

Harlan Hills Neighborhood Newsletter

Spring

April 2016

Contact a Board
Member:
hhnainfo@gmail.com

Did You Know:

- ⇒ **Earth Day
Prairie Clean
-up:** April
23rd at 9:00am
- ⇒ **Garage Sale:**
April 29th and
30th
- ⇒ **Fourth of July
Bike Pa-
rade:** Details
Coming Soon!
- ⇒ **Please Slow
Down:** posted
speed on Daw-
ley Drive is 25
mph
- ⇒ **Treasurer's
Note:** HOA
Dues Collec-
tion is at 90%
complete. If
you still owe
dues please
remit today!

Garlic Mustard Project

Several of the residential lots in Harlan Hills, especially those that have wooded areas, have been invaded by Garlic Mustard.

Garlic Mustard grows just about anywhere, sun, shade, landscaped yards and native areas. It re-seeds prolifically and spreads rapidly.

The problem is that it crowds out native species and landscaped plants, and prevents the healthy growth of both young and mature trees.

If you find garlic mustard on your lot, carefully remove it and safely dispose of it in your garbage



**Garlic Mustard: The
Mother of all invasive
weeds**

NOT IN YARD WASTE!

Refer to the recently delivered flyer for identification.

It's important to act early in the spring before seeds drop, and check again in fall for new plants.

Once garlic mustard re-seeds, it can take up to 10 years to eradicate it.

Garlic mustard is a biennial: It has a two-year life cycle. Seeds germinate in April..

Plants die and seeds are dispersed in July or August. Dry stalks often remain standing through winter.

Our Covenants Protect Us All

Important Reminders: Please be good neighbors! Remember that we all signed and agreed to abide by the Protective Covenants for Harlan Hills.

No Signs: "No sign of any kind shall be displayed to the public view on any Lot except one professional sign, of not more than six square feet, advertising the Property for sale." **This includes political, contractors and school signs**

Spring Landscaping: Many home and landscape improvements require prior approval from the HHNA Architectural Committee. See the HHNA Website for the approval form

Our Neighborhood Dogs



Be a good neighbor and dog owner

There are a number of neighbors who own dogs who have been vocal that some of our neighbors leave their dogs tied up or left outside in inclement weather, at early and late hours of the day, barking either at people, things, or simply to come in. This can be a nuisance .

We encourage our dog owning neighbors to do right by their companions and bring dogs inside where they want to be, and do right by their neighbors by not creating “noise pollution”.

Keep Fitchburg’s creeks safe from bacteria and other harmful run-off waste. **Because there is no Poop Fairy...Scoop your poop! Grab it. Bag it. Take it**

“boot scrubbers, bike washing stations or special sign installation”

Protect Our Trails and Prairies

Our Prairie Restoration Members are always on the look-out for ways to improve our park lands.

At a recent meeting the topic of a “cleaning station” was discussed as a way to further mitigate the spread of invasive species.

Ideas considered range from boot scrubbers to a washing station special sign installation and/or spraying along the corridors.

Mitigation takes a lot of dedication and often incurs considerable expense. Additional seed varieties known to flourish and reduce the spread of invasive plants may be another option. However, cost may be prohibitive.

Do you have ideas to share? Your Board encourages you to get involved in the discussion today!

What's more fun than a



Harlan Hills Block Party

The idea of a neighborhood wide block party has once again been in discussion. Many of our neighbors have expressed interest in seeing this tradition come alive once more.

Your Board is in full support!

The location in discussion is Harlan Circle and Dartmoor Drive.

What we need from you: if you too would like to see a neighborhood block party in 2016, please message your Board with possible Friday evening dates, and any suggestions, offers to take an active role and/or questions.

2015 Annual Meeting Highlights



Prairie Restoration Update thanking members/volunteers for dedication and accomplishments

Thank you to neighbor Jane Jadin and other neighbors for allowing members of the traffic circle up-keep to use spigots and water as needed

Garlic Mustard discussion introduced. Discussion of Board playing an active role in education.

Consideration of Board funding or collection.—not approved. Seeking further City support.

Capital City Trail area restoration Project. Discussion of plantings/previous efforts.

Signs: Security, political, construction against covenants.

Barking dogs: Dogs left unattended or out in inclement weather. Noise pollution

Adopt 2014 Minutes

Treasurers Report on finances both expenses and collection.

Community Voices: HHNA's Own Celia Kiela

A truncated excerpt from the April 8, 2016 Fitchburg Star | Keep Pulling Garlic Mustard to Save Your Landscape | Fifteen years ago, when I moved to Fitchburg from Madison's near east side, I was beginning a new chapter with my young family in a new home we built. We had a newly seeded yard in a new surrounding, including open spaces, expansive parks and trails. After I got settled, I took a hike at Blue Mound State Park with a friend, and she spoke to me of her concern about invasive species and how they could take over the trail we were enjoying. I remember wondering if invasive species weren't just a natural means for change. Now that I have learned so much more, I'm grateful my friend didn't just laugh at my ignorance. Invasive species like garlic mustard require everyone's methodical, persistent attention. Inaction is not an option, because in ignorance, it flourishes. The first spring activity I joined my Harlan Hills neighbors in, as a way of getting to know them, was an Earth Day celebration. Here what I had thought was a pretty little flowering plant along the Capitol City trail was actually one of the more problematic invasive species my friend had warned me about the previous fall...It was a good thing we dug into the problem when we first noticed it, because garlic mustard can establish a seed bed that can take 10 years to eliminate. I've learned that the thin little frond that remains after it is done flowering its four-petal shaped flower can cast thousands of seeds from a single plant. It has no natural predator, and it commits chemical warfare underground, destroying the "gut" bacteria of trees and leading to the eventual demise of the canopy as trees can't get the nourishment they need. It has overtaken the wild geranium and other desirable plants along the trail, and is requiring persistent, immediate attention. I like to look for a silver lining, and in this case, eradicating this pernicious weed has allowed me to forge new friendships, as I am now working with new neighbors on this issue. We formed the Harlan Hills Biodiversity Committee in an effort to coordinate our efforts more broadly not only in our neighborhood association, but also with those that border us. We've learned that to get rid of garlic mustard, we have to establish a perimeter and work our way through to the center in a concerted effort. We have met with the City of Fitchburg to try and establish a long-lasting partnership so that we can educate others to not only combat this invasive species, but replace it with desirable, diverse plant species so wildlife and recreationalists can enjoy the landscape for years to come. -Celia Kiela

“working with the city to establish a management plan, distributing educational fliers and organizing garlic mus-



2016 Harlan Hills Neighborhood Board

- ◇ President, Dave Mylrea
- ◇ Vice President, Harlan Ward
- ◇ Secretary, Nikki Peterson Kennedy
- ◇ Treasurer, Tom Bush

Email Your Board at:

HHNAinfo@gmail.com

A Sincere Thank You to all of our Neighbors who
Tirelessly Volunteer to keep
Harlan Hills Neighborhood a Premier Madison Community!

Remember our Harlan Hills Neighborhood Watch
Immediately Report Suspicious Persons in your Neighborhood!
Fitchburg Police: 270-4300