



Gatewatch
Spring 2014
Vol. XV No. 2

Visit our website
www.eastgategr.com

Email us at
eastgategr@gmail.com

Join the ENA
See back page for details



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Search Eastgate
Neighborhood Association

Beacon Hill at Eastgate Has Plans for Expansion

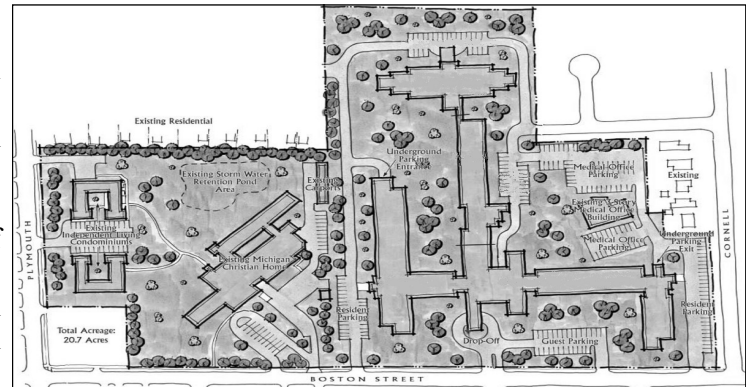
*The expansion is part of the original building plan submitted
to the city and the neighborhood in 2006*

Beacon Hill at Eastgate has plans to expand its building on the 20.7 acre site that occupies most of the corner of Boston and Plymouth.

The retirement facility, which opened in the fall of 2010, has reached capacity.

The expansion plans are in the infancy, but the intention is to construct a new wing toward

—CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



These original plans for the Beacon Hill site were first published in the *Gatewatch* in 2006

Pooh's Corner... Closed

*Breton Village mainstay is closed its doors after 38
years of selling children's books*

On March 26 an email was sent to Pooh's Corner patrons stating, "After selling books to your families for 38 years, we are very sad to announce that Pooh's Corner will close."

The email went on to say, "Our booksellers have sold you the best in children's literature for decades and we hope that you have cherished us as much as we have cherished all of you."

The Breton Village mainstay has been in business since 1976. Initially, it was operated by Christian book publisher Baker Book House. Eleven years ago,



The independent children's book store was one of the very few in the entire state

longtime store managers Sally Bolthuis and Camille DeBoer purchased the store.

—CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Garage Sales, Ice Cream Social, and a Jewelry Sale

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 29, 30, and 31.

Once again, neighbors are invited to open up their garages and sell their stuff.

Garage Sale weekend is Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 29, 30, and 31.

The ENA will post signs around the neighborhood, and advertise on Craig's List and the *Grand Rapids Press*. Those efforts are intended to bring people to the neighborhood. Neighbors are expected to post signs directing traffic to their individual sales.

Eastminster Presbyterian Church will host its annual jewelry sale in the church parking lot. 100% of the pro-

**BIG
SALE**

ceeds go to the Kids Food Basket

*ENA Annual Ice Cream Social:
Eastminster Parking Lot
Saturday, May 31 at 2:00*

The Ice Cream Social will be held on Saturday, May 31 at 2:00, also at Eastminster Presbyterian Church's Parking Lot.

Eastgate Calendar 2014

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

May

Gatewatch Delivery

15 Board Meeting. Fifth Reformed Church 7:00 pm

31 Ice Cream Social. Eastminster 29—31 Garage Sale Days

32 Hot Dog! Bike Repair at Eastminster

June

16 Blood Drive at Plymouth Heights

July

Gatewatch Delivery

12 Hot Dog! Bike Repair at Eastminster

17 ENA Board Meeting. Beacon Hill 7:00 pm

August

9 ENA Dumpster Day

13 Kids Night Out at Plymouth Heights Christian Reformed Church

14 Pig Roast Picnic at Beacon Hill at Eastgate

16 Hot Dog! Bike Repair at Eastminster

18 Blood Drive at Plymouth Heights

September

18 Eastgate 5K 6:30 pm

October

Gatewatch Delivery

16 ENA Annual Meeting at Beacon Hill 7:00 pm

31 Trunk or Treat at Fifth Reformed Church

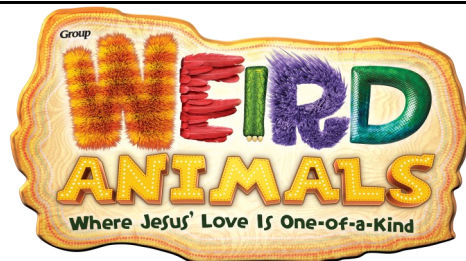
November

4 Election Day

December

ENA Christmas Lights Contest on Facebook

15 Blood Drive at Plymouth Heights



Vacation Bible School!

THIS YEAR IS

WEIRD ANIMALS

At Fifth Reformed Church

Mark your calendars for 2014:

June 23-27
from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

ON-LINE REGISTRATION IS OPEN AT WWW.FIFTHRC.ORG

For more information please call Krista at Fifth Reformed Church 245-9247 ext. 12

New Dates Added to Calendar

- Dumpster Day will be August 9
- Plymouth Heights Christian Reformed Church's "Kids Night Out" August 13
- Beacon Hill at Eastgate's Pig Roast August 14
- Eastgate 5K Run/Walk will be September 18

EASTGATE'S CONVENIENCE STORE

*Stop in for all your
convenience store needs*



**LOCATED ON BOSTON STREET
IN THE HEART OF THE EASTGATE NEIGHBORHOOD**

From the President



Springtime marks the beginning of all the fun activities we have planned for the neighborhood, and – despite the lingering chilly weather – this year is no exception.

Our first big event of the year is our Garage Sale Days – scheduled for Thursday, May 29 – Saturday, May

31. This event is a great opportunity for individual neighbors to get rid of unwanted items, but also for getting out and meeting one another.

If you aren't planning to participate, why not take advantage of this chance to tour a part of the neighborhood you haven't visited before? You might find not only some great deals but also some new friendships. Be sure to also stop by Eastminster Presbyterian Church, where they will be hosting their annual jewelry sale - all proceeds go to Feed America and the local-affiliated Kids Food Basket – and stick around for the ice cream social on Saturday, May 31!

Later this summer, we will be hosting our annual Dumpster Day event, which is one of our most popular events. Dumpster will be Plymouth Heights Christian Reformed Church on the morning of August 9. Also keep in mind that certain items are considered household hazardous waste and may not be collected on Dumpster Day: This includes latex paint; garage, yard and home chemicals (weed killer, fertilizer, antifreeze, fluorescent light bulbs, etc); propane tanks; medications; needles and mercury. To find out how to properly dispose of these items, please visit www.recycleKent.org.

Of course, summer is the perfect time to host a neighborhood block party as well! This is an annual family favorite event for many neighbors in Eastgate, and if it's not a tradition yet on your street, why not make it one this year? The ENA will reimburse you up to \$75 for your event. Simply apply for a permit through the city and submit your receipts to the ENA c/o Jonathan Chitwood, 1627 Woodward Ave SE, GR, MI 49506.

One last thing to note – we are now posting all board meeting information on our Facebook page in an effort to be more transparent to our members. Typically, meetings are held the third Thursday five times per year (January, March, May, July and September). Plan to join us and help us make the ENA the best neighborhood in Grand Rapids!

—Shana Shroll, ENA President



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



*Resident of, and Realtor for,
 the Eastgate Neighborhood*

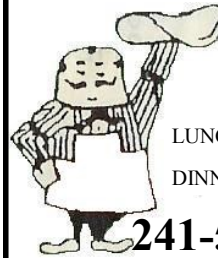
M-F 7am-6pm
 S 7:30 am –4:30pm

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Friday & Saturday 4 PM to 11 PM
 Sunday 12 PM to 9 PM

241-5446

2014 - 2015



2013/2014 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

a place to be young, a place to belong

1700 Woodward
 247-0433

A Christian Outreach Program of
 EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Eastgate Neighborhood Association would like to thank Pooh's Corner for its years of support of our community. When the ENA first solicited Gatewatch ads many years ago, Pooh's Corner readily signed on. Through the years, the store has offered our neighborhood story-times, author visits, a train table, and a warm and knowledgeable staff. We will miss seeing this iconic logo in our newsletter. Thank you for your years of support to our community.

Think About Planting Native plants

Here are some links to read and learn more about creating a good environment for beneficial insects, butterflies and birds. Monarch butterflies are down to 3.6%, which is very alarming. Help our neighborhood teach others about native gardening. You can also go to the MSU website for hints about vegetable gardening, and lawn care for "smart" gardeners. Plant more garden area and less lawn so you are not using pesticides that drain into our water system. Gardens help filter the soil from rain run off.

General overview about Native gardening
<http://nativeplants.msu.edu/>

A list of plants for your garden
http://nativeplants.msu.edu/local_info/

Smart Gardening tips, videos about lawns, plants, soils.
<http://migarden.msu.edu/>

Doug Tallamy is a great speaker
<http://bringingnaturehome.net/>

The Stewardship Network is a grassroots conservation organization working to protect, restore, and manage natural lands and waters throughout the US and Canada. The Network helps connect, equip, and mobilize individuals, organizations, and businesses through community conservation collaboratives.

—Tina Cronkhite



BARTOSZEWICZ FAMILY DENTAL
2003 Burton St. S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49506



Kids Night Out

Plymouth Heights CRC

Save the Date - August 13th

Rhea Lana's

A Children's Consignment Event
in Greater Grand Rapids

**Follow us on
Facebook
for the
"Fall" Sale Dates
and Location**



**Rhea Lana's of
Greater Grand Rapids**

kerry@rhealana.com

grandrapids.rhealana.com



Eastgate
Styling Salon
&
Barber Shop

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Carol Wheeler, Owner

Styling Salon
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MEN • WOMEN • CHILDREN
Appointments Available
Walk-ins Welcome
Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Winter Saturdays 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Summer Saturdays 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Grand Rapids Christian Middle School Announces Plans for Shawnee Campus

450 students in grades 5-8 hope to occupy the Shawnee site for the 2015-2016 school year

The Grand Rapids Christian Schools are moving forward with plans for its recently purchased Shawnee Campus on Burton Street.

Plans for the middle school include a new gym that will be sunk into the ground on the south side of the property, minimizing the roof height.

The school hosted an informational meeting last fall, and neighbors were supportive of the purchase and the proposals.

Questions focused on parking, traffic, and the playground.

“We intend to closely monitor the traffic, and would support a traffic light at Burton and Chesaning if necessary. We need to study specific traffic patterns before making any specific



proposals,” said Superintendent Tom DeJonge and will be open to the community.

The playground will remain as it is now on the north side of the property. GRCMS enrolls students in 5th – 8th Grade, which is not the norm for most middle schools.

Zumba at Eastminster

7:00 pm Mondays...It's Free!

Zumba classes are being held on Mondays at 7:00 pm in the Gathering Place (downstairs) at Eastminster Presbyterian Church. It's free and all are welcome! Come and give it a try! Led by Eastminster's parish nurse, Julie Trasky.

Dumpster Day

*August 9 8:00—noon
Plymouth Heights CRC
Volunteers Needed!*

The ENA, in conjunction with the city of Grand Rapids, is once again sponsoring a “Dumper Day” event.

The event will be held at Plymouth Heights Christian Reformed Church.

More information will be in the next newsletter, but volunteers are always needed: Email Terri at terri.mawhinney@sbcglobal.net.



EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

✠ Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mornings ✠

Ministerial Team

Rev. Ann Conklin, Pastor

Rev. Brian Madison, Theologian in Residence

247-8833

1700 Woodward SE

2 blocks East of Plymouth, 1 block South of Boston

www.eastminstergr.org

Changes at Beacon Hill

CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 1

the north of the property.

The initial site plans were approved by the city and presented to the neighborhood in 2006. At that time the plans were conceptual in nature, but they did represent the idea of the development.

Neighbors will be happy to know that the community garden will not be affected.

Expansion was always

part of the master plan. Current site designs deviate only slightly from the original, and the finished building will not have any impact on the streetscape: the front of the building will look the same.

Beacon Hill at Eastgate has had a presence in the Eastgate Neighborhood since 1959 when the original facility was called Michigan Christian Home.

Construction Reminder:

Work on Burton Street Begins in July

The City of Grand Rapids will be working on Burton Street between Breton and Plymouth.

The project is tentatively scheduled to begin in July and will last until October.

The road will be resurfaced and reconfigured; instead of being 2 lanes in each direction, it will have one lane in each direction with a center turn lane and a bike path.

Eastgate 5k Date

Thursday September 18 at 6:30

The Eastgate Neighborhood Association, in partnership with Beacon Hill at Eastgate, is again hosting a 5k run-walk.

Consider participating in the mid-week race: Thursday September 18 at 6:30. The winding course stays entirely within the ENA boundaries.

Proceeds from the race

go to both the ENA and the Mary and Martha Fund at Beacon Hill. More information can be accessed through the Beacon Hill website: beaconhillgr.org

We are always looking for sponsors, so please consider this local tax deductible cause! Contact Nikki at Nikki.Younts@beaconhillgr.org or 608-8270

New Tenants in a New Breton Village



New retail space is under construction between Fifth Third Bank and Leigh's

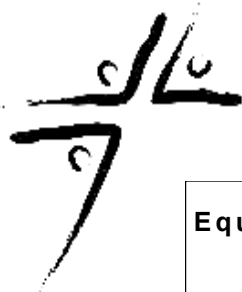
Breton Village is expanding its footprint, adding new retail space to the corner of Burton and Breton. Lululemon Athletica and Hot Mama are two tenants who will be occupying the new retail space. Both retailers will be moving from Gaslight Village in East Grand Rapids.

Lululemon's has been operating out of a temporary location for the past year and a half, and will anchor the new space. Hot Mama is coming to Breton Village after seven years in Gaslight Village. Its new location will be 40% larger.

Both retailers are coming from leases that were owned by CWD Real Estate Investment, the same group that owns Breton Village.

According to the CWD website, "The new, single-story building will feature terra cotta siding accents, aluminum storefronts, and an outside plaza for yoga." Construction is currently underway, and completion is expected in the fall.

Earlier this year both Naked Plates and Breton Village Travel relocated away from the mall, and Pooh's Corner closed its doors on May 11.



PLYMOUTH HEIGHTS

Christian Reformed Church

Equipping disciples to become neighbors...
...inviting neighbors to become disciples.

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

www.phcrc.org
243-5638

Choose a Brighter Future for Your Child!

NEW VISION. NEW CHOICES.
WE ARE **THE NEW GRPS.**

4 IN TOP 5: Four GRPS schools are in Michigan's top 5% for academic performance. **City High-Middle School** (7-12th grade) is THE top performing school in West Michigan and the ONLY school to offer the coveted **International Baccalaureate** program. Others include 6th grade schools **Blandford School, Zoo School**, and the **Center for Economicology @ City**.

LEADING MONTESSORI THEME SCHOOLS: **Grand Rapids Montessori** serves students from preschool to 12th grade. **North Park Montessori** expanded to serve grades PK-7 for the 2013-14 school year.

CENTERS OF INNOVATION: GRPS is home to five 'Centers of Innovation' with college prep themes and strong public-private partnerships with local job providers, universities, foundations and more.

- **Innovation Central (9th-12th grade):** All the innovation, talent, resources, and partnerships of four distinctly innovative high schools combined on one campus near the heart of downtown and the Medical Mile. The Academy for Design & Construction; Academy of Modern Engineering; Academy of Business, Leadership, & Entrepreneurship; and Academy of Health, Sciences, & Technology will co-locate for maximum educational outcomes.
- **Grand Rapids University Prep Academy (6th-12th grade):** Small class sizes (18:1), rigorous college prep curriculum, and a brand-new state-of-the-art building.

MULICK PARK ELEMENTARY: Check out your neighborhood school! Eastgate Neighborhood Association is one of four neighborhood associations partnering with Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal on a neighborhood-school reclamation project. Look for future survey and invite to neighborhood meetings on future of Mulick Park Elementary.

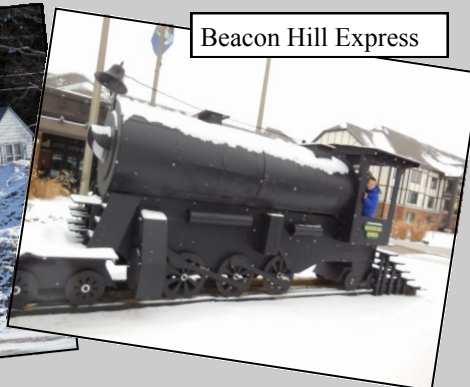


LEARN MORE
www.GRPS.org

Winter Photos...



Mount Eastgate: one of several new mountains to emerge in the area, including Mount Breton Village and Mount Beacon Hill



Beacon Hill Express



Accident on Boston Street



A neighborhood block party at the snow fort on Boston Street



The Burton Bounce: Pot holes on Burton Street make driving a challenge

A neighborhood car COMPLETELY buried in snow:

Not Pictured:

- (1) All the houses that still had Christmas lights in February because it was too cold to take them down
- (2) The polar vortex
- (3) The sink hole at Griggs

The Streets Tax & Mulick Park

Thanks to the overwhelming passage of the streets tax, the Mulick Park Neighborhood-School Initiative is in line to launch a Safe Routes to Schools campaign in partnership with the Grand Rapids Christian Schools.

One of the goals identified by neighbors and school staff is the need to improve traffic flow, bus pick up/drop off, and overall walkability/bikeability.

Safe Routes to Schools is a federal initiative administered at the state level through the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Michigan Fitness Foundation. Safe Routes to Schools provides opportunities to leverage federal dollars for community-school planning, infrastructure improvements (sidewalks, streets, curb cuts, etc.), marketing, signage, and more.

The catch is there is a local match that is required that neither the school district nor City of Grand Rapids had money available to cover—until now. As part of the streets tax, City Commissioners approved guidelines that spelled out how a portion of the tax dollars would be used for Safe Routes to Schools.

This is yet another opportunity to further feed the excitement around Mulick Park. Stay tuned for more in the coming months!

John Helmholdt
Executive Director of Communications & External Affairs
Grand Rapids Public Schools

Pooh's Corner

—CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 1

While the store has operated in three different locations in the mall, its employees have remained constantly up-to-date on the latest in children's literature. In an age when literacy is a concern, the Pooh's corner staff has a passion for bringing the right book to the right child.


As a community, we will miss this service.

"It makes me sad because we loved that place." Shana Shroll, ENA president commented. "There is nowhere else like it."

The owners chose to close because they didn't feel they could find new owners who could dedicate so much time and energy to keeping it open. After a month-long closing sale, the store closed on May 10.




Retirement Life As It Is Meant To Be



Nestled among the tree-lined streets of the Eastgate neighborhood in Grand Rapids, you will discover **Beacon Hill at Eastgate** – a spectacular senior living retirement community. You will connect to a lifestyle that celebrates personal expression and growth. At **Beacon Hill at Eastgate** we invite you to experience the best of senior living including:

- Affordable senior living retirement that makes good financial sense.
- Advantages of an enhanced, maintenance-free lifestyle in a brand new senior living community.
- A lifestyle that offers many fulfilling activities with new found friendships.
- On-campus access to Assisted Living, Memory Care, Rehabilitation Care, and Skilled Nursing in The Mary And Martha Center.



Call today (616) 855-1881
for information or to schedule a tour.



BEACONHILL

AT
Eastgate

1919 Boston Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506
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Host a Block Party

Take the initiative

The ENA Provides \$75 Reimbursement

THE EASY 7 STEP PROCESS
(note: all steps are completely optional):

1. Make fliers that tell when, where, and what is provided (i.e. *burgers provided* or *Icecream Social*). Hand deliver to the neighbors' doors. Also tell what to bring (i.e. *bring dishes, lawn chairs, and a dish to pass*)
2. Call the city about getting the road blocked: 456-3066. Cost to block the street is \$75. You can avoid the expense by hosting on a lawn or driveway.
3. Have a donation jar available if you need to defray some costs.
4. Activities? The sky is the limit.
5. Collect names and email addresses so you can make a street directory.
6. Submit receipts to ENA treasurer Jonathan Chitwood.
7. Snap a photo and send it to the ENA or post it on the ENA facebook page. We'll get it in the *Gatewatch*.

Eastminster's 2014

“Hot Dog! Bike Tune Up”

—Summer Schedule—

Please mark your calendar for these 3 Saturday dates:
From 10-3 on May 31, July 12, August 16

It's that time again when bikes need tuning and hot dogs need cooking! We've dusted off the bike tools and cleaned up the grill. We hope to see you at one, or all of our Hot Dog! Bike Repair Saturdays.

May 31, during Eastminster's Ruth Circle Jewelry Sale, we'll be in the northeast parking lot, at the corner of Orville and Chamberlain.

Bring your bike and let us get it ready for great summer riding! Stop for a hot dog and good conversation. Save room for ice cream served by the wonderful Eastgate Association.

July 12 and Aug. 16, “Hot Dog! Bike Repair” will be in the larger south parking lot, between Woodward and Chamberlain. Bring your bike or just come for a visit. We'll tune up your wheels and share tips on bike care. Relax with Eastgate families and neighbors, shoot some hoops, sail a Frisbee and enjoy a hot dog (or two).

We're looking forward to seeing everyone again.

—Eastminster's Bike Repair Team

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Fifth Reformed Church

Growing Disciples
Who Make Disciples

Sunday Worship 10:00am

2012 Griggs St SE
www.fifthrc.org / 616.245.9247

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

- 2013 BOARD**
 Shana Shroll, PRESIDENT
 Jim Rauwerda, VICE PRESIDENT
 Paula Englin, SECRETARY
 Jonathan Chitwood, TREASURER
 Tina Cronkhite
 Terri Mawhinney
 Todd Neckers
 Chris Nienhuis
 Greg Wilkins
 Megan Wolenberg

PHONE DIRECTORY

- Abandoned car in the street.....456-3310
- Loose/loud animals.....336-3210
- Pothole problems.....456-4670
- Garbage collection.....456-3232
- Garbage, long grass, weed complaints...456-3053
- Police (non-emergency).....456-3403
- Street light out.....456-3281
- Street closing request for block party.....456-3066
- Street sign question.....456-3066



**Join us
on facebook**

**Search
Eastgate Neighborhood Association
and be part of the discussion.**

New Dates Added to the Calendar

- Dumpster Day will be August 9
 - Plymouth Heights Christian Reformed Church's "Kids Night Out" will be August 13
 - Beacon Hill at Eastgate's Annual Pig Roast will be August 14
 - Eastgate 5K Run/Walk will be September 18
- SEE PAGE 2 FOR EVEN MORE EVENTS

**EASTMINSTER BIKE REPAIR AND JEWELRY SALE
SATURDAY MAY 30
DURING GARAGE SALE WEEKEND**

ENA ICE CREAM SOCIAL

AT
 Eastminster Presbyterian Church
 PARKING LOT
 SATURDAY MAY 31 FROM NOON-2



**GARAGE SALE
WEEKEND**

MAY 28, 29,30

JOIN THE FUN AND HAVE A SALE!

Volunteers Needed!

TO HELP AT DUMPSTER DAY
 DIRECTING TRAFFIC, TAKING NAMES, ANSWERING QUESTIONS

Saturday August 9

**TWO MORNING SHIFTS:
 FROM 8:00—10:00 or FROM 10:00—NOON**

Contact Terri at
terri.mawhinney@sbcglobal.net

DID YOU SEE THAT?

**THE EASTGATE
 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
 IS A PRETTY
 ACTIVE PLACE**

Look inside for details!

