



Gatewatch
Winter 2017
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Neighborhood Association

Andrea's Pizza Owners Celebrate Forty Years in Eastgate

Mario and Rose have been fixtures in the neighborhood



Mario and Rose Martarano pose with ENA President Todd Neckers with plaque commemorating 40 years of business.

In February we celebrated 40 years of Mario Martarano's pizza career. He and his wife Rose have been fixtures in the Eastgate community.

On February 13, the community turned out to celebrate Mario and Rose Martarano's 40 years of serving pizza.

It was a true community event, hosted by Beacon Hill at Eastgate, with entertainment by The Piano Cottage, and attended by the Eastgate community.

ENA President Todd Neckers presented a plaque from the Eastgate Neighborhood Association thanking Andrea's Pizza for serving our community.

Beacon Hill appropriately served pizza on red- CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Eastgate Real Estate Report 2016

*Forty-three homes sold in 2016
The average sale price was \$177,195*



The Eastgate real estate market continued to be hot last year. Low inventory was the predominant theme in real estate for 2016. Go to page 15 for some fun facts about the Eastgate Neighborhood...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Level One's Grand Opening Draws a Crowd



Branch Manager Susie Wisler holds the scissors for the ceremonial cutting of the ribbon. The branch celebrated its grand opening on January 19.

A crowd gathered at Level One Bank on January 19 to celebrate the official grand opening of the bank's first West Michigan branch. Level One on the corner of Burton and Breton opened for business in November of last year.

Representatives from both the Grand Rapids and the Wyoming-Kentwood Chambers of Commerce were on hand to welcome the institution to the business community.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

**Special thanks
to our ENA
Christmas
Lights Contest
Sponsors**

- Andrea's Pizza
- Breton Auto Wash
- Circle Theatre
- D&W Fresh Market
- Eastgate Neighborhood Association
- Eastgate Salon and Barber Shop
- Level One Bank
- Modern Hardware
- Valvoline Instant Oil Change

Thanks also to D&W Fresh Market for hosting our ENA mixer where the ENA awarded the contest winners.

ENA Christmas Lights Contest Produces Tie for 1st and 2nd

The Krosschells on Plymouth Terrace and the Neumann family on Cornell tied for first place. The Collins family on Evergreen the Grabows on Adams tied for second. Thanks to all who participated!



The Krosschells



The Neumanns



The Collins



The Grabows

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From the President



In preparing to present at the recent celebration honoring Rose and Mario Martarano and Andrea's Pizza's, I went back to research and review the history of both the Eastgate Neighborhood and the Eastgate Neighborhood Association.

While today we think of Eastgate and the surrounding (non-East Grand Rapids) part of Kent County as being squarely within Grand Rapids' city limits, that hasn't always been the case. In fact, it hasn't been the case for all that long.

The Eastgate neighborhood was originally part of Paris Township -- which, as of its organization in 1839, stretched from east to west from Cascade to Wyoming and north to south from the old Grand Rapids boundary to Gaines. All the way until the 1960s, much of Eastgate was still farm land, as was much of the surrounding area. What is now Calvin College was a farm until the late 1950s. In the early 1960s, Grand Rapids annexed Eastgate from Paris Township, and our homes then sat within the city limits.

It wasn't until 1990 that the Eastgate Neighborhood Association was formed. At the time, the hospital was looking at putting a landing space for helicopters near the corner of Boston and Plymouth. A lot has changed in the neighborhood since 1990. Not only is there not a helipad, but the hospital has been gone for a decade.

One thing that still remains, however, is Andrea's Pizza - first opened in 1977, and acquired by current owners Mario and Rose shortly thereafter, Andrea's has been an Eastgate staple nearly as long as we've been part of the City of Grand Rapids. So, the next time you stop into Andrea's to pick up one of their fabulous pizzas, please be sure to congratulate (and thank) them on 40 years as an essential part of our community.

—Todd Neckers, President
Eastgate Neighborhood Association



www.greenridge.com/kelley.rahilly
Kelley Rahilly
kelleyrahilly@gmail.com
616-706-6439



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2017-2018



2016/2017 Classes

3 Year Old	M/W	10:15-12:45
3 Year Old	T/Th	8:30-11:00
Young 4's	T/Th/F	10:15-12:45
4 Year Old	M/W/F	8:30-11:00
4 Year Old	M-Th	1:00-3:30
Young 5's	M-Th	1:00-3:30

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EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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ODD?**



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EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER: **456-3403**





Comerica Bank Closing Its Breton Branch

Comerica will be closing its Breton branch in April 2017. The announcement came last October and was reported by MLive.

Comerica is closing 16 branches across the state in a cost-cutting move. According to the MLive report, Comerica is Michigan's second largest banking institution, behind JP Morgan Chase Bank. The other Grand Rapids branch affected by the announcement is located on Alpine Avenue.

The next nearest Comerica Bank location is on 3215 28th Street SE near Woodland Mall.

Your One Question Recycle Quiz

Books...Recyclable or Not?

Phonebooks? yes.
Magazines? yes.
Books? No.

You may think, "Oh, it doesn't matter." But it does. The recycle plant simply does not have the capability to recycle books.

If you place books in your recycle bin, the city will have to send them to a land fill. This is an added expense. Please help keep our recycling free and follow the rules!



SEASON FLEX PASSES ON SALE NOW



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BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS
JUNE 1 - 17

THE LAST OF THE DRAGONS
JUNE 28 - JULY 1

A CHORUS LINE
JULY 13 - 29

THE ADDAMS FAMILY
MAY 4 - 20

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD
AUGUST 10 - 26

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IT SHOULDA BEEN YOU
SEPTEMBER 7 - 23

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS ON SALE MARCH 27TH
1703 ROBINSON ROAD SE GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Join the ENA!

Your membership shows us and the city of Grand Rapids that we have your support. See the form on the back of this newsletter.

Thanks!



Kris Stott
Real Estate Agent
(616) 490-6722
kristott@bhhsmi.com

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THE EASTGATE
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

WILL BE SPONSORING A
NEIGHBORHOOD

GARAGE SALE WEEKEND

JUNE 1, 2, & 3

THE ENA WILL ADVERTISE ONLINE AND PLACE SIGNS
THROUGHOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD
NEIGHBORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO DIRECT TRAFFIC
TO INDIVIDUAL SALES

Mulick Park Elementary's Good Report Card

Mulick Park was removed from the state's list of Priority Schools. This means that it is no longer in the bottom 5%



Mulick Park Elementary was removed from the state's Priority School list last fall. Ottawa Hill was also removed, but Alger Middle School remains on the list.

A little more than four years ago, in 2012, the Michigan Department of Education identified Mulick Park Elementary School as a Priority School. According to the state, Priority Schools score in the bottom 5% of all Michigan schools in a "Top to Bottom" evaluation process. This process considers, among other items, achievement scores and improvement scores. This year Mulick Park Elementary is no longer a Priority School.

The state's report also noted that Ottawa Hills High School was removed from the list, while our local middle school, Alger Middle, remains on.

When a school is designated as a Priority School, it remains so for four years.

Priority Schools must develop an intervention plan, and Mulick Park's 44 page plan is readily accessible on the school's website. Strategies include reading and math interventions, as well as parent

and student surveys.

One of many strategies outlined in the document is to increase parent and community engagement.

To this end, the Eastgate Initiative was established. The Initiative promotes a tutoring program for the school's 4th and 5th grade students. Eastgate church members, ENA board members, and neighbors and have all participated in this "community engagement branch" of the intervention plan. Ads and notices promoting the initiative regularly run in this newsletter.

Specifically, the Eastgate Initiative consists of four area churches, three of which are in Eastgate. The Eastgate Neighborhood Association is a partner in this collaboration. The ENA churches are Plymouth Heights Christian Reformed Church, Fifth Reformed Church, and Eastminster Presbyterian Church; Hope Church lies outside the ENA boundaries.

Last year WOTV reported that there were 27 mentors in the Eastgate Initiative, and that it encouraged a love of reading. These mentors spend one hour per week with their student.

The local churches regularly support the school in various ways. They have donated school supplies or backpacks at the beginning of the school year; they have provided "Mulick" shirts to the students; they have been drivers for field trips; and they offer the venue for the 5th grade commencement ceremony at Plymouth Heights CRC.

Last year the school served 241 students in grades K-5. It also has a preschool program. The school originally opened in January of 1954 on park land that was formerly owned by florist WW Mulick.

More information about the Priority School designation can be found at Michigan.gov.

Anyone interested in mentoring a Mulick Park 4th or 5th grade student should contact Deborah McCreary at deborah.mccreary1@gmail.com.



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TURN ON OUR HOUSE LIGHTS
but we don't
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Eastgate Calendar 2017

More events will fill this calendar when plans finalize. Stay tuned!

March

- 16 ENA Board Meeting at Eastminster Presbyterian Church 7:00 pm

May

- Gatewatch Delivery*
18 ENA Board Meeting at Fifth Reformed Church 7:00 pm

June

- 1-3 ENA Garage Sale Weekend
3 ENA Ice Cream Social
3 Jewelry Sale at Eastminster Presbyterian Church
3 Bike Tune Up & Hot Dogs at Eastminster Presbyterian Church

July

- Gatewatch Delivery*
20 ENA Board Meeting. Location TBD 7:00 pm
22 Bike Tune Up & Hot Dogs at Eastminster Presbyterian Church

August

- 26 Bike Tune Up & Hot Dogs at Eastminster

September

- 21 ENA Board Meeting at Plymouth Heights CRC. 7:00 pm
23 Eastgate 5K 9:00 am

October

- Gatewatch Delivery*
26 ENA Annual Meeting at Beacon Hill 7:00 pm
31 Trunk or Treat at Fifth Reformed Church

December

- ENA Christmas Lights Contest on Facebook

ENA Annual Meeting

Shaun Shira was elected to the ENA board

The October meeting began with an Andrea's Pizza dinner as neighbors enjoyed each other's company.

Board member Greg Wilkins welcomed everyone to Fifth Reformed Church, the church where he is the facilities manager.

Those in attendance heard the presentation by community officer Ricky Urena. He noted that the neighborhood is quiet with very little crime activity.

Reports were also received from treasurer Jonathan Chitwood. The ENA has a bank balance of \$6,300.

ENA President Todd Neckers reported on the state of the ENA, including the numerous events and activities that involve the ENA.

The neighbors then voted on board member elections. A slate of four candidates was approved unanimously. They were new board member Shaun Shira and returning board members Terri Mawhinney, Jonathan Chitwood, and Paula Englin.

Former board member Chris Nienhuis chose not run.

Heather Downs Community Pool



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- Dressing Rooms
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Learn About ENA Crime

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We cannot give more up-to-date information than Crimemapping.com. The site is intuitive, where you click on our city, then our neighborhood, then our streets. Check it out!

IF YOU NOTICE UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR

Or think the police should be aware of something

CALL THEM AT THE NON-EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER:

456-3403

Summer Roadwork Coming to Eastgate

- Burton Street between Breton and the East Beltline scheduled to receive water main work and reconstruction
- Plymouth Terrace from Adams to Hutchinson will be resurfaced

Burton Street will be closed at times this summer for road work. It is one of the city's major projects and currently scheduled to begin after July.

Plymouth Terrace will have the road surface milled off and then paved with 1.5 inches of asphalt.

Specific dates for the roadwork have not yet been determined.



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Christian Reformed Church

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...inviting neighbors to become disciples.

Sunday services at 10:00 and 5:30
1800 Plymouth Rd

www.phcrc.org
243-5638

Andrea's and 40 Years...

—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Piano Cottage students serenaded with songs such as "That's Amore"

checked tablecloths among Italian-themed décor. The Piano Cottage students serenaded with songs such as "That's Amore" and "On Top of Spaghetti."

Both East Grand Rapids and the City of Grand Rapids offered proclamations for the event.

Mario Martarano embodies the American Dream. He immigrated to the United States from Sicily in 1977. Upon arrival, he landed a job

at Andrea's Pizza, which initially opened in 1969. Four years after Mario started working at Andrea's, he bought it.

For a time, he operated a Stop-n-Go convenience store in the adjacent storefront and there was a passage way between the two establishments. Customers could pick up a pizza and grab some drinks at the convenience store.

That convenience store is now The Piano Cottage operated by Wright and Jody McCarver.

In 2007, the Eastgate Neighborhood Association started selling ads for its newsletter. Mario of Andrea's Pizza was the first person to buy an

ad. Ten years after that ad purchase, we celebrate 40 years of Mario Martarano's work at Andrea's Pizza.

Over the years, Mario and Rose have been a good friends of our community. They have hired many young people from our neighborhood. They have donated to numerous community events including our Christmas Lights Contest and the Eastgate 5k Race. And Andrea's has been an advertiser in this newsletter since the very beginning.

Thank you, Mario and Rose, for your service to our community and for your dedication to a truly wonderful business. We, the Eastgate Neighborhood, are a better place because of you.



A classic *Grand Rapids Press* photo of Mario tossing a pizza.



The plaque reads "Presented to Andrea's Pizza in recognition of 40 years of serving our community. From the Eastgate Neighborhood Association. Presented February 13, 2017"



Mario and Rose pose by the sign welcoming guests to the Andrea's Pizza Event at Beacon Hill at Eastgate.



Third Ward City Commissioner Senita Lenear presented a proclamation from the City of Grand Rapids



The program for the evening



Students from the Piano Cottage provided entertainment for the evening.

Building at Christian High

Grand Rapids Christian Schools is moving its administrative offices to the high school campus by Eagles Stadium.

As you drive down Plymouth to what the locals call "the Alger Extension," you'll see some construction activity at Grand Rapids Christian High School.

Construction began this winter at Eagles Stadium to build administrative offices. The offices are relocating from the elementary campus in the Ottawa Hills neighborhood to the new facility at the high school.

Construction workers are actually adding a second floor to the locker room/concessions building that is already there.

Relocating the administrative offices will free up ground floor space at the elementary campus to accommodate the expanding enrollment at that location. The administration hopes to move into the new offices in time for the 2017-2018 school year this fall.



A Note from Eastminster's Bike Tune-up Team

Hi Neighbors,

We saw a bundled biker ride by the other day. So we thought we'd send you a sunny reminder... summer will come!

Saturday June 3 is the date of our first Hot dog! Bike tune-up event of the summer. It is also the date of Eastminster's annual Vintage Jewelry Sale and the last day of Eastgate's Garage Sale.

We'll have two other Hot dog! Bike tune-up's on Saturday July 22 and August 26.

More information and timing for all these events will be in the May issue of *Gatewatch* and on our Eastminster website <https://eastminstergr.org>.

We are looking forward to sunny days and to seeing you all when we begin our 8th summer of Hot dog! Bike Tune-ups.

Ride safely.

—Eastminster's Hot dog! Bike Tune-up Team

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
1700 Woodward SE
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Intentional Intergenerational Worship

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699599



Level One Bank on the corner of Breton and Burton

Level One Bank —CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bank representatives offered a \$5,000 check to Habitat for Humanity as well as a \$2,500 check to Mindful Classrooms, an organization that works with yoga in education.

Bank executives gathered for the ceremonial ribbon cutting, a duty handled by branch manager, Susie Wisler.

Level One has already partnered with the Eastgate Neighborhood Although its executive offices are located on the east side of the state, our local Level One has already supported the Eastgate Neighborhood Association by sponsoring prize money for the Christmas Lights Contest and placing an ad in this newsletter.

Congratulations on your grand opening, and welcome to the neighborhood!



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Breton Village Changes

- *During the holidays the mall drew a crowd for Santa Claus and the extensive train display*
- *Breton Wigs moved to the mall located at 29th & Breton*
- *The shoe store Naturalizer closed after 41 years. The sign on the door thanked its customers for loyal patronage*
- *AVI Group, which was located upstairs, moved to 4248 29th Street*
- *Talbots will be moving to the new building along Breton Road.*
- *Women's apparel retailer Free People had its grand opening on Black Friday*
- *The new building along Breton continues to take shape.*
- *The empty lot where Great Lakes Shipping Co. once stood will be the location of a new retail site*
- *Rite Aid Pharmacy is moving to the southeast corner of Breton and Burton*



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Area Businesses Voted “Best of GR”

Breton Villages retailers, D&W, and Beacon Hill at Eastgate all receive accolades

Every year *Grand Rapids Magazine*’s readers vote on “the best of Grand Rapids.” Some area businesses received high honors, particularly some of those located at Breton Village.

Fitzgerald’s and Leigh’s were voted “The Best” for Men’s Fashion and Women’s Fashion respectively. Leigh’s also was voted as a favorite shoe store. D&W was mentioned in the grocery store category as was Sheldon Cleaners in the dry cleaners category.

Fifth Third Bank, Huntington Bank, and Panopoulos Salon were all favorites, as was our local retirement community, Beacon Hill at Eastgate. Congratulations!

Interested In Some Garden Space?

EASTGATE COMMUNITY



Space is available at Fifth Reformed Church

The Community Garden space at Beacon Hill and Fifth Reformed Church were tremendously popular last year.

The garden space at Beacon Hill is completely full. However, there is still space

available at Fifth Reformed Church.

Neighbors interested in securing a plot for this spring are encouraged to contact ENA board member Greg Wilkins at gwilkins@fifthrc.org.

Garage Sale Weekend

The ENA board set June 1-3 as Garage Sale Weekend. Do some spring cleaning, sell some stuff, and make some money. The ENA advertises for the entire neighborhood, so we hope to have lots of traffic...and lots of sales!

Eastgate 5k Race/Walk

Mark your calendars: the Eastgate 5k Race/Walk dates have been set for Saturday September 23. We are looking for participation from the ENA! It’s a great event and a great cause!



Positive Reviews Wanted!

In today’s age, positive online reviews are essential. Thus, we are asking you to offer positive reviews of the ENA places that you think are excellent...So as we take a moment to thank those who support the ENA, we’d like you to take a moment and do the same. Thank you.

Fifth Reformed Church



Kelly Rahilly



Eastgate Real Estate

—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- Forty-three homes changed hands in 2016.
- The lowest sale price in 2016 was \$129,900.
- The highest sale price in 2016 was \$264,900.
- The median sale price in 2016 was \$170,000.
- The average sale price in 2016 was 177,951. The average sale price in 2015 was \$152,474.
- The average days on the market in 2016 was 9 days.
- Only one home was on the market for more than 60 days.
- Eight homes sold before being officially listed or on the first day of the listing.
- Of the forty-three transactions, only 6 involved seller concessions.
- March and April were the busiest months with new listings.
- The month of May had the most closings.

Low inventory is expected to continue through 2017. This is great if you are selling and not buying another house but, if you need to buy another house, be prepared to become a buyer in the low inventory market.

Before you put your house on the market, have a plan in place if your house sells quickly and you can't find a new one. Many people move in with family or rent until they

AVERAGE SALE PRICES

2012...	\$106,519
2013...	\$130,791
2014...	\$135,117
2015...	\$152,474
2016...	\$177,951

find the house they want.

Even in a low inventory market, most buyers want a move-in ready home. Homes that are updated, clean, odor-free, well-maintained, nicely landscaped, de-cluttered, and priced according to the competition

will sell quickly and often bring top dollar.



All data and statistics based on sale information from the Grand Rapids Association of Realtors.

Kelley Rahilly has lived in the Eastgate Neighborhood for 15 years. She is an Associate Broker at Greenridge Realty. You can reach her at 616-706-6439 or kelleyrally@gmail.com.

Think Block Party



Meet your neighbors and have a party.

Use \$75 of ENA funds to finance the gathering. Submit receipts to our ENA treasurer at 1627 Woodward. Contact the city at 311 to close off the street that's a \$75 cost.

or, skip closing the street and sprawl onto a yard or two.

It's fun. It's a good thing.

In Short...

- *It's approaching spring, and the community gardens are ready for you. Fifth Reformed Church has availability. Contact Greg at gwilkins@fifthrc.org.*
- *As you look at your schedule, consider mentoring a 4th or 5th grade student at Mulick Park Elementary. Contact Deborah at deborah.mccreary1@gmail.com*
- *You must have seen the front page of this newsletter. Mario is celebrating 40 years of slinging pizzas. That's noteworthy...pass on some congratulations the next time you grab a pizza. Special thanks to BJ Holwerda at Holwerda-Snoap on Division Ave. for making quick work of a plaque. It turned out great!*
- *Dreaming about warm sunny days at the pool? Hey...Heather Downs is a pool. And it's only spittin' distance from your house. See the ad in this newsletter and make your dreams become a sunny reality.*
- *Support the ENA in TWO easy ways:*
 - #1 Join. See the back page for details*
 - #2 Tell our advertisers that you saw their ad and appreciate them.*
 - #3 Okay, three ways. Give our local establishments an online review. Show some ENA love!*
- *Average home sale price in 2016 was almost \$178k? Wow. Thanks to Kelly Rahilly for writing that real estate report!*
- *Join the ENA facebook page for the most up-to-date information about the neighborhood.*
- *June 3 is the Garage Sale weekend, and the ice cream social, and Eastminster's vintage jewelry sale, and their bike tune-up day.*
- *The Christmas Lights Contest winners were awarded at the ENA mixer sponsored D&W. D&W provided a nice spread for the event, too. Special thanks for that "over-the-top" contribution.*
- *Visit Crimemapping.com for the latest crime reports. It's easy and informative.*
- *Lots of good ENA info is on the ENA website. Check it out!*

JOIN the EASTGATE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION !

Name(s): _____

 Address: _____

 Email: _____

- New Member
 - Renewing Member
 - Yes! I would like to serve on the ENA Board
 - Return this form with annual dues of \$15 to:
- ENA c/o Jonathan Chitwood, Treasurer
 1627 Woodward
 Grand Rapids, MI

2015 BOARD
 Todd Neckers, PRESIDENT
 Jim Rauwerda, VICE PRESIDENT
 Paula Englin, SECRETARY
 Jonathan Chitwood, TREASURER
 Tina Cronkhite
 Terri Mawhinney
 Shaun Shira
 Kris Stott
 Greg Wilkins
 Megan Wolenberg

**GRAND RAPIDS
 CITY PHONE NUMBERS**

DIAL 311
 The city of Grand Rapids has a 311 service that allows residents to contact individual city departments by dialing 311. If you have concerns involving anything from street lights or pot holes or barking dogs, then 311 is the number to call.
**POLICE NON-EMERGENCY
 456-3403**

 **Join us
 on Facebook**
 Search Eastgate Neighborhood Association and be part of the discussion.

 **CHECK IT OUT**
 THE ENA WEBSITE:
 WWW.EASTGATEGR.COM

Host a Block Party!

The ENA reimburses expenses for block parties—up to \$75.00. Send receipts to our treasurer, Jonathan Chitwood at 1627 Woodward.
Use the winter weather as an excuse to invite your neighbors to get together!

See something strange?
 CALL THE POLICE AT THE NON-EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER: **456-3403**

ENA ICE CREAM SOCIAL

AT
 Eastminster Presbyterian Church
 SATURDAY JUNE 3 FROM NOON-2



**GARAGE SALE
 WEEKEND**

JUNE 1,2 & 3

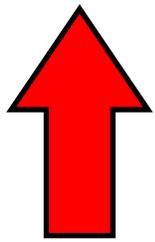
JOIN THE FUN AND HAVE A SALE!

- Level One Bank Grand Opening
- Andrea's Pizza Celebration
- Real Estate Report 2017
- Comerica Bank Closing
- Breton Village Update
- Mulick Park Elementary's Report Card



Read these stories and more inside this issue of the Gatewatch newsletter

**EASTMINSTER BIKE REPAIR AND JEWELRY SALE
 SATURDAY JUNE 3
 DURING GARAGE SALE WEEKEND**



**JOIN THE ENA
 LOOK NO FARTHER THAN THE
 TOP OF THIS PAGE!**