

Bailey Newsletter

BAILEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Chairperson: Suchitra Webster
Editor: Sally Silver
Cirbulation: Rilla McHarris

April 15, 2011 Volume 32, No. 2

BAILEY ANNUAL MEETING

Place: Orchard Street Pump House

Date: Thursday, April 28,th 2011

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

TOPIC: The Impact of the State's Budget & Emergency Managers Law on East Lansing

BCA Business: 7:00 – 7:25 p.m.

Speakers: Beginning at about 7:25 p.m.
State Representative Mark Meadows
City Manager Ted Staton
City Council Member Nathan Triplett

The Bailey Community Association will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, April 28th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Orchard Street Pump House. Suchitra Webster, Chairperson of the Bailey Community Association, will give a rundown of the B.C.A.'s actions over the past year. This will be followed by the election of officers and new board members. (See the end of the newsletter for the list of nominees.) At about 7:25 p.m. State Representative Mark Meadows will discuss the Emergency Managers Law and the State Budget. City Manager Ted Staton and City Council Member Nathan Triplett will talk about the impact of the state budget and the new law on East Lansing from the point of view of those having to deal with the state's actions. Given the anxieties many of us have about the state of the economy and the state of the

state, this should be informative and interesting. Please plan on attending with your concerns and questions and invite a friend!

BAILEY ICE CREAM SOCIAL **Wednesday, July 6, starting at 5 p.m.**

The Bailey Ice Cream Social is scheduled as always for the first Wednesday evening after the July 4th holiday, which is July 6th this year. A more detailed announcement will follow in June. This is just a heads up so you can plan ahead.

Thank You & HELP WANTED to Distribute *Bailey Newsletters!*

In January the “Bailey Newsletter” published a request for volunteers to distribute newsletters on several streets without regular distributors. We are happy to report that people stepped forward on Milford, Ridge, and Grove. Thanks so much to these volunteers! A few streets still need neighbors to pass out newsletters. They are: **the 300 – 500 blocks of Gunson, Burcham east of Gunson, Virginia north of Burcham, and Spartan north of Beech.**

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, the streets mentioned above do not have distributors. 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 on these streets. Please contact Rilla McHarris at mcharri2@msu.edu or Sally Silver at sallytsilver@hotmail.com if you can help out. THANKS!

!!! MORE PUMP HOUSE CONCERTS !!! **Most on Sundays, beginning at 7 p.m.** **One all afternoon Saturday, June 4th**

Four of these concerts take place at the Orchard Street Pump House (in the triangular park formed by the intersections of Chittenden and Orchard and Linden and Orchard) beginning at 7 p.m., Sundays. PUMPSTOCK takes place at the Bailey Playground on a Saturday, from noon to 6 pm. Patrons are invited to make a \$10/person contribution for the musicians. Please send an email to pumphouseconcerts@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list for these shows.

Sunday, May 1st, 7pm – Craig Bickhardt

Craig Bickhardt has written number one songs for many musical legends including Art Garfunkel, Ray Charles, B. B. King, Martina McBride, and The Judds. Bickhardt was one of the original Writers In The Round at The Bluebird Café in Nashville. Seeing him would be a great way to celebrate May Day!

<http://www.craigbickhardt.com/>

Sunday, May 15th, 7pm – Martine Locke

Australian singer/songwriter Martine Locke has never worked a 9 to 5 job, never worn a skirt to work, never had straight hair, AND she has never played the tuba. She has had one dream her entire life: **To play music.** Put driving acoustic rhythms together with alternate tunings, a powerhouse voice, intelligent stage banter and intimate life stories that will leave you wiping the tears from laughter one minute and

pondering the next. <http://www.martinelocke.com>. Josh Rose of Grand Rapids will open for Martine. <http://www.josh-rose.com/>

Sun. June 19th, 7pm – Phil Lee

Phil Lee has been called “The Best Songwriter in Nashville” (*The Nashville Scene*). Listening to some of his wild yarns you'd think he was the offspring of Calamity Jane & Rumpelstiltskin. He writes intelligent songs full of wit, humor & grace that blend sizzling Dylanesque rock & roll, country & western, mid-60's British Invasion and medicine show sounds that end up being utterly unique and sung in a voice that can shoot straight through to your heart. <http://www.phillee1.com/>

!!! PUMPSTOCK MUSIC FESTIVAL IS BACK !!! **ON SATURDAY, JUNE 4TH, NOON TIL 6 P.M.** **Bailey Park (300 Bailey Street)**

PUMPSTOCK is a celebration of American Roots Music and put on by Pump House Concerts. **Four bands** on Saturday, June 4th, from noon to 6 pm at Bailey Park (300 Bailey Street) will entertain you. This is the second of what we hope will be an annual event. Pumpstock is a day of great music, food, friends and fun with something for every age. Entertainment will include face painters, local food vendors, jugglers, *Barnaby Bird*, and of course the great music you expect from Pump House Concerts.

The musical line up is impressive. Sonia Leigh, a major recording star with Breaking Southern Ground Records, will headline. Michigan's favorite songstress and winner of over 30 Detroit Music Awards, the Jill Jack Band, will also perform. Also from Breaking Southern Ground Records, Levi Lowrey and the Community House Band will perform along with local bluegrass favorites, Lindsay Lou and the Flatbellys.

Note: in case of rain, Pumpstock will be held in the gym inside Bailey School.

LITTER AGAIN !!!

As readers of the *Bailey Newsletter* know, the neighborhood's litter situation has been a frequent topic and irritation for members of the Bailey Community Association. During the summer of 2008, B.C.A. representatives Elizabeth Anderson and Sally Silver met weekly with city staff members, led by Assistant City Manager Marie McKenna, to brainstorm about solutions to the problem. At that time, no concrete solutions were proposed at the city level. The ideas of involving MSU organizations and neighborhoods in a public relations campaign on keeping the city litter free, and requesting members of various groups, such as the Greek community, to do neighborhood clean ups was discussed. The committee broached the idea of change to the litter ordinance, but did not discuss this in detail.

The B.C.A. board then created a committee (Ellen Armentrout, Michelle Lane, and Elizabeth Anderson) to look into the situation. The committee looked at other college towns and found that our ordinances were no worse and sometimes better than those of comparable cities. However, one of these cities, Madison Wisconsin, swept its litter-prone streets much more often than East Lansing. The Bailey board also invited Deputy City Attorney Tom Yeadon to tell us about the city's litter ordinances. He clarified an important point: When the city issues a litter citation, the city has to demonstrate that the property owner or tenant caused it, but this is not always easy. Other people can and do drop litter on or near someone else's property. Because responsibility for litter is often difficult to assign, and because of concerns for due process, the city's litter ordinance has required that warnings be issued prior to a citation.

The Bailey board also heard from PACE officer, DeAndre Wright, who confirmed that the city issues few citations for litter violations, but many warnings. By and large, he reported, there was good compliance

following these warnings. Finally, the board heard from Sean McHugh, a representative of Granger, about its policies for cleaning up areas around the large dumpsters it services.

After hearing from these people, board members explored the idea of proposing ordinance changes to the City Council. As it happened, others in the city were having the same discussion.

In 2010, the city reviewed the number of litter warnings and citations issued in that year to see if any patterns emerged. It found that the city issued 684 warnings in 2010, but only 10 tickets, and there were a number of repeat offenders. Sixty-nine addresses had 3 or more warnings throughout 2010. One had over 20! Thirty-four properties were repeat *party* litter violators. The majority of these repeat offenders were in the Bailey neighborhood, with 435 MAC (13 times), 448 MAC (10 times), and 538 Park lane (10 times) being the most frequent offenders.

According to Marie McKenna, the Assistant City Manager, “This confirmed the notion that our ordinance was not gaining the desired level of compliance. . . . Because of the way our ordinance is currently written, it is possible to receive any number of warnings with no citation ever being issued and we speculated that this system has little or no deterrent effect”. For this reason and under Marie McKenna’s direction, a city committee that included the police chief, the deputy city attorney, the PACE supervisor, and the MSU/Community Liaison, sought to amend the litter ordinance to give it more teeth. The committee worked closely with the University Student Commission and Community Relations Coalitions, and drafted a revised ordinance. On March 18th, the city held a forum that included non-student residents and landlords to discuss the ordinance and the larger issues. Michelle Lane, representing the B.C.A., attended. Meanwhile, on March 14th, the B.C.A. board approved a resolution authorizing the B.C.A. chairperson, Suchitra Webster, to write a statement in sympathy with the revisions.

Michelle Lane, a board member and attorney who has been following this issue, reports on the proposed changes to the litter ordinance as follows:

“Proposed Changes to Sections 14-38 and 14-40 of Article II of the Litter Code

The party litter code presently requires that party litter violators be given notice of a violation with a clean-up response time of 2 or 8 hours (depending on the type of notice given) before a ticket would be issued. The proposed ordinance would completely remove this notice requirement for obvious violators (those with large quantities of party cups and paper products in their yard where it is obvious the litter was generated from that property) allowing for tickets to be issued immediately. All other related party litter issues would continue to receive a notice. Also new, is a progressive fine schedule for repeat violators. The proposed schedule is as follows: \$50.00 for the first offense, \$100.00 for the second and so forth with a maximum fine of \$400.00.”

The City Council held a public hearing on this revised ordinance on April 5th, and passed the ordinance unanimously with no amendments. Anne Grevstad-Nordbrock spoke for the B.C.A. in favor of the ordinance changes. The City Council agreed to review the effectiveness of the ordinance in one year.

Note that the revised ordinance does not target litter in general, just party litter. That’s because the latter leaves a characteristic pattern that the city can demonstrate was caused by people living on the property. Note too that although the revised ordinance allows the city to cite a property for a party litter without first issuing a warning, in practice, citations without warnings will be reserved for egregious and very obvious party litter. See the article below (“Got Litter 2”) for ideas for dealing with more scattered litter. (Thanks to Elizabeth Anderson, Ellen Armentrout, Michelle Lane, Deputy City Attorney Tom Yeadon, and Assistant City Manager Marie McKenna for help with this article.)

GOT LITTER – 2

Please help clean up our neighborhood !

The revised litter ordinance discussed above will help the city deter egregious party litter violations, but it won't help much with the ambient litter we see floating around on sidewalks, streets, and yards. The best way to attack that in the short run is to pick it up oneself or get others to do so. In the long run, it would be helpful for the city and university to engage in a "Clean City" campaign to change attitudes about dropping litter or failing to pick it up.

At least twice a year, the Community Relations Commission's student interns have engaged in litter cleanups where a large group goes into the neighborhood and collects litter for a whole morning or afternoon, often after a big football game. This Spring the Greek community did this as well. Thanks to both groups. This is very helpful, and it would be great if other groups would do the same. But to help with the day-to-day problem of litter, a group of Bailey volunteers under the leadership of Elizabeth Anderson have been monitoring some areas of the neighborhood on a routine basis. Now there are about six volunteers. MORE ARE NEEDED!

Here's how it works: An individual chooses to monitor a particular patch of Bailey. It might be a single block, a few blocks, or a whole street. That individual may then pick up the scattered litter her/himself, report the litter violations to Parking and Code Enforcement, or knock on the door of the residences where violations occur and invite the occupants to clean up the yard (if it involves the yard). Or a combination of these. Also, the volunteer does this when convenient. There are no hard and fast rules.

Are YOU tired of the litter and would YOU like to join the litter brigade? Please contact Elizabeth Anderson at: 351-0976 or anders81@msu.edu to help out. Thank you!

Beech Street Sidewalks

For many years the Bailey Community Association has been concerned about the safety of the intersection at Beech and Gunson because of the poor visibility. The lack of sidewalks along Beech Street from Gunson to Hagadorn is another concern. The matter gained greater urgency after the Stepping Stones Montessori School, for ages 18th months through 6th grade, opened in 1982 adjacent to the Edgewood United Church at the corner of Beech and Hagadorn. A number of Bailey children attend the school, and walk along Beech Street to reach it.

The B.C.A. as well as Stepping Stones School leaders took this up again in the fall of 2010. In October, a number of parents and the school director wrote to the Transportation Commission requesting that it look into additional stop signs at the Beech/Gunson and Spartan/Gunson intersections, as well sidewalks along Beech from Gunson east to Hagadorn. At the Transportation Commission's follow-up meeting on November 15th, Todd Sneathen, the Director of Public Works, noted that his department had been doing traffic counts and discussing possible ways to finance any improvements to the area, and recommended sidewalks for only the south side of Beech because of the narrow rights of way on the north side. Sidewalk installations are paid for either through assessments to the property owners adjacent to these sidewalks, or through the use of Community Block Grant funds, or a combination, and require negotiations among the parties concerned.

The City Council discussed the matter at its January 25th and February 22nd work sessions. To cite the minutes of February 22nd, "Council discussed cost to property owners and City, easements, ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance, possible funding sources and timing, and ways to initiate public improvements per City Charter. [Mayor] Loomis asked [Mr.] Sneathen and staff to have conversation with City Attorney and property owners regarding costs, easements, and a broader special assessment district."

According to Todd Sneathen, the projected cost of the project is \$150,000, a draft design is in place, but no money has been allocated to the project in this year's budget, and the manner of paying for the project and other matters

raised by the Mayor remain under discussion. (Thanks to E.L. Director of Public Works, Todd Sneathen, Ellen Armentrout, Konrad Hittner and Wendy Sylvester-Rowan for their help with this article.)

K-8 Schools Committee Update

The ELPS's K-8 Facilities Community Committee has been meeting bi-weekly for the past couple of months in order to assess the need for and feasibility of renovation and/or new construction for the District's aging elementary schools, and to narrow the range of possible grade and building configurations to recommend to the Board of Education and the community. The District presently operates 6 elementary schools, MacDonald Middle School, and EL High School. There is consensus among the committee members that, while substantial improvements are needed to the elementary buildings, the District can't afford to adequately renovate all of the existing elementary school buildings to meet current and future needs, and that consolidation of students into somewhat larger buildings of about 400 students will improve learning opportunities and administrative efficiencies, and will allow the schools to more readily accommodate variations in grade-cohort sizes.

At its next meeting, scheduled for 4/14, at 6:00PM at the District's Timberlane offices, the committee intends to discuss criteria for evaluating which elementary school sites to continue utilizing, with the intent to present the Board with a manageable set of preferred building site and renovation/new construction recommendations for public consideration and Board action by mid-May. *While all committee meetings have been open to the public, there will be at least one public forum scheduled in late April or early May to specifically solicit public comment/reaction to the committee's work and recommendations before final recommendations are forwarded to the Board of Education.* Interested neighborhood residents should stay tuned to the District's website and the local media for more information. If Bailey neighborhood residents have questions or concerns, there are two Bailey residents on the committee they can contact: Eric Schertzing co-chairs the committee, schertzing@aol.com; and Konrad Hittner, khittner@sbcglobal.net, also serves. The Bailey Community Association website at: www.baileyneighborhood.org will also post the date and time for the public forum and the committee's preliminary recommendations. (Thanks to Konrad Hittner for this article.)

Valentine's Party 2011 THANK YOUs

The Bailey Community Association and Community Relations Coalition held the neighborhoods 25th annual Valentine's Party on February 13th. Magician Tom Plunkard made a courageous young man hang horizontally in the air while apparently balanced on only one end of a chair. Later, he made a large cage of birds mysteriously disappear. The Jugglers juggled and people decorated cookies and Valentine's Day cards, won door prizes, and generally had a great time.

This party is a cooperative effort by many people. Now it is time to thank them. Thanks to **Marybeth and Ron Meyer** for helping provide supplies for the card and cookie-making tables. Thanks to **Smitty** (Dudley Smith) for being a wonderful Master of Ceremonies. Thanks to **Phil McGuire, Sally Silver, Ellen Armentrout, Michelle Lane, Wendy Sylvester-Rowan, Anne Grevstad-Nordbrock, and Sue Webster** for providing snacks. Thanks to **Danae Voss** and her roommate for baking the delicious heart-shaped cookies for decorating. Thanks to **Harry Moxley** for his superb hot cider and thanks to **Michelle Lane** for some great cold beverages. Thanks to the CRC interns **Jill Flaughner, Alex Rogers, Thomas Bunting and Danae Voss** for helping to set up the party, for serving as greeters, and for tending the card and cookie decorating tables. Thanks to **Olivia Seifert** for helping coordinate the CRC contributions. Thanks to **Anne Grevstad-Nordbrock** for helping set up the card-making table, and to **Ellen Armentrout** for helping set up the cookie-making table. Thanks to **Sally and Brian Silver, Pat Enos, and Anne Grevstad-Nordbrock** for helping clean up!

One of the great features of the party are the door prizes provided by local merchants. We will thank them fully in the Fall Newsletter to remind people to do there holiday shopping downtown, but for all of you who value having a vibrant downtown, do shop at the many businesses there, including the ones that so generously contributed to our party. They are: **COSI, The Curious Book Shop, Footgear, Mackerel Sky Gallery, Moosejaw Mountaineering, the Peanut Barrel, The Student Book Store, and Wanderer's Teahouse and Café.**

List of Nominees for BCA Officers and Board of Directors

Officers (one year term):

Chairperson: Suchitra Webster, 816 Chittenden Drive (336-7330). Bailey resident for 15.5 years. Serves as the recruitment and new initiatives coordinator in the College of Arts & Letters at MSU. Two children. Incumbent.

Vice Chairperson: Anne Grevstad-Nordbrock, 700 Collingwood. Bailey resident for 8 and a half years. Homemaker with two children. Former Membership Secretary.

Treasurer: Michelle Lane, 417 Butterfield Drive. Bailey resident for 9 years. Elder law attorney for local firm. Three children. Current board member.

Recording Secretary: Phil McGuire. 1036 Ann Street (mcguirepv@aol.com).. Bailey resident for 25 years. Retired M.S.U. Professor of English. Two adult children. Incumbent.

Membership Secretary: Alice Peck, 326 Kedzie Street (517-336-9388). Bailey resident for 22 years. Retired. Two adult children. New board member.

New Board Member Nominees (two year terms):

Jessica Williams, 616 Orchard Street (304-312-5810). Bailey resident for 2 years. Architectural Historian & Historic Preservation Specialist at the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office. One young child.

Susan Woods, 510 Kedzie Street (517-980-5802.) Bailey resident for 20 years. Director of East Lansing Film Festival and Film Society Film Series, two adult children.

Two CRC Representatives, who are MSU Students, to be named next Fall.

Returning Board Members: Elizabeth Anderson, Robert Anderson, Anne Grevstad-Nordbrock, Konrad Hittner, Michelle Lane, Jim Liesman, Phil McGuire, Wendy Sylvester-Rowan, Sally Silver and Suchitra Webster.

THANKS TO BAILEY NEIGHBORHOOD HELPERS

Thanks to the many people who have worked for the neighborhood this past year. Thanks to the B.C.A. officers and board members who have monitored city activities, participated on the B.C.A.'s litter, Beech Street, and traffic committees, helped with neighborhood events such as the Valentine's Party, and sought generally to improve the neighborhood. Particular thanks go to outgoing board members **Tom Wolff**, who served on the board since 2007 and as the B.C.A. treasurer from spring 2008 to summer 2011, and **Ellen Armentrout**, who joined the board and served as vice chairperson since spring 2008. Tom was active on the traffic and Beech Street committees and Ellen was on the litter and Beech Street committees. We will miss their hard work and excellent advice and commentary. Thanks to **Anne Grevstad-Nordbrock** for taking the treasury position in addition to membership secretary when Tom resigned last summer. Thanks also to the Community Relations Coalition representatives and board members, **SungMo Son**, **Thomas Bunting**, and **Marilyn Crowley**. They kept the board informed on CRC initiatives, student

concerns, and contributed valuable ideas to all of the board's discussions. Thanks further to **the CRC** for its indispensable help with the Valentine's Party, for its neighborhood cleanups, for various neighborhood get-togethers, and for its coat drive. Thanks to **the Greek community** for its recent neighborhood cleanup. Thanks to the intrepid volunteers who deliver the Bailey Newsletters in all kinds of weather often on short notice. Special thanks to **Rilla McHarris**, who is in charge of the distribution effort. Thanks to **Elizabeth Anderson** for creating a "litter brigade" to help to eliminate the litter in our neighborhood. Thanks to **Anne Grevstad-Nordbrook** for maintaining the Bailey website. Thanks to **the Pump House Board** for last summer's wonderful Ice Cream Social, for the luminaria display, for the summer movies, and for generally scheduling and maintaining the pump house. Special thanks to **Smitty** (Dudley Smith) for creating the Pump House Concerts series and bringing such great music to our neighborhood and region. Thanks to **Susan Woods** for scheduling last summer's movies at the pump house. Thanks to **those along Whitehills Drive** who worked tirelessly and effectively to block the expansion of the parking lot next to the Spine Center on Saginaw. Thanks to all those who live in the neighborhood and work to be responsible neighbors and to make this a fun a vibrant place to live!

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. It is: 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-Nordbrook, 700 Collingwood 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 !