



# WHISPERING MEADOWS NEWSLETTER

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## INTRODUCTION

***“ A Good Community starts with Good Neighbors!”***

Whispering Meadows Homeowners Association, 333 homes serving the WM subdivision of Novi, MI. WMHA’s mission is to protect and promote our member’s interests and the health, safety and general welfare of all our residents. You’re encouraged to share, communicate, understand, interact with neighbors in the WM tradition, respect the rights, privileges, aesthetics and interests of the neighborhood. The Association actively works to connect neighbors to one another and address issues that directly impact them to nourish a thriving, rooted and inclusive WM friendly neighborhood. Do abide, honor and respect our *Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions*. That is, duration of boats, trailers, campers & motorhomes in driveways. No unregistered or commercial vehicles parked in driveways, fences, no above the ground pools, wood piles, sheds, our commons, pond and Sandpoint Lake, unleashed dogs or cats. *If possible* no cars parked in the street it’s a safety issue. The purpose of our WMHA is to preserve and enhance the value of our property, improve the environment and quality of our residential neighborhood/community.

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## GREAT DAY!

The Neighborhood Picnic was a resounding success and a great time was had by all that attended. The unfortunate cancellation of our original scheduled date did not dampen the spirits of all that showed up Sunday. If I were to use the consumption of the food, beverages and ice cream as a barometer of our day. Outstanding would be the word...all the food, gone! All the ice cream, gone! All the beer with the exception of one case, gone! All the wine, gone! Both were returned for credit to our account. The inflatable, horseback rides, petting zoo, Police Cars, Fire Engine all added up to a spectacular event. And, the weather was not bad as well. Thank you all for making it the success it was...

## BE A RESPONSIBLE NEIGHBOR!

The Board is still receiving complaints from members. The topic of concern is care and upkeep of your property. This has never been an issue in WM and it’s disturbing. Do read the CCR’S it explains what you are responsible for as a WM Citizen. **ALL TRASH CANS MUST BE STORED INSIDE YOUR GARAGE OR BEHIND YOUR HOME OUT OF SIGHT!!** **“LOT SHALL BE KEPT FREE OF WEEDS AND WELL MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES”.** **Please maintain your properties appearance and upkeep !** WMHA and our partnership with the NPD continues... Call NPD immediately if you witness *anything* suspicious or uncomfortable! **SCHOOLS OPEN ...Drive cautiously...watch out for our kids and school buses...**

## WHISPERING MEADOWS IN THE FALL

Fall is one of the most beautiful times of the year. We all enjoy the gorgeous palate of Mother Nature’s colors, the crisp smell in the air, and the crunch of leaves beneath our feet. Unfortunately, for Sandpoint Lake and our Commons Pond fall is also a dangerous time. We do our best to keep up with raking leaves but, many end up in the street. When it rains, the leaves break down and release phosphorous. This is natural however, with the leaves decomposing and the rain water draining to the lake and pond are overwhelmed. The excess phosphorous leads to more algae in the summer. So, when you rake, keep the leaves out of the street as much as possible. This will keep our streets and catch basins neat. It will minimize the phosphorous in the water.

## **WHISPERING MEADOWS NEW ENTRANCEWAY SIGN**

I am confident by now we all know that Whispering Meadows was awarded the City of Novi entranceway beautification 2018 Matching Grant Award. The Neighborhood Matching Grant Program established by the Novi City Council provides funding assistance to Novi's Homeowner Associations. The Award is up to \$5,000 toward the final cost of our new entranceway sign. After a lengthy and tedious application procedure and submittal to the Review Committee, the task of recruiting a dependable quality supplier team was at hand. That is, electrical, masonry, sign design and construction and landscaping. After weeks of interviews and research our recruited approved team was in place. The layouts, schematics, design, color coordination, typeface, footings, brick, caps, trees etc. all were finally approved and with the help of our friends at City Hall, all application, fees etc. were approved. The final product was to be completed by August 24th. In time for our picnic. The following team members need a hardy round of applause for the energy, concern, hard work and final results...Congratulations to the City of Novi, Marsh Electric, All Brick Design, Graphic Visions and Blade Runners Landscaping! Our valued partners that made this happen on time and within City guidelines and approvals at every step. The Board approved and retained this team to partner with us to create and implement the new entranceway project. We applaud City Council and the City Manager's Office for their approval and to our Entranceway Sign team congratulations for a job well done! The feedback we have received from you is all positive and the Board is pleased and proud of our new elegant Whispering Meadows entranceway sign!

## **DO'S and DON'TS for FALL and WINTER**

**Do!** Report anything suspicious or uncomfortable...**DO!** Clear your sidewalk of snow and ice within 48 hours following a snowfall...**DO!** License all dogs and cats! **DO!** Report all potholes or unsafe street conditions! **DO!** Store Waste Management trash receptacles in your garage or behind your home, out of sight! **DO!** Keep your garage doors closed **DO!** Leave and outside light on during the night if possible!

**DO NOT!** Park on WM streets during or after a snowfall of 2 inches or more... **DO NOT!** Park on residential streets if at all possible...**DO NOT!** Blow leaves, grass clippings or debris of any kind into the street...**DO NOT!** Shovel, blow or plow snow into the street ...**DO NOT!** Allow your pets, dogs and cats to roam loose off the leash, particularly cats...

## **FROM THE DESK OF OFFICER SCOTT WOODLEY**

**“SEE SOMETHING/HEAR SOMETHING...say Something!”** If and when you see something that is unusual or a suspicious activity, vehicles etc. Immediately report it to the Novi Police Department. We will dispatch a car right away...Trust your Instincts! NPD will handle the problem. (Officer Woodley 248-348-7100 ext.8064/ swoodley@cityofnovi.org)

**NOTE:** Observe the 25 mph speed limit on all streets within the sub-division. Please drive cautiously and obey all School Bus safety rules. Watch out for children walking in the early hours. And, please be careful and look out for Trick or Treaters which is coming soon to your neighborhood...

Always check all doors to be certain they are locked prior to bedtime. Do check garage doors to be certain they are closed! NPD has had several illegal entries via open garage doors and gaining access to the homeowners home via unlocked inside garage doors.

## **BOARD SEAT VACANCIES**

The business decisions that affect Whispering Meadows are made by your Board of Directors. There are no mandatory or specific requirements/credentials needed to be a Board Member. However, your level of interest/area of interest should be complimented by a desire to maintain and elevate the quality of life in Whispering Meadows. It should be noted that the candidate have several years of WM residency. Board Members must consider the community and sub-division as a whole and not have a specific and/or personal agenda. You will have input in creating budgets, improvements, activities and make decisions regarding issues on CCR non-compliances, ACC violations/approvals, review contracts, dues delinquencies, legal issues, insurance, co-op partnerships, generate resolutions, new programs and participate within our committees. The Board meets quarterly to discuss WM business activities and current topics. Five of your neighbors comprise the Board of Directors, individual Committee Chairpersons and Committee Members are as required.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC**

Our Whispering Meadows Neighborhood Picnic was an overwhelming success! Mother Nature did attempt to play spoiler however, a day delay was worth waiting for. Unfortunately the cancellation negated our honored guests attending. That is, our Mayor, City Manager, Police Chief and Communications Director. Our NPD Police and Fire were in attendance complete with sirens, flashing lights and hat giveaways! The inflatable slide, petting zoo and horseback rides added to the fun! The food was terrific! We drank 270 soft drinks, ate 175 hot dogs, 180 tacos and all the brisket! The adults did a good job consuming 9 cases of beer and 3 boxes of wine also...hats off! The clean-up crew filled the trash receptacles and all took home a bag of trash. And, a donation was made to the Novi HS Band with our empty cans...it was wonderful seeing all of the Whispering Meadows residents mingling, shaking hands, taking photos, laughing and just having a great time in the neighborhood. It was good to see long time WM neighbors talking to our new neighbors and seeing the children having so much fun in our commons playground area. It appears based on the turn-out and aftermath of positive comments that our Neighborhood Picnic was a monster success and the Board needs to consider the next Whispering Meadows Neighborhood Picnic...thank you for making it the success it was!

## **WM STREET REPAIRS**

The City of Novi has completed this seasons street repair and for the most part the majority of Whispering Meadows did received some degree of attention. This is a good start however, like you we believe there is much more repair work needed to bring our streets back to a safe, aesthetically acceptable and smooth condition...the way they should be. We are confident that this first phase of repair will continue into next season with another series of repairs to continue the needed finished condition of our streets. We still have many portions of our streets that are considered sub-standard and potentially a safety hazard. The Board will maintain its continued conversation with the City Manager to assure this program does not minimize are ongoing concern for our street repair.

## **WHISPERING MEADOWS DUES INCREASE**

It was inevitable however, with the increased cost throughout our Association responsibilities it has become imperative that we increase our working budget revenue. That is, maintenance, insurance, co-op partnering, utilities, accounting, improvements, activities, legal etc. Consequently, the 10% dues increase will be activated for 2019. Your new dues amount will be \$84.00 just under the allowed increase.

**BACK TO SCHOOL...DRIVE CAREFULLY!**  
**Watch out for our Trick or Treaters!**