

Edison Neighborhood Association

Annual Report for 2014



Community Events

Edison Blossoms:

502 flats of flowers and vegetables were given to Edison's residents to plant in their yards, gardens and on the boulevards to make Edison a beautiful blooming place.

Edison National Night Out:

Over 250 residents attended this year's National Night Out event. Several organizations set up booths with free information and/or hosted youth activities, while everyone enjoyed viewing the police equipment, police dogs, and talking with their public safety officers. Attendees were treated to complimentary pizza.

Edison Dick Bass Award:

Randy Brizendine was unanimously awarded this year's Dick Bass Memorial Award in recognition of his tireless dedication and volunteer efforts supporting the Edison Neighborhood Association.

Edison Holiday Food Drive:

Businesses and residents helped by collecting over 609 food items to support families for this year's food drive.



Programs

Edison Tool Share Program:

328 tools were shared for free with Edison residents, so they could do a variety of property improvement and repair projects.

Edison Hot Spots:

157 Hot Spot sheets were received from residents and forwarded to the City for resolution

Edison Website: edisonneighborhood.com. The Edison Neighborhood Association has a PayPal account, to make donating easier and we are now on facebook, LIKE us and tell us why you love Edison. To date we have 300 LIKES.

Edison Voice:

Six issues of the Edison Voice Newspaper were created and sent out via email this year. Are you on the email list?

Edison Clean-Ups:

We hosted seven large clean up events throughout the neighborhood this year.

Edison Housing Referral:

199 residents received housing information about home ownership, home repair, and homelessness programs in the area.

Edison Building Blocks:

Edison's Building Blocks projects were hosted on Lay Boulevard. 27 households participated to accomplish 55 exterior improvements in the neighborhood and they volunteered a total of 802 hours to the project. Improvements include landscaping, driveway repair, window replacements, door replacements, trash removals - just to name a few of the projects completed.



Edison Go GREEN Deconstruction Program:

Six houses were deconstructed, 22 people trained, and over a ton of materials were recovered.

Washington Square:

We were able to connect with several volunteers who helped clean-up sidewalks, plant flowers. We also were able to paint two buildings, add some flowering planters, much needed new signs and lights to Washington Square.

Meetings

Edison Neighborhood Watch:

We hosted 9 Neighborhood Watch meetings this year, giving residents helpful information about crime and safety tools that can be used to make our neighborhood better. 2 meetings were canceled due to bad weather.

Edison Garden Club:

During the spring, summer and fall, Edison residents met at eight different locations throughout the neighborhood to admire each other's gardens, get helpful planting/growing information, and to share garden plants with one another.

Edison Board of Trustees:

The Edison Board of Trustees met 11 times this year to discuss and vote on issues that affect the neighborhood and your association. Their tireless dedication to making this neighborhood great has been crucial to the success of all the programs, events, and initiatives administered through our organization.

Community Room:

87 people used Edison's Community Room to host family activities and several non-profit organizations used the room to host various activities such as yoga, cooking, tax preparation, and homeownership classes.

Other Activities & Partnerships

This year, the Edison Neighborhood Association (ENA) partnered with Kalamazoo In Bloom and Edison Residents to create artistic bike racks that are displayed in Washington Square. We partnered with several non-profit organizations to create little libraries out of reused materials for resident's yards. We partnered with the City of Kalamazoo to create a user friendly graffiti abatement ordinance. We partnered with Wenke Greenhouses to create flower planters in Washington Square. ENA started a new committee called Edison Community Engagement Committee designed to engage city leaders in an initiative to encourage residents to find grassroots solutions to neighborhood issues. We partnered with City of Kalamazoo and Edison Business Association to sponsor a Movie in Upjohn Park. We hosted two groups of youth in partnership with YOU and the City of Kalamazoo for the Summer Youth Employment Program. We have been working with KVCC in their creation of a new Healthy Living campus in the Edison Neighborhood which has already broken ground. We are working with the Edison Business Association, Kalamazoo County Land Bank, LISC, Urban Alliance and the City of Kalamazoo to create a more pedestrian/bicycle-friendly Portage Street corridor. We are also working with LISC, Kalamazoo County Land Bank, Kalamazoo Farmers Market, and several others to create a new state of the art Farmers Market.

This year we had 252 people volunteer 2,385 hours to better the Edison Neighborhood. We also received several grants and financial donations from all over the county. We would like to thank each and every one of you for your contributions and dedication in 2014. We know we couldn't accomplish all that we do without your support and we want you to know that we truly appreciate you all. Can't wait to see the transformations at the end of 2015.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Trustees, volunteering, making a financial contribution, or have a great idea for making Edison a better place. Please contact Tammy Taylor at 269.382.0916 or edison@chartermi.net.