

Old Towne Neighbors

Volume V Number 5

May 2002

Historic District Designation in Old Towne

The City's Historic District Commission has asked Old Towne to consider becoming a Historic District. The Commission says that many of the houses in our neighborhood are equal to those in areas that are already historic districts in Traverse City.

The Michigan tax law makes the designation valuable. For example, if your SEV is \$70,000 there is a tax credit if you spend a minimum of 10% (\$7,000). It's easy to spend that much in a year on these old houses; just a roof costs more than that. Then you get a 25% credit on your taxes. So of that \$7,000, you get a credit of \$1,750. That's \$1,750 deducted from your tax bill, not your income. If that exceeds your tax obligation, you can carry it forward for up to ten years. That would be a big help to a lot of people who need to improve and maintain their homes.

We have discussed this at meetings before and many people are interested in the idea but have been intimidated by the work involved in getting the designation. Now, however, the Commission is offering to help us get the designation. With their experience and expertise, the process should be easier.

Come to the meeting and find out how we can take advantage of this designation.

Ladies' Night at Brady's

All the women in the neighborhood are invited to join us for pizza and beer or soft drinks. Come to Brady's on Union Street at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 20. This is earlier in the month than usual but Memorial Day is the last Monday.

All of the women in the neighborhood are welcome.



An organized neighborhood has a stronger voice in the city

Annual Yard Sale

Our yard sale will be Saturday, June 1. As in past years, anyone who wants to have a sale can get a sign from Barb Rishel. We have the sale at individual yards or garages, not at a central location, but the neighborhood association pays for the ad in the Record Eagle and puts up signs around the neighborhood. Having a lot of sales in a small area draws in more shoppers, and we have had a lot of success in the past. Let's give the customers a good reason to come to Old Towne

Alley speed limits under discussion at city

On Monday May 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Governmental Center, the City Commission will discuss lowering the speed in the alleys from 25 mph to 15 mph. Try to come to express your views on the alley speed. This is of particular concern if you have small children so we urge you to come.



**Thursday May 9
7:00 p.m.**

St Francis Family Center

Meeting Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Introductions
3. Secretary's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Sector Officer's Report
6. Announcements
7. Historic District
8. Yard Sale Preparation

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

Clean-up this week

The city-wide spring cleanup starts Monday May 6 for the homes on east of Union. Time to get rid of the winter clutter. Sometime during the week, the city will come through collecting bagged or boxed leaves, bundled small branches, auto batteries, household furniture and assorted junk. They will not take tires, oil, or hazardous waste.

For people on the west side of Union Street, the pickup will start May 13.

Old Towne residents active in politics

One of our neighbors, Alice McNally, is running for school board on Monday, June 10. Involvement in the neighborhood leads to a lot of other things. Old Towne has a lot of residents involved in various boards and commissions.