

# WOODLAND PARK NEWSLETTER

Woodland Park Improvement Association \*\*\* December, 1992

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**The Officers and Directors of the Woodland Park Improvement Association, your neighborhood organization, wish you happy holidays and a Joyous New Year's.** The Association begins its 68th year in January, making it one of the oldest continually operating neighborhood associations in the Detroit metropolitan area.

The Association, originally formed in the 1920s to protect the integrity of the neighborhood against condemnation and rezoning problems which arose from the widening of Woodward Avenue, has maintained an independent and active relationship with the City government, while at the same time striving to work with it for the common good of both the City and the neighborhood. Long-time residents will recall that the neighborhood organization has taken zoning and land usage issues to the Oakland County Circuit Court on several occasions, beginning in 1946. Over the years, the Association has opposed City efforts to rezone residential lots along Woodward Avenue for commercial purposes, which the Association believed would have a dramatic, negative impact on housing values in this neighborhood; has worked with the City to establish a system of traffic controls within the neighborhood, to reduce traffic passing through our neighborhood to access Woodward Avenue; and has worked, strictly on a volunteer basis, to instill and maintain a sense of neighborhood pride, involvement, and promotion for our common good. All of these efforts have been done on a purely volunteer basis, with no financial or pecuniary benefit to the individuals who have donated their time in an effort to make this neighborhood a better place in which to live. At our annual summer party in June, I had the opportunity to speak with an architect who specializes in community restoration, who was attending as a guest, together with several realtors. Each of them was impressed, and commented on several occasions, that ours is an intact and active family neighborhood with an obvious sense of community spirit. Each of them commented to me that they did not see this in

their own neighborhoods, or in other neighborhoods they were familiar with in many of the northern suburbs.

The Association, in addition to maintaining an active presence in municipal decisions which might affect our neighborhood, is always looking for ways to make the neighborhood better. We will provide snow removal again this year. In the wake of last March's snow/sleet/ice/freezing rain storm, which prevented our snow plow operator from removing the snow for a considerable period of time, many residents called me. Some were calls of complaint, many simply questions as to why the snow could not be removed. The Association canvassed 13 snow removal systems; 12 were unable to clear the snow, because of its heavy moisture content, followed by plunging temperatures which reduced it to cement-like ice. The only snow removal organization capable of clearing the ice had to bring in a back hoe, followed by a V-blade plow. The cost per household for this service would have been approximately \$75.00. We are striving, this year, to make alterations in our snow removal contract in contemplation of such a storm, but the National Weather Service indicates that a storm of identical characteristics comes along about once every ten years. If any of you have constructive suggestions on how to improve the snow removal service, please call me.

Negotiations with Wetmore's concerning the use of a small parcel of land within the Woodland Park subdivision, which Wetmore would like rezoned to permit commercial parking, continues. This parcel is the subject of a 1946 Circuit Court injunction forbidding its use as a commercial parking lot, and has been the subject of subsequent court actions. The Association has made a settlement proposal to Wetmore's, as Wetmore's is a valued and long-time commercial neighbor, and we expect resolution of this matter by spring.

From time to time, residents will call me suggesting that the Association consider a project or a service which would benefit the entire neighborhood. Some of these suggestions are of interest to the Association, but would require time and effort to implement. The Association is a volunteer group, and while your suggestions are always welcome, your willingness to backup your suggestions with time and effort, together with the Association's support, will greatly increase the chances of our being able to adopt your suggestion.

To the new residents of Woodland Park, we offer our warmest welcome and a special invitation to become active and continue this tradition of community involvement. To all of the residents of Woodland Park, we wish you a happy holiday and a joyous New Year's. We look forward to meeting with you in March, at our annual meeting, on a date to be announced.

Lyle D. Russell, Jr.

### SNOW REMOVAL

With the early, erratic appearance of winter, snow removal has already begun. Timely collection of dues (only \$11.00) is essential if we are to continue this service. When your block director calls, please pay in cash or check made payable to the Woodland Park Improvement Association. Officers and directors will be meeting in January. If you have any suggestions for improving the Association, please pass them on to your block director.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Eric Shapiro continues to do an excellent job with the budget, reporting a balance of about \$2,500. Most of this will be used for snow removal at our annual summer party, so that payment of your dues, which have remained the same for 14 years, is critical.

### 1992 SUMMER PARTY 1993

Our sincere thanks to the following individuals, whose efforts made possible our fourth consecutive summer party: Bill and Carol Frederick, Catherine and Tom Force, Eric Shapiro, Nancy

Barling, Doug and Serena Crisan, Fran and Ron Omilian, and Debby Mast, among others.

Once again, our local merchants were very supportive of this party, particularly including Western Market, Wetmore's, and Planoworks. Please let these merchants know you appreciate their help by patronizing them.

Mark your calendars for the 1993 party: Wednesday, June 16. June 17 is the rain date.

### 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

<b>UPPER OAKRIDGE, 414-671</b>	
GERALD PIELACK (455)	545-1806
<b>LOWER OAKRIDGE, 229-391</b>	
FRANK FERNANDEZ (277)	541-2487
<b>UPPER DRAYTON, 416-671</b>	
BOB WURDOCK (555)	544-2911
<b>LOWER DRAYTON, 215-413</b>	
KURT KUSCH (217)	547-4055
<b>UPPER WOODLAND, 415-671</b>	
BILL & CAROL FREDERICK (640)	547-9389
<b>LOWER WOODLAND, 151-393</b>	
PHIL KAUFFMAN (225)	545-3354
<b>UPPER MAPLEHURST, 156-391</b>	
KEN KAMERSCHEN (578)	544-7481
<b>LOWER MAPLEHURST, 156-391</b>	
LINDA BECK (184)	542-6478
<b>LOWER LEWISTON, 156-490 (even nos. only)</b>	
GEORGE SMITH (470)	544-3165