

# ***Whitehills Neighborhood Association of East Lansing***

## ***Summer NEWSLETTER 2012***

### **Landscaping Adds Value!**

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You've probably heard of the importance of curb appeal. Yes, it's VERY important. You want prospective buyers to at least enter the house! Many times buyers decide NOT to buy just by exterior appearance. If the exterior looks bad, understandably they assume that the house itself was not well maintained. The great news is that you actually increase the value of your home by improving the landscaping. Enjoy a beautiful yard and get paid for it when you sell. A Money Magazine survey found that good landscaping can add 7%-14% to the value of your home. That's one of the highest return-on-investment remodeling tips I've heard! A study by the American Society of Landscape Architects found that homeowners can receive between 100% and 200% of the money they invest in professional landscaping services when they sell their homes. Michigan State University research found that proper landscaping can increase a home's sale value by about 12%. And a study by the U.S. Forest Service found that trees alone add 3% to 7% to property values. So it seems that money spent on well done landscaping is worth it for (1) the value of your home (2) curb appeal which helps with selling (3) the aesthetic enjoyment for yourself, your family and your neighbors, and (4) trees and plants are healthy for the environment. You can't lose with good landscaping. Invest, enjoy and reap the rewards! (By Kevin Sayers)



Related news from Elizabeth Vanis: Landmark continues to maintain our neighborhood entrances. The services they continue to provide for us are: weekly mowing of the entrances, fertilization of the annuals, Spring and Fall clean up and weeding. This summer annuals will be planted at the Stonegate, Foxcroft and Northgate entrances. Note: If you notice damage to the sprinkler heads or notice the sprinklers running for longer periods of time than usual please contact: Elizabeth Vanis @ 351-4950 or call Spartan Irrigation at 882-1826

### **Thank You!**

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Below, you will find acknowledgment of those property owners who have paid their 2012 dues as of April 23, 2012. If you have not paid your dues, please send a check made out to the "Whitehills Neighborhood Association," P.O. Box 1213, East Lansing, MI 48826 or use PayPal at [www.wnael.com](http://www.wnael.com). If you paid your dues but your name is missing, call Kathy Daugherty at 336- 4321. We'll add your name and make certain you are listed in our next newsletter.

Abbott, Abood, Adams, Adcock, Andary, Anderton, Atkins, Bails, Baker, Baril, Beachler, Beauboeuf, Benca, Berg, Bertsch, Bollen, Brogan, Burnett, Carruthers, Casey, Cavanagh, Chapin, Clark, Close, Cohen, Contreras, Curry, Damer, Daugherty, Davis, Delianne, Dotto, Downey, Dunn, Eicher, Ellis, Endres, Fabian, Faruqi, Fenech, Fitzgerald, Fletcher, Floden, Foote, Forman, Foster, Frangos, Ganakas-Dalebout, Gillespie, Gisholt, Greene, Gregory-Hoyt, Hagan, Hale, Hammond, Hamrick, Harvin III, Hawkins, Hess, Hickman, Hidlay, Horowitz, Hufnagel, Hughes, Hulse, Hunt, Isenga, James, Jennings, M.Johnson, R.Johnson, J.Jones, T.Jones-Stowe, Joseph, J.Kennedy, T.Kennedy, King, Knake, Kreutziger, Kritselis, Lark, Larkin, Lashbrook, Larson, Last, Lebeda, Levy, Lindsey, Linnell, Little, Loomis, Mack, Maguire, Mackoul, Marcum, Markakis, Mauro, Mayhew, McDaniel, McElmurry, McKeel, McKenna, Meska, Messerschmidt, Meyer, Mielock, D. Miller, R. Miller, Mittleman, Moody, Mosholder, Nakfoor, Neal, Negash, Northup, Nystrom, Oetzel, Papesch, Pappas, Paris, Pearce, Penn, Penner, Peery, Perry, Poston, Powers, Preston, Quinn, Regalbuto, Roberts, Rogerson, Rundquist, Sanders, Saper, Sayers, Schlesinger, Schluckebier, Schubert, Schutte, Shaheen, Shaw, Sheets, Sinder, A.Smith, C.Smith, Spagnuolo, Stilwill, Stocker, Straub, Suits, Swan, Takahasi, Taylor, Test, Timmer, Topping, Vanis, Vaughn-Hoffman, Vlahakis, Wakulsky, Wallace, Wellman, G.Whitmer, R.Whitmer, Wickard, D.Wilcox, S.Wilcox, Wilhelm, Wilkinson, Wirtz, Young, Zand, Zoeller, Zumbrink, Zygmuntowicz.

### **And Thank You Some More!**

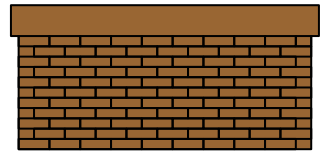
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The WNA acknowledges and thanks the following homeowners who have gone above and beyond the payment of basic dues by sending in additional donations. When next you see those listed below, please express your gratitude for their generosity and community spirit. Their extra contributions have allowed the neighborhood association to take on additional beautification projects that would not otherwise be possible.

Tom Meyer and Susan Ahrens

Terry and Beverly Oetzel

Douglas and Bobbie Roberts



## The Wall That Surrounds Us

One of the attractive features of our neighborhood is the distinctive brick wall that surrounds the subdivision. It provides the neighborhood with safety, reduces sound and gives the entrances a distinctive look. BUT, did you know that if the wall decays or collapses, it is the responsibility of the homeowner on the property that it borders to cover repair costs and to do so in a style and manner that replicates the original wall structure? It is recommended that if you have a brick wall touching your property you remove trees that are within 6 feet of it. If not, the root system will eventually disrupt the fence causing it to collapse, as a section of the Lake Lansing wall did this year. Entrance areas are the responsibility of the Whitehills Neighborhood Association. Currently, on Foxcroft, the garden/fence area is in great need of repair. The WNA is reviewing bids for damage repair before the fence collapses. This is another example of how your yearly dues are put to work on behalf of all homeowners.



## WNA Neighbor-to-Nighbor Alert System

Don't forget to communicate with your neighbors if you see, hear, or experience anything in our neighborhood that is a safety concern for our citizens. The lines of information are in existence. We are in contact with the EL police and have an email network set up among our paid WNA members. It is quick and effective. Please post this near your phone and computer. **Whitehills Neighborhood Watch** contact numbers: Email: [wnael@wnael.com](mailto:wnael@wnael.com) Phone: 332-1575.



## Keeping Up Appearances

It takes all of us--each and every homeowner--to keep Whitehills in tip-top shape. Some of you will be planning improvements to your property, perhaps a swimming pool or pool house, an addition to your house or garage, a new fence or patio. Remember that in addition to meeting city building requirements, projects of this nature must also pass muster under the terms of your covenants. One of the terms is to submit your plans to the WNA Pride Committee for review prior to beginning the project. Contact Tom Jones at 332-1683 for details. Another term of your covenants is that trash containers must be placed in an enclosed structure or back, out-of-sight beside your garage. This is a city ordinance as well as a covenant provision. Always put your trash container away after the weekly trash removal. All commercial vehicles must be totally enclosed in garages, or parked at remote locations outside neighborhood boundaries. Trailers, boats and recreational vehicles must also be completely enclosed. To maintain the high quality of our neighborhood -- and the value of our properties -- the covenants require that all premises be kept in a sightly manner. This means proper lawn and weed control, well-tended shrubbery and repair of the exterior of your home. Thank you for keeping Whitehills the beautiful neighborhood we've all come to appreciate.

## We Are the 50%

That's right. Approximately one-half of the 420 Whitehills homeowners carry the banner for everyone else and invest in this neighborhood by regularly paying their annual dues. They know what an essential role the Whitehills Neighborhood Association plays, from maintaining common areas, to beautiful landscaping, to placing holiday lights, to hosting events, to creating the newsletter and website, and to securing compliance with deed restrictions so that homeowners maintain their properties in ways that enhance overall subdivision real estate values and make Whitehills **the** premier East Lansing neighborhood. If all residents paid their dues, taking on their fair share, additional projects and enhancements would then be possible. So what are you waiting for? Dues are only \$40 per year. Join your neighbors by sending your dues payment c/o Kathy Daugherty at P.O. Box 1213, East Lansing, 48826 or go online to [www.wnael.com](http://www.wnael.com) to pay your dues via PayPal.

## Woodland Pass Entrance

Did you enjoy the cheerful nods of daffodils at the Woodland Pass entrance this Spring? And have you noticed the many perennials that grace the boulevard now? Then you can thank WNA past president Roberta McElmurry, who put her prodigious knowledge of all things that bloom to wonderful effect. Then tip your hat to Kevin Sayers, who took time from his busy work and family life, (three small children, including a newborn!), to bag, deliver and spread mulch.

Woodland Pass is not an “official” Whitehills common space---it belongs to the City---but East Lansing does not maintain it because of budget constraints. That’s where your Whitehills Neighborhood Association, your annual dues, and the generous volunteerism of friends, neighbors and Board members like Roberta and Kevin come into play. Besides hands-on-the-ground assistance of flower-loving volunteers, Roberta reports the following are needed: (1) contribution of perennials; (2) donations to purchase shrubs and mulch; (3) **all** homeowners paying their dues so that the WNA can add to its landscaping budget; (4) help with establishing a “Whitehills Estates” sign at the Woodland Pass entrance — designers, fundraisers, business or resident sponsors, and installers needed! This worthy project, which benefits all homeowners, is too much for one person to take on. Let Roberta know that you will help. You may email her at: [wnael@wnael.com](mailto:wnael@wnael.com) or leave her a message at 332-1575.

## **Welcome!**

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Jessica Cohen is the newest at-large member of the WNAEL Board. Jessica and her husband, Albert, live at 620 Woodland Pass and have been enthusiastic residents for a bit over a year. Jessica’s responsibilities include chairing the Welcoming Committee, which will soon be knocking on the front doors of new homeowners to say “Hello. Glad you’re here!” If you recently moved to the subdivision, introduce yourself by giving Jessica a call at 412-977-6199.



## **Upcoming Events—September 8 and October 31. Hooray!**

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In the midst of a steamy July, it might seem incongruous to consider autumn, but September will arrive right on schedule. Put September 8, 2012, from 12 noon until 2p.m. on your calendar. That’s when the WNA will host a Cider and Doughnuts Meet and Greet at the Patriarche Park pavilion, located at the corner of Saginaw Highway and Alton Road. There is no charge for this neighborhood get-together. Come one and all to meet new neighbors, catch up with old friends and segue into September before you slip away to watch MSU’s televised “away” football match-up with CMU. Bring mitts, baseballs, softballs, footballs and basketballs to the park for pick-up games. Patriarche Park permits the consumption of beer and wine, so bring your own, should you wish. And, if you would like to be part of planning this event, contact Mary McDaniel at 333-8217. We’ll see you there, rain or shine!

Then remember that all ghosts and goblins will meet at the Whitehills Elementary School parking lot prior to trick-or-treating on October 31, 2012 for the annual Whitehills Halloween Parade. Contact Hillary Henderson at 449-2350 to help put this fun-for-all event together. And watch for posted reminder signs in late October.

## **News from the City**

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The WNA liaison to the East Lansing Council of Neighborhood Presidents, Mike Kreutziger, reports that the City is considering an ordinance to amend rental licensing provisions in the interest of making it more favorable for residents trying to sell their properties. The WNA Board will be looking into this in light of the recently adopted rental overlay. Mike also reports that the City Council turned down the City Center II proposal, citing concerns about financing arrangements.

## **WNAEL Board Members:**

President: vacant

Vice President: vacant

Treasurer: Kathy Daugherty (336-4321)

Secretary: Mary McDaniel (333-8217)

Covenants/Pride Committee: Thomas Jones (332-1683)

Landscaping: Elizabeth Vanis and Kevin Sayers

Newsletter: Meri Anne Stowe

Members-at-large: Jessica Cohen, Hillary Henderson, Thomas Jones, Mike Kreutziger, Roberta McElmurry,  
Roy Saper, Kevin Sayers, Meri Anne Stowe and Elizabeth Vanis

Website Administrator: Michael Mackoul