

Whitehills Neighborhood Association Newsletter



Landscaping

At the March meeting, the WNA Board reviewed the 2009 Landmark Landscaping proposal. Landmark is planting perennials on a phased-in basis, and continues to mow, weed and fertilize the neighborhood entrances and conduct an end-of-season clean up. Plants destroyed by snowplowing at the Foxcroft entrance will be replaced. Annuals were purchased from the Donley School Flower Fundraiser and will be planted at the entrances. Elizabeth Vanis and Roberta McElmurry are taking the lead on this. Check out the results of their work the next time you drive or walk by. The concerted efforts of dedicated Whitehills friends and neighbors, along with the professional expertise offered by Landmark Landscape Company, have measurably improved the balance and beauty of neighborhood entrances over the past several years. As additional neighbors become members of the Whitehills Neighborhood Association, maintenance and grooming of cul-de-sacs will commence, focusing initially on those locations where the majority of cul-de-sac homeowners support WNA efforts by paying yearly dues. Portage Path has been chosen as the spring/summer location.

Thank You

Speaking of cul-de-sacs, the WNA wishes to acknowledge and thank the homeowners on north Dennison for maintaining their cul-de-sac. The WNA also extends a heartfelt thank you to Doug Roberts on Northgate for a generous and much appreciated monetary donation to our landscaping fund. These neighbors have gone above and beyond to support beautification efforts. They are examples of the people who make this area of East Lansing so special.

Blue Spruce Fungus Warning

Over the last few years, Colorado Spruce ("Blue Spruce") in our area have been infected with increasing frequency by the fungus *Rhizosphaera Needlecast*, which causes premature browning and loss of interior needles. Lovely blue spruces tower above many Whitehills streets; the fungus has a devastating effect on their lush beauty. Early intervention is recommended, as initial symptoms are difficult to spot. For more information, contact your landscape company or MSU Extension Service.

Events

You might wonder why the Winter Gathering was cancelled. Although interest in a mid-winter get-together remains high, ticket sales this year were particularly slow and did not support the projected cost. The event was cancelled, to the disappointment of ticket-holders. But, stay tuned...we'll try again 2010, with longer advance notice and perhaps a date that is a bit earlier in the new year.

May 2009

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Ice Cream Social



It's become a tradition; the end of summer and the return of yellow school buses on our streets mean the Ice Cream Social is just around the corner. Check for details at <http://wnael.org>.

The ABC's of Being a Good Neighbor

It takes all of us – each and every homeowner – to keep Whitehills in tip-top shape. Just look about you. Those of us lucky enough to live here think we have the most gorgeous neighborhood in East Lansing. Winding streets. Broad lawns. Towering trees. Abundant flowers. Picture-pretty houses. It doesn't just happen but, rather, reflects the hard work and dedication of all our residents. The City of East Lansing ordinances and the Whitehills neighborhood covenants add the “oomph” occasionally needed to remind us of our responsibilities.

Always put your trash containers inside after weekly trash removal. Containers may not be left in the driveway or beside the house, but must be completely enclosed. It's a City ordinance. It's in your covenants. So, do your part.

Because Whitehills homeowners want their neighborhood to reflect community standards and to protect property values, the covenants do not allow the clutter that is all too evident in some other areas. That means:

- All commercial vehicles must be totally enclosed in garages, or parked at a remote location outside neighborhood boundaries.
- Recreational vehicles, boats and trailers of any kind or description are prohibited, unless completely enclosed.
- All premises must be maintained in a slightly manner. That means proper lawn and weed control, well-tended shrubbery and repair of the exterior of your home.

Common courtesy, and the covenants, require property owners to submit plans to the WNA Pride Committee (Tom Jones, Chair, 332-1683) before undertaking outside renovations or additions. That includes outbuildings, porches, pools, fences, decks and any expansion to the existing footprint of your property. Remember: a City building permit is not sufficient. In many instances, the City requirements and those of the covenants differ. Both must be honored.

Rental Overlay

Should Whitehills petition the City Council to become a Residential Rental Restriction Overlay District? Check it out at www.cityofeastlansing.com and let the WNA Board know your thoughts.



Don't forget the Whitehills Website!

The WNA website -- <http://wnael.org> – contains an abundance of information. You can identify a neighborhood committee and volunteer; check to make sure you've paid your dues; find details of upcoming events; view pictures of neighborhood activities; and see images taken throughout Whitehills. You can also download your covenants to make certain you are in compliance.

Lend a Helping Hand

Many of your neighbors volunteer their time and talents to serve on the WNA Board or on one of several committees. Over time, vacancies are created as Board and committee members move away or move on to new challenges at work or home. There is always room for spirited, creative and resourceful people to pick up the mantle of service or leadership. Interested? Contact President Mea Danigelis at 337.9583. Make a difference in the neighborhood!