

Arbor Hills Newsletter

February 2003

??Question of the Month ??

Each month, we'll ask a question concerning some aspect of the Arbor Hills neighborhood, collect your responses, and publish them in the next month's newsletter.

How can we improve our neighborhood's aesthetics?

- "Our front entrance sets the standard for the whole neighborhood. We should invest more time and money into making it look nice"
-Jennifer Barber

- "Different street lighting could be installed to improve the appearance of the neighborhood. Also, a bigger flower planter would look nicer on the second island" -Lisl Weiss

- "We should plant flowers or ivy around the mailbox stands. Also flower bulbs in the center of the islands at the front entrance would brighten the color. Another suggestion is to get volunteer block captains to maintain 1/2 whiskey barrels of flowers located in various locations around the neighborhood. Also, have neighbors clean their junk off front porches. Shoes, dishes, toys, bedding and sleds really detract from the whole neighborhood aesthetics" - Alison Donahue

The Question for March:

Attendance has continued to decline each year for the neighborhood summer picnic. **How can we increase this year's picnic attendance?**

Send your responses or question ideas to aerokam@aol.com for publishing in the March newsletter.

Upcoming Events

Friday, March 14 – Deadline for March Newsletter
Thursday, April 3 – Thurston Kindergarten Roundup
Saturday, May 17 – Planting Day
Monday, May 26 – Memorial Day Bike Parade

Board of Directors' Notes

Results from Third Traffic Calming Meeting

The City of Ann Arbor and Arbor Hills held the 3rd Traffic Calming meeting at Northside Elementary School on February 4. City representatives presented data on average speeds for select neighborhood areas, along with financial estimates for various traffic calming measures. The City will send a letter to all Arbor Hills residents detailing both speeding results and pros and cons of the various traffic calming possibilities. The letter will also include a ballot offering residents the opportunity to vote for their preferences. Please look for the letter in your mail in the next few weeks. A big "thank you" to all who participated in these meetings.

Emerald Ash Borer-Beetle

Mr. Bob Bricault from the Horticultural Department of MSU attended the February 12 Board of Directors Meeting. He gave an in-depth report on the emerald ash borer-beetle and its attack on Southeast Michigan's ash tree population. Arbor Hills currently has 212 ash trees planted as street trees that are already showing signs of infection.

The emerald ash borer was only discovered 8 months ago., although it has been infesting our trees for the past 5-8 years. In China, where it originates, the borer attacks ash trees, but does not kill them.

Emerald Ash Borer-Beetle (cont'd)

The ground zero spot in the U.S. seems to be Canton, Michigan, where 100% of the ash trees are now affected.

Because the beetle bores under the bark of the ash tree, damage goes unnoticed until woodpeckers become prominent, or the beetle bores out its unique "D" -shaped bark hole. Once this hole is spotted the tree is already 65% gone. The borer will only attack trees which are 1 inch or more in diameter. The beetle is ½ inch long and lays eggs too tiny to see with the naked eye. The eggs are hidden deep under the bark so they are protected even in the hardest winters. Only special micro-chipping of the bark can destroy the beetle and its eggs.

Mr. Bricault is involved in new studies to find out what the beetle will attack when it runs out of ash--preliminary studies indicate lilac and forsythia trees. The US Agriculture Department has set up a GPS ring-out area to try to contain the beetle, but the internal ring area (including Ann Arbor) is **expected to lose 100% of its ash trees**. The federal government offered Ann Arbor special chipping machinery to set up a chipping site where residents could bring dead wood. Unfortunately, City Council turned it down, lacking funds to man the site area. To find out where to dispose of dead trees and Ann Arbor 's latest policies on this problem, call Paul Bairley, Ann Arbor City Forester.

There are three ways to combat this beetle:

1. Use hypodermic needle or root capsules to inject systemic poisons into the tree bark and root system, 60 days prior to the insect hatch. Either Maujet or Wedgel poisons seem to work the best. However, this only works if tree is less than 20% infected, and the insect hatch period is known. It is also highly expensive (\$80 each application).
2. Introduce more beetle predators. The woodpecker population has already increased significantly in Southeast Michigan, but still not enough to combat enormous amount of these beetles. MSU is studying other possible predators.
3. Replant new trees.

Arbor Hills has voted for option 3. Mr. Bricault will be providing us with a listing of good street tree varieties. In turn, we will be asking each

homeowner with an ash street tree to plant a new tree next fall from the supplied list. The tree will probably need to be at least 2 inches in diameter and can be planted 4 feet from your current ash tree. As each ash becomes infected and dies, you will be required to remove the tree and dispose it at a City -approved site. The Board will be doing more research into discount trees and will possibly host a neighborhood re-planting day.

Alternative Replacement Shade Trees

State street maple
Superform Norway maple
Emerald Queen Norway maple
Pyramidal European Hornbeam
Hackberry
Katsura tree
Hardy rubber tree
Skyline honeylocust
Kentucky coffee tree
Sweetgum
Amur maackia
Dawn redwood
Black tupelo
Corktree
Harbin pear
American hophornbeam
Sawtooth oak
Swamp white oak
Scarlet oak
Shingle oak
Bur oak
Chinkapin oak
Japanese pagoda tree
Sentry linden
Redmons linden
Greenspire linden
Accolade elm
Allee elm
Frontier elm
Commendation elm
Triumph elm
New horizon elm
Ginkgo bibola

Notes: Bob can't see planting Dawn Redwood (wide spread at the base), hardy Rubber, Corktree--mostly due to the way they grow. Others like Katsura, Amur maackia, and Pagodatree are too small or may not be hardy enough. Ginkgo is a good tree but was not on this list until Bob added it.

Open Board Meetings

Upcoming open Board meeting dates are April 9 and July 9, 2003. If you are planning to attend, please call Kami Meader (994-7882) at least two days in advance to find out the meeting location. We look forward to seeing you!

Plowing Safety Policy

In order to prevent accidents, the Board of Directors is continuing to implement a “**street free parking mandate**” during snowy conditions. The policy was posted for 2 weeks at the front entrance; in addition, each household should have received a copy of the policy in their mailbox. Although the policy *was* in effect during December, our towing contract with Brewer’s didn’t get processed until January 1. Some cars have already been towed during the snow storm on February 17th. If your car *is* towed during snowy conditions, call Brewer’s Towing Service on Plymouth Road (665-8888) to retrieve your vehicle. The fee is \$105 for cars and \$155 for 4WD vehicles.

Returned Check Policy

If your check to the Arbor Hills Association bounces, there is a \$25 returned check fee charged to your account, in addition to late fees.

Common Area Driving

The Dunwoodie Green Commons have tire tracks where someone decided to “off-road” through our wetland areas. Please report any information to the management company (254-1990) if you witnessed this action. Wetland restoration may be necessary in the spring to return this area to Conservational Easement requirements. We’d like to have the driver pay these fees rather than the Association.

Also, please do not park off the street curbs in the neighborhood common areas, even during snowy conditions. These areas are protected by a Conservation Easement and belong to the whole neighborhood, not to individual owners.

Notices & Reminders

City Burn Testing

The Natural Area Preservation (NAP) Division of the city of Ann Arbor Department of Parks and Recreation is currently planning prescribed ecological burns in a park near you. The burns

will be conducted between February 21 and May 15, weather permitting. Should you be walking near a park on a weekday afternoon between noon and 6:00 pm. during this period, you may see flames or smoke within the park. If you have concerns, go to a park entrance where signs will be posted and park staff will be available to answer your questions. Please be assured that the fire is under control at all times with the help of well-equipped and fully trained staff and volunteers.

This spring’s burns are planned to include portions of the following parks: Argo, Bandemer, Barton, Bluffs, Brown, Buhr, Cedar Bend, Dhu Varren, Foster, Fritz, Furstenberg, Gallup, Hansen, Huron Parkway, Kuebler Langford, Lakewood, Leslie Woods, Leslie Science Center Prairie, Marshall, **Oakwoods Nature Area**, Redbud, Scarlett Mitchell, South Pond, Sugarbush, Swift Run, and Turnberry. Also, the Huron Parkway median between Hubbard Street and Huron High School. These sites were chosen based on their ecology and restoration needs.

A public informational meeting to discuss the ecological need for prescribed burns and our training and burning techniques will be held 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19, at the Leslie Science Center Nature House (1831 Traver Road).. This is an excellent opportunity for you to ask question and voice concerns. If you are unable to attend this meeting and would like to learn more about reasons for burning, the timing of the burns, or any other aspect of prescribed burning or other stewardship activities, contact NAP at phone number 994-2780 or email NAP@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us.

Lost E-Mail!

Email accounts for Lots 120, 134, 56, and 34 have been lost this month. Since we have no way of knowing your new email account address, you will have to contact us. Want to get your newsletter and up-to-date neighborhood plans over the Internet? Send your email address to Kami Meader at AeroKam@aol.com.

Welcome Committee

The Welcome Committee Chairperson, Alison Donahue, is looking for new volunteers to welcome new families. If you’d like to bake or knock, please contact Alison (741-0916).

Street Light Repair

We've hired a new street light company (TDF Lighting) to maintain our street lights. However, we've run into bad weather and logistics troubles, with last month's repairs. Sorry for the dark streets. The following street lights should be repaired this month.

<u>Pole</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Current Status</u>
1	Kilburn Park C.	Not working
6	Kilburn Park C.	Randomly turns on and off
13	Ashburnam	Not working
14	Ashburnam	Not working
17	Ashburnam	Randomly turns on and off
22	Cromwell	Not working
24	Cromwell	Randomly turns on and off

Snow Removal

Budd's Contracting removes our snow within two hours of each snowfall of 1.5" or more. The plow service has asked that homeowners remove their vehicles from the street to allow for easier and safer plowing. (Please note that the clearing of the sidewalks and driveways is the homeowner's responsibility, not the Association's.)

Classifieds

Mother's Helper Needed

We are looking for some part time help for our little daughter.

Please contact Moderage @ 761-5391

For Sale

Maytag Jetclean Built-in Dishwasher:

Stainless steel; microprocessor control with 9 touchpads; cycles include Heavy Wash, Normal Wash, Rinse-Only; has delay start option (2, 4 and 6 hour). Used only 10 months. Includes 5-year warranty. **Asking \$430.**

Volkswagen Passat 2000 GLS Sedan 4D

4-Cyl. 1.8L Turbo engine, Tiptronic Auto Transmission, front wheel drive. Black interior/exterior; 44,500 miles. Trade-in value: \$12,830, private party value: \$15,590, retail value: \$18,140.

Asking Price: \$15,800

Contact: tensijy@hotmail.com

(734) 761-2151 / (734) 644-9386

Slippery Slopes and Other Winter Road Hazards

Because of wetlands conservation needs, street salting must be limited to street intersections only. However, other spots—hills, curves, mailbox stands—can become rather icy and go unnoticed by the plowing service. Feel free to report such danger spots to the management company (254-1990) immediately.

Attention Ice Skaters and Hockey Players!

Guidelines to keep your play fun and safe:

1. Stay in open pond areas, to protect muskrat homes at pond edge.
2. Watch out for thin ice, as temperatures rise.
3. Limit street hockey to side streets.
4. Drivers—take extra caution when you see those goals set up!
5. Hockey players—listen and watch for cars turning onto your street.