

Bailey Newsletter

BAILEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



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Circulation: Rilla McHarris

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LUMINARIES

The Annual Luminaries Display Is Scheduled for 12/21/13, Winter Solstice Evening

Canvassing Neighbors:	SOON!
Block Captain Pick-Up Date:	Saturday, December 14th, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Pick-Up Place:	Orchard Street Pump House
Display Date:	December 21st, beginning at 6 p.m.
Cost for Luminaries:	\$5/set of 10 candles, 10 bags, 10 cups

The sale of luminaries to light up the darkest nights of winter is the main income source for the Pump House. Luminaries are candles placed in white bags with sand at the base, which then line the street curbs and are lit at 6 pm. The effect when all of them are lit is stunning---particularly if we get less breezy and drier weather this year! This year's display is scheduled for Saturday, December 21st on Winter Solstice. If you have not heard from a block captain by December 14th, or if you would like to pick up a set for your individual household for another reason, you can go to the Orchard Street Pump House on the 14th, between 11 AM and 1 PM, to get luminaries. If you are a block captain unable to pick up your luminary sets on December 14th, please use contact information below and reschedule.

! MORE BLOCK CAPTAINS NEEDED !

Block captains are still needed for a number of streets. All it involves is knocking on neighbors' doors and asking if they would like to buy luminaries for the given price (still only \$5 for a set of 10 bags, candles, and cups!), and an explanation of how and when to do this. Block captains then pick up the supplies and distribute them to neighbors. It doesn't take much time and is fun. Please contact Konrad Hittner (khittner1@gmail.com, 351-6354), or Dudley Smith (pumphouseconcerts@gmail.com, 337-1651) with questions, or to indicate interest in being a block captain.

MORE GREAT PUMP HOUSE CONCERTS

Beginning at 7 p.m.

The Pump House Concerts music series at the Bailey Pump House brings in top-level talent from Michigan, Nashville, and across the country to play in this special venue. **All shows begin at 7 p.m. unless there is contrary notice, and a \$15 voluntary contribution/person is appreciated for the artists.** More shows may be scheduled beyond those listed, so to check concert schedules email pumphouseconcerts@gmail.com to receive occasional updates on shows, or go to www.facebook.com/PumpHouseConcerts or www.baileyneighborhood.org. You can also call Smitty at 517-927-2100.

WEDNESDAY, December 11th — DECEMBERSONGS. This talented quartet is back! This time it's crossed the river to become Decembersongs '13: An East Nashville Holiday Concert with critically acclaimed songwriters Amy Speace, Rod Picott and Doug & Telisha Williams. Imagine if The Bluebird Cafe moved to East Nashville, where folkies & hippies, rockers & hit songwriters all collide in a funky neighborhood that is enjoying a bohemian renaissance. Decembersongs '13 is a little bit low rent, a whole lotta great new songs, some sentimental favorites and a lot of belly laughs. This show will ask for a \$20 donation.

SATURDAY, January 4th — Michigan Songwriters In The Round. Three of Michigan's best singer/songwriters will swap songs and stories. Matt Dmits is the hottest young gun in Detroit's vibrant roots rock scene. Josh Rose brings West Michigan's beauty and his teacher's eye for a story. Drew Howard represents Mid Michigan and the over 1,000 bands and records he's been a part of.

SATURDAY, February 8th — DRIVE SOUTH. What do Freddy Fender, Ringo Starr, Gerry Rafferty and Drive South have in common? Roger Brown - a visionary songwriter whose versatility and accomplished finger style guitar work drive this duo's creative take on traditional country and Americana music. Mary Sue Wilkinson is a perfect complement to Roger, with a voice as pure as a Michigan stream and as warm as a southern night. For more information, please see: www.drivesouthmusic.com.

HOMETOWN HOUSING

Hometown Housing is the nonprofit partnership founded in part by the Bailey, Central and Red Cedar neighborhoods with the city's assistance. The Bailey neighborhood has two neighborhood representatives who sit on its board of directors: Rilla McHarris and Mark Meadows. Mark has written a brief report about it as follows:

"First, it is an honor representing the Bailey Neighborhood on the Board of Directors of the Hometown Housing Partnership. The partnership was forged by the most endangered neighborhoods in East Lansing long threatened by rental creep and destabilization. As you know, HHP was originally known as "East Lansing Housing & Neighborhood Services," until it changed its name in 2008 to reflect a broader mission:

Hometown Housing Partnership, working in partnership with the community, promotes strong, diverse neighborhoods, affordable housing and home-ownership in East Lansing and its surrounding communities.

I thought you should know that HHP has assisted 107 households with the acquisition and/or rehabilitation of a home in East Lansing. HHP has been responsible for distributing over \$2 million dollars in assistance to date.

In addition, Hometown Housing Partnership administers programs that make affordable housing available including:

- Down Payment Assistance
- Home-buyer Repair Assistance
- Home Improvement Assistance for Home-owners

In addition to Bailey, HHP's target neighborhoods are Central/Chesterfield, Southeast Marble and Red Cedar; all founding partners in HHP

HHP goals for 2013/2014 include:

- Assist City of East Lansing with the completion of the Avondale Square development.
- Provide home ownership assistance to an additional 10 families in East Lansing.
- Increased partnerships with local businesses/neighborhoods to provide added housing and/or community development options.

Again, thank you for providing me with the opportunity to serve on the HHP Board of Directors. If you become aware of any opportunity to obtain additional properties in the Bailey Neighborhood that can promote the mission of HHP, call me! My number is 517-332-2004.”

THANKS, Mark!

NEW Bulk Item Pickup Ordinance #1300

In light of an increasing number of bulk items being placed on the curb for prolonged periods of time and of an increasing number of attempts to set these items on fire by mischief makers (including people who drag them from their own homes to do so), the city has enacted a revised bulk item pickup ordinance to reduce the time items are left on the curb. The hope is that Ordinance #1300 will both reduce the time of the unsightly display of such articles, and the opportunity for burning them. If an item is set on fire, it may constitute arson; if someone is simply caught next to a burning item, it may be a misdemeanor.

Megan Clark, Assistant to the City Manager and city liaison to the Bailey Community Association, describes the specific language of the new ordinance as follows:

“The amended ordinance . . . allows for a shortened notification period for bulk item violations. Bulk items include furniture, appliances, carpet, mattresses and other large rubbish items that exceed 40 pounds and/or do not fit in a 32-gallon yellow City trash bag. If these items are placed at the curb without a City sticker/scheduled pickup or on the wrong day, they are in violation of the City’s amended litter/bulk item ordinance. Residents now have two hours to remove these items if they receive a face-to-face notification and eight hours to remove items if a violation notification is posted outside of their residence. A citation can be issued if bulk items are not removed from the curb in these allotted time periods, resulting in fines (currently set by the court at \$220 for similar violations) and abatement costs (\$35 if removed during regular business hours or \$150 if removed after hours.) Removed items should be placed inside of the resident’s house or garage until the appropriate scheduled pickup date.”

The proper way to dispose of bulk items is to request a pickup by the city. Again, Megan explains how to do it:

“Bulk item violations can be easily avoided by purchasing a \$15 bulk item sticker and scheduling a Monday bulk item pickup. Bulk item stickers can be purchased at East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, or at the East Lansing Department of Public Works (DPW), 1800 E. State Road. A bulk item pickup can be scheduled online at www.cityofeastlansing.com/collectionrequest or by calling DPW during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at (517) 337-9459. Phone requests

must be made by 5 p.m. on the Friday prior to Monday's collection and online requests must be made by 7:30 a.m. on the Monday of collection. Items should be placed at the curb on the scheduled Monday morning with the purchased City sticker attached." For more information, please consult: visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/DPW.

(Thanks very much to Megan Clark for this useful information.)

Comprehensive Plan Update

As discussed in the July *Bailey Newsletter*, the city of East Lansing has embarked on the process of updating its comprehensive or master plan. The Michigan Planning Enabling Act requires city planning commissions to update their plans every five years, though the extent of the update is not stated. Over the summer the city appointed the members of six steering committees to take up different aspects of the plan. Each committee is led by a planning commissioner, has a city council member and several members of the city staff as well as volunteers and stakeholders.

The official kickoff for the comprehensive plan review occurred on October 14th with presentations by the City's architectural and planning consultant, Mark Miller, and economic development expert, Lou Glazer. Both presentations were videotaped, and are available for viewing on the City's Comprehensive Plan Update webpage. Mr. Glazer's remarks concerning the need to educate and retain college graduates in order to cultivate and maintain vital cities, and the region's long-standing issues in doing so, were particularly interesting and worth seeing.

Over the next few days, charrettes were held to explore planning needs for the northern portions of East Lansing; the "central city" corridor along Grand River Avenue, Michigan Avenue, and the southern portion of Abbot Road; and the southern portion of town, particularly along the Trowbridge Road corridor. Mr. Miller and his consultant colleagues conducted the charrettes, assembled the input they received from participants, and, later, presented some conceptual designs for these areas based on that input. These conceptual designs will serve as starting points for discussion by the steering committees as they continue their work. These designs can be found on the City's website at: with www.cityofeastlansing.com/comprehensiveplan to the right of the main points under the *Progress Documents* header and there is a pointer on the same page directing you to the video of the oral presentations.

Several members of the Bailey Community Association board of directors are on these committees and have written brief reports to give you a flavor of the meetings.

Erik Altmann reports that the Housing Steering Committee for the "Bigger Picture" comprehensive plan update has 21 members, including chair Stephen Wooden, vice-chair Paul Stokstad, and Council liaison Kathleen Boyle. The lead staff liaison is Darcy Schmitt. The committee includes several members of student rental housing companies who are not East Lansing residents, including David Olson, president of CRMC. Also a member is Vennie Gore, a vice president at MSU whose portfolio includes student housing.

The committee has convened three times so far. The first meeting, on 6/27/13, was mainly introductions. At the second meeting, on 9/26/13, a packet was distributed listing the goals, objectives, and actions of the current "Big Picture" comprehensive plan, annotated with the City

planning staff's assessment of progress on each point since that plan was adopted. At the third meeting, on 11/07/13, staff led an exercise in which committee members free-associated on sticky notes to questions about life in our neighborhoods. Although the purpose of this committee is to deal with housing issues, the committee's specific role in developing or reviewing changes to the Comprehensive Plan is unclear at this point. The next meeting is planned for January.

Jerry Sprague reports, as stated on the city's website, that the Human Dignity, Community Education, & Civic Participation Steering Committee aims to focus on "policies that advance and achieve social equity and healthy lifestyles among residents of all ages, income and cultures and policies which improve access to information and knowledge about issues affecting the community". It has 12 members, and is led by Planning Commissioner Don Davis with Amy Schlusler as the chief staff member involved (as well as two others). A Council Member has not yet been assigned to the committee because of the election. Jerry notes that progress has been slow and that not all members of the committee have been attending meetings.

This steering committee has officially met twice and also held a brief meeting at the kick-off event. Most of the time spent at meetings has been discussing better ways to interface with students, with some discussion about our elderly population, though the committee hasn't yet had a chance to discuss the Senior Survey. The committee has also touched on affordable housing and diversity in neighborhoods. The most recent meeting was devoted to an exercise to help understand goals and objectives. There are no meetings yet planned for 2014.

You can learn more about this by going to the city's website at www.cityofeastlansing.com. The front page has a link to the page dealing with the Comprehensive Plan, and from there you can learn more about what is going on, including finding a link to the presentations made at the kickoff event. Alternatively, go to: [www.cityofeastlansing.com/Comprehensive Plan](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/Comprehensive%20Plan). Although the city is eager for the committees to interface with the citizenry, mechanisms have not been set up for this. However, citizens are welcome to attend the committee meetings and, of course, can contact members of the committees if desired. The comprehensive plan webpage also includes the dates of committee meetings.

(Thanks to Erik Altmann, Konrad Hittner and Jerry Sprague for their help with this article.)

Valentine's Party Thank You's 2013

Last February the Bailey Community Association hosted its annual Valentine's Party. In our April newsletter, we thanked the volunteers who helped to make that a success. Now it is time to thank the downtown merchants who contributed wonderful door prizes to the party. During this December **SHOP LOCALLY** for your holiday gifts! Many people move to the Bailey neighborhood because of its proximity to the downtown, but the vibrancy of the downtown **depends on neighbors shopping there**. So while you are making up your holiday gift lists, make sure to visit our local merchants to be surprised by some of the special and unique items they carry. **Support our unique downtown businesses!** Thanks to:

Wanderer's Teahouse and Café, at 547 East Grand River for a \$20 gift coupon. This was a wonderful place to grab a cup of coffee or tea, lunch or a snack, and to enjoy its comfortable ambiance. Sadly, Wanderer's Teahouse has closed.

Curious Book Shop, 307 East Grand River, for two \$10 gift coupons. Curious Book Shop has been an East Lansing institution for over 40 years. And no wonder, for it stocks a huge selection of antique and collectible magazines and books of every description – genre fiction, the latest as well as classic fiction and nonfiction, beautiful art books and photo collections, vintage children’s books, cookbooks, and comic books. The lower floor houses classic old magazines such as LIFE and COLLIERS, and books in foreign languages that you won’t find elsewhere. The top floor (exit Curious Books, turn right, and go up the stairs) contains anime, show biz related items and scores of books and magazines about sports. Most are as interesting as newly hatched creations. The stock is always changing and there are monthly specials. **A new feature: the shop now carries NEW BOOKS too!** One of its main charms is the serendipitous discovery of books you never knew existed, and never knew you craved! Shop here for your Christmas gifts! Also check out its companion, the Archives Book Shop at 517 W Grand River Ave., for paper ephemera as well as more BOOKS, of course!

The Student Book Store, at 421 East Grand River, for an art assortment consisting of an Artist sketch book, a set of Crayola crayons, a Helix pencil sharpener, a fish-shaped tape dispenser, a special pencil, a fanciful magnet, and a storage container to hold these items! The Student Book Store not only has textbooks and a large assortment of MSU clothing and paraphernalia, but a large stock of Under Armour clothing, art and drafting supplies at good prices, backpacks, laptop bags, puzzles, stuffed animals, greeting cards and wrapping paper, and a large selection of Vera Bradley products. *It has a newly expanded section of general interest books with many children’s picture books and best sellers.* SBS is a community resource, an anchor for our downtown, and a family friendly place to shop. And they supply you with a gift bag when you buy something, which is a great convenience when buying holiday gifts.

Mackerel Sky Gallery at 211 M.A.C. for an assortment of great gifts. Mackerel Sky is an award winning store noted throughout the state for its outstanding hand crafted items: jewelry, lamps, mirrors, greeting cards, wrapping paper, cutting boards, salad bowls, furniture, and Art to Wear (including gorgeous ties and hats) and handmade purses. Its children’s section includes puzzles, blocks, baby blankets, and great sock puppets and stuffed animals. It has charming ornaments and stocking stuffers and items in every price range. Now you can also find puzzles and tiles designed by well-known designer Charley Harper! Here is the place to find unusual, and beautiful gifts that you won’t find anyplace else for your holiday shopping.

FOOTGEAR at 108 Division Street, for a \$25 gift certificate. FOOTGEAR is known for its handcrafted and exquisite European footwear -- such as Mephisto, Birkenstock (a specialty), Finn Comfort, and THINK. But it also carries less expensive but excellent brands such as the very popular KEEN products. It is well known for its fine service and caters to those with foot problems. FOOTGEAR also has shoe care products and great socks! Fine shoes and boots and good quality socks make a wonderful gift, and here you will find shoes not available in the malls or anywhere in the greater Lansing area. **If you want this type of merchandise to be available near you, shop here for the holidays!**

Moosejaw Mountaineering at 555 East Grand River, for a Moosejaw Frisbee. Moosejaw has all you need for camping and outdoor exploration: kayaks and canoes, tents, hammocks, snow shoes, boots, hats, scarves, and all kinds of great clothing to keep you properly dressed for your outdoor adventures or just walking around East Lansing. In addition to well known brands like North Face and Patagonia, Moosejaw sells its own high quality clothing for indoors and out. With its wide variety of superior winter hats and gloves, and many interesting small gizmos, it is also a great place for stocking stuffers!

The Peanut Barrel at 421 East Grand River, for a \$25 gift certificate. The Peanut Barrel is an East Lansing institution known not only for its great burgers, fries, sandwiches, wraps and of

course, PEANUTS! but for its great ambience. This is a spot where you will find local families mingling with M.S.U. students and professors, relaxing after work or watching all the local and regional sports in a communal environment. The family atmosphere of the Peanut Barrel makes it a hospitable place and great neighbor for the Bailey neighborhood. Stop by often to eat, drink and be merry!

Silver & Beyond at 333 Albert Ave., Ste. 102 (off the lobby of the Marriott Hotel), for a terrific watch, cellphone case and green and white earrings. This gallery showcases dazzling and designer jewelry, trendy handbags, Michigan chocolates, watches, wallets, scarves, cards, and ornaments. But more than any other store in the downtown, it caters to travellers. It has wonderful lightweight suitcases, backpacks, duffels and totes by companies such as Baggallini, LUG, and Delsey. It has unusual items such as a small gizmo to weigh your luggage. And in 2011 it was given a Crystal Award by the city. Make sure you stop here during your holiday shopping, because you are sure to find something special!

About the Bailey Community Association

The Bailey Community Association was founded to enhance the residential quality of life for those living in the Bailey Neighborhood. The Bailey neighborhood extends from Hagadorn to Abbot, and from Saginaw to Grand River. Anyone living within the boundaries of the neighborhood is welcome to join the association. 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 Konrad Hittner at khittner1@gmail.com or Vice Chairperson Erik Altmann at ema@msu.edu.

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.

BCA Website

Don’t forget the 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 Michelle Lane, 417 Butterfield Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823. Checks should be made out to the Bailey Community Association.)

Thanks to the City of East Lansing for helping to pay for, and put out this Newsletter!