



# WEST GRAND HAPPENINGS

October 2013  
Volume 1, Issue 1

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## Welcome

By Chi Benedict

West Grand Neighborhood Organization is putting together this newsletter in order to get more information to our members and potential members. Our goal is to spread the word of our organization and let you, the residents of West Grand neighborhood know about the programs we offer and how you can help! Please enjoy reading this newsletter as we are hoping to bring you up to date content and information that is important to you! If you are not currently a member of the West Grand Neighborhood Organization, please consider becoming a member!

We are hoping that by selling ad space we will be able to cover the costs of producing it, expand this newsletter to having more pages and a bigger audience. If you are a business owner and are

## Events to Come

### Neighborhood Watch

We are planning on re-launching the neighborhood watch program on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Email Chi Benedict at [chi@westgrand.org](mailto:chi@westgrand.org). Chi has been working diligently the last few months to complete her training and is looking forward to sharing the information with her neighbors.

### Annual Meeting & Holiday Celebration-

**December 7<sup>th</sup> 6 pm-8 pm**

Our annual meeting and winter celebration will be held December 7<sup>th</sup> @ the Mitten Brewing Company from 6pm- 8 pm. If interested in attending please email Annette Vandenberg at [annette@westgrand.org](mailto:annette@westgrand.org) by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

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interested in the possibility of purchasing Ad space, please contact us about pricing.

An electronic version of this newsletter will be available on our website at [www.westgrand.org](http://www.westgrand.org)

You can also find out additional information about what is going on in our neck of the woods by visiting our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WestGrandNeighborhoodOrganization>



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Trick-Or-Treating	Oct. 31 From Dusk till 8pm
Daylight Savings	Nov 1(set your clocks back 1 hour)
Veterans Day	Nov 11
Board Meeting	Nov 16 6pm
Annual Meeting	December 7 <sup>th</sup> 6pm

\*Get details at [www.westgrand.org](http://www.westgrand.org) or on our Facebook page!

## Halloween Safety Tips

By Grand Rapids Police Department

Trick-or-Treating in Grand Rapids is October 31<sup>st</sup> from dusk to 8:00pm. The Grand Rapids Police Department offers the following tips to keep Halloween and trick-or-treating safe:

- Do not trick-or-treat alone. Go with parents or adult friends.
- Wear light colored or reflective clothing after sundown.
- Wear flame-retardant materials.
- Avoid billowy costumes and wigs.
- Props such as magic wands and swords should be made from cardboard rather than metal or wood.
- Do not wear a mask that blocks or restricts your vision.
- Obey all traffic safety rules.
- Walk on sidewalks; do not walk in the street. If you must walk in the street, walk on the left side facing traffic.

## Seasonal Prevention/Safety Tips

Compiled By Chi Benedict

We have received seasonal prevention/safety tips from the [The City of Grand Rapids](#) and the Grand Rapids Police Department. The winter and holiday season is quickly coming upon us. As crime prevention organizers we want to help our residents keep safe in their homes and in the neighborhood.

**FALL LEAVES:** As the leaves fall of the trees, neighbors should be mindful and not rake or sweep them into the streets. The leaves can clog the storm grates/storm water basins and could create flooded roadways, please dispose of your leaves properly.

**AUTO THEFT PREVENTION:** Auto theft tends to go up during this time of year. Residents leave their cars running to warm-up and sometimes leave their keys in the vehicle. Opportunists, who need a ride, hop in and drive off.

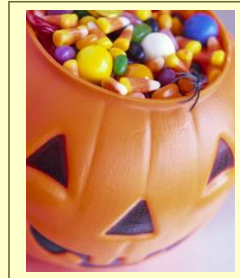
**SNOWBLOWER THEFTS:**

- Secure the equipment
- Engrave and/or photograph equipment
- Secure the garage

**FAKE REQUESTS TO SHOVEL SNOW**

**ABANDONED CARS:** Let's try to get those cars off the street before the first big snow fall. The police and the residents will be so much happier.

- Carry and use a flashlight.
- Trick-or-treat only in your own neighborhood.
- Do not go into any stranger's home or car, even if you are offered candy.
- Do not eat any candy or other food until your parents examine it.
- Homeowners should have outside porch lights on where trick-or-treaters are welcome.



*It is important to follow basic safety rules while Trick-or-Treating. For more Halloween Safety Tips go to our Facebook page or our website!*

- Drivers should be especially aware and observant when driving through residential neighborhoods.

Would you like your business to be featured here?  
Business Card Ad Space w/Coupon and other options available.  
Contact us for more information!

**WINTER PARKING RULES:** It is important to observe the rules of Even/Odd parking on the streets so the city can plow. If you park your vehicle on the street, keep in mind that we have to be able to have our roads cleared and it makes it difficult for your neighbors to clear their driveways around the surplus of snow left when vehicle owners do not observe these rules.

**SNOW REMOVAL:** We live in a walk-able neighborhood; many people use our sidewalks daily to get to work, school and the stores daily. This is especially true for our children who go to bus stops or walk to school. Please do your absolute best to clear snow on sidewalks, near crosswalks and corners in a timely manner. Keep in mind also that you may have an elderly, handicapped or sick neighbor that could use some help, if you can help them please consider it! If snow piles up in the sidewalk on a corner it is important for the safety of residents and motor vehicles to have them as clear as possible. If you have a fire hydrant on your property, please also consider clearing the snow around it so the fire department can access them easier in case of an emergency.

## West Side: A Great Place to Live, Learn, Work & Play!

**Volunteers:** Over 50 of our neighbors have donated their time and talent over the last three months during our transition and we could not have accomplished what we have without them. We THANK-YOU for all your hard work and dedication to our community. You make our neighborhood a great place to “live, learn, work and play”!

### LIVE: National Night Out: August 4, 2015

Our neighbors and area business came out in force. We had over 600 people join us in getting to know each other and our law enforcement. Together we learned ways to prevent crime where we live. We especially want to thank the 50+ volunteers who made this event possible.

### LEARN: Stocking Elementary Family Night: September 24, 2015

We enjoyed meeting neighbors and getting to know their families better. Thank you for signing up for the Neighborhood Watch program, which we hope to re-launch in December. If you are interested please contact Chi at your earliest convenience.

### WORK Dumpster Days: September 26, 2015

A great day getting rid of the things we don't need and we got to see over 125 households during those four hours. The neighborhood filled up 13 dumpsters with help from over 20 volunteers. We thank you for making our neighborhood look better and look forward to next spring during the next neighborhood cleanup. We would also like to recognize those who gathered and hauled trash from their neighbors and the adjacent alley ways. Thank-you for your

participation in the successful fall cleanup of the West Side.

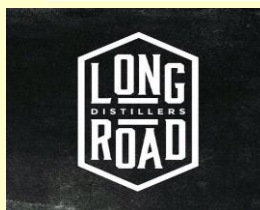
### PLAY: Block Party: August 29, 2015

Two Scotts, The Mitten Brewing Company, Long Road Distillers and our neighbors celebrated an end to summer on a rainy day. We enjoyed hanging out with over 200 of our neighbors and getting them to know them better.

In other news, ATPA serviced several of the residents over the summer through etching the VIN number on vehicle windows. This helps to reduce auto theft and also can reduce your auto insurance premiums. Call your local agent for details!

*“West Side a great place to live, learn, work & play”  
Become a member today!*

Thank You to the following Organizations for your support:



**West Grand Neighborhood Organization**

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Grand Rapids, MI 49504

**Phone:**  
(616) 451-0150

**Fax:**  
(616)

**E-Mail:**  
[mail@westgrand.org](mailto:mail@westgrand.org)

**Motto**  
West Side a great place to live, learn, work and  
play!

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.westgrand.org](http://www.westgrand.org)

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**Notice:**

**Annual Meeting**

**Date: December 7, 2015**

**Time: 6 pm- 8 pm**

**Where: The Mitten Brewing Company**

**Address: 527 Leonard St NW Grand Rapids  
MI 49504**

**Menu: Light refreshments and hors d'oeuvres**

**R.S.V.P. By: December 1<sup>st</sup>**

**616-451-0150 or**

**At: [annette@westgrand.org](mailto:annette@westgrand.org)**

West Grand Neighborhood Organization

415 Leonard St. NW

Grand Rapids, MI 49504

*"Making the Westside a great place to live, work  
and play!"*

