

March 2014



### The Winners Are!

#### First Place



631 Gannet Way

#### Second Place



692 Willet Way

#### Third Place



637 Willet Way

#### Honorable Mention



3877 Plover Place

### Solicitors and Peddlers

With spring just around the corner, so are some solicitors and peddlers. Did you know that all solicitors/peddlers coming through our neighborhood must have a permit from the City of East Lansing, and that permit must be on their person? Even with a permit, solicitors are not allowed to enter the premises, if you have a "No Solicitors" or "No Peddlers" sign posted. Also, they are limited to the hours of 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

According to our neighborhood police liaison, Officer Adam Parks, there are some types of peddlers that have more of a tendency for fraud, such as magazine peddlers. They may try to get you to purchase magazines, cash your check or charge your credit card, but never send the magazines. If someone comes to your door and does not have a peddler's license and perhaps acts suspicious, he requested that you call 911 immediately. The reason is that while the peddler is still close by the police have a better chance of finding them and questioning them. Once they are out of the area, the likelihood of finding them is very low. Officer Parks stated that many times residents don't feel comfortable calling the 911 line, but the City would rather respond to those calls and help to keep our neighborhood safe. For more information on solicitation and peddling, check out our website. [www.eastlansingneighborhoods.com/Home/Neighborhoods/HawkNest/NewsArchive](http://www.eastlansingneighborhoods.com/Home/Neighborhoods/HawkNest/NewsArchive)

### Landscaping Plans

As you get ready to make your landscaping plans for this year, here are a few things to keep in mind. When planting trees and shrubs, especially near the back of your lot where the storm drain system is, know what type of root system the tree or shrub has.

Some trees, such as willows can grow up to 35 feet in diameter, with the root system going even further. Also, the roots of the willow are water seeking. This means that if there is even a hint of a crack or hole in the water or sewer line, storm drain system or sprinkler system, the willow's roots will make a bee line for the water source. Their tiny root tendrils can get into the smallest of entries and develop such a massive root system inside the drain or pipe that it can completely block it off, causing some very expensive repair work.

If you have a tree that needs to be cut down, be sure to use a chemical treatment so the root system does not continue to grow and produce saplings. Wendy Longpre, Assistant Director for the City of East Lansing Parks and Recreation department recommends using Glyphosate (aka Round-up) with a 25% concentration. The product found at your local Meijer or Wal-Mart garden center usually has a concentration of 18%. Her full letter, including the method to use and care to be taken may be found on our website.

[www.eastlansingneighborhoods.com/Home/Neighborhoods/HawkNest/NewsArchive](http://www.eastlansingneighborhoods.com/Home/Neighborhoods/HawkNest/NewsArchive)

Great info, Wendy! Thank you.

### House Additions

Now that spring is here home owners will want to be doing some work on their house. We would like to remind you that when you are doing additions to your house, or adding that new fence that you need the approval of the architectural committee. So please contact the HOA and/or send an email before you begin to [hawknesthoa@gmail.com](mailto:hawknesthoa@gmail.com)

### **Friendly Pet Reminder**

Please remember to always pick up after your pets. We should each be considerate of our neighbors and our neighborhood. Small children should be able to freely play in their own yards without their parents worrying about pet waste (especially those who don't even own a pet). Additional waste bags are in the park, if needed.

### **It's Spring**

#### **Time to check your sump pump!**

With the spring thaw comes water melting and attempting to infiltrate our homes. Homes defend themselves with built-in drainage that, at Hawks Nest, dumps into a large container called a crock. In that crock is a sump pump which needs to be checked and maintained. If it overflows because of a failure your basement may flood and that may not be covered by your homeowner's insurance policy.

What to do? First, look into the sump or crock. Ours is covered by a plastic cover. Check that the pump runs daily in the spring. Also look for leaks on the pipe that delivers water out of the home into the storm drains. That pipe has a small box-like (perhaps green) one-way valve that prevents water from flowing back into the crock when the pump stops pumping. Check the flexible sleeve (probably black) as small leaks can occur. If the flexible sleeve leaks, just wrap a towel around it to deflect water back into the crock until you or a plumber can repair it.

Michigan Plumbing suggests that homeowners clean the crock regularly to prolong sump pump life. It is a messy job, but necessary. You'll need rubber gloves, a hand trowel to dislodge the accumulated junk, and either a bailing bucket or wet-dry vacuum to both empty the crock and suck out the mud. Clean as if the value of your home depended on it—it may.

Big box home stores sell alarms to notify you if water overflows the crock, and for those who head south for winter, a battery driven backup pump can offer peace of mind.

### **Emergency Training for Neighborhoods**

At the February Council of Neighborhood Presidents meeting with the Mayor, the City of East Lansing rolled out its Emergency Training for Neighborhoods presentation. The material covered general preparedness efforts and hazard specific actions. During events such as those we have recently experienced with the ice storm, heavy snows, and some resultant power outages it is wise to be prepared. Did you know that the average duration a person should be prepared for is three days without the help of emergency service providers? Did you know that the average person needs one gallon of water per day (so a family of three should have nine gallons of drinking water available)? As we have all seen, just before a significant snow storm, everyone runs to the store to pick up food and those last minute items in preparation. Even Kroger and Meijer began to run out of certain items this past year. What about medications or special medical equipment (ambulatory oxygen)? Did you know that a hazardous rail train comes through East Lansing every night? At our HNHOA Annual Meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Hannah Center at 6:30 P.M., our City of East Lansing Police Officer Liaison, Adam Park will present the material to the Hawk Nest Community. You will also be provided with material to take home so you can begin to plan your own emergency prepared plan. Be sure to join us, the information is great!

### **Rental Restriction Overlay**

The Planning Commission approved the petition for Rental Restriction Overlay for the Hawk Nest Community at its March 12th meeting. The request now goes

back to City Council, and a second public hearing will be scheduled.

### **Hawk Nest HOA Board and Committee Contact information:**

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1404  
East Lansing, MI 48826

Email: [hawknesthoa@gmail.com](mailto:hawknesthoa@gmail.com)

Facebook page: Hawk Nest Home Owners – East Lansing

Website:

<http://www.eastlansingneighborhoods.com/HawkNest>

Board meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

### **Board Members**

Howard Heideman – President

T: 517.351.0675

E: [hheideman@comcast.net](mailto:hheideman@comcast.net)

Aaron Irving – Vice President

T: 517.580.4291

Open – Secretary

T:

Anne Hill – Treasurer

T: 517.410.6534

E: [ahill695@hotmail.com](mailto:ahill695@hotmail.com)

Open – Member

T:

### **Committees**

#### **Architectural Committee**

Chairperson Open

Maintains the aesthetic integrity of the community by regulating structures, improvements, landscaping, etc.

#### **Communications Committee**

Chairperson Aaron Irving

Newsletters, mailings, Questionnaires

#### **Maintenance Committee**

Chairperson Open

Common area maintenance, including landscaping and snow removal.

#### **Recreation Committee**

Chairperson Open

Recreational and social events.