



# Colonial Village Newsletter

Volume 11

www.cvnanews.com

October 2009

## CVNA Board Members

Anita Beavers, President  
Evelyn Bush, Vice President  
Vacant, Treasurer  
Kathy Miles, Secretary

### Area Representatives

Michael Morofsky, Area 1  
Mary Bechtol, Area 2  
David J. Tkaczyk, Area 3  
Check out our Website:  
[www.cvnanews.com](http://www.cvnanews.com)

### Thank You:

**The printing of this newsletter was funded, in part, by a grant from the Mayor's Advisory Board and your individual donations**  
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## Fraud Alert

### What Every Homeowner Should Know

Information From CVNA Minutes  
September 16, 2009

Michigan ranks third in the nation in Mortgage Fraud. Detroit and Dearborn are rated in the top 10 cities. This problem is expected to spread to other cities in the state according to Curtis Hertel, Jr., Register of deeds Office.

Mr. Hertel was guest speaker at the September 16, 2009 Colonial Village Neighborhood Association meeting.

He shared information on various types of loans and the steps a homeowner can take to keep from going into foreclosure.

The Register of Deeds office is a land library and does not create documents. Homes sold for delinquent taxes are bought by the Ingham County Land Bank, rehabilitated, and sold to homeowners in an effort to avoid the practice of "flipping."

Your house is a 'secured debt' and should be a priority, said Mr. Hertel. The most effective way to protect it is to be proactive. Respond immediately to mail or calls from your lender for the best chance at a favorable resolution.

Notices of foreclosed homes are listed in the Ingham County Legal News and scammers target that list. Mr. Hertel cautioned:

See Fraud Alert on page 3

## Walking The Neighborhood and Loving It

Our neighborhood has a variety of walkers. There are the dog walkers, the baby-stroller walkers, the arm-pumping, focused walkers and the couple pacing somewhere between a health minded gait and a leisurely stroll. We asked a few of them about walking:

Judy Koelch usually does three miles most days. She enjoys talking to people she meets, admiring the many well-kept yards and homes and finding the neighborhood a safe place. The outdoor exercise is her primary purpose.

Bret and Laurein Hahn have two dogs to walk

for the health of all. They enjoy seeing the homes being decorated for the various holidays and the variety of landscapes.

Cheryl Chepy and Betty Keast work together and have been walking together for fifteen years. Cheryl has her dog along for the exercise. They

See Walking on page 3

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# From the President

Anita Beavers

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The Colonial Village Neighborhood Association (CVNA) was organized to contribute to the well-being of the neighborhood. Participating in CVNA provides the opportunity to meet neighbors and share concerns, be informed of local matters, promote activities and help make our neighborhood a safe, attractive and active place to live.

When you attend our 3<sup>RD</sup> Wednesday meetings you will learn about and participate in "Design Lansing," the city's five year plan, Parks and Recreation Department's five year plan and what is ahead for our schools and shopping centers. You are also informed about police activities, city council matters, Ingham County and Michigan events and how they affect us.

Our next meeting will be held on November 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Our speaker for this meeting will tell us what's new at the Wharton Center. At future meetings we hope to provide programs that will tell us where we can find help with health issues or home maintenance or what Combined Sewer Operations (CSO) project is coming. Contact me at [aobeavs@yahoo.com](mailto:aobeavs@yahoo.com) or call 517-882-0015 to suggest possible speakers and topics for our meetings.

Your input is important, your attendance is valued and your participation as a volunteer is vital. Call to see what you can do to be a good neighbor. We are in need of volunteers for the following committees:

Telephone calling list (20-30 minutes per month)  
Welcome Committee  
Program Planning  
Newsletter delivering

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Annual picnic help  
Holiday Lighting judges

During our November meeting we will hold election of officers and we encourage neighbors to step up and place their name on our ballot to fill the positions of treasure, Area 3 Representative and, if interested, seeking any of the Board offices. We are looking for new faces and ideas.

Please support CVNA activities! And if you can, make a dollar donation, too.

**Please Note:** There will be no December meeting due to the holiday season. Meetings will resume on January 20, 2010.

Find our more about CVNA at: [www.cvnanews.com](http://www.cvnanews.com)

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## Cole Academy Receives Recognition

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On September 24, 2009 Cole Academy, a K-6 Public School Academy, was recognized at the State Capitol for 15 consecutive years of being in operation. Cole Academy is the longest running academy in the Greater Lansing Area. The academy received a special tribute signed by Governor Jennifer M Granholm, State Representative Joan Bauer from the Sixty-Eighth District, and State Senator Gretchen Whitmer for the Twenty-Third District.

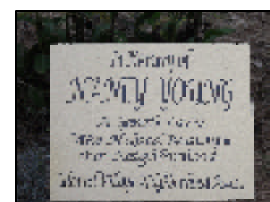
The academy is accepting enrollment applications for the

2009-2010 year. If you are interested in learning more about the academy or scheduling a tour, please contact Mr. James Henderson, Principal/CAO at 517-372-0038 or visit their website: [www.coleacademy.org](http://www.coleacademy.org).

"We have a 100% highly qualified and certified staff and low teacher to student ratios that provide an excellent quality education. Make Cole Academy your first choice for quality education." said Henderson. The Academy is located on Mt. Hope, west of Pleasant Grove Ave.

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## Memorial plaque honors special lady



A plaque has been placed in the flower bed at Elmhurst Park in memory of Nancy Young, a gentle lady who helped beautify our neighborhood. Nancy and her husband Craig donated many plants to the neighborhood circles, boulevard and signs. Craig continues to provide his expertise keeping the flowers beautiful.

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## Fraud Alert continued from page 1

- Never sign a deed over to another person unless you intend to give up that property.
- Never give personal information over the phone or Internet. A legitimate counseling service will never ask for money in advance, ask for your Social Security number over the phone or internet or require a membership.
- Never sign a contract with anyone other than a MSHDA or HUD officer.

Periodically check the status of your property with the Register of Deeds, said Hertel. Both the

MSHDA and HUD offices offer free counseling and a list of approved counselors. You can also call 211 for a list of counselors courtesy of the United Way.

**Property Fraud Alert Hotline** is a new service provided by the Register of Deeds. Property fraud happens when someone steals your identity and file a fraudulent document with the County Records office making it look like they own your property.

Mr. Hertel said, “according to the FBI, this is the fastest type of white collar crime.” Often homeowners do not discover a problem until they try to sell their home, obtain credit or find that a

second mortgage has been taken out on their property. That is why it is advisable to periodically check the status of your property with the Register of Deeds.

The new Property Fraud Alert Hotline Service allows you to sign up on-line at [www.propertyfraudalert.com](http://www.propertyfraudalert.com) or call 1-800-728-3858.

The service will notify you if any activity is initiated in your name. You will be asked to verify that you initiated the action. For further information contact the Register of Deeds office 517-676-7216.

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## Walking continued from page 1

too like seeing the varying yard scapes and holiday decorations. They usually do a 45 minute/3 miler.

There are ambitious young mothers pushing strollers and fast moving runners going along at a well-measured gait. We even encountered some who are walking as a part of rehabilitation from surgeries or illnesses. These energetic neighbors encourage others to get out and explore the neighborhood.

As a reminder to all, please keep your sidewalks shoveled, poop scoop the poop, and report any damaged areas or tree limbs over hanging the sidewalk to your Area Rep. Go to: [www.cvnanews.com](http://www.cvnanews.com) and click on Board members to find your Area Representative or call 517-882-0015.

Want to brush up on your word processing skills, or learn power point or how to blog? Never touched a computer? The Capital Area District Library has something for you. “The Library offers a full range of day and night computer classes. People with little to no computer experience and all age ranges attend the 90 minute sessions,” said Matthew Pacer, Technology Librarian at the downtown branch.

Most branches offer a basic or beginning computer class to introduce patrons to the parts of a computer and how to use a mouse and keyboard. If you’re ready to venture onto the Internet, there are classes to help you set up email accounts, do research even blog. And if you don’t own a computer, bring your library card and use one of the public

computers available at every branch. It’s all free at your local library.

Pacer suggests registering about two weeks before a class. At the downtown branch you can register by phone or in person. You can even drop in if there is space available.

Asked if he had any advice for first time users, Pacer said to enjoy the experience and practice the skills you learn, and don’t worry about breaking the computer. “You can’t break the computer. You would have to pick it up and throw it out the door to damage it,” Pacer added.

For a full list of classes at the downtown branch visit or call 517-367-6356. For classes at the South Lansing branch call 517-272-9840.

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# Meet The Candidates

Tess Beavers

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The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Candidates Night was held on October 21<sup>st</sup> at Grace United Methodist Church. An informal reception was held from 6:00 to 7:00 for one-on-one conversation with candidates, followed by the formal program. Candidates were given five minutes to speak. The following candidates were present:

Mayoral Candidates:  
Virg Bernero, Carol Wood

City Clerk Candidate:  
Chris Swope

Councilmember At Large  
Candidates:  
Brian Jeffries  
Kathy Dunbar  
Harold J. Lehman, Jr.  
Rina Risper

Councilmember Ward 2 Candidate:  
Tina Houghton

Councilmember Ward 4:  
Jessica Yorke

Lansing School Board Candidates:  
Nino Rodriguez  
Myra J. Ford  
Amy Hodgkin

LCC Board of Trustees  
Candidates:  
Thomas Patrick Morgan  
Deo Wells, Jr.  
Deborah Canja  
Robert E. Proctor  
Brandon D. Currin  
Larry Meyer  
Lawrence Hidalgo, Jr.

Over 70 people attended the event. WLNS TV 6 covered the

event and interviewed the Mayoral candidates. CVNA board member Mary Bechtol introduced the candidates and directed the question and answer period. Willie Vinson, CVNA events coordinator, did an outstanding job. Kathy Miles and Peg Greer handled refreshments and provided an assortment of goodies. Colonial Village L&L Food Center donated donuts and Pat Zue provided banana bread and cookies.

Volunteers Mike Morofsky, David Tkaczyk, Aaron Beavers, Tes Beavers, Pat Zue and our Vice President, Evie Bush, greeted the attendees. Our thanks to the candidates and volunteers who participated and made the event a success.

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## New Parks and Recreation Facility Now Open

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Lansing Parks and Recreation Director Murdock Jameson recently announced the completion of the Southside Community Center, 5815 Wise Rd., Lansing, MI. The facility is located on the southeast side of the Hill Academy building. The facility will be open to the public October 29th.

Major features of the Center include a gymnasium, swimming pool, auditorium and community & game rooms. For more information on programs offered at the Southside Community Center, contact the Parks and Recreation Office 517-482-4277 or the Southside Center at 517-483-6685.

If you are into ice skating or want to learn how, the Washington Park

Ice Skating Dome, 2700 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, MI will open November 1, 2009

If you are a senior, a family with young children, been in the area a long time or you are new to the area, there is something of interest for you. Check out the Parks and Recreation facilities, programs and classes: <http://www.lansingmi.gov/parks/index.jsp> or call 517-482-4277.

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## CVNA Summer Picnic A Hit

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The annual Colonial Village Neighborhood Association (CVNA) Picnic was once again a big hit with families and friends young and old. CVNA President Anita Beavers said, "The picnic was well attended especially by young families." There were lots of activities for the whole family.

What makes a successful fun picnic? The answer, in part, is the cooperation of the weather, good food, fun games, prizes and of course the camaraderie of the attendees. The amount of food consumed at this year's picnic beat past records. Picnic goers ate 300 hot dogs and buns, 250 cups of ice cream and 180 cans of soda pop. And more people brought dishes to pass, too - everything from fresh fruit to casseroles to salads to desserts. There was barely enough room on the table to put it all, said Beavers.

The picnic couldn't have happened without the help of all the volunteers, said Beavers. And donations were greatly appreciated especially during times when corporations and individuals alike are pulling back.

National City Bank donated piggy banks with rolls of dimes and duffle bags for the raffle. They also donated \$300. "They continue to be one of our strongest supporters and an active member of our neighborhood" said Beavers, adding that branch

manager Ann Cook and her staff attend the picnic every year.

Other donations included buns and ice from L&L, soda pop from Brian Breen of Canada Dry Distributors and cash donations came from Dr. Graesser, Judge Amy Krause, Lansing City Council Member A. Lynne Robinson, plus the \$90 collect from the picnic goers. Beavers also added a thank you to John the school custodian who was so helpful.

Congratulations to all the prize winners: Freddie Smith and Connie Jennings received gift certificates from Rite Aid; Carina Salinaz and Suzanne Tegtmeyer received gift certificates from L & L Food Center; Richard Angevine and Sheila Finley received gift certificates from National City Bank; Jacob Kosht, Maria Orozzo and Jennifer Cox received a National City Bag; Hannah Hays received a Lollipop Tree Prize; Elliot Tegtmeyer and Isabelle Patsey received a National City Piggy Bank with a roll of dimes inside.

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*Information for this article was received from Anita Beavers, Suzanne Salay, CVNA Volunteer Web Producer and Willie Vinson. You can find picnic photos and more information on the CVNA Website at [www.cvnanews.com](http://www.cvnanews.com).*



CVNA Presidents Past & Present  
June Kenfield, Randy Williams and  
Anita Beavers



McGruff the Crime Fighting  
Dog & Fans



Lollipop  
Tree a  
favorite



City of Lansing Parks and  
Recreation Obstacle Course

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## Sponsors

*Thank You For Your Support  
of the Colonial Village  
Neighborhood Association's  
Programs, Website and  
Events.*

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**Ann Cook**  
National City Bank

**Gail Reynolds**  
L & L Food Center

**LeAnne Norton**  
Rite Aid

**Dr. Otto Graesser**

**Judge Amy Krause**  
and  
the generous donations of the  
residents and members of Colonial  
Village Neighborhood Association

### **DATES TO REMEMBER!**

**November 3, 2009**  
Remember to Vote

**November 18, 2009**  
CVNA Meeting  
Election of Officers  
Wharton Center Speaker

**November 30, 2009**  
Seasonal Yard Waste  
Collection ends

**December 2009**  
No CVNA Meeting  
Due to Holiday Season  
  
Don't forget to decorate for the  
holidays.  
Everyone is automatically entered in  
the contest.

**January 20, 2010**  
CVNA Meeting  
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Grace United Methodist Church  
Free Child Care Available

For information on all events  
[www.cvnnews.com](http://www.cvnnews.com)

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## Please Do Not Rake Leaves Into The Street

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Every year the Public Service Department receives calls from residents who witness their neighbors raking leaves into the streets. Each time a complaint is received an enforcement worker must respond to the situation. When leaves are placed in the street, it can create hazardous driving conditions, clog catch basins or worse, children hiding in piles of leaves have been known to get injured when cars drive over piles and drivers can't see them.

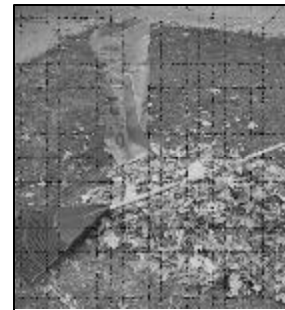


Photo from City of  
Lansing's Public Safety

The City of Lansing Does not allow leaves to be raked into streets. Please handle leaves responsibility by using the City's convenient curbside pickup; your neighbors and the City will appreciate it.

In an effort to control expenses, the Operations & Maintenance Division of the Public Service Department is composting some of the leaves collected each fall by their curbside service and through their annual leaf collection operation. This effort takes a waste product and turns it into a valuable resource that can be used for various projects throughout the city. Thank you for your cooperation in using paper yard waste bags. "This effort has helped us reduce the amount of injuries to our drivers."

Also, for safety reasons, please do not leave basketball hoops in the street.

*Seasonal yard waste collection ends the week of November 30<sup>th</sup>*

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## Rechargeable Battery Recycling Now Available

The City of Lansing is now accepting rechargeable batteries at the Waste Reduction Services office, located at 601 E. South St., 2nd Floor, during office hours (M-F, 8am-4pm.). Rechargeable batteries include those commonly found in items such as phones, cordless power tools, two-way radios and digital cameras. Single-use household batteries, such as alkaline and carbon-zinc batteries are no longer accepted.

*Information for these articles taken from City of Lansing's Public Safety Website. To find out more about the City of Lansing composting and recycling operations go to:*

*[http://www.lansingmi.gov/Lansing/pubserv/wastereduction/  
Greensheet\\_Fall\\_09FINALVERSION.pdf](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Lansing/pubserv/wastereduction/Greensheet_Fall_09FINALVERSION.pdf)*

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