

# Mt. Vernon Estates Homeowners Association

www.mveha.org

## May 2020 Newsletter

*This is your annual association newsletter. If you are stuck at home, now is a good time to read it. Please read it.*

### Notes from Jim Laurain, President MVEHA

For once, I am not challenged for a subject to write a few lines to our neighbors - - because the Corvid-19 virus is the singular topic that is on everyone's mind. **Your MVEHA board and I hope this newsletter finds you and your family safe and healthy.**

Neighborhoods matter and neighbors' matter, especially now with virus pandemic raging through our country. Taking care of our kids and our seniors matters more than ever during this difficult time. But take heart in these uncertain times, there are many, many good things going on despite the masks, the social distancing, and all of the hand washing. Here are a few from our subdivision:

- It was great to see that famous celebrity, the Easter Bunny, parading through our neighborhood in April.
- The sidewalk chalk art is fantastic. So are the chalk artists.
- The daffodils and tulips at our entrances have the subdivision looking better than ever.
- The neighborhood road construction is done, over, finished.
- Traffic jams are long gone.
- Gasoline is only about \$1.50 per gallon (too bad there is no place to go).
- Flour shortages indicate more and more people are baking homemade bread.
- We are learning to Zoom our friends, families, and school mates.
- Calories do not count during the pandemic.
- Let's not forget those Athens, Troy and IA graduates. Congratulations !!
- It has been awhile, but remember the Halloween parade, scary Halloween decorations, and the Christmas lights at our entrances?

Remember, it's safer at home as we adjust to the new normal. Please do your part to fight Covid-19. Hope will come shining through to a splendid future.

### 2020 Subdivision Garage Sale

The annual subdivision garage sale will be held on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. As you may recall, the garage sale was moved to the third Saturday in September last year.

We are still looking for a chairperson for the garage sale. If you would like to volunteer to help your subdivision, this is an easy volunteer position.

### **Past Due Dues Collection**

While most neighbors paid their 2019 annual dues of \$25, **80 of the 420 homeowners have not yet paid their dues** - - which were due July 1, 2019. It is critical that all homeowners pay their dues - - including past due dues. MVEHA is required to purchase insurance to cover the common areas. Also, the cost of maintenance of the entrances and the areas around the perimeter of the subdivision has increased. MVEHA is only able to maintain basic services with the cooperation of all homeowners by paying their nominal \$25 annual dues. **Please pay your dues promptly.**

### **Landscaping**

As noted above, landscaping costs will increase in 2020. The prior landscaping company, Sierra Landscaping, is not able to continue due to a serious health problem with the owner (who has since recovered nicely!!). The new contractor, Greenline Landscaping, will begin work as soon as the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. In the interim, the MVEHA officers will be mowing, fertilizing, and weeding the entrances.

As always, we welcome any volunteers who are willing to plant and maintain summer annuals at one of the entrances (petunias, marigolds, etc.). Because there is no water supply at the entrances, the summer flowers will require regular watering. Most neighbors adjacent to the entrances generously allow us to fill watering cans for this purpose. If you are interested in planting annuals this year, call Kathy Bauhof at (248) 515-5307.

### **Real Estate Information**

Home sales in Mt. Vernon and surrounding subdivisions have slowed substantially because of the Covid-19 virus. Ron MacClennan of Century 21 Town & Country Realty reports that from March 2019 through April 2020 there have been only 11 sales - - nine have closed and two are pending. Sale prices for the nine homes sold in this 13-month period range from \$252,500 to \$320,000, and pending sale prices are \$249,900 and \$349,900 (average for all 11 is \$295,611). For comparison, the average sale price for 2017 was \$257,919 and for 2019 \$271,429. This will be a watershed year for housing - - and for the entire economy.

### **Annual Reminders**

- Slow Down - Please slow down. With schools cancelled, there are many more young children out and about. Sometimes kids are not as careful as they should be. As a result, you must be careful while driving in the sub. The speed limit is 25 mph!

- Slow Down Signs - MVEHA has three “*Drive Like Your Kids Live Here*” yard signs if you would like to borrow one. Dick Beuther at (248) 689-1254 can deliver one to your home.
- Trash Pick Up - If you see trash, especially at the entrances, please pick it up. Also, be responsible and pick up trash around your home and in the common areas when you are out for a walk. Further, make sure your trash and garbage is secured so that it doesn't blow around the neighborhood.
- Dog Poop – It is your responsibility to pick up after your dog - - both in the subdivision and along the common areas along John R and Wattles. Please be courteous to your neighbors and always pick up after your puppy. As with the stay at home directive, the vast majority of our dog walkers are responsible. Thank you.

### **2020 Homeowners Association Meeting**

Your homeowner's association requires an annual meeting for all homeowners. It is your chance to learn about your association and to ask questions. The meeting will be held on **Monday, September 14, 2020** at the Troy Community Center located at 3179 Livernois.

The annual meeting agenda generally includes the following 1) Treasurer's Report, 2) Landscaping Report, 3) new business, 4) review of our by-laws (ho-hum), and 5) election of officers. Nomination for new officers are being accepted. Please forward your nomination for all officer positions to [info@mveha.org](mailto:info@mveha.org). Anyone interested in supporting MVEHA can contact any one of the officers.

**Dues submission form is on the back on this page:**

**Please help us invest in your neighborhood!**

**President**

Jim Laurain  
(248) 835-1278

**Vice President**

Kathy Bauhof  
(248) 515-5307

**Treasurer & Secretary**

Bonnie Daignault  
(248) 953-9388

**Web Master**

Dan Greig  
greig.dan@gmail.com

**Landscape**

Greenline Landscaping  
(248) 765-1626

**Garage Sale Chairperson**

To be filled

**Social Activities Chairperson**

Jeremy Dewald- Halloween Parade  
Steve Smitka- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

**Facebook Page**

Nicole Wilson    nwilson1001@gmail.com  
Kathy Bauhof    kathybauhof@gmail.com

Thank you for your notes and comments!

**2020 Dues**

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**M V E H A 2020 \$25 Dues Payment Slip (Please Print)**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a new MVEHA Resident? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_

(This e-mail address will be used for M.V.E.H.A. purpose only!)

**Do you know that your association dues are an obligation of all homeowners in Mount Vernon Estates?**

Please send your dues check to our treasurer, **Bonnie Daignault at 4127 Washington Crescent.**

Checks should be made out to MVEHA. Thank you.

www.mveha.org MVEHA (A Michigan Non-Profit Corporation Since December 5, 1967)