

Arbor Hills Newsletter

May 2003

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 11 - Mother's Day
Saturday, May 17 - Planting Day @ 10:00 am
Monday, May 26 - Memorial Day Bike Parade @ 10:00 am
Saturday, August 23 - Neighborhood Picnic @ 4:00 pm

Happy Mother's Day

"All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother." -- Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

"My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her." -- George Washington (1732-1799)



Memorial Day Bike Parade

Get out your bikes, wagons, jogging strollers and decorate them for the newest Arbor Hill's Neighborhood event! Monday, May 26th, Memorial Day, at 9:00am there will be a bike parade. Meet at Kilburn Park for the parade. Snacks will be provided. Also a blue ribbon will be awarded to the best decorated bike or wagon. Ann Arbor Police Department will patrol our parade.

Planting Day

Saturday, May 17th at 10:00 am is "Arbor Hill's Neighborhood Planting Day" for the front entrance flower beds. Your help is instrumental in getting the front entrance to look beautiful. No need to sign up, just show up with your rakes, shovels, and spades ready to help. Plus, it's a great way to meet some of your neighbors! Alison Donahue has volunteered head up this day, call her at 741-0916 if you have questions.



New Kilburn Park Trees

Our two large Oak trees in Kilburn Park died over the winter. The Ann Arbor Park's department replaced both trees on Monday, April 29th. The large crooked tree is a Greenspire Linden and the other one is a different breed of Linden. Hopefully they will adjust well and give us the shade we need for our playground.

Neighborhood Painting

Next month a painting crew has been hired to paint the front entrance sign, stop sign posts, and mailbox stands. Please watch for "wet paint" signs around the mailbox stands. In addition to painting, (13) mailbox stands will be leveled and repaired.

Mailbox Stands

There are several mailboxes that are in bad need of repair. Now that the stands are scheduled to get a makeover, we are asking residents to fix that broken mailbox door and tighten your installation hardware. Every little detail makes our neighborhood look fabulous.

??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.

May Question:

How can we make our neighborhood safer?

No responses

Question for June:

Now that the temporary water pump house has been decommissioned, should the Arbor Hill's Board pursue its acquisition as neighborhood storage or leave it with the City Water Department for old pump storage?

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

Fences, Decks, Etc.

Any major alterations to the exterior of your home must be approved by the Association Board of Directors. This includes decks, fencing, patios, hot tubs, basketball hoops, etc. "Alteration Forms" can be mailed or faxed from the management company (call 254-1990). Please submit your plan ideas along with this form, at least one-week prior to construction, to the management company for approval.



Local Area Swimming Pool Memberships

-Dolphin Pool on Prairie Street is looking for new members.

-Chapel Hill will not accept outside pool memberships until May 5th. The cost is estimated to be approximately \$275 for a family membership. For more information call 761-2430.

-Orchard Hills Athletic Club (OHAC) currently has a waiting list for pool membership, however their swim team is open for outside members and has a reduced rate for Dolphin members. For more information call Joann Culbertson at 663-2142.

Damaged Street Trees

There were (4) damaged street trees in our neighborhood so far this winter. These trees are the homeowner's responsibility to maintain, not the Association or the builder. If an unknown car backs into your street tree, you will need to file this with *your* homeowner's insurance. Ann Arbor City law requires that a street tree is planted along every street. If a homeowner does not replace the street tree within a timely manner, the Association will plant it for you and bill you directly.

Street Tree Flower Ring

It is estimated that 50% of the neighbors have planted flowers around their street trees. Wow, such a great turnout and the neighborhood looks wonderful too. Encourage each neighbor to plant a ring of flowers around their street trees if they haven't done so. If you do not have a street tree on your lot, then volunteer to help plant your neighbor's or add to the park street trees.

Open Board Meetings

No residents attended the Open Board Meeting in April. The next Open Board Meeting is July 9, 2003.

If you are planning to attend, please call **Cheryl at IMI (254-1990)** at least two days in advance to find out the meeting location. We look forward to seeing you!

Traffic Calming

The City of Ann Arbor Traffic Calming Department will be sending each resident a summary letter describing the results from the three public meetings held over the winter. In addition a survey will be enclosed for residents to fill out and return.



Welcome Committee

The Arbor Hill's Welcoming Committee is looking for a new leader. If you are interested in welcoming in your newest neighbors or just baking goodies, please call Kami Meader at 994-7882.

Emerald Ash Borer-Beetle

Last month's newsletter offered a detailed article on the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle, but we forgot to add the website link to the information pamphlet. The URL for it is:

http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/eab/emeraldashborer.pdf

Arbor Hill's Ash Tree Replacement Plan

Board members will be doing a street tree inspection walk-around this month as the leaves open. This research is in response to the March vote that all Ash street trees will be re-planted in the Fall. Experts say that every Ash tree in Southeast Michigan is expected to die within the next 3 to 4 years from the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle infestation. If your street tree looks healthy and you want to try and save it, root treatments are available from local nurseries. However the expenses must be paid by the homeowner. In turn, if your street tree is diseased it is the homeowner's responsibility to remove the tree and have it disposed correctly. Watch the Arbor Hill's newsletter for further information on expenses and replanting guidelines for next Fall.

Pond Algae

The ponds near Kilburn Park will be treated for algae as soon as the water temperature reaches 60 degrees by the All-Star Company; they plan to do treatments once a month over the summer. The number one cause of pond algae and water contamination is lawn fertilization. Every lawn in Arbor Hill's drains into a detention pond. Those little grated drains in your back yards run under the street to your common area ponds. Please consider buying organic fertilizer (low in nitrogen) to promote a healthy wetland environment. Limit soap when washing your car, and never dispose of oil, gas, or paint in the street grating.

Dog Urine

Do you have a dog? This suggestion is for you. Several neighbors have begged that you encourage your dog to do its business on the grassy area between the sidewalk and street. Dog urine burns grass and many neighbors have been working hard to make their lawns, bushes, and flower gardens look nice.

Dog Leashes & Invisible Fencing

Dogs are required by Ann Arbor City Law to be leashed when the dog is not on owner property. If you spot an unleashed dog, please report the incident to the Ann Arbor Animal Control Officer at 994-2911 or 997-1497. Please note that several neighbors have installed invisible fencing in their yard, to allow dogs to run unleashed within their property line. This is legal as long as the dog remains on the owner property.

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 Oakwoods Nature Area Park. If you have questions or concerns contact NAP at phone number 994-2780 or email NAP@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us.

Cheating Construction Contractors

Two families in the Arbor Hill's neighborhood hired a contractor to build a deck, however the construction company took their deposit money and did not do the work. The neighbors had received a flyer from the construction company in their mailbox. This particular contractor has been reported to the police, but please be aware that these shady type of contractors do exist. According to the WDIV channel 4 report, use these following guidelines for hiring a contractor...

1. You decide the exact scope of your project, before hiring the contractor. Prepare preliminary design sketches with as much detail, including types of materials, size, joints, fasteners, sealant, railings, city permits, inspections, cleanup, etc.
2. Get referrals from respected friends, neighbors or family. Or ask contractors to supply references.
3. Select (3) contractors and ask for bids.
4. Check out contractor with Better Business Bureau
5. Ask to see contractor's building license or check with MI Consumer Industry Department.
6. Ask contractor to put start and finish date in writing.
7. Hold final payment until after the final city inspections have been completed.

To find a contractor over the internet, go to "improvenet.com" or use the list below put together by your neighbors...



Contractors Corner

Your fellow neighbors, (not specifically Arbor Hills Association Board endorsed), have recommended the following contractors:

C & Q Painting

Licensed & Insured
Interior/Exterior
(734) 483-3667

Gordon Fellows Decks

Licensed & Insured
Custom/Cedar Decks
(734) 426-8633

High Hat Chimney Sweep, Co.

Licensed & Insured
1-800-371-5508

Ultra-Shine

Licensed & Insured
Interior/Exterior Painting & Power Washing
(810) 632-6220

D & D Carpet Inc

(734) 429-7060

DDS Painting

Insured
(517) 548-2136

H & H Heating and Cooling

Licensed & Insured
(734) 668-6744

Ann Arbor Drywall

Insured
(734) 973-0833

Crawford Door Sales

(734) 483-4563
Garage door installation & repairs

Rick Owen Plumbing

Licensed & Insured
(734) 475-8213

Commercial Building Materials, LLC

(734) 434-4600
Supplier of drywall & suspended ceiling supplies

If you have a recommendation, please send it to haddrill@aol.com and include the contractor's name, phone number, specialty, and whether they are licensed & insured.

Home Corners

Spring is sprung and once again there is lots to do to improve your home. Here's a list of things to keep in mind for home repair and maintenance upkeep.

- Cover your bathroom exhaust fan vents with chicken wire or a screen. Birds like to build nests in these vents and usually end up trapped in the vent hose somewhere in the attic. The birds usually can't get out and make a lot of noise.
- Look for loose or missing roof shingles to prevent water leaks into the attic.
- Look for loose or missing siding.
- Clear and clean off debris on and around your air conditioner.
- Hire a professional to clean and maintain your furnace, blower motor, and/or air conditioner.
- Remove & vacuum off the bottom front grill to your refrigerator to remove the dust buildup underneath on the coils.
- Look for brown ceiling stains. This could be an indication of a roof leak or attic ventilation problems.
- Look for loose or missing caulk around windows, pipes, and vents.
- Look for low spots in the ground near your house where water pools and could leak into your basement. The ground should always slope away from your house.
- Change your furnace filter.
- Change all the smoke detector batteries and test them. All Arbor Hills houses have their smoke detectors wired together, so after 5 to 10 seconds of holding down the test button, all detectors should go off throughout the house. Caution: The resulting noise is very loud!

Have a tip, send it to haddrill@aol.com.