NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 2008
Huron Chase E-mail network: if you wish to add your e-mail address, please contact sarhaus@umich.edu

NEXT BOARD MEETING, TBA at PASCO
Garage parties on Fridays: Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 6:00p.m. at 1964 Boulder. Bring your own drink.

Newsletter archive: http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sarhaus/hc/

AROUND THE CHASE…

• You may have noticed, following the recent power failure, that at one point we had estimates of getting the power back on Wednesday afternoon at 4p.m. Suddenly, the power returned Tuesday morning at about 10:30a.m. Why is that? Many thanks again to our “angel” who has helped so much in previous instances. Of course, we should not have to have the level of intervention that has been employed. To that end, the “angel” has again come forth and invited a letter that will get to DTE to someone who is supposed to be helpful. A copy of the letter is attached here. Many of our residents were very helpful—greatest thanks to all; we are trying to get a corresponding level of interest from DTE.

• Walking…please remember when walking on Boulder Drive to use the south half of the boulevarded entry when entering and leaving the complex…that will keep you safer. Cars turning into the complex from Huron Parkway enter into the north half and the driver may well have his/her focus on the traffic on the Parkway and not on pedestrians who happen to be in the north half. So, please use only the south half for entering and exiting on foot or for daily walks.

• New projects. If you are considering any sort of alteration of your property, please contact a board member in advance of embarking on the project. So, please share your good plans well in advance!

• Huron Chase Annual block party was a rousing success! Even the remnants of hurricane Ike could not keep us down! Kudos to all who came and brought outstanding food!! Once again, Ricky Agranoff’s elegant dishes were a focal point of the display of about 40 dishes of food. Her meat/fish dishes were complemented by a stunning array of appetizers, salads, casseroles, and desserts. Another star of the show was Pierre…about one hour before the beginning of the event, he showed up at our front door and asked if it would be ok for him to construct a shelter over our driveway. He began building a cleverly designed structure, all without any nails or screws into the building! Truly it was a master “boy-scout” effort at giant tent building and anchoring—little did we all know that only a few hours later our strong community spirit and will would be tested once again when a telephone pole fell at the Boy Scout Headquarters (how ironic) across Huron Parkway sending us all into total darkness for the next 32 hours!

• Garage TGIF parties begin in October. Each Friday at 6:00p.m. in the garage at 1964 (Arlinghaus garage). Bring a drink. We’ll supply light food (in contrast to the annual block party).
To: DTE  
Re: Power failure  
Sunday, September 14, 2008  
Huron Chase Condominiums—50 homes  
Boulder Drive  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  

On September 14, 2008, about midnight, the power failed to all 50 homes in Huron Chase condominiums on Boulder Drive. Unfortunately for me, this is an all too common occurrence. Usually it also involves homes in two adjoining areas of Ann Arbor, Woodland Hills and Ann Arbor Hills. Often the problem is a transformer at the end of Exmoor Road, and almost always the overhead wires that run above Mallett’s Creek through a heavily wooded area up to Overridge are involved.

When a new mall was built at the corner of Washtenaw and Huron Parkway, just to our south, we suggested that, since the wiring there would be underground and since our wiring was underground on our site, the time had arrived to replace this difficult over-the-creek wiring with some underground connection. The suggestion met with the response that providing underground wiring to the entire DTE system was too expensive.

This time, as it turns out unfortunately for us, a slightly greater area was involved. The aforementioned mall, another condo complex between us and the mall, a Boy Scout headquarters across Huron Parkway, and others also lost power. Calls asking estimates for restoration yielded responses indicating first that our power would be restored in two hours, then by noon, then by the next midnight. By mid-evening power had been restored to the Boy Scouts, the mall, and to at least some of Woodland Hills. Now calls for estimates of restoration time met varied responses: Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday afternoon, or the worst response—that “the problem has been corrected” (it is always reassuring to be told your power is on while you are sitting in the dark using a flashlight to see the numbers on your phone dial). Later efforts to talk to workers in the field met the same response. Only extraordinary efforts persuaded DTE to actually investigate the problem. Once investigation actually began, the lights came on within minutes, both in our complex and on Overridge. One can only speculate that someone forgot to “turn a switch.”

The service provided by DTE was dreadful, at the very least in terms of communications. We could see that the men on the trucks were hard at work. But, it is VERY frustrating to residents who

• are in the process of losing hundreds of dollars of frozen foods  
• may be losing valuable business contacts over the e-mail and internet  
• may be losing valued business and personal equipment from power surge or related problems  
• may have their health jeopardized by loss of power

to hear over the phone that power has been restored when, in fact, it has never been restored.

Indeed, it became even more frustrating when individuals in our neighborhood went out to speak to workers and were told the same by them, when obviously we had no power. Further, some workers told us that once the record shows restoration (whether or not it be true) that then we fall back to the end of the line for service.

In the past we have had the same deplorable problem. Another time, we were told that the DTE map showed our complex to be in Inkster when in fact it is in Ann Arbor. Not only did we have to argue with personnel about our power not being back on but we also had to work assertively to convince them that we actually knew where we lived.

We are not a community of weak or of weak-minded people. Corporation presidents, university professors, business leaders, community leaders, attorneys, and doctors, populate our complex. They know when they are being mistreated and they do not take kindly to it. They are people of action. Let this letter be a call to action to DTE to:

• make sure their map is correct  
• improve communications  
• educate workers to actually listen rather than to parrot some established agenda and patronize clients  
• respond to entire situations
We have also asked, repeatedly, for an estimate of how much it would cost us to connect our existing underground wiring to that of the mall on the corner (or elsewhere in order to overcome our problems). We have received only non-answers involving how much DTE would have to spend to put the whole city, or a large segment of it, underground. That was not, and still is not, what we are asking. We would like the opportunity to have further meaningful communication with someone with the education and authority to discuss these and related matters with us in a construction fashion.

William C. Arlinghaus, Ph.D.
President, Huron Chase Condominium Association
1964 Boulder Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

PHOTO GALLERY, 16TH ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY, HURON CHASE CONDOMINIUMS

Pierre constructs a shelter for us all!
PRESS BOX

Newsletter: Please feel free to contact Board members for full access to archives of the Board including full minutes, attachments, and other documents that may come to the attention of the Board. This newsletter is to be treated as private correspondence, for residents of Huron Chase only. There is a Huron Chase e-mail database; please send an e-mail note to sarhaus@umich.edu if you wish to be added to that database.

Archives: http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sarhaus/hc/

Management Company employed by Huron Chase:
PASCO Property Management, Inc., 2750 Carpenter Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105
Voice: (734) 677-2727, Fax: (734) 677-3872,
Contact: Jeff Dobbs, dobbssl@sbcglobal.net
Back-up contact: Chris Fortier, cfortccn@ix.netcom.com

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NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NETWORK Trained and background-checked block captains. Carolyn Conlin, 1918 Boulder.
gathome@aol.com 677-3673; Ricky Agranoff, 1942 Boulder. MmeRice@aol.com 971-7364; Al Zamberlan, 1925 Boulder.
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