



Colonial Village Newsletter

Volume 9

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CVNA Board Members

Anita Beavers, President
Evelyn Bush, Vice President
Thelma Dempsey, Treasurer
Willie Vinson, Secretary

Area Representatives

Michael Morofsky, Area 1
Mary Bechtol, Area 2
Vacant, Area 3

Check out CVNA's Website:

www.cvnanews.com

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NOTE

Survey inserted

CVNA is asking for your assistance. Please complete and return the enclosed survey

Exciting News From CVNA

Submitted by Willie Vinson

The Colonial Village Neighborhood Association (CVNA) welcomed its newest elected board member, Evelyn (Evie) Bush as Vice President. Evie has been an active member of the association, participating in delivering the newsletter, working on the annual picnic and supplying "goodies" for out monthly meetings. She has been a photographer for the holiday lighting contest and is a wonderful caretaker of the flowers in the circle and boulevard plantings. Evie is a valuable asset to CVNA. She began her role as Vice President during the January 16 meeting.

CVNA meetings are a popular source of information about the neighborhood, surrounding communities and Lansing. Approximately 50 people attend meetings regularly, including City and County officials.

Already this year, the Board has brought many interesting speakers: For example, if you find family history or the history of Lansing interesting, you would have found presenters Julie Mannino, secretary for the city cemeteries; Sharon Patton, civil war buff; and Loretta S. Stanaway,

president of the Friends of Lansing's Historic Cemeteries and owner of Memorial Minders (a local gravesite beautification service) fascinating.

On April 16, these presenters talked about Lansing's three city-owned cemeteries (North, Evergreen and Mt. Hope): their history; historical figures, lesser known founding fathers and mothers, and Civil War notables buried there; conditions in the cemeteries; recent and future developments in Mt. Hope Cemetery; and plans the friends have to help

See CVNA on page 4

CVNA Report Card

By: Willie Vinson

Schools, businesses and often on the back of trucks you see this question, "How Am I Doing or Driving?" Colonial Village Neighborhood Association is no different.

Please complete the enclosed survey and let us know how we are doing and let us know how we can better our service to you.

We often receive verbal compliments that tell us we are on the right track. However, you the people we strive to serve, are the best judges.

Our purpose is to contribute to the community by supporting and initiating activities beneficial to the neighborhood, City of Lansing and the society in

general; to work cooperatively in solving problems affecting the health, safety and general welfare of CVNA residents; and to establish effective communication links among CVNA residents, local governments, state government, and community organizations. This is accomplished through your donations, with the help of volunteers and grants.

From the President

Neighborhood Changes

By Anita Beavers

Our neighborhood will see many changes this year. There are exciting plans for National City Bank and perhaps Rite Aide. Several new businesses have opened up in Logan Center and prospects for further development are in the works. Some setbacks were a surprise—losing Fantastic Sam's, the Pizza Hut and Hollywood Video was a sign of the changing economy.

Our association continues to have high attendance and we have new volunteers stepping in to make our monthly meeting calls and provide refreshments. Our thanks to Pat Zue, Barb Alspaugh, Lu Glatz and to Peg Greer and Kathy Miles. We are looking for more people to actively participate in CVNA. Area three which is bordered by Victor, MLK, Holmes and Pleasant Grove (see map) is in need of a representative. The position requires attending the monthly meetings, taking calls from area 3 neighbors and providing

access to information that will address their concerns. If you like being active, helping people, and promoting our neighborhood please consider volunteering. Call me at 882-0015 if you are interested in this or other positions.

We need people for delivering newsletters, working on flower beds, helping with our picnic. We also would welcome you to serve on our board, develop programs, welcome new neighbors, write grants and/or make a donation. There are many ways to volunteer and be a vital part of CVNA.



Bea Christy Award Nominee



Anne Wilson and her Parents at the 2008 Bea Christy Awards Dinner

Twenty years ago the Lansing Neighborhood Council hosted a dinner to honor and thank people who have a passion for making neighborhoods a better place to live.

Every year around Valentines Day, Lansing Neighborhood Associations,

family & friends gather together with city officials to share a meal and highlight the fine work these neighbors continue to do. The dinner is a testament to the idea that one person does make a difference.

Anne Wilson, CVNA's previous Vice President, was the Association's nominee for the 2008 Bea Christy Award. Anne was chosen because of the numerous contributions to the residents of the community and the City of Lansing. Congratulations Anne for a job well done.

Welcome New Neighbors

The Colonial Village Neighborhood Association (CVNA) would like to welcome our new neighbors.

You are invited to attend CVNA's next meeting, Wednesday, May 21, 2008, 7:00 p.m., at Grace United Methodist Church which is located on the corner of Mt. Hope and Boston Blvd.

The program for the May meeting will include a presentation about Elderhostel Travel by Rita and Norbert Klein. In addition to a different speaker at each meeting, representatives from the Lansing City Council, Police Dept., Ingham County officials and Mayor's office attend every meeting. Our meetings are a good venue to give feedback to those who serve you.

The Association meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Agenda, minutes, activities and local events can be found at cvnanews.com. The Association also has a call list. If you do not have access to the Internet, contact Anita Beavers to be added to the call list. Her number is (517) 882-0015.

Your support is critical to our success. You are encouraged to get involved. Volunteers are needed to serve on the Association board and committees. For more information contact Anita Beavers, President at (517) 882-0015.

CVNA meetings are a great way to meet your neighbors, learn more about your neighborhood and the community you live in, and what future events the Association and surrounding areas have planned for 2008.

See Activities & Events page 3

Holiday Lighting Awards



In December of every year, Colonial Village Neighborhood Association gives awards to residents who decorate their homes during the holiday season. To be eligible for December 2008 all you have to do is decorate your home.

Winners of the 7th Annual Holiday Lighting contest were John & Nancy Norris who have lived on Mt Hope Street for over 29 years.

Children were able to visit Santa and his sleigh to the delight of the children and parents alike.

The Colonial Village Neighborhood Association would like to congratulate Fred and Susan Skidmore on Peggy Place, second place winners; Jon and Marion Wilford on Peggy Place, third place winners; and Frank and Kaye Siwek, fourth place winners.

The holiday lighting committee were members of the Association and residents of a nearby senior residential complex. They all agreed it was not easy to select just four homes because all homes were beautifully decorated.

CVNA Area Representatives

CVNA is seeking a volunteer to serve as the Area Three Representative.

Area Representatives serve as liaisons between CVNA residents and the Association. If you need assistance with street lights, the upkeep of rental property on your street, parking, or other concerns or compliments contact your area representative. They will direct you to the proper agency or follow up on your behalf.

There are three areas. Area One is (Mt Hope to Victor and Boston Blvd. to Martin Luther King Blvd). Area Two is (Pleasant Grove to Boston and Mt. Hope to Victor). Area Three is considered the smallest of the three mainly because the majority of the area contains woods and the residential portion is small compared to the other two areas. It is located between Victor and Holmes and Martin Luther King Blvd west to Pleasant Grove. Currently the Area Representative position is vacant.

CVNA is seeking a volunteer for Area Three. Please contact Anita Beavers, President, at (517) 882-0015 for more information or call your area representative to find out what it means to be an Area Representative. Time investment includes agreeing to attend CVNA's monthly meetings on a regular basis.

Michael Morofsky, Area One Representative said he enjoys being the conduit that helps keep the neighborhood looking good. He enjoys interacting with neighbors. He is currently working with Greg Scrimger, Lansing's Code Compliance Officer concerning rentals in the neighborhood. He asked neighbors, located in his area, to contact him. His number is: 517 487 9012.

Mary Bechtol, Area Two Representative said she enjoys being the go between person who serves as a voice for the residents of the neighborhood. She likes getting to know neighbors. She said, "I have gotten more than I have been able to give back." Mary's contact information: Telephone 517 487-3907. Email: rivermiss@comcast.net.

Activities and Events

5/10/08 (10 a.m. -3:00 p.m.) FREE Car Wash - Grace United Methodist Church on the corner of Boston and Mt. Hope offers a **FREE** car wash to its Colonial Village neighbors. "Roll right up" to the back parking lot on Saturday, May 10th from 11:00 to 3:00. "First come—first served." Brighten that car up on Mothers' Day Weekend. See you there! Grace United Methodist Church is also looking for EUCHRE players for their Monday Meeting. The meeting is at 12:30. All in good fun. Call the church office at 482 5750 for more info.

5/17/08 (10 a.m. - noon) Planting Day
The Friends of Lansing's Historic Cemeteries, with the help of Smith Floral Company, will give away **FREE** geraniums to plant at Gravesites (all three Lansing Cemeteries). One two-inch pot per gravesite while supplies last. **(unless heavy rains).**

5/22/08 (11:30 - 1:15pm) - Walk Michigan Program - State Kickoff at the Capitol. Join Ernie Harwell and Chris Holman as they kick off the walking season. Participate in the celebration walk and win a weekend trip for two to Mackinac Island. Register on-site at the event. (517) 483-4313

6/7/08 - 6/8/08 - American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Lansing at Lansing. Catholic High School on West Saginaw, Lansing. 24 hour Relay for Cancer Research. Contact Willie Vinson (517) 482-8724 for more information.

6/7/08 - Mayor's River Walk - Free-
The purpose of this event is to highlight the importance of health/fitness and the Lansing River Trail. Walk will start at Potter Park Zoo Pavilion

6/21/08 - CVNA Garage Sale
(CVNA) is asking for a donation of \$1.00 if you are participating to help pay for advertising.

8/5/08 - CVNA Annual Picnic and National Night Out

10/15/08 - CVNA's Meet the Candidates Night

promote, protect and prosper the three cemeteries.

The presentation included photographs, historical documents, and site design plans for a memorial garden at Mt. Hope Cemetery. The presenters announced that on May 22, 2008, 100 free geraniums, donated by Smith Floral, will be available to you at each cemetery for your loved one's plot. If you are unable to plant them yourself, volunteers will do it for you. For more information contact: Friends of Lansing's Historic Cemeteries Loretta S. Stanaway, 546 Armstrong Rd., Lansing, MI 48911. Phone: 517-393-0637.

In March, Clara Bratton, Naturalist with Fenner Arboretum, discussed bird habitats and ways to attract birds to our backyards. Did you know that some

birds like to stand on perches, others like a flat surface or feed from the ground and that the single most attractive bird seed is black "oiler" sunflower seed? Most squirrels don't like safflower seeds. Clara passed around samples of various seeds. The most active month for migrating birds is May. President Beavers announced a surprise at the end of this presentation. An anonymous donor generously gave CVNA enough copies of Birds of Michigan by Ted Black so that each attendee could have a book.

In previous months, other speakers provided information pertinent to Lansing residents: Ken Szymusiak, Director of South and Outer Core Lansing, Economic Development Corporation (LEDC). The LEDC is working with small business owners, The Small Business Development

Assoc., Micro Enterprise and others to help small business owners find financing and be successful.

Captain Teresa Szymanski, South Precinct; Officer Sarah Nolen, South Precinct Neighborhood Watch Officers; and Mary Brinks, Colonial Village Area Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, introduced the possibility of adding more Neighborhood Watches in the area. Contact Mary Brinks for additional information and find out how to start a Watch on your block. Mary_brinks@yahoo.com or call 517-580-7444.

Maria Irish, from the City of Lansing Real Estate Assessment office, presented recent changes to Real Estate Assessments. Additional information on this topic can be found on the City's Website at: <http://finance.cityoflansingmi.com/assessor/>.

Sponsorships & Supporters

Thank You

The publishing of this newsletter was funded in part by a:

Grant from the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Board

Thank you to everyone who donated gift certificates, products, time and money in support of the Association.

**Ann Cook, Branch Manager,
Colonial Village Branch of National City Bank**

L & L Food Center

Rite Aide

Dr. Otto Graesser

Residents are asked to please frequent these businesses to show our appreciation.



Colonial Village Neighborhood Association Survey

Please complete this survey and let us know how we are doing and how we can better our service to you as a Neighborhood Association. Please fold in half, scotch tape closed and return the Survey to the Association's secretary by May 24, 2008: Willie Vinson, 1935 Gordon Ave., Lansing, Michigan 48910. This survey can also be completed and submitted online at cvnnews.com or brought to the May 21, 2008 CVNA meeting. For information call 517-482-8724.

Meetings

Have you ever attended an Association meeting? yes no

If yes, did you find the information shared at the meeting helpful? yes no

Please explain:

Services

In addition to providing information & education on issues and events, the Association serves as an advocate for the residents of the neighborhood. Do you believe the Association is providing a valuable service? yes no

If no, what can the Association do to improve and be more effective?

Website

Have you visited the Website (CVNAnews.com)? yes no

Did you find the information displayed there helpful? yes no

If no, how can we improve the Website to make it more useful to you?

Activities/Events

Have you attended or participated in any of the associations' activities or events (Picnic, Meet the Candidates, Open House, Garage Sale, etc.)? yes no

How would you rate the activities or event you attended? excellent good fair

Would you like the Association to plan additional activities/events? yes no

Keep the current line up as it is? yes no

General comments:

Colonial Village Neighborhood Association
3010 Boston Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910



Willie Vinson
1935 Gordon Ave.
Lansing, Michigan 48910