



GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Some years back, a resident wrote the neighborhood association president at that time and asked who the heck we were, "the culture police?" That question is an appropriate one given that the Mayor of Muskegon has been visiting all neighborhoods and drumming up support for all us to become more active, more neighborly, and more proactive in caring for each other and the City. So, the answer to that question becomes yes, because in order to preserve and protect the place where we live, where we play and where we raise our kids, we need to "police" ourselves and hold ourselves to a high standard of civility if we are going to save civilization and it is that important.

To not reject the notion that everyone should be allowed to do as one pleases because one is a tax payer or just because cultural relativism is the easy answer to excuse bad behavior leaves us at the mercy of those who don't care if they are knocking off local gas stations at gun point, dumping garbage in their yards, parking in their yards creating mud pits because they are too lazy to shovel driveways or move around cars, never rake or mow, keep watch over their own children who are let loose on the streets at risk to themselves and others, allow their property to degrade causing property values to go down the toilet and how then can we finance sending our kids to college? Wow, that's a mouthful and only a sampling.

To not pay attention to the foreclosed apartment house now held by Sallie Mae and left to rot while registered offenders sell drugs out of the premises and not raise holy heck is self destructive for us all. Not reporting graffiti, empty houses and buildings, unauthorized unregistered rentals, loud music, loud people, loud continually barking dogs, closing our ears and eyes to bad behavior sets us all up for the disintegration of the whole kit and caboodle. While the answer to the issues may come slow because even the irresponsible and the criminal are protected under our laws, we need to be diligent in partnering with authorities and each other to preserve this great place called the Nims Neighborhood and the City of Muskegon.

When I first moved in back in 1985 and in the next decade, neighbors would remark how ideal and family friendly so much of the area was. Some said Palmer Avenue was like a scene out of Mayfield where the Cleavers, Wally and the Beaver lived. Some may knock the idealized version of family life in the 1960's TV or the Brady Bunch in the 1970's as fake, flawed and not real. What's wrong with the idea of a stable loving home with parents engaged with their kids at the dinner table and reading together at night and tucking them in bed at a decent hour so they can actually make it to school? The ideal isn't flawed and it will go a long way to restore our families and Nims and our City. What's the option? Idealize the Simpsons, Kardashians, or live like on Jersey Shore? Please.

It's time to get up, clean up, and get to know and help your neighbor. People and the place they live are too important to take for granted to leave to destructive forces. The Mayor is encouraging us to be human and humane again. It's time to care and recreate goodness. We will be following up on the Mayor's call, organizing block clubs and a neighborhood watch to improve ourselves and the way we treat each other and help keep each other secure and satisfied as we continually renew our City. Start coming to your monthly coffee breaks and get to know some really excellent neighbors and how you can be a part of our renewal.

On a sad note, we were saddened to learn of the death of our Secretary for so many years, Rose Strait. Rose was a beloved and active member of our community and will be missed. Rest in peace, Rose.

MAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD AWARENESS INITIATIVE

The Mayor met with Nims in January to discuss his initiative to get the residents of the City of Muskegon more involved with their own neighborhoods, getting to know your neighbors and keeping an eye out for what's going on in your area. While our Police Department does a GREAT job, they also need us to be their eyes and ears. If something doesn't look right or you hear something suspicious, call 911.

If you were not able to make the meeting but still want to get involved, please let us know and we'll add your name to the list. Follow-up meetings will probably start in April.

NEIGHBORHOOD OFFICER'S REPORT

Well, what a winter, the snow is flying, the air is crisp, and the world is quiet. Well maybe not, and because of this remember when it does snow be extra cautious in your driving.

A lot has happened already this year! First of all we have a new Director of Public Safety, Jeff Lewis. He started at the first of the year, and came to the January meeting with the Mayor. I hope everyone had an opportunity to talk with him. Also new for the Department is an email/text style alert system located at domain www.nixle.com. All you have to do is join, search for Muskegon Police Dept, and receive.

Remember that the snow parking ban is still in effect until April 15th. There have been several vehicle thefts in the area as of late, so remember to always lock your cars, and do not leave anything that you don't want walking away visible in your car. As spring continues I am going to start making a list of all "Junk Vehicles" in the area. (I will also be doing this in Nelson as well.) Starting in April I will be going around to both of my neighborhoods, and doing a mass marking of vehicles that fit the parameters of the ordinance (92-51 thru 92-56). If you have any questions as to what the ordinance is, and have web access, go to the City web site, www.shorelinecity.com, and look for the ordinance button under the City Clerks tab. If you have a vehicle in your area that you think is in violation let me know via email, michael.fort@postman.org, or just write it down, and tell me at the February coffee break. Make sure you have a description of the car, and the address it is located at. Remember you are the key for keeping the neighborhood safe, think about what the Mayor said about a watch system, and sign up!



CONGRATULATIONS OFFICER FORT – The Jaycees awarded our Neighborhood Officer, Mike Fort, with the Young Public Servant of the Year Award. Officer Fort does a GREAT job in Nims Neighborhood and is deserving of this award. Congratulations!!!

MONTHLY MEETINGS – Our meeting times and date have changed. As of February 27, we will be having our monthly 'Coffee Breaks' on the 4th Monday of each month at 6pm at the Fire Station. Please join us to get updated information on our City and meet your neighbors. At our February meeting, School Superintendent Felski will be our guest speaker.

NIMS IS NOW ONLINE – we now have an email address for you to communicate with us. It is: nims.neighborhoodassoc@yahoo.com. You can also reach us on Facebook and we also have a page on the City's website at: <http://www.muskegon-mi.gov/community/neighborhoods/>. There is a lot of good information on that initial Neighborhood page. Scroll down and click on Nims to get to our information.

MONTHLY INFORMATION BULLETINS – Since we are on Facebook and can have information regarding Nims available on the City's website, we are going to try monthly Information Bulletins. We will post them on our Facebook page and on our page on the City's webpage.

NIMS BOARD MEMBERS – With the passing of our Secretary, Rose Strait, the Board has elected Liz Parker to take over the secretarial duties. At our September monthly meeting we will have Board elections.

Your **Current Board Members** are:

Officers	Steve Gawron, President	855-1639	Shirley Strang, Vice President	755-8222
	Patrick Miller, Treasurer	759-7702	Liz Parker, Secretary	755-2568
Board Members	John Bloomstrom	759-7389	Mary Hill	755-2631

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR AREA OF NIMS? – The Board would like to keep in touch with our neighbors, but we need **YOUR** help. If one of your neighbors is sick, let us know and we'll send them a Get Well card. If someone has passed, please let us know, include a family member's name and address and we'll send a card. If someone is new to the neighborhood, let us know. We can send them a Welcome to the Neighborhood letter and let them know how GREAT Nims is.

COMMUNITY ALERT SYSTEM – As Neighborhood Officer Fort stated above, the City is going to initiate a communication system where residents of the City of Muskegon can get e-mails or text messages about the goings on in town. Please keep in mind that if you choose Text Messaging, you may incur text messaging charges on your cell phone bill. Please check with your cell phone carrier first before you sign up.



DUMPSTER DAY – Our Spring Dumpster Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 28, from 8am – noon at Nims School parking lot on the corner of Southern and Barclay. If you'd like to help volunteer that morning, please let us know.



YARD WASTE PICK UP – Will begin the week of April 2 and continue until December 7. Whenever our garbage pick up is during these dates is when you can put out your yard waste. For further information, you can call DPW at 724-4100.

SHOVELING – When the snow does come this season, please remember to shovel your sidewalks and front steps. Remember your neighbors who can't shovel. Lend a hand, and shovel and help them. This is also a good time to check on our elderly neighbors and see if they need assistance.



SEE YOU AT OUR FEBRUARY 27 COFFEE BREAK!