

December 2013



Annual Lighting Contest

It's Holiday Light contest time!!! With the Holidays just around the corner, it's time to break out those lights and festive yard outdoor décor. Judging through an independent group of judges will take place on Saturday, December 21st, after dark. The homeowners of the top three selected homes will be awarded prizes. Last year's winner was the Klotz family – let's see if they keep their reign for 2013! Best wishes, and HAPPY DECORATING!

Beware of blocking sidewalks while parked in your driveway!

It was brought to the attention of the HOA that the City of East Lansing is ticketing cars parked over the sidewalk (even in your own driveway). So be sure to keep a safe distance to avoid ticketing.

Leaf Pick Up

Great News!! The City of East Lansing has now added the Hawk Nest neighborhood to their regular leaf pickup routes. This is bulk pick up where the loose leaves are vacuumed up from the street. Two pickups were completed this fall. We will add this to our reminders as we approach the fall next year. Nice service to have!

As Winter Months Quickly Approach...

Sec. 38-127. - Snow, ice, rubbish or other obstructions

No person having the care, either as owner or occupant of any house, building, or lot, shall fail to maintain the sidewalks adjoining the property in accordance with the following standards:

- Rubbish, including broken bottles and glass, filth, obstruction, or other nuisance shall be removed

within 24 hours or as specified by chapter 14 of this Code if the provisions therein are applicable and require sooner removal.

- (b) Ice shall be removed within 12 hours after the same has formed or salt, sawdust, sand, or other abrasive shall be strewn thereon.
- (c) Snow that accumulates before noon on a sidewalk, as the result of a snowfall, shall be cleared from the sidewalk so as to afford reasonably unimpeded passage by the public by midnight of that date and any snow accumulating after noon on a sidewalk, as a result of a snowfall, shall be cleared to the same extent by midnight of the following day.
- (d) Snow that accumulates on a sidewalk as the result of plowing or drifting shall be cleared from the sidewalk so as to afford reasonably unimpeded passage by the public within 24 hours.

Hawk Nest East Lansing Public Schools

On November 11, 2013 the East Lansing Public Schools Board of Education transferred Hawk Nest Phase I and II students from Pinecrest Elementary to Whitehills Elementary starting next fall. Several Hawk Nest parents have voiced opposition to the switch. One concern is that switching Whitehills from a grade 5-6 school to a K-5 school may result in many teachers at Whitehills teaching outside their expertise. Parents questioned why 76 school of choice students would be allowed to stay at Pinecrest while 70 Hawk

Nest students would be forced to attend Whitehills.

This action is the direct result of four school board members voting to close Red Cedar Elementary School, despite opposition from the City of East Lansing, MSU and many if not most East Lansing parents. Note that the driving distance is the same from Hawk Nest to both Pinecrest and Whitehills.

Elementary school students in Phase III, in the Lansing School District, have been able to attend East Lansing schools as school-of-choice students and ride the ELPS bus that stops in Hawk Nest. If Phase III elementary students want to ride the ELPS bus next fall they may now have to switch to Whitehills School.

Some Phase III residents have expressed surprise and concern that Phase III is in the Lansing School District, not the East Lansing School District. Other Phase III residents may like the fact the property tax millage rate is currently about 5.8 mills less in the Lansing School District. The Michigan School Code allows 2/3 of Phase III property owners to petition the Ingham ISD to transfer Phase III into the East Lansing School District. The law also allows the Hawk Nest Board to initiate the request pursuant to a petition signed by 2/3 of the Phase III residents, once Hawk Nest is "completed".

The Hawk Nest board welcomes comments regarding East Lansing Public Schools and the issues raised in this article. - Howard

Friendly Pet Reminder

Please remember to always pick up after your pets. We should each be considerate of our neighbors and our neighborhood.

Small children should be able to freely play in their own yards without their parents worrying about pet waste (especially those who don't even own a pet). Additional waste bags are in the park, if needed.

Community/School Events for Fall Newsletter Calendar

- December 5, 7:30 pm
ELHS Fall Band Concert
- December 7, 3-6 pm
Winter Glow, Downtown
East Lansing
- December 11, 7 pm
McDonald Middle School
Band and Orchestra
Concert
- December 13, 7:30 pm
ELHS Collage Concert (A
great show!) Art Show
available at 6:30 pm
- December 21, 7 pm ELHS
Gospel Choir Concert
- December 10, January 14,
February 11, 6 pm
MacDonald Middle School
Parent Council Meetings
- January 14, February 11,
7 pm Pinecrest Parent
Council Meetings

Board Member Openings

We are currently in need of a few new board members. Current vacancies include: Secretary, Maintenance Chair.

November Neighborhood President's meeting

Mayor Nathan Triplett held his first meeting with the Council of Neighborhood Presidents Monday evening. City Attorney, Tom Yeadon was there to speak on Deed Restrictions and City Ordinances. Deed Restrictions are a private contract between the purchaser and seller. They are restrictions on the deed that place limitations on the use of the property. Generally, they are established by the builder, and come with the purchase of the property. They usually can't be changed or removed by

subsequent owners. Deed restrictions are put in place to maintain a desired look or character to the property and thereby maintain property values. It is the responsibility of the homeowner's association to enforce the deed restrictions of their neighborhood based on the provisions identified in the Master Deed and Amendments. According to Mr. Yeadon, "the City does not get involved in violations of deed restrictions unless it also violates a city ordinance." At the time of purchase of a newly constructed home, Mayberry Homes issues a copy of the Hawk Nest Condominium Purchaser Information Packet. This packet includes a Receipt and Instruction Sheet, Master Deed (Condominium Bylaws & Condominium Subdivision Plan), First, Second, and Third Amendments to the Master Deed, Articles of Incorporation, Association Bylaws, Disclosure Statement, and "The Condominium Buyers Handbook". These documents can also be found on our website at: <http://www.eastlansingneighborhoods.com/HawkNest>. When selling your home, please pass the information packet to the new owner. If you purchased your home from a prior homeowner rather than a new construction from Mayberry Homes and did not receive an information packet, please contact the Hawk Nest Home Owners Association (contact information on this page).

Hawk Nest HOA Board and Committee Contact information:

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1404
East Lansing, MI 48826

Email: hawknesthoa@gmail.com

Facebook page: Hawk Nest Home Owners – East Lansing

Website:

<http://www.eastlansingneighborhoods.com/HawkNest>

Board meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members

Howard Heideman – President

T: 517.351.0675

E: hheideman@comcast.net

Aaron Irving – Vice President

T: 517.580.4291

Open – Secretary

T:

Anne Hill – Treasurer

T: 517.410.6534

E: ahill695@hotmail.com

Clinton Klotz – Member

T: 517.333-9561

Committees

Architectural Committee

Chairperson Clinton Klotz
Maintains the aesthetic integrity of the community by regulating structures, improvements, landscaping, etc.

Communications Committee

Chairperson Aaron Irving
Newsletters, mailings, Questionnaires

Maintenance Committee

Chairperson Open
Common area maintenance, including landscaping and snow removal.

Recreation Committee

Chairperson Open
Recreational and social events.