

AUGUST
2019

Brookfield Occasional

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

BHNA Officers

President:
Philip Eisenlohr
236 Oakland
2018-2021

Vice President:
John Hays
1645 Roseland
2017-2020

Treasurer:
Alan Munn
164 Oakland
2018-2020

Secretary:
Kevin Poli
217 Oakland
2016-2019

Communications:
Jennifer Castner
205 Oakland Drive
2017-2020

At-large:
Hassan Alizadeh
120 Maplewood
2016-2019

Bill Martin
204 Oakland
2016-2019

Jeffrey Johnson
144 Maplewood
2017-2020

Heather Robertson
240 N Hagadorn
2018-2019

Email the board:
board@brookfieldneighborhood.net

Neighborhood Picnic & Annual Meeting – Sep 22

Join us on Sunday, September 22, 4-6 pm on Oakland Dr. for our annual neighborhood association meeting and potluck! Rain date – Sep 29.

In addition to sharing food and conversation, you can catch up on neighborhood news, participate in the Association's official annual meeting, and elect new Association board members.

September is also the time to pay your 2019/20 dues! A bargain at \$20 per year, here are some benefits:

- Funds for replacement trees along our streets
- Neighborhood Association representation and a voice at East Lansing government meetings
- Our fabulous website

If you prefer, drop your dues by Treasurer Alan Munn's home @ 164 Oakland Drive.

Make your check out to Brookfield Heritage Neighborhood Association!

Hope to see you there!

Meeting Details

The Association will provide paper goods, water, a hot grill, and hotdogs! Bring a dish to share or not – just come! BYOB - *Alcohol is permitted, but must be consumed on private property.*

- Get a balloon hat!
- Annual meeting starts ~4:45pm!
- Talk deed restrictions
- Pay your annual dues – a bargain at just \$20/household
- Elect new board members



Updating & Renewing Our Covenant

As you know, our Deed Restrictions (also called a covenant) contains an illegal & unenforceable racial restriction clause. This has been a concern for many years and it needs to be remedied.

In order to remove this clause from the document, 100% of Brookfield property owners are required to formally change the covenant and remove the restriction. It is also a chance to provide for future changes by the

approval of 2/3rds of property owners.

Our restrictions were created in 1924 and are renewable for 25-year periods. They were last renewed in 1999. While not currently due until 2024, it would be economical to renew them now if we can remove the racial restriction and/or adopt a means of easier amendment. Renewal alone takes 2/3rds approval of the property owners.

The Board, acting through its individual property owners,

has decided to pursue a flexible parallel process of seeking your support of BOTH options: remove the racial restriction while allowing us to fall back to the "2/3rds renewal only" option if we cannot gain 100% support for changing the Deed Restrictions.

At the Sep 22 meeting, we will have a notary on site to collect signed documents. After that, volunteers will provide more opportunities to ask questions and sign in the coming months.



Read about our **neighborhood history** on our site (developed by Mike Benedict): <http://tinyurl.com/lisz8l2d>



Our **Little Free Library** is thriving at 165 Oakland Drive. A great place to leave a book OR take a book. Contact Jennifer Castner for info: pennifer@gmail.com.

Our Covenant, continued...

You can follow this issue in the Board meeting minutes on Facebook or the Association website.

In August, board property owners sent a letter and sample affidavits explaining this process.

For more information:
John Hays – pat-johnhays@att.net
or

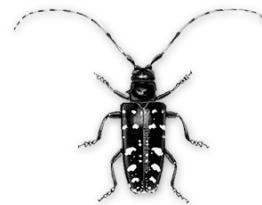
Jennifer Castner – pennifer@gmail.com or 510-393-5525

We understand this can be confusing and want

to answer your questions and discuss concerns.

Owners,
Philip Eisenlohr
John Hays
Alan Munn
Jennifer Castner
Hassan Alizadeh
Jeffrey Johnson
Bill Martin
Heather Robertson

Asian long-horned Beetle (read on!)



Invasive Insects

Be on the lookout for a new invasive tree-destroying insect – the Asian long-horn beetle. It attacks many tree species, but has a particular taste for maples.

It hasn't yet been spotted in Michigan, but is a known stowaway on shipping material, so it's probably only a matter of time.

Now is the time to look for them or their dime-sized holes in tree bark.

Report possible sightings to the USDA – 866-702-9938 or at asianlonghornedbeetle.com

Our Mission:

The Brookfield Heritage Neighborhood Association's mission:

- 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.

In Other News...

STREETS – Answering an inquiry by the BHNA Board, Mr. Scott House, East Lansing's Director of Public Works, clarified that three of our streets – Roseland, Oakland, and Maplewood – are currently in poor condition and are scheduled for resurfacing in the 2021 fiscal year.

Quoting from his response: *Over 57% of local streets in East Lansing are rated as poor, including those listed above. Local street improvements have been historically funded by revenue received from the State of Michigan's Act 51 gas tax, a funding mechanism that has not kept pace with the demands*

of the street system. Recent passage of the new city income tax will dramatically increase funding for local street improvements, to include the streets in your neighborhood.

CITY NEWS – Stay up-to-date on East Lansing news and events by signing up for the Dialog E-Newsletter (sent out every other Friday), and the East Lansing City Council Meeting Recaps (after every regular and discussion-only City Council meeting. Sign up here: <https://www.cityofeastlansing.com/eNews>

LEAD PIPES? – If you haven't already, help the city find lead pipes by taking their water line survey at cityofeastlansing.com/watersurvey or call 517-337-9459 for more information.

RECYCLING – We are reminded to:

- Break down/flatten all cardboard
- Rinse all containers
- Don't put recyclables in plastic bags – just loose in the bin