



# Stuart Neighborhood News

News from the Stuart Area Restoration Association for the Historic Stuart Neighborhood of Kalamazoo

February 2015

## Calendar

See the articles in this issue or contact the Stuart office for details.

- **Feb. 1:** Business development meeting, 6:30pm
- **Feb. 10:** Board meeting, 7pm
- **Feb. 15:** Newsletter submission deadline
- **Feb. 19:** Soup STRAVAGANZA, 6pm
- **Feb. 21:** Third Saturday at Station 702, 9am
- **Feb. 23:** Bulk trash pickup

Want soup?

See page 2.



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## Sharing the Green Space

In the southeast corner of the Stuart neighborhood is St. Augustine Cathedral School (St. A, as we call it). The people behind it have been working for years to improve that corner and share it with the rest of the neighborhood. They've worked with the Stuart Area Restoration Association to discuss and implement plans, in particular for a play area next to the school. We're happy to have a positive relationship with them.

The new play area is the only play area in that area of the Stuart neighborhood. Coincidentally, it's also the area where the majority of children in Stuart live.

The project is called the Community Anchor Project: Love Thy Neighbor. Even before the play area was developed, St. A representatives told us that everyone was welcome to use it after school hours. The project includes a multi-sport grass playing field, an outdoor chalkboard, a community garden, and more.

In December, a group of students at St. A took the sharing a step further. They created holiday baskets for the neighbors with children near the school. They filled the baskets with holiday goodies and items such as kick balls, jump ropes, and Frisbees to encourage the children to use the new St. A play area. They (seen below) delivered the baskets themselves to households with children in the St. A area. Thank you, St. A students!



## Website and Forum

Good communication is key to a good neighborhood. With that in mind, we launched our [mailing list](#) in our January newsletter issue. This month, we're launching our new website, where you can join our mailing list *and* our new forum.

Take a look at our website at [www.stuartneighborhood.org](http://www.stuartneighborhood.org). You'll find the same information as before and more, all organized to make it easy to find. The calendar provides details about our events and other events that are relevant to Stuart. We'll be posting updates in the blog regularly, and when we do, we'll post on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages to let you know. And we'll be adding more content

as time allows. This website reflects our neighborhood and will show our story and activities for many years.

Our new forum gives Stuart residents and other people connected with Stuart a place to talk online. It's just a shell so far — *you* can make it a great place for Stuart residents to go. Do you want to talk about developments in the neighborhood? Your favorite sports team? That sofa you want to sell? Go to [www.stuartneighborhood.org/forum-intro](http://www.stuartneighborhood.org/forum-intro) or click on the Forum link at the site, create an account, and start posting. When we get some good discussions going, more people will take part. You get to be among the first members.

## The Stuart Area Restoration Association

**Address:** 530 Douglas Ave.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

**Hours:** Mondays: 12–5pm  
Wednesdays: 12–5pm  
Other times by appointment.

**Phone:** (269) 344-7432

**Email:** [historicstuart@gmail.com](mailto:historicstuart@gmail.com)

**Website:** [stuartneighborhood.org](http://stuartneighborhood.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/  
StuartNeighborhood](https://www.facebook.com/StuartNeighborhood)

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/StuartArea](https://twitter.com/StuartArea)

**Executive Director**  
Lois Johnson

### Board of Directors

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Carrie Morris, 2545 Plainview St..

Douglas K. James, 302 Elm St.

Greg Worosz, 814 Elmwood St.

Jenn Keyser, 221 Old Orchard Pl.

Karen Leys, 437 Woodward Ave.

## The Stuart Neighborhood News

*The Stuart Neighborhood News* is published monthly by the Stuart Area Restoration Association. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Board of Directors.

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## Stuart Roundup

### Stuart Neighborhood SOUP- STRAVAGANZA

Did you know that the Stuart neighborhood is fun even in the winter? It will be especially fun on Thursday, February 19, from 6 to 8pm. You're invited to enjoy assorted soups, breads, beverages, and light desserts with your neighbors at Stuart Neighborhood SOUPSTRAVAGANZA at the Stuart Avenue Inn, 229 Stuart Avenue. Bundle up, shovel the walkway, and come out for this tasty event. There is no charge courtesy of SARA and the Stuart Avenue Inn.

### Annual meeting

Save the date! Our 2015 annual meeting will be on April 14. More information will be in future newsletter issues.

### Metro Nightclub

A few months ago, Metro Nightclub at 411 N. Westnedge closed. We're happy to report that it's open again, from Tuesday to Saturday, 5pm to 2am. [The Metro website](#) describes it as a gay bar where people of all sexual orientations are always welcome.

### Woodward School news

Woodward Elementary and Communities in Schools of Kalamazoo (CIS) have some great upcoming opportunities for SARA to help support our historic elementary school and its students.

Starting in February, Woodward

*Continued on page 3*

## Beyond Stuart

### Call for historic preservation award nominations

To recognize those who have contributed to our community through historic preservation projects, the Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission is seeking nominations for its 2015 Award Program. The projects can be in a historic district such as Stuart or (this year's emphasis) outside historic districts but still within Kalamazoo. Details and links are in our [website blog](#). For more information, contact historic preservation coordinator Sharon Ferraro at 337-8804 or [ferraros@kalamazoo.org](mailto:ferraros@kalamazoo.org).

### New city commissioner

Congratulations Eric Cunningham on your new position as a city commissioner. We appreciate the commitment you and all the city commissioners give to our city.

### Free income tax help

IRS-certified community volunteers are providing free income tax preparation and electronic filing services volunteers for individuals and families with household income of up to \$53,000 in 2014. Direct deposit is available at all locations. Dial 2-1-1 to schedule an appointment, or go online to [goodwillswmi.org](http://goodwillswmi.org) and click on the tax link for more information.

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Stuart Area Restoration Association is to preserve our historic neighborhood and improve the quality of residential life through mutual cooperation and involvement.



## Useful Phone Numbers

Animal Control	383-8775	KVET (drug activity)	337-8880
City Commission	337-8046	Metro Transit	337-8222
City Grass/Weeds	337-8847	Nuisance Complaint Hotline	337-8221
City Parking (violations)	342-6383	Public Safety (non-emergency)	337-8994
Historic Preservation	337-8804	Silent Observer Hotline	343-2100
Housing Inspection (violations)	337-8026	Street Lights	1-800-477-5050

## Stuart Roundup (continued from page 2)

will be hosting a monthly Family Friendly movie night. This is a great FREE event that is open to SARA families and a great way to get involved with the Woodward community. There will be snacks and drinks available for purchase with proceeds benefiting the Woodward PTO. Come out and enjoy a fun movie night without leaving the neighborhood.

Also coming soon...a PaperGator recycling dumpster will soon be behind Woodward Elementary. This great paper recycling program allows all recyclable paper products placed in the PaperGator dumpster not only to save valuable resources and eliminate landfill space, but also to generate revenue for CIS after-school programs and Woodward PTO. The PTO's sole purpose is to generate funding for field trips to enrich the lives of Woodward students. Please help by bringing your paper recyclables to the PaperGator dumpster.

### Welcome baby Gavin

Congratulations to Lauren and Greg Worosz on Elmwood, who welcomed baby Gavin into their family on Dec. 31.

### Fire on Elm

On Jan. 21, a fire broke out in the attic at 121 Elm Street. Neighbor Ian Schwab called 911 and alerted the residents about the fire. Everyone got out safely, including the cat.

### Public Safety contact records

If you call Public Safety to report a problem, please call or email the Stuart office about it too. That way, we can track any concerns and follow up on them.

### Stuart mementos

Stuart T-shirts are \$10 each, and Stuart bumper stickers are only \$5 each or three for \$12.

## Take Part

### New board members

Would you like to join the Stuart board and contribute more to your community? If you're interested in this opportunity or would like to find out more, please contact the Stuart office. We'll pass your name on to the board member nominations committee.

### Newsletter delivery

We may have more newsletter routes available soon, and it's helpful to have substitute delivery volunteers in case someone is unavailable. If you might be able to help if a newsie (that's what we call these special volunteers) is sick, out of town, or otherwise unable to deliver newsletters, please let us know.

### Third Saturday at Station 702

Enjoy breakfast with your neighbors on the third Saturday of the month at 9am at Station 702, at the northeast corner of Douglass and North.

## Lost Pets

Pet owners know or can imagine the stress of a pet getting lost. Here are some things you can do.

First, get your pets microchipped now — even indoor cats — and be sure to update your contact information if it changes. When Animal Control picks up pets, they scan them for microchips. Also, people who find lost pets might get them scanned. In addition, if your pets go outdoors, an ID tag on a collar can help people get them home to you. While ID tags can get lost and microchips are sometimes undetected, they can save lives.

Let's say that somehow, a pet got separated from you. While you're hoping that someone will find your pet and call you, you can help the process. Report the lost pet to Animal Control, by phone or online. Go to the Animal Control shelter to look for your pet. Post about your lost pet in the [Kalamazoo Area Lost Pets Face-](#)

*Continued on page 4*

**FOR SALE**

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*Former resident, board director, and current property owner in the Stuart Historic District*  
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## From the Executive Director

Life sometimes takes us in unexpected directions. That's how a writer and designer with years of experience volunteering with nonprofits became the executive director for Stuart.

Sometimes life takes us somewhere for just a little while and then moves us on.

In my 10 months with Stuart, I've met people who have impressed and inspired me. I've learned a lot. But in another of those unexpected turns, life situations came together to indicate that it was time to move on. I'll be finishing as the Stuart executive director on February 13.

The Stuart board will be moving forward without an ED for at least a little while. Board members will be taking on even more volunteer work, and I admire all of them. The Stuart neighborhood has benefited tremendously from all the work that they do.

Thanks all of you who have welcomed me, helped me, and helped the Stuart neighborhood. I encourage you to continue to contribute to your

community in whatever ways you can. Volunteering offers immense rewards.

I also encourage you to stay in contact. We now have a new [website](#), a [forum](#), a [mailing list](#), and [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages that are updated regularly.

I hope to see you around.

### Lost Pets (continued from page 3)

[book group](#) and on [Craigslist Lost and Found](#). Put a "Lost Pet" sign in your yard in case anyone is trying to find a lost pet's home. Put up flyers in your neighborhood with tear-off tabs that have your phone number.

Many lost pets are returned to their families when people find the lost pets and can locate their owners. After doing what you can to ensure that your pets stay safe with you, do everything you can to help other people help them if they get lost. Animal lovers who find lost pets will want to be able to reunite them with you.

## Our Appreciation

Thanks for all you do!

♥ **Ian Schwab** for calling 911 and alerting the residents at 121 Elm when he saw smoke coming from the attic.

♥ **Police and firefighters** for responding so quickly to the above fire and containing it.

♥ **The students at St. Augustine Cathedral School** who gave holiday gifts to households in the area with children, and teacher **Lori Pearson**, who coordinated the activity.

♥ **Sam Hill** for snowblowing the 200-300 block of Stuart Avenue after every snowfall.

♥ **Marjorie Olmstead** for shoveling other people's walks in addition to her own.

♥ **Everyone who** keeps their sidewalks clear after each snowfall.

♥ **Everyone who** put up beautiful Christmas lights and other displays to brighten the neighborhood during the holiday season.

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