

Bailey Newsletter

BAILEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



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January 25, 2011

Volume 32, No. 1

25th ANNUAL VALENTINE'S PARTY

Place: Orchard Street Pump House
Date: Sunday, February 13th, 2011
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Entertainment: 2 p.m. – 3 p.m., The Jugglers
Entertainment: 3 p.m., Magician TOM PLUNKARD

The *B.C.A.* and *Community Relations Coalition* invite you to the 25th Annual Bailey Valentine's Party on Sunday, February 13th from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Orchard Street Pump House (Orchard between Linden and Chittenden). Please join us for card making, cookie decorating, and door prizes contributed by local businesses. From 2 – 4 p.m. **THE JUGGLERS** will circulate, showing off their art and teaching the basics of juggling to those who ask. At 3:00 p.m. **Magician, TOM PLUNKARD**, will delight and amaze you! His fantastic 45 minute high-energy presentation will appear to last as long as you can say "abracadabra". Among the many exceptional acts, you will witness a cage full of birds vanish and a volunteer suspended in mid-air. Are you skeptical? Join us and see for yourself that the impossible is possible! Don't miss this great party to brighten a cold winter's afternoon! Bring your big and little friends! **HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

MORE GREAT PUMP HOUSE CONCERTS

All begin at 7 p.m.

The Pump House Concerts music series at the Bailey Pump House continues to bring in top level talent from Michigan, Nashville, and across the country to play in this special venue. Past shows have featured winners of Grammys and of best artist awards at prestigious music festivals. The focus is on singer-songwriters. **All shows begin at 7 p.m. unless there is contrary notice, and a \$10 voluntary contribution/person is appreciated for the artists.** (Please send an email to pumphouseconcerts@gmail.com to receive updates on the ongoing shows, or call Smitty at 517-927-2100.)

Sun. Feb. 13th – Nathan Bell. *Nathan Bell* left the music business for almost two decades after a successful career in the 80's and 90's. He began songwriting again a couple of years ago, but does not often perform live, and never travels outside the Chattanooga/Nashville area. Until now. The great reputation of the Pump House audiences has convinced Nathan to brave a Michigan winter and come North to perform for you. Don't miss the best songwriter ever to play for us. "My favorite songwriter," says Grammy winning songwriter and Pump House favorite Don Henry. (See <http://www.nathanbellmusic.com> for more information.)

Sun. Feb. 27th – Whitey Morgan (Solo). You can hear *Whitey Morgan and the 78s* frequently on XM radio's Outlaw Country station. The band has been touring nationally to loud acclaim, and is considered one of the hottest bands in the 'Honky Tonk' country genre. Since its outstanding show at the Pump House last winter, the band has signed with a major label, and its star is rising fast. The band is known for its hard driving nature, but few know of Whitey Morgan's ability to dial it down and perform as a solo acoustic act. This is a rare event. (See myspace.com/whiteymorgan for more.)

Sun, April 10 – GUITAR EXTRAVAGANZA with George Worthmore and Kevin Nichols. Some of you were lucky enough to see *George Worthmore's* amazing fingerstyle guitar playing at his Pump House Concert in 2009. He plays everything from jazz to ragtime to blues and popular music. George returns to the Pump House to amaze you with his playing, and entertain you with his dry wit.

George will be joined by *Kevin Nichols*, best known as the front man of mid Michigan's most successful Blues Band, 6 Hands Down. The band has been nominated to represent the Capital Region at the International Blues Competition three of the past four years, garnering a top 10 finish (out of 150+ entrants) the last time they went. The band is known for Kevin's searing lead guitar and songwriting. Now come see another side of this talented guitar player as he performs solo acoustic for the Pump House – something he does rarely.

Either one of these two guitar virtuosos would be a great show. Being able to hear them both in one night is something that you can only do at Pump House Concerts.

Sunday, March 13 or 20 – TBA. There WILL be a March show. (See www.baileyneighborhood.org for updates.)

Reminder from City on Snow and Ice Removal

In December the city sent out a reminder to residents about their duties in removing snow and ice from the sidewalks. The presence of ice and snow on sidewalks is a safety hazard. Residents should remove snow from sidewalks and adjacent to their homes within 24 hours of snowfall, and are asked to use salt or another abrasive on the sidewalk ice within 12 hours after ice has formed. Those who rent a home or building should discuss with their landlords whose responsibility it will be to clear the adjacent sidewalks. Both parties can receive fines if the sidewalks aren't cleared.

Residents planning to leave East Lansing for an extended time should make plans to have their snow removed in their absence. Senior citizens unable to clear their sidewalks can also call the Prime Time office at (517) 337-1113 to request snow removal assistance (an hourly rate is applied). (Thanks to the city for this information and much of the wording of the article.)

HELP WANTED to Distribute *Bailey Newsletter!*

The “Bailey Newsletter” is hand distributed thanks to the help of many volunteers. These distributors deliver the newsletter to your doorstep in all kinds of weather four times a year. The Bailey Community Association greatly appreciates this work! Unfortunately, a few streets do not have volunteers. If these streets receive newsletters it is courtesy of people who have other routes or live far from those streets. We hope some of you reading this newsletter will volunteer to distribute them on the following streets: **Grove & Ridge, the 300 – 500 blocks of Gunson, Milford, Burcham east of Gunson, and Virginia north of Burcham.** Please contact Rilla McHarris at mcharri2@msu.edu or Sally Silver at sallysilver@hotmail.com if you can help out. THANKS!

THANKS to Luminary Participants and Organizers

The Pump House Board wants to send a big “Thank You!” to all of the block captains and residents who participated in the 2010 luminary display! The Board sold more than 4000 candles this year, surpassing all numbers in recent memory, and the lighting on Solstice Evening was the most complete in quite some time. The neighborhood looked radiant! There was renewed luminary participation on several neighborhood streets that have been darkened in recent years, and after the event, both the BCA and the Pump House Board were contacted by other EL neighborhood associations interested in participating in the luminary custom next year, so our beautiful custom may be spreading.

As most of you know, the luminary sale is the Pump House Board’s primary revenue source, and as activities at the Pump House continue to build, and the ability of the City to fund its priorities is clouded by diminishing state support, it’s vital to have resources available to keep the building’s charming ambience and utilitarian virtues available for an increasingly wide variety of activities. This shared effort by our dedicated volunteer block captains and all of the residents continues to highlight the wonderfully engaged and cooperative spirit of our neighborhood that makes it a great place to live, work, and play. Thank you, again, to all involved! (And thanks to the Pump House Board and especially Catherine Grosso, Konrad Hittner and Wendy Sylvester Rowan for organizing the luminary display and to Konrad for writing this report.)

Report on ELPS Committee on Future Facility Use

Bailey Neighbors. . . . The East Lansing Public School District has recently established a “K-8 Facilities Community Committee” to look at the District’s array of K-8 school buildings and future facility needs, and to provide a set of options by late April to the Board of Education for refurbishment, replacement, and possible grade reconfiguration and/or re-sizing of the District’s elementary school infrastructure. This committee’s task stems from both the District’s interests in operational efficiencies and optimal instruction environments, and the reality that our present K-6 buildings are reaching 50 years of age and, absent substantial refurbishment, are nearing the end of a reasonable design lifecycle.

The committee’s title and charge includes all of the buildings in which K-8th grade instruction occurs, but primarily focuses on the “lower elementary” schools—the current K-4 Red Cedar, Marble, Pinecrest, and Donley Schools, and the current 5-6 grade Glencairn and Whitehills Schools. The recently-refurbished MacDonald Middle School (7th & 8th grades) is included only to the extent that any grade reconfiguration may necessitate modifications to that building—an option that has not been fully discussed or decided by the committee or the BoE. Issues that the committee will likely examine include:

1. The overall number of elementary school students that the District needs to plan facilities for, in light of current and foreseeable in-district enrollments, school of choice enrollments, and regional demographic trends.
2. The appropriate size of elementary school buildings for optimal instructional environments, effective management, and efficient operation.
3. The feasibility and costs of refurbishing existing facilities to meet future needs vs. those of new facilities.
4. The optimal locations for refurbishment and/or new construction to meet the District's building needs, in light of the District's current real property assets.

The Community Committee's meetings are open to the public, and the meeting times, agendas, minutes, and relevant documents are available at the ELPS website:

<http://elps.k12.mi.us/education/components/docmgr/default.php?sectiondetailid=10866>. The Community Committee is comprised of 21 school district residents, and includes two Bailey residents – Eric Schertzing, who is one of the committee's two co-chairs, and Konrad Hittner. Both are parents of school-aged children. If Bailey residents have questions or concerns about the Community Committee's work, or input to offer the Committee on these issues, they should feel free to e-mail either Eric Schertzing (schertzing@aol.com) or Konrad Hittner (khittner@sbcglobal.net). (Thanks to Konrad Hittner for this report.)

Home Invasions in East Lansing and What You Should Do

East Lansing is a relatively safe city. In 2009, it experienced 0 Murders, 17 Criminal Sexual Conduct cases (rapes), 296 Breaking and Enterings, 99 Aggravated Assaults, and 31 Robberies. (To access the city's crime statistics go to the city's website at www.cityofeastlansing.com, then to "depts.," "Police," then "Crime Statistics." The Index Crimes/Part 1 is for the more serious crimes, and Part 2, the less serious.)

During August and September of 2010, however, in the course of one month, two separate gangs entered and burgled about 15 houses in East Lansing. One of these occurred in Lantern Hill and one on Bailey Street, both in the Bailey neighborhood. Unlike most burglaries in our city, these burglaries were not opportunistic but were more organized. The burglars did not go up and down streets seeing who was home and who had left their doors unlocked. Instead, in some cases they scouted locations first. They then chose a moment when the homeowners were gone, maybe for only one or two hours, even during daylight hours, to rob the house. If doors were locked, they broke down doors, then took flat screen televisions, computers, and even clothing in one case. According to Detective Jeff Murphy, "One suspect told us that he felt that very expensive homes would most likely have alarms so he stayed away from those and targeted less expensive homes that . . . [might] have nice stuff."

These home invasions came to an end not only due to excellent police work, but because of alert neighbors. In one case, a neighbor reported seeing a vehicle behaving suspiciously several days before one of these home invasions, and recorded information identifying the vehicle. This vehicle later showed up near a burglary in progress. In another case, a group of neighbors observed a vehicle and its occupants that seemed out of place and was behaving oddly. They called the police and helped to break the case.

This article is not intended to alarm you, but to offer some tips to avoid burglaries. Although there were 84 home invasions in the Bailey Neighborhood in 2010, according to Sergeant Jeff Murphy few were of the type discussed above. Most included theft of such items as money stolen at a party or a bike stolen from a garage. Indeed, many occurred during breaks at MSU, when student housing becomes a target for burglars. Over winter break, because thieves knew students were gone, there were 29 home invasions in our neighborhood, mostly in rental areas.

How does one avoid becoming the object of this type of crime? Here are some tips from Sergeant Jeff Murphy:

“Pay attention to what is going on in the neighborhood. If something or someone looks out of place call the police and let us know. [Sometimes a would be thief will knock on your door to see if anyone is there under some pretext. If this or other behavior seems suspicious, call the police.] Many times the police will stop people who are thought to be suspicious but turn out to have legitimate reasons for being in an area. We don’t mind doing that. If you get the feeling something is wrong, call and we will take it from there.

Make your home appear occupied even in the daytime. People that break into homes are usually after property. The last thing that they want to do is encounter a resident. If the criminal thinks you are there they will most likely go somewhere else. Televisions/radios on in the daytime are good. Dogs in the house are an excellent deterrent.

Get to know your neighbors, let them know your work schedule and your patterns. The neighbors will recognize a problem faster if they know what is normal at your house.

Talk to your kids about what to do if they see something suspicious. Afternoon is a good time for a break-in to happen. Some kids are home alone after school.

Often we recover property that we know is stolen but can’t prove it. When you have something stolen and are able to give us a description and serial number we can enter the stolen property in a national computer system so that if a police officer anywhere finds your property we will know where it was stolen from. This not only gets your property back to you but also helps us link suspects to crimes. The most popular things that are stolen from homes are flat screen televisions, lap top computers, guns and prescription drugs. These items are stolen because they are easily converted to cash on the street. Write down serial numbers off of your valuables.”

Sergeant Patti Nowak adds these recommendations: To ensure that it looks like someone is home when you are gone, “leave a rotating timer for lights, contact the police department 319-6897 and ask for a Vacation Check (police car will periodically check the exterior of your home), have good locks on all door (including deadbolt), make sure garage door is always shut, make sure that newspapers do not accumulate in driveway, trash dumpsters are returned from the front of the house in a timely manner, drive ways are shoveled (so that it appears someone is there), and neighbors are given instruction on a phone number where to reach you in case of emergency.” She also notes that having a dog is a great deterrent.

You can also set up a **Neighborhood Watch** group. A group of neighbors concerned about crime in their area get together and contact the police to set up one of these groups. Neighborhood Watch groups encourage neighbors to get to know each other and meet periodically to facilitate sharing information when needed. A conduit is established for inter-group communication and for communication between the group and the police liaison, currently Sergeant Campbell. Sergeant Campbell notes that groups often start by covering a small area (say one block) and expand as more people discover their utility. Setting them up is not difficult.

Numbers for Contacting the Police: If you observe suspicious behavior, contact the East Lansing Police by calling 911. If you want to talk to someone about a problem that does not need an immediate police response you can contact ELPD at 517-351-4220. If you would like to talk further about crime trends or home security you can call Sgt. Murphy at 517-319-6846. Sgt. Campbell is our Neighborhood Watch coordinator and can be reached at 517-337-1731 ext. 6467. All of the police officers who helped with this article encourage you to call them. As Sgt. Nowak writes, "We want to hear from our residents even if they aren't sure what they are seeing is suspicious or not - you pay us to check it out." (Thanks to Sergeants Campbell, Murphy and Nowak for their extensive help with this article.)

WANTED !!! Nominees for BCA Board of Directors
B.C.A. Annual Meeting: Thursday, April 28th

The Bailey neighborhood extends from Hagadorn to Abbott, and from Saginaw to Grand River. The BCA is currently accepting nominations for new board members to begin serving as of the Annual Meeting with the first board meeting in May. If you live within this area but are not now a member of the BCA, join now or within 30 days of the Annual Meeting to become eligible for election. Terms are 2 years. Meetings are on the second Monday of each month. Nominate yourself or a friend! To do so, please contact one of the officers whose email addresses are listed under the article on the Bailey Community Association. *More details on the Annual Meeting in the next newsletter.*

The BCA Board of Directors meets on the second Monday of each month except August at 7:30 p.m. at the Bailey Community Center. Meetings are open to the public, and all residents are urged to attend meetings with their concerns. If you have questions, please contact Chairperson Suchitra Webster at hingwesu@msu.edu or Vice Chairperson Ellen Armentrout at glenellen@comcast.net.

Dues help the Bailey Community Association to organize meetings where viewpoints and concerns can be aired, organize "meet the candidates" forums; organize and complete Bailey park and neighborhood clean-up days; work with MSU's Community Relations Coalition; work with the Pump House Board to organize social events such as the Ice Cream Social and Valentine's Party; and publicize these through emails and newsletters.

Don't forget the new Bailey website for updates and more information: www.baileyneighborhood.org.

BCA MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____ **ADDRESS:** _____

EMAIL: _____ **PHONE:** _____

ANNUAL DUES: **\$7.00 for couples and families**
 \$4.00 for singles
 \$3.00 for couples and singles over 65 or for students

Please send dues to Anne Grevstad-Nordbrock, 700 Collingwood Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823. Checks should be made out to the Bailey Community Association.
