

Eastown Streetfair is "Back on the Bricks!"

We are SO excited to be “back on the bricks” for this year's 49th annual Eastown Streetfair! Although our last two virtual Streetfair events were very successful and great "learning experiences", there's just something special about getting together in person and enjoying good food, good drink, and good music with good friends.

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 serving up a great mix of beers, ciders,

and non-alcoholic options. There will be approximately 110 vendors, and WYCE will once again be having their Record Sale.

If you want to get involved, there is still time! Please reach out to our Events Committee at events@eastown.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

the eastown community association presents the

forty-ninth annual

EASTOWN STREETFAIR

BACK ON THE BRICKS

MAKERS ★ ARTISTS ★ FOOD ★ MUSIC ★ BEER ★ CIDER

Saturday, Sept. 10th
9am to 9pm on
Wealthy & Ethel
Streets

Featuring Music Performances by:

Jesse + Terraplane
Cole Hansen
PotatoeBabies
Lynn Thompson and the Moonshine Runners
Low Phase

Abner
Big Timmy and the Heavy Chevy's
Birdie Country
Asamu Johnson and the Associates of the Blues

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

415 Ethel SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616.451.3025
info@easttown.org
www.easttown.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
- Jonathan Morgan

Executive Director

Currently vacant

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

Facebook: easttowngr
Instagram: @easttowngr
Twitter: @EasttownGR



FROM THE BOARD

Building a Sustainable ECA

By Rion Hollenbeck, ECA Board Vice President

As hot summer nights give way to cool autumn mornings, I'm reminded that, like with the seasons, change is a necessary and important part of life. This is also true of any vibrant community, neighborhood, or organization. The ECA has been and continues to work through the many changes that have happened over the past couple of years. As the ECA continues to evolve, improve, and change, we need to constantly be looking at ways to ensure that we are building a sustainable organization that can withstand current and future changes. It's in that context that the ECA Board of Directors continues to focus on two very important activities:

1. Hiring an Executive Director
2. Filling vacant Board seats

If you are interested in joining the ECA Board of Directors and helping build a more sustainable Easttown Community Association, please contact us at info@easttown.org. 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, Monday September 12 at 6:00 PM.

Those who have been working with the ECA over the years know the role of the Executive Director is critical to sustainability of the organization. Having someone whose 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 continue to seek 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 info@easttown.org. This is a unique opportunity to drive change and directly impact the future direction of the ECA.

As always, we want to thank our neighbors for all their support. There are many opportunities to use your unique talents and passions to help the ECA and the Easttown neighborhood, so if you are interested in getting involved please reach out to us either by email or through our website <https://easttown.org>. ♦

EASTTOWN ACCESS

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

Contributors

Dakota Riehl-Davis, Lee Hardy, Amanda Sterling, Katharina Häusler-Gross, Rion Hollenbeck, Peter Lewandoski

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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ADVERTISING IN THE ACCESS

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

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Size	Single Issue	Six Issues
Half-Page	\$175	\$800
Quarter-Page	\$100	\$500
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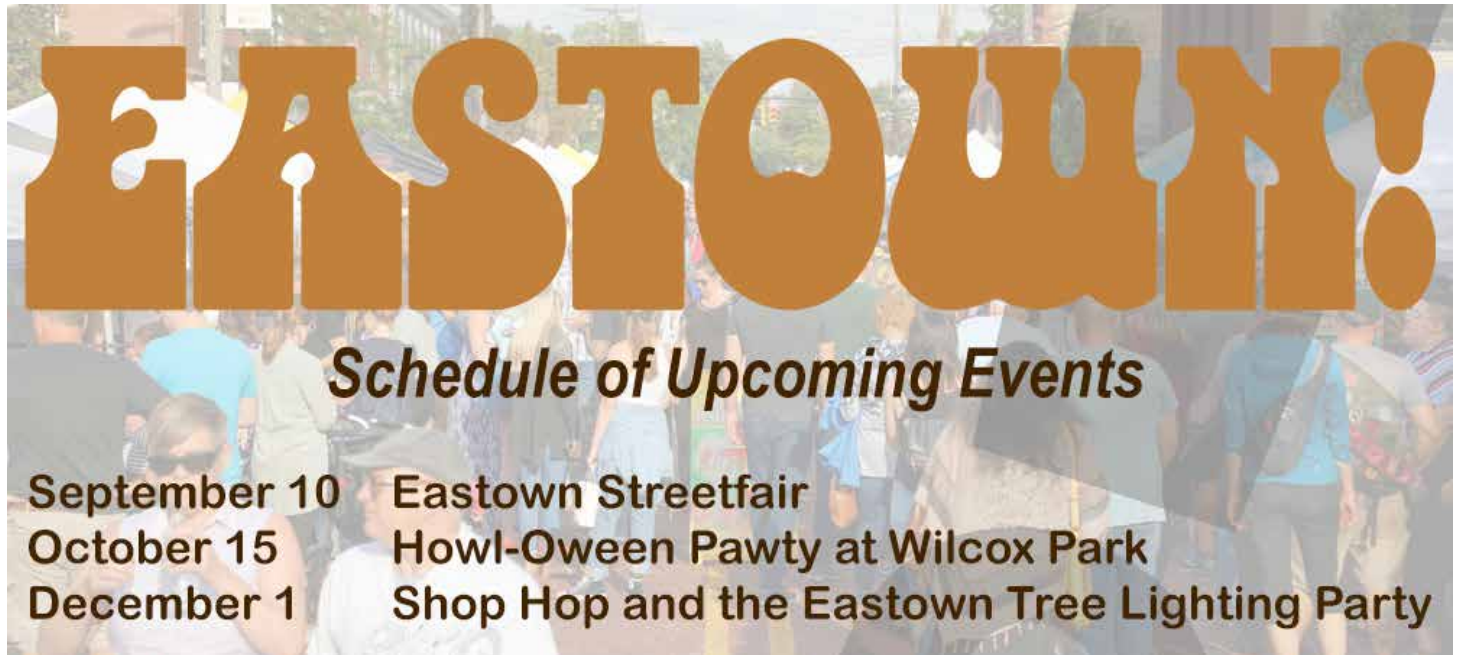
Access is also available online at easttown.org. Send all inquiries & advertising files to: info@easttown.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Get Ready for an Eventful Autumn in Eastown!

As much as we hate to say goodbye to summer, the arrival of autumn brings cooler mornings, football, bonfires, pumpkin spice, and continued fun in Eastown! We look

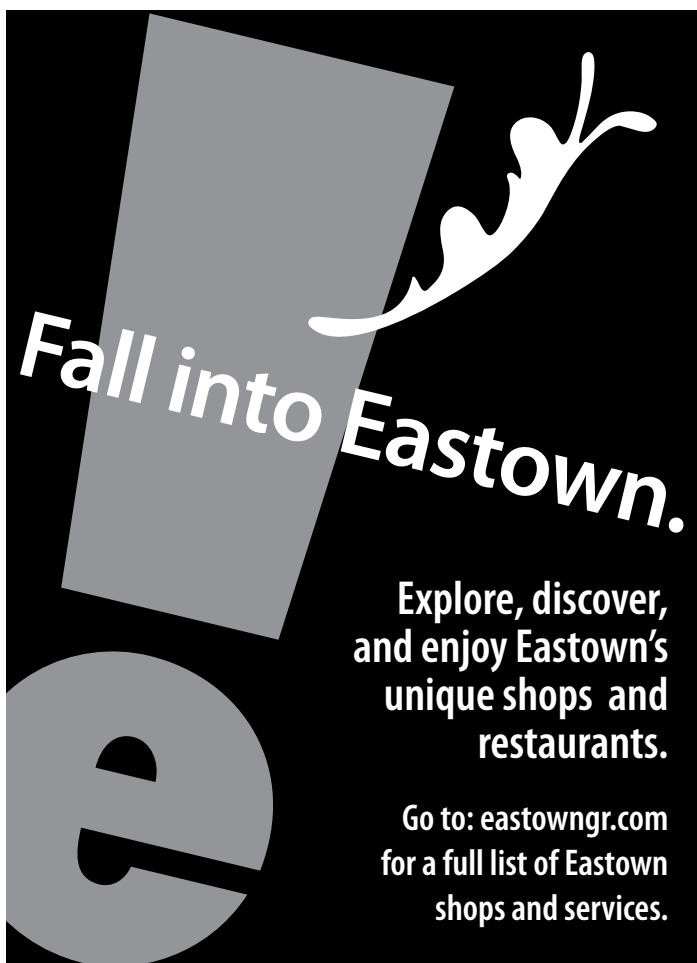
forward to seeing you at the remainder of our scheduled events. Please visit <https://eastown.org> or find us on social media for a full calendar of upcoming events.



EASTOWN!

Schedule of Upcoming Events

September 10 Eastown Streetfair
October 15 Howl-Oween Pawty at Wilcox Park
December 1 Shop Hop and the Eastown Tree Lighting Party



Fall into Eastown.

Explore, discover,
and enjoy Eastown's
unique shops and
restaurants.

Go to: eastowngr.com
for a full list of Eastown
shops and services.

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 <https://eastown.org> website. ♦

Events

- events@eastown.org

Garden

- garden@eastown.org

Bricks and Mortar

- bricksandmortar@eastown.org

Communications & Marketing

- communications@eastown.org

Vote, Vote, Vote!

By Amanda Sterling, Access Contributor

Election season is here, Eastown! 2022 is the first year Michiganders will be casting their votes with the newly drawn districts, so now is the time to check out your sample ballot so you know what to expect when it's time to vote. To access your sample ballot online, go to the Michigan Secretary of State Voter Information Center at the following link <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index> to make sure you're registered and to see what will be on the ballot.

When Proposal 3 was passed in 2018, it gave ALL Michigan voters the option to vote early by requesting an absentee ballot and casting their vote by mail (or returning the ballot to a designated secure drop box). Absentee voting has many benefits. Most importantly, it gives you time to review your ballot at your leisure so you can do further research on the candidates or the proposals if you need

more information. Another benefit of absentee voting is that you don't have to worry about standing in line or taking a chance that some unforeseen event will pop up on election day that prevents you from exercising your right to vote. Voting absentee also frees you up on election day itself so you can step up your civic duty game and serve as an election worker. Check out <https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Services/Apply-to-Serve-as-an-Election-Worker> if you're interested!

There are many states that restrict voting rights for people with felony convictions – Michigan is NOT one of those states. You can still vote even if you have a felony record, are on probation or parole, or are awaiting arraignment or trial. The group Voting Access for All (VAAC) is doing excellent outreach work to help folks exercise their right to vote. For more information, visit www.votingaccessforall.org.

Happy voting, Eastown! ♦



Photo by Amanda Sterling

Kent County Boards, Commissions & Committees Vacancies

The Kent County Board of Commissioners is seeking residents interested in serving the community through appointment to its boards, commissions and committees.

Visit <https://www.accesskent.com/BoardAppointments/viewPostings.action> for current open postings.

Interested residents may view all current vacancies and apply online for appointment by September 30, 2022.

Applicants are able to include a cover letter and professional resume in .PDF file format. For more information, please contact the Board of Commissioners' office at (616) 632-7580.

- Agricultural Preservation Board
- Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan - Advisory Council
- Community Corrections Advisory Board
- Community Health Advisory Committee
- Community Mental Health Authority Board (Network180)
- County Building Authority
- Department of Health and Human Services Board
- Fire Commission
- Foreign Trade Zone Board
- Friend of the Court Citizens' Advisory Committee
- Housing Commission
- Kent County Community Action Advisory Governing Board
- Kent County Family & Children's Coordinating Council
- Kent District Library Board
- Kent Hospital Finance Authority
- Lakeshore Regional Entity Substance Abuse Oversight Policy Board
- Officers' Compensation Commission
- Pension Board
- Remonumentation Peer Review Group
- Veterans Services Committee



HAPPENINGS @ AQ

By Katharina Häusler-Gross, Access Contributor

AQUINAS COLLEGE CONTINUING EDUCATION IS AMONG AWARD FINALISTS

Great news! The West Michigan Women's 2022 Readers' Choice Awards Finalists have been announced, and Aquinas College was nominated by our community as a favorite for Aquinas College Continuing Education Program! To learn more, please visit: <https://westmichiganwoman.com/2022-west-michigan-woman-readers-choice-awards>

We would love the support of our Eastown community and encourage you to help the Aquinas Continuing Education Program win in the Second Annual West Michigan Woman Readers' Choice Awards by casting your vote. Voting is open through September 16 at 5:00 pm.

WACWM FALL SPEAKER SERIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY

Communities by Design

September 29, October 6, and October 13

Join us for this free series on civic ecology hosted in partnership with Kent District Library at their newly opened Ada branch, Thursdays in September and October. We'll host local experts Sister Damien Marie Savino, Ph.D., of Aquinas College, and Dr. Erik Nordman, of Grand Valley State University, then finish the series with Dr. Ken Yocom, of University of Washington.

More information on the series and how to attend can be found at <https://www.worldmichigan.org/fall2022>

AQUINAS COLLEGE SUSTAINABILITY EVENTS

Here are some upcoming events that our Eastown neighbors and friends might find enjoyable. For more details, please contact Jessica Eimer Bowen, Director of Sustainability at eimerjes@aquinas.edu.

Green Tea Tuesday: Featuring Aidan Raffaele

September 20, 2022; 3pm to 4pm; Albertus Hall, Room 127

Join the Center for Sustainability, the Learning Sustainability Committee, and the AQ Department of Political Science for our first Green Tea Tuesday of the year featuring Aquinas College student, Aidan Raffaele. Mr. Raffaele will present the findings of his undergraduate research titled "Addressing Climate Change: An Analysis of the Impact of Local Governance"

Hack-A-Thon: Hack Away at Invasive Species

October 3, 2022; 10am to 5pm

Do what you can, when you can. At this all-day "Hack-A-Thon," volunteers will help remove invasive plant species from AQ's campus. No commitment or registration is required, and you can hop in and out throughout the

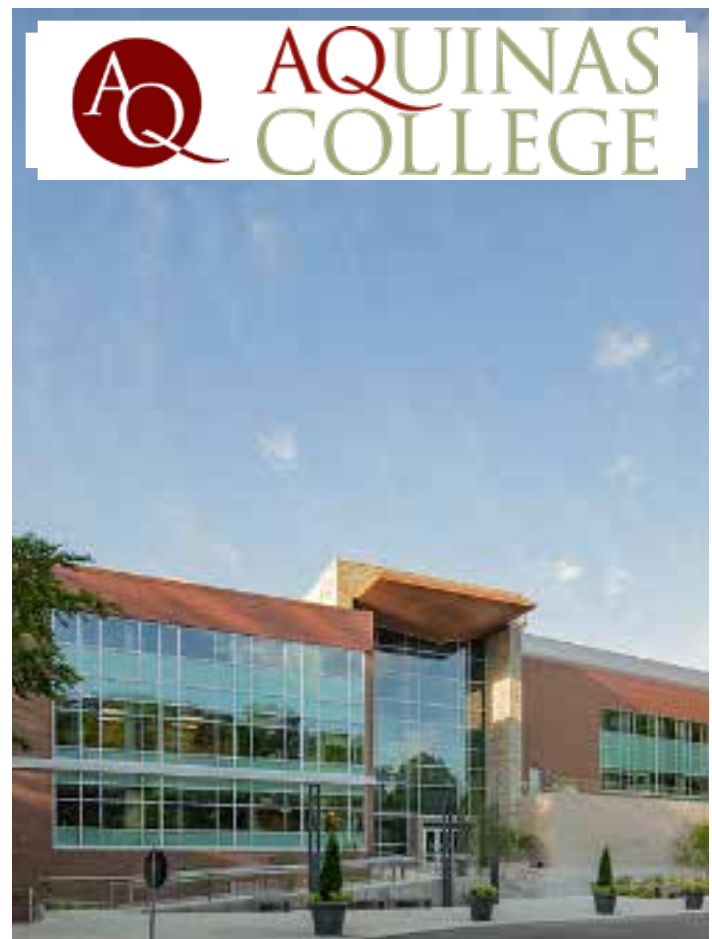
day. At the beginning of each hour (10 am, 11 am, etc.), volunteers will assemble at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Chapel, where you will receive a brief training before removing invasive species in a particular area of campus. Collectively, we need your help to achieve our goal of 100 volunteers by the end of the Hack-A-Thon!

Beautiful Aquinas Campus Tree Tours during Fall 2022

Tour Dates:

Thursday	9/29	3:15 pm - 4:00 pm
Tuesday	10/4	2:00 pm - 2:45 pm
Tuesday	10/11	3:00 pm - 3:45 pm
Friday	10/14	12:15 pm - 1:00 pm
Monday	10/24	3:00 pm - 3:45 pm
Wednesday	10/26	10:00 am - 10:45 am

Tour the beautiful trees on campus and see the fall colors in style...by golf cart! During these 45-minute tours, Ryan Wendt will introduce you to over 75 species of trees and share several interesting facts about each tree. RSVP is required to leaf4tour@aquinas.edu, as each scheduled tour has a maximum attendance of 5 people. Tours will begin outside Campus Safety. Private tours are also available at request by contacting the email above.



Bad Pizza, Functional Zoning, and CO2

By Lee Hardy, Access Contributor

Imagine you're out for dinner with your friends. You order a large pizza. After fifteen minutes of eager anticipation, you are served bare pizza crust on a platter. In a bowl next to it is the mozzarella cheese; in another bowl the green peppers; in another bowl the diced tomatoes; in still another bowl, the mushrooms. You are rightly disappointed. Don't they understand what a pizza is? All the toppings are supposed to be mixed together on the crust. That's what makes a pizza so good: the mix.

Urban theorist Leon Krier once compared the city to a pizza. Just as you expect a pizza to have all the toppings in each slice, so you should expect to find all the basic elements that make for a good city in each of its neighborhoods. You should expect to enjoy a convenient, interesting, and lively mix of housing, office, retail, civic buildings, parks, and squares. Instead, in functional zoning still dominant in urban planning today it was decided that these elements were somehow incompatible and should therefore be physically separated from each other. Hence the housing subdivision in one place, the shopping mall in another place, and the office park in still another. The city hall cast at random on the side of an arterial. The public park way out on the edge, on left-over land. How strange.

The idea that different land uses within a city should be physically separated came from the modernist movement of the early twentieth century. Modernism, generally speaking, was the attempt to do away with the old and, starting from scratch, reconstruct society along strictly rational lines. Modernist architects, as a rule, had no use for traditional cities. Those cities appeared too messy, too irrational, a "picture of chaos," as one of them famously put it. Not fit for the modern age of the car and machine production, of science and efficiency. Best to analytically separate out the distinct functions of a city, siting each in

its most advantageous location as determined by the relevant sciences, and reconnect them all by the high-speed transit now afforded by the automobile.

Generally speaking, cities are built to provide access—access to work, school, home, cultural amenities, goods, and services. The traditional city provides access on the basis of proximity; the modern city was to provide access through mobility. The "means of transport are the basis of all modern activity," according to a modernist manifesto of 1922. And those cities that do not adapt to the means of transport afforded by the motor-car "will be stifled and will perish."

In his work, *The Radiant City* (1935), Swiss architect Le Corbusier, envisioned his urban ideal: "The cities will be part of the country. I shall live 30 miles from my office in one direction, under a pine tree; my secretary will live 30 miles away from it too, in the other direction, under another pine tree. We shall both have our own car. We shall use up tires, wear out road surfaces and gears, consume oil and gasoline. All of which will necessitate a great deal of work . . . enough for all." Corbusier's dream of full employment based on dispersed, auto-dependent development has become in large part a reality in North America after the Second World War—and the nightmare of later generations who find themselves bound to a car and stuck

in traffic. Adults between the ages of twenty-four and fifty-four now spend on average over an hour a day in their cars. That's equivalent to nine work-weeks in a car, per year. If the earth could dream, Corbusier's ideal would be the earth's nightmare as well. Cars account for roughly one third of our greenhouse gas emissions, putting out twenty pounds of carbon dioxide per gallon of gas. That's 300 pounds of CO2 for every 15-gallon tank of gas.

A technical note: One gallon of gas puts out 8,887 grams of CO2. That's 19.5 pounds. I'm rounding up to 20. The reader might wonder how one gallon of gas, which weighs a little over six pounds, can produce close to twenty pounds of CO2. Here's how: cars burn octane, a hydrocarbon molecule composed of eight carbon atoms and eighteen hydrogen atoms. Upon combustion, the molecule is split up and expelled into the air. The hydrogen atoms combine with oxygen atoms in the air to form water molecules (H2O), while the carbon atoms go on to combine with oxygen atoms to form carbon dioxide molecules (CO2). The eight new CO2 molecules together weigh a little more than three times as much as the original octane molecule. That's how we get 19.5 pounds of carbon dioxide out of 6 pounds of gas. According to the EPA, a typical car in the U. S., getting 21.6 miles per gallon and traveling 11,400 miles a year, will produce 4.7 metric tons of CO2 a year. ♦

Le Corbusier's "contemporary city" (1925)



Curb Appeal

By Peter Lewandoski, Access Contributor

There are many positive reasons for having native plants in your yard, even along the curb area between the sidewalk and the road! They're beautiful, provide great habitat for wildlife such as birds and insects, are low maintenance once established, and don't require the chemical fertilizers and herbicides that many other lawns require. They are also beneficial for local water sources such as the Coldbrook Creek.

Coldbrook Creek is an urban stream that is underground in culverts for most of its journey from Reeds Lake to the Grand River (it is above ground through the Aquinas campus, and resurfaces briefly in Highland Park). Because of this, a lot of the water flowing into it comes from storm runoff that enters through the storm grates you see along curbs throughout the watershed, including parts of Eastown. And as you can imagine, much of this runoff contains debris and pollutants and silt. One of the goals of a sound stormwater plan is to reduce the amount of runoff by having the water soak into the ground before it enters the waterway. This is where curbside native plants come into play.

Native plants have developed root systems that are perfectly suited to this task. Their extensive and deep roots are able to absorb vast amounts of water while at the same time holding the soil in place to prevent erosion. This allows water to be filtered and utilized by the plants before

entering the waterway. Urban planners promote this process by directing runoff toward the plants. One way this is accomplished is by the use of curb cuts.

You may have noticed curb cuts in the area, along with native plant gardens next to them. Curb cuts are just that: an area cut out of the curb which allows runoff to flow into the area around the native plant garden. Efforts to install and maintain native plant gardens and curb cuts are promoted by local organizations such as the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (LGROW), which includes the Coldbrook Creek Community and Plaster Creek Stewards. In addition, local organizations such as River City Wild Ones are a great resource for native plant information.

So whether you include a curb cut or not, utilizing native plants in your yard's landscape makes sense. It gives your home some curb appeal!

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. ♦



Photos by Peter Lewandoski

GET INVOLVED

Eastown Streetfair Volunteer Opportunities

By Rion Hollenbeck, ECA Board Vice President

Eastown Streetfair is right around the corner! To ensure this is a successful event, **WE NEED YOU!** We are looking for volunteers interested in helping with planning, setup, and implementation of one of Eastown's most iconic events.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the ECA Events Committee at events@eastown.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. ♦



Join our Mailing List

If you want to stay up-to-date on ECA and Eastown happenings, join our email list. Simply scan the QR code below to sign up!



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September 11 - 11:30am

Blessing of the Animals
September 25 - 10:30am

Trunk or Treat
October 31 - 5:30pm



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 CALDER CITY GROUP

City Homeless Outreach Team

By Dakota Riehl-Davis, ECA Board President

If you engage with a neighbor in Easttown who is unhoused and are concerned about their well-being, please reach out to the City's Homeless Outreach Team.

According to the City of Grand Rapids, the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) started in 2020 as a way to provide COVID-19 education and medical supplies to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Since then, the Homeless Outreach Team has transitioned to a permanent, ongoing outreach unit.

The Homeless Outreach Team is made up of two police officers and two fire/EMT personnel as well as two social workers and two addiction specialists from Network180. Their collective mission is "to preserve health and safety and improve outcomes for homeless persons and our community." These professionals

work to engage with our unsheltered neighbors while also educating and informing local businesses and residents as they work to help resolve issues. They strive to build relationships with individuals experiencing homelessness in order to assist them in obtaining services and finding housing solutions.

HOT can be reached about issues related to street homelessness Monday through Saturday at 616-456-4240 and via email at grhot@grcity.us. Please try to call HOT before calling 911 or the non-emergency police number. Please do not call the police if neighbors are simply making you uncomfortable by experiencing homelessness in public spaces. If a neighbor (regardless of housing status) engages with you in an aggressive or threatening manner, please call 911. ♦

Contact the Homeless Outreach Team at 616-456-4240 or via email at grhot@grcity.us.

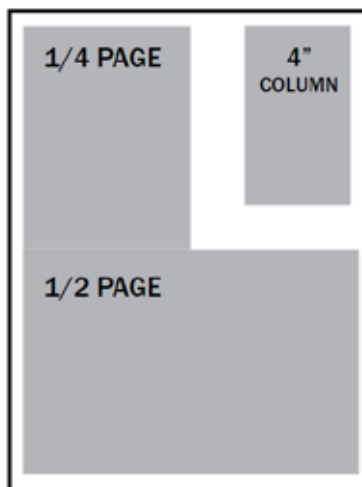
Help Shape the Future of Transportation

Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC), the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Kent and eastern Ottawa Counties, is reaching out to neighborhood associations in our area for help with promoting a survey we are conducting for our 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The 2050 MTP will include transportation plans, projects, and investment priorities for our area over the next 25+ years, and responses to the survey will help us understand the public's transportation needs and inform our future transportation decisions. Students in grades K-12 can participate through a poster contest that asks for the student to draw a picture of what they'd like transportation in their neighborhood to look like in 2050 along with an explanation.

Please visit www.gvmc.org/mtp to learn about opportunities to participate. ♦

Consider Advertising in the Access

The Easttown Access is published six times a year. It is distributed directly to all residents of the Easttown 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://easttown.org>.



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

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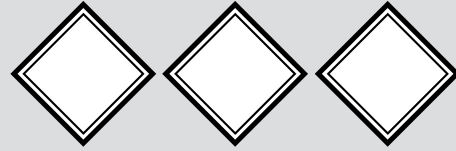
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USEFUL NUMBERS

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

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