

**EASTER EGG HUNT WHEN: SAT, APRIL 19 WHERE: JONES PARK TIME: 11:00 –1:00 VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED CALL: 383-5600 ANNUAL MEETING TUES MAY 27, 7P OLMSTED ROOM K COLLEGE ICE
CREAM SOCIAL SAT, JUNE12th**

2014 WMH WINTER CARNIVAL

This year, unlike in past years, there was no concern about having enough snow. In fact, early in the morning, volunteers began packing down the huge amounts of snow to make a sledding trail for the first sledding of the year in Jones Park – and successfully. It was a rather balmy day for this winter, in the 20s, and many families came out to enjoy the winter fun! For more pictures, go to:<http://wmh.webnode.com>

Changes to West Main Business District

As you are probably aware, big changes have occurred to our local business district on West Main Street. Walgreen's viewed by many as one of the mainstays of the six block long business district, moved east off the hill to a downtown location. The building on the northeast corner of West Main and Berkley sits vacant. Several inquiries by local residents as to what will happen to the property have not yielded much information. What has been brought to mind is the fact that our local business district is ever changing and that it has some problems that this most recent change will not help. However, change can present opportunity.

A few years ago local residents formed the West Main Improvement Committee to address concerns about our local business district problems. Those problems were identified as follows:

1. A need for a wider variety of businesses with which folks can trade.
2. A need for improved appearances along the existing streetscape.
3. A need for pedestrians to feel safer while on the sidewalk next to busy West Main. (That is, to pass the "tricycle test")

Two significant outcomes were generated from the actions of the committee. First was a well attended design meeting (called a design charrette) which brought together local residents, government officials, business owners, architects and other stakeholders to discuss problems and possible solutions. The results are documented on and can be viewed on our neighborhood website by going to <http://wmh.webnode.com> and clicking under **Menu on Homepage, "WMH design charrette"**. Secondly, the committee was fortunate to obtain a grant from the Kalamazoo Foundation. It was used to purchase and install on the power and light poles along the street from Gilkeson east to Prairie, a number of small but attractive banners celebrating the West Main "Hilltop Shops" businesses.

There is a renewed sense of need for continuing efforts to improve our business district. To that end **a meeting will be held next month May, date and location to be announced** to discuss future actions. If you would like to participate, email Steve Terranella at nevetsjt@gmail.com with your name and email address. You will be notified of meeting time and place. And visit our website for a look at the design charrette results. Let us pull together our thoughts and our visions of what might be and begin again the grass root effort to improve our neighborhood and help make our business district more attractive, accessible and desirable to visit.

SUPPORT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD – PAY ANNUAL DUES -- \$25 SUGGESTED

CAN PAY BY PAYPAL ON WWW.WEBNODE.COM; OR SEND TO: WMNA, PO Box 19802, Kalamazoo, MI 49019

HELP “ROLL OUT THE BARRELS”

Rain barrels, that is! The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, City of Kalamazoo, and community partners are sponsoring a RAIN BARREL SALE this spring. Do something good for the environment and save money on your water bill this summer by buying and installing a rain barrel. **Did you know lawn and garden watering can make up nearly 40% of total household water use during the summer?** Using rainwater collected in a rain barrel can save you money on your water bill. Here are some other advantages:

- Rainwater is a naturally soft water and devoid of minerals and other chemicals, which is better for plants and gardens
- Reduces pollution by capturing and reusing water that would otherwise runoff roofs and pick up pollutants such as oils, fertilizers and soil particles that are harmful to our lakes and streams
- Allows you to manage where and when rainwater is released, therefore preventing flooding during heavy rainfall and allowing watering with stored water during dry weather

Hurry, all barrels must be pre-ordered and paid for before May 10th. A limited number of barrels are available at a discounted price of \$45 each in four color choices (limit one per household). Additional barrels can be purchased at \$53.50 each. They are 55-gallon reused, food-grade, plastic barrels that come with all the necessary parts. Visit *kalamazooriver.org* or *upcycle-products.com* to order yours today! Mail-in order form available online.

All orders can be picked up on Saturday, May 17 from 11 am – 3 pm at WMU's Community Gardens at 1940 Howard St, Kalamazoo (located on the NE corner of Howard and Stadium behind the WMU Stadium Drive Apartments and across from Kalamazoo Christian High School). Call (269) 978-4606 or visit *www.kalamazooriver.org* for more information. Receipt required at pick up.

Neighbors,

Kalamazoo College has approached the West Main Hill Neighborhood Association Board with a proposed change to its Master Plan. The following text, largely provided by the college describes the change, and the chance for neighbors to weigh in on the matter, if they care to do so:

Kalamazoo College seeks West Main Hill neighbors' opinions about a change the College wants to make in its campus master plan. That plan, which was approved by the City Commission in 2012, calls for the College's new natatorium to be located adjacent (just north) of the Markin Racquet Center tennis courts, set back from West Main street across from the Stuart Avenue neighborhood. The change the College seeks is to instead build its new natatorium where its current natatorium is located, facing Academy Street between Acker Lane and Catherine Street. The location called for by the plan is no longer viable because the College was unable to purchase a piece of property indispensable to the construction of the building at that site.

In the current location the footprint of the new natatorium would be larger than the current structure. As a result, the College would not build the admission office (welcome center) proposed for the location in the master plan, nor would the College build a proposed parking lot (51 spaces) immediately south of Crissey Residence Hall that was approved in the master plan.

Kalamazoo College's master plan is a requirement of its zoning under a new city zoning designation called Institutional Campus. K was the first institution to apply for zoning in this new category, which requires a master plan of likely and potential changes the College might seek within a 10-year period. That draft plan is then discussed with surrounding neighborhood associations, vetted through public hearings, and reviewed, revised, and approved by the city planning commission and city commission. Once approved, the plan obviates the need for repeated zoning requests during the 10-year life of the master plan since the elements of the plan (having been vetted and approved) dictate allowable changes.

When circumstances mandate a change in the master plan prior to its 10-year review and renewal, the pathways for approving such a change depend on the scope of the change. If the change is small, city administrative approval may apply. If the change is significant, the pathway that includes public hearings and subsequent approval by the Planning Commission and City Commissions is warranted. In either pathway, the City requires (in writing) the responses/opinions of the surrounding neighborhood associations to the proposed change.

The WMHNA will discuss the college's proposed change at its annual meeting on May 27th. The college will present the approved footprint and the proposed change, and will discuss the parking implications of the altered plan. Neighbors are encouraged to attend and to express any support or opposition they might have to the new natatorium plan.

Sincerely,

Mark Sloan, President

West Main Hill Neighborhood Association

**ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING: MAY 26, 7:00 AT K COLLEGE OLMSTED ROOM
NEW OFFICERS ELECTED – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED;
REVIEW PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO K COLLEGE'S MASTER PLAN;
LOCAL HISTORIAN JIM DEITZ TO SPEAK ON "SINS OF KALAMAZOO"**

Handy Contact Numbers

KDPS (City) non-emergency.....	337-8994
Township police non-emergency.....	343-0551
Silent Observer.....	343-2100
KVET (drug unit).....	337-8880
COK (anti-blight; dangerous bldg.).....	337-8229
Animal Control.....	383-8775
Consumers Energy.....	800-477-5050
Curbside Monthly Trash/Brush Pick-up..	337-8215
Curbside Weekly Recycling Pick-up.....	337-8215
Fire Hydrant Repair.....	337-8149
Housing (general).....	337-8026
Housing Inspector.....	337-8026
Public Utilities.....	337-8149
Public Works/Tree Maintenance.....	337-8731

WMHNA Mission Statement

We, the Board, will work on behalf of the entire neighborhood to promote and preserve the quality of life of our neighborhood which encompasses: 1) Maintaining and protecting the physical boundaries and residential zoning of our neighborhood; 2) Maintaining and protecting the residential and historical character of our neighborhood; 3) Promoting the safety of our neighbors and their property; 4) Supporting an increase in neighborhood involvement through various activities and committees within our neighborhood. Read more: <http://wmh.webnode.com/>

WMHNA BOARD MEMBERS 2013-2014

Please email any board member with questions or concerns:

Mark Sloan, President.....	1631 Grand 342-8480	Mark-sloan@sbcglobal.net
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Darin Meyer.....	1514 W. Lovell 388-5682	dpmeyer4867@yahoo.com
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Bob Dunbar.....	415 Burrows 373-6013	kzodbar@gmail.com
Casey Gershon.....	1503 Academy 349-4821	gershonc@bronsonhg.org

Police Numbers

Non-emergency, City of Kalamazoo Public Safety.....	337-8994
Non-emergency, Township of Kalamazoo.....	343-0568

WMHN WEBSITE: WWW.WMH.WEBNODE.COM