

Old Towne Neighbors

Volume V Number 4

April 2002

Time to plan for summer in Old Towne

In spite of the April snows, we believe that spring and summer will come eventually. That means it's time to plan for our neighborhood yard sale and our Street Party.

We are also thinking about other ideas including participation in Cherry Festival. If people are feeling athletic, we could enter a neighborhood bed in the Bed Race—or we could set sail in the Milk Carton Regatta. Come with your ideas for summer in Old Towne.

Ladies' Night at Brady's

All the women in the neighborhood are invited to join us for pizza and beer or soft drinks. Come at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 29. This has been one of our most successful activities. We have women of all ages coming. Last month a man came and we allowed him to stay only because he behaved himself.

We had so much fun at our night out to see the movie Gosford Park that we hope to take in some other events. One suggestion is taking a day to go down to Grand Rapids to tour the Meijers Botanical Gardens. All of the women in the neighborhood are welcome.

Class in New Urbanism

NMC is offering a non-credit class in New Urbanism in April and May. Eighth Street resident Mark Nixon is coordinating a group of expert speakers including Ray Minervini, Russ Soyering, Ken Richmond and others. Now that we have had some experience with our neighborhood plan, we can go on to a better understanding of urban planning and land use. Check your NMC Extended Education newsletter for times and costs.



An organized neighborhood has a stronger voice in the city

The March meeting was a different kind of event, one that we should try more often. Instead of a regular meeting, several of us went to Oryana for a special tour. There were all sorts of foods to sample and the variety is impressive. Too often we forget about this food store right in our neighborhood. Customers do not have to be members and there is no surcharge for non-members. The advantage to membership is special discounts and voting rights.

This is very definitely a local store. They buy local produce whenever possible, both to get fresh and healthy food and to help the local economy. Another advantage to our neighborhood is the 5% discount to anyone who used alternative transportation to get there. If you walk, ride your bike or skateboard, or use BATA, be sure to tell the cashier.

The Easter Bunny stops in Old Towne

Thanks to Mary Kirt and her daughter Meagan for the Easter decorations on the stop signs. No stop signs in town can compare to ours.

**Thursday April 11
7:00 p.m.
St Francis Family Center**

Meeting Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Introductions
3. Secretary's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Sector Officer's Report
6. Announcements
7. Planning for summer activities
8. Discussion of stop sign at Lake and Tenth by Oryana

Old Towne Neighborhood Officers

President:	Barb Rishel	941-0752
Vice-President:	John Snodgrass	935-4316
Secretary:	Mary Pollock	941-5002
Treasurer:	Juanita Pickett	946-2784
Sector Patrol Officer:	Bob Sadler	947-7784

It's time for the Rotary Show

April 17, 18, 19 and 20 are the dates for this year's Rotary Show. As always, the performance will make fun of everyone including the City Commission and a lot of other people we know.

We are planning a neighborhood night to go to the Rotary Show on Thursday the 18th. The tickets are general admission, so anyone who wants to come can just get a ticket and join the neighbors there. Anyone who wants to can come to Brady's at 5:30 for dinner before going to the show.

Clean-up reminder

If you have a large appliance other than a refrigerator, you can have it disposed of at no cost to you. Call Mark Nixon at 929-4319 to make arrangements. The city pickup in May won't accept these items.

Andrews University Update

Neighborhood residents attend Andrews University presentation of Old Towne Neighborhood Plan and West Boardman Lake Development

In September, nine Andrews University students and their professor visited Traverse City to research our neighborhood and the west side of Boardman Lake with the goal of developing a neighborhood plan. They spent 10 days staying in homes in our neighborhood, conducting interviews and gathering information. Before they left, they presented a preliminary plan and received input from the public during a forum at the Governmental Center.

On November 13 the students presented their refined, though still preliminary, plans at Andrews University to a group of guest architects who were there to critique their work. Traverse City representatives were City Manager Richard Lewis, City Planner Russ Soyring, City Commissioner Linda Smyka, City Assessor Deb Chavez, and Barb Rishel and Janet Fleshman from Old Towne.

Highlights of the plans included decorative street refinements on Cass and Union and using part of the St. Francis Church parking lot as a "piazza." Boardman Lake Avenue would have housing on both sides and access from both 10th and 12th Streets. Many of the proposed changes were incredibly exciting and showed how creatively these students looked at our neighborhood. Other changes, especially those concerning traffic flow, were advocated by city officials but not by the neighborhood representatives. The most controversial were the connections of Tenth and Twelfth Streets to Boardman Lake Avenue because these would only increase traffic without giving relief to Cass and Union Streets.

Happenings around the Neighborhood

December 10, Monday
City Commission
Governmental Center
8:00 p.m.

December 13, Thursday
Open House
The Village Center
1200 West 11th Street
Trolley from Park Place
5:00—8:00 p.m.

December 17, Monday
Ladies' Night at Brady's
6:00 p.m.

December 23, Sunday
after dark
Decorating Contest Patrol

The proposed street refinements take the form of exposing the brick pavement on Union Street and putting a landscaped median (boulevard) on Cass within the existing curbs and right of way. The center section would have "fixtures" in the middle of the intersection at corners that don't have stop signs. A "fixture," is a vertical element such as a statue or obelisk.

They proposed quite a bit of housing development along both sides of the proposed Boardman Lake Avenue with access to and from the boulevard from both Tenth and Twelfth Streets. There was more than one idea for this development and we hope to have drawings to show at our December meeting. We have some serious objections to connecting 10th and 12th Streets to the boulevard. Neighbors had expressed objections at the presentations in Traverse City and the representatives pointed this out at the presentation in Berrien Springs.

This presentation also left out plans for the pedestrian access to Boardman Lake that was originally proposed. The elevated walkway for pedestrians to cross over the Avenue and access the lake trail had been eliminated.

Some parks that we asked for and that were in the original proposal are missing from the plan. Some of the suggestions the students had included parks but most of them involved obtaining private property.

This plan as it is now would end our hopes for moving arterial traffic from 8th to 14th Streets off of the residential streets. Come to the December meeting and learn more about the plans and their implications.

Janet Fleshman

Remember to ride BATA

Take BATA to the mall and avoid all the parking problems. Buses run every half hour. You can get schedules at our meeting or call BATA at 935-0684

Open House at Building 50A (GT Commons)

The Minervini Group is holding an open house at their new offices in "The Village Center" at 1200 West 11th Street (Building 50A) on Thursday, December 13 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. They sent an invitation to our Neighborhood Association. It's the same night as our meeting but you can go early and take a look at this interesting space. Ride the BATA trolley from the Park Place Hotel if you like. Pick ups will be every half hour starting at 5 p.m.