

# In the Neighborhood

September 2006  
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The Official Newsletter of the North College Block Club

## House History - 62 College Ave. N.E.

Haven House by Mark Dykstra

The house at 62 College Ave. N.E. was built in 1924 by J. Hilton Haven, who was in the business of supplying fencing and ornamental metal for buildings. Mr. Haven's company later began supplying steel structural materials and was long in business as Haven-Busch Steel Company. This connection emphasizes the significance of the ornamental railings on the house, some of which were replaced by the current owner (Mark Dykstra) in 2002, and some are original to the home. An ornamental handrail and newel post also are original inside the house.

The house is one of four, which were built on a lot 150 feet square on the corner of College Ave. and Fountain St. William and Rachel McMullen had the house there, which was built around 1882. William died in 1891, but his widow continued there until at least 1903. By 1911, the address is shown as vacant, and then it disappears. It is unknown whether the house burned or was torn down for other reasons. The Haven House and its neighbor to the north (66 College N.E.) were built in 1924 and a large house facing Fountain St. (508 Fountain N.E.) was built in 1928. The house on the corner (70 College N.E.) was built after that.

The Dutch Colonial revival design of the Haven House is characteristic of houses built in

the 1920's in this area. The placement of the entrance on the side is also seen on a few other houses from the 1910's and 1920's, as their builders explored more modern plans and began to orient more to the use of autos.

The house was occupied by the



original owners from 1924 to 1940. According to the grandson of Mr. Haven, neighbors looked down upon the house when it was built because it was small and considered it a "bungalow". In 1940, the Havens moved to Spring Lake and sold the house to Mrs. Hazel Howard (widow of Fred), who owned and operated the Lionette Sandwich Shop on Fountain St. downtown. From 1945 to 1948, the house was owned by Dexter Fitzsimmons and his wife Evelyn. Fitzsimmons was a mechanic who worked for E & R Sales (a vending machine company). A physician named Dr. Edward C. Morey and his wife Ellen purchased the house in 1949 and stayed until 1951. From 1951 to 1954, the house

was rented.

In 1955, Lewis and Betty Fiester purchased the house. The Fiester children's names can still be seen written in a back closet in the house where marks were made on the wall to show their growth and height. From 1960 to 1966, the owner of 66 College N.E. (Mrs. Marian Cudahy) owned the house and rented it to several families including Conrad Patrick, an announcer for WOOD Radio and TV.

Rev. W. Eugene Snoxell and his wife Marguerite rented the house from Mrs. Cudahy in 1966, and later purchased the home in 1969. Rev. Snoxell was the Associate Rector for St. Mark's Episcopal Church downtown at Division and Pearl. Gene and Marguerite Snoxell owned the home until selling it to Mark Dykstra in March of 1999.

The information for this house history came from several sources including Tom Logan, the assessor's office in Grand Rapids, and the Polk Directories located in the Ryerson Branch of the Grand Rapids Public Library. The picture of the house was taken by the city assessor's office in 1936.

\*Editor's note:

This is a first, in what we hope, of a series of house history articles for future newsletters.

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## Dinner at Gun Lake

By Jack Hoppus

Several months ago, I noticed an advertisement in the weekend section of the Grand Rapids Press for the Bay Point Inn Restaurant on Gun Lake near Middleville. The ad stated that live jazz was provided every Friday and Saturday nights during the summer on the deck. I mentioned this discovery to Mark Dykstra, my neighbor and friend, and we agreed to set up a date to go together for dinner.

After reminding each other about our plans several times during the summer, Mark and I finally agreed to the date of Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. Mark made reservations, picked me up, and we drove to Barry County to find the restaurant.

When we arrived, we were shown to our seats on the deck of beautiful Gun Lake. I recognized the quality of the jazz, and no sooner had I stepped on the deck when, to my utter amazement, Tom and Cherie Hagen were playing and providing

the evening's entertainment. No wonder it sounded so great! They were just as shocked to see us as we were to see them.

After a few martinis (dry gin with blue cheese olives), we were served an excellent meal of filet mignon with a chocolate cake for dessert fit for a king. Needless to say, your Uncle Jack was in seventh heaven. The evening's weather was perfect to spend on the deck with great food, drink, and jazz provided by Tom and Cherie. Our waitress even made an exception to the rules to provide me with an ashtray to use in an ordinarily smoke-free facility. What could have been better?

Several great numbers were performed. I immediately thought that if Bay Point wanted to really fill their establishment, they should have advertised who was playing for the evening. Mark and I later learned that this was the first time the Hagen's had played this restaurant.

The evening will long be remembered. I'd recommend Bay Point Inn to anyone. Mark and I have decided to make this a summer tradition.

- NCBC Lifetime Members**
- Marc Bohland & Bill Kloostra
  - David Creisher & Ken Jones
  - Hall Crysler & Michael Sikanas
  - Mark Dykstra
  - Craig Fonger
  - Heidi Hagen
  - Jack & Susan Hessler
  - Jack Hoppus
  - Judy Jorgenson
  - Lawrence & Roberta Kok
  - Susanne LaChance
  - Jim Lahnala & Rick Wright
  - Tim Lowing & Jeremy Brown
  - Kirsten Lundeen
  - Michael Mamp
  - Chris & Laura Martin
  - Bill McFadden
  - David Messelink & Don Mackey
  - Jon Nunn
  - Nancy & Richard O'Conner
  - Sharon Osborn & John Donker
  - Jim Payne & Char Kruzich
  - Todd & Julie Reinholt
  - Jim Rekucki & Bob Maxam
  - Harry & Marilyn Sandberg
  - Liz Sarafis
  - Dan Schafer & Steven Shive
  - Susan Sevitt
  - Jackie Taylor
  - Doug & Dianne Thole
  - Craig VanderMaas & Mark Lodenstein
  - Jodie Vokes
  - Clare Wade & Tom Koetsier
  - Steve Ward & Dan Palma
  - Jim White



Luck  
Be a  
Lady

**Tonight!**  
**7 pm, Saturday, October 21**  
at the home of  
Jim Boylan & Jack Hoppus  
57 College NE  
BYOB and a Dish to Pass Please  
Blackjack! Let-it-Ride! Roulette!  
50/50 Raffle! Poker!

### Calendar of Events

<b>Food Booth</b>	October 7/8
<b>Party Schedule</b>	
<b>October 14</b> Martini Madness	<b>October 21</b> NCBC Casino
<b>November —TBD</b> Chamber Music (Chris Martin)	<b>December 10</b> Holiday Party
<b>December 31</b> New Years	<b>February</b> Open

Want to Host a Party?

Contact Jack Hessler @  
jasus@aol.com or 454-8121

## NCBC Food Booth Update

by Scott Kuderik

Well friends and neighbors, it is hard to believe that summer is coming to a close and it's time to bring out the sweat-shirts and the long pants. It is also hard to believe that just around the corner, out of all of the NCBC events is once again the biggest fundraiser.

"You Got It!!".....IT'S FOOD-BOOTH TIME!!!! So with that in mind, the North College Block Club really needs your help to make this years event another year of great success. As most of you know, the 2006 Heritage Hill tour of Homes is the first weekend of October. (that's the 6th & 7th for those who are using an Aztec calendar).

Even though we may not have a

featured home on the block on tour, we could use volunteers to help in making our event shine as always. Plus it's pretty fun trashing the kitchen, front porch and yard at Jim Boylan's & Jack Hoppus's house.

So keep that weekend open!!!

Volunteers Needed: Positions Available:

Set-up 9am to 11am Kitchen

Sat Shift #1 11am to 2pm Kitchen Runner

Sat Shift #2 2pm to 5pm Meat Grill

Sun Shift #1 Noon to 3pm Grill Helper

Sun Shift #2 3pm to 6pm Drinks Area

Cashier

Cider/ Soup Grill

Front Area Runner

To sign up for any of these fun-filled positions, Please call Pres. Jack Hessler @ 454-8121 or the First Lady Susan Hessler at the same number.

If you can't work, we could really use your donation of: Baked Goods.....Baked Goods.....Baked Goods!!! So come on over and enjoy your neighbors helping the community! And as always, A minimum of 50% of the profits earned go directly to local charities. So, get out those oven mitts, oil those cookie sheets, sprinkle those sprinkles, and let's show Grand Rapids what the NCBC community truly means. See Ya there!



# CENTRAL REFORMED CHURCH

CLASSIC WORSHIP. LIBERATING THEOLOGY.

We're glad to be your neighbors and encourage you to join us for Sunday Worship.

Communion in The Chapel—8:30 am  
Sunday Services—9:30 am



## Northeast Cat & Dog Hospital

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**Karyl Ropko DVM**  
**Roe Froman DVM**  
**Beth Hoover DVM**

*A healthy pet is a happy pet*

## Celebrating



- Delon Barry — 9/1
- Scott Kuderik— 9/5
- Jack Hoppus— 9/6
- Mary Rademacher— 9/13
- Don Mackey— 9/17
- Sharon Osborn— 9/25
- Trinity Davis— 9/29

## Newsletter & Website Under New Mgmt. by David Messelink

September 1998 – that was when the first edition of “In the Neighborhood – The Official Newsletter of the North College Block Club” arrived in the mailboxes of our NCBC membership. The articles included “What’s Shakin’ at Davenport,” by intrepid reporter Jim Payne along with a recipe for Jalapeno Squares and the first-ever “Party Schedule”.

A few years later, NCBC ventured into the realm of cyberspace with its own website. At the time, having a website for a local block club was not a common occurrence. Perhaps it still isn’t. But it did bring a new and instant form of communication to our spirited membership.

I am forever grateful to NCBC in general and its Board

*(Continued on page 4)*



**Board of Directors**

President: Jack Hessler—454-8121  
Vice President: Jack Hoppus—459-5328  
Treasurer: Laura Martin—443-6733  
Secretary: Clare Wade—459-9775  
**Members-at-Large**  
Mark Dykstra—456-7416  
Scott Kuderik—458-4530  
Ken Jones—774-0103

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of Directors in particular for the opportunity they gave me to fiddle around with these fun communication tools. I've learned a great deal over the past eight years and NCBC afforded me that education.

Alas, the time has come to turn over the reigns of these media instruments to a younger and talented set of folks. Christopher Bailey has taken on the responsibility of creating the newsletter and Christene Duthler is at the wheel of our website. Both are uncommonly creative and ambitious people who will take both publications to new heights.

Deciding to step aside as editor and webmaster (I love that term!) wasn't a quick or easy decision. But given my proximity to the NCBC hive of activity and my time-consuming involvement with our lake and neighborhood associations down here in the sticks, it became clear some time ago that something had to give. So for better or for worse, I reluctantly decided to let go.

Don will most certainly miss correcting my spelling and grammatical errors with his big red pen. But I'm sure I'll give him plenty of other opportunities to improve upon my communication skills.


I do want to stress that while we're disengaging our direct involvement with the newsletter and website, we will remain very involved with NCBC. Hopefully Editor Bailey will accept the

occasional article of interest from me (there are plenty more fascinating Duck Stories to tell). We also hope to assist with any future NCBC Casino & Food Booth fundraisers and attend the always-fabulous parties at every opportunity.

Many thanks again to the NCBC Board of Directors for indulging me these past eight years and to all of you who took the time to read the newsletter and surf through the website. I had a terrific time with it and hope you found it a worthwhile venture.




David Messelink & Don Mackey



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**Message from NCBC's President**

By Jack Hessler

Hope everyone had a great summer. Included in this mailing of the Newsletter is our latest NCBC Directory. We update it annually and it is as up to date as we can get it. Enjoy.

Thanks to Jim Boylan and Jack Hoppus for their hosting of the 2006 NCBC Annual meeting. It was a great event with live jazz on a warm summer evening. You could not plan better conditions for one of our favorite events.

Our last big event was Tiki Busters on Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup> at 50 College. Susan & I had the Steel Drum Band again this for the fourth year! Thanks for attending. This is always a great event to hear this tropical band play all of your favorite island tunes (think Jimmy Buffet)!

Special Note: A very Special thanks to out-going NCBC board members Jim Payne and Beverley Nink, who have been strong volunteer board members for several years. Thanks for your important contribution to the NCBC efforts through the years.

Also, congrats to the NCBC Members of the Year Tom Hicks, Jim O'Rourke, & Scott Kuderik for their outstanding contribution to the block this year and many years prior.

PS – Please consider volunteering for the NCBC Food Booth on Oct. 7 & 8 – part of the Heritage Hill Tour of Homes Weekend. If you can't help please donate some BAKEGOODS for the event. Thanks and see you next month.