

East English Village

www.eastenglishvillage.org

Celebrating 101 years as a community of choice

December 2015 • Volume 39, No. 12

Outer Dr./Whittier



Cadieux



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President's Message

Season's greetings!

Well the rest of the holidays and the end of the year are upon us once again, and I must say we have had an interesting time celebrating another year of being a neighborhood of choice. As we continue our growth into the New Year, we are adding some new residents to the team in various ways and we couldn't be more excited!

We have another great year ahead of us with additional renovated properties, new neighbors, and a new 5th Precinct Police station located at Conner and Mack Avenue that is finally opening this month. Please join us at the January General Meeting as we roll the 2016 year out in calendar form. The January meeting will focus on 2016 March Tax Foreclosure Prevention in EEVA.

With the winter months here, please check on your neighbors and remember all pets must be cared for at all times outside. Please keep that

shovel handy to take care of the snow but also if you are walking your dog please take a bag with you to take care of business along your walk through your neighborhood. No one likes surprises when the snow melts.

EEVA continues to work with the City of Detroit's BS&E and DPW to help clean up properties and to maintain our properties including rentals. REMEMBER there is no more landscape and leaf bag pickup dates this year. DPW Christmas tree pickup runs from January 2 through January 16.

In November we held our annual elections – I am proud to say many of your neighbors came back for another year of hard work, planning, and volunteering in some shape or form, and we welcomed several others to continue our mission to make EEVA a continued neighborhood of choice. Please remember we

are volunteer neighbors and need your help and support each day. We are in this together as a team – thanks to all the team players!

I would like to thank all our residents for a year of positive participation and caring about when and how we live together in a unique part of the city we call home. However you celebrate the holiday season, I hope it's filled with peace, good will and harmony and that all of you have a chance to enjoy the season at heart.

We hope to see you at the Village Holiday Party on Dec. 5. You must RSVP by Thursday, December 3 at 5 p.m. to events@eastenglishvillage.org or call Misty @ 313-377-8915. We will do our best to accommodate but RSVP reservations secure a spot. See Page 2 for details.

Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah! Happy Kwanzaa!
Bill Barlage,
President



Event calendar

- Dec. 2:** 5th Precinct Police-Community Relations Council - 7 p.m., Samaritan Center, 5555 Conner St. Pot luck and hats, socks, gloves/mitten collection
- Dec. 3:** Trash pick-up only
- Dec. 5:** EEV Holiday Party 5-8 p.m. (residents only) St. Clare Montefalco, 1406 Whittier (at Mack).
- Dec. 10:** Bulk trash, recycling, trash pickup
- Dec. 16:** Senior Luncheon - 12:30 p.m. Bethany Christian Church. See Page 3 for details.
- Dec. 17:** Trash pick-up only
- Dec. 24:** Bulk trash, recycling, trash pickup
- Dec. 25:** Merry Christmas!
- Jan. 2-16:** Christmas tree pickup

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East English Village information

Officers

President: William Barlage, 884-0554, president@eastenglishvillage.org
 1st Vice President: Dana Politi-Rashid, vicepresident1@eastenglishvillage.org
 2nd Vice President: Joe Rashid, vicepresident2@eastenglishvillage.org
 Treasurer: Pat Blount, treasurer@eastenglishvillage.org
 Secretary: Ursula Adams, secretary@eastenglishvillage.org

Street representatives

Outer Drive/Whittier: Harry Davis, 882-3169; odwhittier@eastenglishvillage.org
 Chandler Park: Barbara Pitts, 926-1838, and Darnell Adams, 313-218-2427 chandlerpark@eastenglishvillage.org
 Kensington: kensington@eastenglishvillage.org
 Yorkshire: Kim Taylor, 575-2253; yorkshire@eastenglishvillage.org
 Bishop: Curtis Bibb, 492-8879, bishop@eastenglishvillage.org
 Grayton: Lil Cortese, grayton@eastenglishvillage.org
 Harvard: Tracy Peters, Sue Bourgeois, harvard@eastenglishvillage.org
 Cadieux: Kenneth Johnson, 647-9573, cadieux@eastenglishvillage.org

Committees

Residential Chair: Kathy Roddie, 882-1646; residential@eastenglishvillage.org
 Vacant Property Upkeep and Code Enforcement: code@eastenglishvillage.org
 Garden Club: David Teeter, 640-7627, gardenclub@eastenglishvillage.org
 Paid Security and Volunteer Safety Patrol: Gwen Wee, 310-7110, security@eastenglishvillage.org
 Senior Services: Susie Rookard, seniorservices@eastenglishvillage.org
 Commercial Chair: commercial@eastenglishvillage.org
 Recycling: Fred Vitale, recycle@eastenglishvillage.org, 580-4905
 Newsletter Editor: Maureen

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 Lost Pets: Karlene Trump, 882-2579, pets@eastenglishvillage.org
 Bike patrol: Fred Vitale, 580-4905
 Welcoming/Hospitality: Bee Davis, welcome@eastenglishvillage.org
 Seasonal Maintenance: Walter Strong, maintenance@eastenglishvillage.org
 Webmaster: Nancy Brigham, webmaster@eastenglishvillage.org

Mailing address

P.O. Box 241009, Detroit, MI 48224

**EAST ENGLISH VILLAGE
 HOTLINE:**

313-216-1729

association@eastenglishvillage.org

FOR EMERGENCIES CALL 911.

Note: If you have questions or wish to volunteer for one of the committees, please use the appropriate email address listed here or call the EEV message line, 313-216-1729.

Crime reporting: dpded.betf@yahoo.com

Travel w/EEV Newsletter & Pet of the Month Articles Coming in 2016

We are planning to reintroduce a couple of articles beginning in January 2016.

If you are traveling, plan to take along your EEV Newsletter and have a photo (or selfie) showing you



w/the newsletter. It could be published in a future newsletter. Also, we know that there are lots of beloved pets that make up our EEV community. Please submit a photo and brief description or comment about your furry family member. (Submit via newsletter@eastenglishvillage.org)

East English Village residents

are cordially invited to join us for the

2015 EAST ENGLISH VILLAGE HOLIDAY PARTY

5-8 p.m. Saturday, December 5

Saint Clare of Montefalco Church – Lower Level

An amazing dinner will be provided on behalf of the East English Village Homeowners Association. We ask that you bring the following to share:

Desserts and appetizers are requested by street
 Harvard/Cadieux-Appetizer • Grayton-Dessert
 Bishop-Appetizer • Yorkshire-Dessert • Kensington-Appetizer
 Outer Drive/Whittier/Chandler Park Drive-Dessert

Please RSVP to events@eastenglishvillage.org by Dec. 3
(Please specify street name, number of adults and children attending)

**FOR QUESTIONS OR TO VOLUNTEER,
 PLEASE CONTACT EVENTS@EASTENGLISHVILLAGE.ORG**

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Pet corner

Make it a paws-atively perfect holiday

Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years - my goodness, will the festivities never end? This certainly is a joyous AND stressful time of the year. Add the pressure of gift buying, giving, and receiving, and is there any time left for Fido & Morris? THEY certainly hope so. Excitement is contagious, and you may notice that your pets are ready and willing to join in the good times. This may be acceptable to a certain degree, but remember to keep safety foremost in your plans to include them.

CANDLES - Open flames are dangerous to swishing or wagging tails. Please, NO unintentional

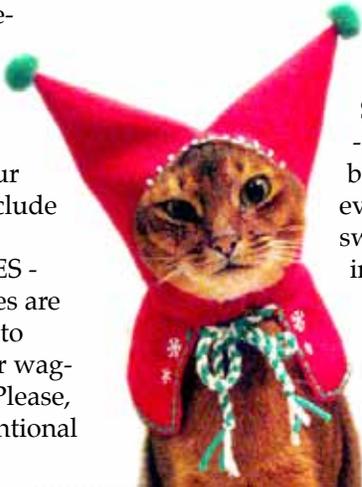
fire accidents to life or property!!!

TINSEL, LIGHT STRINGS, ETC. - Cats can eat or chew through them, and a visit to the emergency vet is both expensive and can throw a real damper on any seasonal joy.

CHRISTMAS TREES Unless firmly anchored, they can be toppled by a tree climbing critter, like that curious cat that seems to get into everything!

CHOCOLATE, ALCOHOL, & ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS - All of these can be harmful and even lethal to your sweet unsuspecting pets.

SO, please have a wonderful Christmas and holiday season, but keep your





EEV PET REGISTRATION FORM
Please register your pet with the EEV Association! If lost pets are found in the neighborhood, registration will help us to identify the animal and contact the owner.

Resident Information

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Telephone#: _____
 Email: _____

Pet Information

Type/Breed: _____
 Size/Name: _____
 Age/Sex/Color: _____
 Veterinarian's Name: _____
 Vet Telephone#: _____

**Mail form to Pet Registration, PO Box 21009, Detroit MI 48224
 or email this information to pets@eastenglishvillage.org
 If you find a stray animal or lose your pet,
 call the EEV Lost Pets contact Karlene Trump 313-882-2579.**

four-legged family members safe as well. And, to all the cats, dogs or other pets that are chained in your back yards, or left to fend for themselves, please show

some extra holiday spirit and make the season special for them too. Till next month, God's Blessings to all!

— Karlene Trump

Celebrity residents to perform in holiday shows

David Teeter will be singing with the Detroit Together Men's Chorus in their Holiday extravaganza, "Wreck the Halls" on Saturday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m., at Lamphere High School in Madison Heights. The concert will include classical, jazz, gospel arrangements and music just for fun. Check the website, dtmc.org or contact David

for tickets.

Michael Ameloot is flying his kite in Mary Poppins, with Stagecrafters at the Baldwin Theater in Royal Oak. The show runs Thursday through Sunday, from Nov. 20 through Dec. 20. It is a perfect holiday show for kids and adults. Tickets are available at the Stagecrafters website, or the theater box office.

Senior Day Out luncheon

(Co-sponsored by EEV and Bethany Christian Church)
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 12:30 p.m.

Come celebrate the holiday season at our Christmas Senior Luncheon. Entertainer Jim Ayres will provide a musical Christmas program and Kevin Council will prepare our meal. We will have a festive time together on Wednes-

day, Dec. 16 at 12:30 p.m. at Bethany Christian Church. Please RSVP by Friday, Dec. 11 so we can prepare an adequate amount of food at 313-885-0909.

We want to thank Connie Peecher of EEV who prepared a superb Thanksgiving dinner for our November luncheon and Shirley Davis of EEV who made great sweet potato pie.



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EEV to hold tax foreclosure prevention clinic

It's that time of year again, when the yellow leaves of autumn rustle on the wind—and the yellow bags marked “tax foreclosure” flutter on our doorknobs. Thousands of doorknobs, all across the city.

Though East English Village is in better shape than most neighborhoods, the web site Why Don't We Own This? reports that 286 EEV homes are at risk of foreclosure on property taxes from 2013 and earlier. If those families are forced from their homes, the resulting fire sale of their property will further depress the value of neighboring houses, especially when empty homes are stripped by scavengers.

The damage caused over the last ten years by the city's foreclosure crisis is staggering: 140,000 Detroit homeowners have been foreclosed since 2005, representing one-third of all Detroit homes. Many were victims of predatory lending who couldn't afford ballooning mortgage costs, and many more since 2009 have been forced from their homes by tax bills based on wildly inflated assessments. Whatever the cause, the result is the same: of 84,000 houses on the city's blight list, 76% were foreclosures.

Fixing the broken tax system will require collective action and public recognition that hardship, not freeloading, is the primary driver of the crisis. According to the survey conducted this year by Motor City Mapping, 89% of the occupants in homes facing tax foreclosure have

experienced a loss of employment or wages, medical emergencies, a death in the family, or divorce.

EEV Tax Foreclosure Prevention Clinic

EEV is scheduling a tax foreclosure prevention clinic for January with staff from the United Community Housing Coalition. UCHC is a non-profit organization that advocates for homeowners and tenants in Detroit. It helps owner occupants negotiate payment plans with the county and apply for primary residence exemptions, state emergency relief, and poverty exemptions that reduce future taxes. Tenants whose landlords are in foreclosure can also get help. The clinic we held last winter with UCHC at St. Clare church helped many area families save their homes.

We'll be announcing the date for this January's meeting shortly. In the meantime, people can go directly to UCHC's Detroit office every Monday, Wednesday, or Friday morning, 9:00 am to noon, on the 3rd floor of 2727 Second Avenue in Detroit, located on Cass Park between the Masonic Temple and Cass Tech.

These are the kinds of issues UCHC will address:

Pay back taxes ONLY to Wayne County. DO NOT pay them to the city, which will only credit your payment to current taxes. The county treasurer has sole responsibility for back taxes and will not retrieve money mistakenly

paid to the city.

Taxpayer Assistance from the County. There are several programs that homeowners can access on line at wayne-county.com/treasurer/761.htm. One of the more favorable is the Distressed Owner/Occupant Extension: homeowners in financial hardship can get a one-year extension on paying back taxes if the unpaid taxes go back no further than 2013.

Reduction in Penalties and Cap on Back Taxes. State law allows the county treasurer to lower the punitive interest charged annually on unpaid taxes from 18% to 6%, representing a sizeable savings for owner occupants. The law also allows the county to cut accumulated back taxes on some owner-occupied homes to no more than one-quarter of the home's market value. Unfortunately, the Treasurer has so far chosen to restrict access to this “cap” program and to push people into more expensive “Special Payment Agreements.” We need to change this!

Show Cause Hearing at Cobo Hall. The Wayne County Treasurer's office will notify homeowners facing tax foreclosure of the Show Cause hearing in late January and early February where they can pay back taxes or commit to a payment plan. Staff from United Community Housing Coalition will be on hand to advocate for homeowners.

Tax Re-Assessment. Bu-

reaucratic inertia and state law have driven thousands of Detroiters to foreclosure in recent years on the basis of highly inflated assessments. Homeowners can apply to the city assessor (8th floor of the Coleman Young Center) for a re-assessment in the first two weeks of February. For an excellent six-page guide on the process, go to the web site of the Historic Boston-Edison Association at: historicbostonedison.org/appeal.shtml.

In the past, the city has rejected most appeals because the assessor uses a very small sample of comparative prices that excludes sales of foreclosed properties. Mayor Duggan has called for an alternative reassessment process that some critics still regard as too slow and too small to stem the immediate crisis. Housing activists are calling for a halt on foreclosures of occupied homes until a city-wide re-assessment sets their taxable value at realistic levels and cancels back taxes based on inflated assessments.

After all, demolishing empty homes only addresses the symptoms of our city's crisis, not the cause. Until the system is fixed, we need an emergency halt to all foreclosures of occupied homes.

For more information, go to: <http://www.eastenglishvillage.org/>; <http://detroitevictiondefense.org/>; and <https://make-loveland.com/taxes15/mi/wayne/detroit/east-english-village#b=neighborhoods>

– Steve Babson

Holiday season safety tips

Investigator Brian Fountain (the Detroit Police Department's Icon in Crime Prevention) shares the following Holiday Safety tips – well worth reading and sharing these key suggestions with family and friends. Thanks again, Investigator Brian Fountain!

- Never put gifts in your car and leave them unattended. If you have to go back into the mall...move your car to the other side of the mall
- Try to use debit cards when possible
- Use valet when shopping or use mall escorts to walk you to your car
- Never park your car near the outer reaches of the parking lot...this is where the crimes are happening. Look around before you enter or exit your car
- Never take large purses with you to shop...you will become a target
- Shopping On-Line - Safe web pages have HTTPS at top. The 'S' = SECURE
- Get your gas during rush hour or in the morning when people are going to work...never at night
- ATM, Gas Stations - if you see anyone loitering or looking suspicious, keep going
- Never drive too close to the car in

front of you so you won't get boxed in - allow enough room to pull out. If someone bumps your car and you have a BAD feeling, go straight to the police station

- Never resist if a gun is produced during a robbery...give them your stuff
- Be mindful of your alcohol intake during holiday parties - rule of thumb is

one drink per hour

- Plug your space heater directly into wall. Electrical cords should be U.L. approved
 - Have a company "sweep" your chimney if you have not used it regularly during the last two or three years
- IMPORTANT:** Your safety is law enforcement's first priority!!



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Witches and goblins and skeletons . . . OH MY!



1st Place: 3479 Bishop

The excited faces and shrieks of the children (and some adults!) from our EEV neighborhood and beyond were well worth the effort it took to transform our beautiful Village into a Halloween Haven with tombstones, skeletons, ghosts, goblins, witches and more!

Congratulations to the top three winners of the 2015 EEV Halloween Decorating Contest. Each of these homeowners received a candy dish filled w/goodies! We're also very

proud of our Fifth Precinct Halloween Float which delivered lots of candy and costumes to area children. Great work and energy displayed by our local officers and so many residents who contributed to this project.

Sincere thanks to all the residents – owners and renters – who creatively decorated their homes to make our East English Village a special and fun-filled neighborhood for all of the residents – the young and the “young at heart” alike!

2nd Place:
3924
Harvard



3rd Place: 6154 Yorkshire

Honorable Mentions:

- 3453 Cadieux
- 3900 Yorkshire
- 3964 Harvard
- 4153 Yorkshire
- 5975 Bishop
- 16836 Chandler Park Drive

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Spirit of Detroit 2016 calendars on sale

Last year's sale of "Spirit of Detroit" calendars for the Three Mile Block Club was so successful that we're bringing out a new edition this year. The calendar is filled with images that show the heart and soul of Detroit at its best. For only \$10 you'll be reminded every day of what's good about the city and its people. Remember, they make great gifts for friends and family who may have left the city but still feel its pull.

All proceeds from the sale are used to fight blight by boarding up houses and maintaining vacant lots and lawns on Three Mile. (If you've driven down our street lately, you'll know that there's a lot of maintenance to do!)

If you'd like to order one or more calendars, email Susan Newell at sdnewell50@gmail.com.



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(East English Village Newsletter)



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2nd Monday – 9-10:00 a.m. – Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center – in the jury room around back. 20025 Mack

3rd Monday – 9-10:00 a.m. – Grosse Pointe Park City Hall – 2nd level – 15115 Jefferson at Maryland

3rd Monday – 6-7:00 p.m. – Tim Horton's – 19353 Vernier across from Eastland

Last Monday – Noon -1:00 p.m. - Montclair Library – 14100 Kercheval at Eastlawn

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Garden Club update

The EEV Garden Club celebrated the end of the gardening season with their Annual Potluck Celebration on Sunday, November 1. We enjoyed delicious food and talked about future plans for the Club. We especially thank our hostess this year, Michelle Williams.

The Garden Club will be trying something new next year, with some Winter meetings. Our first meeting of the year

(perhaps in late January) will be an opportunity for members to share their favorite garden books or magazines. Other topics for 2016 include: "Rain Gardens," "Worms and Compost," "Creating Raised Beds" in addition to garden tours. EEV Neighbors are welcome to join and share. Call David at 640-7627 or email to teeterdavid4@gmail.com.

- David Teeter

Give a gift to the Alger

What to get for the person on your holiday list who has everything or a dear friend from the neighborhood? How about some Alger-branded merchandise or an Alger membership!

We have clear plastic water bottles with a new Alger logo in red with a gray top. Fill that with red and white gumballs for every kid on your list and you will be the coolest relative this year. Adult and

kid t-shirts with an historic theater photo are also available. Memberships start at \$35 and include entry into membership-only events for a year.

For more information, contact the Friends of the Alger at friends@algertheater.org or come to the "I'm Dreaming of a No-Blight Christmas" Gingerbread House Auction on Saturday, December 19 beginning at 7:30 pm.

- Helen Broughton



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Bethany Christian Church

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

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Security and volunteer patrol

As temperatures fall we see less outside activity: fewer people doing yard work, car repairs or fewer conversations across yards or over fences. However, this does not imply we lessen our alertness to what's happening around us. Safety measures need to be an integral part of our daily routines.

Back in the 1980's Detroit was plagued with fires around Halloween: 600! Citywide Angels Night Volunteer Patrols began around 1990. This year, 2015, Detroit had the lowest three-day fire count in decades: 28. Can we say it was volunteer patrolling alone that improved the city's safety levels? Who can say? But no one can argue the facts - 2015 fire statistics are much better than 1990.

Every October 29 and 30, EEV holds its Annual EEV Angels Night Volunteer Patrol and Potluck. This year, 2015, had the best turn out ever! Having multiple cars "driving the village" was not only an increase in obvious vigilance, but many people actually took the opportunity to see what a beautiful community we are. Also, the potluck dishes were terrific. Sincere thanks to all who drove, contributed a dish, turned on their porch lights, watched the street in front of their house or called with well wishes.

Please consider continuing

these efforts by joining the (year-round) EEV Volunteer Driving Patrol. If more residents would take on an hour a week, a couple hours a month, or "x" number of hours based on your individual schedule, it would make a difference. FYI: EEV has a Bike Patrol for warmer weather. For questions, details, please contact Gwen (see below).

If you have questions about participating in

other EEV community activities - like block captains, safe school routes, senior services, or other neighborhood concerns - please speak up. Remember, the only dumb question is the one left unanswered.

DUSK TO DAWN - PORCH LIGHTS ON!

Gwen Wee, Security and EEV Volunteer Patrol
 security@eastenglishvillage.org
 313.310.7110

Security and snow

Thanks to all the neighbors that continually support our fabulous services. Please feel free to make your payments at the monthly town meeting. The Treasurer is always at the back table. Please include your email address to receive your receipt. Email any questions to treasurer@eastenglishvillage.org.

- Pat Blount



EEV Community Services CONTRIBUTE NOW

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Payment Amount _____

Email Address _____

Security Patrol Private security patrol puts a security driver and flashing light on EEV streets to deter and report crime. More contributors = more patrol hours. The charge is **\$100 per household (\$75 for seniors 62 and older) each year.** New Renewal

Snow Plowing Snow removal of EEV is not a free service and is not done by the City of Detroit. Everyone who uses the roads in EEV is needed to help keep them clear during heavy snow fall. The charge is **\$35 per address per year.**

General Fund Donations to the general fund support free community events like light supper before meetings, Home Tour and Garage Sale. Any amount contribution is welcomed!





Security contributions can be made in quarterly installments!

Checks: East English Village | P.O. Box 241009 | Detroit, MI 48224

Credit Cards: Visa, MC, AmEx, Discover at www.eastenglishvillage.org

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