

**August
2021**

Brookfield Occasional

Brookfield Heritage Neighborhood Association Newsletter

BHNA Officers

President:

Ben Flietstra
219 Oakland
2019-2022

Vice President:

Jeffrey Johnson
144 Maplewood
2020 -2023

Treasurer:

Alan Munn
164 Oakland
2018-2021

Secretary:

Jennifer Somerville
224 Oakland
2019-2022

Communications:

Nella Davis-Ray
164 Maplewood
2019-2022

At-large:

Philip Eisenlohr
236 Oakland
2018-2021

John Hays
1645 Roseland
2020-2023

Diane Kearns
277 Oakland
2019-2021

Steve Whelan
136 Maplewood Drive
2020- 2023

Email the board:

board@brookfieldneighborhood.net

Neighborhood Picnic & Annual Meeting – 9/12/21

Our Association’s constitution calls for an annual meeting. In addition to the order of business, the gathering is an opportunity to introduce new and long-term residents to one another.

Traditionally this annual meeting has been held the Sunday after Labor Day. In addition to being a required meeting, the gathering is a family affair. A neighborhood picnic in the street with shared food, conversation, entertainment, and activities for all ages.

At the time of this writing, CDC recommendations for small gatherings include meeting outdoors and staying 6 feet away from others.

At the August 4th Board Meeting the BHNA Officers decided to cancel this year’s picnic but hold the annual meeting as a face to face gathering. Should CDC recommendations or State of Michigan recommendations or requirements change, the Board will cancel the face-to-face meeting and hold the annual meeting as a Zoom meeting.

The BHNA Officers will be finalizing the annual meeting agenda at our August 30th meeting. Please check our Facebook page or website after the 30th for more details.

\$ ANNUAL DUES \$

Friendly reminder, BHNA annual dues are due in September. Please mail your check to Alan Munn, (Treasurer) **OR** deliver check/cash directly to him at 164 Oakland Drive **OR** PayPal (send as Friends and Family) to brookfield-HNA.treasurer@gmail.com **OR** MSU Federal Credit Union "Member to Member" Send to brookfieldHNA.treasurer@gmail.com If you use one of these methods, please make sure you include your address in the message. No increase, still a bargain at \$20 per household. Your dues support costs for replacement trees along our streets, our website, neighborhood meetings, mailings, and the newsletter. Make your check out to BHNA!

Updating & Renewing Our Covenant

The BHNA Board continues to focus their efforts on the Deed Restrictions (also called a covenant). 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, we’re using this time to remedy the objectionable and illegal racial restriction clause regarding property use.

To remove the illegal clause from the covenant, 100% approval by Brookfield property owners is required.

Renewal alone takes 2/3rds approval of the property owners.

Pre-COVID, the Board had been working on obtaining consents

from property owners. This effort will continue this year.

The Board proposes setting up a committee to pursue the remaining needed consents. This may include advanced mailing of the consent, with an explanation of its purpose, followed by personal contact by a committee member. Consents need to be witnessed, but not notarized.

When we have obtained 100% consents, one person would swear to that, and that person’s affidavit would be recorded with the Register of Deeds office.

We understand these issues can be confusing and we

want to answer your questions and discuss your concerns. Updating and renewing our Covenant will be on the September 12th meeting agenda.

For more information about the covenant and the renewal process contact: John Hays – pat-johnhays@att.net

On Saturday, June 19th Mother Nature provided a lovely



New to Brookfield?

Learn about our neighborhood history at <http://tinyurl.com/lz8l2d>

by Mike Benedict



Visit our **Little Free Library** at 165 Oakland Drive. A great place to leave a book OR take a book.

Contact Jennifer Castner for info: pennifer@gmail.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.

Thank You Gardeners

afternoon for neighbors to connect while enjoying the hard work of ten Brookfield gardens. Donations for the neighborhood tree fund were accepted at each of the houses on the garden walk. The Board is pleased to announce that a total of \$900.00 was raised for the tree fund during the walk. A special thanks to Judy Putnam for her work on the garden walk brochure and Denise Moore for her work on the plant sale.



WANTED:

Other News...

STREETS UPDATE – Last year we learned that Oakland, Roseland, and Maplewood Drives were scheduled to be repaved in 2021. In June Brookfield residents received a mailing from the City with additional information about the project.

The latest update we've received is that re-paving is to start 8/30.

The City will have an inspector, Anthony Hopkins, on site working with the contractor. You can contact Anthony at 517-749-4588 OR ahopkins@cityofeastlansing.com with any specific questions you may have.

Stay Tuned!

New Board Members!

There will be three seats available for three-year terms beginning October 2021. Philip Eisenlohr, Diane Kearns and Alan Munn's terms are ending. In addition, we need someone to finish Ben Flietstra's term. The new board members will be elected at the September 12th annual meeting. This is a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors and to support our neighborhood. If you are interested in being nominated please email the board: board@brookfieldneighborhood.net or feel free to reach out to any of the current officers.



New to Brookfield? Please join our neighborhood website: www.brookfieldneighborhood.net and our neighborhood Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/groups/brookfieldneighborhood/

Join us to share news and information, participate in governance of our neighborhood association, or just share pretty pictures and have fun with neighbors.

CITY NEWS –



Help spread the word! Friends and neighbors can 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 at: www.cityofeastlansing.com/eNews

TREES –Our silver maples add character to our neighborhood. Did you know much of our annual dues goes to maintaining our treescape? We're fortunate to have a tree ambassador, Pat Robinson, who works with the city to monitor the health of our trees. Pat says, "lop off suckers"! Also, if deer are munching on young trees, she wants to know so we can find a solution.

Please attend the September 12th annual meeting for a tree update.