



Home Town Village of Ann Arbor

Fall 2010 News Letter

Steven Li / President

It is my great pleasure to take the opportunity to speak to homeowners for the first time since the newly elected Board has formed. I would like to start with many thanks to previous board member Ed Fenton and Scott Wolfington for their years of time and effort serving our community. Their knowledge, experience and help in the future to the new board members are greatly appreciated. At this starting point, the basic goal of the new Board is to maintain and enhance the HVA community and respond to resident requests and concerns. The new Board is focusing on the following:

Improve Communication. The board decided to communicate with homeowners directly by sending a friendlier letter in case of any violation of bylaws before taking any actions leading to a warning letter with a fine through the management company. Once receiving the initial friendly letter, I would appreciate homeowners to take prompt action to correct the problem or contact the Board to discuss a correction plan.

Practice Transparency. The first effort from Board is to establish a complete and well-managed document and record system. All the Board decisions, communications, information and records will be managed in such the way that they will be 100% transparent to all the Board members and ready to be shared with all the homeowners. I would like to thank David Schroat for volunteering his time to serve as Board Secretary to provide minutes of all Board meetings. The minutes will be available on the HVA web site.

Encourage more homeowners to participate. The Board has decided to ask for volunteers and form volunteer teams. We have named a new committee, the Community Standards Committee (CSC) to help identify problems and solicit input from residents regarding possible solutions. There are other committees posted on the web site in which all residents are welcome to participate on a team. Please contact the Board members if you are interested. We believe that, with more homeowners' involvement, we should be very successful in improving our communication and participation goals.

The newly elected Board has established our goals and a system to better serve our HVA community. The door is open to all homeowners to participate, to share ideas and suggestions, to ask questions or to express concerns. Let's put our efforts together to have a better Home Town Village of Ann Arbor - a wonderful community we love and are proud of!

Nahid Hemati / Vice President

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you on the HVA Board. Since the new Board was elected, we have been working on establishing our new administration. We have been committed to the approach of meeting monthly at a regular day and time. We now meet on the first Monday or Tuesday of each month at 5:15pm at the Pinnacle office. We have been very impressed with the customer service of Jeff Leonard and the level of service provided by Pinnacle.

We have been committed to a team approach where we are in frequent contact with each other and with residents. We have met several times informally with contractors and residents and participated in a number of informative walk-through. One of the strengths of this Board has been that each board member lives on one of the three HVA streets (Chapleau, N. Bay, and Timmins). We hope to build on this strength as we become familiar with resident concerns and the management issues of the many HVA common areas.

We have also been committed to greater transparency. For the first time in HVA history Board meeting minutes are now available to residents. David Schroat has generously volunteered to serve as Board Secretary, attend Board meetings and take the minutes. The minutes will be available to residents on the HVA web site.

It's been a busy two months. I have contacted and met with many of our contractors such as A&H Landscaping and Back to Nature. We have had several on-site meetings to review their services. I have been in frequent contact with Scio Township about finishing the new sewer project and restoration of the natural area. Some additional trees will soon be added and new trees that did not survive will be replaced. The damaged curb along Chapleau has already been replaced and we will soon have repair of the damaged asphalt. Fortunately there will be no cost to HVA.

I wanted to thank all the HVA residents who gave me the honor of being the first woman on the HVA Board. Since the election, it has been a great pleasure to meet so many residents and I hope to meet many more of you!

Milos Petrovic / Treasurer

Neighbors,

I would like to take the time to thank our previous board members Ed Fenton and Scott Wolfington for their service on the board. Their dedication and efforts on improving the community are greatly appreciated. I would also like to welcome Songnian Li and Nahid Hemati to the board of directors.

The board was informed on a few different occasions about vehicles that were left parked on the street overnight. I would like to remind all of the homeowners that no vehicles are allowed to be parked on the street between hours of 2 and 6 am. In the event that you have guests or a large vehicle that would not fit on your driveway, please contact the board and we can provide you with a short term parking pass that would allow you to park on the street for the night.

Fall is almost here and the beginning of the school year is just around the corner. I would like to ask all of the homeowners to please watch their speed and be aware of the many children playing and walking in the neighborhood. Please do not park in the traffic circle by the bus stop as it can get quite congested during the pickup and drop off times.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me. I will do my best to assist the community in any way that I can.

Q & A

Q: The sprinkler system in the Bell Tower area is down!
A: The pump was damaged. Board worked very hard and got the permission recently from MDEQ to allow us to replace the pump and continue to draw water from the pond (which happens to be a protected wetland). We will replace the damaged pump and the system will be back to work next season.

Q: Any plan to get the sprinkler system back to work, or it will be shut down forever?

A: The first option is to get the MDEQ's permission ASAP, then we replace the damaged pump and we start the sprinkler system on the previous schedule. We've two backup plans: 1. using the water directly from the well. Some homework is needed to be done to see if this is feasible;

2. Switch back to city water. Then we need to modify existing system and the cost will be high. This is our last option. Permanent shutdown of the sprinkler system is not an option.

Q: The grass and the trees in the bell tower area are dying. What board is going to do?

A: First, it is highly unlikely the grass and trees are dying. Grass typically goes dormant with less water. Trees are more likely to die with overwatering when planted in clay soil. What you are seeing is transplant shock. Currently board is using the city water and garden hoses to water the trees and the grass in bell tower area. We did it twice this week and will keep doing it as necessary. By the way, thanks a lot our neighbor at 1425 Chapleau for allowing us to use his tap water. Also thanks a lot to many homeowners who want to volunteer his/her time to do the watering job.

Q: Why the landscaping and the grass look horrible recently?

A: We contacted the landscaping service company -- A&H and BTN. They said that the "horrible" crabgrass and lawn condition as the consequence of warm weather and humid summer this year. The board will keep working with them.

Q: The newly planted grass in the playground area and in south entrance area looked bad.

A: Board worked with A&H to find solutions to maintain the new grass in south entrance area. Now A & H is turning the sprinkler system off several days prior to mowing the area. As for the new grass in the playground area, board member worked with A&H and found that the sprinkler system was on the wrong setting. We also adjusted the water flow, fixed several non-working heads and mowed the area. Now the area looks much better.

Q: Did the new board change the policy and service for landscaping for the purpose of saving money?

A: No. We are using the same service company under the same contract as previous year.

Q: Did the new board turn off any sprinkler systems for the purpose of saving money.

A: No.

Q: Too much algae in the ponds.

A: Board contacted the Aquatec. They applied treatment recently. Ponds are looking better.

Q: What happened to the flag in the main entrance of the bell tower area?

A: It was stolen before 4th of July weekend. Board is looking at buying an anti-theft box and putting the flag back as soon as possible.



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