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Please note that Livernois is the dividing point of upper and lower addresses

Visit our website at <http://members.aol.com/wpiaferndale>

## Annual Meeting Reminder - Mon. March 22nd

**Roosevelt Elementary's Media Center - 7:00 pm**

Special Guest Speaker: **Heather Carmona, Executive Director of the Woodward Avenue Action Association** ([www.woodwardavenue.org](http://www.woodwardavenue.org))

We look forward to seeing you there!

## President's Corner

I am happy to report that we have finally entered into an agreement with another snow removal contractor. What follows is a brief synopsis of what has transpired in terms of providing our neighborhood with continued snow removal services.

Unfortunately, negotiations broke down with our previous contractor, Jack Aldred, in December. He and his family have provided more than 50 years of service to our Association and we truly appreciated them being there for us all these years.

Since that time, we have investigated several alternatives. First, was **Sean Collins**, Treasurer Katrina Collins' son, who wanted to do the job for us. Even though it was a large undertaking and he/we fully understood the significance of his services, obtaining insurance was an issue and we had to look elsewhere.

We spent a few weeks—and countless hours—analyzing the logistics of providing our own snow removal services: from purchasing our own equipment to securing our own list of volunteers to providing our own insurance coverage. Just when we thought that was the direction we were heading, I received a call from Lower Lewiston block director, **Heather Kolwich**. She indicated that one of her neighbor's grown sons may want to do the job for us on the side.

It turned out that insurance was also an issue for him but he said his employer might be interested. Greenscapes, Inc. is a commercial landscaping firm located in Franklin, Michigan. Our contract stipulates that they will come out after 2" of snowfall from December 1 through March 31<sup>st</sup>. We will pay them \$1,000 per month for those four months.

The difference that we may notice is that they work round-the-clock. In the past, Jack usually did our snow removal during the day. It is quite possible that you may hear their equipment (4-wheel ATVs with a plow) going down our sidewalks at 3:00 in the morning.

It took countless hours of discussion with all the board members to be able provide this service to our neighbors. Please let your block director know how much you appreciate everything that he or she does for the Association! Let me be the first to say **THANK YOU BLOCK DIRECTORS!** They are a great group of people to work with.

I would like to thank you for your patience and continued support. It was the consensus of the block directors to continue to provide snow removal services to the neighborhood. However, in order continue to pay for this service, we must have stronger dues participation. Also, please remember that snow removal is not the only thing that is funded by dues. We also provide an annual beautification award, luminaries to all residents, a block sale every 18 months and an annual block party.

This is all factored into the small amount of \$15 annually. Please drop off your payment for dues to your block director if you haven't already done so.

I would also like to extend a very special thank you to Lewiston resident **Richard Sweet** and his son, **Kevin Sweet**, for the referral to Greenscapes, Inc!

President