



Colonial Village Newsletter

Volume 9

www.cvnanews.com

October 2008

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 our Website:

www.cvnanews.com

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Sponsors

Thank You!

**National City Bank
and
Mayor's Advisory
Board Grant for
funding of
CVNA's
newsletters.**

Nighborhood Sign Replaced

Submitted by

The Colonial Village Neighborhood Association (CVNA) is pleased to announce the neighborhood sign has been replaced. The cost was covered by a generous donation from an anonymous resident; a grant from the Lansing City Community Use Fund and the Colonial Village Neighborhood Association.



From left to right: Evelyn Bush, CVNA Vice President, Michael Morofsky, Area One Representative, and Anita Beavers, President.

At the July CVNA meeting, Anita Beavers, Association President, reported on the status of the sign.

The sign was damaged during the recent storm. The Association is grateful to the following neighbors who pulled together and cleaned up the site. Debris was cleaned up and hauled away by Craig Young, Pat Zue, Michael Morofsky and Anita Beavers. In addition to helping with clean up, John Miles made temporary repairs to the sign and Pat Zue repaired damage to the flowers beneath the sign.

See Sign continued on page 4

A Bit of CVNA History

By: Anita Beavers

CVNA is ten years old. The association was formed to counter a proposed renaissance zone development of the wooded area on our southern border. After much hard work by Randy Williams and other board members at that time, the development was stopped and the association has gone on to tackle issues

such as traffic calming, CSO project, beautification of roundabouts and boulevards. CVNA continues to work for the good of all the residents of Colonial Village by providing information and resources.

Colonial Village Shopping Center was the first neighborhood

shopping center in Lansing. It was built on land that was bought in 1946 and the center was opened in 1953 with eight stores. The center was remodeled in 1960 and a Montgomery Ward, Silver Lead, Gordon's Apparel and Schmidt supermarket were added. Muirs Drug Store and the D & C department store were updated.

See History on page 4

From the President

Anita Beavers

CVNA Needs You

CVNA needs you to become an active member. We will have openings on our board for Secretary, Treasurer and Area 3 Representative. We also need someone to be responsible for content on the Website.

There are opportunities to become involved in working with county and city officials to keep our neighbors informed, involved and important to the well being of Colonial Village.

It must be noted that unless you step forward to participate actively CVNA as it now exists cannot continue.

Board members currently serving are asking that new faces and ideas

step up. The rewards are in giving to the neighborhood being a good citizen and providing a challenging and exciting a volunteer activity.

If you are interested in becoming an active member and/or officer, please come to the November 19, 2008 meeting. Election of officers for the 2009 year will take place at the January 21, 2009 meeting.

"It must be noted that unless you step forward to participate actively CVNA as it now exists cannot continue."

Description of Offices

Secretary: Attend meetings once a month and take minutes. Prepare minutes and meeting agenda to be presented at the next month's meeting.

Treasurer: Attend meetings once a month. Maintain financial status data and present a report at the monthly meetings.

Area 3 Representative: Serve as area representative and provide information to residents in the area from Victor to Holmes and MLK to Pleasant Grove.

The Area Three Representative position has been vacant for two years. The responsibilities have been absorbed by other area representatives and board members. Most of this area includes the woods on CVNA's southern border.

Seeking Website Producer

By: Willie Vinson

The Association is currently seeking someone to serve as Web Producer for the Association. Although this is not an elected position, it is critical to the Association's communication efforts. Take a look at www.cvnanews.com.

The duties include preparing articles, photos, and general information for the website. Most of the information is received in written form and only requires it be placed on the website. Duties also include contacting the Web Host Company when problems

occur and notifying CVNA's treasurer when payment is due to the Web Host Company.. The job is not labor intensive. It should only take approximately three hours per month of your time if that. This volunteer position will look great on your resume.

Thank You Sponsors & Volunteers

Thank you sponsors for your continuing support of CVNA activities & programs:

L&L Food Center
National City Bank
City of Lansing Neighborhood Grant
Dr. Otto Graesser
Judge Amy Krause

Special Thanks to the Friends of Nancy Young who donated to CVNA in her memory.

Thank you Grace United Methodist Church for allowing CVNA to use your facilities

CVNA would also like to thank all the Candidates who participated in the Meet the Candidates Night October 15, 2008

To our Volunteers: We can't thank you enough for all you do. It's you who make this organization shine.

Thank you for your assistance with: the CVNA picnic, Candidates Night, distribution of the newsletters, calling list, Bows on Boston, Holiday Lighting Committee, Sign Committee, Refreshment Committee and all your help in other programs.

CVNA's Report Card

Information From: CVNA 2008 Survey

The Colonial Village Neighborhood Association has grown in membership consistently over the years. Approximately 40 people attend meetings regularly.

In addition to fulfilling its mission as advocate for neighborhood residents; holding monthly meetings; providing educational and other helpful information to residents, each year the Association host several social activities such as: Picnic, garage sale, Meet the Candidates Event, Open House, etc. As times change, so do the needs of the residents who live within Colonial Village and surrounding areas.

In an effort to receive feedback and recommendations from residents on how the Association can continue to improve its services, its newsletter and its website a survey was included in the October 2008 newsletter (which is distributed to 1,400 homes) and an interactive version was placed on the Website. Survey results are: Twenty-four surveys were received and four surveys were completed on-line.

Of the surveys received, half indicated they had attended a meeting and half had not. Everyone who did attend meetings indicated the information they received was very informative and helpful. Two people indicated they did not attend CVNA meetings because they have other activities on Wednesday evenings.

Only 18 people responded to the Website question. Two did not have Internet access, six had visited the site and 11 had not. Those who had visited the site rated the information extremely helpful although some information was outdated.

On 90% of the surveys returned, people indicated they had attended

or participated in CVNA's social activities and rated them as follows: 50% excellent, .04% very good and 33% good, zero on fair and poor. The remaining surveys were not rated. When asked if CVNA should keep the current line-up of activities or plan additional new activities, .08% suggested adding activities and 46% said keep the current line-up as is. A few indicated doing both.

The Board of the Colonial Village Neighborhood Association would like to thank all of you who participated in the 2008 survey. Your feedback and recommendations are greatly appreciated and always welcome.

Now that the line of communication is open, please continue to let us hear from you. Visit the website www.cvnanews.com for contact information of any Board member or send an email to vinsonstmp@att.net.

You are also encouraged to get involved. An organization is only as strong as its membership. When you continue to do the same thing over and over, you get the same results. We need your creativity, your ideas and your involvement.

Please join us at the next CVNA meeting 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 17, 2008 as we gear up for election of officers in January. There will be no meeting in December due to the holidays.

Your General Comments From Surveys

■ Move Colonial Village sign. The homes nearby are an eyesore. Visitors relate the sign to the rundown houses in the block to the area as a whole.

■ In general the association is excellent and well informed – manages to beautify the circles.

■ Enjoy speakers – appreciate officer updates – members help keep our neighborhoods safe and clean

■ Most information is report on crime in area and code compliance response to reported offenses.

■ Only downside is sometimes the speakers take too long. Reports from council persons are most productive.

■ The neighborhood association movement has turned out to occupy well a political stratum that needed it.

■ I generally read and appreciate the newsletter.

■ CVNA is a good thing. It makes a difference for all who live here. Thank you.

■ Thank you for giving of yourselves to our neighborhood.

■ I think a nice event would be a plant exchange where those of us with an over abundance of certain type of plants could exchange it for something we want. We could perhaps meet at Elmhurst or the Baptist/Methodist churches. Everyone could leave happy either with new plants, unloading unwanted plants or both.

■ Thank you for doing what you do!!!

■ There is too much trash around the Colonial Village Neighborhoods. Schools should have more accessible trash containers. Same goes for the businesses, MLK & Mt. Hope often look like a ghetto zone with all the trash.

■ Please enforce trash control. It used to be against the law to litter. What happened? Why do people have such little respect for themselves and others by littering?

History continued from page 1

Over the years, the Center has been home to various types of businesses including a fish market, Baskin & Robbins Ice Cream, women's shoe store, a gift shop, beauty shop, video rental, restaurant and more. Throughout all the changes, the Center has remained anchored by a bank (currently National City); a food market (Currently L&L Food Center) and gas station.

In 1961 the construction of the Logan Center Shopping Center added another shopping area for Colonial Village residents. There was an Arlan Department Store, Kroger Supermarket, W. T. Grant and Woolworth stores. For those of us under a certain age, Arlans, W. T. Grant and Woolworths are—well, the forerunners of Kohl's, K Mart, and many dollar stores.

If you have historical tales, photos, etc. to share with us, please contact Anita Beavers at 517-882-8724.

REMEMBER!

Holiday Lighting Contest
All you have to do to participate is decorate your home with lights in December

Activities & Events

- *11/19/08 7:00 p.m. CVNA Mtg.
 - *No Meeting in December-Holiday
 - *1/21/08 7:00 p.m. CVNA Mtg.
- All meetings are held at Grace United Methodist Church corner of Mt. Hope and Boston Blvd.
- *10/16 - 12/04/08 - Free Home & Financial maintenance Classes, various locations - contact 517-372-5980.

Go to cvnanews.com, community events page, for more community events.

Sign continued from page 1



Damage



Craig Young helping with clean up

The damage was extensive as shown by the photos. In spite of the wonderful work of the neighbors, the sign was later vandalized and removed. The missing sign was reported and a police report was made. To replace the sign, price bids were taken from three companies. The new sign was purchased and recently installed in the same location. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with this project.

CVNA Supports the Forming of Neighborhood Watch

In keeping with CVNA's mission of contributing to the well being of the neighborhood and establishing effective communication links with residents, local and state governments and community organizations, the Association agreed to distribute information on how to form a Neighborhood Watch on your block. Please contact Mary Brinks, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator for additional information: mary_brinks@yahoo.com or call 517-580-7444

Colonial Village Neighborhood Watch

By: Mary Brinks



It seems activity in our neighborhood has picked up over these past few weeks. Please join us in working together to improve this situation before it gets out of hand. We live in a wonderful neighborhood and it's up to us to keep it that way.

Enclosed in this newsletter is information regarding our expanded Neighborhood Watch efforts in Colonial Village. Please review this information and, if you are interested in joining our efforts, complete the Family Data Sheet and return it to me by November 15, 2008.

Please remember that we know our neighborhood the best and it is important to report anything suspicious to the Lansing Police Department immediately. If it is a crime in progress call 911. For non-emergency situations you may call the Lansing Police Department at 483-4600.

Thank you for helping us to keep our neighborhood such a wonderful place to live!