

# WARDCLIFF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN.

East Lansing/Okemos, MI

[www.wardcliff.org](http://www.wardcliff.org) / [www.facebook.com/WardcliffNA/](https://www.facebook.com/WardcliffNA/)

October, 2016



## The Wardcliff Grove

by Esther Onaga



Many members of the Wardcliff School neighborhood have been energized by the idea of planting a fruit orchard near the community garden. This grove would serve to rekindle a “sense of community” in the area amongst diverse citizens in the neighborhood – children, retirees, children with autism who use the Wardcliff building, alumni and retired teachers of Wardcliff Elementary, and possibly area businesses.

The Wardcliff Neighborhood Association and various individuals from Okemos, Haslett, and East Lansing support the idea. A pilot project has been started with five trees, a weeping cherry, two chestnuts and two paw paw trees, that over time would yield fruit to share with the neighborhood and the MSU Food Pantry. A few more trees and berry bushes will be planted in the fall. The weeping cherry tree is dedicated to Laurel Hanson from our neighborhood who passed away last year.



We envision the Wardcliff Grove to be a place for annual alumni gatherings, a nexus for graduates, teachers, and parents with

*Continued:*

fond memories of this place. Thus, we hope the idea of the Grove will be the foundation to renew a sense of community in our neighborhood.

Seed money came from funds donated by colleagues at MSU for Esther Onaga’s retirement. The Hansen family purchased the weeping cherry tree. Several individuals have offered to donate funds to the project. Additional funds are needed to cultivate the plantings, install deer deterrents, soil maintenance, pruning, and provision for replacement trees in case some do not survive.

Anyone wishing to contribute funds to this endeavor may do so by writing a check to “Okemos Public Schools,” and mailing to:

Okemos Public Schools  
The Wardcliff Grove  
c/o Elizabeth Lentz, Director of Finance  
4406 N. Okemos Rd  
Okemos, MI 48864

Please write “Wardcliff Grove” on your check, and include your mailing address, since donors will receive a letter from Okemos Public Schools as a record of the donation for the IRS.

## National Night Out and WNA Ice Cream Social

Tuesday, August 2, 2016



Our National Night Out/Ice Cream Social event went very well this year despite the heat and humidity.

Partnering with the Abilities Center again was wonderful since they were able to provide some exciting games for the children to play. The kids seemed to be having a great time in addition to enjoying ice cream, while the adults were able to socialize with friends they hadn’t seen in a long time.

A special thanks to the members of the Police Department who, assisted by K9 Yukon, kept up the tradition of engaging with the community in the cause of public safety. We were honored to have Chief Dave Hall, Ofc. Ed Besonen, Ofc. Bryan LeRoy,

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## WNA Hosts Primary Election Candidate Forum

The Wardcliff Neighborhood Association (WNA) was pleased to host a Candidate Forum at the Wardcliff School on July 26, 2016. Twelve candidates running for positions on the Meridian Township Board were invited to participate in the Forum to introduce themselves to the Wardcliff community and answer questions from the audience.

Participating candidates for Supervisor were Milton Scales, Ron Styka, and Tom Klunzinger. They were joined by two candidates for Clerk, Brett Dreyfus and Gayelord Mankowski. Treasurer Julie Brixie also attended, as well as six candidates for Trustee: John Veenstra, Brian Czubak, Brett DeGroff, Dan Opsommer, Patricia Jackson, and Phil Deschaine.



Among the issues discussed were CATA’s proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, and problems resulting from high traffic density along the Grand River Corridor between Hagadorn and Park Lake Roads.

All the candidates agreed to work with Wardcliff residents, the Okemos School Board, and the township to re-activate the Wardcliff Elementary School. Other topics of concern were the use of Brownfield credits to support high density mixed use developments in the township, as well as the need for enhanced code enforcement in the Wardcliff neighborhood.

Following the question and answer session, the candidates and attendees had a chance to mingle and discuss issues of interest that impact our township and our neighborhood. It was an enjoyable event, and the WNA board is grateful to the candidates and residents who came out on a pleasant summer evening to take part in the process of selecting the future leaders of township government.

## CATA BRT Meeting for the Wardcliff Neighborhood

By Mike Froh

What is the BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) Project?  
Where does CATA propose to build it?  
How will it affect our neighborhood?

On Thursday, June 23, 2016, the Wardcliff Neighborhood Association sponsored a presentation by the Capital Area Transit Authority (CATA), followed by a question and answer session about the proposed BRT.



CATA's Assistant Executive Director Deb Alexander used a slide presentation to explain what the BRT is and how it will change traffic flow on Grand River Avenue, including the way we would be able to access our homes and local businesses.

For additional information about the BRT project that is being proposed by CATA, the links below will connect to plans for the project, and also to interviews on WKAR radio with both a CATA representative, and with two Meridian Township residents who are opposed to the BRT.

Below is a short video rendering from CATA on how two intersections along the route are currently planned. One is in East Lansing, and one is at Northwind Drive and the entrance to Whole Foods:

<http://cata-brt.org/how-brt-will-work-2/#more-641>

Also below are two interviews from WKAR's *Current State* with host Mark Bashore. Each session is approximately 15 minutes long:

Pro-BRT:

<http://wkar.org/post/cata-data-studies-favor-bus-rapid-transit-plan#stream/0>

Anti-BRT:

<http://wkar.org/post/traffic-business-impacts-worry-bus-rapid-transit-foes#stream/0>



## Meridian Township Police 18th Annual Citizens' Academy

This year's Citizens' Academy is being held from September 8 through November 10, 2016, Thursday evenings from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm at the Meridian Township Police Department.

Residents and business leaders of Meridian Township and Williamstown Township may participate in this informative program.

The goal of the program is to develop more informed citizens and to encourage participation in the Township's crime prevention effort.

Participants will learn about the role of the Police Department in the community.

Some topics covered include:

- Uniform patrol functions.
- Criminal investigations and CSI
- Arrest law and Use of Force
- Traffic and OWI
- Accident investigations
- Narcotics
- Community Policing and Code Enforcement
- Criminal Law and the Michigan Court System
- K9 presentation
- 911 Dispatch Center Tour

Past participants have given overwhelming support for the Academy. The program is free.

For more information, visit the website at <http://www.meridian.mi.us/> or send an email [policeacademy@meridian.mi.us](mailto:policeacademy@meridian.mi.us).

## WNA Cabin Fever 2016

The Wardcliff Neighborhood Association held its 5th annual WNA Cabin Fever event on Saturday, February 27, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This year, the event was held at the new Ellison Brewery and Spirits on Dawn Ave.

WNA members were encouraged to bring food to share, and any neighbors who might be interested in joining the association. This was a wonderful opportunity for people to visit with friends they don't get to see very often.

Membership applications were available at the event and many new members joined.

## National Night Out, *continued from page 1:*

and Ofr. Andy Tobias with K9 Yukon visit our event.

And finally, many thanks to our tireless President who served several varieties of MSU Dairy Store ice cream to all comers for two solid hours in addition to making so many of the other arrangements.

This was one of the most well-attended NNO/Ice Cream Socials we have had. Even the police mentioned how well attended our event was. All in all, a very successful event.

## Wardcliff Neighborhood Assn.

P.O. Box 65, Okemos, MI 48805-0065

[www.wardcliff.org](http://www.wardcliff.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/WardcliffNA/>

### Board of Directors

2016-2017

Christine Beavers	President
Mike Froh	Vice-President
Dave Bueche	Treasurer
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Don Isleib	Director
Kay Lockwood	Director, Newsletter Editor
Esther Onaga	Director
Brian Pillar	Director
Margo Stork	Director

The Wardcliff neighborhood is in Meridian Township, and borders the City of East Lansing to the west, Grand River Ave. on the south, Park Lake Rd. on the east, and Burcham Dr. on the north.

**Links:** <http://www.wardcliff.org/links/>

- Meridian Township <http://www.meridian.mi.us/>
- Meridian Township Police
  - MTPD on Twitter <http://twitter.com/MeridianTwpPD>
  - MTPD on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/MeridianTwpPD>
  - MTPD Blog <http://meridiantwppolice.blogspot.com/>
  - MTPD Neighborhood Watch article
  - [Citizen Online Crime Reporting](#)
- Nixle – Local Community Alerts <http://www.nixle.com/>
  - [Nixle East Lansing Feed](#)
- [Meridian Township Recycling](#)

### Emergency Preparedness

- Ready.gov <http://www.ready.gov/>
- Do1Thing <http://www.do1thing.com/>

### Meridian Township

[Meridian TWP Homepage](#)

[Meridian TWP Parks](#)

[Meridian TWP Board of Trustees](#)

[Meridian TWP Planning Commission](#)

### State of Michigan

[State of Michigan Homepage](#)

### Ingham County

[Ingham County Homepage](#)

[Ingham County Health Dept.](#)

[Ingham County Tax Mapper](#)

[Ingham County Parks](#)