

Torry Community News

VOLUME 1

SPRING 2012

PAGE 1

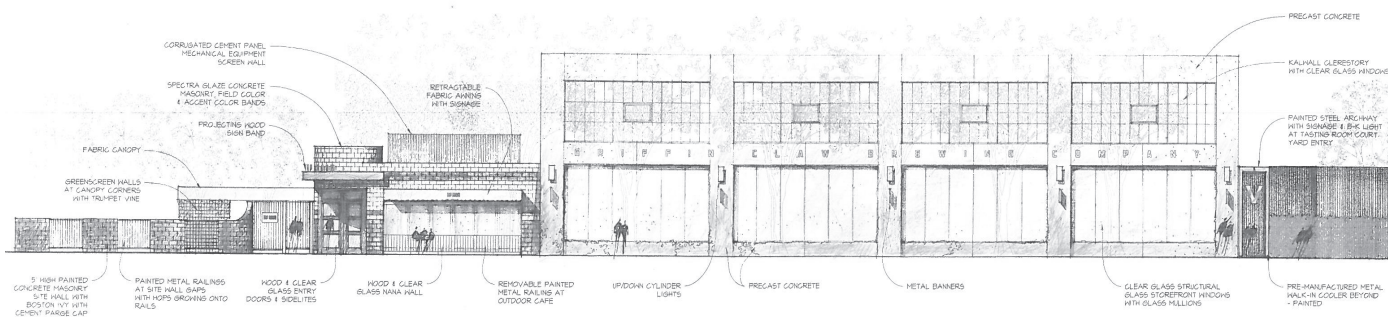


INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- **May 22**
TCA Spring Meeting
- **June 22 & 23**
Community Garage Sale
- **August 11 TCA**
Neighborhood Picnic
- **Rail District Sculpture**
- **Maple Road Construction**
- **Griffin Claw Brewery**
- **Street Coating Program**
- **Our Shepherd Flyer**
- o **TCA Annual dues**



"Break Away - Form #3" Daniel LaRue Johnson



GRIFFIN CLAW BREWERY

From the TCA President

I would like to welcome all our new residents to Birmingham and the Torry Community Association district. TCA (www.torrycommunity.org) is a non-profit organization offering a forum for residents in the area to address issues pertaining to the neighborhood. The TCA also organizes events open to everyone within the TCA boundaries.

Last July, we experienced **power outages** due to failures at the DTE Dudley substation that serves our area. DTE has agreed to have a representative at our May meeting to answer questions regarding this. This year, DTE will be trimming trees in the utility easements throughout our area to avoid power disruptions.

The guest speakers for the **TCA annual meeting, May 22**, will be Police Chief Don Studt, Home Energy Expert, Paul Hulse, and DTE Senior Engineer, James Castanon. Please make it a point to stop in to catch up with news and make some new contacts. This meeting is casual and open for drop-ins if you cannot stay for the full session.

The **TCA community garage sale** is Friday & Saturday **June 22 & 23**. If you want your house to be on the map/address list (distributed during the garage sale), contact 248-6466226 by June 6.

This year, the **TCA annual picnic**, will be at Our Shepherd **School** (Torry and Lincoln) in the open park area along Humphrey Street. We are planning on **August 11**, noon until 2:30. In case of rain, the event will be moved to the gymnasium. We have always had a friendly group so mark your calendars & plan to drop by. There will be free food, lemonade, children's activities, live music and more. **Treat Dreams** from Ferndale will be by with their ice cream truck.

Recent plans along Eton road include **The Griffin Claw Brewery** (anticipated to begin construction May/June). Many surrounding residents attended the City meeting to express concerns regarding noise, traffic, parking, and hours of operation. After a late night of discussion, the City Commissioners were confident the

proposed development was a good fit for the Eton Road Corridor Master Plan and all voted in favor of it. The owner, Norm LaPage, has a reputation for quality establishments and indicated that the new business will be a good neighbor to the adjacent properties. Resident, Laura Edwards, noted that there should be more of a pedestrian connection between the Rail District and the homes to the west. The City engineering department is now planning pedestrian crosswalks along Eton Road. This work will include curb cuts and striping designated crosswalks. The streets included are Villa, Hazel, Holland & Cole, and will be included with the fall sidewalk improvements program.

The reconstruction of **Maple Road** between Adams and Eton Road is scheduled to begin June 1. Maple Road will have two lanes open during construction and work will first be completed on the north lanes and then the south. The project is expected to be completed by the end of October.

The Parks and Recreation Board may plan to have Kenning Park's parking lot resurfaced next year. My hope is that the project will also include Kenning's master plan as stated in the recently adopted Parks and Recreation Parks Master Plan. Kenning Park is the only City Park in our community and it is important for it to have accessibility to neighborhood park features. Presently the children's play area is somewhat distant and secluded. A master plan for Kenning would provide an overall conceptual scheme to inspire all users and the focus all new park improvements would follow.

Dogs on leashes may soon be approved within City parks away from children's play areas.

TCA thanks Our Shepherd Lutheran Church for their many free services and support, including the printing of this newsletter.

Enjoy your spring and remember to check out the TCA!

Larry Bertollini

STREET COATING

Several streets in our district underwent a cape seal program in 2010, including, **Taunton, west Melton, Humphrey, Banbury, Penestone, Croft, and Torry.** There will be an application of type 2 slurry applied to these roads this spring through the City’s maintenance program. Some of the roads in our district are 6” deep gravel covered with tar emulsion/chip seal and have minimal curbs. Though most residents are fine with their current roads, homeowners who want a new street would require a special assessment. This includes having a petition with signatures of approximately 50% of the street’s homeowners. Approval by The City Commission is also required. New road construction usually consists of 8” concrete over an 8” base, and includes curbs and sewers with leads to the property lines. The approximate cost range is \$200 to \$220 per linear foot of the front property line. If your lot has 50’ frontage, the new street would cost approximately \$11,000. An additional cost for the sewer line, from the front property line to the house, is \$1,000 to \$2,000. These costs are usually to be paid over a ten-year period

STREET SURVEY

Hello, Torry Community residents.
 My husband and I live on Bowers Street with our two young children. We are concerned about traffic speed on our street. As avid walkers and home gardeners we regularly see cars cutting through our neighborhood via Bowers, Hazel and Haynes Streets at speeds unsafe for pedestrians, children and animals. The recent permit approval by City Commissioners for the construction and operation of Griffin Claw Brewery, at Eton & Bowers, has enhanced these concerns.
 Over the next few months, as weather improves, I will be going door-to-door to ask you, neighbors, if you have similar traffic concerns. If you live on the above-mentioned streets and have time for a five minute survey, I thank you in advance. Results of the survey will be used as a starting point in a discussion with City Manager Bob Bruner and/or other interested parties. Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood.
 Best, Laura Edwards



New Sculpture In Rail District

The installation of “Break Away Form #3” by Daniel LaRue Johnson, (to be installed in the City lot at the Northeast corner of Eton & Lincoln), is getting nearer as the City’s series of reviews continues. The Arts Board will have it on the May agenda for approval, then on to the City Commission’s June meeting. The TCA anxiously awaits the 12’ tall Bronze sculpture and will be proud this accomplished artist’s work will have a home in our area.

Daniel LaRue Johnson has a stainless-steel obelisk 50 feet (15 m) high, erected in 1980 called Peace Form One in the UN Plaza across from the "Isaiah Wall," in New York.

TCA ANNUAL DUES

\$15.00 regular household
 \$10.00 senior citizen household. Make check payable to:
 Torry Community Association
 P.O.Box 0129, Birmingham, 48012

We are always seeking new leadership and ideas, if you have ideas to improve the TCA or would like to become more involved please write us a note (PO Box 129, Birmingham, MI 48012) or contact www.torrycommunity.org



Torry Community Association Spring Meeting

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Our Shepherd Lutheran School
7-9 PM in the Library (Lincoln & Torry)



Guest Speakers:

Home Energy Expert
Paul Hulse

Birmingham's Police Chief
Don Studt

DTE Energy Technology Senior Engineer
James Castanon

Open to all local area residents & businesses