

OHN-Line

Ottawa Hills Neighborhood Association Newsletter **2015**

OHN-Line

About Ottawa Hills

Ottawa Hills was plotted out as a residential area in the early 1900s on what was then the Grand Rapids Golf Club. The first houses were built in 1922 and homes continued to be constructed until the 1950s. The winding roads are said to follow the paths of the former fairways.

In the 1970s the neighborhood association was established to preserve the neighborhood's unique features and prevent the decline that many other local neighborhoods were experiencing. Over the past 45 years, the neighborhood association has evolved and now sponsors many events, including an annual garden tour, ice cream social, new neighbor party, neighborhood-wide garage sale, and neighborhood clean-up. Ottawa Hills is also the site of the Hollyhock Lane Parade, Michigan's longest running Independence Day parade, of which the association is a sponsor. The strength of the neighborhood association comes from a group of committed residents working together.

OHNA Community Events

June 27 (Saturday)	Garden Tour
July TBD.	Clean-Up and Dumpster Day
July 4 (Saturday)	Hollyhock Lane Parade
August 4 (Tuesday)	Ice Cream Social
November 19 (Thursday) . .	OHNA Annual Board Meeting

Please note: OHNA Board Meetings typically occur on the third Tuesday of every month.

Notes from the OHNA President

Part of what makes Ottawa Hills a great place to live is the historical character and "old feel" of the neighborhood. However, there also needs to be an appreciation for the new!

A number of homes have new owners. Please take the time to introduce yourself and welcome new neighbors!

OHNA has a new email distribution list for official communication with the neighborhood, an updated website (www.ottawahillsgr.org) to let others know about us and a new Facebook page for general neighborhood news, postings and communication. See page 5 for more information.

OHNA has been working with the City of Grand Rapids to develop a plan to replace the failing light posts with new fixtures. Petitions will be circulated in the coming weeks seeking your support of this proposal. See the article on page 4 for additional details.

Finally, consider a new opportunity! Do you have interest in serving as a Block Captain or elected officer for OHNA? Maybe you would like to volunteer for one of our events like the Garden Tour, Neighborhood Cleanup Day or the Ice Cream Social? For your convenience, we've included a card to fill out and return with your annual dues.

Love the OLD, but leave room for the NEW!

Dan Haveman
OHNA President

Street Lighting Project Enters Next Phase

Over the past two years our neighborhood has been working with the City of Grand Rapids on a proposed replacement of our beautiful- but aged- ornamental street lights. Installed over 40 years ago, the poles and fixtures that help make our area so special are damaged and failing, and like replacements are no longer available. The wiring is also failing and must be replaced to prevent the outages that have become all too common of late.

To show us what the new fixtures would look like, the City has installed a "sample" pole at Cadillac and Seminole which is 16 ft. tall. Our poles would be 12 ft. tall to blend with our streetscape and would be installed with all new underground wiring throughout the neighborhood.

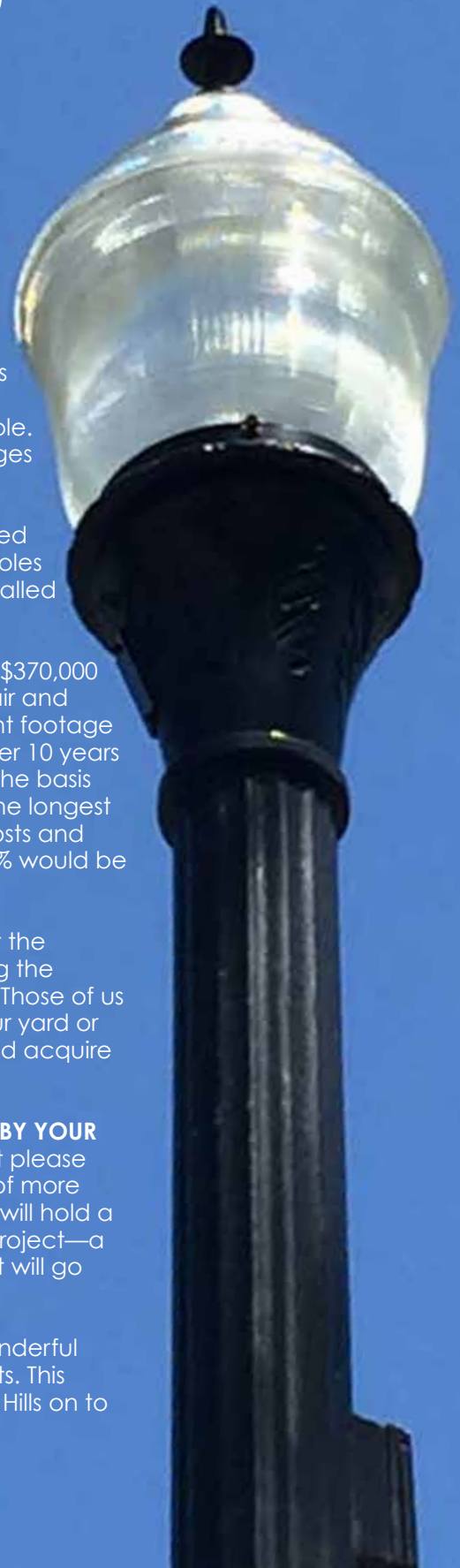
Costs of the total project have been determined by the City to be \$370,000 which includes the original installation and a reserve for future repair and replacement which is the new City policy. When assessed on a front footage basis it comes to \$22.30 per foot, payable in annual installments over 10 years at 7% interest on the unpaid balance. Corner lots are assessed on the basis of the footage on the shortest side of the lot, plus the footage on the longest side, minus 150 ft. The City would contribute 23.5% of the project costs and the school would be assessed 11.5% of the total. The remaining 65% would be shared by the residents at the per-foot rate described.

The City has agreed to have the poles wired with a 110 volt plug at the bottom of the pole so that we could string lights on the poles during the holiday season to add a festive atmosphere to the neighborhood. Those of us who would like to salvage one of the removed poles to place in our yard or garden could attend the City's annual auction of surplus goods and acquire one there.

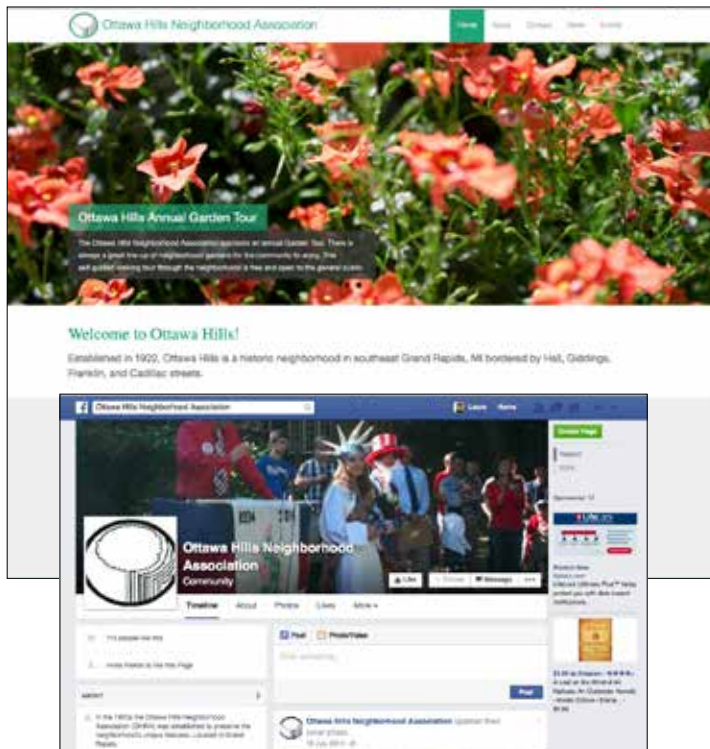
Petitions have been prepared by the City and WILL BE CIRCULATED BY YOUR BLOCK CAPTAINS IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS! If you support the project please sign the petition so that we may turn them in to the City. If owners of more than 50% of the property to be assessed sign the petitions, the City will hold a public hearing which will give everyone—those for or against the project—a chance to be heard. The City will then decide whether the project will go forward.

We pride ourselves on the special nature of our winding streets, wonderful trees, beautiful homes and gardens and our ornamental street lights. This project is our opportunity to pass this unique place we call Ottawa Hills on to the next generation.

Phil Balkema on behalf of the Street Lighting Committee



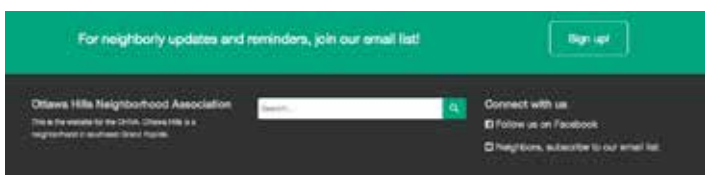
OHNA has a New Website and Facebook Page



We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new and improved website! Neighbors Kathleen Kelly and Marissa Christy have been hard at work on the development of the new Ottawa Hills Neighborhood website and their project is ready to be unveiled.

Please visit www.ottawahillsgsr.org and take a 'tour' of the site. At the top of the HOME page there is a tab that will take you to NEWS of the neighborhood, including past newsletters and the wonderful article that was in Grand Rapids Magazine last year. There is also an EVENTS tab with dates of the Garden Tour, the Hollyhock Lane Parade, the Ice Cream Social and all of the other exciting things that go on throughout the year. There is an ABOUT tab with the history of our area and a place to CONTACT your Neighborhood Association Officers. The website is not only for neighbors to keep up with Ottawa Hills' happenings but also a great way for others to learn more about the best neighborhood in Grand Rapids!

At the bottom of the HOME page there is a green button to sign-up for the Official Neighborhood email list.



As previously announced last fall, we initiated a new email system for neighborhood updates. We imported all the email addresses into Mailchimp from the "neighbors@ottawahillsgsr.org" list and added others that came in from block captains. This neighborhood email system will be used exclusively by the Neighborhood Association Board for distribution for all communications and the old email list is no longer active.

If you are receiving emails from OHNA with our logo at the top and the Mailchimp logo at the bottom, you are all set and do not need to do anything further. If you would like update your preferences or unsubscribe, those links are included for you to make those changes.

If you are NOT receiving emails from us currently, use the "Sign up!" button or the "Neighbors, subscribe to our email list" link provided on the website. It is the best way to make sure you are getting current event announcements, volunteer opportunities and any other important neighborhood news throughout the year. When signing up, you will need to know what block you live on. If you do not know your block number, please contact one of the Board Officers, or your Block Captain. A listing of these people is contained in this newsletter on page 2.

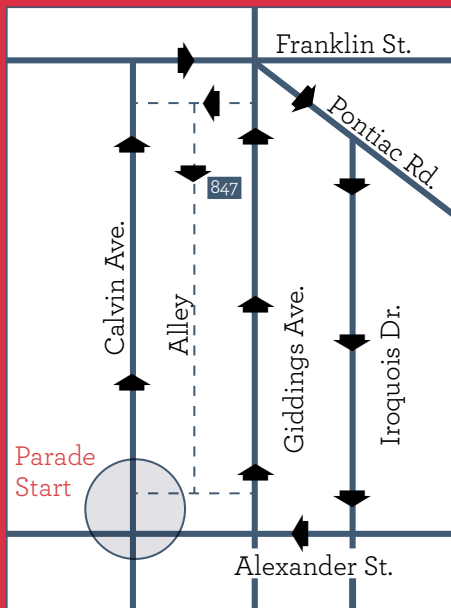
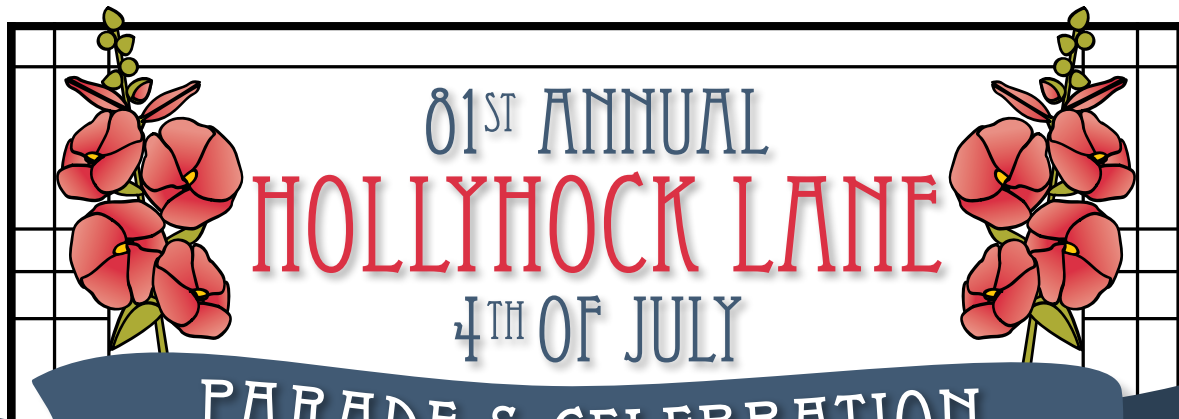
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Ottawa Hills Neighborhood Association • 953 Chippewa S.E. • Grand Rapids, MI 49506 • USA



For those who would like to communicate with the entire neighborhood, please use our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/ottawahillsgsrneighborhood>

We added a direct link from the website or search for "Ottawa Hills Neighborhood Association" and 'Like' our page. This is a great place to connect with neighbors about play groups, contractor referrals, lost & found items or things you are selling (that can't wait for the Neighborhood Garage Sale).

Please explore the website and utilize these tools in order to keep up with the many activities going on in Ottawa Hills!



8:00 am - Parade Lineup
(At Calvin and Alexander)

8:30 am - Parade Begins

9:00 am - Hollyhock Lane Ceremony
(Behind 847 Giddings)

9:30 am - Jazz
Provided By Elgin Vines & Co.

4th of July Parade Float Prizes
★★★★ Two Categories ★★★★★

Best Patriotic Float
Best Environmental Float

1st Prize - \$25 2nd Prize - \$15 3rd Prize - \$10

Like us @ facebook.com/HollyhockParade

Kids, Decorate Your Bikes And Ride In The Parade!



Play An Instrument?? Join The Hollymock Band!!

Call Karen at (616) 475-3859 for details

Want To Make A Donation For Parade Expenses?

Make check payable to Calvin-Giddings Patriotic Association
Send the check to 852 Giddings SE

Celebrate The 81st Hollyhock Lane Parade
The Oldest Fourth of July Parade In Michigan



Sponsored by the Calvin-Giddings Patriotic Association, Inc.
Music provided by: American Federation of Musicians MTF



The Siloam Spirituality Center

Housed within East Congregational Church on Giddings, the Siloam Spirituality Center is a quiet room for reflection, meditation, prayer, journaling and peace. Whenever the building is open, you can enter via the Courtyard door. The room is the second door on the left side of the entry.

Each Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 you can join others "Practicing Meditation", guided by the Reverend Ann Slade and Reverend Pat Sterling. Come whenever you are able, to refresh your mind and spirit in the middle of a hectic week.

Walk-ins are welcome on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00-12:00 noon. Appointments for individual/group spiritual direction may be made by calling or emailing. Other classes and special events are scheduled throughout the year.

Find out more about the Siloam Spirituality Center at <http://www.eastchurchgr.org/ministries/siloam-spirituality-center>.

For more information, call the church office at (616) 245-0578 Ext. 211, or email Ann and Pat at SSCgr2@gmail.com.

***Get to know your neighborhood church...
join us on Sunday!***

**East Congregational
United Church of Christ**

Worship Service

Sundays at 10:30 AM
Drop-in Nursery Care &
Children's Sunday School
offered every Sunday.

***We are an open and
affirming faith community.***



***No matter who
you are, or
where you are
on life's journey,
you are
welcome here.***

1005 Giddings Ave. SE • Grand Rapids
616/245-0578 • www.eastchurchgr.org
eastchurchgr@gmail.com

Help is Needed!

East Congregational Church Food Pantry

Could you help the food pantry once in a while this summer? East Congregational UCC Church has a food pantry that serves the surrounding area. East Church is on Giddings in the Ottawa Hills neighborhood.

The pantry receives large shipments of USDA commodities occasionally through Baxter Community Center. When the shipments arrive the pantry needs able-bodied people to help transport the goods. If there are not enough helpers, the food must be declined. Unfortunately, it's difficult to plan because Baxter can't notify the pantry of the delivery day until they know when the shipment will arrive, which is not until the day before delivery!

If you would be willing to be on a list of possible helpers, then the pantry could contact volunteers the week of the deliveries. If you would like to be on the volunteer list, **please call Harriet Cox** (former neighbor at corner of Fisk & Iroquois) at **(616) 550-1139**. You would be doing a great service for 22 families that the food pantry serves. They and East Church will greatly appreciate your generous help!!





Gardening Opportunity in your Neighborhood!

Do you need some place to plant your summer vegetable and/or fruit gardens? We are happy to announce that **after May 5**, any open East Church Community Garden boxes will be available to our Ottawa Hills neighbors for personal use. We ask that you stop by the office to sign up to see which boxes are available. We will need your name and contact information before you choose from available boxes.

Once you have a planting box at East Church, you can come & go as you please to cultivate and harvest your crops. Our garden hose will be on and you may water your box as it is needed. There is no charge, however any donations to help with water costs won't be turned away!

And, if you find you have harvested plenty and would like to share, our food pantry families always welcome fresh garden food. We are home to a Baxter Community Services food pantry called "Feeding God's Children" which is open the first two Tuesdays of every month from 1pm-4:30pm. You may drop off food donations in the office during business hours, Monday through Thursday 9am-3pm.

Please sign up in the church office or contact us at **616-245-0578** to reserve your box. East Congregational UCC members have first priority until Tuesday, May 5, 2015. After this date, boxes will be available to friends and neighbors of our community. Unfortunately, due to our limited staff, we cannot provide security for your garden box. East Church is not responsible for the care of your garden...you are on your own!



Upcoming Programs

at the Ottawa Hills Branch Library

Hours

Tue 10:00 am-6:00 pm
Wed 12:00 pm-8:00 pm
Thurs-Sat 10:00 am-6:00 pm
Free parking in library lot.

1150 Giddings SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616.988.5412

Bus Route #5

One-on-One Computer & Technology Classes

Do you have an eReader or tablet and not sure how to use it? Hoping to boost your résumé with new computer skills? Grand Rapids Public Library is now offering one-on-one computer classes at all seven branches between Labor Day and Memorial Day.

Classes are an hour long and geared toward your specific needs and interests. From getting acquainted with your computer or device, to training in spreadsheets, or internet navigation, we can help! Just tell a librarian your topic of interest during the sign up process.

Everyone is eligible to take a class, a GRPL library card is not required. Sign up by calling the Main Library at 616-988-5400.

Summer Reading Challenge Registration Guide.

Baby Challenge (Recommended for ages 0-2)
Parents, log into your library account on the library's catalog page.

Select "Summer Reading" tab and click to register. Pledge how many books you can read to your baby between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Multiple children can sign up on one account. Come to the library for your beginning prize, a plush star.

Junior Challenge (Recommended for ages 3-5)
Parents, log into your library account on the library's catalog page.

Select "Summer Reading" tab and click to register. Pledge how many books you can read to your child between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Multiple children can sign up on one account. Keep track of your progress using the reading log and coloring sheet. Check in at the library to get your starter prize and select your team.

The finisher prize of a t-shirt and a coupon pack will be available to collect between July 15 and September 15 while supplies last.

Summer Reading Challenge

(Recommended for ages 5 and up)
Log into your library account on the library's catalog page.

Select "Summer Reading" tab and click to register. Set your goal! Choose how many books you can read before school starts. Multiple children can sign up on one account. Keep track of the books you've read on your reading log.

Check in at the library to get your starter prize and select your team.

The finisher prize of a t-shirt and a coupon pack will be available to collect between July 15 and September 15 while supplies last.

Hero's Quest

(Recommended for ages 9 and up)
Log into your library account on the library's catalog page.

- Select "Hero's Quest" tab.
- Read through the Hero's Quest story and game instructions.
- Select your team.
- Earn badges by using the library catalog and watch your team's superhero's powers grow!

Keep an eye out all summer for exciting Hero's Quest Meetups where you can meet other members of your team.

If you need ANY help earning badges stop by The Animal Alliance Headquarters (GRPL location).

GR Reads: Summer Reading All Grown Up June 1 - August 31

The Grand Rapids Public Library has once again partnered with area organizations to present the sixth annual GR Reads, a summer reading program designed for adults. Come discover the ten interesting books that our smart staff have selected, or join your neighbors for fun, informative programs that are inspired by the books. For a complete list of books and events, visit www.grpl.org/grreads or stop by any GRPL library.

OHNA Trees

Last year we continued our tree planting in the neighborhood with a grant from Friends of Grand Rapids Parks and were able to plant 17 trees around the neighborhood. Thank you to the volunteers who helped make this possible and to those who kept the trees watered. Hopefully we will see green leaves on them this year.

The next step to more trees is to get the many stumps in the neighborhood ground out so we have spaces to plant. Kathy Vance has been in touch with Joe Sulak, the new Forester for the City of Grand Rapids. She shared with him a list of 14 stumps that have not been ground out over a number of years. His last response (March 24, 2015) was

“Currently we have a Stump contract out for bid with the plan for the contract to start by mid to late April. The stumps in Ottawa Hills are part of that contract and will be ground by summer of this year. You should see some utility locates prior to the grinding. The contract specifies removal of all grindings, replace with soil and apply grass seed.”

He indicated he would notify her of the work schedule and she will share it with OHNA. If all goes well, and the Friends of the Grand Rapids Parks continues their grant program, hopefully we can have another tree planting this fall.

Since 2007, 80 trees have been planted in Ottawa Hills. The first 65 were paid for by neighbor donations. The last 15 through a grant. We continue to lose trees as they age, so we would like to keep the planting momentum going.

For more information about Friends of Grand Rapids Parks and the Urban Forest Project, visit their web site at www.friendsofgrparks.org and sign up for their monthly newsletter. The web site has a resource center and many opportunities to help grow Grand Rapids urban forest.

Any questions, please contact Kathy Vance, Block Captain Block 2 (II)

2015 Garden Tour Saturday, June 27

For over 20 years, on the last Saturday in June, we open some of our lovely yards to the public. Gardens large and small, sunny and shady, are visited by hundreds of admirers. Some gardens are designed and manicured and many others are 'works-in-progress', but we never fail to have all who walk through our tree-lined streets shower compliments on our neighborhood and friendly residents.

Contact:
Tom Deur
tomdeur@grar.com
616-560-7426





OHNA Preferred Contractor List

Have you had a good experience with someone and wish to share with your neighbors? Log on to the OHNA Facebook page and post about it.

Painter / Decorator

Craig Decorators..... 458-3207
 Michael Waldrep..... 915-5849
 Scott Hurd 477-3339

Plumbing

Helmus Plumbing..... 269-345-0175
 Kentwood Plumbing & Heating Inc..... 949-3695
 Mike Huisman 248-2786
 Peter Somerdyke Plumbing 977-3377

Roofing

Preferred Roofing (Rick) 897-0857
 Seamless Gutter Masters 350-5034

Lawn Care & Snow Removal

Noorman's Lawn and Snow Service (Ernie)..... 245-5186
 Viking Snow Plowing (Jim Dekker)..... 745-7422
 So Good Lawn Care..... 965-6704

Tile Work

Ted Lares 889-0029

Woodwork/Cabinetry/Hardwood Flooring/Furniture

Boven Hardwood Flooring 669-0506
 Jim Spangler Woodworking..... 862-4994
 JDV Hardwood Flooring 262-4286

Drywall & Plastering

Reames Drywall..... 454-9007
 Greg Janeschek 262-6275

General Contracting/Carpentry/Home Repair/Remodeling/Roofing & Siding

Boluyt Builders 636-4543
 Gordon C. Jones Building & Engineering..... 774-0964
 Jacobsen Remodeling (Dwight) 243-7261
 Midtown Craftsman (John Leegwater) 245-5970
 Peterman Builders (John)..... 299-4232
 T.J. Ryckbost 204-7043
 Weatherhead 785-8080

Electricians

Briggs Electric..... 458-6441
 Wireworks 949-5151
 Webb Electric (Brad) 451-2298

Flooring

RT Baldwin 669-1626
 George Dowling, Lakeshore Floor Sanding 291-3806

Heating & Cooling

Hendricks Heating & Air Conditioning 452-6064
 Vredevoogd Heating & Cooling..... 534-8329

Miscellaneous

Barlett Tree Service 245-9449
 Gale Insulation..... 530-2327
 Housecleaning/Doris Urena..... 648-2413
 RJ Raven (custom windows & doors)..... 245-5684
 West Michigan Glass Block 243-3700
 Ken Dore — caulking 437-2777



Electronic Communication & Usage Policy

Ottawa Hills Neighborhood Association

The Neighborhood Email List and Neighborhood Web Site are solely for the purpose of conducting Ottawa Hills Neighborhood (referred also as the "Neighborhood") business. Some job/volunteer responsibilities of the Neighborhood require access to the Internet and the use of requisite software. Only people appropriately authorized may use the Email List and/or Web Site, or access additional software on behalf of the Neighborhood. The Neighborhood Email List, Web Site and Newsletter are solely the property of the Ottawa Hills Neighborhood.

Software Access & Use Procedure

Software needed, in addition to the Microsoft Office suite of products, must be authorized by the Board. This includes any software used to publish the Neighborhood Newsletter. Any information for Neighborhood wide dissemination, including any printed media, pictures and images must be authorized by the Board. This includes original content or content taken from other sources.

Email Usage

Email of Neighborhood members are private and to be used only for Neighborhood business. No emails of Neighborhood members are to be used collectively or individually for any personal business or business not associated with Neighborhood sanctioned business or activities. Sanctioned Neighborhood business or activities shall never include:

- A. Activities of propaganda or attempts to influence legislation, intervention for, or in opposition to any public office candidate.
- B. Individual neighbor personal business including, advertising, informational search inquiries, endorsements, announcements, solicitations, etc.
- C. Sending pornographic images, jokes or stories or any other objectionable material via email is prohibited.
- D. Any emails that discriminate against Neighbors or any citizen associated with the Neighborhood by virtue of any protected classification including race, gender, nationality, religion, age or handicap shall be prohibited.

Emails of neighborhood members are private and not to be forwarded to any individual(s) or organization(s) outside the neighborhood without prior approval of the neighbor. The Neighborhood Email List is solely the property of the Neighborhood and shall not be distributed without permission from the Board. All emails shall be of a civil tone and respectful to all receivers.

Violation of any of these policies may cause the offender to be removed, by the Board, from any future email correspondence and may cause the violator to be removed from the Neighborhood Email List.

Neighborhood Ownership

The Neighborhood owns any communication sent via Email, any information on the Web Site and any information in the Newsletter. Any unauthorized use is prohibited. All mailing list email should be sent "one ad-dress per piece". If any subscriber to the Email List wishes to be removed, they may unsubscribe through the email system at any time. Any feedback, questions, concerns, complaints or information about this Communication Policy or about usage shall be directed to the Board President for review and consideration.



Recycling Schedule 2015

May	5, 19
June	2, 16, 30
July	14, 28
August	11, 25
September	8, 22
October	6, 20
November	3, 17
December	1, 15, 29

Sign Up to Recycle!

Want to show pride in your neighborhood and be environmentally conscious? Sign up on the Grand Rapids Recycling and Refuse web page today! You can enroll in the program at: <http://grcity.us/public-services/Recycling-and-Refuse/Pages/Recycling-Sign-up.aspx>