



FREQUENT QUESTIONS

Q: How long has the Association been in existence?

A: Our first neighborhood association was the "North End Community Club" . The earliest record of their activity found so far was May 23, 1921. Although WPIA notes & logo say we were founded in 1924 we have yet to find confirmation of that. The group seems to have been dormant from the late 1920s through early 1940s. It was revived as the "The Woodland Park Improvement Association" on June 15 1945, primarily in opposition to an airport being considered in Oak Park. It was incorporated in 1946 per past notes. We are one of the oldest neighborhood block associations in the state.

Q: Why should I pay dues?

A: As a non-profit incorporated organization, Woodland Park Improvement Association is governed by a board of directors, a group of committed volunteers striving to provide services and amenities to our organization because we care about our neighborhood and our neighbors.

It is our hope that you care as much as we do. We are counting on all 327 households to make the same commitment as we have by paying annual dues when your block director begins collecting in the fall of each year.

Q: What do my dues provide?

A: Current services we provide are legal representation should we need to challenge local business or municipal actions, snow removal, an annual beautification award, an annual summer block party, luminaries on Christmas Eve, newsletters, flyers like these, and yearly website costs. These communication tools keep our residents up to-date on current events/issues. In addition to those services, we must also renew the Association's fee with the State of Michigan at an annual cost of \$15.

Q: How much is Woodland Park Improvement Association "membership"?

A: Yearly membership, payable in advance, is \$15.00.

Q: What happens if I don't pay my dues?

A: If we don't have a high percentage of overall participation, we face the risk of having to increase yearly dues. This makes for an unpleasant and undue burden on others.

Q: When should I pay?

A: Block directors begin collecting in the fall for the subsequent year. According to our bylaws, dues are paid in advance by December 31st. If you haven't paid, feel free to drop an envelope off at their house with your name and address on it.

Q: I'm a renter, should I pay?

A: Sure! Renters also enjoy the benefits that our Association provides.

Q: Can I pay for more than one year in advance?

A: Yes! There are some residents who prefer to make payments this way. If you didn't pay for the previous year or want to pay in advance, please do. You may also make a donation. Since we are a 501(3)(c) entity, your contributions are tax deductible.

Q: There's a vacant house on our block. Can I pay on behalf of that household?

A: Yes, by all means! Contact your block director and inquire as to whether or not that address is up-to-date and whether you can pay on their behalf.

Q: What does a block director do and how are they selected?

A: Block directors represent their street at WPIA meetings, voicing any concerns they have or concerns of the residents on their street at one or two meetings per year. They also collect annual dues in the fall, distribute WPIA newsletters and flyers and set up luminaries. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors. Nominations are made for board of director positions and an election takes place at the annual meeting.

Q: How long has the WPIA provided snow removal and why?

A: We have provided snow removal services to Woodland Park residents since 1954. The Association has provided snow removal to its residents because it has been able to contract with an affordable removal service and also because there are many senior citizens who depend upon the service.

Q: Why don't we pay the snow removal contractor on a per incident basis rather than a flat fee?

A: It is extremely difficult to coordinate and manage these efforts with a volunteer who will document snowfall, removal and negotiate a contract along those lines. Please keep in mind that we are all volunteers and there are just so many things that we can take on.

Q: When and where are meetings?

A: Our annual meeting is usually the fourth Monday of March in the Media Center of Roosevelt Elementary School. For up-to-date information, please check our website: www.wpiaferndale.org.

Q: Friends of mine on another street in NW Ferndale have asked if they can join our association to enjoy the benefits of snow removal/block party/luminaries. What do I tell them?

A: They should contact the president who will bring it to the attention of the board of directors. They should be prepared with a proposal and volunteers. We would then assess the benefits to our Association by holding a board of directors meeting. The block that is interested in joining our Association would have to commit to providing a block director and 100% dues participation. Then, after all the issues are discussed, we would hold a general election at our annual meeting.