



Colonial Village Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes (CVNA)

March 15, 2006

President, Anita Beavers called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Other board members present were Mike Morofsky, Greg Kozac, Thelma Dempsey and Willie Vinson. Thirty-one members and guests were in attendance, including Carol Wood, City Council; Victor Celentino, Ingham County Commission; and Joe McDonald, Mayor's Office.

Lansing Police Department Report: Officer Jason Bock distributed a Lansing Police Department Offense report map which included Moores River Dr to W. Holmes and Waverly to Martin Luther King Blvd. and showed the following offenses for a 30 day period: Two burglaries, two larcenies, and one - damage to property, one multi-crime, one assault, and five damage-to-property reported. Officer Bock said the precinct is planning a meeting in May to discuss area concerns and problems. Date to be announced.

Program: Professor Halloran and Linet Megerdomian, Michigan State University (MSU) Tax Clinic, provided helpful information pertaining to MSU's Tax Clinic services. They also discussed some of the most overlooked Federal and State tax credits available for tax payers, i.e., The Michigan Homestead and Home Heating Credit for both renters and homeowners and the Federal Earned Income tax credit. You don't have to file a full tax return to receive the Homestead or Home Heating Credits. Tax returns can be amended as far back as four years for the Homestead Credit, but not the Home Heating Credit. The Home Heating credit is due December 30. Law students provide services to the community as well as anyone who is being audited by State and IRS, regardless of who prepared the tax return.

New in 2007: You may qualify to file for an energy credit on your 2006 federal return if you have made any major improvements on your home intended to conserve energy. In addition, you may qualify for a special credit on your Michigan return if you make a cash contribution to a homeless shelter or soup kitchen in Michigan.

Professor Hollaran recommended going to the www.irs.gov website for forms and instructional publications. Publication 17 is the best source of information and it is free. Publications and tax forms can be viewed online. Tax software such as TurboTax and others are good because they ask questions to help you prepare your return. However, if you use any of these software packages, be sure to go to their Website and update your software package prior to using them because the companies periodically make changes after sale of the software. Also, when choosing a tax preparer, ask for qualifications. They should be an enrolled agent or CPA. An enrolled agent may not be a tax accountant, but they will have taken classes. How long should you keep your returns? Michigan returns should be kept a minimum of four years. Federal return should be kept a minimum of three years. Professor Hollaran keeps her returns seven years.

The MSU Housing Clinic also provides helpful services to both renters and landlords. Both the tax and housing clinics are there to serve students as well as non-students. Their offices are located at 541 E. Grand River, near the Peanut Gallery, in East Lansing. Phone: 517/336-8088. Website: www.msulawclincs.org/tax.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 15, 2006 and March 15, 2006 meetings were accepted and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Both the February and March treasurer's reports were accepted and approved. Current balance as of today: \$419.27 + \$35.00 donations from the February meeting - \$225.00 Expenses (print cost of brochures).

President Report: A \$25.00 donation to the American Red Cross was approved. A member of the calling list committee, Dianne Krantz, is unable to continue her role on the committee. To volunteer to replace her contact Anita Beavers. 517/882-0015.

Area One: Mike Morofsky said that yard waste pick-up will begin April 3, 2006. He has been successful in taking care of a few code compliance issues with the Code Compliance Officer. Mike has noticed that the new street signs being put up have bigger letters than the old signs. Consequently, the house number ranges have been dropped off the sign. He is concerned emergency vehicles will have trouble finding the right house. Carol Wood interjected that the new signs meet the new Michigan Dept. of Transportation (MDOT) rules to make signs bigger for easy reading. However, because of the larger size, the house number ranges have had to be dropped due to weight. MDOT are currently reviewing other options to include the house number ranges.

Area Two: (Mt. Hope south to Victor and Pleasant Grove to Boston) CVNA is still seeking a volunteer to serve as Area Representative for this area.

Area Three: Greg Kozak asked residents to be on the look out for panhandlers who knock on the door asking for money. Official solicitors will have the proper identification. Ask for credentials and call the Police. Be vigilant about what the person looks like and if driving a vehicle, write down the license plate number. His report also included the incident of a car that hit a house on corner of Hollyway and Boston.

City Council: Carol Wood, Lansing City Council, discussed many of the budget balancing strategies under consideration. Highlights will be presented at Monday night's Council meeting. The meeting is open to the public and will be televised. There will be two informational meetings held in the community. One will be held on Tuesday, April 18 at Foster and the second on April 25 at Gardner Middle School. The budget is scheduled to be passed by the third week of May and will become effective in July. In addition, several new businesses are planning to open facilities in the Lansing vicinity and BioPort has plans that may bring 322 new jobs.

Office of the Mayor: Joe McDonald congratulated Victor Celentino on the work he did on the Waverly Road project. Also, if anyone had suggestions for the Mayor pertaining to the budget to feel free to contact him at (517) 702-4754 or email: jmcdonald@ci.lansing.mi.us.

A press conference was held today to discuss the Neo Nazi Group demonstration to be held at the Capitol. The Mayor's position is to "Win the Day and Stay Away." A celebration of Lansing's diversity is being planned for the same day at Eastern High School. Also on the same day, the Adopt-A-River event is being planned by Impression Five Museum. To show non support of the Nazi demonstration, everyone is encouraged to participate in other activities and stay away from the Capitol.

Ingham County Commission: Victor Celentino reported on the condition of Waverly Road and the status of the work he has done with the Ingham and Eaton County Road Commissions. He was successful in getting the resurfacing of Waverly Road moved from 2010 to 2008. A part of the work, from Lansing Road north to St. Joseph, is scheduled to start this summer. He said it has been a difficult negotiation because Waverly Road and the bridge fall under multiple jurisdictions. However, Ingham and Eaton County Road Commissions, and Public Service agreed on a plan to take care of the Waverly Bridge snow removal.

Announcements:

April 13, 2006 – Neighborhood Flood Committee meeting will be held at Fire Station #8.

June 17, 2006 - Annual neighborhood garage sale

June 17 – 18, 2006 – American Cancer Society's Relay For Life – The Association will be asked to vote on whether to participate during the April meeting.

Tricia Spain, Colwell Banker Real Estate, introduced herself and said she recently returned to the area.

Margaret Bures, a member of the American Association of Consumers Health Care Coalition presented the Michigan League of Human Services Bulletin and asked if the Association would like to subscribe. It is a monthly publication that contains articles on health care issues and cost \$20.00.

The winner of CVNA's Drawing was Joe McDonald. Mr. McDonald donated his prize toward the next drawing.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 PM. The next regular meeting will be held April 19, 2006.