



PINECREST POST



The Newsletter of the East Lansing Pinecrest Neighborhood Association

October, 2004

Halloween Parade

- Sunday, October 31, 4:30 - 5:30
- Gather in the parking lot next to the tennis courts at south end of Winchester
- Parade will proceed north on Winchester (on the sidewalk), then loop through the Fox Hills subdivision and return
- Cider and doughnuts!
- Candy and small prizes for those in costume (even adults!)

EL Ordinances--Clarified

Now that Fall is here, our local Parking and Code Enforcement (PACE) officer, Jose Estrada, reminds us all of a couple of ordinances to keep in mind:

- Keep your bushes and trees trimmed back from the sidewalk so that the walk is clear and has a minimum height clearance of eight feet.
- You may rake your leaves into the area in-between the curb and the sidewalk (**NOT in the street--they really clog the gutters**) at the appropriate time. They do not need to be bagged, just rake them into a pile, and please, at no time is it appropriate to dump leaves or any other type of lawn refuse or clippings into the drainage ditches located throughout the city.

The city's web site gives a more complete list of pick up times and dates. Any questions, comments or concerns can be directed either to Jose (jestrada@ci.east-lansing.mi.us) or to Sgt. Patricia Nowak (pnowak@ci.east-lansing.mi.us OR 319-6840).

BULLETIN

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| Oct 10 | "Sticks, Stones and Steel," fiber art of Martha Brownscombe, at East Lansing Public Art Gallery until Nov. 9 |
| Oct 18 | No-fee yard waste collection |
| Oct 31 | Halloween Parade, 4:30 - 5:30 at Fine Park, Pinecrest Neighborhood |
| Oct 21 | No-fee yard waste collection |
| Nov 1 | No-fee yard waste collection |
| Jan 10 | Pinecrest Neighborhood Association meeting, 7 pm, Pinecrest School |

Restricting Rental Licenses: Should Pinecrest Consider a “Zoning Overlay District?”

Under an ordinance passed by City Council last spring, most neighborhoods near the MSU campus are working on creating “zoning overlay districts” that prohibit new rental licenses. Should the Pinecrest neighborhood—or parts of it—take a similar action?

Briefly, here is how the process works, under Ordinance 1035C. Residents circulate a petition among property owners in their “district” (which could be a subset of the Pinecrest neighborhood). The petition would request one of three forms of rental restriction. These vary from prohibiting any new rental licenses, to prohibiting all new licenses except Class I (which allows an owner-occupier to rent to one roomer). If at least two-thirds of all property owners in the district sign, a petition goes to the City Clerk for verification, and then through a process that may culminate in approval by City Council.

Neighborhoods near campus have shown great interest in the creation of overlay districts, because of a concern that residential neighborhoods might otherwise convert to primarily rentals, with possibly adverse consequences (such as increased traffic and noise) for the remaining owner-occupiers. Now that the overlay district process has begun, none of these neighborhoods seems to want to be the only one left available for new rental licenses.

Given the actions taken by these other neighborhoods, will there be a flood of requests for new rental licenses in Pinecrest unless we also create overlay districts? It is not clear that this will happen. Ordinance 900 already restricts new rental licenses in single-family dwellings to no more than two unrelated individuals, which makes renting (except to families) financially unattractive in most of our neighborhood. A great deal of student rental activity also seems to be moving north of Lake Lansing Road.

Zoning overlay districts will be discussed at the next neighborhood association meeting, January 10, 2005. Watch the Post for further information. More information about Ordinance 1035C can also be found at the city website, cityofeastlansing.com. If you have concerns, you can also contact John Goddeeris at 332-6489 or via email at goddeeri@msu.edu.

ELPNA Officers for 2004-2005

President	John Goddeeris	332-6489
Vice President	Richard Hanna	332-6630
Treasurer	Steve Ueberroth	337-1745
Secretary	Doug Pearsall	332-2231
Memb. at Large	Sharon Cramer	333-8944
Memb. at Large	Ann Marie Schneider	332-4849
Memb. at Large	Kathy Simmons	351-7572