

**August  
2022**

# BHNA News

Brookfield Heritage Neighborhood Association Newsletter



## BHNA Officers

### President:

Nella Davis-Ray  
164 Maplewood

### Vice President:

Jeffrey Johnson  
144 Maplewood

### Treasurer:

Alice Schehr  
155 Oakland

### Secretary:

Jennifer Somerville  
224 Oakland

### Communications:

Gail Lytle Lira  
131 Oakland

### At-large:

Philip Eisenlohr  
236 Oakland

John Hays  
1645 Roseland

Steve Beckman  
1715 Roseland

Steve Whelan  
136 Maplewood Drive

### Email the board:

board@brookfieldneigh  
borhood.net

Learn about our  
neighborhood history at  
[https://tinyurl.com/lSz81  
2d](https://tinyurl.com/lSz812d)

by Mike Benedict

*Neighborhood Picnic & Annual Meeting Sunday, 9/11/22 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the middle of Maplewood Dr. The annual meeting will begin at 5:00. Come and meet neighbors and bring a lawn chair. Hot dogs and beverages will be furnished.*

From Nella Davis-Ray, BHNA President

### Is There a Law About This?

Because the BHNA has a constitution that establishes a Board and subdivision restrictions that address dwelling issues, some neighbors have asked about the Board's authority to address neighborhood issues. Our subdivision restrictions are limited and can "be enforceable by first party, or the owner of any land contained therein". This means that Brookfield property owners, not the board, are the only parties that can enforce the restrictions.

The subdivision restrictions do not address many of the issues but there may be a City of East Lansing (CoEL) ordinance that does. The CoEL Code of Ordinances has 50 chapters! While this piece is not an exhaustive review, following are some of the common issues brought to the Board's attention this year and the Board's responses with reference to applicable ordinances. Most EL ordinances are enforced by the CoEL police department or Parking and Code Enforcement (PACE).

### Noise

- Dogs. "Some neighbors leave their dogs outside and the dogs will bark for extended periods of time." Being a college town, there's no surprise that the City has a noise ordinance. The CoEL noise ordinance makes it unlawful to create noise that would disturb your neighbors. This includes frequent or long continued noise created by animals that disturb the comfort or repose of any person. Even in a fenced yard, an unsupervised dog should be checked periodically to ensure that they aren't disturbing neighbors.
- Traffic. "Traffic noise on Grand River Avenue and Hagadorn Road has grown, most directly related to the increase in traffic and technologies that have led to very loud amplified radios and mufflers that do anything but muffle noise." This issue was discussed at a mayor's meeting with neighborhood associations. Dep. Chief Chad Connelly attended and shared our frustration. The City's noise ordinance does not address traffic noise and the Michigan Vehicle Code's noise limitations have been deemed unenforceable by local law enforcement. Unfortunately, their options are a little limited in nature.

### Items on the property

- Recreational vehicles. Many Brookfield lots have limited garage and driveway space. Are there restrictions on what can be parked on our driveways? The CoEL Code of Ordinances (Chapter 50, ARTICLE III, Sec. 50-147) says: "No trailer, camper, recreational vehicle, boat or similar object shall be stored or parked in a front yard, or any required yard adjacent to a public street, except during the months of April 1 thru December 1 they may be parked on a driveway."
- Trash and Recycling Containers – "Rubbish containers are unsightly, and people need to be made aware of the city's ordinance regarding containers." According to CoEL ordinances, trash and recycling containers should be stored inside the home; inside an accessory structure, garage or shed; or behind or at the side (back from the



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[www.cityofeastlansing.com/eNews](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/eNews)

## 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.*

street at least one-half the length of the structure) of a home during intervals between collection days. Recycling and refuse carts should be placed at the curb by no earlier than 8 p.m. the day before collection.

- **Street Parking** -As mentioned earlier, many Brookfield lots have limited garage and driveway space. Is it okay to leave vehicles parked on the street? What if I have overnight guest or I can't use my driveway for parking? No parking on any residential street is allowed from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m. If you need to park on the street during this time period, special on-street parking may be permitted by PACE. Contact PACE at (517) 319-6894.

**Neighborhood Street Trees** – “There are trees with very large but weak limbs that hang over the roadway. The Board, as part of its annual tree review, could point out these trees to the city representative and ask the city to do some serious pruning.” Although the Association buys street trees for the neighborhood, the City is responsible for tree trimming, tree removal, stump grinding and emergency tree work for our street trees. Street trees are located within the City right-of-way. While this is typically the space located between the sidewalk and street (known as the "parkway"), right-of-way still applies where no sidewalk exists. If you believe a street tree is diseased, damaged or a hazard, call the East Lansing Department of Public Works and Environmental Services at (517) 337-9459 for assessment. The City is responsible for the management of these trees and fines and penalties may be incurred where they are unlawfully removed. However, neighbors are encouraged to water newly planted street trees, remove suckers and debris such as weeds and poison ivy from street trees.

**NOTE:** The City's DPW representative has a scheduled neighborhood walk around on August 29 with Pat Robinson. She will introduce our neighborhood and review our tree concerns (removal plans, trimming, etc.) with the new DPW rep. The BHNA Board welcomes questions from the neighborhood and will continue to share information via our newsletter, website and Facebook page.

From Alice Schehr, BHNA treasurer

Greetings neighbors. It is my job to collect dues for the neighborhood. Our money is primarily used to replace our aging tree population that is almost 100 years old! It is expensive to plant new trees. This year we will be purchasing luminaries for each house in the Brookfield neighborhood to set out on Dec 21, the Winter Solstice! Last year Denise Moore treated Oakland to this experience, and it was lots of fun. During COVID, just about everything changed, except the balance of our bank account. It hasn't grown but the cost of trees definitely have. Our dues have stayed at \$20 for as long as anyone can remember. Please keep this in mind as you pay this year's dues. Thank you in advance. Checks can be made out the Brookfield Heritage Neighborhood Assoc. MSU Member to Member donations can be sent to Brookfield1. I also take cash! Alice Schehr, 155 Oakland

From John Hays, BHNA board member

As reported in the April 2022 BHNA News, members of the board, acting as individual property owners (who have the sole authority to enforce the subdivisions restrictions ) are engaged in a mailing effort to obtain consent from those property owners, who have not already done so, to amend the covenants to remove the racially discriminatory restriction. We hope to be able to report by the neighborhood meeting that those mailings have gone out and that the follow-up has begun.

New to Brookfield? Please join our neighborhood website:

[www.brookfieldneighborhood.net](http://www.brookfieldneighborhood.net) and our neighborhood

Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/groups/brookfieldneighborhood/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/brookfieldneighborhood/)