

*Summanas will be in front of your house
Christmas eve - please tell when it
gets dark!*

WOODLAND PARK NEWSLETTER

Woodland Park Improvement Association *** December, 1990

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Woodland Park Improvement Association, your neighborhood organization, wishes you happy holidays and a joyous New Year's. As we begin our 66th year (44th since incorporating), some reflections on the benefits of this Association to our neighborhood seem appropriate.

The Association was organized in 1924, in response by the residents of this neighborhood to the State of Michigan's condemnation of the land which now makes up southbound Woodward Avenue. The entire Woodward Avenue corridor at that time consisted of two lanes of today's northbound portion. When the state decided to widen Woodward Avenue, Ferndale's thriving business district lay in the middle of today's southbound lanes. The state's solution was to move the business district west to its present location, and replat the residential lots which then occupied it. Because there weren't many motor vehicles compared to today, and because the cost of condemnation was financially and politically costly, the state made no effective provision for parking for the newly-created business district. Those residential lots abutting the alleys on either side of Woodward were replatted to half-size lots. Because they were too small to build residences on according to city code, and because the zoning ordinance prohibited their commercial use, conflict with the businesses' need for additional parking was immediate.

Concerned residents of Woodland Park organized to prevent any further partitioning of their neighborhood, and our neighborhood organization was born. Over the years, concerned and educated residents have donated time and effort to maintain this pleasant neighborhood. When businesses tried to encroach into the existing residential lots in 1946, the Association filed suit in the Oakland County Circuit Court, obtaining a permanent injunction which has been upheld three times since.

In the 1970s, the Association successfully fought municipal attempts to rezone the residential lots immediately west of Woodward Avenue for commercial use, a change which might have sounded the death knell for the character of this neighborhood.

In the 1980s, the Association, working with the city, contributed to the creation of a workable plan to control excessive through traffic resulting from the construction of the Reuther freeway. We still maintain an active, positive working relationship with Ferndale's city government today. We also recognize the need to encourage a stable, healthy, and educated business community along our periphery. Those neighborhoods which have not protected their long-term interests with active neighborhoods organizations have seen negative consequences, including loss of control of some aspects of land use regulation within their borders. In the past year, residents of some of these neighborhoods have called to inquire about organizing their own associations.

The vitality of this neighborhood is directly dependent upon the willingness of its residents to pitch in and help. Your help is needed now. If you live on upper Drayton, lower Maplehurst, or Lewiston, a new block director is needed immediately. Yes, there are the inconveniences of dues collection and luminary distribution. But, with the investment of a few hours' time, you may contribute to a long and effective tradition of activism which is directly responsible for keeping this terrific neighborhood an enjoyable and pleasant place to live. Call any officer or block director now. Your help is needed.

Happy holidays to you all, and we look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting in March, and at the summer party on June 19, 1991.

Lyle Russell

*If you want to be block
captain - call Lyle*

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

On Christmas Eve, your block director and other volunteers will distribute luminaries to line the curbs of Woodland Park. This tradition reaches back more than 40 years. Because of the need for block directors on upper Drayton, lower Maplehurst, and Lewiston, problems are anticipated unless volunteers step forward. Call now if you're willing to help.

TREASURY & DUES COLLECTION

Eric Shapiro, of upper Drayton, is our new treasurer. Eric has been block director of upper Drayton for many years. He has a comprehensive understanding of the neighborhood's needs, and an accomplished track record of organization. The Association balance is about \$3100, most of which will be used to pay for snow removal, luminaries, and the annual summer party. Dues are an extremely modest \$11.00, and have not been changed for more than a decade. 100% collection is critical to the continued success of the Association. Please pay your block director by cash or check. They will be calling on you in the near future. Although fall and early winter have been mild so far, real winter is on the way. For those of you on upper Drayton or lower Maplehurst, you could help by mailing or delivering your dues to any officer or block director listed below. On Lewiston, George Smith will begin collection, but he is retired, and hopes to spend most of the winter in warmer climes this year. Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated. Without 100% participation, our services may be jeopardized.

1990 SUMMER PARTY 1991

Our sincere thanks to the following individuals, whose generous donation of time has made possible the second annual summer party, after a hiatus of at least ten years:

Bill and Carol Frederick, Carol Page, Dennis and Karen Grouine, Eric Shapiro, Serena and Doug Crisan, and Phil and Carol Kauffman.

The following local businesses also contributed generously, helping to ensure continued parties and keep our dues low: Walker Wire & Steel; F & M; Foodland; and especially the Western Market. Without the help of these businesses the 1990 party, attended by over 300 residents, would not have been possible. Please let them know you appreciate their generosity.

The 1991 summer party is set for June 19, 1991. The rain date (!) is June 20, 1991.

Thanks from the Committee for those who attended and helped with set-up and cleaning. You are part of the reason Woodland Park is such a great place to live. '91 volunteers will be notified in early spring of organizational meeting dates.

THE WOODLAND PARK ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT: Lyle Russell 547-6852
VICE PRES: Dick Duggins 545-8066
TREASURER: Eric Shapiro 398-7886
SECRETARY: Ellen Hill 545-6574

BLOCK DIRECTORS

- ✓ UPPER OAKRIDGE, 414-671
GERALD PIELACK (455) 545-1806
- ✓ LOWER OAKRIDGE, 229-391
FRANK FERNANDEZ (277) 541-2487
- UPPER DRAYTON, 416-671, VACANT
- ✓ LOWER DRAYTON, 215-413
KURT KUSCH (271) 547-4055
- ✓ UPPER WOODLAND, 415-671
BILL & CAROL FREDERICK (640)
547-9389
- ✓ LOWER WOODLAND, 151-393
PHIL KAUFFMAN (225) 545-3354
- ✓ UPPER MAPLEHURST, 156-391
KEN KAMERSCHEN (578) 544-7481
- LOWER MAPLEHURST, 156-391, VACANT
- ✓ LOWER LEWISTON, 156-490 (even nos. only)
VACANT AS OF EARLY JANUARY