

Fall 2015

The Brookfield Occasional

BHNA Officers

President:

Ed Swanson
2014-2017
245 Maplewood

Vice-President:

Nancy Knupfer
2012-2015
120 Oakland

Treasurer:

Alan Munn
2012-2105
164 Oakland

Secretary:

John Boughman
2013-2106
216 Maplewood

Communications:

Dawn Parker
2013-2016
253 Oakland

Jennifer Castner
2014-2017

Kay Ruekberg
2014-2017
227 Oakland

Hospitality:

Judy Benedict
2014-2015
147 Oakland

At-large:

Beth Blythe
2013-2016
144 Oakland

Jeffrey Johnson
2014-2017
131 Oakland

Email the board:

board@brookfieldneighborhood.net.

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

Annual meeting & picnic set for Sept. 13

By Jennifer Castner

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

The Brookfield Heritage Neighborhood Association annual meeting and picnic!

The festivities are set for 4-6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, with a rain date of Sunday, Sept. 20. The event will be held on Oakland Drive this year at the midpoint of the street.

Oakland Drive will be blocked at Roseland from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. for the event.

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

East Lansing City Council candidates have been invited to attend informal discussions. There may be other representatives from the City and local utilities as well.

The annual meeting, including election of board members, begins at 5:30 p.m. Contact Ed Swanson (eddiesr71@comcast.net) ASAP if you are interested in joining the board.

Children's activities, in-

cluding a balloon man, will be provided.

The Association will provide paper goods and beverages, while everyone else is encouraged to bring a dish to share and perhaps reusable dishes and cups.

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

This is *your* association!

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

New City Recycling Program

By Jennifer Castner

Have you seen the flyers and mailings sent out by the City of East Lansing, announcing the new and improved recycling program?

Beginning sometime in October, the City will deliver new large recycling containers, similar to our City trash receptacles, in order to collect our recycling.

The City has received a

grant to launch this new program, which also includes the promise of future upgrades, such as collecting box board and cardboard curbside as well!

The new bins will be an easy way to take advantage of the City's "single-stream" recycling, whereby all recyclable cans, glass, paper, and plastic (and eventually cardboard and boxboard) in a single container.

Recycling will be collected only once every two weeks,

but the bins are amply sized with plenty of space for most residents. A schedule will be made provided, but there's always the "What week do the other neighbors think we're on?" approach!

Recycling is an easy and excellent tool for keeping reusable and recyclable materials out of our landfills.

Learn more on the City's website: <http://bit.ly/1U7zxPz>

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Whole Foods store to open nearby in 2016

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.

By Dawn Parker

It might not seem like much is happening on the outside, but inside the new Whole Foods Market has been a hive of activity.

The new store on the site of the former Mobile Home Manor was originally scheduled to open this summer, but is now planned for an opening in 2016.

Allison Phelps, Whole Foods communications representative for the Midwest, said in an e-mail the store will open in 2016, though she would not be more specific. The store will be the company's seventh in Michigan.

Property owner George Tes-

seris, who bought the parcel more than five years ago for \$167,000, said he is hoping to turn the building over to the Austin, Texas grocer by August. Tesseris will continue to own the property, and will lease the building to Whole Foods.

Tesseris estimates Whole Foods will need four to five months to complete the building's interior, plus hire and train employees.

Much of the delay came from the grocer, he said, who initially got approval from the Meridian Township board for a 35,000 square foot store but later decided to build on an additional 9,000 square feet.

While it might have appeared from the outside that not much was happening, Tesseris said plenty of work was going on inside, including installation of plumbing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning and electric.

Township officials are among those eagerly anticipating the new store.

"We are anxious to welcome Whole Foods to Meridian Township," township manager Frank Walsh said. "With more than 1,700 Michigan communities to choose from, we are thankful Whole Foods sought out Meridian Township to hang their next banner."

City weighs millage for schools

By Dawn Parker

A millage proposal that would raise money to rebuild or remodel portions of several East Lansing elementary schools could be put on a ballot next year.

In late July school board members discussed the possibility of a millage proposal on the November 2016 ballot, which would take advantage of the much larger turnout in a presidential election.

The district has yet to determine how much money it is eligible to request or which schools would be supported by a millage if it was approved.

Board member Kath Edsall said her "inclination" was to rebuild three of the district's five elementary schools. How particular buildings would be chosen has yet to be determined.

"Can we borrow \$30 million? Can we borrow \$300 million? We need that information to frame the discussion," she said.

Board secretary Hillary Henderson said she favored asking for community input early in the process.

"We want to set this up for success, and I think this is the way to do it," Henderson said.

The district asked voters for \$53 million in February 2012 which would have renovated East Lansing's five elementary buildings. Those buildings were all constructed between 1948 and 1963. It failed with 53 percent of voters casting no votes.

East Lansing has increasingly relied on schools of choice students as a significant part of its enrollment. In the last

school year, 760, or nearly 22 percent, of its nearly 3,500 students were School of Choice enrollees from other districts. In June, the board increased the number of School of Choice openings in the district by 229, in part to help balance the district's budget for the fiscal year that began July 1.

Contact Dawn Parker at (517) 377-1056 or dlparker@lsj.com. Follow her on Twitter @arwen22266.

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 news or updates to communications officer Jennifer Castner.

Talk to your neighbors & get neighborhood news on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/brookfieldheritageneighborhoodassociation

