

VOL. LI No. 4

The Newsletter of the Eastown Community Association

July-August 2022

Celebrating a Successful Bizarre Bazaar!

By Pamela Goderski, ECA Board Member, Events Committee Co-Chair

On Saturday, June 25th, we held another successful Biz Baz on Ethel Street and in the Ethel Hub Lot.

There were 57 juried artisan vendors, 4 local performers, Harmony Brewing Company beer and much more. It was a warm but beautiful day.

This is the second year we used a smaller footprint for the event and it has been well received by both the vendors and attendees. The ECA partnered with freelance copywriter, Lydia Writes Good, and screen printer, Transfigure Print Co, to create our new tye-dyed ECA Pride shirts. All proceeds from these shirts will go to the Grand Rapids Pride Center on Atlas.Here are a few comments from some of our vendors:

"Wow! That was a great show, @eastowngr art fairs never disappoint. Thank you to everyone that came and bought my prints and to the organizers and volunteers." – Red Hydrant Press

"Hey! I had a super successful show (one of my top five single-day shows of all time!), and on top of that I had a lot of fun! Check-in and set up was really smooth, and the communication leading up to the event was also very clear and helpful. Loved the entertainment too... All in all I had a blast - thanks again for having me!!" – John Jurries

Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers, event sponsors, Harmony Brewing Company, Cheryl Grant Realty, Lydia Writes Good, UpTown, and the City of Grand Rapids. ◆







Photos by Amanda Sterling, Pamela Goderski, ECA

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Fostering a safe, diverse, and walkable Eastown neighborhood by creating opportunities for neighbors and friends to engage and connect.

415 Ethel SE Grand Rapids, MI 49506 616.451.3025 info@eastown.org www.eastown.org

ECA Board Members

Dakota Riehl-Davis, President Rion Hollenbeck, Vice President Elizabeth Girgen, Treasurer Steven Martinez, Secretary Christian Verley Gavin Cornwell Jean Snyder Michael Bopp Pamela Goderski Staci Rickman

Executive Director

Currently vacant

The Eastown Community Association board of directors meets on the second Monday of every month at 6p.m. Eastown residents and business owners are encouraged to attend. For more information visit our website at eastown.org

Facebook: eastowngr Instagram: @eastowngr Twitter: @EastownGR



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FROM THE BOARD Help Shape the Future of the ECA

By Rion Hollenbeck, ECA Board Vice President

With summer in full swing, Eastown is abuzz with activity. People are out and about doing some shopping, enjoying a drink, having a bite to eat, or otherwise enjoying our vibrant community.

The ECA plays a critical role in ensuring that our community continues to be vibrant, diverse, walkable, and safe. Because of that important role, the ECA Board of Directors is prioritizing two very important activities:

1. Filling the two vacant Board seats

2. Hiring an Executive Director

If you are interested in joining the ECA Board of Directors and helping shape the future of the organization and our Eastown community, please contact us at <u>info@eastown.org</u>. We are looking for individuals who are passionate about this community and want to use their skills and experiences to further the organization's mission. If you are curious about the work the Board does, please consider attending the next ECA Board meeting.

Those who have been working with the ECA over the years know the role of the Executive Director is key to the success and effectiveness of the organization. Having someone whose



As the newsletter of the Eastown Community Association, the *Access* is published six times a year.

Contributors

Dakota Riehl-Davis, Lee Hardy, Amanda Sterling, Katharina Häusler-Gross, Rion Hollenbeck, Pamela Goderski

The views and opinions expressed in Access are not necessarily those of the ECA Board.

The Access reserves the right to accept, reject or edit any material submitted for publication.

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sole responsibility is to engage directly with the community and continue building relationships is foundational to the work the ECA does.

Because of the importance of this currently vacant role, we are seeking volunteers to join our Hiring Committee. The job of this committee will be to identify qualified candidates, conduct interviews along with current Board members, and make recommendations. If you are interested in helping us find the next Executive Director of the ECA, please reach out to us at <u>info@eastown</u>. org. This is a unique opportunity to really help shape the future of the organization.

Finally, we want to remind our neighbors that all ECA meetings are public. *ECA Board meetings are held at 6:00pm on the Second Monday of the month.* Other committee meetings are held throughout the month; those dates are posted on our website at <u>eastown.org/events</u> and are regularly updated on social media.

As always, we want to thank our neighbors for all their support. If you are interested in getting involved please reach out to us either by email (info@eastown.org) or through our website. ◆

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4" Column	\$75	\$350

Access is also available online at eastown.org. Send all inquiries & advertising files to: info@eastown.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS ______ 49th Annual Streetfair - September 10th

By Pamela Goderski, ECA Board Member, Events Co-Chair

We are SO excited to be "back on the bricks" for this year's Eastown Streetfair! Our last in-person Streetfair was in 2019. We kept the tradition going by doing a Facebook Live event in 2020, with 6 hours of content, and then doing a Virtual Streetfair/Giving Tuesday Event in 2021. These were great events, but definitely not the same as seeing everyone in person.

This year's event is being held on Saturday, September 10th, from 9am to 9pm, on Wealthy Street between Giddings and Lake, Ethel Street between Wealthy and the Ethel Hub Lot, and the Hub Lot between Wealthy and Lake. Once again, the main stage will be on Wealthy, down by Giddings. We will have a beer tent on Atlas. There will be approximately 110 Vendors, and WYCE will once again be having their Record Sale.

We are accepting applications for vendors, non-profits, and food vendors through August 14, 2022, or until we are full. Applications can be found at: www.eastown.org/events

You've heard of the expression, "Many Hands Make Light Work." Please join our Events Committee and help us plan all of our amazing Eastown Events. Reach out to: events@eastown.org ◆



Join One of Our Committees!

As a reminder, all of our committees are open to any Eastown resident looking to get involved. If you have questions about a particular committee, please email the specific committee below or check out the volunteer section of the eastown.org website. \blacklozenge

Events

• <u>events@eastown.org</u>

Garden

• garden@eastown.org

Bricks and Mortar

• <u>bricksandmortar@eastown.org</u>

Communications & Marketing

<u>communications@eastown.org</u>

Photo by Alex Comben



August 22 September 10 October 15 December 1 National Night Out Eastown Streetfair Howl-Oween Pawty at Wilcox Park Shop Hop and the Eastown Tree Lighting Party SAFETY & JUSTICE _______ Reproductive Freedom for All

If you've been out walking in Eastown within the past few months, you've likely encountered circulators gathering signatures for several ballot initiatives. Reproductive Freedom for All is one of the proposals aiming to get on the November 8th ballot. This proposal would amend the state constitution to affirm that every person has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom, which involves the right to make and carry out decisions without political interference about all matters relating to pregnancy, including birth control, abortion, miscarriage care, contraception, fertility, prenatal care, and childbirth. The initiative is led by a coalition including the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan, and Michigan Voices.

Now that Roe v Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that affirmed By Amanda Sterling, Access Contributor

abortion as a constitutional right, has been overturned, millions of people across the nation will lose access to a legal abortion, including 2.2 people in Michigan. The goal of this ballot initiative is to enshrine in our constitution for generations to come the right to make decisions about all matters related to reproductive freedom so that these very personal decisions are made by patients, their families, and medical professionals, not politicians. In order to make it on the ballot, we must collect 425,059 valid signatures by **July 11.** If you're registered to vote in Michigan and are interested in signing the petition, go to MIreproductivefreedom.org to find out where you can sign. This is an allhands-on deck moment. We must trust women to make these decisions, and not let politicians roll back our rights. We can make Michigan a beacon of hope for the nation. Let's get it done. ◆



Photo by Amanda Sterling



Democrat for County Commission



WORKING FOR JUSTICE TODAY & TOMORROW

Issues Dave is working on today as a county commissioner and will be tomorrow if re-elected with your support!

- Countywide Mobility all Kent County residents need true county-wide public transportation solutions
- A Cleaner Environment and Sustainable Future we must move towards a zero-waste future that is also fair to every corner of Kent County
- Affordable and Accessible Housing Kent County has a desperate need for housing options that are attainable for people of all ages and household size
- Compassionate Criminal Justice Reform Kent County must be a place where people's
 experience with courts and law enforcement are not based on their income or skin color.



More information at www.davebulkowski.com Contact Dave at 616.560.229 or dave@davebulkowski.com

f /davebulkowski



Paid for by the Committee to Elect Dave Bulkowski 322 Woodmere SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

HAPPENINGS @ AQ

By Katharina Häusler-Gross, Access Contributor

AQUINAS COLLEGE WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT

The Aquinas College community is excited to welcome Dr. Alicia Córdoba as the College's ninth president. Dr. Córdoba brings more than two decades of experience in Catholic higher education, both as a faculty member and administrator, to her new role leading the nationally ranked liberal arts institution. A mission-driven and motivational leader, Dr. Córdoba has broad expertise in strategic planning, financial management and stewardship, curriculum and program design, fundraising, marketing, team building, process improvement and related areas. President-elect Córdoba begins her tenure at Aquinas College on July 1.

FICTION POETRY & EVENING PRAYERS

Scriptoria: Writers Moved by Faith, a writing conference sponsored by Aquinas College, Calvin University and Cornerstone University, will host readings of fiction and poetry by nationally recognized authors on Tuesday 6/21, Thursday 6/23, and Friday 6/24 at 7:15 pm. Aquinas participation includes a reading by Professor Dan Mancilla (English) on Tuesday and an evening prayer and reflection service led by members of Aquinas's Campus Ministry program on Thursday. Readings will be held in the Bunker Interpretive Center at Calvin University. For more information please visit: https://www.scriptoriaworkshop.org/

All evening events are free and open to the public

AQUINAS RESEARCH TEAM CONDUCTS GR PORCH INTERVIEWS

Do you live in Grand Rapids? And do you love to be out on your porch?

If so, an Aquinas faculty-student research team invites you to participate in their unique "Porch Interviews".

As part of this year's AQ Summer Scholars Research Program, one of Aquinas' faculty/student teams - led by Dr. Jen Lendrum, Assistant Professor of Sociology - is conducting a summer ethnography study on bicycle. The research team is exploring the city of Grand Rapids and, in particular, how religion, community/social networks, and public spaces contribute to the overall well-being of people in our community. In addition to participant observations, the team is also conducting short informal interviews (15 -30 min) on porches, driveways, and sidewalk spaces.

So, if you live in the city of Grand Rapids (city proper), are interested in participating in this unique and community-focused research, and would like to host the faculty/student team on your porch during the last week of June (6/27 - 7/1), please email Dr. Jen Lendrum (jsl004@ aquinas.edu) to schedule a Porch Interview.

AQUINAS COLLEGE SUMMER CAMPS

Still looking for fun and interactive ways to keep the middle and high school students in your life engaged and learning over the summer? Check out the 2022 AQ Academic summer camps that are offered in July: Ceramics Camp and Dungeons & Dragons Camp.

To learn more about and register for the camps, please visit:

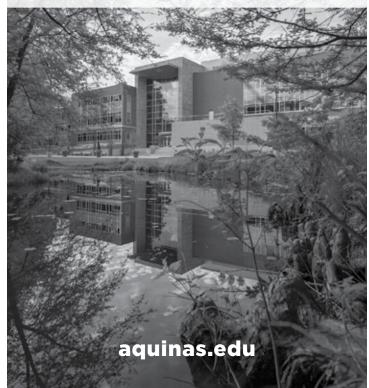
https://www.aquinas.edu/resources/aq-summer-camps

GREAT SUMMER CONCERTS & PRODUCTIONS at the CIRCLE THEATRE

Located just a short walk from Eastown on the beautiful Aquinas College campus, Circle Theatre is the only community theatre in the West Michigan area that specializes in summer theatre. What better way to spend a great Michigan summer night by supporting the arts in our community and enjoying fun and engaging music and stage performances, including the upcoming Pop-Up Concerts, Summer Concert Series and Stage Productions!

For more information and ticket sales, please visit <u>https://circletheatre.org/special-events/.</u>

AQUINAS COLLEGE



URBAN PERCH ______ Cities of the Future, Neighborhoods of the Past

In 1959, Grand Rapids invited to town John Paul Jones, a planning consultant from the New York firm of Ebasco. He blew in with lots of energy and big ideas for the complete reconstruction of the downtown using federal funds to cover two-thirds of the cost. In July of that year, he proposed more than a million square feet of government office space and 13,500 new parking ramp spaces. Existing retail and residential uses were no longer part of the picture. They were separated out. In August of 1960, the citizens of Grand Rapid were sold on the plan to revitalize the downtown. They approved a 1.75 mill property tax hike to the pay the city's share of the redevelopment costs. In September of that year, Jones was appointed the new planning director of Grand Rapids, and soon the wrecking balls and bulldozers went to work, taking down all the buildings in a forty-acre, twenty-two-block area. The Richardsonian Romanesque city hall and Kent County buildings were reduced to rubble. Sleek office towers were built on huge superblocks, creating a sterile urban environment that few would visit unless they worked in an office, were called for jury duty, or wanted to take out a mortgage.

Whoever thought that it would be a good idea for city to tear itself down and replace the fine texture of traditional urbanism with single-use towers? The answer to that question takes us back to a boat.

In the summer of 1933, a prominent group of modernist architects met on a boat sailing from Marseilles to Athens. On board they discussed a number of principles for city planning that would later be codified in the "Charter of Athens," a new vision for cities of the future. They distinguished just four functions within the city: housing, work, recreation, and traffic. Each function would have its own exclusive location, assigned to it after a careful study of climate and

By Lee Hardy, Access Contributor

topography. "Land will be measured and assigned to various activities." thus "bringing order to urban territory." Space for recreational activity and broad highways would be created by building vertically, sweeping all development up into high towers in a park. The planning of what they called the "Functional City" would be under the control of specialists and technicians invested with public authority. No longer would it be left to "vulgar private interest." If this program is to work, we must, they said, have "an enlightened population that will understand, desire, and demand what the specialists have envisaged for it." This sentiment is typical of modernist programs for top-down, theory-driven reconstruction of society according to a singular logic of machine-like efficiency.

The lead author of the Charter of Athens was the Swiss architect Le Corbusier. In 1925 he already envisioned his clean-slate plan of action: it was his "settled opinion, that the centers of our great cities must be pulled down and rebuilt." And so they were, in America, with the great urban renewal projects of the 1960s. Grand Rapids was one of the first cities to sign up for the program and the federal money that funded it.

Fortunately, the angel of modernism passed over Eastown, a streetcar suburb built out in the early parts of the 20th century. It was not torn down and replaced with residential towers connected by highways. It still has a street grid and mix of land uses residential, retail, civic, and office—all within a walkable distance from each other. Which, in part, makes it such a good and pleasant place to live—and worth preserving. ◆



Dedicated in 1892, the Kent County Court and Administration building was one of 120 buildings torn down in the city center of Grand Rapids between 1962 and 1969.

Photo source - MLive file photo

Transitions in Eastown

By Lee Hardy, Access Contributor

Jackie Bess and Jaye VanLenten opened the doors to Spirit Dreams—a mainstay in the Eastown business community—in 1994. Their aim was to create a place of spiritual growth and healing, dealing in directly sourced products made of natural ingredients from individual artists and ethical companies. Their imports would come from Co-ops and Fair Trade groups that support artists and makers from around the world. Nearly thirty years later, Spirit Dreams remains true to that vision.

But this summer the time has come for a change. On July 1st, longtime employee Keeley Geary and her husband T.M. Camp will become the new owners of Spirit Dreams. After that, Jaye will start her long-earned and much-deserved retirement (but she'll still pop in from time to time). Jackie will stay on at Spirit Dreams to help Keeley and T.M. with the transition.

On a sad note, we learned of the sudden and unexpected death of Clarence Hogeterp, the proprietor of **Redux Books**, on Friday, June 3. He was out for a noontime bike ride with a friend and was hit by a car. He died at the scene of the accident. Clarence, a proud Frisian, grew up in Jarvis, Ontario, son of an immigrant family. He came to Grand Rapids as a student at Calvin College (now Calvin



University). In Grand Rapids he met Pati, his wife-to- be. Together they raised three children. After his retirement as an insurance agent and financial advisor, Clarence followed his passion for books, his love of people, and his knack for jovial conversation: he set up a used bookshop on Lake Drive. He soon became a fixture in Eastown, loved by all who knew him. He was a regular for breakfast at the Matchbox Diner (formerly the Brandywine). The staff at Matchbox has set up a memorial for Clarence at his table where he drank his coffee, read his newspaper, and regaled his server. A memorial service was held on Saturday, June 11, at Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church, where he was a member and faithful attender. Clarence will be sorely missed by all.

Eastown welcomes two new businesses this summer. **Mind Body Baby** recently moved into 1501 Lake Drive. Mind Body Baby provides yoga, community, and support for mamas and mamas-in-the making. It offers yoga and specialty classes for fertility, prenatal, postpartum, babies, toddlers, kids, and family. See mindbodyonline.com for more information. Around the corner, at 1551 Wealthy, **Franca's**, a new pizza shop, held its grand opening on May 23. The business is locally owned by brothers Dan and Davide Uccello (not related to the family that owns the Uccello's Ristorante chain). The shop serves gourmet Sicilian-inspired pizza, pasta, salads, sub sandwiches and much more. For more information, go to francaspizzeria. com. ◆



Photo by Lee Hardy

GET INVOLVED

Eastown Streetfair Needs You

By Rion Hollenbeck, ECA Board Vice President

As we come off of another successful Bizarre Bazaar, the ECA is already hard at work planning for the 2022 Eastown Streetfair! To ensure this is a successful event, WE NEED YOU! We are looking for volunteers interested in helping with planning, setup, and execution of one of Eastown's most iconic events.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the ECA Events Committee at <u>events@eastown.</u> org and we'll get you signed up. Don't worry if you're not sure what to help with, there are plenty of activities that need your assistance. ◆



No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Get to know your neighborhood church... Join us on Welcome Sunday for an outdoor picnic lunch, kids' games and raffle!

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IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD **Bee Side Kitchen Offers Opportunity in Eastown**

By Dakota Riehl-Davis, ECA Board President

You may not have heard of Bee Side Kitchen, but you I might have already enjoyed some food made in it! Bee Side Kitchen is a collaborative incubator kitchen located right here in Eastown. Paula Reed, the owner of both Bee Side Kitchen and Amethyst Bee Cakery, formally launched the space in November of 2021 after hosting makers in her bakery for nearly a year and a half.

Paula said that the need for a test kitchen became obvious when "more people kept coming, and more people kept coming" to use her space. Now they work with 11 companies, most of which are minority and woman-owned. Makers can make or prepare their food in the kitchen and then distribute their products to other local businesses, do pop-ups at other restaurants, cater at events, and even sell them to local grocery stores. The kitchen also features a space where customers can come in and directly purchase products from the owners.

Although Paula did not initially plan to start an incubator kitchen, she knows that this was right for both the community and the small businesses they work with. "We get to make a change in the community in a different way now. It is not really what I was expecting but it is an awesome outlet to see other companies thrive and grow and get their foot in the door [without]... worrying about the overheard [for] their own physical space."

There are other incubator kitchens in Grand Rapids, including the one at the Downtown Market where Paula got her start, but they are critical to the success of small businesses and are in high demand. These spaces allow

the opportunity for owners to get licensed, sell to a larger market, and have a kitchen to work out of without the financial burden of building their own. By offering the space to new makers, incubator kitchens foster small businesses by keeping costs low and opening doors to new markets.

Bee Side kitchen does much more than just offer a space to cook in though. They help owners tackle some of the initial steps of getting their business started. From helping them through the process of getting a license to planning their first pop-up, Bee Side works to make sure their owners have all the tools to succeed.

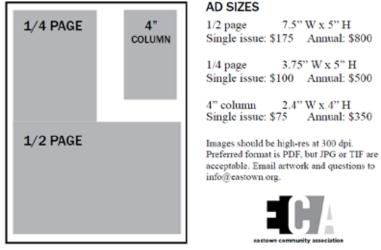
When Paula spoke with me, she stated that "once we started [Bee Side Kitchen], I got to see the joy of the community that we built... See people succeed and cheering for each other rather than competing."

When asked how she likes Eastown, Paula said our community is very unique. "This community is very receptive to this kind of concept. People like to support small in this area. People like to see diversity not only in community but in food... having a shared kitchen in a community like this is pretty awesome."

Paula and her other owners will continue to do pop-ups throughout the year. You can find out more about their upcoming events and the amazing businesses working out of the kitchen by visiting their website at www.beesidegr.com.

Consider Advertising in the Access

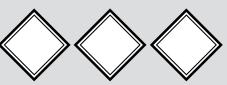
The Eastown Access is published six times a year. It is distributed directly to all residents of the Eastown neighborhood - every household and business located within the area bounded by Fuller to Franklin and Fulton to Plymouth, including part of East Grand Rapids. The newsletter reaches over 2,400 households and is also available online at https://eastown.org.



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Community Police Officer: Captain John Bylsma	456-4485	Second V (North o Milinda ^V Joseph D
Calvin College Dean of Students John Witte	526-6548	Third W
Aquinas College, Engagement Katharina Hausler-Gross	632-2112	(South o Senita Le Nathanie
Grand Rapids Public Schools	819-2000	The Rap
City of GR Code Compliance	456-3053	www.ride
Kent County Animal Shelter	632-7300	Kent Co www.acc
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EASTOWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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She is very knowledgeable and set a strategy we were comfortable with, which fortunately helped us sell our home quickly and above asking!

We highly recommenda Cheryl!"

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