

# October 2023

NORTHFIELD HILLS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION

## the View from the Hills



### Inside this issue:

- Troy Fire Department Open House 2023
- Michigan Farm Produce
- Mary Ann's Cats (Adoption Needed)
- Sweetest Day
- Running Wild
- Adopt-A-Shelter-Dog
- Winter Readiness Tips



### The View from the Hills Staff

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### Editorial Policy

*The View from the Hills* is a publication for the residents of Northfield Hills Condominium Association compiled and published by its staff, which serves on a voluntary basis. The *View* is published monthly except January and August. Any resident of Northfield Hills is eligible to join the *View* staff in the variety of tasks related to publishing a newspaper.

*The View from the Hills* welcomes comments, suggestions and articles from its readers. All materials submitted for publication in the *View* must be true, factual and newsworthy. The staff reserves the right to hold items from publication pending validation of facts; and also reserves the right to decline advertising copy.

Where items are of a critical or controversial nature, the editors reserve the right to solicit comments from those with opposing viewpoints.

Opinions expressed on these pages do not necessarily reflect those of the *View* staff, Board of Directors, Committees, Association Management employees or our advertisers.

Materials submitted for publication must be given to the receptionist in the Clubhouse and must include his/her signature and name in print.

**No material will be accepted for publication in the upcoming issue after the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication.**

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AMI Fax .....586-739-6006  
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**Clubhouse Address:**  
**Northfield Hills Condo Assoc**  
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**Troy, MI 48098**

### Clubhouse Hours:

**Mon-Fri 9 AM--10 PM**  
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**Sunday 11 AM--5 PM**  
**Sunday 11 AM--10 PM from**  
**Memorial Day weekend**  
**through Labor Day**

### NHCA Website:

[northfieldhillsoftroy.com](http://northfieldhillsoftroy.com)

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# Condo Corner

October  
2023

## Welcome New View Advertiser

~ Private Violin Lessons ~

Please patronize all of our View  
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## GET READY

NHCA Garage Sale  
Saturday, October 7th

Gather your  
treasures and sell  
them at our  
upcoming event.



## REMINDER: DROP OFF CANDY NOW

Without resident  
donations of candy, there  
would be no Trick or  
Treating  
at the Clubhouse.



## Early Reminder

Daylight Savings Ends  
November 5th



## October Movie Night

October 14th

@ 7PM

October Movie: "Book Club  
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## NOTICE TO ALL PET OWNERS

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# THE COMMUNITY VIEW

At our Board of Directors meeting last night a very conscientious, great homeowner told us how much she does to make her condominium look nice. She plants flowers, pulls weeds in between the times that the association does and keeps her patio looking nice. While on walks, if she sees trash, she picks it up. In other words, she is the kind of owner we wish everyone within our community would be like. There are more people like her living here, than are not. However, the ones that are not can really bring down the aesthetics of the Association. It doesn't take much time to make your surroundings look good.

In the last few weeks, I have written 20+ letters to homeowners that have left items in their front yards like bikes, scooters, kid's toys, trash cans, recycling bins, snow shovels (in the summer) etc. This is against our Bylaws and makes our Northfield Hills community look trashy.

After your garbage has been picked up by our sanitation company, trash cans need to be put into either your patio or garage, if you have one.

We understand that kids play on their bikes and/or toys during the day and are in and out of their homes. However, when it's nighttime and everyone is in for the evening, the toys must go into your condo, patio or garage. Do not leave them out overnight.

We have put in many flyers, Bylaws that state you must park in your garage (if you have one), which are ignored time and time again. To make it worse, people leave their garage doors open and we can clearly see that they couldn't fit a bike in there, let alone a car.

When rules are not followed, you will first receive a letter stating the violation. If the violation continues to be ignored, a \$50 fine will be levied. If the rules continue to be broken your fine will then increase to \$100. In the event the resident continues to violate stated rules, the next fine will be increased to the amount of \$500. We don't like doing this, but we are left with no other choice.

When people see others leaving things out, not parking in their garages, not cleaning their patios, it becomes contagious. How about making the opposite contagious!

Kathleen Deburghraeve





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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION (FYI)

- ☺ Autumn is a good time to review some City of Troy information for those new residents to the area. In Northfield Hills our scheduled trash/recycle pickup day is Monday. If one of the following holidays falls on a Monday, then items will be picked up the next day, i.e. Tuesday. Please make note of those days there will be no pickup.

New Year's Day  
Memorial Day  
Independence Day

Labor Day  
Thanksgiving Day  
Christmas Day

- ☺ **Court Letters and Numbers**

Please make sure you let friends, repair people, contractors or any one new coming to your home, your Court Letter or Court Number. You also should let them know which entrance off Northfield Parkway they should enter from. This will help your visitors arrive on time with less frustration!



- ☺ **Walkers**



A quick reminder for those walking at dusk or later at night. Wear light colored clothing and/or carry a lighted flashlight. This is important, as with the sun setting earlier, many drivers will be on the road when it is dark. In addition, this always includes reminding drivers to slow down – an all year long NHCA reminder.

- ☺ **Fall Outdoor Cleanup**

Whether you are a fall and/or spring garden cleanup person, most know fall is a good time to check out your patio for weeds, dead plants, empty plastic plant pots, trash or a general mess. If you are able to see it, your neighbors do too. Take some time to spruce it up now before the cold weather is here and snow flies. You'll have less to do in the spring!

# THERE IS STILL TIME TO ***FALL*** IN LOVE WITH A NEW HOME BEFORE 2024



*Right now* is the time to get the most money for your condo! We have many interested parties that want to live in *Northfield Hills!*

**CALL US!**

## **THE PROPERTY STRATEGISTS**

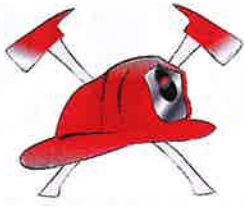
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## TROY FIRE DEPARTMENT

### OPEN HOUSE 2023

**October 8<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 PM**

In the City of Troy and across the US, Fire Prevention Week will run from October 2<sup>nd</sup> through October 8<sup>th</sup>. The Troy Fire Department will be having its annual Open House on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 PM, in which all six fire stations will be open to the public.

At each of the six stations, there will be activities, demonstrations, and refreshments. Bring the kids for a day filled with fun and important information for you and your family.

For more details go to [www.troymi.gov/fire](http://www.troymi.gov/fire).

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## TRICK OR TREATING

### AT THE CLUBHOUSE

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup>**

The clubhouse staff and volunteers will be passing out candy on Halloween night from 6 to 8 p.m. If you would like to give children candy but do not want to pass it out from your condo, just drop your candy off at the clubhouse. When you drop off your candy, pick up a sign to place on your door on Halloween evening which states: "My candy is at the clubhouse."

All items donated to be given out, such as candy, chips, popcorn, cookies, drink boxes etc., **must be store bought, wrapped and/or packaged for individual use**. No open bags or loose unwrapped candy will be accepted to keep our children safe.



# NEW CLIENTS

## ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

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1591 Brentwood	3 Bed	1.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$199,000
5079 Buckingham	3 Bed	1.1 Bath	No garage	\$264,900
1478 Brentwood	3 Bed	2.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$ 309,900

### SOLD:

5175 Buckingham	2 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$200,000
5045 Buckingham	2 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$215,000
1784 Brentwood	2 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$225,000
1823 Brentwood	2 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$230,000
5216 Breeze Hill	3 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$231,647
1641 Brentwood	3 Bed	2.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$240,000
5046 Buckingham	3 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$242,000
1562 Brentwood	2 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$245,000
5226 Breeze Hill	2 Bed	1.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$245,000
1609 Brentwood	3 Bed	1.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$242,500
1792 Brentwood	2 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$245,000
1528 Brentwood	2 Bed	1.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$255,000
1644 Brentwood	3 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$ 259,500
1652 Brentwood	3 Bed	2.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$264,900
5173 Buckingham	3 Bed	2.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$267,000
1812 Brentwood	3 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$275,000
5113 Buckingham	3 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$275,000
5159 Buckingham	3 Bed	2.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$282,000
1827 Brentwood	3 Bed	1.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$285,000
5751 Northfield Pkwy	3 Bed	2.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$301,000
5097 Buckingham	3 Bed	2.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$299,000
1508 Brentwood	3 Bed	2.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$294,600
1650 Brentwood	3 Bed	2.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$300,000
5761 Northfield Pkwy	3 Bed	2.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$309,000
5137 Buckingham	3 Bed	1.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$316,000
1536 Brentwood	3 Bed	2.1 Bath	1 Garage	\$332,000
1734 Brentwood	3 Bed	1.1 Bath	No Garage	\$320,000

**If you need information on the rental or past sales give me a call!**

**Call your neighbor Realtor!**

**ELENA**



## COLUMBUS DAY & INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

The first recorded Columbus Day celebration in the U.S. was held in New York on October 12, 1792; however, through a Congressional joint resolution in 1934, it was then recognized nationally in 1937 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt designated Columbus Day a U.S. holiday. It is always celebrated on the second Monday in October.

Historically, Columbus Day was celebrated in countries of the Americas, as well as in Italy and Spain. It is recognized that Italian explorer Christopher Columbus made four trips across the Atlantic searching for a water route from Europe to Asia, which was never found. He accidentally found what is now the Americas.



This is the third year that both an  
National Indigenous Peoples Day  
Indigenous Peoples' Day and Columbus Day are celebrated in many states. In 2020 President Joseph



R. Biden made a proclamation to honor Native American people on this date and recognize the diverse tribal history of all who have contributed to shaping this nation. This year the federal legal holiday will be on **Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**.

What is now named America was originally discovered thousands of years ago (estimated at 15,000,) by the nomadic ancestors of modern Native Americans; such as, Nordic and Asian. People. They had hiked over a "land bridge" from Asia to what is now Alaska.



In the U.S. the states have different holiday celebrations for both these holidays, as many still celebrate Native Americans' day each September.

Since it still is a legal Federal holiday, no matter how it is labelled, many banks, U.S. government offices and the U.S. Post Offices are closed.

This also means retail stores and other sales areas will have special holiday "deals" to celebrate the day.



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## **MICHIGAN FARM PRODUCE**

It is not too late to find a lot of choices among Michigan grown fruits and vegetables, as well as decorative fall items at our local markets!

This time of year there is much to be thankful for...a large variety of apples, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, beets, cucumbers, egg plant, onions, peppers, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, squash and zucchini.



The saying, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away," still is true. Whether it be as a snack, dipping in caramel syrup or for baking in pies, apples are plentiful this time of year in Michigan.

With most of our local markets remaining open until October 31<sup>st</sup>, we will also find autumn plants, Indian corn, dried corn stalks and gourds for use as fall decorations. Most farmers will harvest corn-on-the-cob until the first frost.

Have you been to either one of these?  
- **Farm Boy Produce** in Auburn Hills on the north side of Auburn Road, just past Squirrel - open daily.

- **Famers Market** on 11 Mile Road in Royal Oak, open every Friday & Saturday all year 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. and open Sundays from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.



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## **NORTHFIELD HILLS' FURRY FRIENDS**

### PHOTO GALLERY

Presenting *the View's* furry friends for this October issue...



Say hello to the cutest quartet you will ever meet.

Here is Tobie, a Labrador Retriever enjoying a weekend with his cousins, Frank and George, both English Labs, along with Wally, a Flemish Giant, who belongs in the family pack - patiently waiting for their carrots or blueberry treats! It is amazing they are "besties" and follow each other around, then cuddle together in harmony.

How sweet is that!!

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#### **PLEASE SEND US PICTURES OF YOUR FURRY (AND NOT SO FURRY) FRIENDS**

\*If you are interested in showing readers a picture of your pampered pet, (even one's with feathers, scales or warts,) who gives you joy and is an important part of your family, please send a jpg photo with a caption to: **c.roberts11958@gmail.com**.

*You need only include your pet's name and something you want us to know about your special friend.*

---



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*References available upon request.*

## Mary Ann's Cats

Hello all Northfield Hills Residents, my name is Ray Santerini, my sister Mary Ann had lived in the Northfield Hills Community for many years until she recently passed away. Mary Ann has two very sweet kitty's we would like to adopt out to a good family. We would prefer to keep the cats together as they have been together since birth. If we can keep them within the Northfield Hills Community that would be even better but if not, as long as we can find a good home that's all that really matters. The kitty's are sisters and are named Natalie and Sophia and are 3 ½ years old. They are both short hair, black and white domestic cats. The cats are super friendly and would love to become your very best friends.

If you are interested in adopting the cats (we would love to keep them together) please text me at 248-703-6030 and we can arrange a meeting so you can meet the cats. **Please ... serious inquiries only.**

Thank you and I'm hopeful we will find a loving home for Natalie and Sophia.

Peace and love,  
Ray



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## Fun, Facts & Trivia

This month received its name from the Latin numeral "octo" meaning "eight", because in the original Roman calendar it was the eighth month.

- The Opal and the Tourmaline are the October birthstones.
- The Calendula (marigold) and the Snapdragon are the birth flowers.

The "Harvest Moon" and the "Hunter's Moon" are the moons in October, due to their positioning in the sky. Our American Indian tribes had used the moons for timing on planting and harvesting cycles. The Lakota Indians called October, "The moon of the falling leaves."



October is: Breast Cancer Awareness month, Celiac Awareness month, Lupus Awareness month and National Down Syndrome month. Also, it is Clergy Appreciation month and Pharmacist Appreciation month.

There are always food related themes; such as, Cookie month, Pizza & Pasta month, Popcorn Popping month and Dessert month.



October is also Squirrel Awareness and Appreciation month. Funny, because here in NH most of us think of almost every month being Squirrel month! In autumn they are out gathering food for the winter, so please be alert when driving.

Many historic events occurred in past Octobers:

- 3761 BC according to the Jewish Talmudic calendar, is the first day of creation.
- In 1784 Russia founded a colony on Kodiak Island, Alaska
- In 1886 President Grover Cleveland dedicated the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor.
- In 1908 the Ford Model T was put on the market at a cost of \$825. each.
- In 1957 the first appearance of *In God We Trust* appeared on U.S. paper currency - the one dollar bill.
- In 1966 there was a partial core meltdown at the Enrico Fermi demonstration nuclear breeder reactor near Detroit, Michigan.
- In 1995 #51 Pegasi was discovered to be the second major star (along with the sun,) to have a planet orbiting around it.

Michigan has such pretty days during this month, with the crisp fall air and the tree leaves turning such varied colors. Enjoy the outdoors, whether it be walking along our grounds or visiting a cider mill for some cider and donuts!



# SWEETEST DAY

This year Sweetest Day falls on **Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**. Although this celebration is not popular across all of the United States, it has continued to grow as a regional



observance celebrated in the Great Lakes area, parts of the northeastern states and Florida.

There are two stories of where it began. Both note it was in October 1916 and started as "Candy Day." Whether it was initiated in Detroit or in Cleveland, both versions claim the idea came from a candy company employee donating funds from candy sales to underprivileged children and orphans. At that time, both cities had candy companies, so no one can say which city was the first.

It has also changed from its beginning as a day for donating funds from candy sales to one of giving candy, cards and flowers to family and friends. Either way, Sweetest Day is a time for showing support and appreciation to others who might need a caring gesture.

*Since the Staff of **the View** appreciates our NHCA readers and advertisers, we wish you all a very Happy Sweetest Day!*



## PUMPKIN DIP\*

- from Ranees Kitchen

Ingredients:

1 can pure pumpkin

1 - 16 ounce tub Cool Whip

3 - packages instant vanilla pudding mix

Plus: To taste - pumpkin pie spice

-Mix all together. Refrigerate.

-Serve with sliced apples, vanilla wafers, Graham crackers and/or Ginger snaps

\*Party sized bowl of dip



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# RUNNING WILD

- Jim Kleinschmidt

The old man and the very little boy did not look completely civilized. They both had almost shoulder-length hair, because their family had carefully quarantined them. That meant not visiting barbers. In addition, the boy's hair looked like it had not touched a comb for hours, at least, and was a rumpled mass of blond highlights.



Since the boy was also quarantined from day care and his parents were working, the old man and the boy were often together on their own. They seemed to belong in the forest.

They were in no wilder a place than the Troy Nature Center, but they looked like they might be home in a long ago wilderness. The boy was crouched under an oak tree intently examining some acorns. The old man was leaning over and explaining that the acorns were a kind of seed, as well as a nut, and from them a huge oak tree could grow. On the other side of the tree a deer was enthusiastically eating the acorns, and was loath to give up this rich feeding ground. The three creatures - the old man, the little boy and the deer shared a moment under the old oak tree on this September morning.

The youngster knew that the deer was there, but simply accepted it like one would accept a cat around the house. He was in the woods that often. It was one of the few places that had been deemed safe for this particular duo. The deer had probably seen the boy and grandfather before, but had learned not to be concerned about this pair of uncivilized humans. The old man had noticed animals are often very good at recognizing individual people, so they react accordingly.

Sometimes the pair visited other wooded areas where they saw no human beings at all. They did not walk with purpose, but stopped to examine anything of interest. Stones were thrown in creeks. Sticks were collected for no reason. Snakes were approached with caution so they could be viewed before they slithered off very quickly.

The old man's thoughts wandered to the subject of the boy's lack of socialization, while the toddler focused on a wild turkey trying to disappear in the bushes.



"What do turkeys eat?" he asked. "Seeds, insects, and berries," replied his grandfather as though he knew for sure. No comment from the boy. He would remember, though.

He continued his musings about the boy. The toddler ran more than he walked. He was developing a grace that put him almost beyond the toddler stage. It was common to walk miles even with their frequent investigative stops. The boy seemed to like to lift objects heavy for his size. This very small boy was as healthy and strong as a wolf cub. How would he react to less active children?



When back home, he read the boy stories about kindness, cooperation, and dealing with emotions. Of course, it was also necessary to read about dinosaurs. Sometimes, they sat alone in the living room of the large suburban house and watched the incredibly gentle Mr. Rogers who accepts everyone just as they are. Then the two would be off again for another adventure.



On one of the last warm autumn days, they came upon a sunny meadow. There was a lot of goldenrod, milkweed, and a variety of unknown flowers of different colors among the hay-like grasses. Some bees attended to the nectar and pollinating.

The boy spontaneously threw himself down in the meadow and lay face-up toward the sun with his eyes closed. No one taught him how to do that. Perhaps it was an instinctive response.

"Aren't you worried about going completely feral in the future, young man?"

There was no response. This little person did not know what feral meant, anyway. The future for him was lunch and his attention span for worrying approximated that of a butterfly.

The old man sat down on a nearby boulder. "There is no hurry," he told the boy. His eyes closed slightly in the warm autumn light; but he never took them off the boy.

\*Originally printed in October, 2020



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**nkmviolin@gmail.com**





## JACK-O'-LANTERNS AND HALLOWEEN

Did you know the American tradition of carving pumpkins was first recorded in 1837? It was originally associated with harvest time in general, not becoming specifically associated with Halloween until the mid-to-late 19th century.

The carving of **jack-o'-lanterns** springs from the Irish and Scottish custom of carving turnips into lanterns as a way of remembering all lost souls. The turnip was traditionally used in those countries, but immigrants to North America used the native pumpkin, which was available and much larger - making them easier to carve than turnips.

"All Hallows' Eve" was the original title for **Halloween** . . . a holiday observed around the world on October 31<sup>st</sup>, the eve before the Western Christian feast of All Hallows. According to historians, this date initially blended traditions from the pagan harvest festivals and those festivals honoring the dead.

In addition to carving pumpkins other festivities include attending costume parties, bobbing for apples, visiting haunted houses, telling scary stories, and watching horror films. Of course, trick-or-treating is very popular in the U.S. and other countries as well.

In Scotland and Ireland trick-or-treating had been called "guising," and the earliest record of this is on Halloween in 1895. Children dressed in a disguise, carried a scooped-out turnip lantern, visited homes and sang a song or told a joke. Sweets, fruit or a coin would only be offered to those who performed at the household they visited!



Of course, now for safety's sake, our "little beggars" are given commercially wrapped candies and gum, or coins. Many communities (such as our NHCA,) have a kids' Halloween Party in lieu of trick-or-treating.

~~~~~

### Puzzle Solution (October Double Puzzle)

Vampires  
Ghosts  
Monsters  
Children  
Candy  
Pumpkins  
Scary  
Witches  
Skull  
Spooky  
Trick  
Treat  
Monsters only come out at night



## EASY APPLE CRISP

-Serves 6 to 8

### Ingredients:

6 medium apples (any pie apples),  
peeled and sliced

(8 to 10 slices per apple)

1 cup all purpose flour

1/2 cup sugar

1 tsp. baking powder

3/4 tsp. salt

1 large egg

1/4 cup butter, melted and cooled

1/2 – 1 tsp. ground cinnamon\*

-Arrange apple slices in an even layer on bottom of a  
9x9" or 8x8" baking dish.

-In a medium bowl mix flour, sugar, baking powder and  
salt.

-Stir in egg and melted butter.

-Using your fingers, drop batter in small clumps over the  
apple slices. It will be even but does not need to be  
smooth.

-Sprinkle evenly with ground cinnamon.

*\*For a sweeter version sprinkle cinnamon mixed with 1  
tsp. of brown sugar on top.*

Bake at 350° F. for 30-40 minutes, until apple slices are  
tender when pierced with a fork. And topping is lightly  
browned. Cool 10 minutes before serving.

Serve warm with a scoop of ice cream. May be stored in  
the refrigerator, if there is any left!

Try this recipe to keep the summer spirit just a little longer  
and to help use up some of those wonderful Michigan  
tomatoes.

## Tomato and Watermelon Salad

- Serves: 6 to 8

### Ingredients:

2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil

2 beefsteak tomatoes, stemmed

1 pint cherry tomatoes, stemmed

1 tablespoon chopped tarragon leaves

4 strawberries, hulled, and cut into very small pieces

Sea salt

Freshly ground black pepper

1 to 2 teaspoons granulated sugar

6 ounces cold watermelon, cut into bite-size cubes



In bowl, whisk together the balsamic, lemon juice, and  
olive oil. Taste for seasoning and set aside.

Cut small tomatoes in half and larger ones into slices.  
Arrange in a single layer, flesh side up. Season them  
with salt, black pepper and sugar. Drizzle the tomatoes  
with dressing. Toss them with the tarragon and  
strawberries.

Arrange the tomatoes down the length of 6 rectangular  
plates. Drizzle with the remaining dressing and top with  
the watermelon. Serve immediately



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## ADOPT-A-SHELTER-DOG

If you have been thinking about adopting a canine companion, October is a good time to follow through, as it is "Adopt-a-Shelter-Dog" month.



When you do so, you will have a cute canine friend to not only greet you at the door, but also be your exercise buddy.

If you would like to have basic obedience training classes for your newly adopted friend, there are some available through local pet stores or private trainers. In addition, many canines may be trained in agility competition, which is fun for your pooch as well as for you!

Many reputable rescue groups are in our area where you can find your perfect pet. There is the Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society at 313-891-7188 or the Michigan Humane Society in Rochester Hills at 866-648-6263.

You might want to visit: [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com) to see a variety of pets available from every rescue group in various zip code areas.

Will Rogers once said, "If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went."

Gilda Radner had also said, "I think dogs are the most amazing creatures; they give unconditional love."



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# Myths, Magic, & Misconceptions About Cats



***Some cultures considered cats bad luck; others worshiped them. Know the facts about these creatures which so many***

***people find mysterious.***

Halloween is just around the corner, and that means it's time for pumpkins and trick-or-treaters, witches and black cats. These sleek and slinky felines are the object of myths found in many cultures around the globe.

In the United States, black cats are associated with both Halloween and bad luck. Some have theorized that it's due to the worship of cats in non-Christian religions, such as the Egyptian black-cat goddess Bastet. Since the Puritans were known to demonize non-Christian beliefs, cats may have made an easy target.

Yet it was well before Salem that people linked cats with witches. Sometimes known as the Mother of Witchcraft, a woman named Galenthias was turned into a cat, according to Greek mythology.

In the Middle Ages, the black cat became a symbol of evil. The *Malleus Malificarum* — a treatise on the identification and prosecution of witches that was written in the late 1400s — wrote about the devil in the shape of cat attacking workmen. And with cats' acute night vision and habit of nocturnal roaming and stalking prey, they also were believed to be supernatural servants of witches — or witches themselves.

Although rational people admit that there is nothing inherently scary about black cats, the myths endure. But don't panic if you see a black cat crossing your path. As long as you don't trip over it in the dark, it's unlikely to bring you bad luck. And depending on where you travel, you're just as likely to be told that black

cats bring good fortune as that they are danger. In England and Japan, for example, black cats are considered good luck omens.

## **In the Dark, All Cats are Black.**

Black cats aren't the only ones surrounded by mystery and misconceptions. These are among the mistaken beliefs held about all cats.

## **Cats have nine lives.**

False. As living creatures, cats have one life, like any other animal. This myth may stem from cats getting themselves into dangerous situations yet managing to survive.

## **Cats always land on their feet.**

False. Cats have a somewhat flexible spine and an instinct that helps them to quickly right themselves in preparation for a landing. But there is a certain amount of time needed to turn around in time to land on their feet.

## **Cats are a danger to babies.**

False. Cats can be jealous of a new addition and resent changes to their routine, but a well-behaved cat will not suddenly turn vicious or suck the air out of the room.

## **To keep a cat at home, put butter on her paws.**

The only thing you get if you butter a cat's paws is a greasy floor and perhaps a scratch. If a cat is let outdoors, there is little that can prevent her from wandering away from home, particularly if she is in season. To keep a cat from getting lost, a collar tag and microchip with your contact information is your best option — not butter.

# WINTER READINESS TIPS

by Sean O'Brien, NHCA Maintenance Superintendent



Although this past year there have been many changes, we can still enjoy our autumn weather. Once again, it is a good time to prepare your home for winter. If you start now and chip away at this list, you'll be much more comfortable and safe for the winter months. If you should have questions about any of the items on this list, feel free to call me at the clubhouse and I would be glad to help.

## 1) Furnace & Heating

- Call an HVAC professional to inspect your furnace and give it a pre-season tune-up. Check this month's *View* for a list of furnace contractors that are familiar with Northfield Hills.
- Stock up on furnace filters and change them monthly. Remove all flammable material from the area surrounding your furnace and hot water tank.
- Use your set-back thermostat if you have one. If you don't have one, get one. A set-back thermostat allows you to automatically turn down the heat when you're away at work or when you're sleeping. You can then boost the temperature to a comfortable level when you need it. It takes less energy to warm a cool home than to maintain a warm temperature all day. Using a set-back thermostat can cut heating costs substantially.
- If your heating system is old, you might consider updating it. A pre-1977 gas furnace is probably 50 percent to 60 percent efficient today. On the other hand, modern gas furnaces achieve efficiency ratings as high as 97 percent. Replacing an old heating system can cut your natural gas use nearly in half! Newer systems will also keep your home at a more consistently comfortable temperature.
- Reverse the switch on any ceiling fans so they blow upward. This is especially valuable in high ceiling rooms, where heat that naturally rises is forced back down into the room.

- Close doors to unused bedrooms and close the heat dampers in those rooms.
- Make sure your windows and door walls are securely closed and properly sealed.
- It's surprising how much insulation curtains, drapes and even blinds can provide. Draw window coverings at night and when you're away to conserve heat in the home.

Once again, check **the View** for a list of contractors and always get more than one estimate. More efficient furnaces also help the association keep Maintenance fees down. Keep in mind that natural gas is by far our largest budget item here at Northfield Hills.

## 2) Install Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- Buy extra smoke detector batteries and change them when daylight savings ends.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector near your furnace and/or water heater.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors monthly to make sure they work.
- Buy a fire extinguisher or replace an extinguisher older than 10 years.

## 3) Prevent Plumbing Freezes

- Locate your water main in the event you need to shut it off in an emergency. If you can't find it call the clubhouse for help.



- Disconnect and drain all garden hoses. A hose left attached to a spigot is much more likely to freeze and burst.
- If you go on vacation, leave the heat on, set to at least 55 degrees.
- If you are a *senior citizen* we will be more than happy to shut off and then drain your outside faucets.

#### 4) Fireplace

- Keep the damper on your fireplace closed when you're not using it. That chimney opening lets cold air in, and is just as bad as leaving a window open in the winter.
- Also, consider getting a glass door for your fireplace if you don't already have one. This will give one more layer of protection from the cold air creeping in.



#### 5) Miscellaneous

- Fall is also the time to clean out your garage. NHCA Bylaws state if you have a garage you need to find room to use it for your vehicle.
- Once all your summer plants have stopped blooming, it's time to clear them off the front porch. A cluttered porch makes it much more difficult for us to shovel this winter.
- If you still have an original front door that is drafty consider replacing the sweep or seal at the bottom. I don't often recommend items seen on television commercials but the Twin Draft Guard for \$10 is an economical way to keep your foyer and home more comfortable.

Taking a few simple steps in getting your home ready for winter can really pay off in both comfort and safety.

This is the perfect time of year to prepare; before the weather gets really cold and catches you off guard.



### Preventing Sewer Backups

Submitted by: Gary Newville

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) in sanitary sewer pipes create numerous problems in a community's sewer system. FOG enters sewer pipes through restaurant businesses, residential developments, and commercial properties. Once in the sewer, FOG can build up resulting in reduced capacity of a pipe and eventually blocking the entire pipe. Blockages in sewer pipes send sewage backward and overflowing out of manholes into streets, rivers, or up floor drains in homes.

Fats, oils and grease are by-products of cooking found in food scraps, meat fats, lard, cooking oil, butter, margarine, or shortening. Chemicals from industrial complexes also produce FOG waste.

Follow these tips to protect our environment and keep drains and sewers clear of FOG:

- Pour or scrape greasy or oily food waste into a container or jar.
- Allow grease to cool or freeze in the container before throwing it in the trash.
- Do not use hot water to rinse grease off cookware, utensils, or dishes. Wipe it off with a paper towel or dish rag instead.
- Keep drains clean by pouring ½ cup baking soda down the drain, followed by ½ cup vinegar. Wait 10 to 15 minutes and then rinse with hot water.

For more information on Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG), please visit the Water Environment Federation (WEF) website

<https://www.wef.org/resources/for-the-public/public-information/fact-sheets/>.

# **NORTHFIELD HILLS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Wednesday, August 23, 2023**

### **Board Members Present:**

Josh West, Chair; Kristy Watkins, Vice Chair; Kent Cathcart, Treasurer; Mike Malley, Secretary; Gary Newville, Director; John Ballantine, Director; Kathy Katz, Director; Sean O'Brien, Maintenance Superintendent

Absent: Kathleen Deburghraeve

### **1. Chairman's Comments**

- Pool heater is out of commission. We called a meeting via phone due to not having a July meeting. We decided to deal with this next Budget season. We need to keep a healthy reserve.
- Members have threatened staff with physical violence. We will not tolerate it. This type of behavior will be referred to the Troy Police Department. We will always address concerns but not with violence. We need a non-hostile work environment.

### **2. Resident Forum**

- A homeowner states that he has lived here for 30 years. Is there any way to get continuity with address plates on condos? Per Board, we have never directed that or passed a rule on that.
- A homeowner stated that in regards to the staff being threatened. Do we have them lock the doors at a certain time? The board responded that the staff can lock the doors at anytime.
- A homeowner said that he is getting married, and is combining households. Can we rent our unit? Per Board, no, we have to follow the Bylaws. You do not meet the requirements for an exemption.

### **3. Call to Order**

- Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **4. Agenda**

- Approved as amended.
- Under New Business add Gary's report on sales at NHCA. Under Unfinished Business add Speeding.

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

- Approved as written.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

- Included in packet.
- The board approved the final audit report done by our CPA Bob Sickler. This was our 3-year Annual Audit. Audit was fine, we are in good shape.
- Last year we had about \$97,000 cash carry forward. But we received a large water bill in January 2023. We investigated high water usage and did some maintenance. Water is expensive. The Capital Reserve Budget is owed \$280,0000 at the end of this year. We will have a little over \$100,000 of cash carry forward. We are on our way back to being very healthy.

## **7. Management Report**

- Included.
- In 2 ½ months we had 175 work orders on top of the daily activity.
- The roofing project has started.

## **8. Committee Reports**

### **Activities Report**

o N/A

### **Clubhouse**

o Report received

### **Grounds**

o N/A.

### **City Liaison**

o Speed Limit Signs – The speed limit signs in the courts are ours. Brentwood, Breeze Hill and Buckingham are county streets and the signs belong to the them.

### **CANH**

o New swings have been ordered, blue swings with blue chains. The new garbage cans are on their way. We are getting new benches and working on a quote for new signs.

## **9. Correspondence**

- N/A



## 10. Unfinished Business

- Speeding – J. Ballantine and M. Malley to look at sight. Long Lake and Brentwood are a problem. When turning in you cannot see the speed limit signs. Brentwood is a city road so we would not to be authorized to add signs. J. Ballantine to talk to the city.

## 11. New Business

- Pool heater – There are different options to fix/replace, the estimates are included in the packet. S. O'Brien to meet with the company to further discuss. Defer to September.
- Gary's Report – Since January there have been 22 sales and 8 have been non-homestead sales. There are 2 units for sale right now.

## 12. Residents Comments

- A homeowner suggested that we go to Wattles Creek Condos to see their speed bumps. We can purchase something that tracks speed. There is no speeding there. The cost was \$5000.
- A homeowner said that in regard to the pool heater, the more bells, and whistles, the more things to go wrong.

## 13. Announcements

- N/A

## 15. Next Meeting

- 09/27/23 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by S. Quintana

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# October View From the Hills Double Puzzle

VIAMSPRE   
1

THSOGS   
24 25 17 4

NOETRSSM   
15 2 22

RIEDHCNL   
13 6

NYDCA   
10

MIPSUKPN   
23 3

SYRCA   
8 20 12

CHTIESW   
5

KLLUS   
18 11

KOVSOP   
9 14

RIKTC   
21 7

TERTA   
19 16 26



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16

17 18 19

20 21

22 23 24 25 26

Unscramble each of the clue words.

Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

Created by [Puzzlemaker](http://Puzzlemaker) at [DiscoveryEducation.com](http://DiscoveryEducation.com)



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## Electrical

Steve Gordon, Electrician.....248-420-6748

## Gardening Services

Cindy's Clean-up/Planting Service....248-321-2160

## Home Improvement

E & V Construction.....586-295-6584

## HVAC

All Heating & Cooling.....248-909-7228

American Heating, Inc.....248-414-9071

## Miscellaneous Services

Aria (Blind Cleaning/Repair).....1-855-261-2742

Dryer Vent Cleaning (Glen Moore).....586-565-1777

Kaity Roberts Beauty .....248-901-5632

Neptune Society Cremation Services

(Stephen F. Badalament) .....248-917-2846

Patti's Pet Services .....248-310-6364

Private Violin Lessons .....281-857-9397

## Realtors

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Elena Martinovici.....248-635-7140

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Siobhan Gannon.....248-318-7461

Max Broock Realtors

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For further information, please call

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## MONTH of OCTOBER 2023

### Northfield Hills Condominium Association

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Clubhouse Committee Meeting 7PM	3	4 Knitting Club 7PM 	5	6	7 NHCA Garage Sale 
8 Troy Fire Open House 1-4PM 	9 Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Bosses Day CANH Meeting 5PM Movie Night at the Clubhouse 6:45PM	17	18	19	20	21 Sweetest Day 
22	23	24 United Nations Day	25 Board of Directors Meeting 6PM 	26	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween Trick or Treat at the Clubhouse 6-8PM 				