

**August
2025**

Brookfield Occasional

Brookfield Heritage Neighborhood Association Newsletter

BHNA Officers

President:

Matt Kazmierski
136 Oakland
2022-2025

Vice President:

Mark Warner
274 Oakland
2022-2025

Treasurer:

Alice Schehr
155 Oakland
2024-2027

Secretary:

Steve Beckman
1715 Roseland
2024-2027

Communications:

Nella Davis-Ray
164 Maplewood
2023-2026

Pat Poli

217 Oakland
2022-2025

At-large:

John Hays
1645 Roseland
2023-2026

Denise Moore
252 Oakland
2023- 2026

Email the board:

board@brookfieldneig
hborhood.net

Garden Walk 2025!

The June 28-29 neighborhood Garden Walk was a huge success! Numerous visitors enjoyed sipping lemonade while walking through beautiful gardens and visiting with neighbors.

On behalf of the event planners Chelsea and Lilly Beckman, thank you to all the neighbors who opened their yards to visitors.

From Roseland: Jim & Judy Cunningham, Ed & Pat Robinson, Chelsea & Steve Beckman, and Stephen & Angha Childress. **From Hagadorn:** Heather & Nathan Robertson. **From Maplewood:** Peggy & Sharon Hall, Nella Davis-Ray & Greg Woodard, and Steve & Sallie Whelan. **From Oakland Drive:** Alice Schehr, Jennifer & Steve Lidia, and Rachel Hackel.

Donations received for entrance fees and the lemonade stand sales provided a significant boost to the tree fund. Future Garden Walks will be a biennial event. All neighbors and gardens are welcome to join the 2027 Garden Walk!

And big thanks to Chelsea and Lilly Beckman for organizing the lemonade stand and creating the beautiful flyers!!

*thank
you!*

WANTED: New Board Members

There will be four seats available for three-year terms beginning October 2025. The terms of Matt Kazmierski, Mark Warner and Pat Poli terms are ending, and there is a vacancy At Large member.

The new board members will be elected at the September annual meeting. Serving on the board 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.

ANNUAL DUES

Friendly reminder, BHNA annual dues are due in September 2025. Ideally you can pay your dues at the annual meeting. If you cannot attend, please mail your check to Alice Schehr, (Treasurer) **OR** deliver check/cash directly to her at 155 Oakland Drive.

Dues are now \$25 per household (voted on at the September 2023 picnic/meeting). Your dues support costs for replacement trees along our streets, our website, neighborhood meetings, mailings, and the newsletter.

Look for the table set up at the picnic for dues paying and to provide any updates to the neighborhood directory.

PICNIC - Sept 14 from 4-6 pm!

The Brookfield neighborhood picnic and annual meeting is September 14 with a rain date of September 21!

This year the picnic will be in the driveways of 3 of our Oakland Drive neighbors: Denise Moore (252) and Diana Yount (262) will host the food court, and Mark (Kelly) Warner (274) will provide some musical entertainment on the guitar!

There will be games for the kids, and smoked pork butts and hot dogs provided by the neighborhood, and lots of other good food to share.

Use the QR code below to sign up to bring a dish to the picnic.



We look forward to seeing everyone at the picnic!





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.

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.

Other News...

Luminaries on Dec 21, 2025:

Once again we are planning to honor the Winter Solstice by setting out luminaries. Most of the materials from 2024 were reusable, so we only need to purchase candles.

All are welcome to help set out the candles at 4 pm and light the candles at 5 pm. And this year, Rachel Hackel (244 Oakland Drive) offered her home to anyone who wants to gather afterwards for light refreshments and a visit with your neighbors.

Thank you Rachel!

Did You Know???

Our neighborhood is one of 20 rental restriction overlay districts in East Lansing. Ordinance 1082 established our neighborhood as a R-O-3 district. R-O-3 prohibits the issuance of any new rental licenses (since the effective date of ordinance 1082) except for a Class I rental license.

Tree Updates:

Our tree-lined streets add unique character to this neighborhood that we all love. But many of the original silver maples are nearing the end of their life and are particularly vulnerable to damage during windy storm events. The Tree Committee consulted with the East Lansing City Arborist to explore suitable new varieties to incorporate into the streetscape as replacements are made.

In the process of this consultation, the committee learned that the Brookfield neighborhood is the only East Lansing neighborhood with a single species for the streetscape and that while a single species creates uniformity, it also adds to the vulnerability to disease and so is no longer considered an ideal approach. The committee also learned that maple tree species are no longer allowed as replacement trees because while they are fast-growing, the wood is considered weak and prone to breakage.

There are a couple species recommended: Zelkova and Princeton Elm. This year four Zelkova trees were planted as replacement trees at a cost of \$400/tree. Zelkova trees were an early substitute for elm trees. They will grow a nice street canopy have a beautiful golden fall color, and don't shed pods or nuts. The Princeton Elm may also be considered because is not susceptible to the fungus which decimated prior elm species.

The City of East Lansing has slated our neighborhood for tree trimming in 2026.

If you would be interested in serving on the BHNA environment committee, please email the board at: board@brookfieldneighborhood.net

Our Mission:

The BHNA'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.*