

Arbor Hills Newsletter

January 2003

Editor: Marilyn McLaughlin (marimcl@attglobal.net)

Upcoming Events

Traffic Study Meeting

The third public meeting for the Arbor Hills Traffic Calming Study will be held Tuesday, February 4 at 7:00 at Northside Elementary School in the Media Room. We expect that results from new traffic studies will be presented, since equipment failure prevented completion of earlier studies. Even if you didn't attend the first two meetings, we urge you to come to this one. Your opinions and ideas—about traffic concerns, possible street modifications, or various calming techniques—need to be heard!.

Neighborhood News

Arbor Hills' New "Question of the Month"

Have you ever started a discussion about Arbor Hills with words like, "I wish they'd..." or "If only someone would..."? If so, you may be just waiting for the new "Question of the Month" column that will debut in the February newsletter. Each month, we'll ask a question concerning some aspect of the Arbor Hills neighborhood, collect your responses, and publish them in the next month's newsletter. So, here is our very first question:

How can we improve our neighborhood's aesthetics?

Send your responses or question ideas to aerokam@aol.com for publishing in February's newsletter.

SuperBowl Sunday Mexican Seven Layer Dip

Ingredients:

1	cup	bean dip
3		avocodos - mashed
1	cup	sour cream

1/2	cup	mayonnaise
1	packet	taco seasoning
1	cup	shredded cheese
3/4	cup	chopped green onion
1	can	black olives, sliced
2		big tomatoes ,chopped

Combine sour cream, mayonnaise and taco seasoning.

Layer remaining items on a large plate in the order given above. Top with avocado mixture. Serve with chips. Refrigerate to store.

Submitted by Kami Meader

Committee Notes

Results from November's Second Traffic Calming Meeting

A neighbor brought to our attention that the data in last month's newsletter about the traffic calming study was not complete. Although the results presented at the City's last Traffic Calming Meeting were incomplete due to equipment malfunction, the following data was presented:

Location: Kilburn Park Circle
Northbound maximum speed 41 mph,
average speed 23.1 mph
Southbound maximum speed 45 mph,
average speed 24.9 mph
The 85th percentile (85th percentile being, 85% of the speeds were recorded at that speed or lower) speed was 28 mph for northbound vehicles and 30 mph for southbound vehicles and an average speed of 29 mph.

Welcome Committee Thank You's

The Welcome Committee Chairperson, Alison Donahue, wants to thank Yuni Dewaraja, Heather Stringham, and Eve Avrin-Halpern for their tremendous efforts baking those goodies and knocking on new neighbors' doors during

these cold winter months. If you'd like to bake or knock, please contact Alison (741-0916).

Notices & Reminders

Street Light Repair

Our street lighting repair service (Aerial Lighting) dissolved their business last month, so we've hired a new company (TDF Lighting) to maintain our street lights. The following street lights will be repaired this month.

<u>Pole</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Current Status</u>
6	Kilburn Park C.	Not working
13	Ashburnam	Not working
14	Ashburnam	Not working
17	Ashburnam	Randomly turns on and off
22	Cromwell	Not working
24	Cromwell	Randomly turns on and off

Open Board Meetings

We are sorry that so many neighbors were unable to attend the January 8 open Board Meeting, and hope that the dates of the remaining meetings will prove more workable... Upcoming open meeting dates are April 9 and July 9, 2003. If you are planning to attend, please call Kami Meader (994-7882) at least two days in advance to find out the meeting location. We look forward to seeing you!

Snow Removal

The Association has hired a snow removal service to clean our streets within two hours of each snowfall of 1.5" or more. The plow service has asked that homeowners remove their vehicles from the street to allow for easier and safer plowing. (Please note that the clearing of the sidewalks and driveways is the homeowner's responsibility, not the Association's.)

Slippery Slopes and Other Winter Road Hazards

Because of wetlands conservation needs, street salting must be limited to street intersections only. However, other spots—hills, curves, mailbox stands—can become rather icy and go unnoticed by the plowing service. Feel free to report such danger spots to the management company (254-1990) immediately.

New Plowing Safety Policy

In order to prevent accidents, Board of Directors has recently implemented a "**street free parking mandate**" during snowy conditions. The policy is posted at the front entrance; in addition, each household should have received a copy of the policy in their mailbox. Although the policy was in effect during December, our towing contract with Brewer's didn't get processed until January 1. Consequently, some streets were not plowed due to cars improperly parked. We apologize to the residents of those streets who *did* observe the new policy, yet found their street unplowed.

If your car *is* towed during snowy conditions, call Brewer's Towing Service on Plymouth Road (665-8888) to retrieve your vehicle. The fee is \$105 for cars and \$155 for 4WD vehicles.

Common Area Parking

Please do not park off the street curbs in the neighborhood common areas, even during snowy conditions. These areas are protected by a Conservation Easement and belong to the whole neighborhood, not to individual owners.

Who You Gonna Call?

If you feel snowed in and wonder when the plowing service is going to show up, and just *have* to talk to someone "in charge," please don't call the Board of Directors. Instead, contact the management company (254-1990) who work directly with the snow contractors. And remember that it takes the service approximately three hours to clear the entire development....

Crime Watch Block Captains

Arbor Hills is looking for alert and watchful neighbors to represent our neighborhood in Ann Arbor's Crime Watch Program. If you would be willing to serve as a block captain, or if you would simply like to know more about this program, please call Adele El-Ayoubi (994-8775) or email Kami Meader (AeroKam@aol.com).

Attention Ice Skaters and Hockey Players!

These days of sub-zero temperatures turn the neighborhood ponds into great skating rinks! However, we ask that you stay in the open areas, to avoid disturbing the muskrat homes at pond's edge. Also, as temperatures begin to rise, watch out for thin ice—the risk you and your children take when you skate on open ponds.

And, when warmer weather forces your hockey game back to the streets, remember that street hockey is not allowed at the front entrance nor on Kilburn Park Circle where traffic is heaviest. Limit your play to the side streets, and drivers--take extra caution when you see those goals set up; hockey players--listen and watch for cars turning down your street.

New Budget & Association Dues

The new year's new budget required a new association fee: \$150 biannually. This fee was due on or before January 1, 2003. Dues not yet paid are subject to a late payment charge. If you have questions or concerns, please contact:

Independent Management Services
P.O. Box 87026
Canton, Michigan 48187-0026
254-1990 phone
254-1994 fax

Classifieds

E-Mail Call!

Want to get your newsletter and up-to-date neighborhood plans over the Internet? Send your email address to Kami Meader at AeroKam@aol.com.

The Homeowner's Handy Helper #1:

In Case of Fire...

1. **Call 911** and tell the dispatcher your address. Make sure everyone leaves the house immediately. Plan a meeting place where everyone should gather, so you can determine that everyone is safe.
2. **Keep a fire extinguisher handy.** A good extinguisher for household use is a multipurpose "ABC" dry chemical ("dry chem") extinguisher. These extinguishers handle the three types of fires most possible in a home setting: "A" type is for ordinary combustibles (wood, paper, trash); "B" type is for flammable liquids, grease, oils, gasoline, and paint; "C" type is for electrical wiring, plugs, or equipment. A fourth type, "D," is for special metals and industrial uses.
3. **"Handy" places for fire extinguishers** include any rooms with obvious, potential fire sources (kitchens, furnace rooms, fire place areas), or by doors leading to attached garages. Placing the extinguisher by the exit of any room allows you to escape, even if you can't put the fire out. It is also a good idea to have at least one extinguisher on every floor of your home.
4. **To use an extinguisher:**
 - P** Pull the pin
 - A** Aim the nozzle
 - S** Squeeze the trigger
 - S** Sweep the extinguisher back and forth

The average extinguisher lasts only 30 seconds, so work quickly.