

News

The latest information and happenings in our community

A Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2007

Halloween Parade

The Halloween Parade is coming up on Sunday, October 28th at 4:00pm!

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Community Maintenance

Bring on the paint! The community light poles, mailbox stands and the front entrance sign are all being painted this fall. Crack sealing in the roads has taken place, thank you to all for avoiding street parking during that time.

Issues of Note

A few issues and events which are notable to all residents have taken place in Arbor Hills.

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Firewood Policy

A new firewood policy was passed in September. Please store any firewood at the back of your house. If you live on a corner lot, please choose the most discrete side or back location. The first warning letters have been sent out. Please see the website for details.

City Storm Water



Ann Arbor City has enacted a new storm water cost system. Arbor Hills is affected in a special way.

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Drive Carefully

Mainly for the sake of our children, please drive very carefully on the streets in Arbor Hills! This is especially important when driving near parked cars; a child not watching may unexpectedly dart across the street without looking.

Annual Meeting

**Thursday October 25th at 6:30 p.m.
Clague Middle School Library**

Once again, the Annual Meeting is upon us. Every year in October, our Association Bylaws require us to hold this meeting to elect Association Board of Director seats, present the coming year's budget and other important business crucial to running our Association and neighborhood smoothly.

Notable topics on the agenda this year are an upcoming annual dues increase, and Board elections. More information on the dues increase will be given at the meeting.

Also this year, three seats on the Board are up for election: Ig Justyna, Steve Haddrill and Bill Holmes are all ending their current two year terms on the Board.

Any homeowner is welcome and encouraged to volunteer for the Board and run for a vacant seat. Every year we tend to see the same people from a small pool of candidates running and re-running for the Board seats. It would be very exciting to have some fresh individuals step up and volunteer a small portion of their time to help direct the course of our terrific neighborhood! Do you have good ideas on ways to improve our community? Now is your chance! Run for a

Board seat and have a hand in the shape of the future of Arbor Hills!



Annual Meeting: Attendance

As mentioned, the Annual Meeting is required by our Arbor Hills Association Bylaws. Another requirement of these Bylaws is that in order to have an official meeting, a quorum of two-thirds of all the homes in Arbor Hills must be present to vote. In years past, achieving a quorum has been a challenge virtually every year.

It is understandable that many of us are very busy and find it hard to sacrifice a few hours on a Thursday evening to attend the meeting. Certainly many people probably think "I'm just one person, I won't be missed." But on the contrary, everyone is important and if everyone thought the same, there would be nobody at the meeting!

So this year, please make every possible attempt to come to the meeting and vote. If there is just no possible way you can make it, the other option is to fill out a Voting Proxy

form and assign your vote to someone else. With this form, your vote can be assigned to any other neighborhood resident or any member of the current Board. Simply fill out the form from your packet (you should have received it in the mail), or download the form from the website, fill it out and either send it to Select Community Management, give it to a Board member or even the person you designated as your proxy so they can turn it in at the Meeting.

Please come to the meeting, we'd like to see you and hear your voice! If that is not humanly possible, please fill out the proxy form and assign your vote to someone who will be coming.

Please Proxy Your Vote!

If you are unable to find a proxy, please assign your proxy vote to one of the following Board members:

- Ig Justyna, 3227 Dunwoodie
- Steve Haddrill, 3115 Kilburn Park
- Bill Holmes, 3468 Ashburnam
- Larry Foti, 3444 Ashburnam

Arbor Hills Website:
www.arbor-hills.com

New Ann Arbor City Storm Water Rate

The City of Ann Arbor has implemented a new rate system that will charge customers based on their usage of the system. The calculations are based on the impervious area of your lot. However, our Association has some unique storm water features that allow each household to qualify for a credit.

The qualification is based on Arbor Hills' system of detention basins that mitigate the amount of storm water that is discharged into the City storm water infrastructure. A portion of your annual Association dues is applied toward the maintenance of these detention basins. The Board of Directors has brought about the city storm water credit through discussions with the City on behalf of all co-owners. You should have noticed that your recent water bill had a credit of \$2.28. For this recent bill, this is a prorated amount based on the number of days after the credit was applied. On subsequent quarterly statements, you will see a credit of \$7.16. Your total annual savings will be \$28.64, which is another great benefit of living in Arbor Hills.

Also, did you know that you can qualify your home to be a RiverSafe Home and possibly qualify for another \$1.24 quarterly credit? You can apply for this credit on line at www.ewashtenaw.org/riversafe and there is no cost to apply. You can also apply for the credit by taking the survey by mail. If you qualify for the RiverSafe credit, you can then enjoy a combined \$8.40 per quarter and \$33.60 annual savings!

Annual Halloween Parade and Tips

Please come join in the fun for the annual Halloween Parade on **Sunday, October 28th at 4:00pm**. Children (and adults) should meet at Kilburn Park, dressed in spooky costumes. We'll parade around the neighborhood, and afterwards we'll have some special treats for all!



Make Halloween a fun, safe and happy time for your kids and they'll carry on the tradition that you taught them to their own families some day. A few things to remember about this special night were found on <http://www.halloween-safety.com>:

- Help your child pick out or make a costume that will be safe. Make it fire proof; the eyeholes should be large enough for good peripheral vision and not too long to trip over when running.
- If you set jack-o-lanterns on your porch with candles in them, make sure that they are far enough out of the way. Better yet, use a flashlight or similar instead of a candle.
- Make sure that if your child is carrying a prop, such as a scythe, butcher knife or a pitchfork, that the tips are smooth and flexible enough to not cause injury if fallen on.
- Teaching your kids basic everyday safety such as not getting into cars or talking to strangers, watching both ways before crossing streets and crossing when the lights tell you to, will help make them safer when they are out Trick or Treating.

Recent Issues of Note



Coyote Sighting or Urban Legend

In August one of our neighbors reported the sighting of a coyote around the Buckhorn Court area. Also, coyotes have previously been seen in the Oakwoods nature area. You should know that there have been many sightings of coyotes within the city limits of Ann Arbor therefore, it isn't that unusual. These animals are hunting for food and usually feed on small rodents, other small animals, and road kill. Our neighborhood is adjacent to attractive wooded areas and wetlands and these are natural hunting areas for the coyote, thus attracting them to close proximity of our homes. You should be aware that when walking your small dogs or if you let your cat out, they may become prey for the coyote. The police department advises against someone trying to shoot a coyote since it is illegal to discharge a gun within the city limits. If you see the coyote, report it, but you

should know the police department's animal control officer handles only domestic animals and not wildlife.

Vandalism or Nuisance Prank

This summer one of our neighbors on Dunwoodie Rd experienced a disturbing situation. Their drive way was strewn with nails of various sizes. It is unknown by the police or anyone what the intent was of this act. If anyone saw this happen, or knows anything about it, please contact the Ann Arbor Police. This event should reinforce that we should always be vigilant for any unusual persons or activities within our neighborhood. Most of you know your immediate neighbors and can tell if something unusual is happening. In those cases, it may be best to record license plate numbers of suspicious vehicles. If later there is a report of problems, your clues may be of value to the police.

Front Entrance Landscaping Project To Blossom

The Plymouth Nursery has been contracted to work on trees, shrubberies, perennials and landscaping rocks for the center islands at the Arbor Hills entrance on Kilburn Park Circle. The Landscaping Committee did a wonderful job defining this project, reviewing the design proposals and selecting the winning contractor. So keep an eye out for the Committee's neighborhood beautification project to "bear fruit" mid-October.

Maintenance Issues

Is a street light out? Do you know of any problems in the common areas, or are you aware of any maintenance issues such as areas not being mowed or similar? These are all issues that should be reported to our management company, Select Community Management.

Arbor Hills Community Web Site

www.arbor-hills.com

Select Community Management

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