



Fulton Heights

Neighborhood Association

FALL NEWSLETTER 2024

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

ANDREA LEHMAN

Happy Fall Y'all!

I hope you are enjoying these cooler temps and getting back into the routine of school, school buses, sports, and more traffic. Soon, we will be turning back our clocks, unpacking our cold weather gear, and parking on the odd/even sides of our streets. Many fun and exciting things await our community in the fall including Pulaski Days, Halloween, and Shop Hop, just to mention a few. Fall in GR never disappoints, and FHNA will be kicking off the season with another **Fantastic Fulton Heights Fall Fun Fest with the accompanying Fall Membership Meeting.**

This year we will again be meeting at Living Stones Academy (LSA) on Sunday, October 6th, 2024 at 4:00pm for our member meeting



MEETING AND FALL FUN FESTIVAL
4PM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 AT
LIVING STONES ACADEMY

and immediately following in the recreation area behind LSA will be our Fall Festival for young and old.

Our Membership meeting will give you an opportunity to hear what is new from our board and from our community members like law enforcement officers, fire fighters, ward commissioners and

more. At the Fall Fest, we plan to provide food, drink, and activities, including special activities for the kids, games, prizes and the chance to meet new neighbors and connect with old ones too.

Please join us for a great meeting and recreational time afterwards. We'd love to see you there!



LET'S GET DIGITAL!

Visit epurl.com/h8NSab or use the QR code below to opt in to a digital version of the FHNA newsletter! On signing up you will have the option to opt out of the paper version to save waste and paper!

IMPORTANT NEIGHBORHOOD DATES

OCTOBER 6 NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING
AND FALL FESTIVAL

OCT 31 GR CITY TRICK OR TREAT DUSK - 8PM
NOV 1 ODD-EVEN PARKING BEGINS

FALL NEWSLETTER 2024

**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

- Andrea Lehman**, President
- Becky Brown**, Secretary
- Liz Deubner**, Treasurer
- Mark Staves**, Director
- Ryan McCahill**, Director

FHNA BLOCK CAPTAINS

BLOCK #	BLOCK CAPTAIN (House Number)	BLOCK #	BLOCK CAPTAIN (House Number)
Alten, 4-165	Tim Lakin & Andrew Dunn	Lawndale, 16-105	Matt & Shannon Bishop
Alten, 213-354	Becky Brown (330)	Lawndale, 200-337	Gwen Howey (309)
Arthur, 12-142	Vacant	Lowell, 17-162	Mary Clark-Kaiser (1453 Lyon)
Auburn, 37-143	Arielle Leipham Ellis (52)	Mayfield, 13-163	Consing Thompkins (18)
Baynton, 13-165	Krista Vanderzee (29) & Holly Kammel (25)	Mayfield, 205-348	Vacant
Baynton, 200-349	Fred Stella (234)	Plymouth, 5-333	Al Couch (55)
Benjamin, 16-143	Ty & Kate Sutherland (74)	Wallinwood, 8-167	Molly House Spence (36)
Fuller, 40-140	Julia Saldivia (114)	Wallinwood, 214-345	Dan Monselise (235)
Holmdene, 5-167	Samantha Lee (154)	BC Coordinator	Mary Clark-Kaiser
Holmdene, 200-355	James Westenbroek (343)		

BE A BLOCK CAPTAIN

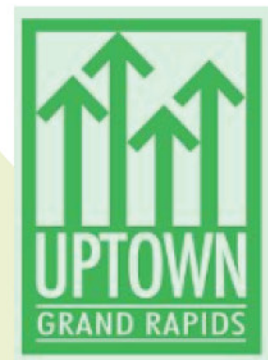
GRPD recommends an active Block Captain program to reduce local crime. We need volunteers to fill vacant Block Captain positions.

Responsibilities of a Block Captain include introducing yourself to the neighbors on your street, alerting all residents of any crime incidents reported to you, and helping spread news and encourage participation in FHNA activities.

If you are interested, please reach out to Andrea at lehman.andrea@gmail.com

THANK YOU UPTOWN

Special thanks to Uptown for their generous donation of funds for the Upcoming FHNA Fall Festival!



FALL NEWSLETTER 2024

We Need Help.

BECOME A BOARD MEMBER TODAY!



Fellow neighbors, our Fulton Heights neighborhood association, a non-profit founded over 30 years ago, has always been a volunteer-run organization. It's a place where neighbors of diverse viewpoints and backgrounds are welcomed and valued, where we come together to celebrate our shared experiences, and where we keep each other informed about important neighborhood news.


Unfortunately, our board is currently so small that we're in violation of our association bylaws. We do not have the minimum number of volunteer directors to adequately complete the current duties of the FHNA, much less grow and thrive.

We need your help to ensure the continued success and growth of our community. We need dedicated individuals who are passionate about our neighborhood and willing to give their time and energy to serve on our board. Remember, we only meet once a month. It's a small commitment with a big impact.

By joining the board, you'll have the opportunity to shape the future of our FHNA. You'll be part of a team that works to foster a sense of belonging, organize exciting events, and keep our neighbors informed. If you love living in Fulton Heights and appreciate the benefits our neighborhood association brings to our community, then I urge you to consider volunteering

your time and energy. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the place we call home.

If you are interested, please reach out to Andrea at lehman.andrea@gmail.com

 Visit us on fultonheights.org!

 Search Fulton Heights on Facebook!

FALL NEWSLETTER 2024



DRINKS ON THE DRIVEWAY

JULINE

Phil and I (Juline) have lived in the Fulton Heights neighborhood for 20 years. Over time, people have moved in and out and we realized we didn't know many of our neighbors anymore. We would often cross paths with neighbors Bob and Jane on our evening walks and the conversation would always end with us talking about how we should get together and plan something to meet our neighbors. One night, in the spring of 2023, Bob, Jane, Phil and I decided to just pick a date, and Drinks on the Driveway was born! Timing and simplicity were key to making it successful. Timing – we settled on every other week hoping to build some continuity. If someone misses, they don't have to wait a whole month to attend another one. Simplicity – we wanted it to

be very easy to host. Our neighbors bring their own chairs and drinks, and we sit outside. Anyone can host if they'd like to. To get the word out, we post on Facebook and occasionally pass out flyers. We had 35 neighbors stop by for our very first Drinks in the Driveway.

We are now into our second year. Every Drinks on the Driveway has a different set of neighbors. Some neighbors join once over the summer and others come every week. Now we know almost every neighbor on Lower Alten, including the kids. Last week, the little neighbor girl across the street saw everyone gathering in the driveway, and told her mom, "We need to go see our friends." That sums it up pretty well! If the flamingo is out on Alten, feel free to stop by and say, "hello." Or, find a neighbor, and you can team up to start Drinks on the Driveway on your own block.

COMMUNITY MASTER PLAN UPDATE

RYAN MCCA HILL

Following a four-year, community-led process to develop a new Community Master Plan (CMP) for the City of Grand Rapids, City Commission released Bridge to Our Future, a draft blueprint for how the community will grow and develop over the next 20 years. I was lucky enough to participate on behalf of Fulton Heights over the past year and found the process to be very productive and inclusive across multiple neighborhoods in our city. Besides a survey posted on the community Facebook page, I hosted a few small feedback sessions specifically related to the focus on "Better Neighborhoods" that helped to confirm feedback on areas focused in the plan.

A draft of the CMP was released in mid-August and is open for the public to review and comment through October 16. If you'd like to review and/or comment, you can find the draft of the plan and other helpful links at <https://bit.ly/GRCityPlan>

Looking forward to this Community Master Plan playing an important part of our bridge to a bright and exciting future in Grand Rapids for the next twenty years of growth!

FALL NEWSLETTER 2024



FHNA EVENTS COMMITTEE

GLORIA CANGELOSI

FRIDAY GET TOGETHERS

Please join us on the FIRST Friday of each month for casual neighborly fun. Mention Fulton Heights to be seated with our group.

Oct 4 6pm @ VanderMill
Nov 1 6pm @ VenderMill

WALKING CLUB

Monday nights 7-8pm. All levels welcome! Meet at the Community Bulletin Board at Hillcrest Garden.

HALLOWEEN DECORATING CONTEST

1st, 2nd and 3rd prize plus new this year *Spookiest Block!* Vote on the FHNA Facebook Page or get your ballot in person at the Fall Meeting, or the Community Message Board!

SEDIMENTAL VALUE

CHRIS MUELLER

If you've walked past our house on the northeast corner of Lyon and Wallinwood Street, you may have noticed our little, but often growing, collection of painted rocks near the sidewalk. For our family, this pandemic-born hobby has become a way to relax as a family, express ourselves, and share a little bit of joy and positivity. We all love seeing the kids in the neighborhood pick out their favorite, or name the colors and images, as they stop to take them in. I think it is great that they get picked up, moved, organized, interacted with, like toys that are brought to life. It feels like a tiny art exhibit that has parts that are so familiar yet allow for a new perspective each time you approach it.

We also love that new rocks, painted by mysterious neighbors, are added to the collection periodically. Thank you for those that have added your colorful expressions to our yard! I would like to extend an invitation to leave one, take one, trade one, whenever moved to do so. It would be exciting to see several more little rock exhibits appear along the sidewalk of Fulton Heights - just like our friends on Holmdene and their flock of flamingos, it could be a fun way to show the fun and family-oriented nature of our community!

FALL NEWSLETTER 2024

TURN OF THE SEASONS IN HILLCREST GARDEN

MARK STAVES

Soon, we'll feel the pull of the shortening days, turning leaves, and dropping temperature. The most diehard gardeners amongst us respond by busying ourselves with harvesting and preserving – others by cozying up to the fireplace with a good book and, perhaps, a glass of wine.

Cooking up our meals with produce from our garden is a delight; the rainfall this year has been “just right.” Hillcrest Garden (fb.com/FHNAhillcrestgarden) has been growing in other ways as well. This season, we had 165 gardeners – many of our wonderful gardeners committed to not only their own garden plots but also to the work of keeping the garden community spaces looking nice and functioning well. There is a real joy in working together toward common purpose in maintaining and improving the gem that is Hillcrest Garden. Thank you to the countless volunteers who have helped make the garden work this year!

This Spring, Hillcrest became a “People’s Garden”, one of three community gardens in Grand Rapids with that designation. The People’s Garden community

connects gardens across the country that produce local food, practice sustainability, and bring people together in their community.

In addition, Hillcrest started two new gardening initiatives this season. First, we became a participant in the Land Institute “Perennial Atlas Project” (bit.ly/PerennialAtlasProject). Most of our crops are “annuals,” meaning they die after one season. After the season, we plow up the earth to plant again the next spring. This annual plowing emits large amounts of planet-warming greenhouse gasses. We are proud to be doing our part to help the Land Institute develop new perennial crop plants that do not require annual plowing.

Our second initiative is a small giving garden for the Fulton Heights Neighborhood. We hope to share the produce from this plot with neighbors and donate surplus produce to a local food pantry. The garden is currently a small tomato plot, but we plan to expand it.

The Hillcrest Garden will be closed in stages. Hardier gardeners may continue growing into November, but the water will be shut off in October and the garden cleared in early November. The gates will be locked in mid-November.

The Hillcrest Garden will be put to bed in stages, as always. Hardier gardeners will be growing

cold-tolerant crops well into November despite water being shut off in October, and the non-tillable material will be cleaned out in early November. The gates will be locked for the winter in mid-November.

As always, non-garden members should feel free to walk and exercise their leashed dogs on the driveways and grassy areas of the Garden while removing any pet waste. All other activities, including entering garden plots (except for the “giving garden”), driving vehicles on garden property, dumping refuse or garden waste, and social gatherings are prohibited. Please treat this property as you would that of a private neighbor.

Gardeners who have actively maintained their plots this year will receive an invitation to renew early in the spring. As always, we will maintain a waiting list for those wishing to join our garden community. New gardeners are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you live in Fulton Heights, you can get priority for a new plot by applying when the form (bit.ly/FHNAGardenForm) opens up on Oct 31. All others can apply for a new garden beginning on Nov 1.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact hillcrestcommunitygardengr@gmail.com.

FALL NEWSLETTER 2024



THE TEAL PUMPKIN PROJECT

KAYLA DOMEYER

The Teal Pumpkin Project is a wonderful initiative that promotes inclusivity and safety during Halloween, especially for children with food allergies or other dietary restrictions. By participating, you can make Halloween a happier and safer experience for everyone in your neighborhood.

To get involved, follow these simple steps:

Paint or Buy a Teal Pumpkin: The teal pumpkin is the symbol of the project. You can either purchase one from a local store or paint a pumpkin teal yourself. Place it prominently outside your home, so it's visible to trick-or-treaters.

Offer Non-Food Treats: Instead of traditional candies, have a selection of non-food treats available. This

doesn't have to mean plastic toys! try stickers, glow sticks, erasers or pencils.

Display the Teal Pumpkin Sign: You can download and print a free sign from foodallergy.org to let families know you're participating. This sign also helps spread awareness.

Share Your Participation: Use social media or word of mouth to inform your neighbors and community about your involvement. Encourage others to join in and make their Halloween celebrations more inclusive.

Safety First: Remember to keep any edible and non-edible treats separate and clearly labeled. Avoid items that might be choking hazards.

Participating in the Teal Pumpkin Project is a small but impactful way to ensure all children can enjoy Halloween without worrying about food allergies. It's a gesture of kindness that can bring your community closer together and make the holiday more enjoyable for everyone.

Become a Member!

Fill out the FHNA membership form on the back of this newsletter to become an FHNA member.

Already a member? Pay your dues at bit.ly/FHNADues or at the Fall Membership Meeting!

Your Block Captain is....

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

FALL NEWSLETTER 2024



Fulton Heights 2023 Market at a Glance:

- 36 Houses Sold
- Average Sales Price \$336,581
- Median Sales Price \$350,500
- Average Days on Market 7

Considering selling? Ty has sold over 50 homes in Fulton Heights and has the know-how to get you the best results. 2024 is poised to be a fast and tricky market, and experience matters more than ever.

Contact Ty for a free market analysis of your home.

Thank you
**FULTON
HEIGHTS**




Ty VanWingen

Associate Broker | Realtor®

2019 - 2024 REAL ESTATE ALL STAR - TOP 5% PRODUCERS
2024 Greenridge Presidents Award Recipient

616.430.5104 | tvanwingen@greenridge.com

Fulton Heights Annual Membership Application
Neighborhood Association

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

Select One

- Family/Household **\$10**
- Seniors/Singles/Students **\$7**

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

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

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 on the PR & communications Committee
- Volunteer on the Events Committee
- Volunteer with other FHNA projects
- Learn more about becoming a block captain
- Learn more about gardening at Hillcrest Gardens

Or Sign Up
Online!
Scan this QR
code with
your phone to
sign up and pay
dues!

