



# Arbor Hills Newsletter

## February 2004

### Calendar

- February 14 - Valentine's Day
- February 21 - 29 - Ann Arbor Public Schools Mid-Winter Break
- March 1 - Arbor Hill's Board Meeting
- March 15 - No school for Elementary students
- March 24 - All students half day in A.M. No P.M. Kindergarten
- March 25-27 - Thurston Play held at Clague Middle School Auditorium
- April 28 - Thurston Kindergarten Roundup @ 6:30pm
- April 5 - Arbor Hill's Board Meeting – Open to Neighborhood Attendance
- April 9 - Deadline for Newsletter
- May 15 – Planting Day
- May 31 – Memorial Day Bike Parade

### St Valentine's Story

Let me introduce myself. My name is Valentine. I lived in Rome during the third century. That was long, long ago! At that time, Rome was ruled by an emperor named Claudius. I didn't like Emperor Claudius, and I wasn't the only one! A lot of people shared my feelings.

Claudius wanted to have a big army. He expected men to volunteer to join. Many men just did not want to fight in wars. They did not want to leave their wives and families. As you might have guessed, not many men signed up. This made Claudius furious. So what happened? He had a crazy idea. He thought that if men were not married, they would not mind joining the army. So Claudius decided not to allow any more marriages. Young people thought his new law was cruel. I thought it was preposterous! I certainly wasn't going to support that law!

Did I mention that I was a priest? One of my favorite activities was to marry couples. Even after Emperor Claudius passed his law, I kept on performing marriage ceremonies -- secretly, of course. It was really quite exciting. Imagine a small candlelit room with only the bride and groom and myself. We would whisper the words of the ceremony, listening all the while for the steps of soldiers.

One night, we did hear footsteps. It was scary! Thank goodness the couple I was marrying escaped in time. I was caught. (Not quite as light on my feet as I used to be, I guess.) I was thrown in jail and told that my punishment was death.

I tried to stay cheerful. And do you know what? Wonderful things happened. Many young people

came to the jail to visit me. They threw flowers and notes up to my window. They wanted me to know that they, too, believed in love.

One of these young people was the daughter of the prison guard. Her father allowed her to visit me in the cell. Sometimes we would sit and talk for hours. She helped me to keep my spirits up. She agreed that I did the right thing by ignoring the Emperor and going ahead with the secret marriages. On the day I was to die, I left my friend a little note thanking her for her friendship and loyalty. I signed it, "Love from your Valentine."

I believe that note started the custom of exchanging love messages on Valentine's Day. It was written on the day I died, February 14, 269 A.D. Now, every year on this day, people remember. But most importantly, they think about love and friendship. And when they think of Emperor Claudius, they remember how he tried to stand in the way of love, and they laugh -- because they know that love can't be beaten!

### Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let it Snow Again & Again & Again

Mother Nature has dealt us all a bad trick of too much snow this year! This act of nature has really brought out the worst attitudes in some of our usually happy neighbors. The Board understands that your dues pay the cost of an independent snow plow service, but some of your expectations have been a little bit unreasonable. So here are a few facts about

your snow plowing service that you may be unaware of...

1. The snow plow does not purposely pile snow into your driveway and sidewalk.
2. Every driveway will receive a pile of snow after each plow, since the plow is angled to steer snow off the streets onto the sides.
3. The truck can only push snow and there is very little accuracy to this procedure. Culdesac areas are extremely hard to clear due to the lack of tight turning radius on the truck.
4. The snow plow service will clear your individual driveway and sidewalk only if you pay them for that service. Your dues pay to clear the streets only.
5. The snow plow service will not plow directly next to the curb, since their plows tear up the concrete.
6. The plow service normally waits until after 10pm to clear streets whenever possible, to avoid safety issues with pedestrians and other cars.

After driving past King Elementary School, we feel extremely lucky that we live on private streets, the city streets over there still haven't been plowed (even when they are, culdesac's are never plowed). The Board asks the neighbors to try taking a more positive approach, and realize that we do live in Michigan.

### Who Do You Call?

Let's pretend that you just finished shoveling your whole driveway of that 8 inches of snow and it took you 1 hour to finish, then the plow truck drove by and piled another 4 inches of street snow back into your driveway. Okay, you must be really mad now, **who do you call** to complain? It is not what you might first expect; the correct answer is **Select Management at (734) 663-1900**. Yes, that is correct you pay this company a monthly fee to listen to your complaints and take action. This company even has an after hours extension. The incorrect number to call is a Board Member. Why can't a Board Member help you? Because they are a 5-man team and can't make any decisions without a group vote. In addition, they will not be in a good mood since they are out shoveling their own driveway free of that additional 4 inches of plow snow.

### Towing

Each Arbor Hill's resident was mailed a notice in December of the snow emergency street parking policy. This is now the second year this policy has been in effect. Every resident must move their car off the streets after a 1 \_ inch snowfall to allow the plow trucks to clear the streets. Any car parked on the street when the plow arrives will be towed by

Brewer's Towing Service (Plymouth Road) at the vehicle owner's expense. If you have a visitor, contractor, or guest, you are required to make these individuals aware of our parking policy. If you are having a party, make arrangements with your neighbors ahead of time to help find your guests parking spots. Thanks again to all the residents for moving their cars, very few cars have needed to be towed this season.

### Salting

Our snow removal service is required to salt only our street intersections. However, the service is not always aware of the slippery conditions. If you notice slick spots, please report them to the management company (663-1900) immediately. (Regular "full-street" salting is not possible because of our sensitive wetlands and conservation easements.).

### Attention Ice Skaters and Hockey Players

Please take extra caution when playing on the Arbor Hill's common area frozen ponds. There are several muskrat homes in the pond areas, do not sit, shovel or destroy them. Please stay in the open ice spots. Also there may be areas of thin ice. Remember that safety is the responsibility of the ice skater and their legal guardian. Also, street hockey is allowed on side streets only, no playing on Kilburn Park Circle or the Front Entrance Area. Residential cars please be alert and respect the children playing on the side streets.

### Driveway Salt

Please use as little salt on your driveway and sidewalks as possible. It will drain in to our wetlands and damage wildlife. Arbor Hills has very, very sensitive wetland areas, try using sand as an alternative to tackle the ice.

### Fire Hydrant Markers

The Board has recently purchased new fire hydrant marker flags. Since we've had so much snow, the hydrants are hard for the plow service and fire department to find. **Parents please do not allow your children to play with these markers.** They seem to attract children like toys, but they are mounted to a stiff spring and could cause serious injury if misused. If you have a fire hydrant in your yard, please shovel the snow from around it during deep snowfalls. You never know when your hydrant might need to be found and used.



### Christmas Tree Pickup

You missed it. Even though the city forgot about us this year and picked up our trees two weeks late, there will not be another pickup for old, dead, Christmas Trees again. If you missed the city pickup

call 994-2807 for a drop-off location and assistance. Please do not dispose of your trees on Association common property, if you are caught doing this you will be fined.

### **Street Light's Out**

Residents of Arbor Hills, please feel free to notify the management company of a burned out street light at 663-1900. Please specify the location of the street light pole and the number printed on it.

### **Arbor Hill's Ash Tree Replacement**

Some residents did not participate in our voluntary Ash Tree replanting program last fall. If you missed the sign up program and still want to get a tree in the spring, then contact Judd Road Tree Farm directly at (734) 944-5833. Pricing and timing can be confirmed directly with Judd Road Tree Farm.

### **Management Company**

Please direct all your phone calls and concerns to ...

Dave Wilson  
Select Community Management, Inc.  
2455 South Industrial, Suite A  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104  
(734) 663-1900 ext 30

### **Open Board Meetings**

Neighbors are welcome to attend any or all of the open meetings of the Arbor Hills Association. Scheduled three times a year, open meeting dates are April 5, and July 5, 2003. If you are planning to attend, please call Jane Ueda (369-2348) or Kami Meader (994-7882) at least two days in advance to find out the meeting location.

### **Newsletters**

Future newsletters will now be limited to every other month or as needed. The next neighborhood newsletter will come out in April.

### **Homeland Security Workshop**

The Ann Arbor Crime Watch Department has rescheduled the Part II Neighborhood Watch Training on Terrorism, Homeland Security and Neighborhood Watch. For those who have not been through the Part two training for Neighborhood Watch, the new dates are as follows February 12 at 10:00 am, February 19th @ 10:00 am and February 24th @ 6:30 pm. To register for the class, please contact Adele El-Ayoubi at the Ann Arbor Police Department via email or phone 994-8775. Seating is limited so please call soon. Thanks and look forward to seeing you all again!!

### **New Directories**

Neighborhood directories for 2004 were distributed in December with the newsletter. If you are a new

resident or if you need to update or correct an entry, please email Kami Meader at [aerokam@aol.com](mailto:aerokam@aol.com)

### **New Website**

Are you ready for new technology? Our official website, [www.arbor-hills.com](http://www.arbor-hills.com), is complete. A calendar of events, history, bylaws, Board policies, and other news will be posted for your convenience. Please send any suggestions for our new website to [aerokam@aol.com](mailto:aerokam@aol.com).

### **Dropping Like Flies**

Email addresses are dropping off our neighborhood listing. If you change carriers, don't forget to update us with your new email address. By signing up with the neighborhood list, not only will you receive the newsletter digitally, but you will also automatically be notified about any crimes or emergencies in this area, along with special neighborhood events. We miss you, please send your email address to [AeroKam@aol.com](mailto:AeroKam@aol.com).

### **Found Cat**

He has long hair. Black on the back, with a white belly, legs and feet. The face is white from the throat including the nose up to the forehead. He also has a partial white band about his neck. He is a neutered male with all four feet declawed. The Vet estimates he is about 2 years old. It is estimated he has been on his own for as long as 2-4 weeks. He was nearly starved and I am sure frozen to death, but is doing much better now. The humane society tested him for an implanted chip. He has none. He is very social and vocal. Does not seem to fear dogs, and his bathroom habits are better than most teens. If anyone claims to have lost this exceptionally well mannered cat, please contact Scott at [sspoelma@comcast.net](mailto:sspoelma@comcast.net).

### **Recycle Bins Found**

Over the past few weeks bins have been blowing into the pond by us. We have an Ann Arbor green bin and a big blue bin that isn't ours. If want to claim one of these, stop by 3212 Aldwych Circle.

### **Ann Arbor Schools Extended Day Option**

For the last two years the Ann Arbor School District has piloted a program called Extended Day Option (EDO) for kindergarten students at the King and Eberwhite Elementary Schools. This program offers a combined morning kindergarten with afternoon tuition-based childcare all under the care and instruction of a certified kindergarten teacher. The Ann Arbor Schools would like to expand this EDO program to include all the Elementary Schools. If you would be interested in enrolling your kindergarten child for the 2004-2005 school year in an Extended Day Option Program please contact your neighborhood school (Thurston) or register on line at

[www.aaps.k12.mi.us](http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us). Confirmation is no later than February 20, 2004 whether there is enough interest at individual school sites to offer this program.

### **Freeway Berm**

The Association would like to encourage neighbors to donate trees, shrubs, or any plant life to be planted on our freeway berms. If you would like to donate plants or cash towards planting, please contact the management company at 663-1900. We are asking neighbors not to plant without first notifying the Association, since these areas are protected by a legal conservation easement. Certain plant life might be prohibited by our Master Deed Second Amendment Exhibit C.

### **DTE Negotiations**

Our Arbor Hill's Lawyer is currently negotiating with DTE over our electricity costs for the 31 street lights in Phases I and II of our neighborhood. Watch for more news updates in the next newsletter.

### **Yearly Financial Report**

Per Article 15, Section 15.1 of your bylaws, the Arbor Hill's Association is required to provide each homeowner an End-of-Year Annual Audited Financial Statement. This report will sum-up the Association's income and expenses for the 2003 Year. Watch your mailboxes in late March or Early April for this report.



### **Contractor's Corners**

Your fellow neighbors and not specifically Arbor Hills Advisory Board endorsed have recommended the following contractors:

#### C & Q Painting

Licensed & Insured  
Interior/Exterior  
(734) 483-3667

#### Ultra-Shine

Licensed & Insured  
Interior/Exterior Painting & Power Washing  
(810) 632-6220

#### High Hat Chimney Sweep, Co.

Licensed & Insured  
1-800-371-5508

#### Sean Klein - Heating and Cooling

Licensed & Insured  
(248) 755-3620

#### D & D Carpet Inc

(734) 429-7060

#### J. Needham & Sons, Inc. - Plumbing

Licensed & Insured  
(810) 227-7474

#### H & H Heating and Cooling

Licensed & Insured  
(734) 668-6744

#### Ann Arbor Drywall

Insured  
(734) 973-0833

#### Crawford Door Sales

Licensed & Insured  
Garage door installation & repairs  
(734) 483-4563

#### Gordon Fellows Decks

Licensed & Insured  
Custom/Cedar Decks  
(734) 426-8633

#### Rick Owen Plumbing

Licensed & Insured  
(734) 475-8213

#### Arrow Door

Licensed & Insured  
Garage door installation & repairs  
Evening and Weekend Appointments, great rates  
(810) 225-6155

#### Commercial Building Materials, LLC

(734) 434-4600

Supplier of drywall & suspended ceiling supplies

If you have a recommendation, please send it to [haddrill@aol.com](mailto:haddrill@aol.com) and include the contractor's name, phone number, specialty, and whether they are licensed & insured.