



East Side News

The East Side News is a publication of the Historic East Side Neighborhood Association

HESNA June General Meeting

Where: Haab's Building
111 N. Huron St.

When: Sunday, June 5th

Time: 7:15 PM

Social Time: 6:45—7:15 PM

Speakers: Barry LaRue
Ward 3 City Council Member
Lesley Chace, President
Friends of the Ypsilanti Freighthouse

HESNA Goes Online

The Historic East Side Neighborhood Association is pleased to announce the launch of its website

<http://www.hesna.org>

an online resource for neighborhood and City-wide events. The new site gives the Association an internet presence and seeks to improve communication among members.

The goal in developing the new HESNA website is threefold:

- 1) promote civic spirit and foster goodwill and friendship among residents
- 2) provide a link between Ypsi-centric neighborhood and City-wide initiatives
- 3) make neighborhood resources more accessible.

HESNA will be making continued improvements and adding resources to this website, so check back often. As always, feel free to contact HESNA at info@hesna.org if you cannot find what you are looking for or if you have suggestions on how to make the website more helpful.

Ypsi PRIDE Day Recap

On Saturday, May 21st, from 9:00 AM to noon, residents of the Historic East Side Neighborhood Association took to Prospect Park as Ypsi PRIDE celebrated its 10th anniversary of city-wide spring cleaning. Rumors of free doughnuts brought crowds out in record numbers and the park buzzed with early activity. Neighbors picked up trash, weeded flower beds, and removed sticks and limbs that were scattered throughout the park.

By the time the morning had ended, the park was clean enough to eat off, as witnessed by one PRIDE Day volunteer who ate a creme-filled eclair that had been dropped to the ground.



More than 20 East Side residents turned out to clean up Prospect Park

After a long morning of sprucing up the grounds, participants headed down to Riverside Park to enjoy a free lunch provided by Depot Town and downtown area restaurants. Highlights of the meal included barbeque chicken sandwiches from The Sidetrack, an anniversary cake from Terry's Bakery, and Y-shaped cookies donated by Congressman John Dingell and his wife.

PRIDE, which stands for People Restoring Image and Developing the Environment, not only helps the appearance of the community, but gives us a chance to meet new neighbors and catch up on news and happenings of our friends. A special thanks to everyone who came out and supported HESNA's commitment to the community.

MI Avenue Becomes "Crime Free" Zone

Ypsilanti Police have recently established a special "crime free" zone, which affects the HESNA neighborhood. The zone is located within the first two north and south blocks of Michigan Avenue from Hamilton Street to the eastern edge of the City. For HESNA, the directly affected areas are those homes south of High Street. The purpose of this zone is to rid the area of prostitution, which has plagued Michigan Avenue for some years. How it works is that any person arrested for a prostitution-related crime within this zone will not be allowed to return to it and, hence, these types of crimes will gradually lessen and disappear. A similar zone has been successful in the Harriet Street area of the City where it has been directed toward illegal drug-related crimes. East Side neighbors need to be alert during this operation. Residents should notify police of any unusual activity, not only to stop the reported activity, but also to help the police monitor the effect of the zone in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Kudos to Local Volunteer

Tuesday, June 14, East Side resident Jane Schmiedeke will be honored at the 2005 Celebration of Women. This event recognizes women who are community service leaders in Washtenaw County. Schmiedeke is one of just four who will be feted this year.

Luna Lake Takes Shape

In the October 2004 newsletter, the Board of HESNA provided the following update on HESNA's ongoing discussions about Luna Lake:

“Two factors are now guiding the HESNA Board of Directors in its thinking on Luna Lake: (1) it is not feasible to recreate the very formal Luna Lake of the past, and (2) a recent evaluation, by a highly qualified biological professional, of Luna Lake as it currently exists reveals that it has become a natural wetland with wildlife and wetland plants and can be successfully maintained as such.

Thus, the decision has been made to develop, with professional help, a plan for the improvement, maintenance and educational presentation of Luna Lake as a natural wetland.”

Last October, on the advice of our consultant, several HESNA members cut down the weed trees and treated the stumps with RoundUp. A desirable clump of native willow (*salix bebbiana*) was spared. With the trees gone and lots of accumulated trash removed, Luna Lake looked much improved.

Early this spring, we were able to observe that the trees, which were cut and treated in the fall, were apparently dead. The willow was thriving. And a pair of mallards had contentedly settled in. All good signs.

Now, we need to do further clearing of trees and unwanted grasses in order to provide sunlight and encourage the growth of cattails, sedges and the willow.

However, the Board has become increasingly concerned with issues of risk and the liability HESNA might face if we took responsibility for restoring the piped-in water supply. We cannot expose HESNA to possible lawsuit in the case of a potential accident.

Therefore, it seems to the Board that the most prudent course is to continue to care for Luna Lake, as we do the flower beds and the park in general, and to use the donated funds for additional plantings and for an informational sign describing Luna Lake as the formal feature it once was and as the natural wetland it has become.



The October Luna Lake work crew

Homes for Sale / Recently Sold

As of this printing, the following homes are for sale in our neighborhood:

INCOME

422 North River Street..... \$234,900
 627 North River Street..... \$185,500

RESIDENTIAL

330 East Forest Avenue \$210,000
 334 East Forest Avenue \$189,900
 330 Maple Street \$174,900

As of this printing, the following homes have been sold since January 1st:

RESIDENTIAL

330 East Forest Avenue \$215,000
 334 East Forest Avenue \$115,900



Neighborhood Notes

Looking to start up pre-school playgroup.
 If interested contact Julie at 480-2983 or
 abwin@aol.com



2005 Board of Directors

President: Mark Fisher 480.2983
 Vice-President: Rod Johnson..... 482.2347
 Treasurer: John Shuler..... 480.4109
 Secretary: Marlina Shuler 480.4109
 At-Large: Mary Delcamp 483.1296
 At-Large: Jane Schmiedeke..... 483.7622
 At-Large: Denis Schmiedeke 483.7622

We'd like to hear from you!

If you have questions about the neighborhood, information you would like to see discussed at an upcoming meeting, or would like to volunteer, please contact a board member.



HESNA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s): _____
 Address: _____
 City / State / Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ eMail: _____

- ### Annual Dues
- Individual \$5
 - Household \$10
 - Business \$25
 - Patron \$50+

Mail to: HESNA Treasurer • John Shuler • 316 East Forest Avenue • Ypsilanti, Michigan • 48198

Note: HESNA membership payments are due each year by May 1st.