



## Mountain View Subdivision News..... 11-20-01

### From The President.....

**Association Dues:** Thanks to all the homeowners who have paid their association dues. We appreciate it. If you haven't paid yet, please do so. (Don't forget, Carter Carpenter is our new secretary/treasurer so make sure to send your check to him at 6385 Grand Circle Dr., Brighton, MI 48116). Thanks!

**Septic Tank Cleaning:** Just wanted to remind homeowners that septic tanks need to be emptied about every 3 years, or less if you have a larger household of people. We just had ours done last month and the cost was \$155.00 for a 1500-gallon tank. Takes about 20 minutes (assuming they can access your tank lid fairly easily and doesn't require a lot of digging.) We had Howell Sanitary who has a good reputation. Their phone number is (517) 546-2978. There are two important reasons for taking care of this regularly: 1) It preserves your drain field integrity. Once a drain field is damaged from clogging and backing up, the costs to dig a new drain field start at about \$5000.00. (That \$155.00 is starting to look pretty good, isn't it?!) 2) This subdivision (and 90% of all homes in Livingston County) are dependent on groundwater for drinking and use. We are pulling water up from aquifers that are fairly extensive below us. Drain fields and poorly maintained septic tanks are a serious threat to water quality. It is vital that we do our best to protect it. So please take care of yours if you haven't done so in quite some time. Thanks.

**Roads:** This topic did not come up at our annual meeting but it probably should have. The quality is rapidly degrading - we even have some serious potholes starting. We desperately need one or two people who are willing to champion this issue. Livingston County Road Commission does not play a role in repaving subdivision roads. Genoa Township will pay a percentage but we need to fork over the balance. (We certainly can put some of our dues money toward that end.) But - we need someone to coordinate the effort: 1) Call three repaving contractors and get them to quote on the project; 2) Approach the Genoa Township Board with the information; 3) Petition the neighborhood letting us know what our costs are per lot. (Remember, just because you

are coordinating this doesn't mean you have to do all the work! The MVIA Board will certainly do our part.) Money from the township is probably limited and the cost of repaving, (like everything in life), will only go up. We really need action on this soon. Please call me if you are a willing volunteer! Thanks.

**Plastic Rings From 6 and 8 Packs:** Recycle Livingston is now accepting these rings for recycling. (These nasty things do cause countless deaths each year to animals that get their heads/necks caught in them and then suffocate.) To recycle, put the rings in a bag separate from other recyclables and bring to the site on a drop-off day. They will be packaged and shipped to a non-profit agency in California to be recycled in to new rings. Recycle Livingston has a six-pack ring "tree" that they use in presentations at local schools. If you want more information on this program nationally, you can go to: [www.ringleader.com](http://www.ringleader.com). Recycle Livingston's winter hours are: Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. They are located at: 170 Catrell Street, Howell, MI 48844. For more information, contact them at (517) 548-4439.

**Holidays:** Well, the holidays are fast approaching and we haven't even put all the Halloween stuff away...! Oh well, it is always enjoyable readying the house for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Hanukkah, plus anticipating spending time with family members. We encourage neighbors to participate in the luminary project, (please see the additional information in this newsletter). The neighborhood looks so wonderful on Christmas Eve with these lights shining the way. Best wishes to your family this holiday season and may we all be thankful for living in this great place we call America.

Sincerely,

*Sara Thomas*

### **Greetings....**

As many of you are probably aware the neighborhood meeting held in September brought about some changes. First, Trish Petrat stepped down as president, and Sara Thomas has taken her place. Carter Carpenter has taken on the responsibilities of being the Secretary/ Treasurer, and Don Merckling, the newest member of the board will be the Vice President. In another changing of the guard I have taken over writing the news letter, giving Rick Zahler some free time. Although the Architectural committee at this time consists of Rick Zahler, Jeanette Mauch, and Carter Carpenter, the board is considering making this position much like the boards. One person would step down each term, allowing a new member to step in.

### **Thank You...**

Trish Petrat did a wonderful job as President of the association. She helped the association get a jump start after many years of being dormant, which in some ways



forced the neighborhood to become active again. And behind every good woman, is a good man, so thanks to Rick for being so supportive of your wife in her "high" profile role as president and for writing the news letter keeping the neighborhood informed and up to date.

Thanks also to Sara, Carter and Don for being willing to give up their personal lives for the next year now that they all are elected officials. As with all elected officials the privacy act no longer applies to these three, so feel free to stop them on the porch while their in their robes retrieving the morning paper, or when their chasing their escaped dog down the road, call them any time day or night. (I'm kidding....I'm kidding!) Actually we need to be courteous of when we do approach them with "issues", timing is everything.

### **Open for Business...**

Hang out your shingle, and keep that 1-800 number, as the amendment to Deed Restriction #16 has passed. The deed concerned operating a business out of your home. One vote was required for the passage of the amendment. All ballots returned to date have been "Yes" votes to amend the restriction as proposed. Ballots are still coming in. A final count will be available as soon as they are all received. For further details, please contact Sara Thomas.

### **Burn Baby Burn...**

One way to avoid those dreaded "calico" snowmen, is to burn those leaves. A few things to remember when your burning. 1. Get a burning permit. 2. Make sure you have a hose around. ( no hanging in the garage doesn't count!) 3. Make sure that if it's a windy day, the wind is not blowing towards your own house! ( Just kidding, not good to burn on windy days!)

### **So Sorry...**

I would like to apologize for having to cancel the subdivision party on such short notice, also for the people who didn't know about the party, let me apologize for no notice at all, that was an OOPS! Hopefully by canceling the party you were all saved from getting the flu that ran through our home. I will try to reschedule another party, but with the Holidays coming up (and quickly I might add) I think we'll try something in the spring.

### **Speaking of the Holidays...**

Milk does the body good. Time to start saving those plastic gallon(or even half gallon) milk jugs so we can light up the streets on Christmas eve. I noticed that they sell bulk bags of votive candles at Meijers for those who are interested. The directions are really easy, cut a hole in your washed milk container, put a little sand in the bottom to



weigh it down. Put your candle in the sand, and stand out side in your best clothes ( because everyone always seems to be going somewhere on Christmas eve right?) and fight the wind (because your flame keeps getting blown out.) and wholaa... you have your first jug lit. ( Just 5-10 more to go!) I confess in the past my property line has been dark...I kept forgetting to save my jugs....so if your forgetful too or just don't have the room to store them, don't feel guilty but at least try to enjoy the ones that are displayed. (As you can see by the work it takes just to light them they're worth appreciating!)

### **More Holiday Ideas...**

Who likes to Christmas Carol? OK, let me rephrase that...who would be willing to carol? I think it would be a great experience for our kids to go caroling around the neighborhood. Accept on TV I know my kids have never seen real carolers, let alone participated in one. I thought it would be fun to have a neighborhood caroling outing with the kids. We could choose an evening ( it's always more fun in the dark) get bundled up, and bring Christmas cheer to the neighborhood. For the people who wanted to stay nice and cozy in their homes, waiting with anticipation for us to ring their door bell and sing some songs ( out of tune I'm sure), maybe they could offer a cookie to the kids, you know like they did in the "olden days". Just a thought, let me know if you would be interested,

**88888888.**

### **Meet Your Neighbor's Neighbor:**

Everyone has a next door neighbor, and they usually know them by name, but sometimes we don't have a chance to get to know our neighbor's neighbor. I'm about to change all that! I'd like to introduce 3 neighbors who you might or might not know.

**The Blatt's.** David and Karen Blatt live **88(8888888888888888)** Karen shared with me that they have lived in the subdivision now for 9 years, and that they really like it here. They lived on the other side of Brighton for about 8 years before that. Ironically after chatting we realized we lived 2 houses away from each other in our other sub! David and Karen have 5 grown children. Susan, Alan, Andrew, Jim & Jason. Although their kids don't live with them anymore they still have five little dogs that keep them busy. ( 3 Yorkies, 1 poodle, & a Sulky). When they do get free time they enjoy nature things, camping, hunting etc. Thanks Karen for sharing this information.

**The Reske's.** Bob and Debra Reske **888888888888888888888888** Sometimes we forget that our subdivision extends beyond Grand Circle and Catalpa Drives. Debra shared with me that they have a 21 year old daughter named Sharon. They moved from Sterling Heights sixteen years ago to the home they live in now. Debra said they really enjoy the neighborhood. When I asked what they liked to do in their free time, Debra started laughing saying "What free time!" So when I asked hypothetically about free time, she fessed up, saying she does needle point and Bob plays tennis. Thanks Debra for filling us in.

**The Baal's.** Richard and Marilyn **888888888888888888888888** They moved from Detroit to their current home 15 years ago, with their 4 kids. Sandy, Sherry, Chris and Mike.

