

Old Towne Neighbors

Volume V Number 3

March 2002

An invitation from Oryana

From Sharon Flesher

Please join your neighbors at 7 p.m. Thursday March 14 for a private tour of Oryana! This tour is specially designed for Old Towne residents who have never or rarely shopped at the store but the regulars are welcome, too.

Did you know you can buy almost everything on your grocery list at Oryana: produce, milk, cheese, yogurt, bread, canned goods, chips, meat, flour, juice, soap, coffee, pasta, prepared deli foods, and even toilet paper? And much more!

Oryana has the region's largest selection of locally-produced foods, including fresh fruit and veggies from area farms. And you can even buy old-fashioned milk (produced without hormones or antibiotics) in returnable glass bottles from Shetler's Dairy! The primary things missing at Oryana are pesticides and chemicals.

Anyone can shop at Oryana, and the best news for Old Towne residents is that those who walk, bike, ride the bus, or carpool to the store get a 5% discount! Plus, senior citizens get a 5% discount on Wednesdays. We hope to see you there!

Ladies' Night at Brady's

All the women in the neighborhood are invited to join us for pizza and beer or soft drinks. Come at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 25. All of the women in the neighborhood are welcome.

The group is starting a few other activities. Last month 9 of the "Brady's Ladies" met to see the movie *Gosford Park* followed by discussion at Minerva's. We also talked about starting an evening walking group when the sidewalks are safe and clear.

We would like to have more of the Old Towne women come and join us for our growing list of activities.



An organized neighborhood has a stronger voice in the city

February Meeting Notes

John Burgess, winner of the Holiday Outdoor Decorating contest, donated his gift certificate to the association. At the meeting we decided to start an Old Towne portable library with Janet Fleshman as librarian. She will use the money to acquire books and magazines (from Horizon Books, of course) about urban planning, neighborhood development and similar topics. We'll print the list of acquisitions in future newsletters. Anyone will be welcome to sign them out. Thanks, John.

We also discussed a proposal for a 15 mile per hour speed limit in the alleys. While everyone agrees that speeds should be limited, the problem is that the city would have to put up signage in every alley in order for the police to be able to write tickets. However, it would be possible for alleys to have signs if a majority of the residents request them. We decided to have a vote in 60 days to decide whether or not the neighborhood association should support this.

There was more discussion of the Andrews University plan. A committee was formed to begin studying the plan and then determine the best way to

Thursday March 14

7:00 p.m.

Meeting at Oryana

Meeting Agenda

Neighborhood field trip to Oryana Meet at 7 p.m. at the store at Tenth and Lake for our private tour. We won't have a regular meeting so all you people who don't like meetings should come to this.

We want to promote the neighborhood businesses. Old Towne is unique in the mix of residential and retail property and this is a significant strength. How many people today can actually send their children to run down to the store for bread or milk?

Join us for a new sort of meeting.

Old Towne Neighborhood Officers

President:

Barb Rishel 941-0752

Vice-President:

John Snodgrass 935-4316

Secretary:

Mary Pollock 941-5002

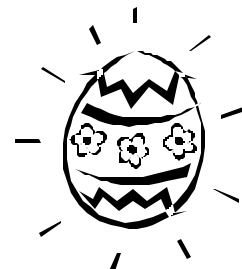
Treasurer:

Juanita Pickett 946-2784

Sector Patrol Officer:

Bob Sadler 947-7784

get the information to everyone. The plan is complex so they will have to summarize it. We would like anyone who would like to become involved in this to contact one of the association officers. Once we have a neighborhood consensus about the parts of the plan that are most important to us, we will go forward with advocating at the city to have our issues included in the master plan.



Andrews University Update

Neighborhood residents attend Andrews University presentation of Old Towne Neighborhood Plan and West Boardman Lake Development

In September, nine Andrews University students and their professor visited Traverse City to research our neighborhood and the west side of Boardman Lake with the goal of developing a neighborhood plan. They spent 10 days staying in homes in our neighborhood, conducting interviews and gathering information. Before they left, they presented a preliminary plan and received input from the public during a forum at the Governmental Center.

On November 13 the students presented their refined, though still preliminary, plans at Andrews University to a group of guest architects who were there to critique their work. Traverse City representatives were City Manager Richard Lewis, City Planner Russ Soyring, City Commissioner Linda Smyka, City Assessor Deb Chavez, and Barb Rishel and Janet Fleshman from Old Towne.

Highlights of the plans included decorative street refinements on Cass and Union and using part of the St. Francis Church parking lot as a "piazza." Boardman Lake Avenue would have housing on both sides and access from both 10th and 12th Streets. Many of the proposed changes were incredibly exciting and showed how creatively these students looked at our neighborhood. Other changes, especially those concerning traffic flow, were advocated by city officials but not by the neighborhood representatives. The most controversial were the connections of Tenth and Twelfth Streets to Boardman Lake Avenue because these would only increase traffic without giving relief to Cass and Union Streets.

Happenings around the Neighborhood

December 10, Monday
City Commission
Governmental Center
8:00 p.m.

December 13, Thursday
Open House
The Village Center
1200 West 11th Street
Trolley from Park Place
5:00—8:00 p.m.

December 17, Monday
Ladies' Night at Brady's
6:00 p.m.

December 23, Sunday
after dark
Decorating Contest Patrol

The proposed street refinements take the form of exposing the brick pavement on Union Street and putting a landscaped median (boulevard) on Cass within the existing curbs and right of way. The center section would have "fixtures" in the middle of the intersection at corners that don't have stop signs. A "fixture," is a vertical element such as a statue or obelisk.

They proposed quite a bit of housing development along both sides of the proposed Boardman Lake Avenue with access to and from the boulevard from both Tenth and Twelfth Streets. There was more than one idea for this development and we hope to have drawings to show at our December meeting. We have some serious objections to connecting 10th and 12th Streets to the boulevard. Neighbors had expressed objections at the presentations in Traverse City and the representatives pointed this out at the presentation in Berrien Springs.

This presentation also left out plans for the pedestrian access to Boardman Lake that was originally proposed. The elevated walkway for pedestrians to cross over the Avenue and access the lake trail had been eliminated.

Some parks that we asked for and that were in the original proposal are missing from the plan. Some of the suggestions the students had included parks but most of them involved obtaining private property.

This plan as it is now would end our hopes for moving arterial traffic from 8th to 14th Streets off of the residential streets. Come to the December meeting and learn more about the plans and their implications.

Janet Fleshman

Remember to ride BATA

Take BATA to the mall and avoid all the parking problems. Buses run every half hour. You can get schedules at our meeting or call BATA at 935-0684

Open House at Building 50A (GT Commons)

The Minervini Group is holding an open house at their new offices in "The Village Center" at 1200 West 11th Street (Building 50A) on Thursday, December 13 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. They sent an invitation to our Neighborhood Association. It's the same night as our meeting but you can go early and take a look at this interesting space. Ride the BATA trolley from the Park Place Hotel if you like. Pick ups will be every half hour starting at 5 p.m.