



# Fulton Heights Neighborhood Association

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2019

## Spring Membership Meeting

10AM APRIL 13TH

We made it to Spring! We survived cold, snow, ice, high winds, freezing rain, electricity outages, and a Groundhog who lied to us, but we made it! Lets get together at the Annual Spring Membership Meeting and celebrate with some pancakes and fellowship. The meeting will be at Mayfair Church at 10:00am on Saturday, April 13th.

Besides providing breakfast for all to enjoy, FHNA Board Members will provide information about upcoming events, such as the Garage Sales and Dumpster Day, because we have made some exciting changes to them. Also, the new features on the website [FultonHeights.org](http://FultonHeights.org) will be explained and demonstrated on the big screen. General updates from the Block Captain and Garden Committees will be given, as well as



an appearance from GRPD Officer Glowney.

A special treat for this meeting will be the addition of a Kid's Craft Table. We will have a table set up with packets of crafts for the kids to complete while the meeting progresses. I think I am going to be jealous of the kids, because it sounds like fun!

The highlighted charity for this meeting is the Kid's Food Basket. Please bring items that can be easily packed into lunches, such as granola

bars, juice boxes, pudding or fruit cups, etc. Cash donations are always welcomed too.

If you are available to help set-up the room or prepare breakfast, please contact me at [swarber55@yahoo.com](mailto:swarber55@yahoo.com). We can't do it without volunteers! Hope to see you all at Mayfair on April 13th!

- *Sam Warber,*  
FHNA President

### IMPORTANT NEIGHBORHOOD DATES

APRIL 13 - SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
APRIL 20 - GARDEN CLEANUP 10AM

MAY 3-5 - NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE WEEKEND  
MAY 18 - FHNA DUMPSTER DAY

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2019

### FULTON HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to sustain a welcoming neighborhood that fosters interaction and communication among residents. We advocate for the neighborhood and keep residents informed.

In order to fulfill this mission, the Association does the following:

- Represent the neighborhood in civic matters
- Provide forums for communication
- Support local business
- Host events to foster social interaction within the neighborhood
- Facilitate appropriate charitable projects
- Coordinate activities that benefit the neighbors
- Promote safety awareness and communication through the Block Captain Program
- Manage and maintain the FHNA Hillcrest Community Garden

#### FHNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Sam Warber**, President,

**Kevin Kelling**, Vice President

**Arielle Leipham - Ellis**, Secretary

**Gwen Howey**, Treasurer

**Diane Velzen**, Director

**Kayla Domeyer**, Director

**Don Wheeler**, Director,  
Block Captain Coordinator



### FHNA ONLINE CALENDAR

You can now view upcoming Board meetings, semi-annual neighborhood meetings, dates for the garage sale, dumpster days, and more on the newly created digital calendar. See the Fulton Heights website for the calendar: [www.fultonheights.org/calendar](http://www.fultonheights.org/calendar).

BLOCK #	STREET	BLOCK CAPTAIN (House Number)	
4 - 165	Alten	Open	
213 - 354	Alten	Sherry & Mark Gotshall	616-901-0133
15 - 142	Arthur	Joel Swierenga (59)	616-856-6359
37 - 133	Auburn	Arielle Leipham Ellis (52)	616-516-4764
13 - 165	Baynton	Josh O'Berski (115)	616-610-9241
160 - 355	Baynton	Fred Stella (234)	616-454-5960
16 - 143	Benjamin	Dustin Will & Jessica Dawson-Will (102)	616-485-4379
	East Terrace	Fred Dryg (1573)	616-295-0262
40 - 400	Fuller	Open	
5 - 167	Holmdene	Samantha Lee (154)	231-343-5648
168 - 354	Holmdene	Kyle & Rachael Roseman (224)	616-498-0569
16 - 105	Lawndale	Open	
214 - 337	Lawndale	Gwen Howey (309)	616-774-3249
13 - 163	Lowell	Open	
13 - 163	Mayfield	Kim Koonmen (135)	616-460-9728
212 - 348	Mayfield	Open	
5 - 233	Plymouth	Al Couch (55)	616-454-3676
8 - 163	Wallinwood	Woody Woodruff (61)	616-454-4085
212 - 348	Wallinwood	Dan Monselise (235)	917-295-2308

### BLOCK CAPTAINS & NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

If you are interested in serving as a Block Captain for one of the "Open" blocks, please contact Don at [donwheeler89@icloud.com](mailto:donwheeler89@icloud.com) or 616-459-4393.

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2019

### BUILDING STRONG CONNECTIONS WITH FHNA EVENTS

KEVIN KELLING

The Fulton Heights Neighborhood Association Board is pleased to announce the newly formed Events Committee. Our goal as a sub-committee of the FHNA board is to create opportunities to build more meaningful connections within our neighborhood. We hope to do a variety of things, from enriching our current annual and biannual gatherings, to creating more frequent opportunities throughout the year for neighbors to come together around their interests.

As part of the effort, we'll be seeking out partnerships in the neighborhood and surrounding community.

First up is an FHNA sponsored game night to be held at the newly opened Blue Bridge Games ([bluebridgegames.com](http://bluebridgegames.com)) on Fulton. Look for more detail on this upcoming event via the FHNA Facebook Group!

We're also exploring ways to empower neighbors to initiate, plan and lead their own hyper-local events—things like Block Parties, play-groups, book clubs and more. Of course, the Events Committee hopes to draw on the interests and ideas of residents, so we'll be including a series of event-focused questions in the first-annual Neighbor

Survey that the FHNA Board will be working to send out later this year.

In the meantime, let me introduce our committee:

**Kate Robinson** and her young family moved into our neighborhood in late 2017. As a former lead organizer for TEDxGrandRapids, she has great experience in putting together events that help bring people together.

**Gloria Cangelosi** was the most recent Neighborhood Hero for her efforts last year in putting together 2 story telling events – stories of the Fulton Heights Neighborhood.

**Kevin Kelling**, VP of the FHNA Board.

If you'd like to join the Events committee, please email [FHNA@fultonheights.org](mailto:FHNA@fultonheights.org) with the subject "EVENTS".



# Become a Member!

Fill out the FHNA membership form on page 7 to become an FHNA member.



Visit us on [fultonheights.org](http://fultonheights.org)!



Search Fulton Heights on Facebook!

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2019

### REGARDING NATURE'S DIVERSITY

MARY ELLEN MCNAUGHTON

Cars often drive slowly by the FHNA Hillcrest Community Gardens to catch a glimpse of patchwork plots and gardeners in action. I was a passenger in one of those cars back in 1975 not realizing that I would join the ranks of those gardeners after moving into the neighborhood a few years later!

As you likely know, in response to threat of residential development, the neighborhood association formed to establish authority to purchase this property, and so, the garden was preserved. (That episode is a remarkable journey and deserves another article!) A true gem, the garden is our “heart” center, the envy of many other neighborhoods in its offer of open green space.

In fact, books such as *Your Brain on Nature* by Eva Selhub and *The Nature Principle* by Richard Louv, prove beyond a doubt how interfacing with nature (and gardening) can be!

Although touching the earth and working directly with plants offer an intimate connection, including eating what you actually grow, fresh and organic, anyone can benefit by walking through the garden and adjacent Fuller Park. Many neighbors and even outside visitors stroll

the lanes of the garden to admire the beauty of the flowers and vegetable plants. (Please do remember to refrain from harvesting other's fruits of labor!)

If you are patient, quiet, and observant, there are many natural wonders to behold! Consider yourself extremely fortunate to catch a glimpse of a ruby throated hummingbird as it zips along!

There are a myriad of insects, yes, including the “good” bugs that are to be admired and protected. I know we have praying mantis by the egg cases they build. In addition to honey bees, there are many varieties of native bees, some as tiny as a grain of rice, some a beautiful metallic green, seen on dainty flowers. Burly bumblebees favor borage blossoms and are the heavy duty pollinators of tomato plants because their yellow flowers slap honey bees in the face! Who knew?

Butterflies abound after the morning sun warms up the day. See them hover around bright zinnias, sunflowers, and cosmos.

Toads are the foot soldiers of the garden, eating up unwelcome slugs. We even have a few very harmless and especially helpful garter snakes to add to the garden pest control brigade! Please respect our amphibians and reptiles!

Looking into the sky, hawks soar as they seek voles and rabbits. Once I even saw a horned owl with its prey landing in one of the tall walnut trees! Another time, hearing croaking in the air, I peered upwards to see a sandhill crane fly overhead! Upon twilight, the bat family appears with their nightly flying stunts. You might even see a night hawk skimming over the garden or park.

In fact, the sky looms large over the garden. Watching dark surly clouds of approaching storms or seeing massive glowing thunder-heads in the distance is thrilling and daunting. The setting sun often produces blazing clouds and shimmering rays of light. A rising full moon in the summer is pure magic! Even in our city it is possible to sight planets and major constellations. As night falls, the garden is closed and while we sleep a whole other world, unseen, comes to life...

And so you can indeed understand, our garden is a treasure trove of nature and beauty, (much more than this article can address.) Walk the garden lanes and feel its calming atmosphere. Breathe deeply and leave your worries behind in our unique and diverse community garden! And if you are ambitious, find out how to “play” in the dirt and grow your own vegetables! That is a completely different kind of meditation!



## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2019

### MICHIGAN STREET DEVELOPMENT

SAM WARBER, FHNA PRESIDENT

You may have heard through the grapevine, FHNA's Facebook page, or postcards from the City about a proposed development for a thirty-unit apartment complex off of Michigan Street. Redstone Properties, who bought the current apartment building and the surrounding undeveloped land in 2018, was in charge of the project. They were told by the City to get in touch with FHNA to begin the process of informing the neighbors of the proposed project.

Representatives of Redstone met with the Board at the February Board Meeting, gave a presentation about the proposed development and answered any questions posed. The Board submitted a letter to the Planning Commission saying that they were satisfied that it was a responsible project, but explained that because the neighbors had not been informed of the project yet, full support was conditional on future neighbor response. The City delayed a decision on approving the project or not so that neighbors could be informed. FHNA Board agreed to work with Redstone to get the word out.

Besides posting information on FultonHeights.org and the FHNA FaceBook group, the Board hosted



a meeting between Redstone and concerned neighbors held at the Salvation Army Fulton Heights Corps facility. The majority of residents who attended the meeting were very much against the proposed building mainly due to the loss of green space, extra traffic, density of people, property values, and the impact on surrounding homes (noise, headlights, etc).

The City sent out postcards to the immediate homes surrounding the project informing them of a public hearing. A number of FHNA residents wrote letters to the Planning Commission and got over 100 signatures on a petition against the new apartment complex. The FHNA Board submitted another letter to the Commission, stating that the overwhelming neighbor response was against the project.

The Planning Commission met on March 14th and heard representatives from Redstone Properties and concerned neighbors. The letters and petition were also put on record. Ultimately, the Commission voted 6-2 against the project, agreeing that

amount of density is not in accordance with the neighborhood of Fulton Heights, nor the city's goal of keeping green space. According to regulations, Redstone has thirty days to submit a significantly changed design if they would like to have another chance at the development.

Some neighbors have expressed the wish that FHNA would purchase the area in order to preserve it. According to information gained at the Salvation Army meeting, Redstone purchased the area for 1.2 million dollars. If someone would like to donate that amount to FHNA, we would be happy to purchase the land and save it from future development!

The initial proposed site plan and information can be found on [fultonheights.org](http://fultonheights.org), and any new information will be shared via that website, the FHNA FaceBook group or in a future newsletter.

Sam Warber, FHNA President

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2019

### GARAGE SALE & DUMPSTER DAY

ARIELLE LEIPHAM ELLIS

This year the garage sale will be the entire weekend of May 3-5th. The neighborhood Board will set out signs and advertise in local media outlets. Setup and end time is at your discretion. This year the Board has arranged for the Salvation Army to pick up any unwanted items from the garage sale! Please place unwanted items on the curb by 8:00am on Monday, May 6th. Be sure to have items boxed up and/or in bags and marked with a sign denoting "Salvation Army". They are able to pick up furniture, as well. Specific requirements will be posted on the Fulton Heights Facebook page and website.

In an effort to coordinate leftover items from the garage sale and spring cleaning, The FHNA hosted Annual Dumpster Day will be held on Saturday, May 18th at 8:00am in the parking lot of William C. Abney Academy, 1435 Fulton St. E (next to Family Fare). Be sure to bring your excess recycling as we have doubled the amount of recycling carts from last year!

As usual, no construction debris, yard waste, or un-flattened cardboard will be accepted. Hazardous waste will not be accepted, for more information about how to dispose of that properly, call the Grand Rapids Dept of Public Works at 616-632-7920.

There will be no electronics recycling this year as FHNA was unable to coordinate a pick up by an authorized recycler. You are able to donate electronic items to CompRenew or another business of your choice.



### MAYFAIR CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1736 Lyon St. NE, Grand Rapids MI 49503

*SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP* – 10 am. Come join us during this Easter season of rebirth and transformation!

*TUESDAY MORNINGS* – Community Bible Study for men and women; childcare provided. Begins 9:30 am each Tuesday through April 16, again in fall.

*EXERCISE CLASSES* – Body Back, Fit4Moms, Stroller Strides, most days, some morning, some evening. Check for specific info and to sign up: <http://grandrapids.fit-4mom.com>

### FHNA NEIGHBORHOOD HERO

KEVIN KELLING

Norma Jansma is our FHNA Neighborhood Hero. Hillcrest Garden is a gem right here in Fulton Heights. The neighborhood worked together to buy the parcel of land in 1995 that housed the gardens. Norma was involved with the garden at the beginning and has been a great advocate for the garden ever since. She's a tireless caretaker of the garden. For years Norma has been the coordinator of the plot rentals which is a big job with over 100+ plot rentals every year.

Thank you, Norma, for your service to the neighborhood and the City by making the Hillcrest Garden great. When you stroll through the garden this summer, be sure to take a moment to personally thank Norma who will no doubt be there.



*Do you know a hero?*  
Nominate them by emailing  
[FHNA@fultonheights.org](mailto:FHNA@fultonheights.org)

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2019

### BECOME AN FHNA MEMBER TODAY!

Are you a member of the Fulton Heights Neighborhood association? We are always welcoming new neighbors into our ranks! Simply fill out the application below! Contact [FHNA@fultonheights.org](mailto:FHNA@fultonheights.org) for more details.

### BENEFITS OF YOUR FHNA MEMBERSHIP:

- Neighborhood Newsletters and special meeting fliers delivered to your door.
- Bi-annual Membership Meetings.
- Neighborhood Garage Sale with Advertisement Signs.
- Access to our Beautiful 5-Acre Community Garden on Lyon Street.
- Access to Dumpster Days.
- Neighborhood Block Captains on every street — Safety First!
- A Website and Facebook page.
- Summer Picnic filled with fun for all ages to enjoy!
- Neighborhood Signs to border and showcase the Fulton Heights Community.



Visit us on [fultonheights.org](http://fultonheights.org)!



Search Fulton Heights on Facebook!

## *Fulton Heights Annual Membership Application* Neighborhood Association

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

*Select One*

- Family/Household **\$8**
- Seniors/Singles/Students **\$5**

### OPTIONAL DONATION:

*All donations to FHNA are tax deductible.*

- FHNA General Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Hillcrest Gardens Enhancement project \$\_\_\_\_\_
- FHNA Perimeter Street Sign project \$\_\_\_\_\_

### VOLUNTEERING AND INTERESTS

*Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering for FHNA, or if you'd like to be contacted with information about one of our programs.*

- Volunteer to Assist with Newsletter delivery
- Volunteer on the Annual Picnic Committee
- Volunteer with other FHNA projects
- Learn more about becoming a block captain
- Learn more about gardening at Hillcrest Gardens.

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$\_\_\_\_\_.**

*Make Checks Payable to "FHNA". Drop off or mail to  
PO Box 1590, Grand Rapids, MI 49501*



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2019

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1557 Michigan St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI  
Phone 616-729-9303

\$10.00 Haircuts for Men and Boys  
Over 65 years experience.

From 2014 through 2018 I have had the privilege of assisting with the sale or purchase of 27 homes in our neighborhood.

I've enjoyed welcoming new neighbors and supporting the dreams past neighbors seek elsewhere. Thank you for trusting me with your real estate needs!

If you're considering making a move in the near future, reach out for a free market analysis and to find out what your home is worth.



**Ty VanWingen**  
REALTOR® | Associate Broker  
616.430.5104  
tvanwingen@greenridge.com

*experience matters*



*thank you*

**FULTON  
HEIGHTS**



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2213 Wealthy Street SE | Grand Rapids, MI 49306