

Bizarre Bazaar: Pop Up Art Market

By Emma Heemskerk, ECA Executive Director

After such an unpredictable past year, the ECA is very excited to officially announce the 2021 Bizarre Bazaar Pop Up Art Market that will take place on Saturday, July 24 from 9:00am to 5:00pm at the Easttown Ethel Lot (behind the Pita House) near Wealthy St. and Ethel Ave. in the central Easttown business district.

As one of our first bigger events since Covid restrictions of the past year have loosened, this year's event will be smaller in scale than in years past. But rest assured, it is sure to pack in all the fun you've come to expect from 'BizBaz'. We are looking forward to the open air art market with family-friendly activities, a fun carnival feel, busking street musicians, and artists of all types.

The event is free and open to the public. A special thank you to Uptown Grand Rapids, Inc. for their generous sponsorship of this event. More information and sponsorship opportunities can be found at www.eastown.org/events or on our Facebook page (@eastowngr). We can't wait to see you all there! ♦





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
- Staci Rickman, Vice President
- Steven Martinez-Thiel, Treasurer
- Rion Hollenbeck, Secretary
- Brigid Avery
- Michael Bopp
- Gavin Cornwell
- Andrew Fisher
- Elizabeth Girgen
- Pamela Goderski
- Noah Joseph
- Christian Verley

Executive Director

Emma Heemsker

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 DIRECTOR

Summer in Eastown

By Emma Heemsker, ECA Executive Director

Summer is here in Eastown and the ECA is so happy to start to be able to see many of you again!

We were excited to bump into many of you at our recent annual Dumpster Day, a free drive up and drop off refuse disposal event, that was held in the Ethel lot on May 22nd. A big thank you to the City of Grand Rapids, the Fulton St. Family Fare, Basalt, and many amazing volunteers for their support of this event.

We are also really looking forward to celebrating summer with our fellow Eastown-ers at the upcoming Bizarre Bazaar Pop Up Art Market taking place on Saturday, July 24th in the Ethel Lot (see cover). While this will be a smaller event than in years past, we know it will be amazing to finally see all of you and to celebrate all the creativity and character that Eastown has to offer. A good time is sure to be had by all!

We also cannot contain our excitement about the 48th Annual Eastown Streetfair which is scheduled for Saturday, September 11, 2021 on Wealthy St. between Lake Dr. and Atlas Ave. The ECA Events Committee is working hard gearing up for what we hope will be the ultimate celebration of the summer and we will be seeking volunteers to help as we get closer to the actual event. Stay tuned for more information as it draws nearer.

Two other events that are on the docket are our annual Picnic in the Park, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 7 at Sigsbee Park, and our annual Howl-O-Ween Pet Pawty at Wilcox Park on October 16. More information will be forthcoming about these two community favorites so keep an eye out for that.

There is much to be excited about in the coming months and we are truly looking forward to seeing all of you again. However, we aren't able to make these events happen without your support - so if you are interested in donating or sponsoring, please visit our website at www.eastown.org today.

A big thank you to all Eastown residents and businesses for your patience and generous contributions as we have planned and adapted to the challenges of the past year. We couldn't have done it without you and all the frontline heroes! We are thrilled to be able to say "we will see you soon!"♦

EASTOWN ACCESS

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

Contributors

Christine Gilman, Lee Hardy, Emma Heemsker, Dana Kroll, Peter Lewandoski, Amy Wolterstorff

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 2,200 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.

EBA NOTES

Eastown: Proud and Healthy

Dana Kroll, Uptown Grand Rapids, Inc.

A Proud Month: We're happy to say that 2021's June Pride Month was well celebrated in Uptown, and of particular meaning to us, were the many Uptown businesses' endeavors to use their platforms and promotions to raise awareness and funds for the Grand Rapids Pride Center. A fun fact: the Center, which serves the entire greater Grand Rapids LGBTQ+ community, is located right here in Eastown! This makes us proud, indeed. We have long heralded our Eastown district to be one that is inviting, inclusive, diverse, and equitable to all, and are endeavoring to continue the ongoing efforts necessary to earn this badge of honor. That Eastown is home to the Pride Center is something that is important to us.

A little bit of color here: The Center was established in 1988 to offer programs, services, community, and more, in order to create safe and affirming spaces for its members. The Center has also played an instrumental role in the annual organization of Grand Rapids' Pride Festival, which also began in 1988 (this year's festival was virtual).

The Center continues to grow and add to its roster of offerings! It was announced in March of this year the hiring of Jazz McKinney to the role of Executive Director, who comes with an impressive amount of knowledge and experience to be leveraged, and under whose leadership we know we'll continue to see great things happening both at the Center and on behalf of the GR community.

For more information about the Pride Center, check out their IG or FB (@grandrapidspridecenter), or www.grpride.org.

Eastown Health and Wellness:

Eastown has a wide variety of businesses in the health and wellness sector located in its district, and so many of them have cool things cooked up just for you this summer! While there's too many to list, here are just a handful of places to check out now:

The Dailey Method:

Offers mixed-discipline workouts that combine barre and cycling into a single fitness experience. The studio celebrated its 4th birthday in June! Follow their FB or IG as they regularly update their offerings and events. Located at: 1551 Wealthy St. SE

Strike Back Fight Club:

Grand Rapids' ONLY boutique boxing gym! Your first class is free, there's always fun stuff happening for their members (beer hangs at Mulligan's after boxing? Yes please!), and, rumour has it, a summertime surprise is in the works as

well, so watch their social channels for the big reveal! Located at: 419 Norwood Ave. SE, Suite 190

Funky Buddha Yoga:

Recently voted a top-three finalist for Best Yoga in West Michigan, (*Revue West Michigan* 'Best of the West 2021' contest), Funky Buddha has been offering one of the broadest and most comprehensive rosters of hot yoga classes to be found in the city. They put their hearts into their efforts often - they were one of the businesses referenced above, that offered classes in order to raise donations to benefit the GR Pride Center. They too have limited time offers that you can check out on their social media. Located at: 1331 Lake Dr. SE

XTreme Cryo:

This is a brand-new business to Eastown that offers an interesting approach to wellness. What is



cryotherapy? From their website: It is the process of exposing the body to hyper cool temperatures in order to elicit the natural healing process. Developed in Japan in the 1970s, it is used by professional athletes to decrease recovery time and improve performance and by clients seeking recovery from musculoskeletal pain. Whether you are a professional athlete, weekend warrior, or seeking enhanced health and wellness, they can help your body achieve its ultimate potential. Located at: 1505 Lake Dr. SE

Phlot:

Another "Grand Rapids' only" Phlot is a flotation therapy studio. You do just what it says: you float, in a sensory-reduced environment. It's an amazing experience (we've tried it!). Located at: 1555 Wealthy St. SE ♦

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Robinson Flats

Information from Wheeler Development Group

Wheeler Development Group (WDG) presented their plans for a four-story mixed use development at 1407, 1409, and 1417 Robinson Road at the ECA's monthly Board meeting on June 14th.

At the ECA's recommendation, WDG subsequently planned two community meetings on June 21st and 28th at 5:30pm on-site to share information about the proposed development and gather comments and answer questions from area residents. The ECA also recommended flyering to the immediate neighbors and businesses with information about the development.

The project is a joint venture agreement between Wheeler Development Group and 1411 Robinson Road LLC which would include 36 to 39 market rate rental units in place of the current structures. Wheeler Development is planning to include one to three ground floor commercial spaces on the first floor of the building, as well as parking behind and below the structure. The projects seeks to begin construction in 6-9 months with a 12-16 month construction period. As part of their presentation WDG is also seeking a letter of support from the ECA for Neighborhood Enterprise Zone and Brownfield reimbursement (as the site is currently contaminated).

Residents are encouraged to review the plans and video of their presentation from the ECA's Board meeting in case they were not able to attend. They can be found on our Facebook page (@eastowngr). Comments may also be submitted to info@eastown.org by July 9, 2021.



GHAFARI | WDG

Lake Drive Perspective
VIEW NORTHEAST FROM LAKE DRIVE AND ROBINSON ROAD

ROBINSON FLATS
CONCEPTUAL DESIGN
PHASE 1 & 2 (2021)
JUNE 02, 2021

A conceptual rendering of the Robinson Flats proposed development

Image courtesy Wheeler Development

BurrLaw

James Booth Burr, Jr.

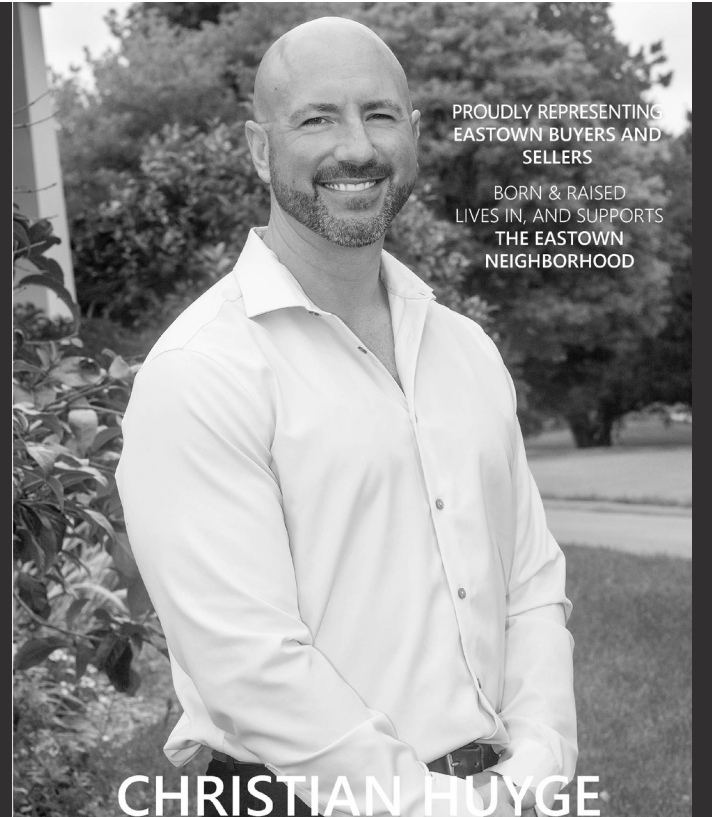


Elder Care & Probate Law
Small Business Organizations
Real Estate Law

Jim been has a resident of Eastown for nearly 40 years and is a Member of the 6th and 7th US Courts of Appeal

Jim is also a member of the State Bar of Michigan and a member of the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee and Real Estate and Business Law Sections

Office conferences by appointment
Kingsley Building • Suite 211 • 1430 Robinson Rd SE
jburr@pathwaynet.com • 616-458-1246



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

URBAN PERCH

Community Land Trusts: Keeping Housing Affordable

By Lee Hardy, Access Contributor

Say a non-profit organization rehabs a house in a gentrifying neighborhood and sells it below market rate to a low-income household. Five years later that household sells it at market rate for a handsome profit. From that point on, the house is no longer a part of the local affordable housing stock.

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 non-profit organization in this case, owns the land and leases it to the private party who owns the house. Built into the lease agreement or the property deed is a formula that limits the re-sale value of the house and the owner's share in its appreciation. Re-sale of

a land trust house is usually limited to 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 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 owned land outside Kalamazoo, Michigan, 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. Close to Eastown, a land trust home is being built on Sigsbee SE, in the Baxter neighborhood, by BDR, a local real estate development firm, and the Inner-City Christian Federation, which will hold the trust.

The average tenure of a household in CLT housing is seven years. 60-70% go on to purchase market rate homes. The association of CLTs is currently represented by the Grounded Networks Solutions (groundedsolutions.org), which is an excellent resource for more information on Community Land Trusts. Some cities in the United States are now coordinating the work of land banks (where municipalities or counties acquire vacant or tax-delinquent properties) and land trusts (that then buy, rehab, and keep those properties affordable). See the Lincoln Land Institute (lincolnst.edu, search "opening doors"). ♦



Left: Rhoda Kreuzer, Chair of Board of Directors for ICCF (left), Kevin Einfeld of BDR Custom Homes (center), and Ryan VerWys (right), CEO of ICCF, break ground on June 10 for a new house on Sigsbee

Photo by Lee Hardy

**There is beauty
in being kind.**

Current store hours 12-5 pm Mon-Sat
Curbside pickup and online ordering available
1430 Lake Drive SE
www.spiritdreamsgr.com
616-456-9889 / info@spiritdreamsgr.com

Local First
support locally owned business

NEIGHBOR NOTES

How Can You Resolve Conflict with Your Neighbors?

By Christine Gilman, Dispute Resolution Center of West Michigan

Positive interactions of getting to know your neighbors is a great way to stop a conflict before it happens.

Odds are, you are kinder and more open to mistakes and quirks of those you know.

This is just one reason to get to know your neighbors. Not to mention that people who study happiness tell us that human connections are vital to happiness. So, what does that really entail?

Here are some suggestions for positive steps for getting to know your neighbors:

Smile and say hello

Introduce yourself and learn your neighbors' names. Greet them when you are coming and going.

Listen

So often we spend the time we are not talking thinking of the next thing we want to say, focus on really listening to what your neighbor has to say.

Share

Keep your neighbors informed and let them know of upcoming happenings. For instance, are you considering cutting down a tree, getting a new puppy, building a fence, or anything else that might affect them? Have a conversation with your neighbors before committing to the change. Avoid social media as a form of communication where possible. Things can be so easily misunderstood virtually.

Talk to them about common things

You may find that they have some helpful tips or suggestions.

Be aware of differences

Age, race, cultural background, political affiliation, and any number of things might be different, but what

do you have in common? The more you communicate, the more you will discover what you share and learn to appreciate what is different.

Be considerate of the view

How might your chickens, compost pile, extra car, children's toys look from your neighbors' home?

Be thankful

Acknowledge and appreciate things your neighbors do! Whether it is shoveling your walk or hosting your children for the afternoon.

Assume the best

Just because your neighbor's behavior affects you negatively, it does not mean they did it on purpose! Express how it affected you.

What if you are already involved in a conflict?

Remember that conflict is inevitable, but combat is optional.

First, assume positive intentions and be calm. Take a breath, take a moment, especially if you want to scream!

Refrain from asking the usual WHY??? Instead, ask curiously what happened? Remember that conflicts are hardly ever completely one person's fault. Consider if you play a part in what happened; are there actions that you are willing to take responsibility for?

Think about the past and the present with hopes of moving to a more cooperative future.

The basic questions we use in circles when processing a conflict are:

- What happened?
- What were you thinking at the time?
- What have you thought about since?
- Who has been affected by

what you have done and how?

- What do you think you need to do to make things right?

Take your time and be willing to try more than once.

Chances are that if this is something that developed over time, it will take some time to repair.

Try not to make negative assumptions. Often times, we don't really know what he, she, or they are thinking.

Try to let others come to their own decisions. If you are anything like me, you do not like to be told what you should do!

If these tips do not work, or if there is something more complicated happening, do not hesitate to get help. The Dispute Resolution Center of West Michigan was created over 30 years ago for just this purpose!

Call us at 616.774.0121 or email us at info@drcwm.org. One of our program managers will reach out to you and your neighbor to talk about the process and see if it is right for both parties.

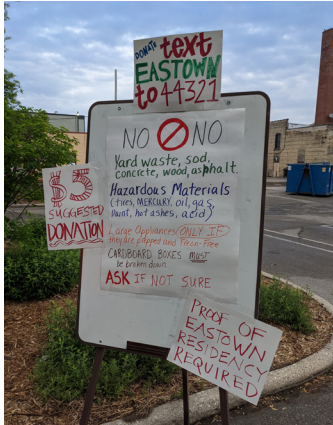


The Dispute Resolution Center of West Michigan, formed in 1986, brings peaceful resolution to conflict by providing expert and affordable mediation and training services for civil mediation. They provide divorce mediation, employment mediation, parenting mediation, restorative practices and justice mediation, special education mediation, agriculture mediation, and stay married mediation as well as various trainings throughout the year.



ECA at Dumpster Day!

The ECA held its annual Dumpster Day, a free refuse disposal event, on May 22nd:



Photos by Amanda Sterling

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 Sundays!

Worship Service
10:30 AM Sundays

Drop-In Nursery
Open and Affirming

1005 Giddings Ave. SE
616/245-0578
www.eastchurchgr.org

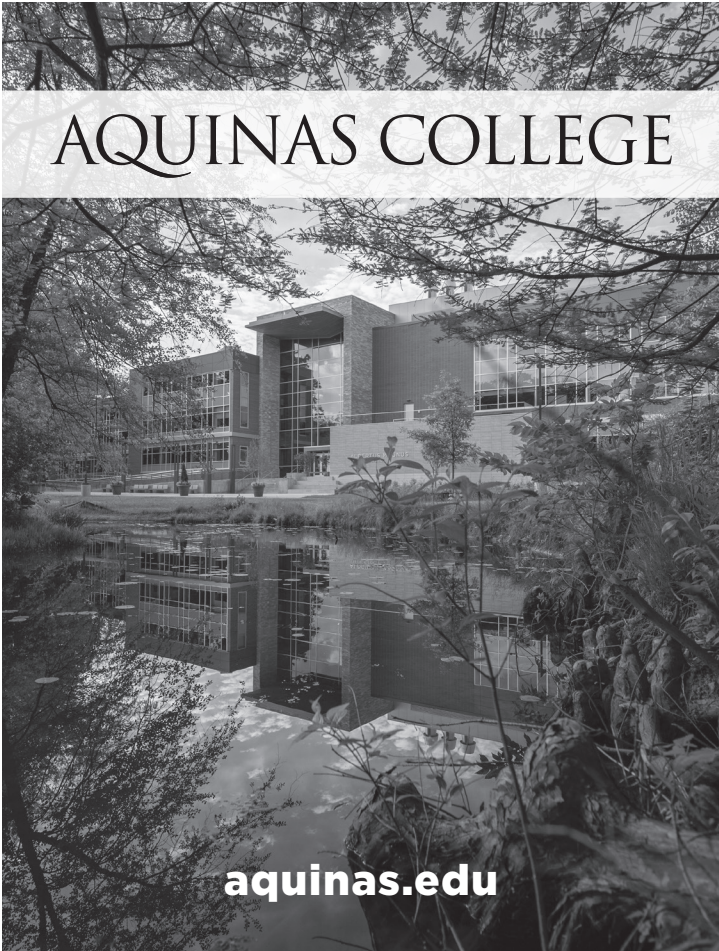


Rev. JT Hills, Pastor



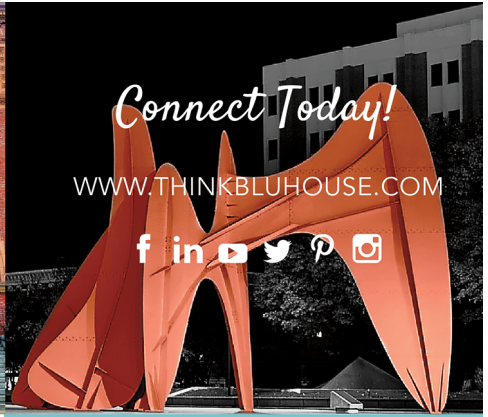
East Church

Empowering God's community to grow in faith
through worship, service, and learning at
every age."



AQUINAS COLLEGE

aquinas.edu



ARE YOU SELLING?

- Professional Photos/Videos
- Proven Sales Systems
- Maximum Exposure
- Accurate Pricing
- Proactive Marketing

ARE YOU BUYING?

- Effective Communication
- Personal Understanding
- Market Stats & Quality Advice
- Expert Negotiation Skills
- In-house Closing Team

HOW WE'RE DIFFERENT

- Team Brokerage Approach
- Innovative Technology
- Locally Owned
- In-house Marketing
- Client Centric

616.901.4541
ryan@thinkbluhouse.com



blu house properties
ryan ogle

Financial Planning and Investments • Life and Health Insurance



*Thoughtful financial planning
for a well-balanced life.*

616.233.9773
www.easttownfinancial.com
office@easttownfinancial.com

Easttown 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 Easttown 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.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Coldbrook Creek

The Coldbrook Creek Community recently participated in an LGROW event by cleaning up debris from around storm drains. Stormwater flows directly into Coldbrook Creek without being treated, and from there it flows into the Grand River and eventually Lake Michigan. The result is the possibility of added pollution and sediment to our local waterways. For more information on how you can help with stormwater runoff, or to adopt nearby drains to keep clean, visit www.lgrow.org/stormwater. Remember: the water connects us.

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, or search for us on Facebook.

Host Neighbor Corner

The ECA's Host Neighbor Program seeks to empower residents to help themselves, each other, and the community - while "meeting people where they are at" so to speak.

Host Neighbors often become involved in ECA committees and events or just remain a point of contact for planning block parties on their block. It's truly up to the Host Neighbor how much time they would like to contribute!

While Eastown has many long-time residents and Host Neighbors, residents often change contact information or move. The ECA relies on information shared with us to update our Host Neighbor list. If you are not sure if you are a Host Neighbor, would like to become one, would like to update your information, or receive an info packet, please contact us at info@eastown.org today!

Eastown Supporting Partners

Special thank you to Uptown Grand Rapids, Inc. for their generous support as an Eastown Supporting Partner of this year's upcoming events! If you would like to become an Eastown Supporting Partner check out www.eastown.org/ sponsor or call us at 616-451-3025.

YOUR BEST FRIEND. OUR BEST MEDICINE.

As a community-focused veterinarian, we offer a new level of full-service veterinary medicine. We strive to offer excellence and earn the title as your favorite veterinarian.



616-451-1810 | eastownvet.com

1350 Lake Drive SE, Grand Rapids, MI. 49506

REALTORS

DAVID KIRCHGESSNER- TIFF REINHARDT



SERVING OUR CLIENTS
AND BUILDING
LONG TERM RELATIONS

Client Focused

Community Centered

Design Conscious

Market Savvy

david.kirchgessner@gmail.com

616-617-4644

tiffanyreinhardt@yahoo.com

616-443-9837

GREENRIDGE REALTY 2213 WEALTHY ST SE
GRAND RAPIDS





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



DO YOU WANT TO KEEP EASTOWN WEIRD?

BECOME AN ECA SUPPORTING PARTNER TODAY!

*Be recognized for your neighborhood support at
your favorite ECA events throughout 2021*

Learn more at eastown.org/sponsor

We have a variety of ways to support the ECA's
work + our 2021 events! You can also contact the
ECA directly to explore other ways to support or
give.



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

USEFUL NUMBERS

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

WEBSITES/EMAILS

The City of Grand Rapids:
www.grandrapidsmi.gov

Mayor of Grand Rapids
Rosalynn Bliss: mayor@grcity.us

Second Ward Commissioners (North of Wealthy):
Milinda Ysasi: mysasi@grcity.us
Joseph D. Jones: jdjones@grcity.us

Third Ward Commissioners (South of Wealthy):
Senita Lenear: slenear@grcity.us
Nathaniel Moody: nmoody@grcity.us

The Rapid Bus System:
www.ridetherapid.org

Kent County:
www.accesskent.com

State of Michigan:
www.michigan.gov

Get the Lead Out!
www.healthyhomescoalition.org



1450 Wealthy St SE
616-719-2146

Tue, Wed 7am - 3pm

Thu - Sat 7am - 9pm

Sun 8am - 4pm

toasttab.com/basaltgr



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



Who You Work With Defines Your Experience

"Working with the Cheryl Grant team was the best decision we made in the sale and purchase of a new home. Cheryl put a reassuring grip on our shoulders and walked us through the process, which has changed dramatically since we bought our last home nearly 20 years ago. Members of Cheryl's team surrounded us with expertise, from prepping to staging, to pricing and securing a mortgage. They saw to every detail. As we sit in our new home, surrounded by boxes, reflecting on the last several months, we feel nothing but gratitude for Cheryl and her team, and would highly recommend them to other buyers and sellers"

*-Your Neighbors
Kurt & Catherine Behrendt*



kw GRAND RAPIDS
NORTH
KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY

616.822.3206
CherylGrant.com

Serving Eastown since 2004