

Brookfield Heritage Neighborhood Association Newsletter –<http://brookfieldneighborhood.net>

## BHNA Officers

President: Rhoda Wolff, 1625 Rose-land (2010-13)

Vice-President: Open

Treasurer: Sally Lloyd, 216 Oakland (2009-12)

Secretary: Judy Cunningham, 1511 Rose-land (2010-13)

Communications: Dawn Parker, 253 Oakland (2010-13)

## Members-at-large:

David Betts, 185 Maplewood (2011-2014)

Wayne Claycombe, 261 Maplewood (2011-2014)

Carl Lira, 131 Oak-land, (2009-2012)

Judy Putnam Gwizdz, 241 Maplewood, (2009-2012)

Contact board: [board@brookfieldneighborhood.net](mailto:board@brookfieldneighborhood.net)

## Annual meeting, picnic set for Sept. 9

By Dawn Parker

What's the most fun you can have on a fall Sunday afternoon without going far from home?

Answer: The Brookfield Heritage Neighborhood Association annual meeting and picnic!

The festivities are set for 4-6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 9, with a rain date of Sunday, Sept. 16.

The event will be held on Maplewood Drive this year at the midpoint of the street. Maplewood Drive will be blocked at Roseland from 2 to 7 p.m. for the event.

The annual gathering has

many purposes, not the least of which is gathering with neighbors old and new.

City manager George Lahanas, Mayor Diane Goddeeris and Mayor Pro Tem Nathan Triplett have all been invited to mingle with residents and answer questions about issues affecting the city.

Also on the invitation list are candidates for East Lansing School Board. Those already saying they'll attend are incumbents Rima Addiego and Kay Biddle and newcomers Nathaniel Lake and John Revitte.

The annual meeting, including election of board members, begins at 5:30 p.m.

Children's activities, including a balloon man, will be provided from 5 to 6 p.m.

BHNA officers will bring main dishes, while everyone else is encouraged to bring a dish to pass. The association will provide beverages, condiments, ice, plates, napkins and utensils.

So join the fun, meet your neighbors and have a voice in your neighborhood!

## Power abruptly steps down from E.L. council

By Dawn Parker

[dlparker@lsj.com](mailto:dlparker@lsj.com)

EAST LANSING – Former East Lansing City Council member Donald Power is tight-lipped on why he stepped down Wednesday, just 10 months into his first term.

Power confirmed he delivered a letter of resignation to city staff late Wednesday afternoon, but declined comment on his reasons for stepping down.

He was in his first term on the council, having been elected in November 2011. "East Lansing has a great

staff and a great city manager, and it's been wonderful working with them," Power said by phone. "We got a lot done in a very short amount of time." A special council meeting is set for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28 in Courtroom 2, 101 Linden St. The public meeting will establish a process for filling the vacancy, which per city charter must be done within 30 days of the vacancy. "I've enjoyed working with Mr. Power on the East Lansing City Council," city manager George Lahanas said Wednesday.

"At this point, we look forward to moving the process

forward so the council can, under the city charter, make a selection and appoint a new council member and we can continue the city's business."

East Lansing has not had to replace a council member since 2006, when former mayor Mark Meadows resigned before his election to the state legislature.

**This is *your* association!  
Your \$20 annual dues payment strengthens our voice in City affairs and helps protect our part of East Lansing!**

# Maple trees key to BHNA atmosphere

*The Brookfield Heritage Neighborhood Association's mission:* By Pat Robinson  
1523 Roseland

- To preserve the neighborhood's unique treescape and environment – your dues help pay to replace trees along our streets!
- To promote the safety of the neighborhood.
- To foster community through annual picnics and social events
- To protect the single-family character of the area through representation in city government.

The Brookfield Heritage Neighborhood Association was formed in the 1970s to renew the Neighborhood covenants and also to protect and restore the streetscape of silver maple trees. Initially, the Association was able to obtain small grants from the City for tree replacement but when these grants ceased, the Neighborhood took over funding for tree replacement. Forty trees have been replaced and paid for by donations, fund-raising activities, and dues. At present, each tree costs approximately \$350 plus planting and therefore represents a considerable investment by the Neighborhood. For this reason, it is vital that we take care of all our trees and especially the newly planted trees until they are well established. The following guidelines for homeowners will assist in this.

1. Please ask guests to park their vehicles so all wheels are on the road. Parking on the grass compacts soil around trees affecting water uptake.

2. Do not pile leaves, brush or mulch against tree bark. Doing so allows mold growth, which damages bark. If you mulch, place it several inches away from the tree trunk.

Information about pickup of leaves and brush by the City can be found at <http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/yardwaste/>

3. Use care with weed whips, which can cut bark allowing rot to enter.

4. Keep easily reachable suckers trimmed. These are unsightly but also rob the tree of nutrients needed for major branches.

5. Remember that streetscape trees belong to the City including those planted by the Neighborhood Association. If a limb falls or you believe a tree to be dangerous, call the Department of Public Works (517-337-9459). The City usually responds almost immediately, even on weekends.

They will take down dangerous limbs and trees as well as clean up. If you lose a tree, be sure to ask the City to grind out the stump. If you want a replacement tree, let me know (517-351-6958).

6. Our trees are known for being drought-resistant, but our young ones may need watering during extensive dry periods. If you notice branches or leaves drooping, dying leaves or stem tips, please water. Place a trickling hose in the bowl around the tree and leave on for about 45 minutes once a week until reasonable rainfall occurs (0.5 inches).

7. The replacement trees purchased using neighborhood funds are Acer Freemanii (Autumn Blaze), which is a cross between a red maple and silver maple. It is seedless. The variety received recognition as the Tree of the Year in 1997 by the Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association and in 2004 by Society of Municipal Arborists.

It exhibits the fast growth of a silver maple, but has stronger limbs. It has a bright red/orange color in the fall as the name suggests. The tree has an oval shape rather than the arching limbs of the silver maples, but this leads to the better strength.

**Update your email address at our website and keep up to date on neighborhood news!**

Join our announcements mailing list: visit <http://brookfieldneighborhood.net/mail> to sign up and update your address.

Send any items for the newsletter to communications officer Dawn Parker at [dawn\\_parker@comcast.net](mailto:dawn_parker@comcast.net).

## Break-ins, predators mar neighborhood safety

By Dawn Parker

Several incidents in recent months are a reminder to neighborhood residents to be attentive to their safety.

Most recently, a resident of Roseland was approached by a stranger who first asked her for money, then requested work and then asked if her husband was home. She was

able to safely get away and call the police, and they were also able to provide a license plate number to the authorities. In addition, at least one home on Oakland was vandalized this summer.

When you are away from home – even if it's only for a few hours – make sure to lock doors and windows.

If you're going to be gone for a

longer period of time, either ask someone to watch the house or ask police to drive by.

*If you have not already done so, please pay your \$20 annual dues and join the association! We work to preserve our unique environment and provide a voice in city affairs!*