

# homestead

The newsletter of Ferndale, Michigan's Woodland Park Improvement Association

March 2013

SUMMER **Block Party**  
RETURNS!

**PAY DUES**  
online!

514

Annual  
**MEETING**

**BEAUTIFICATION**  
AWARD NEWS





## President's Page

By Darcey McLaughlin

Am I alone, or are many of you anxiously waiting to see the Dutch pear trees bloom in the middle of Livernois? Spring is nearly here and we have almost made it through Winter! I would like to personally thank everyone who has paid their dues on time so that we can continue to provide sidewalk snow plowing (after 1.5 inches). As with every year – it's not too late! You can pay your dues year round, and we hope that you will do so.

Your block directors are our unsung heroes. They continue to pass out notices, keep us all informed, collect our dues, etc. If you are new to our neighborhood and don't know your block director (listing is on last page), please reach out

to them to say hello and provide your contact information. In 2013 we will make a concerted effort to become more electronic with our notices, collections, etc. via email, Facebook, and our webpage, [www.wpiaferndale.org](http://www.wpiaferndale.org). It's important that we have your current email address, and please rest assured, it will never be shared or used for anything other than to keep you informed of neighborhood happenings.

On behalf of the entire WPIA organization, I would like to thank Bill Frederick and his family for once again coordinating and delivering our luminary supplies to our block captains, who in turn helped distribute to all of our homes. Christmas

Eve is such a beautiful sight in our neighborhood because of them. Thank you to all, but especially to Bill!

Please read on for more information on our upcoming annual meeting, officer and block director nominations and elections, our annual neighborhood block party in June, and upcoming block sale to be held this year in the fall, as we are on an 18 month spring/fall alteration schedule.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible who attend our block party in June! You can always reach me at [darceym@comcast.net](mailto:darceym@comcast.net) or 248-542-4682.

## Annual Meeting

Wednesday, March 27 at 7pm  
Roosevelt Elementary School Gymnasium

Please join us for our annual meeting! Guest speakers will be Gary Meier, Ferndale Public Schools Superintendent and a Ferndale Police Department representative delivering a safety update.

Agenda items will include the annual officer elections, annual block director elections for Oakridge, Woodland and Lewiston, the secretary, treasurer and other committee reports, old and new business and Q&A time.

*Haven't paid your dues? Bring your checkbook to the annual meeting!*

# Treasurer's Report

By Katrina Collins

Our Block Directors have been very busy this year and have collected \$3,500. That means about 70% participation from our neighbors. Between snow removal and the Christmas Eve luminaries there have been \$2,500 in expenses, leaving a balance of \$7,374 in the Woodland Park Improvement Association account.

Thank you so much for participating and if you haven't already paid your dues of \$15.00 you can still drop them off with your block director and they will be happy to forward them on to me.

## Biennial Beautification Award

This year marks the return of the beautification award. It has been suggested that we try another selection method. Instead of having all the block directors cast their vote neighborhood-wide, block directors will select homes on their block and the committee will randomly select a winner.

The winner will be announced at the block party. As soon as spring arrives we can begin the curb appeal movement!

Which also brings up an issue that was discussed at the last board meeting. The county, and specifically our neighborhood, has been infested with rats. It is not wide-spread, as there seemed to be many block directors that were unaware of a problem. However, it was suggested that residents can help to prevent the problem.

Attractors are bird feeders; plastic garbage bags not kept in sturdy,



## Block Party!

By Katrina Collins

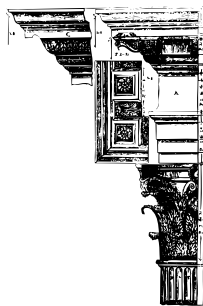
The 2012 Block Party was a huge success and fun was had by all. We had live entertainment, great weather, delicious food and we ate 200 hotdogs!

The 2013 Block Party is being planned for the last day of school, Thursday, June 13th. Anyone wishing to help plan the event can e-mail me at [katrinacollins@wideopenwest.com](mailto:katrinacollins@wideopenwest.com).

covered containers; wood piles not elevated; and not picking up dog and cat feces regularly. Please keep an eye on these and others to help curb and eventually eliminate the problem.

## Introducing: Pay Your Dues Online!

We will soon be introducing an additional dues payment option to our website via PayPal. Watch our website ([www.wpiaferndale.org](http://www.wpiaferndale.org)) for this feature!



# Woodland Park Improvement Association

## Officers & Block Directors

Darcey McLaughlin  
President and Lower Drayton Block Director  
641 W. Drayton | 542.4682  
darceym@comcast.net

Stacy Schaffer-Helmer  
Vice President  
224 W. Lewiston | 541.5257  
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Karen Breen-Bondie  
Secretary  
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Katrina Collins  
Treasurer  
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Upper Drayton Block Director  
446 W. Drayton | 545.6590  
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Kerry Keener  
Upper Woodland Block Director  
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Vacant  
Upper Maplehurst Block Director

Diane Dengate  
Upper Maplehurst Block Director  
436 W. Maplehurst | 398.2251  
dengate436@aol.com

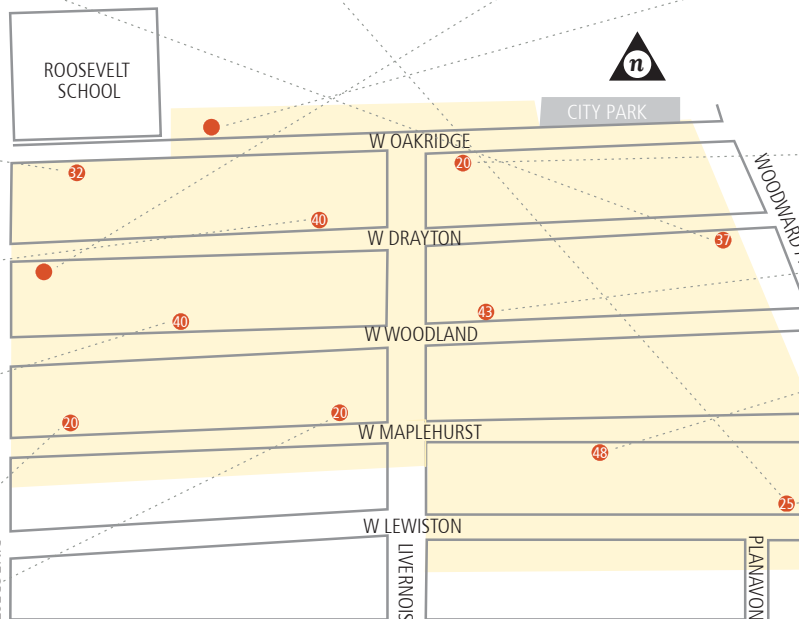
Jessica Gustke  
Lower Oakridge Block Director  
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jessica.gustke@gmail.com

Tiffani Gagné  
Lower Woodland Block Director  
360 W. Woodland | 542.8555  
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Pat and Mike Omans  
Lower Maplehurst Block Director  
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215 W. Lewiston | 217.2315  
detroit@wowway.com



Formed in 1924 • Incorporated in 1948 • Providing sidewalk snowplowing since 1954

## Committees

**Beautification Award**  
June of odd numbered years

Garry Andrews  
Stacy Schaffer-Helmer

**Block Party**  
June 13, 2013

Katrina Collins  
Diane Dengate  
Chris Milosovich

**Block Sale**  
Fall 2013

Garry Andrews  
Tiffani Gagné

**Communications**  
Ongoing

Karen Breen-Bondie  
Stacy Schaffer-Helmer

**Nominations**  
Ongoing

Garry Andrews  
Tiffani Gagné

**Snow Plowing**  
December 15 - March 15

Scott Helmer  
Kerry Keener

*If you are interested in joining a committee, please contact the WPIA president*

### Designed and Published by

Karen Breen-Bondie, Secretary  
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[www.wpiaferndale.org](http://www.wpiaferndale.org)  
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*The newsletter of the Woodland Park Improvement Association is produced with the intent to keep residents informed. Please report news to the association president.*