newsletter

November 2010



Roll Out the Red Carpet!

It's been hard to miss the moving trucks coming and going in Whitehills, or the unfamiliar children cavorting in neighborhood front yards. We've added at least 16 new households recently. A friendly welcome to: Steve and Vicki Belloli, Albert and Jessica Cohen, John and Davia Downey, Sam and Jessica Eyde, Van and Marci Fox, Zachary and Jennifer Gorchow, Thomas Hamann and Laura Freilich, Mark and Mary McDaniel, Darci Marcum, Kifle and Hagussa Negash, Mark and Deb Petersmark, Doug Postels and Kurt Civilette, Gary and Karen Quinn, Hideki and Akiko Takahashi, Brian and Jackie Titus, and William and Amy Zaagman.



Tips for Fall Tree Care

Now that the gardening season is over, we need to turn our attention to tree and shrub care to prepare for winter and next spring.

Leaves The best thing for your trees this fall is to mulch the fallen leaves back into the lawn instead of raking them to the curb. This provides valuable nutrients and organic matter that improve the soil fertility for both trees and lawn.

Planting most trees can be planted in fall. The temperatures are cooler, stressing the trees less and allowing them a better chance to get established. Many nurseries discount their plant stock at this time, too.

Special Care For Young Trees Young trees are especially susceptible to the temperature changes that come with winter. They are usually not developed enough to withstand the constant freezing and thawing that may occur. One way to help is with a thick (3-4") mulch layer. Do not put it right up against the trunk - this can cause moisture buildup that attracts fungus.

Watering Once the autumn leaves have fallen, you can provide supplemental watering (if needed) until the ground freezes. This would be especially important for evergreens as it can help get them through the winter/early spring if it is abnormally dry.

Fertilizing Fall fertilization is not recommended. Fertilizing in fall can cause rapid new growth, which could be damaged in winter. Consider fertilizing in spring, if possible.

Pruning Fall through early spring (before bud break) is the best time to prune. Make sure to remove the 3 D's - dead, diseased or damaged. Otherwise prune for structure and form to meet your needs. Special attention for flowering trees - prune lightly because next year's flower buds have already been formed, and heavy pruning would affect the next spring's flower production.



Have You Noticed?

Have you noticed how many neighbors have completed home and landscape improvements? Some properties have undergone major renovations, while a number have benefited from smaller scale enhancements. All are positively contributing to what our covenants refer to as the "desired tone of the community."

It is both important and incumbent upon us to abide by the requirements stated in the covenants. Following are a few general rules. Please consider them carefully:

- If you own a commercial vehicle, it must be parked in an enclosed garage.
- Installing communication antennas, including satellite dishes, requires approval of the Whitehills Neighborhood Association.
- Association approval is also required for additions, including garages and fences.
- Property must be landscaped, maintained in a sightly manner and in an orderly condition. Any damage must be promptly repaired.
- No trailers, boats, or RVs are allowed, unless fully enclosed in your garage.
- After weekly trash pick-up, your trash receptacle must be maintained within an enclosed structure.

Questions? Concerns? Plans that need approval? Please contact Tom Jones, Chair of the WNA Pride Committee, at 332-1683.



Landscaping

Landmark Landscape continues to maintain our neighborhood entrances. Landmark provides weekly mowing of entrances, fertilization of annuals, weeding and spring/fall clean-up. The WNA entered Phase III of the long-term landscape plan by planting yews at the Foxcroft entrance and “double knockout: rose bushes; sedum at the Northgate entrance was divided. All annuals are purchased from the Donley School Flower Fundraiser. A big thank you to the neighbors who helped with planting this year—Jackie Lebda, Delianne Koops, Elizabeth Vanis and Kevin Sayers.



Many Thanks!

To Cassie Ellis for the time and effort expended to plan and execute the children’s Halloween Parade, a much-loved neighborhood tradition. A passel of little ghosts and ghouls, princesses and pirates gathered to show off their own special way of celebrating Halloween. Boo!

To Bonnie Radway for maintaining the Boxwood cul-de-sac, a generous and neighborly undertaking.

To the Hanslovkeys and the Sheas for repairing the broken sections of the Lake Lansing Road perimeter wall on their properties with handsome replacements.

An Invitation.

Please consider volunteering to chair the WNA Welcome Committee. This is a great way to meet our new homeowners and to extend a hearty welcome to the neighborhood. Contact WNA President Roberta McElmurry for details: 517-332-1575.



Interested in Forming Play Groups in the Neighborhood

Looking for young families who are interested in forming play groups within the neighborhood. Please contact Amy Sayers via e-mail: asayers@umich.edu or telephone 517 333-8528.

Neighborhood Watch Roundup

The WNA board has discussed development of a neighborhood communication system using contact information for our paid members. If you are a WNA member and interested in notification of safety alerts and warnings, criminal activity reports or police advisories relevant to the neighborhood, please indicate so in writing when returning your dues invoice. Provide

your email address or phone number. In early 2011 we will host a neighborhood-wide meeting with ELPD and paid WNA members who want to participate. Check the website: www.wnael.com and watch for posted signs.



East Lansing Public Schools Update

The EL Public Schools Board of Education is engaging the community in discussions about potential consolidation of existing district facilities. For more information about possible reconfiguration, repurposing and closures you are encouraged to attend and participate in the following fora: Wednesday, November 10, 7:00-9:00 p.m.; Wednesday, December 8, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the ELHS Student Union. Visit the District website: www.elps.k.12.us for more information and to read an open letter to the community from Superintendent Dave Chapin.



Implementation of Medical Marijuana Legislation

The City of East Lansing has before it three possible ordinances, (Ords. 1245 a, b and c), which address the scope and application of the state law. Community input is requested by mail to: 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823, Attention Office of the City Manager, or email: www.council@cityofeastlansing.com.

News from our City Liaison

Mike Kreutziger attends, on behalf of the WNA, meetings of the Council of Neighborhood Presidents, which occur the fourth Monday of each month, with the exception of July and August. The EL mayor joins the discussions, as well as occasional representatives of MSU. Topics this past year have included snow/ice removal, the 2010 census, interface with the MSU International Student Union, overlay districts, rezoning requests and medical marijuana. On October 25, MSU treated the Council of Neighborhood Presidents to a tour of the amazing Cyclotron Laboratory, after which everyone repaired to the new Brody Hall food commons (open to the public) for a fun and eclectic dining experience.

**Thank you for your continued support!
Happy Holidays!**

President: Roberta McElmurry (517-332-1575)

Vice President: Elizabeth Vanis

Treasurer: Kathy Daugherty (517-336-4321)

Secretary: Mary McDaniel

Covenants/Pride Committee: Tom Jones (517-332-1683)

Landscaping: Elizabeth Vanis and Kevin Sayers

Newsletter: Meri Anne Stowe

**Members at Large: Roy Saper
Kevin Sayers
Meri Anne Stowe**