



Heritage Herald

May/June 2026

The Newsletter of Heritage Hill

Volume MMXXVI, No. 3



**YARD
SALES**



**GARDEN
TOUR**

*Welcome to
Summer!*

*So many ways
to make memories*



**SHAKESPEARE
IN THE PARK**



**MOVIES IN
THE PARK**



**NATIONAL
NIGHT OUT**

The Heritage Herald newsletter of
Heritage Hill Association
252 State St SE, Ste 101
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-459-8950

Email: heritage@heritagehillweb.org
Website: heritagehillweb.org

Facebook:  @heritagehill

Instagram:  @heritagehillassociation
Hours: 10am-3pm, Mon-Thurs

Contact us to be added to our email alerts on public safety, community engagement, and all things HHA.

HHA's purpose:

- To promote communication, cooperation, and friendship among neighbors
- To help maintain and improve neighborhood property and the physical appearance of our community
- 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
- To identify neighborhood problems and social needs, and to develop and implement solutions
- To initiate neighborhood programs to improve the quality of life
- To develop a spirit of pride and individual obligation to the neighborhood
- To promote and develop a successful multi-racial, and multi-ethnic neighborhood

Staff:

Carly Durham-Bruins, Public Safety Community Organizer

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The HHA Board of Directors meets at 7pm on the third Wednesday of most months, in the Community Education Room of the Hauenstein Center, Trinity Health, 200 Jefferson Ave SE. Contact us to confirm meeting details and location in any given month.

HHA provides information and encourages neighbor participation to keep Heritage Hill safe and vital, including working on community issues as they arise. As an association of neighbors, we have a strong voice but no regulatory authority.

The Grand Rapids Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) regulates all exterior work and repairs to buildings in Heritage Hill and approval is required before any work begins. HPC: 616-456-3451; rbaker@grcity.org.

Heritage Herald - Circulation @4,000

The *Heritage Herald* is published by the HHA 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 address above.

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A Weekend to Remember: Celebrating the Success of the

This year's Tour of Homes proved to be one of the most successful and engaging tours in recent memory. With approximately **2,400 tickets sold**, the event reflected the continued excitement surrounding Heritage Hill and the strong community support for historic preservation. Guests explored an extraordinary collection of homes, churches, schools, and historic landmarks, each showcasing the beauty, craftsmanship, and unique character that make Heritage Hill such a treasured neighborhood.

One of the most rewarding parts of the weekend was hearing from so many **first-time attendees**. Throughout the tour, guests shared how excited they were to finally step inside homes they had admired for years while walking or driving through the neighborhood. Many remarked on how welcoming, engaging, and accessible the experience felt, with several already making plans to return next year with family and friends.

This year's event was especially enjoyable because of the smooth flow throughout the weekend. Visitors appreciated the **very low wait times**, which allowed them to spend more time exploring the homes, speaking with volunteers, and learning the stories behind each property. The relaxed pace encouraged many attendees to visit additional locations and fully immerse themselves in the tour experience.

The Tour of Homes once again demonstrated its unique ability to **connect generations**. Guests ranged from infants in strollers to visitors in their late 80s who have supported Heritage Hill for decades. Families explored together, architecture enthusiasts admired craftsmanship and design details, and longtime residents shared stories about the neighborhood's history and evolution. It was inspiring to see people of all ages united through a shared appreciation for preservation and community.

Among the many memorable locations featured on this year's tour, the **Voigt House** left a particularly lasting impression on visitors. Guests were captivated by the home's extraordinary preservation, historic furnishings, and immersive glimpse into Grand Rapids' past. For many, it became one of the highlights of the weekend and served as a powerful reminder of why protecting these historic



Heritage Hill Tour of Homes

spaces matters.

This year's tour also reflected a growing interest in **historic preservation among younger audiences and first-time visitors**. Guests expressed appreciation not only for the beauty of the homes, but also for the opportunity to better understand the work, care, and dedication that goes into maintaining these remarkable properties and preserving the character of Grand Rapids for future generations.

A stop at **255 Paris** was especially impactful for many attendees. Visitors enjoyed seeing firsthand how preservation projects come together and gained a deeper understanding of what it takes to restore and care for a historic home. One guest shared that after touring the property, he realized *"it is possible to own and care for these homes."* Moments like these highlight the important role the Tour of Homes plays in inspiring future homeowners, preservation advocates, and neighborhood stewards.

While the homes themselves are the heart of the tour, this event succeeds because of the people who make it possible.

To Our Homeowners

We extend our deepest appreciation to the homeowners who graciously opened their homes to the public. Sharing these beautiful spaces with thousands of visitors requires months of preparation, trust, and dedication. Your willingness to tell the stories of your homes and showcase the importance of preservation created an unforgettable experience for every guest who attended.

To Our Volunteers

We are equally grateful to the volunteers who came out throughout the weekend to support the event. From greeting guests and checking tickets to guiding visitors and sharing historical

(cont'd on page 4)

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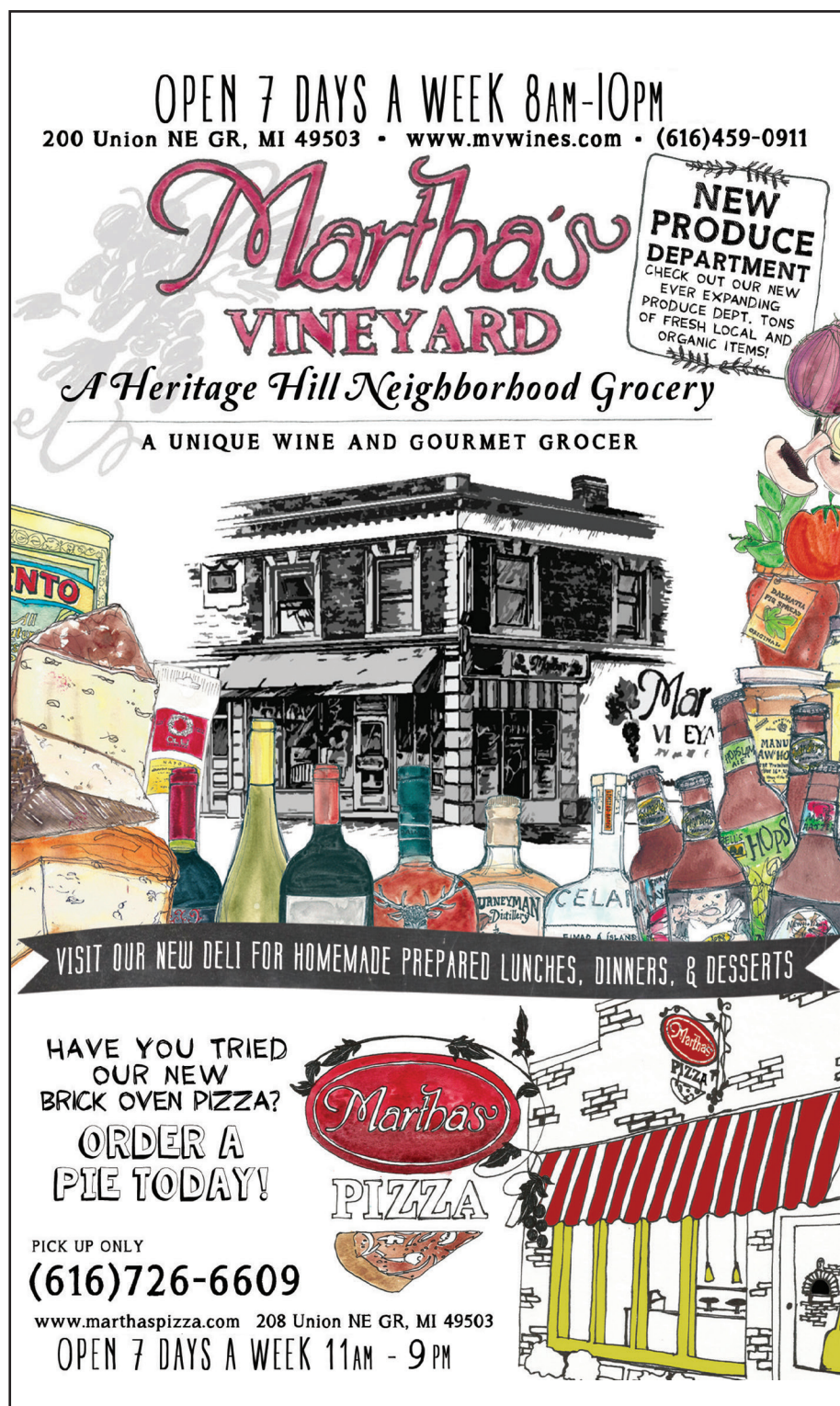
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A detailed illustration of the Martha's Vineyard store and its adjacent pizza shop. The top part shows the main grocery store with a two-story building facade, surrounded by various wine bottles and produce like tomatoes and onions. A sign above the entrance reads 'Martha's VINEYARD A Heritage Hill Neighborhood Grocery'. Below this, a banner promotes the new deli. The bottom part shows the 'Martha's PIZZA' shop with a red and white striped awning and a brick oven. A sign above the pizza shop asks 'HAVE YOU TRIED OUR NEW BRICK OVEN PIZZA? ORDER A PIE TODAY!'. The contact information and hours are listed at the bottom.

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A black and white advertisement for Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC). It features a smiling woman with long dark hair, wearing a white off-the-shoulder top, holding a laptop. The background is a dark, geometric design with a large white triangle. The text 'GRCC' is in a large, bold font, followed by 'YOU IMAGINE IT, WE MAKE IT POSSIBLE.' and 'Together, we've got this.' Below this is the application link 'GRCC.EDU/APPLY' and the locations 'GRAND RAPIDS | HOLLAND | ONLINE'.

A Magical Evening: The Success of the First Annual Twilight Tour & Taste

The Heritage Hill Association's 1st Annual Twilight Tour & Taste quickly became one of the most talked-about additions to this year's Tour of Homes weekend. Designed to offer guests a unique evening experience within one of, the event combined the beauty of Heritage Hill's historic homes with exceptional food, beverages, music, and community atmosphere. As the sun set over the neighborhood, attendees enjoyed an unforgettable evening filled with elegance, conversation, and discovery. Guests explored featured homes while enjoying an incredible culinary experience created by neighborhood Chef Tommy Fitzgerald, who prepared an amazing spread that received rave reviews throughout the evening. Mammoth Distilling Company also helped bring the night to life by serving a wonderful selection of handcrafted cocktails inspired by our amazing homes, adding a fun and immersive touch that perfectly complemented the historic surroundings.

The response from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with many guests sharing that the Twilight Tour & Taste was "exactly what the Tour needed." Visitors described the evening as fresh, engaging, and a wonderful way to experience Heritage Hill in a completely different setting. Guests especially appreciated the relaxed atmosphere, which allowed for meaningful conversations about architecture, preservation, and neighborhood history while enjoying the homes in a more intimate environment. The Heritage Hill Association extends sincere gratitude to the homeowners who opened their homes, Chef Tommy Fitzgerald, Mammoth Distilling Company, sponsors, volunteers, and community partners who helped make the inaugural event such a success. As the evening came to a close, many attendees shared that they had an amazing night and were already looking forward to next year's Twilight Tour & Taste.

A Weekend to Remember:

(cont'd from page 3)

information, your enthusiasm, hospitality, and commitment helped the tour run smoothly and created a welcoming atmosphere throughout the neighborhood. Hundreds of volunteer shifts were filled, and your donated time and energy were essential to the success of the weekend.

To Our Sponsors and Community Partners

A special thank you goes to the sponsors and community partners who continue to support the Heritage Hill Association and the Tour of Homes year after year. Your partnership and investment help make events like this possible while supporting the ongoing mission of preservation, education, and community engagement. Your continued commitment ensures the strength and future of this cherished neighborhood tradition.

None of this would have been possible without the collaboration of homeowners, volunteers, sponsors, musicians, local businesses, and the many guests who purchased tickets and celebrated Heritage Hill with us.

As another Tour of Homes came to a close, the excitement and positive feedback from visitors served as a powerful reminder of the impact this event continues to have on our neighborhood and our community. On behalf of the Tour of Homes team, thank you for helping make this year's event such a meaningful success.

We look forward to building on this momentum and continuing to share the stories, architecture, and spirit of Heritage Hill for years to come.



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Cocktails & Curiosities Launches with a Memorable Evening

The Heritage Hill Association's new monthly series, *Cocktails & Curiosities*, made a successful debut on May 13th at Mammoth Distilling with an engaging evening, celebrating the rich history and vibrant spirit of the neighborhood. Guests gathered to enjoy conversation, craft cocktails, and a fascinating presentation from Caroline Cook. She shared stories and insights about the early history of Heritage Hill and the people who helped shape one of the nation's largest and oldest urban historic districts.

Attendees left inspired and excited for the upcoming Tour of Homes. Among those in attendance was the sister of Linda DeJong, who praised the evening. She stated, "It was an excellent evening and Caroline Cook really knows her stuff. From what I can see so far, Tour feels like it will be awesome."

The strong turnout and enthusiastic response highlighted the community's passion for local history and neighborhood connections. Hosted monthly by Mammoth Distilling, *Cocktails & Curiosities* is designed to bring neighbors and friends together for unique conversations, storytelling, and special guests in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

Stay tuned — the June date and featured speaker will be announced soon!



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Garden Club of Heritage Hill

So many beautiful things are coming into bloom in the Hill this Spring and among them is the Garden Club of Heritage Hill. The kick-off meeting is being held on Thursday, May 28 at 6:30 pm in the lovely garden of Karen Coy at 447 College S.E. Meetings are open to all Heritage Hill neighbors (you don't even have to have a garden!), you just need to share a passion for the leafy, petalled gifts of Mother Nature. We meet once a month on Thursdays from May to October.

The 2026 season will feature speakers on topics like how to cultivate a rose garden, good bugs for your garden, starting plants from seeds, and flower arranging. We will also hit the road for a trip to Walters Gardens, home of Proven Winners Perennials, where we'll enjoy a private

guided tour of their expansive gardens. Join us for our "Art in the Garden" night where we'll make a flower-themed clay art project, and create our own entry for Art Prize that will be displayed in the neighborhood.



Everyone brings some food to share (an appetizer or sweet treat) and a beverage of choice. And most of all, we love to

tour the unique and beautiful gardens in our very special neighborhood. We are always looking for new gardens to visit, so if you would like to share yours, let us know!

Meet fellow gardeners, hone your garden skills, enjoy great food and make new friends. Please join us - gardeners are such nice people! For more



information and to be added to our mailing list, please contact us at: gardenclubofheritagehill@gmail.com. You can also join our Facebook group: Garden Club of Heritage Hill (Grand Rapids).

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Heritage Hill Dragonflies Take Flight Across the Neighborhood

Something magical is coming to the streets of Heritage Hill.

In preparation for ArtPrize, the Heritage Hill Association is launching an exciting new community-wide art installation:

Heritage Hill Dragonflies — a collaborative project that will transform the neighborhood into a stunning outdoor gallery filled with hundreds of individually designed dragonflies.

The concept is simple, creative, and deeply rooted in community participation. Neighbors, artists, families, and community members are invited to purchase a dragonfly form through the Heritage Hill Association and transform it into a unique work of art. Participants can decorate their dragonflies however they choose — with paint, mosaic, stained glass inspiration, mixed media, whimsical themes, historic influences, or personal artistic expression.

Once completed, the dragonflies will be installed throughout the Historic District on porches, front lawns, gardens, fences, and public-facing spaces, creating a breathtaking visual experience for visitors walking through the neighborhood during ArtPrize.

While every dragonfly will be unique, together they will form one unified installation — a collective expression of creativity, transformation, and connection.

The dragonfly was chosen intentionally for its rich symbolism and historical ties to the Victorian era. During the late 1800s, dragonflies appeared frequently in decorative arts, jewelry, stained glass, and textiles, admired for their delicate beauty and association with transformation, light, and self-realization. Today, they continue to symbolize resilience, change, and the beauty of embracing new possibilities — themes that reflect both the spirit of Heritage Hill and the evolving story of the neighborhood itself.

More than an art project, Heritage Hill Dragonflies is an invitation for the community to create something together. It is an opportunity for residents to become part of a larger artistic vision while showcasing the creativity and personality that make Heritage Hill such a special place.

The Heritage Hill Association is currently inviting participants to reserve their dragonflies. Quantities are limited, and community interest is already growing.

Secure Your Dragonfly

Community members can now register online to reserve their dragonfly form and become part of this one-of-a-kind neighborhood installation.

Whether you are an experienced artist or simply someone who wants to

participate in a meaningful community experience, everyone is encouraged to join.

Together, we will fill Heritage Hill with color, creativity, and wonder — one dragonfly at a time.



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Upcoming Heritage Hill Events

Be part of something special in 2026—experience the energy, history, and community of Heritage Hill like never before.

From timeless traditions to exciting new additions, there's something for everyone on the Hill this year. Step into the past with our **HISTORIC WALKING TOURS** offered throughout the year, or dive deeper into the stories that shaped our neighborhood during our **MONTHLY HISTORY TALKS**.

We're also excited to welcome back some community favorites. **LIVE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK** (July 11 @7 PM in Pleasant Park), **SQUARE DANCING WITH THE GRAND RAPIDS SQUARES** (Thursday, June 11 @ 7 PM in the Child Discovery Center Gymnasium), and **MOVIES IN THE PARK** (TBD) are returning again this summer—bringing neighbors together for evenings of culture, storytelling, and fun under the stars.

Neighbors are also invited to explore the beauty of our outdoor spaces during the **HERITAGE HILL GARDEN TOUR** (Saturday, June 20 @8:30 AM at Central Reformed Church, 10 College NE). Our parks and greenspaces will be bustling with Grand Rapids Parks & Recreation offering **FREE** fitness classes in the parks from May 11th thru August 15th. Each park has a different type of class. Every Thursday from 5:30pm to 6:15pm our

own **PLEASANT PARK** will host **HIP HOP BARRE**. and A Pleasant Dog is offering free and low cost **DOG TRAINING CLASSES** (Saturday, June 6, 2026 @ 2 pm).

Plus, we're introducing new and engaging experiences for 2026. Be inspired by our **ARTPRIZE PROJECT: THE DRAGONFLIES**, adding creativity and conversation to our streets.

Community connection remains at the heart of it all. Join us for **HERITAGE HILL YARD SALE DAY** (Saturday June 6) where the neighborhood becomes the best place to find treasures, and antiques. You are also invited to **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT** (Tuesday, August 4, 6-8 PM in Pleasant Park), a celebration of neighborhood pride and safety. We also hope you will join us for **HAPPY HOUR AT THE COMMONS** (Wednesday, June 4 & Wednesday July 1 @5-7 pm).

As the seasons change, so do the experiences. This fall, don't miss the spine-tingling return of the **HERITAGE HILL HAUNTED TOURS** beginning in September—where history meets mystery after dark.

Enjoy our vibrant and growing community.

Please go to the back cover for Dates to Remember or Heritagehillweb.org for more information about these amazing events.

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Fireworks are allowed in the city of Grand Rapids during the following times:

Memorial Day-The Saturday and Sunday preceding Memorial Day from 11 am-11:45 pm.

Juneteenth-June 19, 11am-11:45 pm.

July 4- June 29 to July 4 11 am-11:45 pm (ordinance permits fireworks on July 5 if it falls on a Friday or Saturday, 11 am-11:45 pm)

Labor Day- The Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day weekend, 11 am-11:45 pm.

New Years- December 31 from 11 am until 1 am on January 1.

Pedestrian Safety Tips For Drivers

Warmer weather and later nights mean more pedestrian traffic.

1. **Slow down & follow the speed limit.** Speeding endangers not only the life of the speeder, but everyone on the road around them, including pedestrians.

2. **Exercise extra caution at nighttime or in bad weather,** since pedestrians can be harder to see and may appear suddenly.

3. **Yield to pedestrians in**

crosswalks and stop well back from the crosswalk to give other vehicles an opportunity to see the pedestrians so they can stop too.

4. **Be extra cautious near crosswalks, schools and parks** and look for pedestrians. Areas where children play and walk are especially dangerous for pedestrians.

Heritage Hill will also get two new pedestrian activated crosswalks.

One at **Fulton St. between Gay and Prospect**, to support transit along Fulton by GRCC and one on **Madison SE at Pleasant, near Pleasant Park** and a planned neighborhood bikeway on Pleasant and Sherman.

MOBILE GR and the Future of Lyon and Fountain Street

Many residents have expressed concerns regarding the possibility of changing Lyon and Fountain from one-way streets to two-way traffic. After speaking with Mobile GR they have indicated the following:

"Mobile GR has done extensive review of the Fountain and Lyon corridors to evaluate the feasibility of two-way traffic for both or portions of these streets. This effort is currently paused,

and if the City decides to reevaluate two-way traffic at this location in the future, please know there will be thorough public engagement." At this time, the project is paused, though we suggest residents continue to closely watch any future discussions involving these important streets in their neighborhood

Swap & Shop Your Household Chemicals

Don't throw your unused household chemicals into the trash or down the drain bring, them to the SafeChem Swap Shop at 1045 Wealthy St. SW. Bring unwanted chemicals and household products or pick up free ones and keep hazardous waste out of landfills and our water system. Any Kent County resident is eligible. Hours of operation are Monday & Thursday 1:30pm to 5:30pm; Wednesday 7:30am to 11:30am; and Every 2nd Saturday 8:30am to 11am They accept items such as:

- Automotive: brake fluid, oil, car wash supplies
- Household: drain cleaner, spray paint, stains, varnishes, thinners, adhesives
- Lawn & Garden: weed killer, pool chemicals, insect repellent
- Personal Care: soaps, nail polish, shampoo

Community Development Grant

Heritage Hill is proud to share that we have been awarded the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for 2026 on a month-to-month basis. This support allows us to continue providing service to our community throughout the year.

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Reflections on a Quiet Neighborhood Hero By Tom Truesdale

You pretty much knew where you stood with Judy Jorgenson. She was not one to hide her thoughts regarding people, opinions, ideas or institutions. By the same token, Judy would never say she knew more about something than you, but invariably you'd discover yourself doing things Judy's way. That, as people would say now, was Judy's super power.

Judy passed away April 21, 2026 from complications due to pneumonia and the sad tangle of dementia. If not for a fall a month prior to her death, Judy would probably still be doing things her way, living alone in her Madison Avenue home.

The passing of her beloved Airedale, Lucy, the previous year had curtailed Judy's daily walks around the block. This leads me to something else you need to know about Judy: she had a special place in her heart for her dogs. Over the years, she specifically adopted older Airedales and provided them a loving home in their senior years. Those who knew Judy know that Baxter, Charlie and Lucy, especially, benefitted from that kindness.

A true friend of Heritage Hill, Judy lived in the neighborhood since purchasing her Madison home in 1974. At the time, she was teaching Special Ed (and eventually Third Grade regular ed) for

Grand Rapids Public Schools.

A fellow teacher and friend, Mark Dykstra, credits Judy with his move into Heritage Hill.

"Judy's passing really hit me hard," Mark says. "It's hard for me to imagine she is no longer around to connect with for dinner or a chat on the phone.

"She was my Heritage Hill mentor," he continues. She helped me with more things than I can even remember."

Judy's 'help' was always, keenly a Judy talent. She could help you find solutions and almost always make you feel as if the breakthrough was entirely your doing. She was not the impatient type, but occasionally she would lower her chin to her chest and look at you over the top of her glasses. Only then did you know that you'd better land on an answer sooner rather than later.

Just the opposite of impulsive, Judy could be direct when she knew what she wanted, but was always ready to study and learn when there was still something to garner from a situation before determining her strategy.

Judy was a champion for the neighborhood in more ways than just house ownership. In the early 1990s, Judy joined a cadre of like-minded neighbors in purchasing nearly a dozen rental houses on the neglected block of

Prospect Avenue between Wealthy and Cherry. Their steadfast determination stymied a developer's plans and, instead, gave Heritage Hill another pleasant mix of single and multi-unit homes on a park-like, one-way street. Being a part of that group of investors in Prospect's future was one of Judy's proudest endeavors.

Judy's nephew, Eric, has fond memories as a young boy of 'helping Aunt Judy' with working on one of her newly-acquired Prospect SE properties "... especially the demo work!"

Judy also served on the Heritage Hill Board in the early 2000s and volunteered on the annual Home Tour committee for many years, even opening three of her rental houses for Tour during her time on the committee.

And best of all, Judy was also a loyal employer of local and neighborhood crafts people and service providers in the restoration, repair and revitalization of her several properties in the Hill. Her multi-home projects over the years employed more than work crews, they built friendships.

The neighborhood lost a true Heritage Hill champion this past April. But those she touched through friendship and neighborhood commitment will continue to remember – and feel – her quiet presence.

Rhonda Mitchell Glanzer

Rhonda Mitchell Glanzer, a 34-year resident of the Heritage Hill neighborhood, passed away peacefully on September 1, 2025, at the age of 53, surrounded by her beloved husband Johann and their son Maximillian.

An animal lover at heart, Rhonda cared deeply for cats and dogs. When she moved to Heritage Hill, her cherished dog Cagney was her devoted companion. Throughout her life, she created toys and shelters

for animals in need, helped place countless strays into loving homes, and ensured they received proper care. She and her family shared their home with four cats and a small dog named Clark.

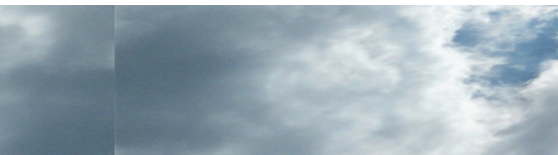
Rhonda was a beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend. She will be remembered for her kindness, warm sense of humor, and unwavering devotion to those she loved.

She dedicated her life to working

with the elderly, finding both joy and purpose in her work. It was while working on Peter Island that she met Johann—an encounter that blossomed into a lifelong love. They were married in Marburg, Germany, in a beautiful cathedral ceremony. Rhonda later found a second family at Holland Home, where her compassion and spirit left a lasting impact.

Rhonda and Johann were gracious hosts who brought a strong sense of

(cont'd on page 13)



community to their home, welcoming friends and neighbors with warmth and generosity.

Her legacy of love, compassion, and resilience will live on in the hearts of all who knew her. She will be deeply missed.

Tom Simmons

Tom Simmons, aged 73, passed away April 23, 2026 from an unexpected illness interrupting a fulfilling and busy life.

Tom moved to Grand Rapids in 1975 and took up the career that defined his professional life as a fine woodworking carpenter and general contractor. He renovated homes and restored intricate woodwork in the Heritage Hill neighborhood and built beautiful homes throughout West Michigan. Tom married Mary Robinson in 1983 and after some international adventures, settled in Grand Rapids, completely restoring a Heritage Hill home where they raised their sons Sam and Peter.

Tom created community wherever he went, whether it was in the trades, his neighborhood, boating circles or book groups. He mentored many younger builders and was a good friend to all. His interests were eclectic and widespread though his main passion was sailing. His boat, the San Pedro, was his happy place.

Tom served on the Grand Rapids Historic Preservation Commission and volunteered for the Heritage Hill Tour of Homes. He was also deeply involved with Site: Lab as a builder, collaborator and advisor for over 10 years.

Tom will be remembered lovingly by his wife of 43 years, Mary; his sons Sam (Kate), Peter (Rose Bruce), and his extraordinary grand girls Samara, Margot and Robin. His funeral was held on May 15, 2026

HERITAGE HILL YARD SALES

June 6, 2026

Garage Sale Locations

441 Madison SE
583 Madison SE
264 Paris SE
300 Morris SE
448 Pleasant SE
218 Union SE
323 Paris SE
530 College SE
534 Wealthy SE

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Board Notes

Discussion at the February, 2026 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:

President's Report: K. Lucas shared that Board members will meet with their respective committees to review technology and information needs and

identify operational improvements.

Treasurer's Report: C. Bosscher provided updates regarding financial process improvements, including revised invoicing procedures, ACH payment options, updates to the Association's Form 990, and improving administrative

access and security across payment platforms.

Community Engagement / Home Tour: J. Phillips reported significant progress on planning for the 2026 Home Tour, with thirteen homes secured and strong early interest for future years. The event will include a VIP experience on Friday, May 15, with general tour hours scheduled for Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Volunteer recruitment remains a major priority, with approximately 400 volunteers anticipated.

Marketing and promotional outreach continues, including media engagement, social media campaigns, partnerships with businesses along Wealthy and Cherry Streets, and development of an interactive business map. Additional programming and neighborhood engagement opportunities are also being explored. The inclusion of the Voigt House on the tour was highlighted as creating additional partnership and visibility opportunities.

Governance Committee: J. Meeks reported that the Governance Committee has begun reviewing and modernizing governance materials, including Conflict of Interest and Ethics policies and the Association's bylaws. Draft revisions will be presented to the Board prior to a future membership vote.

Community Health & Safety: C. Ervine shared that recent neighborhood engagement efforts, including a community happy hour, were well attended and supported volunteer recruitment and resident connection.

Staff Reports: L. Nygaard provided updates regarding the City's ongoing zoning ordinance review process and upcoming informational sessions at Central Reformed Church on March 18 and March 24. Discussion included density, parking, and short-term rental concerns, with Board members emphasizing the importance of proactive resident communication and engagement.

Discussion at the March 2026 Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting included:

President's Report: The Board reviewed correspondence related to resident concerns and approved Jeremy Czubko to serve as Vice President following a recent vacancy in the role.

Treasurer's Report: C. Bosscher reported ongoing work related to CDBG reporting and financial administration.



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The Association currently maintains approximately \$106,000 in bank balances, with the Profit & Loss statement reflecting an approximate \$7,500 loss at this stage of the fiscal year. Discussion also included reviewing accounts receivable balances outstanding more than 90 days and confirming operational costs associated with printing and mailing *The Herald*.

Community Engagement: J. Hawkins reported that website backend improvements are underway and expected to launch by March 21. Staff also shared updates regarding lead pipe replacement work and upcoming street repaving projects, including brick streets within the neighborhood.

Garden Tour: J. Hawkins discussed sponsorship coordination efforts and plans to collaborate with D. Cook to better align Garden Tour and Home Tour outreach.

Home Tour: D. Cook and J. Phillips reported ongoing marketing and promotional outreach efforts targeting travel, architecture, and festival-focused publications. The Board also reviewed plans for a May 13 promotional event at Mammoth featuring Caroline Cook. D. Cook requested an additional \$8,800 for Home Tour programming and operational needs, including portable restrooms, printed programs, wayfinding signage, and VIP décor enhancements. It was noted that a previously anticipated \$400 permit expense is no longer required and can be redirected toward event improvements.

Board members discussed the importance of investing in the Home Tour experience to support fundraising and event quality. K. Alderman requested additional context regarding typical year-over-year budget increases.

The Board approved an \$8,800 increase to the Home Tour budget to support additional programming and

operational needs.

The Board confirmed that volunteers will continue receiving tickets and that shuttle service for Saturday and Sunday has been donated by Corewell Health.

Governance Committee: Board members discussed ongoing bylaws modernization efforts and current Board vacancies. The Board confirmed there are currently three open Board positions, with approximately eight months remaining on two of the open terms. J. Czubko will assist with transition and nomination-related responsibilities moving forward.

Land Use: J. Czubko provided updates regarding preliminary discussions involving Corewell Health and Mobile GR related to a proposed project near Heritage Hill. The committee will continue monitoring developments and coordinating with stakeholders as additional information becomes available.

Technology: The Board discussed strengthening offboarding and technology management procedures, including ensuring that at least two individuals maintain administrative access to organizational systems and platforms.

Voigt House Preservation Committee: D. Cook confirmed that the Grand Rapids Public Museum will participate on the committee. Discussion emphasized maintaining a collaborative partnership

approach as planning continues.

Staff Reports: L. Nygaard shared feedback regarding recent zoning meetings, including resident preference for shorter presentations with more interaction. She also reported that the public safety survey received 73 responses and confirmed that CDBG funding has been approved by Congress.

Public Comment: Coleen Hamman shared feedback regarding the recent zoning meeting hosted by HHA at Central Reformed Church, noting strong attendance and resident engagement. Allison Dickinson introduced a native prairie grass initiative and discussed potential collaboration with neighborhood groups and the Garden Club. She also raised concerns regarding cryptocurrency kiosk fraud. The Board discussed promoting the prairie initiative through *The Herald* and including additional public safety awareness information in future *Herald* communications.

Old & New Business: A. Dickinson shared information regarding a potential grant opportunity supporting elderly-focused initiatives with awards ranging from approximately \$2,000 to \$5,000. L. Nygaard also introduced Rowan Brady, the City Planner assigned to Heritage Hill, who will assist with zoning and commercial project coordination.



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2026 DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, June 6, 2026

Heritage Hill Yard Sale Day

Saturday, June 6, 2026 @ 2 pm

Free & Low Cost Dog Training
with A Pleasant Dog

A Pleasant Dog and Parks and
Recreation have a \$5 dog recall
training in Pleasant Park
(630 Madison Ave. SE)

Saturday, June 11, 2026 @ 7pm

Square Dancing
Child Discovery Center
(409 Lafayette Ave SE)

Wednesday, June 17, 2026 @ 7pm

HHA Board Meeting - open to
Heritage Hill neighbors
Community Education Room
Hauenstein Center of Trinity Health
– 200 Jefferson Ave. SE entrance

Saturday, June 20, 2026

@ 8:30 am-1 pm

Heritage Hill Garden Tour
Central Reformed Church
(10 College NE)

Wednesdays, June 4, 2026,

July 1, 2026 @ 5-7pm

Heritage Hill First Wednesdays
Happy Hours
The Commons @ The Oakwood,
547 Cherry St. SE

July 11, 2026 @ 6 PM

Shakespeare in the Park presented
by Pigeon Creek
Pleasant Park (400 Pleasant SE)

Tuesday, August 4, 2026 @ 6 pm

National Night Out
Pleasant Park (400 Pleasant SE)

Saturday, October 17, 2026

@ 8:30 am

Dumpster Day
at GRCC Parking lot
(location off Prospect SE,
N. off Fulton)

TDB

Cocktails and Curiosities

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