



Brookfield Heritage Neighborhood

August, 2026 Newsletter
East Lansing, Michigan

Annual picnic and business meeting:

Our Brookfield Heritage Neighborhood annual picnic and business meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 13, 2026 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, September 20, 2026, also from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Per our association by-laws, we hold this meeting on an annual basis in order to discuss matters of importance to the neighbors. This also gives us an opportunity to introduce new and long-term residents to one another and have a neighborhood picnic with shared food and conversation. The picnic and meeting will be held at the home of Nella Davis-Ray and Greg Woodard, 164 Maplewood Drive. The picnic starts at 4:00 p.m. with the annual meeting segment beginning around 5:00 p.m. Guests include Councilmember Steve Whelan, Mayor Eric Altmann, and the neighborhood dedicated police officer. Music will be provided by Mark Warner and his father-in-law.

The agenda includes:

1. Welcome
2. Introduction of new neighbors
3. Introduction of all other neighbors
4. Approval of 2025 annual meeting minutes
5. Treasurer's report & update on association dues collection
6. Tree report
7. Other issues
8. Election of new Board members
9. Adjourn

The association will provide hot dogs, water, and table ware. Please bring your own beverage if you wish to drink something other than water. Also, bring along a lawn chair to sit on. This is a pot luck event so, if you can, plan to bring something to pass around. The following site will let you know what others are bringing. The site is located at <https://tinyurl.com/BHNAPotluck26>.

Dues and related matters:

There will be a set up area for you to get your name tag, make any necessary edits to the neighborhood directory, and pay dues which remain at \$25.00 per year per residence. Payments for dues can be made by cash, check, or MSUFCU Member2Member payments. Receipts will be provided.

Trees:

Alice Schehr has been very busy working with the city and its arborist, Blake Harrity, regarding our tree replacement program. As you know, the city hired tree trimmers to go through the neighborhood last spring to remove old and unsafe trees along with pruning many trees. There were eight unsafe trees removed and, because of their efforts, heavy storms only took out two additional trees with very little tree limb litter. The trees that were taken down had their stumps ground in the usual fashion. We initially thought we would have to grind the stumps much deeper, but fortunately we have been advised that additional grinding is not necessary, saving us a lot of money for use on additional trees.

New city arbor rules disallow planting the Acer Maple any longer, so this last year we planted the Zelkova tree, American Elm tree, and Ginkgo tree. The Zelkova and American Elm are the only ones that form a gothic arch shape. The Ginkgo is a medium sized tree that has brilliant fall color. These are clean trees without seeds, nuts and pods.

There are more than a dozen locations where trees can be planted this fall. Three are far back from the street and are on residents' property which will require their approval as to the location. Two have medium bushes nearby that would need to be removed before planting a tree. One is near a utility line and will need to be a special species. We will plant in the fall so the roots can get established over the winter.

Some neighbors have asked why the new trees are not planted where an old tree was planted. We learned a new tree can never be planted in the exact place as the one that was cut down. Even if the stump is ground down, the old roots will eventually rot and the new tree will sink and also rot. The new tree has to be 8-10 feet away from the original tree. We try to follow the tree line, but sometimes have to "zig zag" when planting. Sometimes this zig zag will land off the city right of way and on private property.

Existing trees need to be watered a lot in dry, hot weather. Even a half inch rain doesn't penetrate deep enough to fully water the tree. We would appreciate it very much if those of you with new trees water the trees frequently to get through dry periods. Alice has placed water bags around the trees to make watering easier and more thorough.

Our account with the MSU Federal Credit Union shows we have a balance of \$4,312.87 in our tree fund account. Although this is a solid amount of savings, donations from neighbors are greatly appreciated and can help us for future plantings. Donations can be dropped off at the annual meeting.

Volunteers needed for winter solstice luminaria on December 21:

We need as many volunteers as we can get to work on the luminarias this upcoming holiday season, which includes putting sand and candles in the paper bags, placing bags along the streets, lighting candles, picking up bags the next day, etc. This is the fifth-straight year for the event.

Help our neighborhood businesses:

Although the work on Grand River Avenue is winding down, there will still be a lot of construction going on for some time. The avenue will only be two lanes for a few more weeks while they complete work on the balance of the road. Our neighborhood businesses are suffering due to this construction. Although it is challenging, if you can make your way over to businesses to grab a bite, do some yoga, have your bike tuned up, or take advantage of one of the other services they have to offer, I am sure they would appreciate your business.

Board Members wanted:

There will be three seats available for a three-year term beginning October 2026. New Board members are elected at the annual picnic and business meeting. Serving on the Board provides an opportunity to get to know your neighbors and to support our neighborhood. If you are interested in being nominated, please email the board at board@brookfieldneighborhood.net.

Share your Michigan stories at the annual picnic

Producer Rob Prince, raised in our neighborhood by Kathy and Bill Prince, thinks Michigan is the greatest place in the world. When he talks with people from Michigan, he finds they have fascinating true stories from life in the Great Lakes State. These stories are typically only shared with close family or friends. However, Rob's mission and that of his program **MI Michigan Story**, is to share these amazing stories with others through live events, radio shows, and his podcast. Rob will be at our picnic to talk with people and possibly arrange a time with those of us who have great stories they would like to share on his podcast. If you have something you would like to share, plan ahead so you can tell your story to Rob.

The stories will be located at <https://mimichiganstory.com/>