

Winter 2009



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# Neighborhood News

## Letter from the President

John Tasdemir

Dear Clements Circle Neighbor,

Another year has come and gone with many exciting and new events affecting the Clements Circle neighborhood. I want to spend the time to review the highlights of 2008 and the promises of 2009. 2008 was another memorable year for the Clements Circle neighborhood. Families continue to stay and grow here as our neighborhood sees new and old retail stores flourishing nearby during the current economic recession.

The neighborhood came out strong in 2008 to help clean the Clements Circle Park as we participated in the citywide annual Take Pride in Livonia Day. More than 50 volunteers on May 3rd of all ages came to the Clements Circle Park with rakes and shovels in hand to spruce up the park for a little spring-cleaning. The Clements Circle Park continues strengthening the personal connections of friends and families as a focal point for the neighborhood. I would like to thank the Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation, specifically Superintendent Karen Kapchonick, for their continued support of the pool and outdoor play equipment.

The 2008 summer season started on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June with great support from all who participated in the Annual CCCA Neighborhood Garage Sale. The

main event this summer was the Park Picnic on August 9<sup>th</sup>. We had a wonderful turnout considering the intermittent showers and thunder that rolled through the middle of the event. Michigan State Senator Glenn Anderson and Wane County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt were gracious to stop by and meet the neighbors. I would also like to thank Larry's Foodland for their continued donations of food and supplies; in addition, Olive Mountain Market donated fresh food to show their support in the community.

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, CCCA hosted its annual Candidate's Night and General Assembly Meeting. 25 of our neighbors attended the meeting to see the candidates' discuss their issues and determine who will best serve in public office. I would like to thank all the candidates that attended this great tradition CCCA has every year. CCCA members & neighbors got an opportunity to bowl a perfect game on October 24<sup>th</sup> at Wonderland Lanes. All that attended had fun meeting new and old neighbors. The final event of 2008 was the festive tradition of our annual Christmas Celebration at the Wilson Barn. The barn was packed on December 6<sup>th</sup> as young and old gathered around to warm up on hot chocolate and cookies as they caroled to Christmas songs.

I am very pleased with the success of our newly re-designed website.

*(continued on page 7)*



## Welcoming Committee

Heather Penzenstadler

Hello Neighbors, In addition to my role as the Membership Chair, I will also be taking on the coordination of the Welcoming Committee. The purpose of the Welcoming Committee is to greet our new neighbors and be a point of contact for any questions that you may have about your new surroundings. We also distribute a welcoming bag filled with coupons and area information, as well as a special treat.

We're working on establishing a better system to identify recently sold homes in our neighborhood. In the meantime, our only means of tracking home sales is by sold signs in the yard, flyers, and listings in the newspaper. If you are new to the neighborhood and have not been welcomed, please feel free to contact me! Even if you are already familiar with our corner of Livonia, it's a good way to meet a friendly neighbor or two! See you around the neighborhood!

Heather Penzenstadler  
[welcomers@clementscircle.org](mailto:welcomers@clementscircle.org)

## Petty Theft in the Neighborhood

Jillian Schoenborn

Upon arriving home late from our family vacation, my husband and I ever so carefully transferred our sleeping children to their beds. Because of how late we arrived home we decided to unpack in the morning.

After unpacking, we realized that our diaper bag and my cell phone were missing. Our diaper bag contained our video camera and digital camera with all of our pictures from our vacation. I started walking down the street looking for it. I found one of my son's shoes and one of my daughter's books. I didn't find the diaper bag. After speaking with the neighbors, I found out that our entire street was hit. Our neighbor had his GPS system in his truck stolen and he had caught the kids stealing it and chased them. Unfortunately he did not catch the kids.

My next door neighbor found my cell phone in her grass and I found my neighbor's GPS system when I started hopping fences to try to find my diaper bag.

I never did find our diaper bag (despite putting out a 500 dollar reward) and I lost all of our family vacation photos. Those photos mean so much more to us because we have a sick child and it was an awesome vacation at a time when she was healthy. The moral of the story is to LOCK your car doors and we should all be on the lookout for our neighbors. This incident occurred August 1st at 5am.

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# CCCA Bowling Night

Heather Penzenstadler

On Friday, October 24th, the CCCA organized a special bowling night at Wonderland Lanes as a socializing opportunity for our neighbors. Wonderland Lanes provided a generous discount of \$10 for 3 hours of unlimited bowling and free shoes. While only 12 people were able to attend the event, everyone did have a great time and we look forward to organizing more fun, casual events that promote mingling amongst our residents. The best way to build a strong, safe community is by getting to know your neighbors!

Thanks to all who attended, and if you have a suggestion for a future event, feel free to pass it along to any of the CCCA board members! Contact information can be found on the website at:

<http://www.clementscircle.org/WP/contact-us/>

# New ClementsCircle.org Website Design!

Leigh McBain

Over the last few months our MultiMedia Director, Leigh McBain, has been working to make the ClementsCircle.org website a much better tool for people to not only get information but post information too. The result is this totally new website.

Now there are still some rough edges but what has been added so far to this site will really benefit everyone. First off using WordPress to power the site with this "blog" style will allow multiple people to post to the site! Any of the board members will be able to post their own updates without having to wait for anyone else to upload the information to the website. This should allow for much more up-to-date information and more frequent posting to the site. Not only will boardmembers be able to post but as a CCCA member you will be able to submit information to the site and if approved it will be posted as well! Talk about getting the word out!

In addition to being able to post information or articles to the site I have also added commenting! You can try it now at the bottom of this article! This will allow you to read a post and then add your own thoughts, ideas or commentary to help enhance the communication and make it a truly two way conversation!

I'm excited to get this new site up and running and hope that you will find it useful and easy to navigate. As I said before there are still some rough spots but if you see something that you think should be changed or improved please let us know! So please visit [www.ClementsCircle.org](http://www.ClementsCircle.org).



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# CCCA SOFTBALL TEAM

Heather Penzenstadler



For the second year in a row, residents of the Clements Circle subdivision have teamed up to play a few friendly games of softball against our neighbors in Devon Aire and Old Rosedale Gardens. The team has played every other Sunday throughout the summer at baseball diamonds in Kleinert Park and Devon-Aire Park.



Although the outcome of the games wasn't always in our favor, everyone on the team had fun and enjoyed the neighborly competition. The season is now over, but we look forward to getting together again next summer. People of all ages and skill levels are welcome to join. Even if you don't play, bring the whole family to cheer on your neighbors next year!

# Lost and Found

Jillian Schoenborn

A digital camera was found in Clements Circle Park on Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. Two very honest and thoughtful teenage girls brought it to my house, thanks ladies! They restored my faith in teenagers everywhere, especially after my camera was stolen (see page 2). I would really like to find the owner of this camera, it has a priceless childhood first on it. If the camera is yours or you know who it may belong to please contact me at newsletter@clementscircle.org

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# Candidate's Night & General Assembly Meeting

*John Tasdemir*

On October 20h, CCCA hosted its annual Candidate's Night and General Assembly Meeting. 25 of our neighbors attended the meeting to see the candidates' discuss their issues.

Once again Clements Circle held a Candidate's Night to give our members a chance to meet and greet the people that are putting themselves out there to serve our interests. This tradition has been a great opportunity for our neighborhood to really get to know the candidates and help the undecided voter on Nov 4. Our Annual Fall General Meeting and Candidate's Night was held on Monday October 20th at 7 pm at Emerson Middle School. If you were unable to attend the event, please visit [ClementsCircle.org](http://ClementsCircle.org) to view the video of the entire meeting online.

Below is a list of candidates that attended the Candidate's Night:

Representative in Congress 11th District

- Thaddeus G McCotter, Republican (incumbent), Chris Gravell represented Rep. McCotter
  - Joseph W Larkin, Democratic
  - Erik Shelley, Green
  - John J Tatar, Libertarian
- Representative in State Legislature 17th District
- Andy Dillon, Democratic (incumbent)
  - Sandra Eggers, Republican, Did not attend the meeting

Wayne County Commissioner 12th District

- Joan Gebhardt, Democratic
- Thomas Thompson, Republican
- Declined the invitation to attend

As you all know now after the elections on Nov 4<sup>th</sup>, Rep. Thaddeus McCotter and Rep. Andy Dillon won their reelection campaigns. Ms. Joan Gebhardt won the position as the Wayne County Commissioner in the 12<sup>th</sup> District. CCCA congratulates all that won and all that participated in this year's elections. CCCA will be planning a larger Candidate's Night next year so please check [www.ClementsCircle.org](http://www.ClementsCircle.org) for the latest.



## Traffic Signs

*Adam Penzenstadler*

The city of Livonia has been making changes to the traffic signing in our neighborhood and throughout the city as they strive to become compliant with the Michigan Manual on Uniform Traffic Devices (MMUTCD). The intent of these changes is to enhance the safety of our residents.

Several members of our neighborhood have voiced concerns over these changes, especially the changes at West Chicago and Harrison. For that

reason, I have contacted the City to get some more information on this intersection, and I wanted to share with you what I discovered. According to the MMUTCD, the minimum requirements for a 4-way stop are that the number of vehicles entering the intersection from the major street approaches averages at least 300 vehicles per hour for any 8 hours of an average day, and the combined vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle volume entering the intersection from the minor street approaches averages at least 200 units per hour for the same 8 hours. To put that in perspective, there would need to be one car every 12 seconds on West Chicago and one car, bike, or pedestrian every 18 seconds on Harrison Road for an 8 hour period.

I contacted Sgt. Studt from the Livonia Police Department, and he told me that according to a survey done in October, West Chicago handles about 1600 vehicles per day and Harrison handles about 600 a day. This is nowhere near the minimum volumes for a 4-way stop.

I hope this helps to shed some light on what the requirements are for a 4-way stop sign and why the city has been removing them in our neighborhood. I will be posting this information and more on our website at [www.clementscircle.org](http://www.clementscircle.org)

## February Bowling Night

Come push your luck on Friday the 13th at 9:00 at Wonderland Lanes. Bowl a few games and socialize with your neighbors. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to [penzenst@gmail.com](mailto:penzenst@gmail.com) so that we can estimate our lane needs.

# Meet the Neighbors

Jillian Schoenborn



Everyone seems to be in hibernation for the winter so I will feature my family in this issue's article! Many of you have probably seen us throughout the summer. We tend to go for long walks, at least I walk, while my children drive in a miniature Mustang. I usually have my Boston Terrier, Chloe, in tow. On warm days we can always be spotted at the park, out for a walk, or hanging out in our front yard.

My husband, Dan, and I met just after we graduated High School. We got married in 2002 and moved to Okemos so that Dan could finish Medical School at MSU. We both grew up in Livonia and knew that our next move would bring us back to where we had so much fun growing up!

We moved into the neighborhood in May of 2003. I absolutely love my neighbors and the people in our neighborhood. I am so ecstatic to say that when I need an egg or a cup of sugar my neighbors are always there for me (thanks Jimmie and Jessie)!

Not only do our immediate neighbors help out but many others as well. Our neighbor, Guy, lives a few houses down and knows that Dan works long hours. He often helps us remove snow from our walkway (thanks Guy we really appreciate it)! Countless people in the neighborhood have helped us throughout the years, that is why I love living in this neighborhood.

I was an 8<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher in Livonia until I had my son, Jackson, in 2005. After spending 3 months at home with him I couldn't go back to work! I just loved being a Mom! We soon had another child, Hadley, in 2006.

Life was great until I went for my daughter's 2 month well baby visit. We discovered that she had a very rare liver disease (Biliary Atresia) and would need a massive 8 hour surgery. The surgery doesn't fix the problem and Hadley will need a transplant in the near future. It was devastating; I took my children's health for granted, but not anymore! Today, Hadley is beating the odds of the disease and hasn't required a transplant. Usually by age two 50% of kids have had a transplant and by age five 85% have had one. Life is great right now!

Ironically, my husband is finishing his fellowship in Gastroenterology. He will be a GI doctor in about two and a half years. The ironic thing is that the specialists that Hadley sees are GI docs. It is so comforting to have an "expert" in the house! Dan is our rock and gets us through all of our hospital stays and health issues. We are so thankful to "Doctor Dad"!

*\*\*To read more about Hadley's story, visit [www.caringbridge.org/visit/hadleyschoenborn](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/hadleyschoenborn)*



## *CCCA Board Members*

**John Tasdemir**  
President

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**Heather Penzenstadler**  
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**Ralph Leggat**  
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**Adam Penzenstadler**  
Director

The following positions are vacant:  
Events Committee Chairperson  
Garage Sale Chairperson

If you are interested please email John at [president@clementscircle.org](mailto:president@clementscircle.org)

## President's Letter(continued)

John Tasdemir

Since its relaunch this past summer, the site has been attracting almost 100 visitors per day. ClementsCircle.org has been the conduit for the latest news and announcements to the neighborhood by providing a voice for the community.

In 2009, many of us will face uncertainty in our professional lives as we experience the threat or reality of layoffs and a faltering economy. CCCA will be more involved with the City of Livonia to provide a link between neighbors and local government. 2009 should be a year when we look to grow closer to our friends and neighbors during difficult times. Clements Circle Civic Association will step up its efforts to bring people together in 2009, with more forums and events. I also encourage all of you to provide CCCA with direct feedback via email or voice messages on how we can strengthen our sense of community.

Finally, I personally thank the officers, board, and volunteers who have done so much for our neighborhood in 2008. I would like to thank all of you again for making Clements Circle a special place to live and raise a family. I encourage all of you throughout 2009 to say hello to your neighbor, go out for a jog or stroll, take a bike ride, or play some games at the park. I also encourage you to eat and shop at the newly opened establishments on Plymouth Road to support our local businesses. I wish everyone a wonderful 2009 and please visit [www.ClementsCircle.org](http://www.ClementsCircle.org) for the latest news and information affecting the Clements Circle neighborhood.



Sincerely,  
John Tasdemir  
CCCA President,  
2008-2009



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# 2009 Membership Renewals

Dear CCCA Residents,

With the start of the new year, it's once again time to renew your membership with the CCCA. In order to keep our bookkeeping simple, all memberships expired on December 31, 2008, regardless of when you joined. In order to get "more bang for your buck" this year, please consider renewing your membership now to take advantage of all the member benefits.

As a member, your \$10 dues help to support our annual events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, summer picnic, and Christmas Celebration. We are also working on organizing more casual social events for our residents to enjoy, such as the recent bowling night. In addition to these events, members of the CCCA also get a discount on the entry fee for the annual neighborhood garage sale. Finally, your support of the CCCA allows us to print and distribute the quarterly newsletter and maintain a website, which is a valuable resource for information about our community.

Thank you to all who have supported the CCCA this past year, and we look forward to continuing to improve our association.

Thank you,  
Heather Penzenstadler  
Membership Chairperson  
[membership@clementscircle.org](mailto:membership@clementscircle.org)

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009

I/We are residents of the CCCA area (bounded by Plymouth Rd., West Chicago Ave., Inkster Rd., and Middlebelt Rd. and wish to become a member of the Clements Circle Civic Association.

Name:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Email:

Check here to add this e-mail to the CCCA distribution list:

If you are interested in volunteering for one of our events or would like to welcome new neighbors to the neighborhood, please check the following boxes:

*Special Events*       *Welcomer*

Return completed form, along with your **\$10. 00** check or money order made payable to:

CCCA Membership  
P.O. Box 511366  
Livonia, MI 48151

*Do you want to join right now? Then sign up via our website at [www.clementscircle.org](http://www.clementscircle.org).*

Any membership questions can be directed to [membership@clementscircle.org](mailto:membership@clementscircle.org).