



Heritage Herald

May/June 2025

The Newsletter of Heritage Hill

Volume MMXXV, No.3



54TH ANNUAL Weekend Tour of Homes



MAY 17, 2025

11AM - 5 PM

MAY 18, 2025

1PM - 6 PM



ADVANCE
TICKETS — \$25

DAYS OF
TOUR — \$32

**ADVANCE TICKETS FOR GROUPS OF
TEN OR MORE - \$22*

*TICKETS ARE VALID FOR BOTH DAYS!
KIDS 12 & UNDER ARE FREE
TICKETS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE*



FREE SHUTTLE
BUSES COURTESY
OF COREWELL
HEALTH



The Heritage Hill Association

252 State St SE Ste 101
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-459-8950

Facebook:  @heritagehill

Instagram:  @heritagehillassociation

Hours: 9 am - 5 pm, Mon. - Thurs.
Voicemail available for after-hours messages.
EMAIL: heritage@heritagehillweb.org
WEBSITE: www.heritagehillweb.org

Want to be in-the-know and included in neighborhood e-blasts?
Contact our office to add your email address!

Purpose:

The purpose of the Heritage Hill Association is to provide neighbors a way of collectively building a healthy, historically preserved community in which people can live and work in a secure and stable environment.

Office Staff:

Laska Nygaard, Executive Director
Carly Durham-Bruins, Public Safety Community Organizer
Maria Zache Starkey, Office Manager

The Heritage Hill Association Board of Directors:

President

*Bryan Cody, Prospect Ave NE

Vice President

**Jeremy Czubko, Morris Ave SE

Treasurer

*Liz Bracken, Union Ave SE

Secretary

**James Scozzari

*Denise Cook, College Ave SE
*Delores Deen, Morris Ave SE
*Chris Ervine, Morris Ave SE
*Michelle Hoexum, Morris Ave SE
*Abigail Larimer, Prospect Ave SE
*Kimberly Lucas, Paris Ave SE
*James McClurg, College Ave SE
*Jennifer Meeks, College Ave SE
**Wayne Norlin, Morris Ave SE
*Jeff Phillips, Paris Ave SE

*1st Term

** 2nd Term

Heritage Hill Association board of directors meets at 7pm at the Community Education room of Trinity Health at 200 Jefferson Ave SE. The meetings are open to the public. Please contact the office at heritage@heritagehillweb.org or 616-459-8950 for access instructions for any upcoming meeting.

The Heritage Hill Association provides information and encourages neighbor participation to keep Heritage Hill safe and vital. This community organizing engages neighbors to work on issues that arise. As an association of neighbors, we have a strong voice but we have no regulatory authority.

The GR Historic Preservation Commission regulates the City's Preservation Ordinance. Applications and approvals are needed from this city department before beginning any exterior work or repairs. Contact 616-456-3451 or rbaker@grcity.org.

The Heritage Herald - Circulation 4,000

The Heritage Herald is published by the Heritage Hill Association Board of Directors six times a year (bi-monthly). The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Board of Directors. We reserve the right to edit. Address correspondence to The Heritage Herald, 252 State St SE, Ste 101, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

Typography & Printing: Storr Printing Services, Inc.



This and That

Laska Nygaard, Executive Director

54th Annual Weekend Tour of Homes!

Enjoy the sneak peak in the pages of this issue! We can never thank enough our **amazing Home Tour Steering Committee**, but we will try hard in our next issue, with detailed thanks to each and every one of them!

For this year's Tour, we will have **food trucks** to refresh you. At Mooney Park (314 Logan St SE), the rotation will include Tamales Mary, Toya's World, Let's Taco Bout It, Big Red's BBQ and Kona Ice. Semifreddo will be at 122 College Ave NE. Keep your eye on our Facebook and IG for details!

Show Sponsors Some !

Thank you to our Sponsors! Make sure to patronize and give thanks for the neighborhood supporters of this year's Home and Garden Tours. See the list-to-date of Sponsors in this issue, and watch out for the final list in our July-August issue. It's thanks to sponsors like them, neighbors like you, and all of our tourgoers, that HHA can serve YOU!

Heritage Hill pride.

We have *History Lives Here* tees for sale for \$25 by contacting the office. They will also be for sale during Home Tour. Fundraising Committee Chair Denise Cook designed the beautiful and top-quality tees.



Garden Tour – Gardens Needed!

Speaking of the environs, Kate Diedrich, fearless leader of the Heritage Hill Garden Tour for many years, seeks gardens big and small for this year's fundraiser, which will take place Saturday, June 21, 9am-3pm, rain or shine.

If you would like to support HHA and our neighborhood by



STONECASTLE DENTISTRY

455 Cherry Street, SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

P 616.458.8593

F 616.458.0738

www.stonecastledentistry.com

Jon C. Feinauer DDS
Ramiro Lambaria DMD

THE ART IS IN THE DETAILS

showcasing your garden in this year's garden tour, let us know at 616-459-8950 or heritage@heritagehillweb.org. Perks of showing your lovely garden include a beautiful gift from Kate, a fine artist, as well as an evening-before get-together with all Garden Hosts, Kate and HHA that includes amazing refreshments and a preview stroll through all of the gardens.

Environmental Stewardship Club

Some neighbors are starting an

Environmental Stewardship Club

and invite

YOU to join them!

Neighbors who are interested in learning about environmental issues, and in engaging with sustainability in our yards, homes and neighborhood, are asked to contact Heritage Hill neighbor Nate Rauh-Bieri.

Nate and others are hoping for an initial get together in late May or June. This would be an informal gathering to meet interested neighbors and start sharing areas of interest and ideas for next steps.

Please contact Nate to let him know of your interest at nathan.rauhbieri@gmail.com.

This Old...Boundary Marker

After several years of applying, HHA received a Michigan History Alliance Grant from the Historical Society of Michigan, for the repair of several of our neighborhood boundary marker plaques. If you have driven through Heritage Hill and noticed something missing, rest assured that master sign painter Randy McLemore of Flourish Sign Painter, LLC has carefully removed the boundary markers and taken them to his studio to be carefully repainted. The markers being repaired normally 'live' at these locations:

- Lincoln Place (State St and Washington St SE)
- the west side of College Ave NE near Michigan St.
- the north side of Cherry near

Union Ave SE

- the south side of Fulton and Lake, near Union Ave SE
- the south side of Fountain, west of Lafayette Ave NE

In his studio, Randy has now removed all media down to the bare metal. He will be powder-coating in the appropriate green to match the original color. Then the border will be repainted using metallic silver enamel paint. Next the raised lettering and logo will receive gold paint (our grant was not sufficient to allow for gold leaf). Each marker will be finished with a topcoat of protective clear varnish. After all this work is done, Randy will reinstall each plaque and secure it in place. With a bit of luck, the signs will be completed and up in time for Home Tour.

Enjoy these pictures of Randy removing the sign at Lincoln Place, and a picture of all five cleaned and uncovered signs awaiting their new paint in Randy's studio.



**START 2025
WITH A COZY,
EFFICIENT HOME**
Heritage Hill's Boiler Specialists



\$2,000 OFF
Select Furnace and
AC Installation

OR

**\$50 OFF
SERVICE WORK**
See Dealer for Details.

Must present coupon. Expires 2/28/25

SAME DAY SERVICE AVAILABLE

616-504-2904 • lakemihcp.com • 269 LAKE MICHIGAN DR. NW, GRAND RAPIDS

*Applause to our 2025 Heritage Hill
Annual Tour of Homes Early Bird* Sponsors
Please Show Them Your Support!*

2025 GABLE SPONSORS:



100 Michigan NE
(616) 391-1467
www.spectrum-health.org



500 Cherry St. SE
(616) 454-8305
www.eldershelpers.com



143 Bostwick Ave. NE
(616) 234-4000
www.grcc.edu



Grand River Builders
HISTORIC BUILDING RESTORATION
1627 College Ave. SE 49507
(616) 544-9337
www.grandriverbuilders.com

2025 CUPOLA SPONSORS:



200 Union NE
(616) 459-0911
www.mvwines.com



615 Lyon St NE
(616) 726-6609
www.nantucketbakingco.com

2025 FINIAL SPONSORS:

Central Reformed Church
10 College Ave NE
(616) 456-1773 | www.centralreformedchurch.org

Midtown Craftsmen, LLC
1600 Marshall Ave SE Ste A West
(616) 245-5970 | www.mtcrestoration.com

Stonecastle Dentistry
455 Cherry St SE
(616) 458-8593 | www.stonecastledentistry.com

2025 TOUR SPONSORS:

A Pleasant Dog
1430 Knapp St NE
(616) 264-2532 / www.apleasantdog.com

PRC Grand Rapids
425 Cherry St SE
(616) 456-6873 / www.prcgr.org

Art of the Table
606 Wealthy St SE
(616) 302-2950 / www.artofthetable.com

Storr Printing Services
938 Cherry St SE
(616) 459-0068 / www.storrprinting.com

Cromwell Electric
1521 Lyon St NE
(616) 458-8886 / www.cromwellelectric.com

Urban Pharm
(616) 855-4540 / www.urbanpharm.com

Hopscotch Children's Store
909 Cherry St SE
(616) 233-4008 / www.hopscotchstonre.com

Wealthy Street Bakery
610 Wealthy St SE
(616) 302-2950 / www.wealthystreetbakery.com

Lake Michigan Credit Union
www.lmcu.org

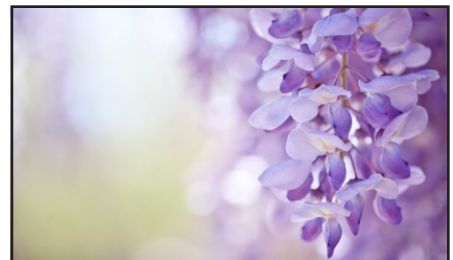
Work the Factory / General Woodshop
77 Monroe Center St NW Ste 600 507 Bridge St NW
www.workthefactory.com / www.generalwoodshop.com

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital
235 Wealthy St SE
(616) 840-8341 / www.maryfreebed.org

Past Perfect
303 Briarwood SE
(616) 581-4416 / www.pastperfectinc.com

2025 TOUR SUPPORTERS:

Mei Chow Creations
(616) 458-0471
meichowcreations@sbcglobal.net



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Mark Azkoul
Robert and Kerry Baldwin
Ronald Beecham
Robin Bowles
J.E. Calvetti
Delores Deen
David DeJonge
Dennis Delano-Taylor
Jay Fowler
Jay Grayson
Tatevik Gyulamiryan
Mitchell Hagerup
Jack Lensink
Douglas Meeks
Sandy Niemeyer
Jim and Char Payne / Kruzich
Scott Pierce
Mary Polluck
Beverly Roberts
Don Smalligan and Mary Kenyon
Iain Smith
Shahin and Jeni Taheri
Bridget Dupont Tingley and
William Tingley
Mark Van Allsburg
Michael Voevodsky
Gerald Wheeler



Restoration and repair services for
your historic wood windows.

(616)446-3503

Check us out on Facebook!
heritagewindowrestoration@gmail.com

The Neighbor Artists of Home Tour

By Maria Zache Starkey

"Our painting is at the frame shop so that it will be ready in time for Tour," relayed Tom Postma with excitement. Tom, a long-time Annual Weekend Tour of Homes Steering Committee member, and one of our 2025 Home Hosts, spoke of the painting of his home that he had just received from Heritage Hill neighbor and artist Mei Chow. Mei had recently completed and hand-delivered to all six 2025 residential Hosts beautiful, original paintings of their homes.

This lovely tradition has now continued for decades. It was started by neighbor artist Esther Van Allsburg as a way to thank Host neighbors who, in volunteering and opening their home for Home Tour, gave to our community in a profound way. Then, as now, these Hosts contribute to the success of HHA's largest fundraiser, creating community engagement and educational opportunities for all Heritage Hill neighbors and Home Tour ticket holders, and enabling HHA to serve neighbors year-round.

Esther and her husband Mark were long-time residents of Heritage Hill. They rehabbed several houses in the neighborhood, were active with HHA, and Esther also acted as a decades-long docent at the Meyer May House. Esther would create an ink drawing as a gift to a Host. If a Host opened their home for Tour a second time, Esther would then create and gift a watercolor painting.

When Esther sadly passed away, Mei Chow called the HHA office and volunteered to continue the tradition, which was just amazing. Mei and her husband, Craig Nobbelin, were also very active in the neighborhood, including working with other neighbors to save the 200-300 block of Prospect Ave. SE. Like the Van Allsburgs, they rehabbed Heritage Hill homes and were active with HHA. Craig served on and chaired HHA committees, and the Mei and Craig together sold tickets and served as HHA "bankers" for the days of Home Tour for many years. Mei, of Mei Chow Creations, donates the paintings to HHA, graciously and generously giving HHA a priceless way to properly thank Home Tour Hosts each year.



Home Tour Hosts are usually surprised by their extraordinary gifts, which are always treasured. If it is time to downsize or move away, some Hosts pass on the artwork to new neighbor-owners, with the philosophy that we are caretakers of these beautiful homes for a time, passing the mantle on to the new occupants. Others may keep the paintings as keepsakes of happy times, good neighbors and the place we call home.

HHA could not be more grateful to both neighbor-artists and volunteers, Esther and Mei. And, Mei, Esther would be very proud of you.

- ❶ 536 Prospect Ave SE - by Esther
- ❷ 573 Prospect Ave SE - by Esther
- ❸ 243 Morris Ave SE - Mei
- ❹ 582 Lafayette Ave SE - Mei
- ❺ 332 College Ave SE - by Esther
- ❻ 326 Madison Ave SE - by Mei

Annual Heritage Hill Yard Sales Day

June 7, 2025



Would you like to host a yard sale?

Email or call the Association office at heritage@heritagehillweb.org or 616-459-8950 with the address of your sale. We'll put a list together and post it on our web site and social media.

Please let us know by **Thursday, June 5** for inclusion on the list.

For best results, advertise your sale on your own social media and with free-standing signs in the neighborhood.

HHA will publish a **9AM to 3PM** time period as general guidance; however, individuals may start and end at the times of their choosing.

*Remember to please take down your signs after the sale!



SCHOOL INVESTMENTS ON THE RISE



**ENROLL
TODAY!**



enroll.grps.org

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 8AM-10PM
200 Union NE GR, MI 49503 • www.mvwines.com • (616)459-0911

Martha's VINEYARD

A Heritage Hill Neighborhood Grocery

A UNIQUE WINE AND GOURMET GROCER

NEW PRODUCE DEPARTMENT
CHECK OUT OUR NEW
EVER EXPANDING
PRODUCE DEPT. TONS
OF FRESH LOCAL AND
ORGANIC ITEMS!



VISIT OUR NEW DELI FOR HOMEMADE PREPARED LUNCHES, DINNERS, & DESSERTS

HAVE YOU TRIED
OUR NEW
BRICK OVEN PIZZA?

ORDER A
PIE TODAY!

PICK UP ONLY

(616)726-6609

www.marthaspizza.com 208 Union NE GR, MI 49503

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 11AM - 9 PM



YOUR TREES DESERVE THE BEST OF
CARE ALL YEAR LONG



**BARTLETT
TREE EXPERTS**

SCIENTIFIC TREE CARE SINCE 1907

PRUNING • FERTILIZATION • PEST & DISEASE MANAGEMENT • REMOVAL

CALL US AT (616) 245-9449 OR VISIT BARTLETT.COM



Whether you love to dig in the dirt or just admire the blooms, we're looking forward to gathering with those who live and love The Hill.

Welcome—past, present, and new lovers of landscape—to our Garden Club 2025 kickoff this May!

What to expect:

a relaxed get-together with friendly faces from around the neighborhood, great conversation, and light bites in a welcoming setting.

When:

Thursday, May 22, 2025
6:00 - 8:30pm

Where:

TBD - Reach out if you'd love to host.

More Details:

Bring a beverage of your choice. Maybe an extra chair. If you would like to bring a light bite to share please shoot us a message to let us know. There's no obligation... we always have plenty.

We'd love to hear from you!

Interested in giving a short talk or start a conversation — whether you're passionate about pollinator plants, container gardening, or shade garden tips.

Also.... Want to share your backyard retreat or blooming oasis? Want to host an event or share your knowledge with fellow garden lovers? Please message us in the Facebook group or send an email.

Heritage Hill's garden club is blooming online

— search *Garden Club Heritage Hill Grand Rapids* on Facebook to join the fun and gather information.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/292159847086408>



The Heritage Hill Association publishes available apartments.

Please remember us when your apartment needs renters. Your dollars not only find you tenants but also support the programs of the Heritage Hill Association! You can list your apartment right at the website or stop by the HHA office. We welcome you!

HERITAGEHILLWEB.ORG

Heritage Hill Apartment Rental and Home Sales Listings

All sizes and prices -- Spread the word!!!



No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Worship with us Sunday at 10:30am

Located in the heart of downtown, next to Veterans Park and the Public Library

An Open and Affirming Congregation

FIRST PARK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

10 EAST PARK PLACE NE
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503

616 - 459 - 3203
WWW.PARKCHURCHGR.ORG

Ready For a New Look *This Spring?*

EXTERIOR | INTERIOR

FREE ESTIMATES AT **CERTAPRO.COM**

CertaPro Painters®



- INTERIOR
- EXTERIOR
- RESIDENTIAL
- COMMERCIAL
- LICENSED/INSURED
- WALLPAPER REMOVAL
- LEAD PAINT CERTIFIED
- CARPENTRY / DRYWALL REPAIR
- LOCALLY OWNED
- CUSTOMER TESTIMONIALS



Lead Paint Certified!

616-724-2424

CERTAPRO.COM/GRANDRAPIDS/

Each CertaPro Painters® business is independently owned and operated.

FREE ESTIMATES

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE ESTIMATE TODAY
AND PROTECT YOUR FAMILY FROM LEAD PAINT!

We follow safety protocols and procedures!



The Heritage Hill Association publishes available apartments.

HERITAGEHILLWEB.ORG

Heritage Hill Apartment Rental and Home Sales Listings
All sizes and prices -- Spread the word!!!

New! State-Funded Lead Removal & Painting Program

Carmody Painting is now the **only** local painting contractor certified with the **new Michigan Saves' Lead Fund**. Let us help you get state funding for your house painting.

- Approved homeowners receive funds to cover lead removal/painting costs
- Non-income based program

NO INCOME CAP!

Contact us today to learn more!

CARMODY
PAINTING



www.carmodypainting.com



616-443-0406



54TH ANNUAL Weekend Tour of Homes

//SNEAK PEAK



243 Morris Ave SE / Hosts: Tom and Carol Postma

The owners of this dignified 1908 Craftsman Style home spent years collecting pieces of the Arts and Crafts Style “Lifetime” oak furniture that was made by the original homeowner’s woodworking company, including a grandfather clock that disappeared for a while, but found its way back and now sits in the foyer exactly where it was in 1908! An unusual copper hood over the fireplace makes a strong design statement and is the focal point of the living room. Natural woodwork of varying species, leaded-glass windows, screen-printed wallpaper, antique lighting fixtures, period fabrics and rugs, hand-painted tiles imported from the Netherlands and even a phone in the kitchen to call the upstairs maid create an interior that differs very little from the way it was a century ago, and yet it beautifully accommodates the twenty-first century couple who live there today.



573 Prospect Ave SE / Host: Suzanne De Haan

A large, inviting front porch with fluted columns welcomes visitors to this 1907 Colonial Revival Style home. As you enter, you can imagine warming yourself on a winter’s day by the fireplace in the foyer, with built-in benches on either side, all nestled in a gold-leaf covered alcove. The natural woodwork, cherry in the foyer and oak in the rest of the first floor, provide a framework for the deep colors of the walls. A southern-facing bay window brings light into a lovely dining room. The renovated kitchen has mahogany cupboards, whose glass doors provide a perfect way to display a collection of heirloom dishes. Two bedrooms and a bath can be found on the second floor as well as an office, built by the owner, that has a pleasant view of the garden and downtown Grand Rapids from an adjacent porch. There are many pieces passed down through the family throughout the home - furniture, quilts, photos, children’s toys and books as well as mementos of the owner’s many years as a teacher.



122 College Ave NE / Steketee House

This may be the most unique experience ever offered on the Home Tour. This 1894 Craftsman Style house, built for a member of the Steketee family, is meticulously appointed with furnishings from the Victorian Era, right down to a 100-year old refrigerator and light fixtures that work both by gas and electricity. Several types of hardwood were used in the elegant stairway and in the natural hardwood trim throughout the home. The wall-to-wall carpets and the hand-printed wallpaper were custom-made so that they would be true to the time that the home was built. The house itself is exceptional with its wood-lined foyer, a stately fireplace and a trio of bay windows set in a three-story turret. But the owner’s awe-inspiring, extensive collection of player pianos, gramophones and early electrical inventions takes center stage at this venue. The owner worked with Thomas Edison’s son and was given a collection of the very first light bulbs. He also has the first telephone ever brought to Grand Rapids and a prototype of the first gramophone among his treasures. Stepping through the door is like being transported into the fascinating, changing world of turn-of-the-19th-century Grand Rapids.

326 Madison Ave SE / Houseman House

Now an imposing family home, this grand 1908 Georgian Revival had been divided into four apartments when the owners bought it in 1994. After three years of living with a table saw in the dining room during major renovation, the home was transformed into an elegant space, comfortable to live in and perfect for entertaining. The central section of the second-story floor was removed, creating an impressive two-story entry hall with a balustrade balcony over a commanding staircase. Large front rooms with intricate woodwork, French doors and floor-to-ceiling Palladian windows, a sunroom and a remodeled kitchen are highlights of the main floor. Substantial columns and a spindled railing crafted by the owner surround the open area on the second floor, which has five bedrooms and three baths. A third story apartment and a finished basement are included on the Tour. Tasteful furnishings, playful window treatments and many artistic touches throughout the four floors make for an enchanting walk-through.



536 Prospect Ave SE / Hosts: Kate and Dan Diedrich

This American Foursquare is an example of a modest, middle-class home, built in 1907 for a businessman and his wife. Though simple in design, there are many features that add to its charm - a hand-carved oak mantle, handsome woodwork, leaded and stained-glass windows, a spacious tiled sunporch and many large windows that flood the rooms with light. Antique furniture, with many of the pieces handed down through the families, is complimented by modern artwork and ceramic pieces created by local artists, friends and family members or collected along the way on the homeowners travels. A finished attic with a playroom and art studio will be part of the Tour. The owners met in a college print-making class, and they have made this house their mutual, ongoing art project for over 45 years now. After seeing the home, guests are invited to stroll through the delightful gardens that surround it. (Kate is a certified Master Gardener)



582 Lafayette Ave SE / Hosts: Carly Durham-Bruins and Casey Bruins

Built circa 1880, this is the oldest house on tour this year. The ornate exterior of this home has many elements of the Classic Revival Style - Ionic columns that grace the porch, delicately carved floral details on the eave supports and window trim, dentil patterns defining the borders and an inset scallop shell on the central peak. A large bay window can be found on the main floor and two matching dormers extend out from either side of the roof. At some point, an addition was added to the back of the house where the kitchen is now located. The current owners moved in just a year ago and have begun to restore the home to its former glory. They call it a "work in progress" and fortunately the home has wonderful potential. The entry has a stunning newel post and up on the landing is a stained-glass bay window. The natural woodwork and floors glow in the light of the many large windows. The owners have been acquiring unique pieces to furnish the home, including a sofa from the old City Hall. Guests will enjoy seeing how much they have accomplished in just one year.



455 Cherry Street SE/ The Castle

A prominent Chateau Style landmark of Heritage Hill, The Castle was built in the late 1880's by the Fox brothers, two bachelor lumber barons who patterned their home after a Scottish castle that they had seen on their travels. The massive granite stones, from which the home was built, were imported from there. A respected Grand Rapids architect, William G. Robinson, spared no expense in creating the towers, bay windows, gables, arched, Palladian, leaded and stained-glass windows and the majestic front porch that adorn the exterior. An imposing front door opens to a parlor that has an inlaid ribbon-pattern parquet floor, a coffered 12' high ceiling, original gas/electric light fixtures and detailed oak woodwork. The stairway is a blend of craftsmanship and artistry with geometric motifs augmented by nature-inspired flourishes. The grand bay window on the landing brings the sunlight in and a graceful Art Deco figure lights the way atop the newel post. The tour includes two stories of the building, which have been tastefully converted into the offices of a dental practice, preserving as many of the original features as possible. Who ever thought that going to the dentist could be this much fun?



Neighborhood



The Genuine. The Original.

616.261.0300



ohdgr.com

Overhead Door Co. of Grand Rapids™



Mei Chow creations

Watercolors

calligraphy

Chinese Brush

Ink Pen Drawings

meichowcreations@sbcglobal.net
Grand Rapids, MI 616-458-0471

Welcome to First Church in the heart of Grand Rapids — a progressive Christian community of faith that is inclusive and affirming of ALL people.

We look forward to connecting with you online!

First United Methodist Church
227 Fulton St E • Grand Rapids
www.GRFUMC.org

Pedestrian Safety in Heritage Hill

Walks in Heritage Hill should be as safe as they are enjoyable. Pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries have been on the rise in recent years, including in our neighborhood. MDOT reminds pedestrians to follow these tips for safe walking:

- **Signalized intersections are the safest to cross.** Crossing mid-block is the most common cause of fatalities among pedestrians.
- **Stay alert.** Do not use screens while walking and make sure to keep volume low to hear traffic noise if you use headphones.
- **Be visible.** Wear bright clothing during the day and reflective materials at night.
- **Walk on a sidewalk or path** whenever possible.
- **Avoid alcohol and drugs** as they impair judgement, coordination and are a leading cause of pedestrian death and injury accounting for 60% of all pedestrian deaths.
- **If crossing mid-block**, try to find special pavement markings, signs or signals.
- **Walk on the shoulder**, facing traffic if there is no sidewalk available.
- **Be predictable.** Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections and don't dart out without looking.
- **Stay off roads and interstates** where pedestrians are prohibited.

Summer Fire Prevention

Summer celebrations are right around the corner. HHA would like to remind neighbors that historic homes built with materials such as wood, and before fire retardants, are particularly susceptible to the dangers of fireworks and recreational fires. Please use extreme caution when celebrating and follow all city ordinances and state laws, some of which include:

- **Consumer-grade fireworks can only be used on private property** with the owner's permission.
- **It is illegal to ignite fireworks on public property** (including streets and sidewalks), school property, church property, parks or another person's property without their express permission.
- **Firework use is permitted:**
 - The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Memorial Day until 11:45 p.m. on each of

those days.

- June 29 to July 4 until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.
- July 5, if that date is a Friday or Saturday, until 11:45 p.m.
- The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Labor Day until 11p.m.
- **Bonfires require a permit** available through the city. The fee is \$50 and must be renewed annually.
- **Firepits must be in the back or side yard** and at least 20 feet away from any structure, lot line, fence, or combustible material and at least 15 feet from overhead lines.
- **Burning of yard waste is prohibited** and all bonfires must be extinguished by 10 p.m.
- **Neighbors within a 120-foot radius will be notified** about the proposed fire and given an opportunity to object and can object to a fire if they have a legitimate reason such as public health, safety and welfare.
- **No hand-dug fire pits are permitted.**
- For more information visit grandrapidsmi.gov and search "recreational fire permit guide."

Trees on Property Lines

Michigan law permits you to trim any part of your neighbor's tree that encroaches over your property line. However, do not just trim away without talking to your neighbor and getting their approval first! In Michigan, if you trim a tree hanging over your property, and that tree is damaged as a result, you may be held criminally or civilly liable. Damages required to be paid have been up to three times the tree's value! The safest way to go is to maintain good relations with your neighbors – including keeping your own trees trimmed and out of the neighbor's yard – agree with them about having the tree trimmed, and to have them do the trimming. Also note that if a tree grows partially on more than one property, it is considered the common property of all the landowners. In that case, no party can injure or destroy the tree without the others' consent.

Planting and Caring for Pollinators

Kent County Parks would like to help Grand Rapids residents encourage pollinators through planting. Planting pollinator friendly plants benefit our

parks and help pollinators to thrive. Volunteers at the Kent County Parks Department carry out work year-round to restore native plant habitats and create spaces to keep native bees, monarch butterflies and other pollinators healthy and thriving. By planting pollinator-friendly, non-

invasive plants in our yards we can assist in nourishing wildlife that desperately need it. You can help by:

- Swapping invasive shrubs like barberry and buckthorn for native plants that benefit pollinators such

(cont'd on page 12)



MIDTOWN CRAFTSMEN
The old house experts.

616.245.5970 | www.mtcrestoration.com



Your Neighbor Your REALTOR®

I can help you determine the value of your historic home or guide you through the home buying labyrinth
Give me a call!



JEFF MARTIN
REALTOR®

616.915.2107
jeff.martin@cbgreatlakes.com



COLDWELL BANKER
SCHMIDT REALTORS

4488 Cascade Rd. SE | Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Neighborhood Potpourri (Cont'd from page 11)

- as nannyberry, spicebush, ninebark and meadowsweet.
- Buying plants free from neonicotinoid which are often used on store-bought plants labeled "pollinator friendly" but are lethal to bees and butterflies.

- Planting flowers for pollinators, such as: cardinal flower, golden alexander, wild strawberry, blazing star, bee balm, butterfly weed, and smooth aster.

To learn more and get involved attend a wildflower and habitat restoration event

in Kent County at:

- Leopard Preserve Old-Growth Forest Dedication & Hike** on May 3 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM at 6030 76th Street SE, Caledonia, MI.
- Two Rivers Greenspace Wildflower Walk & Invasive Pull** on May 10 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM at 10548 Whitneyville Ave. SE, Middleville, MI.
- Seidman Park Garlic Mustard Pull** on May 19 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Seidman Park, 8155 Conservation St NE, Ada, MI.

REMEMBER HERITAGE HILL PROPERTY OWNERS:

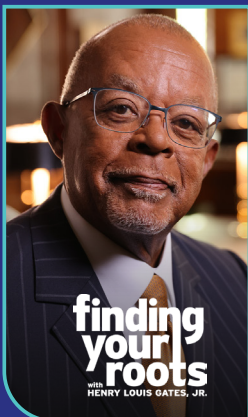
There is a City Preservation Ordinance that governs all exterior changes, repairs and/or additions to Heritage Hill properties. Call the Grand Rapids Historic Preservation Commission at 456-3451 for information on approvals. You can access the application form at the City's website, www.ci.grand-rapids.mi.us at the Planning Department section or at the Heritage Hill Association's www.heritagehillweb.org.

This ordinance applies to all exterior changes, repairs, and/or additions to your home and property. Items such as doors and windows including storms, yard structures, driveway and sidewalk approaches, and fences do need HPC approvals.



STREAM
THE VERY
BEST

WGUV
Public Media
PBS
WATCH NOW
ON THE FREE PBS APP*



*Local PBS station membership required to access some content

FERAL

WHY USED?

- * Less expensive
- * Gentle on our planet
- * Supports our local economy

@FERALDENVER LIVEFERAL.COM

USED



FERAL

Outdoor Gear Shop

New and used outdoor goods.
Locally-owned and operated.

1031 Wealthy St SE
Open 7 days/week

www.liveferal.com



Board Notes

Discussion at the January, 2025 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:

City of Grand Rapids Update: R. Brady shared that the city formally adopted the Master Plan in December 2024. To help implement the Master Plan, the city has released pre-approved housing plans, supported by the Michigan Economic Development Council (MEDC). These plans are free to the public and will help cut down on permit turnaround costs. Land Bank concept; property held by an institutional tax foreclosure forfeited to the government. K. Lucas asked how these approved plans and efforts focus on affordable housing and impact Heritage Hill. Brady responded that any plans within the historic district of Heritage Hill must still go through the Historic Commission. **President's Report:** J. Czubko, as HHA Vice President, shared that a survey to the Board will be sent related to goal setting planning.

Treasurer's Report: L. Bracken shared that HHA ended 2024 in a decent position financially. The budget shortfall was due to low participation in the end-of-year fund drive.

December, 2024 was better with more donations. The other budget shortfall was the 2024 Home Tour. However, expenses were lower because of staffing and less printing costs.

Land Use: J. Fowler was not in attendance. J. Phillips shared that the Committee was gearing up to review the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) and the conversion of Lyon and Fountain from one way to two way.

Fundraising: D. Cook shared that she and L. Nygaard met with C. Cook (of GR Running Tours) regarding HH walking tours. C. Cook would like to cap the number of participants on walking tours to forty persons to ensure organization and full engagement; the Board agreed. D. Cook also shared that another organization was undertaking walking tours and a home tour led by "Tours around Michigan." This company has been informed that hosting these tours for a profit is not allowed due pursuant to the new city ordinance related to commercial activity in the city's residential neighborhoods.

Technology: Ongoing office work regarding new phone service and email migration (Microsoft 365).

GRCC
**YOU IMAGINE IT,
WE MAKE IT POSSIBLE.**
Together, we've got this.

GRCC.EDU/APPLY

GRAND RAPIDS | HOLLAND | ONLINE



Nantucket
BAKING COMPANY

615 LYON ST NE GR, MI 49503 (616)350-9292
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 7AM - 7PM

**ARTISAN BREADS &
Buttery CROISSANTS**
Decadent PASTRIES
SPECIALTY DESSERTS &
Beautiful TORTES

Right Around the Corner
from
**Martha's
VINEYARD**

616.635.2194
617 LYON STREET

LYON STREET Café
POUR OVER COFFEE
ESPRESSO & TEA

**NANTUCKET BAKERY
FRESH PASTRIES**

WIFI ACCESSIBLE

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
8AM - 4PM**

Café Miel



Board Notes

L. Nygaard passed around HHA Committee sign-ups, asking current members to review their committees, and new members to sign-up. Board meeting snacks and drinks sign-up was also distributed. L. Nygaard also shared a brief update regarding Heritage Hill boundary markers; discussion included available vendors.

Discussion at the February, 2025 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:

President's Report: Vice President J. Czubko shared the code of ethics and conflict of interest forms. J. Czubko stressed the importance of

further engaging committee chairs and members to aide in their work. He also highlighted ongoing efforts to set goals for HHA, which includes office relocation and grant funding. Due to the uncertainty with grant funding, short-term decisions have been more reactive. A new Financial Strategy Committee will be formed to work with the current Fundraising Committee. Discussion included the exploration of new grant funding and fundraising opportunities.

Finance Committee: L. Bracken reviewed financial statements; January, 2025 was neutral with flat

revenue. The organization's focus will remain on generating revenue throughout 2025. Discussion included brainstorming for cost savings measure and soliciting new sources of revenue in the case that the Community Development Block Grant funds are paused or are no longer available to the City of Grand Rapids.

Land Use Committee Report: J. Fowler shared that the committee met and reviewed its role and responsibilities which have now expanded to address issues like streetscapes, traffic, open spaces, and parking. The committee is not involved in historic preservation, which is managed by the Historic Preservation Commission. Ongoing issues of effort include streetscape improvements at Innovation High School; Cherry Street improvements this summer; and changes at Fountain and Lyon Streets. J. Fowler shared that the city has yet to respond to HHA regarding these issues but will continue to reach out. The committee also reviewed the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) at its meeting. This plan is focused on reducing the carbon impact and preparing for future changes in the City of Grand Rapids. It is also exploring how the plan connects to historic properties, such as solar panel restrictions.

L. Nygaard shared that R. Brady (Planner at City of GR) and J. Spiller (Office of Sustainability) recently met with HHA to discuss preserving historical buildings while addressing sustainability.

Home Tour Committee: S. De Haan shared that the committee met and that J. Czubko and B. Cody will work on electronic tickets for 2025 HH Tour. Discussion included in-house marketing and details of tour mechanics, including food trucks, restrooms and volunteer work on the tour scripts and maps. No one has yet to volunteer to assume the role of chair following S. De Haan's retirement this year. J. Phillips asked about an action calendar for the Home Tour which the committee is working on.

Fundraising Committee Report: D. Cook shared that the fundraising framework from last year will be discussed at the next committee meeting; discussion included brainstorming for new fundraising ideas as well as a call for new

We need you!

VOLUNTEER FOR THE HOME TOUR

Work a full shift and you will receive a free Tour Ticket!

HOME TOUR SHIFTS:

SATURDAY, MAY 17

10:30AM-2:30PM
2:00PM-5:30PM

SUNDAY, MAY 18

12:30PM-6:00PM

Sign up here!





USE QR CODE, CALL OR EMAIL TO SIGN UP

616-459-8950 or heritage@heritagehillweb.org
Let us know your preferred day and shift time.
Office hours are 9am-5pm Monday-Thursday.

Home Health Care
Homemaking Services
Registered Nurse Services
Safety Button
Medication Management



Elders' Helpers

Live on your own with a helper in your home

Mention this ad and receive 1 FREE hour of care!
Buy 2 hours of care, and get an additional hour FREE!

CALL TODAY - 616.454.8305

500 Cherry Street SE, Grand Rapids

www.eldershelpers.com

volunteers to join the committee.

Office Relocation Report: L.

Nygaard shared that the staff is currently planning to go remote while continuing to explore possible new space at the Trinity Hospital System. Staff are willing to work remotely but not indefinitely due to concerns about engagement with the community. Discussion included the mechanics of "going remote."

Grants and Other Funding: There are two federal grants in progress. Many grants require matching funds, which HHA does not currently have. L. Nygaard shared that most other neighborhood associations rely on CDBG funds. W. Norlin suggested advocating for a solution to CDBG challenges by communicating with politicians. J. Czubko and W. Norlin to discuss further after the meeting.

Technology Committee Report:

The committee is working on Home Tour e-ticket sales, CRM, and office relocation.

Staff Reports: L. Nygaard asked the board to review the staff reports and bring any questions to the next meeting. She updated the Board on grants for the historic Boundary Markers and is working on a \$2,500 grant for signs and repainting. Photos will be taken during the process, and the community will be informed.

In addition, Heritage Hill Park has received \$15k for artwork from Parks and Rec. A call for submissions for a sculpture will be promoted in a future Herald.

If you would like an item placed on the Board agenda, please call the HHA office at 459-8950 before 4:00 p.m. of the second WEDNESDAY of the month. If you would like to address the Board

regarding an agenda item, public comment is taken at the beginning of each meeting. For non-agenda items, public comment is taken at the end of each meeting. Typically, Board meetings run from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

If you would like to receive monthly Board agendas via email, please email us your request.



All Are Welcome

I welcome clients of all races, religions,
countries of origin, sexual orientations, genders and abilities.
You're safe with me.

- Former Heritage Hill Owner
- Specialist in Historic Home Sales and Creative Marketing
- Professional Photography & Staging Services
- Customized Strategic Marketing Plans
- Accepting Property Listings for Fall 2024 and Beyond

Reserve Your Listing Date Today - Call or text 616.745.0474

Kellie Kalish, M.A.

Associate Broker | Real Estate Advisor | Certified International Property Specialist

Five Star Real Estate | 959 Wealthy Street, SE, Suite 1, Grand Rapids, MI 49506 | Copyright © 2024 Kellie Kalish. All rights reserved. Equal Housing Opportunity Provider.



24HR
EMERGENCY
SERVICE

Water, fire, and wind don't care
about the historic value of your home.
Team does.

Call the Experts. Call the Team.

616.863.8118

www.teamrestoration.com



TEAM RESTORATION INC

Remodeling & Repair Specialists

cornerstonechurch
HERITAGE HILL CAMPUS

COME AS YOU ARE

Join Us In-Person or Online

Sundays: 10am

YouTube /@CornerstoneChurchHeritageHill

cornerstonemi.org

48 Lafayette Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

LAFAYETTE



WASHINGTON

IT'S SPRING!

And Real Estate is in

FULL BLOOM!

Questions navigating
the market?

ask the Ackermans



Roger & Micki Ackerman

roger.ackerman@kw.com

616-901-2696

residential & commercial realtor



Grand River Builders
HISTORIC BUILDING RESTORATION

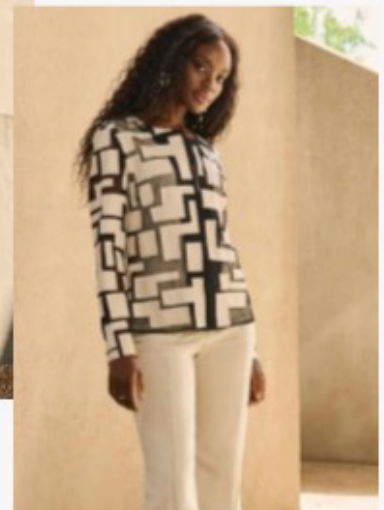
*Traditional building trades
for historic exteriors*

grandriverbuilders.com



theJAMES

Boutique



Even the most discerning women could feel lost in their style.

At theJAMES we don't just style you, we **SEE** you!
Through elevated current trends, we will create a wardrobe
that aligns with the style and essence of who you are.

We Can't Wait to Style You!

#Igotitatthejames!

620 Wealthy St.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
@thejamesboutique

Neighborhood Improvement & Public Safety
organizing efforts of the Heritage Hill Association
are in part funded by the City of Grand Rapids' Community Development Block Grant Programs.



Heritage Hill Association

252 State St SE Ste 101
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Grand Rapids, MI
Permit No. 523



2025 DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, June 4 &

August 6, 2025, 5-7pm

*July usually cancelled due to
restaurant closing for staff vacations*
Heritage Hill First Wednesdays
Happy Hours
*The Commons, @ The Oakwood,
547 Cherry St. SE*

Wednesday, June 18 &

August 21, 2025 @ 7pm

*May board meeting cancelled due to
its proximity to Home Tour*
*July board meeting cancelled for
vacations*
*All Heritage Hill Association meetings
are open to neighbors.*
HHA Board Meeting
Community Education
Conference Room
Hauenstein Center, 220 Cherry St. SE

Monday, June 17, 2025

Herald content & ads deadline –
July / August issue

Saturday, July 12, 2025

(Rain Date: Sunday, July 13)

Shakespeare in Pleasant Park

Annual Dates

Saturday and Sunday,

May 17 & 18, 2025

Annual Weekend Tour of Homes

Saturday, June 7, 2025

Yard Sales Day

Saturday, June 21, 2025

Garden Tour

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

National Night Out Picnic in
Pleasant Park

Saturday, September 6, 2025

Dumpster Day

HERITAGE HILL SPECIALIST



**Neighborhood advice
from a resident expert.**



PETE BRUINSMA
Broker/Owner

- 25 yr. Heritage Hill Homeowner
- Expert-level knowledge
- Experience-driven advice



330 Fuller Ave NE
(616) 293-5731
GrandRiverRealty.com



**Expert stained glass design,
fabrication and restoration**

Contact us today for a free local
consultation or estimate

www.kolendaartglass.com
616.558.3897

Find us on  

