

**August
2017**



The Brookfield Occasional

Brookfield Heritage Neighborhood Association <http://brookfieldneighborhood.net>

BIINA Officers

President:

Jennifer Castner
205 Oakland
2014-2017

Vice President:

Mike Benedict
147 Oakland
2015-2018

Treasurer:

Alan Munn
164 Oakland
2015-2018

Secretary:

Kay Ruekberg
277 Oakland
2014-2017

Communications:

Jeff Johnson
144 Maplewood
2014-2017

At-large:

Philip Eisenlohr
236 Oakland
2015-2018

Bill Martin

204 Oakland
2016-2019

Kathy Prince

237 Oakland
2016-2019

Email the board:

board@brookfieldneighborhood.net

Neighborhood Picnic & Annual Meeting – Sep 10

Join us on Sunday, September 10, 4-6 pm on Oakland Drive for our annual neighborhood association meeting and potluck gathering. Rain date – Sep 24.

In addition to sharing food and conversation, you can catch up on neighborhood news, participate in the Association's official annual meeting, and elect new Association board members.

September is also the time to pay your 2017-2018 dues! A bargain at \$20 per year, here are some benefits:

*Funds to provide for re-

placement trees along our beautiful streets

*Neighborhood Association representation and a voice at East Lansing government meetings

*Our fabulous website and forum

If you prefer, drop your dues by Treasurer Alan Munn's home @ 164 Oakland Drive.

Make your check out to Brookfield Heritage Neighborhood Association!

Hope to see you there!

Meeting Highlights

The Association will provide paper goods, water, a hot grill, and hotdogs! Bring a dish to share or come as you are – don't be shy!

- Mingle with City of East Lansing City Manager, a Councilperson, and Council Candidates.
- Join in a friendly bocce ball competition w/Dave Finet at 219 Oakland Drive.
- Talk trees with Wes Reedy and Pat Robinson.
- Hear city officials talk about the proposed new citywide income tax on the November 7 ballot.
- Annual meeting starts ~5pm. Be there!

Proposed Citywide Income Tax

The City Council of East Lansing is proposing a new income tax to generate revenue for cash-strapped city coffers: a 1% income tax for residents and a 0.5% income tax for non-residents earning income in East Lansing, and, lastly a property tax reduction. In theory, residents' new income taxes would be offset by reduced property taxes. (City's information on the subject:

<http://bit.ly/2uyAzxx>)

Jill Feldpausch, the City's new Finance Director explains it this way in a story by *East Lansing Info*

(<http://bit.ly/2uQukjX>): "The income tax study calculated approximately \$5 million of income coming from East Lansing resident taxpayers, so the thought process by the Financial Health Team and Council was to reduce property tax total income by approximately \$5 million. Of course, this is not going to work out to be even for each individual, as income and property taxable values are not all the same; but in total, it would even out. Some people will benefit and pay less taxes [overall], however, there will be some that end up paying more in taxes overall."

You can look at a chart on the City's website to roughly estimate its impact on your taxes - <http://bit.ly/2wEckab>.

Depending on the ratio of your property value to your annual income and other factors, the taxes could be a wash, result in increased city taxes, or provide some tax relief.

City of East Lansing officials will attend our September 10 meeting to discuss this proposal.

Be sure to vote on this and other measures and candidates on November 7, 2017!

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Help Choose a New Tree for Our Park

The Brookfield Heritage Neighborhood Association's mission:

- To preserve the neighborhood's unique treescape and environment – your dues help pay to replace trees along our streets!
- To promote the safety of the neighborhood.
- To foster community through annual picnics and social events
- To protect the single-family character of the area through representation in city government.

Our very own **Musselman-Ledebuhr Park** at the corner of Grand River & Hagadorn is maintained by City employees and a few BHNA volunteers. The big tree at the center was lost in a storm last year, and we are studying a replacement. Below are some options. We will work with the City to select and plant a replacement.

Ruby Horse Chestnut, 40-60'. Gray-green bark and dark deciduous leaves, dark green above and silvery below. Its foliage turns bright yellow in fall. Springtime reddish-rose flowers are followed by gray-green fruit, each bearing two large

seeds.

Silver Linden, 50-70', featuring smooth, light gray bark, fragrant clusters of yellow-white flowers, and yellow autumn color. The leaves are the real stand-out element—dark, radiant green on top and shimmering silver beneath. The canopy appears to shimmer in the breeze.

Saucer Magnolia, 20-30', a landscape show-stopper. Stunning early spring blossoms and lush summertime dark green, leathery leaves – adding nice contrast to silvery-gray bark. One of the most popular flowering trees in the US, it's also

widely planted in Europe.

Weeping Beech has sweeping, pendulous branches. Smaller than the common beech, it grows up to 75' and tends to be wider than high. Leaves are broad and flat. A spectacular tree that needs room to be fully appreciated. In fall, leaves are copper-toned. In winter the skeleton of the silvery stem with its branches remains attractive.

Come and talk trees with Wes Reedy & Pat Robinson at the picnic & annual meeting on September 10!

STAYING IN TOUCH

Our primary communication tool is the neighborhood forum on our website!

<http://brookfieldneighborhood.net/forum>

You can also interact with neighbors on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/brookfieldheritageneighborhood

Website Questions?

For website support, contact Carl Lira at ctlira@gmail.com

Thanks again to Carl Lira for his volunteer web-mastering!

Little Free Library on Oakland

Following a successful fundraiser and volunteer labor last year, our Little Free Library is thriving at 165 Oakland Drive in our Brookfield neighborhood.

Increasingly popular, these small cabinets mounted on posts are places to leave unwanted books and/or acquire a new read. Ours will serve both children and adults and will be maintained by neighbors.

Thanks to the many of you who are involved. Contact Jennifer Castner for info: pennifer@gmail.com.

Brookfield History

Mike Benedict compiled a wonderful neighborhood history on our site:

<http://tinyurl.com/lasz8l2d>

Got Tree?

Our neighborhood is known for the beautiful trees lining our streets. Did you know that your dues contribute to a tree replacement fund?

If you have recently lost a street-side tree, you can contact neighbor Pat Robinson to coordinate neighborhood tree replacement with East Lansing's Environmental Operations department.

Contact Pat Robinson at ohandley@cvm.msu.edu or (517) 351-6958.

Tool Sharpening in Brookfield!

Neighbor Wes Reedy @155 Oakland Drive is offering to sharpen your dull tools and even kitchen knives!

He provides this service in exchange for donations to our Neighborhood Association coffers.

Contact Wes, 517-316-6207 to make arrangements to drop off items needing sharpening.

