

The EastSide



Neighborhood Safety Booklet

Allen Neighborhood Center

We are based on the Eastside of Lansing, and are dedicated to improving life in the neighborhood.

Visit us at:

1619 E. Kalamazoo St

Lansing, MI 48912

<http://allenneighborhoodcenter.org>

HOURS: 9am-Noon: By appointment

Noon-5:00pm: Walk-in services

PHONE: (517) 367-2468

Ask about our programs and services designed to enhance the health, safety, stability, and economic well-being of Eastside residents.



1. Join Your Neighborhood Organization or Group

Decide what kind of contribution you would like to make, and go for it! You can have a great impact in your neighborhood by simply volunteering with your neighborhood organization or block group. Encourage others as well—if you cannot attend local neighborhood association meetings, then ask someone else in your household if they are able to go. Attend community meetings to ensure that you are better informed about the issues facing the neighborhood and learn about ways to get involved. Most importantly, you will have the chance to help shape, guide, and chart a course for the future of your neighborhood.

Crime Stoppers is an anonymous tip line for anyone who wishes to report criminal activity outside of calling 911.

To give a tip by phone, call (517) 483-7867

To tip online, visit the website at <http://tipssubmit.com>

Community Police Officer Garrett Hamilton is the primary patrol person on the Eastside. Report criminal activity by calling (517) 648-5595 or email Officer Hamilton at: garrett.hamilton@lansingmi.gov

Neighborhood Watches are groups create ways to watch out for one another, and report any mischief in the neighborhood.

Become a part of your own existing neighborhood watch organization, or start one yourself. Contact Officer Teresa Mironiuk at (517) 483-4469 or visit the ANC website at

allenneighborhoodcenter.org/eastside/neighborhoods to find out if there is an active neighborhood watch in your area.

Lansing Neighborhood Council serves as a resource center for organized neighborhood associations. They can be reached at (517) 393-9883, or lansingneighborhoods.com.

**Remember to Engage Your
Neighbors**



The information in this brochure was taken from various sources, and the Twelve Steps model has been an adaptation of the article “Twelve Ways to Improve Your Neighborhood Right Now” written by John Campbell, from Campbell Delong Resources Inc, copyright 1999-2000. Visit the website at cdri.com for more useful information for your own neighborhood, organization, or workplace.

Take a page from your neighborhood organization, and get involved! Keep in mind these few simple points, and try to make them a part of your daily life:

- 1) Make a point of getting to know people on your face block, i.e., the block that your house faces
- 2) Swap contact information, recipes, gardening tips, or any other kinds of helpful information with neighbors you trust
- 3) Assist elderly or neighbors with disabilities with shoveling, lawn care, etc, and offer a helping hand for the future.
- 4) Welcome Newcomers! Create a Welcome Packet that includes:
 - Information about your neighborhood and its organizations, including meeting times, dates, leaders names, etc.
 - Brochures from ANC
 - Walking and biking routes
 - Coupons for local businesses or the Allen St. Farmers Market

And remember to stay involved in your local organizations. You can offer new ideas at meetings or other events, or even to talk to someone in person about an important issue. Most importantly, though, remember to have fun, make new friends, and be creative!

2. Report Crime Promptly

Reporting a suspicious or dangerous situation is a crucial step to addressing problems on your block. Whether your neighborhood is experiencing graffiti, petty vandalism, or even something more serious, the police cannot act until you inform them. Reporting crime promptly may not fix the problem permanently, but reporting a crime will ensure that behaviors in the neighborhood are being tracked. Lastly, do not assume someone else has or will call — make the call yourself, and ensure your own neighborhood's safety.

Office of Code Compliance for the City of Lansing

Property Code Guidelines for the city of Lansing, and reporting of non-criminal offenses within the city limits. Complaints can be made by calling (517) 483-4361 and asking for your local Code Compliance Officer. Find your zone's Code Compliance Officer on the next page, and on the corresponding Code Compliance Areas Map.

Online complaints can be made by visiting

<http://www.lansingmi.gov/report>

Registered Rental Properties

Information Database

The database provided by the City of Lansing shows all registered properties in Lansing, including rental properties. To search for local rental properties near you, visit the website: <http://accessmygov.com>

Visit or Call AtNCL for letter templates to send to landlords, and for other information on help with rental properties!

Center for Financial Health

Helps raise awareness about the process of home ownership and provides access to resources such as down payment assistance (DPA), individual development accounts (IDAs), and quality, affordable housing options. Also provides counseling and classes to support new home ownership and helps prevent foreclosure. Visit the website at centerforfinancialhealth.org, call (517) 708-2550, or email in fo@centerforfinancialhealth.org



Ingham County Land Bank

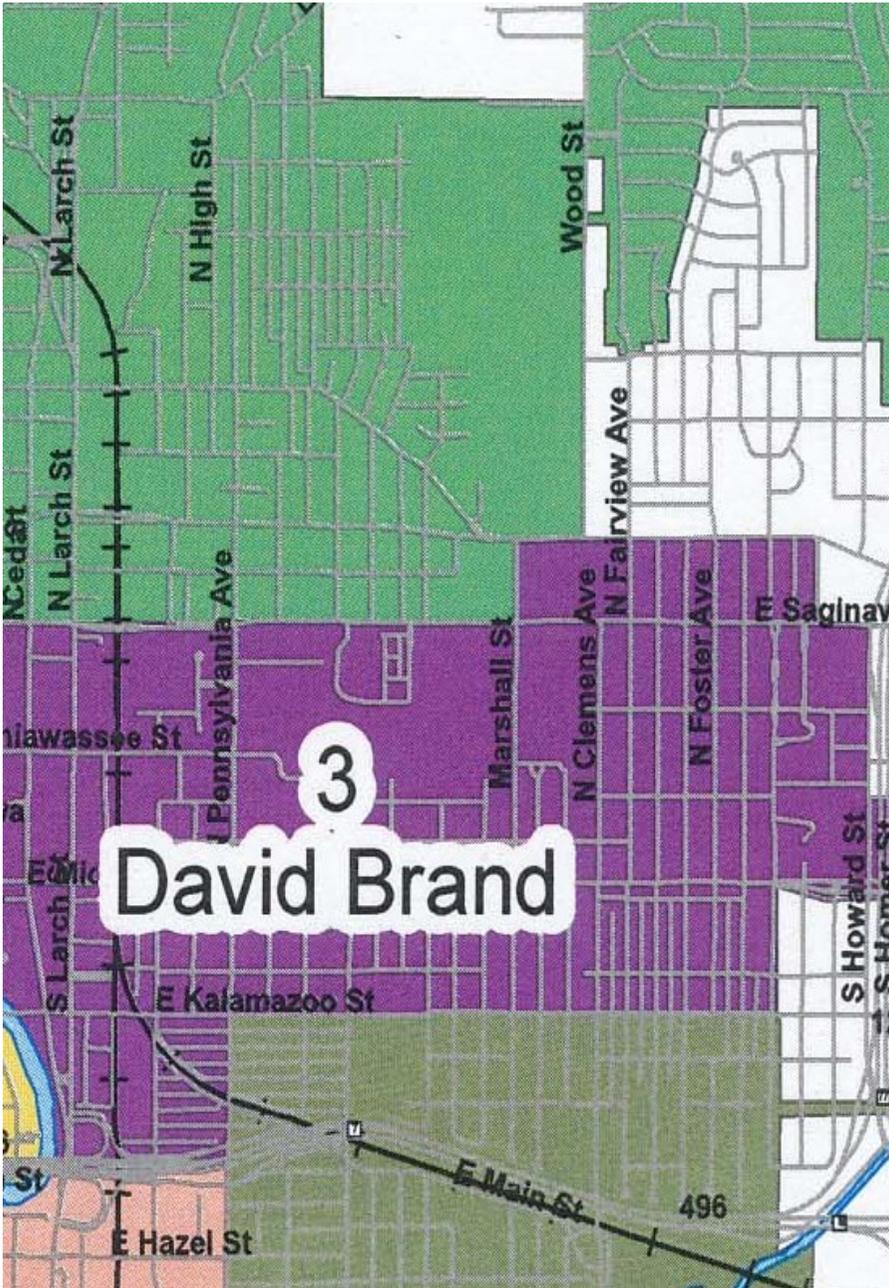
A community authority with the goal to renovate and sell re-possessed houses to create sustainable occupancy and growth in local communities. For property listings or more information, visit the website at inghamlandbank.org or call (517) 267-5221.

The PROP Program

A program of the Ingham County Land Bank, the PROP Program sells houses at a discounted rate and, provided that the new owners meet proper eligibility requirements and benchmarks for rehabilitation of the property, up to 50% of the purchase price can be gained back in credit. For property listings, or more information, visit the website at inghamprop.org or call the Ingham County Land Bank.

3. Report Nuisances and Other Non-Criminal Problems Promptly

Let your local Code Compliance Office know about any non-criminal offenses around your neighborhood. These offenses can include junked cars on front lawns, abandoned cars in the streets, old mattresses and/or garbage left to rot in alleys, backyards, or vacant lots. Other options for reporting nuisance properties include calling landlords, other neighborhood residents, local business owners, or any other person or agency that might influence the issue. Keep calling, and try to encourage the other residents and business owners to call as well, until the nuisance is resolved



Visit <http://www.lansingmi.gov/pnd/codecom/> and select **Code Compliance Zoning Map** to view the entire map online

12. Stay Where You Are

Stable neighborhoods are built on the commitments of long term residents who would rather live in a healthy community than move to a bigger house. Communities reach stability when conscientious citizens allow their roots to grow deep and help transform a geographic area that exists as a “neighborhood” in name only into a real community of involved people. If you rent, then consider the benefits of home ownership, or renting long term. Encouraging yourself and your friends, family members, and in general other people you enjoy to stay in the neighborhood, and help make it better, will create a lasting impression on the health of your community.

MSHDA

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority provides financial and technical help with the many processes and stages of home ownership. Visit the website at michigan.gov/mshda or call (517) 373-8370, toll free: 1-800-382-4568.

Franklin Street Community Housing Corporation

Provides housing and counseling programs that help promote lasting home ownership, specializing in low-income families. Franklin is committed to revitalizing and maintaining neighborhoods in Lansing. Visit the website at fschc.org or call (517) 482-8708.



Code Compliance Officer Listed by Zone:

Northern Eastside

Cameron Priest – Zone 2

PHONE: (517) 483-4380 EMAIL: cpriest@lansingmi.gov

Central Eastside

David Brand – Zone 3

PHONE: (517) 483-4064 EMAIL: dbrand@lansingmi.gov

Southwest Eastside (South of 496, West of Pennsylvania)

Vince Cantrell – Zone 6

PHONE: (517) 483-4376 EMAIL: vcantrel@lansingmi.gov

Southeast Eastside (South of Kalamazoo, East of Pennsylvania)

Steve Maloney – Zone 7

PHONE: (517) 483-4377 EMAIL: smaloney@lansingmi.gov

Crime Prevention Tips Website

Provided by the Lansing Police Department, this website suggests actions neighbors can take to make their streets cleaner, safer, and more comfortable to live on. More importantly, it provides information on how to reduce opportunities for crime in your neighborhood.

Visit the website at http://www.lansingmi.gov/police/crime_prevention_tips.jsp



**11. Pick Up the Litter Near Your Home,
Even if You Didn't Put it There**

People are less likely to litter in places where they do not see litter already. You can do something yourself to help stop the accumulation of trash in your neighborhood. Remember that littering is contagious; so is picking it up.

Join your local neighborhood Group, or stop by Allen Neighborhood Center to find out about more community-based beautification projects!



4. Take Away the Opportunity for Crime

Think about your everyday surroundings, and look at what you could change to take away the opportunity for crime. Always lock the doors to your vehicle and try not to leave valuables inside; trim any bushes and trees on your property that may be potential hiding places; and make sure your front door area and address number is always clear and visible from the street. In short, make sure your home has “eyes” that are open.

*Visit ANE and ask about
volunteering for our youth
programs in Hunter Park!*



10. Drive Slowly and Alertly on Neighborhood Streets

Remember that it is legal to drive a few miles per hour *below* the speed limit in your neighborhood. Regular slow driving on neighborhood streets by multiple neighbors will dampen the desires of fast drivers to use your streets, and doing it on every side street as well as main roads in your neighborhood will make the practice twice as effective.

Lansing Area Safety Council

An organization based in Lansing which provides educational classes, materials, and resources for the people of Lansing. For traffic safety information visit the website at safetycouncil.org or call (517)394-4614.

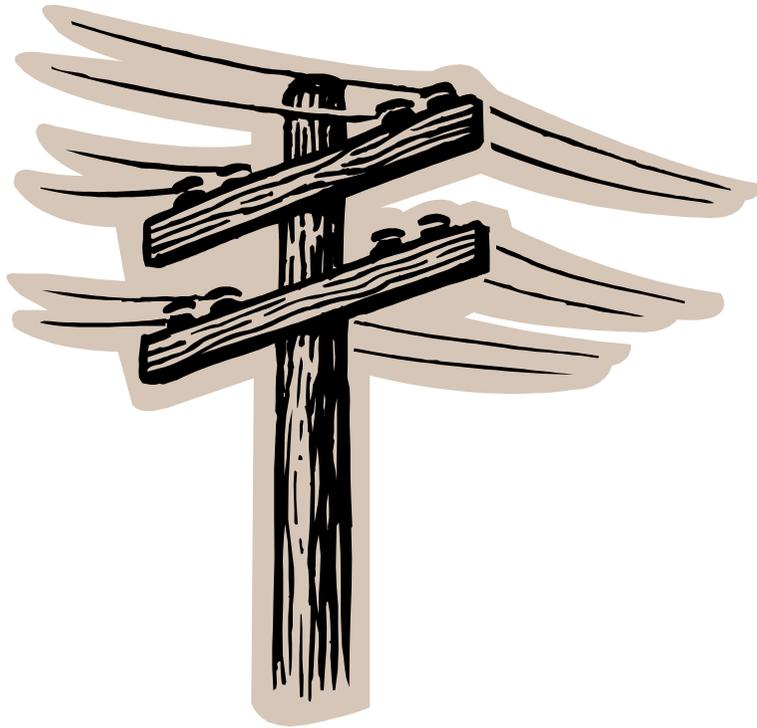


5. Meet the Youth Who Live on Your Block and Learn Their Names

Getting to know the youth living near you is one of the simplest steps you can take to create a safe neighborhood. This can make a profound difference in case a situation arises within the neighborhood. Forging these relationships is an important step even for those who do not have children of their own. By introducing yourself to youth, each adult is better able to help in an emergency, and prepared to discuss problems immediately as they arise.

Local Blox Site is a social networking site which connects users to their neighborhoods. The content can range from neighborhood forums, coupons and deals from local businesses, and alerts for neighborhood safety.

Website: www.localblox.com



9. Walk or Bike Around the Neighborhood

Neighbors benefit over time when responsible citizens are outside and visible—walking, biking, gardening, etc. Invite a neighbor out for an evening stroll. This healthy activity will also give you an opportunity to welcome new neighbors, meet the neighborhood youth, and become more aware of your surroundings in general.

League of Michigan Bicyclists

Based in Lansing, MI, this organization Provides a forum for advocacy, education, and resources for Michigan bicyclists, including maps, local organizations, and upcoming events.

For more information, call (517)334-9100, or visit the website: lmb.org

Mid Michigan Environmental Action Council

Walk Bike Lansing

A local task group dedicated to making Lansing more bike-able and walkable. Online brochures, weekly meeting schedules and locations, and email sign-up information can be found by visiting the website: walkbikelansing.com

Call or Visit AtNE for Walking Maps with Neighborhood Assets and Distances



6. Make a List of Names and Phone Numbers of Every House on Your Face Block

Focus on getting information from every house on your block. Set a goal of at least ten households, and then try to raise it over time to include adjacent blocks. More than any other factor, simply knowing your neighbors (their habits, contact information, etc.) increases your security and safety. A group of neighbors working together can resolve many issues themselves, and will more easily secure assistance from the City when necessary.

MyAccess.gov

Properties Information Database

This database provided by the City of Lansing gives a summary of property ownership and location information for all properties in Ingham County, including rental properties. Visit myaccess.gov to search properties and the Ingham County Website (ingham.org) for other inquiries.

8. Turn Your Porch Light On, and Keep Street Lights On

C rime tends to decline in neighborhoods that are well lit, so try to make a habit of turning on your porch light, and keeping it on, every night. Lights in the back of your house help as well. Also, make it a habit to take note of the location of burnt out street lights around your block, and then report them to the Board of Water and Light promptly.

Board of Water & Light Lower Your Bill Program

Receive free CFL bulbs for your front porch, as well as a free energy efficiency assessment for your home. Call BWL at (517)702-6006.

Board of Water & Light

Report Outages for streetlights or other major power outages.

To report Street Light Outages, call BWL at (517)702-6006 or toll free 1-800-493-8009.

To report Power Outages, call BWL toll free at 1-877-295-5001 or email customer service at: custservice@lbwl.com

SeeClickFix Website

An online forum among community members, government, public works, and organizations to report all non-emergency related issues. To set up your own forum, or to report a problem with the Board of Water and Light, visit the

Website at: seeclickfix.com

7. Make a List of Contact Information for Local Landlords As Well

As local property owners, landlords are responsible to the neighborhood and its residents, and most are rightly concerned about the health of the communities in which their properties are located. Reach out to landlords and let them know about problems with their tenants, maintenance of their properties, or conditions in the neighborhood they would want to know about. Invite them to your meetings, events, block parties, etc. and include in your mailings. Landlords can be allies for neighborhood improvement if we treat them as such!