

## Let's Get This Block Party Started!

By Gavin Cornwell, ECA Board Member

As we look toward the beginning of summer with lower levels of COVID risk and more opportunities to reconnect with friends and neighbors, now is the ideal time to get together with your neighbors and plan a block party! Whether your block has hosted one in the past or not, planning early is one of the best ways to have a successful party to celebrate with your community.

Though there are some rules that need to be followed, it's up to your neighbors to figure out how to best share your block's personality. Easttown block parties have featured chalk-art contests, chili cook-offs, pot-lucks, and talent shows. Though the city only requires seven business days before the party to process the

application, the sooner a date is selected and people can start planning, the better.

Shutting down the street for a day can be an inconvenience, so the city requires written permission from more than half of the households on your block. Though you can bring a paper copy into the office, things will go much more smoothly if you have a neat copy of the addresses and signatures scanned and ready to submit online.

Be aware, block parties are permitted on minor streets only, and cannot stretch more than one block. If you need to check, you can call the city and they can help.

As you submit your application, you'll be asked to confirm some simple details. What street is to be closed,

what time the party will be done, that the noise level will be reasonable, and that the street will be cleared in case emergency vehicles need access. There is a \$20 application fee that can be paid as the application is finalized, and the city will follow-up with any issue or questions they have.

For the online application and more specifics requirements, visit the following link:

<https://bit.ly/GRBlockParty>

With COVID having disconnected many of us from our friends and neighbors for extended periods of time, block parties are a great way to reconnect with old and new neighbors alike! ♦



### Events

Upcoming Events  
Page 4-5

### Development

Gentrification  
Page 8

### Community

ECA Garden Committee  
Page 12



**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
- Hannah 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



# FROM THE BOARD

## A Message From Our President

By Dakota Riehl-Davis, ECA Board President

With summer around the corner the ECA is continuing its work here in Eastown. Since our last newsletter, there have been a few changes at the ECA that we wanted to share with you.

First, due to unforeseen circumstances, the newly appointed ECA Executive Director, Courtney Burrows, submitted a letter of resignation to the ECA on March 21st. We wish Courtney the best of luck in her future endeavors and thank her for her time with the ECA.

With our only paid staff position currently vacant, the Board of Directors has chosen to use this time to re-evaluate our staffing needs and brainstorm more sustainable ways to address the needs of our community. For this summer, the ECA is currently seeking an event planner to assist with our large events. This will allow volunteer Board members to focus on creating more efficient internal controls and procedures to assist with future hiring while also working with other area leaders to create sustainable foundations for our and other neighborhood associations. We ask for your continued patience as the ECA Board plans our next steps and sets our direction for the year ahead of us.

Because we are a volunteer-led organization, we have focused our efforts on using our communication tools to quickly answer regular questions neighbors might have. For that reason, we have updated our website with a variety of resources and documents. If you are looking for previous meeting minutes, strategic plans, by-laws, volunteer opportunities, or other resources, please visit our website at eastown.org.

We also want to make sure our neighbors know that all ECA meetings are public. Due to generous donations from our volunteers, we can now offer our meetings both virtually and in-person. **All 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 eastown.org/events and regularly updated on Facebook.

As always, we want to thank our neighbors for all their support. The past two-years have been tumultuous for everyone, including the ECA. If you are interested in getting involved please reach out to us either by email (info@eastown.org) or through our website. ♦

## EASTOWN ACCESS

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

**Contributors**

Dakota Riehl-Davis, Lee Hardy, Peter Lewandoski, Dana Kroll, Mike Bopp, Gavin Cornwell, Katharina Häusler-Gross, Rion Hollenbeck

*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.*

*Supported by CDBG funds via the City of Grand Rapids.*

## ADVERTISING IN THE ACCESS

The *Eastown Access* is delivered to over 2,400 households and 100 businesses six times a year. Place your ad today!

**Advertising Rates:**

Size	Single Issue	Six Issues
Half-Page	\$175	\$800
Quarter-Page	\$100	\$500
4" Column	\$75	\$350

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

## 2022 ECA Strategic Goals

The ECA Board of Directors met this spring to develop a Strategic plan for the next year. To help us create this plan, we utilized your feedback from the last two annual meetings and the comments/suggestions we receive from neighbors during other interactions. Ultimately, the Board of Directors wanted to focus our overall goals on three priorities: to re-engage our community after two years of the pandemic; to build capacity as an organization and neighborhood; and to actively use a diversity, equity, and racial inclusion lens in all that we do. Many of our goals focus on creating more transparency between the ECA and our neighbors. ♦



## 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. ♦

### Events

- [events@eastown.org](mailto:events@eastown.org)

### Garden

- [garden@eastown.org](mailto:garden@eastown.org)

### Bricks and Mortar

- [bricksandmortar@eastown.org](mailto:bricksandmortar@eastown.org)

### Communications & Marketing

- [communications@eastown.org](mailto:communications@eastown.org)



1. Re-Engage the Community
2. Build Capacity
3. Actively Use a DEI Lens

### Eastown Community Association 2022 Strategic Goals & Key Objectives

#### Executive Committee

- Fill open board positions
- Hire an event planner
- Re-establish committee responsibilities & expectations
- Create/consolidate volunteer database
- Define communications standards for board & volunteers
- Create an operational work environment
- Conduct an administrative tools audit
- Understand & distribute census data
- Complete capital campaign plan
- Post minutes to website

#### Events Committee

- Successfully host planned Eastown Events
- Investigate a fundraising expert to assist in raising funds
- Fully collaborate with the events planner to successfully host BizBaz and Eastown Streetfair

#### Garden Committee

- Successfully plant and maintain the garden throughout the season
- Develop a fundraising plan for the garden
- Create a tool-sharing system & garden resource kit

#### Bricks & Mortar Committee

- Develop a "Development priority plan for proposed developments" strategy and standard approach
- Develop a long-term budget and plan for 415 Ethel expenses and maintenance

#### Communications Committee

- Create a communications plan for the year
- Investigate and deploy a platform to manage outbound comms across all channels
- Clean-up the email list
- Develop a QR code for email list sign-up
- Create a general events calendar to be published to website
- Review the Host Neighbor program
- Create a move-in & block party packet for neighbors
- Create a DEI contact list
- Build relationship with city reps & commissioners

*"How has the work we've done this month re-engaged neighbors, built capacity, and employed a diversity, equity, & inclusion lens?"*

#### Eastown Community Association's Mission

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





## Wealthy Street Business District Safety

By Dakota Riehl-Davis, Board President

The ECA is extremely saddened to see our community once again impacted by gun violence. We are thinking of our area business owners as they confront the damage recently and our neighbors who were also impacted.

The ECA Board started working with area businesses, Uptown Inc., and the GRPD last year to confront some of these ongoing issues with late-night activity but are disappointed that we have not seen the results our neighbors continue to ask for.

The ECA will continue to advocate for area businesses to implement the recommendations made in last summer's CEPTED (Crime prevention through environmental design) report. We also encourage concerned neighbors to communicate their issues with our GRPD community officer.

We have also created a form where you can share your concerns with the ECA who will be compiling those comments and sharing them with our late-night businesses, the GRPD, and our commissioners. Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to provide your feedback♦



### *New Neighborhood Resources on our Website!*

Check out the Eastown.org website for new content including board meeting minutes and useful neighborhood resources including safety, municipal, housing, mental health, and much more.

<https://www.eastown.org/important-resources>

<https://www.eastown.org/solving-neighbor-issues>

<https://www.eastown.org/meeting-mins>

# EASTOWN!

## Schedule of Upcoming Events

June 25	BizBaz (Bizarre Bazaar)
August 22	National Night Out
September 10	Eastown Streetfair
October 15	Howl-Oween Pawty at Wilcox Park
December 1	Shop Hop and the Eastown Tree Lighting Party

# COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

## Check Out These Upcoming Events in Grand Rapids



**Festival of the Arts**  
June 3-5, 2022  
<https://festivalgr.org/>



**Beyond VanGogh**  
June 14 - July 9, 2022  
<https://www.devosplace.org/events/2022/beyond-van-gogh>



**Grand Rapids Pride Festival**  
June 18, 2022  
<https://grpride.org/festival/>



Event information & artwork courtesy  
Experience Grand Rapids  
<https://www.experiencegr.com>





## A Call for Justice for Patrick Lyoya

By Dakota Riehl-Davis, Board President

The Easttown Community Association joins our neighbors in offering our sincerest condolences to Patrick Lyoya's family and loved ones. Patrick was a father, son, brother, and friend to many here in our community. He came to Grand Rapids seeking refuge and instead was killed during what should have been a simple traffic stop. We are heartbroken at his death and hope to see justice for him and his family delivered swiftly.

The ECA stands in solidarity with our black, indigenous, and other neighbors of color during this devastating time. We remain committed to supporting our community's call for transparency throughout the investigative process by the GRPD, Michigan State Police, and Kent County Prosecutor's Office.

For years, local organizers and groups have been advocating for police reform and new community justice strategies – specifically in relation to the way our police department polices communities of color. The ECA has long been a part of these conversations and has been an advocate for evolving approaches to public safety and public health. In the wake of Patrick Lyoya's death, we ask that our city leaders, staff, and other community representatives listen to these demands and take actionable steps to create meaningful and lasting change.

Like many of our neighbors, we bore witness to the video footage of a GRPD officer killing Patrick in a neighborhood just a mile from ours. Witnessing violence, no matter

how close or far from our homes, is traumatic and often mentally harmful. As we jointly deal with this disturbing experience, we want to make sure neighbors know about the resources available to help us and have provided an ever-evolving list of mental health and communal resources on our website. Please visit [www.easttown.org/news/a-call-for-justice](http://www.easttown.org/news/a-call-for-justice) for more information. ♦



## Proposed Updates to Robinson Rd. & Wealthy St. in 2023!

By Rion Hollenbeck, ECA Board Vice President

In 2023 Robinson Rd SE (Lake Dr SE to Plymouth Ave SE) and Wealthy St SE (Ethel Ave SE to the east city limits) will be receiving much-needed attention. The City's proposed changes with these construction projects are designed to update the overall infrastructure, improve traffic flow, increase safety, and improve aesthetics. Specifically, the City is proposing the following changes but is requesting feedback and input before they finalize the project plans.

Robinson Road (Lake Drive to Plymouth Avenue)

- Place new water main and replace lead water services along Robinson Road from Lake Drive to Woodmere Avenue.
- Separate combined sewer into dedicated sanitary and storm sewers.
- Reconstruct the street, curb, and gutter from Lake Drive to 125 feet east of Woodmere Avenue including:
  - Upgrade existing sidewalks and curb ramps to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act standards.
  - Installing curb extensions at intersections to shorten pedestrian crossings, create more greenspace, better define the parking lane, and help slow traffic speeds.

- Rotomill and resurface the street from 125 feet east of Woodmere Avenue to Plymouth Avenue, this is a less intensive process than a reconstruction and involves removing and replacing the road surface.
- Install bicycle lanes on both sides of Robinson Road from Norwood Avenue to Plymouth Avenue.
- Maintain the on-street parking lane on the north side of Robinson Road from Lake Drive to Norwood Avenue.
- Plant new street trees

Wealthy Street (Ethel Avenue to the east City limits)

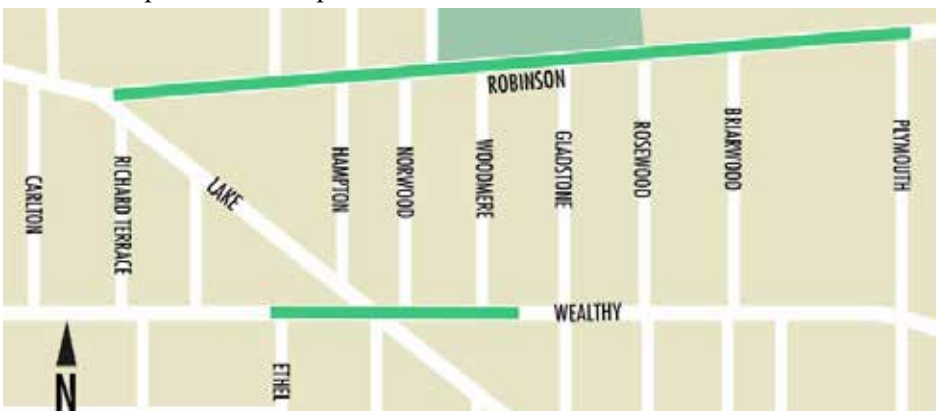
- Place new water main.
- Reconstruct the street, curb, and gutter, including:
  - Replacing the brick.
  - Installing curb extensions at intersections to shorten pedestrian crossings, better define the parking lanes, and help slow traffic speeds.
  - Moving the curbs in two feet on both sides of Wealthy Street from Ethel Avenue to Lake Drive and install wider sidewalks.
- Maintain the on-street parking lanes on Wealthy Street from Ethel Avenue to Lake Drive.
- Maintain the on-street parking lane on the south side of Wealthy

Street from Lake Drive to the east city limits (between Woodmere Avenue and Gladstone Drive) and remove the parking lane on the north side of Wealthy Street from Norwood Avenue to Woodmere Avenue.

- Install bicycle lanes on both sides of Wealthy Street from Lake Drive to the east City limits to connect to existing bicycle lanes on Lake Drive and on Wealthy Street in East Grand Rapids.
- Remove the dedicated right turn lanes from Wealthy Street to Lake Drive.
- Plant new street trees.
- Upgrade existing street lighting to new LED lights.

The final plans and schedule have not yet been completed. The City of Grand Rapids continues to request community feedback and input. Please visit the following website for additional information on the proposed plans and upcoming community engagement opportunities. ♦

<https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Residents/Road-Construction/Eastown-Reconstruction-Projects>



Courtesy, City of Grand Rapids

If you are interested in providing direct feedback, scan the QR code below from your mobile phone and fill out the survey.



## What is Gentrification?

By Lee Hardy, Access Contributor

In the 1960's, British sociologist Ruth Glass decided to study two London neighborhoods, Islington and Notting Hill. They were, at the time, working class neighborhoods. But upper-class households—the “gentry”—were moving in and seriously upgrading their properties. As a result, property values rose dramatically. Soon the neighborhoods became unaffordable for working class families. She called the process “gentrification.”

We can learn three things about the meaning of the word “gentrification” from a consideration of its origins. First: gentrification, at its core, is about social class, about lower-income households being displaced from a neighborhood by higher-income households. Nevertheless, because in the United States the question of social class is so often overlaid by the question of race, it is not possible to understand the dynamics of gentrification and its disproportionate impact on persons of color without taking both factors into account. Second, not all cases of rising property values are the result of gentrification, of high-income households moving into low-income neighborhoods. Sometimes it is due to the general lack of housing supply across an entire region—prices go up when demand outstrips supply. Sometimes rising home prices are due to the aggressive property acquisition programs of private equity groups, outbidding locals in the search for profitable returns in the real estate market. Third, the involuntary displacement of lower income households typically comes towards the end of a process of neighborhood re-investment and re-development, where deteriorating houses are rehabbed, vacant lots see new construction, and empty retail spaces become homes for fresh business ventures.

Redevelopment has its advantages and disadvantages. Existing low-income property owners will see their home equity increase, building up significant

household wealth. But future low-income home buyers will be excluded. The city will see rising tax revenues for its important work in maintaining public goods—streets, parks, emergency services, and the like. But low-income renters will be the first to be displaced because of rising rents. People who welcome gentrification often have their eye on the positive effects of re-investment; those who oppose it are keenly aware of the negative fact of involuntary displacement and exclusion.

An important question to ask in the gentrification debate is this: does revitalization necessarily lead to gentrification? Can development take place without displacement?

There are reasons to think it can. Market forces do not particularly care about equitable development. But market forces are not the only forces at work in shaping the cities and neighborhoods we live in. Public policy and nonprofit organizations also play a role. Being open to positive development and at the same time minimizing involuntary displacement can be achieved through democratic deliberation—open to all stakeholders—by which we decide on the kind of communities we want to live in and the public policies that will guide us in that direction. In addition, many nonprofit housing organizations pursue a variety of strategies to deliver affordable housing apart from market speculation.

Consider an example from both categories, one public, one private. As I mentioned above, one of the causes of the lack of affordable housing comes from the supply side: there just aren't enough housing units to go around. Many cities across the U.S. recognize this problem and are developing new codes that allow for the “gentle infill” of additional residential units in existing neighborhoods. One of the changes in code allows

homeowners to add accessory dwelling units (ADUs) to their property by right. That means that as long as homeowners follow city guidelines for ADUs, they can add an apartment unit to their residence without special approval. Although some ADUs involve new construction in the backyard, most are attic or basement conversions. Studies in the San Francisco Bay area have shown that ADUs are on average 10% cheaper than regular rental units of comparable size. ADUs not only make for more affordable rental units, they also help homeowners pay their mortgage with rental income.

Now to the nonprofit example. How can a house be made affordable and then kept affordable in perpetuity? Affordable not only for the first owners, but for all who come after them? One answer to that question has been proposed by the idea of a Community Land Trust. Here the ownership of the land and the ownership of the house on the land are split apart. The Community Land Trust, typically a local nonprofit organization, owns the land and leases it to the private party who owns the house. Built into the lease agreement is a formula that limits the resale value of the house and the owner's share in its appreciation. Resale of a land trust house is usually limited to qualified low-income first-time homebuyers. That way the house can be bought below market, and sold below market, while the owners build up a certain amount of equity and the house remains part of the affordable housing stock. In effect, the Community Land Trust keeps housing affordable by ending land speculation.

Community Land Trusts, as we know them today, have their roots in the work of Robert Swann and the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. After working with the president of Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, on community land development, and then with Frank Lloyd Wright on a Usonian House development on cooperatively

*Continued on Page 9*



## Earth Day Clean Up

By Dana Kroll, Uptown Marketing and Communications

On Friday, April 22, in celebration of Earth Day, the members of the EBA and Uptown business community worked together to complete an incredible district-wide spring-cleanup, across all four of the Uptown business districts. Business owners and employees pitched in to remove rubbish, sweep common areas, and report graffiti, all throughout the business corridors of East Hills, East Fulton, Wealthy Street, and our beloved Easttown! Many bags of refuse were collected, and afterwards, breakfast was generously provided to the volunteers, courtesy the best breakfast joint in town—Wolfgang's Restaurant. The cleanup has taken place in past Earth Day celebrations, but this was the district's first ever to be completed with a helpful hand from our Uptown Ambassador crew. The crew not only supplied the gloves and rubbish bags to all, they also handled the removal of all filled bags and collected rubbish, which was a major help in making the effort a smooth and efficient one. It felt fantastic to spend time together to ready our home for the spring season to come, and for all of those who visit and spend time in Easttown and in all of the Uptown district. That's you! ♦



Photos by Lee Hardy

**Easttown in  
springtime—  
a sight to behold!**

**Explore, discover,  
and enjoy Easttown's  
unique shops and  
restaurants.**

### ***Gentrification, cont.***

owned land outside Kalamazoo, Swann put together a community trust to buy and lease farmland in Georgia to African-American sharecroppers who had been repeatedly pushed off their farms by white landowners. Since then, the idea has gone urban, focused on housing. There are now over 250 Community Land Trusts (CLTs) in America. The largest CLT is in Burlington, Vermont. It manages over 500 houses and 1,500 apartments. In our area, two organizations—ICCF Community Homes and Dwelling Place—are working to implement the land trust model to address the rise of gentrification and the involuntary displacement of our neighbors, especially those of color.

Gentrification is a complex and controversial topic. There is much more to be said about it. And there is much room for legitimate disagreement. ♦

*The views expressed in this column do not represent an official position of the Easttown Community Association.*

# COLDBROOK CREEK CORNER

## I May Have a Bug

By Peter Lewandoski, Coldbrook Creek Community

The Coldbrook Creek Community is working with staff from the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW) to sample Coldbrook Creek at Aquinas College and Highland Park to see what it has in it...to see if it has a bug. Or, hopefully, many types of bugs.

Evaluating what aquatic insects inhabit a stream can provide insight into the stream's ecological health. Many insects spend the early stage of life in the water before emerging and flying on land as the bugs we are more familiar with, such as the dragonfly or mayfly or mosquito. These early stage insects, called nymphs and larvae, can be beneficial to the stream's health by helping break down sediment at the bottom and by being a food source for other animals such as fish, amphibians, and birds.

This will be a learning experience for all involved, as little to no information of this kind is available for Coldbrook Creek. Additionally, the sampling at Aquinas is being done in partnership with a local school, while the Highland Park sampling is open to the public. Results of what nymphs and larvae are found will be shared on the Coldbrook Creek Community Facebook page.

*Coldbrook Creek originates in the wetlands around Reeds Lake in EGR and from there flows into the Grand River in downtown GR. The mission of the Coldbrook Creek Community is to promote education, protect the environment, and provide enjoyment of this watershed. To become involved or for more information please visit [www.lgrow.org/coldbrook-creek](http://www.lgrow.org/coldbrook-creek), or search for us on Facebook. ♦*



**Work for justice. Strive for peace.  
Now and always.**

Mon-Fri 11-6 pm, Sat 11-5 pm  
Shop in store or online  
1430 Lake Drive SE  
[www.spiritdreamsgr.com](http://www.spiritdreamsgr.com)  
616-456-9889 / [info@spiritdreamsgr.com](mailto:info@spiritdreamsgr.com)



**Local First**  
support locally owned business

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 for our annual Easter Egg Hunt!

Good Friday Service  
April 15, 2022  
7:00 PM

Easter Egg Hunt  
April 16, 2022  
1:00 PM

Easter Sunday Service  
April 17, 2022  
10:30 AM

Nursery and Sunday  
School at 10:30am

Open and Affirming



Rev. Laurie Crelly

 East Church

1005 Giddings Ave. SE  
616-245-0578  
[www.eastchurchgr.org](http://www.eastchurchgr.org)



Don't let language be a barrier to **belonging**.  
Become a Literacy Center tutor today.



[www.literacycenterwm.org/volunteer](http://www.literacycenterwm.org/volunteer)

(616) 459-5151

  
LITERACY CENTER  
OF WEST MICHIGAN



# HAPPENINGS @ AQ

By Katharina Häusler-Gross, Access Contributor

## 2022 Aquinas Summer Academic Camps

Summer Camps that are led again by our dedicated and experienced Aquinas faculty, staff and students! Scholarships for camps are available as well. The following academic camps are available:

- Jazz Camp
- Science Camp
- Ceramics Camp
- Dungeons & Dragons Camp

Please visit the following URL for additional information on these summer camps.

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

## 2022 Aquinas Summer Athletic/ Sports Camps

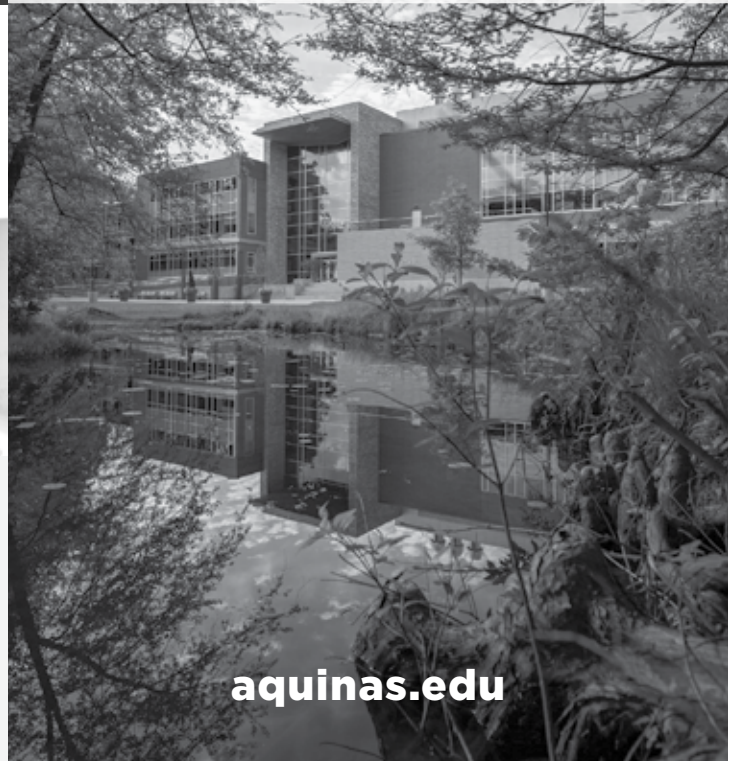
All of our 2022 Aquinas Sports Camp for elementary, middle and high school students are listed on the Aquinas Sports Camp Website under the individual sport.

<https://aqsaints.com/sports/2019/6/26/aquinas-sport-camps.aspx>



**DAVID KIRCHGESSNER  
& TIFF REINHARDT**  
REALTORS®

AQUINAS COLLEGE



- CLIENT FOCUSED • COMMUNITY CENTERED
- DESIGN CONSCIOUS • MARKET SAVVY

616.617.4644 | david.kirchgessner@gmail.com

616.443.9837 | tiffanyreinhardt@yahoo.com



GREENRIDGE  
REALTY

2213 WEALTHY STREET SE, EAST GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49506



CALDER CITY GROUP

[aquinas.edu](http://aquinas.edu)



## Garden Committee

By Mike Bopp, ECA Board Member

The Eastown Community Garden is located in the backyard of 415 Ethel. How this garden has been organized and facilitated has varied of the years to try and make itself as useful as possible to those in the community interested in gardening organically, but might not have the space or knowledge to garden on their own. Entering the 2022 season we'd like to bring community members up to speed on what we are hoping to do this year.

### Garden Organization

There are primarily two ways the Eastown Community Garden has operated over the years. Individual garden plots (or beds) and as a shared community garden.

When organized as individual plots each interested community member has the option of purchasing a section of the garden for a modest fee. The member then has the flexibility to provide and plant the items they are most interested in and is also responsible for providing most of the care and maintenance a garden requires. Tasks like watering are done for the garden as a whole via timer.

A few years ago, we decided to change the format of the garden from individual plots to one large shared space where we "garden in community". And we plan to largely continue this approach in 2022. We want the garden to be a gathering place for neighbors. We have found the shared community garden approach to be successful in fostering relationships, particularly multi-generation ones. In this format, the garden also produced more than it ever had before. Everything in the garden was getting adequate attention, not just certain plots.

This brings us to the spring of 2022. Pandemic restrictions have thankfully loosened, and we are hoping for more community involvement. Our

number one priority is to make the garden reflect what our residents want most. But the only way we can do that is with your input. Please consider participating with us this year if occasionally being outdoors getting your hands dirty interest you.

### Going Forward

We have plenty of things going for us. Here is how the garden is currently configured, and what we are hoping for this year.

The garden has four long beds, with untrodden, soft organic soil. It is amended with compost each spring. The beds are separated with mulched pathways for easy access making it possible to do all gardening without stepping on the beds. The garden space also has some raised planters where individual pots can place for growing smaller items like herbs. Community member Donna Ritz has also maintained a small garden memorial to late Eastown resident, Alice Mennega, who during her life contributed a great deal to the garden, and Eastown as a whole.

We plan to meet as a community every first and third Tuesday evening at 6:30pm. Gardening outside this timeframe is presumed, especially at certain times of the season when more care is needed. For each meetup we would love to have a member of the community "host" the evening by providing snacks, drinks, or anything else to make the night fun. We are fortunate to have "master gardeners"

in the community that we hope will be able to guide us with what is needed on most evening we meet. We know we might not always have volunteers for these roles, but we are looking forward to seeing what transpires, and will do what we can to make it a productive and fun place for anyone visit this season.

### What we need

The most important things we need to procure this year are simply the started plants ("starts") and seeds. We need a truck for transporting mulch from the city facility to the garden to cover pathways and areas not gardened. But most of all we need fun volunteers, who can assist with what is needed throughout the season, especially on meetup nights.

If you are interested in sponsoring the garden we would love to use any available resources to improve and maintain the garden. We are also happy to provision a dedicated space for sponsors to grow and maintain specific produce for their own use. Eastown's Basalt, located on wealthy and Ethel have graciously provided some resources to the garden this year and we look forward to working with them to cultivate fresh produce for use on their menu.

We will do our best to scale our efforts to match community interest. Find out more by visiting <https://www.eastown.org/community-garden>. Let us know what you think by sending a message to us at [garden@eastown.org](mailto:garden@eastown.org). ♦



## Become an Eastown Supporting Partner

By Dakota Riehl-Davis, ECA Board President

The Eastown Community Association (ECA) actively supports annual events that help us to engage residents and bring visitors into our community. During the past two years, we saw the cancellation of ECA's typical events which resulted in a significant reduction in the number of visitors to our district as well as reduced operating revenue for our neighborhood organization.

That is why we are thrilled to confirm our 2022 events and share the very latest sponsorship information. With public health improving and current guidelines loosening, we anticipate an enthusiastic response to these events, and therefore more brand exposure for our sponsor businesses.

We are pleased to offer an all-inclusive Eastown Supporting Partner sponsorship package for \$3,000, ensuring that your business's brand is represented at each and every event. The package represents a significant savings over sponsoring individual events; and our hope is that this may aid interested business owners in their budgeting process.

While size and exposure of events vary, as an Eastown Supporting Partner, sponsors will receive:

- Year-round name recognition in the Eastown Access newsletter (distributed to over 2,200 households)
- Logo recognition on-site at all events· Mentions by event MCs at all breaks (as applicable)

- Logo on all event advertisements (web-based and print media)
- Mention in all advertisements and press releases (as applicable)
- Year-round logo recognition on ECA's website homepage

### 2022 Events

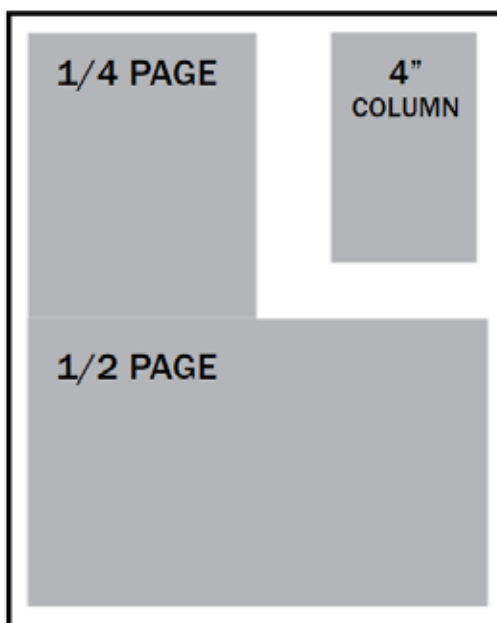
- May 21 - Dumpster Day (Ethel Lot)
- June 25 - Bizarre Bazaar (Ethel St)
- August 22 - National Night Out (location tbd)
- September 10 - Eastown Streetfair (Wealthy St)
- October 15 - Howl-Oween Pawty (Wilcox Park)

We know how much our local business owners value the Eastown Community and we thank them for their generous support. We look forward to working with both old and new sponsors as we continue to bring our neighbors together. We are so excited to get back out there and connect with everyone. We hope you will join us!

Please visit <https://www.eastown.org/sponsor> for additional information and for the Sponsorship form. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions at [info@eastown.org](mailto:info@eastown.org). ♦

## 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>.



### AD SIZES

1/2 page      7.5" W x 5" H  
Single issue: \$175    Annual: \$800

1/4 page      3.75" W x 5" H  
Single issue: \$100    Annual: \$500

4" column      2.4" W x 4" H  
Single issue: \$75    Annual: \$350

Images should be high-res at 300 dpi. Preferred format is PDF, but JPG or TIF are acceptable. Email artwork and questions to [info@eastown.org](mailto:info@eastown.org).





PROUDLY REPRESENTING  
EASTOWN BUYERS AND  
SELLERS

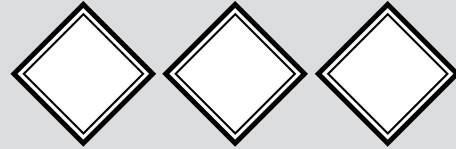
BORN & RAISED  
LIVES IN, AND SUPPORTS  
THE EASTOWN  
NEIGHBORHOOD

CHRISTIAN HUYGE



**POLARIS**  
REAL ESTATE

616.889.8800  
CHRISTIAN@POLARISNS.COM



# SARNACKI LAW FIRM

Family Court Advocacy & Mediation

## Because Your Future Matters

David C. Sarnacki  
Featured in The Best Lawyers in America  
616.988.9500  
Eastown Resident Since 1991

**SarnackiLaw.com**



# Thoughtful financial planning for a well-balanced life.

Have a plan so you can focus on the things  
you really care about.



www.eastownfinancial.com  
616.233.9773  
office@eastownfinancial.com



Financial Planning and Investments • Life and Health Insurance

Eastown Financial Advisors LLC is a registered investment adviser. Information presented is for educational purposes only and does not intend to make an offer or solicitation for the sale or purchase of any specific securities, investments, or investment strategies. Investments involve risk and, unless otherwise stated, are not guaranteed. Insurance products and services are offered and sold through Eastown Financial Services and individually licensed agents. Be sure to first consult with a qualified financial adviser and/or tax professional before implementing any strategy discussed herein. Past performance is not indicative of future performance.



## USEFUL NUMBERS

<b>Emergency:</b> Grand Rapids Customer Service	911 311
<b>Police: Non-emergency</b> <b>Silent Observer (Anonymous):</b>	456-3400 774-2345
<b>Community Police Officer:</b> Captain John Bylsma	456-4485
<b>Calvin College Dean of Students</b> John Witte	526-6548
<b>Aquinas College, Engagement</b> Katharina Hausler-Gross	632-2112
<b>Grand Rapids Public Schools</b>	819-2000
<b>City of GR Code Compliance</b>	456-3053
<b>Kent County Animal Shelter</b>	632-7300
<b>Dispute Resolution Center of W. MI</b>	774-0121
<b>Eastown Community Association</b>	451-3025

## WEBSITES/EMAILS

<b>The City of Grand Rapids:</b> <a href="http://www.grandrapidsmi.gov">www.grandrapidsmi.gov</a>
<b>Mayor of Grand Rapids</b> Rosalynn Bliss: <a href="mailto:mayor@grcity.us">mayor@grcity.us</a>
<b>Second Ward Commissioners (North of Wealthy):</b> Milinda Ysasi: <a href="mailto:mysasi@grcity.us">mysasi@grcity.us</a> Joseph D. Jones: <a href="mailto:jdjones@grcity.us">jdjones@grcity.us</a>
<b>Third Ward Commissioners (South of Wealthy):</b> Senita Lenear: <a href="mailto:slenear@grcity.us">slenear@grcity.us</a> Nathaniel Moody: <a href="mailto:nmoody@grcity.us">nmoody@grcity.us</a>
<b>The Rapid Bus System:</b> <a href="http://www.ridetherapid.org">www.ridetherapid.org</a>
<b>Kent County:</b> <a href="http://www.accesskent.com">www.accesskent.com</a>
<b>State of Michigan:</b> <a href="http://www.michigan.gov">www.michigan.gov</a>
<b>Get the Lead Out!</b> <a href="http://www.healthyhomescoalition.org">www.healthyhomescoalition.org</a>

# NOW DELIVERING BEER!

SIX PACKS OF BEER  
FIDDLE STIX~CROSSROADS~LOVELY DAY~ERSTE LAGER~STOCKBRIDGE BROWN  
RIGHT TO YOUR DOOR



# HARMONY

BREWING COMPANY

order online

[WWW.HARMONYBEER.COM](http://WWW.HARMONYBEER.COM)

**EASTOWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

415 Ethel Ave SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506-9907

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI  
PERMIT NO. 277



“

Cheryl and her team are extremely responsive and knowledgeable. We could not have asked for better help. This is the third time Cheryl has helped us buy or sell a home.

**Kurt & Janet D**



616 822 3206  
cherylgrant.com



3237 Platinum NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49525