

As the saying goes...April Showers bring May flowers, and the latest NECAA Newsletter.

NEWS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Update on Zoning Changes and Developments

- **2100 E. Beltline (NE corner Knapp & E. Beltline)**
Permission was given to a developer to build 350,000 square feet of commercial space on this site from the City of Grand Rapids Zoning Board of Appeals. After years of fighting this proposal NECAA was very disappointed in the ZBA's decision.
- **1625 Leonard**
NECAA had worked with the City's zoning and police offices to stop the semi-truck parking in this lot. We are pleased to announce the problem has been resolved. Area truckers should work out an agreement with a company in the Oak Industrial Park to park their cabs and trailers. Semi-truck and cab parking is not allowed in commercial or residential areas.
- **SW corner of Ball and Leonard**
The current office building on the SW corner of Ball and Leonard will soon be expanding to accommodate growth.
- **SE Corner Leonard and Plymouth**
The Christian Counseling Center has been working on their new office space. NECAA welcomes them as our new neighbors.
- **NE corner of Leonard and Ball**
The GRPS has put the building attached to the west end of Sav-a-Lot up for sale. Mr. Barnett has requested permission from the City to use the building as a storage facility. The facility will have reasonable hours and will be monitored by a manager who will live on site. If approved, Mr. Barnett will begin improving the exterior of the building and renovating the interior as soon as possible.
- **Beckwith School**
The GRPS is planning to sell Beckwith School in the near future. Pilgrim Manor would like to purchase the property to expand their services. Pilgrim Manor has met with interested neighbors and listened to their concerns and wishes. The general consensus is that Pilgrim Manor will be a great neighbor on this site and NECAA will be providing them with a letter of support when they go before the GRPS Board.

TOP 10 COMPLAINTS FILED BY NEIGHBORS, ABOUT NEIGHBORS

THESE ARE QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES, BE KIND TO YOUR NEIGHBORS

As you read over these top complaints... Think about what it would be like if you had to look at each problem from your front porch. People take great pride in their home and property and don't want their hard work diminished by the following occasional situations. Please be considerate – be a good neighbor and keep your property in good condition.

- 10) **Not shoveling sidewalks**
Possible consequence: The City will have the walks shoveled and put a lien on the property.
- 9) **Not picking up pet waste**
Possible consequence: Police can ticket the offender.
- 8) **Letting pets roam with out a leash.**
Possible consequence: Police can ticket the offender.
- 7) **Parking boats, trailers and motor homes in a residential area.**
Possible consequence: Police can ticket the offender.
- 6) **Not mowing the lawn.**
Possible consequence: The City will have the lawn mowed and put a lien on the property.
- 5) **Not maintaining a house or garage.**
Possible consequence: The City's housing department will require compliance and in extreme cases take the owner to court.
- 4) **Having more than 6 un-related people in a home.**
Possible consequence: The City will require compliance and in extreme cases court action will be taken.
- 3) **Barking dogs.**
Possible consequence: Police can ticket the dog owner.
- 2) **Parking cars between the sidewalk and the house.**
Possible consequence: Police can ticket the offender.
- 1) **Speeding.**
Possible consequences: Neighbors can petition for speed bumps or the police can ticket the violator.

If you have a neighbor who is violating one of these laws you can contact any NECAA board member and file a complaint. NECAA's name is registered on the complaint, not yours, which helps to maintain peace between neighbors while eliminating the problem.

Loving Our Dogs and Being Good Neighbors

For quality of life and peace in our community, it's important for dog owners to do two things. First, keep our dogs content so that their barking does not disturb neighbors. Second, clean up after our dogs so that their droppings do not litter others yards and public areas.

Note: Kent County Animal Control Regulation 706 – A person who owns or has custody or control of an animal shall prevent the animal from defecating on any public or private property other than his own or shall immediately collect and properly dispose of all fecal matter deposited by the animal while it is off his property.





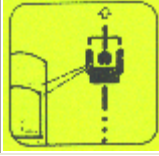


NECAA Crime Prevention » Coordinators and Block Captains Needed

NECAA is currently looking for 3-4 people to be crime prevention coordinators for our area. The responsibility of a coordinator is to help find a block captain for each block in the designated area who is willing to create a block map and calling list for residents. The coordinator will obtain crime stats from the police department on a monthly basis and hold periodic meetings to notify captains of any issues in their area. In the event of a crime, a calling tree will be established so the neighbors will know when there is a problem in their area.

Please contact Lynn or DeAnn if you are interested in becoming a coordinator or block captain. They will be happy to give you all the information needed to get started!

Now that the warmer weather is here...

Bicycling is not only a great form of exercise and source of summer fun – it is also a way to save money and help the environment when used as an alternative to a quick trip in the family vehicle. Here are a couple safety tips for adults and children alike to keep everyone safe on the road. Enjoy your ride!

	OBEY TRAFFIC SIGNS AND SIGNALS - Bicycles must drive like other vehicles if they are to be taken seriously by motorists.		NEVER RIDE WITH HEADPHONES; WEAR A HELMET - Always wear a helmet. Never wear a headphone while riding a bike.
	NEVER RIDE AGAINST TRAFFIC - Motorists aren't looking for bicyclists riding on the wrong side of the road. State law and common sense require that bicyclists drive like other vehicles.		HAND SIGNALS - Hand signals tell motorists and pedestrians what you intend to do. Signal as a matter of law, of courtesy, and of self-protection.
	DON'T WEAVE BETWEEN PARKED CARS - Don't ride out to the curb between parked cars unless they are far apart. Motorists may not see you when you try to move back into traffic.		RIDE IN MIDDLE OF LANE IN SLOW TRAFFIC - Get in the middle of the lane at busy intersections and whenever you are moving at the same speed as traffic.
	FOLLOW LANE MARKINGS - Don't turn left from the right lane. Don't go straight in a lane marked "right-turn only."		CHOOSE THE BEST WAY TO TURN LEFT - 2 Choices: (1) Like an auto: signal move into the left turn lane and turn left. (2) Like a pedestrian: ride straight to the far side crosswalk. Walk your bike across.
	DON'T PASS ON THE RIGHT - Motorists may not look for or see a bicycle passing on the right. Learn to scan the road behind you while riding. Look back over your shoulder without swerving, or use a rear-view mirror.		MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH DRIVERS - Assume that other drivers don't see you until you are sure that they do. Eye contact is important with any driver which might pose a threat to your safety.
	SCAN THE ROAD BEHIND - Learn to look back over your shoulder without losing your balance or swerving. Some riders use rear-view mirrors.		AVOID ROAD HAZARDS - Watch out for parallel-slat sewer grates, gravel, ice, or debris. Cross railroad tracks at right angles.
	KEEP BOTH HANDS READY TO BRAKE - You may not stop in time if you brake one-handed. Allow extra distance for stopping in the rain, since breaks are less efficient when wet.		USE LIGHTS AT NIGHT - The law requires a white headlight (visible from at least 500 feet ahead) and a rear reflector or taillight (visible up to 300 feet from behind).
	DRESS APPROPRIATELY - In rain wear a pancho or waterproof suit. Dress in layers so, you can adjust to temperature changes. Wear a sturdy helmet to protect your head. Wear bright colored clothing.		KEEP BIKE IN GOOD REPAIR - Adjust your bike to fit you and keep it working properly. Check brakes and tires regularly. Routine maintenance is simple and you can learn to do it yourself.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Name	Address	Phone
Lynn Rabaut	1071 Cherrywood Lane NE	233-9086
DeAnn Jannereth	1415 Spencer St NE	451-3720
Joan Flikkema	1060 Cherrywood Lane NE	456-1813
Guy Greene	2096 Cranbrook NE	235-2007
Ron Osgood	1850 Forland Ct NE	831-9473
Ben Rapin	1050 N. Hampton Dr. NE	242-9723
Anke Pearson	1952 Orchard Lane NE	363-0258
Nathan Smith	1709 Sweet NE	451-2371
Greg VanderVen	1732 Leonard NE	634-8025
Mark Walker	1051 Applewood Dr. NE	456-1622
Nori Goodhue	1641 Mason NE	531-5243
Rupe McGinn	254 Holmdene Blvd NE	458-9846
Jim Treece		451-0202

THIS IS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Would you like to help yourself, your neighbors and the entire NECAA area? We need volunteers to serve as Block Captains, deliver newsletters, attend Planning and City Commission meetings and participate in our Crime Prevention Committee. If interested, contact a board member or complete the form below.

If you are within the boundaries of our logo map, consider yourself a member! Please complete and mail this form, plus the annual \$5.00 family membership to cover the cost of newsletters and special notices.

NAME: _____
 PHONE: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 EMAIL: _____



I would be interested in helping with the following (check all that apply):

- Newsletter Delivery
- Attend City Meetings
- Crime Prevention



Please mail this slip and dues to:
NECAA
 1051 Applewood Dr. NE
 Grand Rapids, MI 49505

THANK YOU! YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

