



Colonial Village Neighborhood Association History

1998 - 2016

The Colonial Village Neighborhood Association (CVNA) was formed in 1998 in response to a planned Renaissance Zone project for low income housing in the wooded area south of Peggy Place Ave. Residents protested the project and through their efforts the wooded area was declared a wetland, ending further development. The Holly Park Neighborhood Association was formed soon after.

1998

First Association meeting of the newly formed Holly Park Neighborhood Assoc. was held February 18th at Grace United Methodist Church: To create the association, by laws and boundaries had to be set declaring where the association could operate. Board members were elected: President Randy Williams, Vice President Mark Rees, Treasurer Rob Husulak, Secretary Ed Rivet, and Area representatives: Area One Cheryl Chepy, Area two Steve Straiger, Area three John Dixon.

The boundaries were declared to include the area between Martin Luther King Blvd. and Pleasant Grove & Mt. Hope and Holmes Road. It was further declared that since there were several small neighborhoods within these boundaries, one name should be given to include all of over 1,400 homes. Colonial Village Neighborhood Association (CVNA) was suggested and approved by vote.

After officially forming in April, CVNA was accepted as a member of the Lansing Neighborhood Council (LNC). Joining LNC substantially increased their ability to represent the best interests of CVNA residents. LNC provided invaluable support to CVNA by sharing their expertise in establishing bylaws, filing articles of incorporation, establishing a bank account, etc.

First Annual Neighborhood Picnic was held at Elmhurst Elementary School: The picnic's purpose was to bring neighbors together, to introduce the new neighborhood association and its benefits, and update everyone on what was happening in the area.

First Newsletter was developed by Randy Williams: The newsletter was delivered to all residents and businesses in the area by CVNA volunteers. The newsletter was first named Colonial Village Patriot. A few years later the name was changed to CVNA News.

First neighborhood-wide garage sale was organized: The Holly Park Area neighborhood already had an annual garage sale. CVNA joined Holly Park and the annual garage sale became an annual neighborhood-wide CVNA event on June 1.



Colonial Village Neighborhood Association History

1998 - 2016

1999

First annual December Holiday Home Lighting Contest was established: A committee of volunteers vote on the decorated homes they like best and collectively they choose a winner each year. Winners receive a prize.

In February, Lansing's City Planning Department briefed the Association on how the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) project would affect our neighborhood. In brief, the separation of sanitary and storm water sewers in our area would begin in the spring of 2000 ending in the summer of 2001. Construction would begin at Moores Park traveling across Mt. Hope to Lorraine and down Lorraine across Martin Luther King Blvd. to Pattengill and Gordon. CVNA, represented by June Kenfield, became involved. She assisted by developing a communication plan for planning purposes.

2002

CVNAnews.com website was developed and launched by CVNA's founder Randy Williams. He also created the first CVNA brochure. The development and printing were paid for with grant funds. The brochure was distributed to residents and Realtors to promote the neighborhood.

Fifth grade students at Elmhurst Elementary held a contest to design the CVNA logo. The logo provided an image that appears on all brochures, publications, and communication.

CVNA meeting announcement street signs were purchased through a grant process. Volunteers post signs to announce the monthly meetings.

Colonial Village sign, on corner of Martin Luther King Blvd. and Mt. Hope, was designed and installed. It was funded by a grant and donations from residents.

Holly Park received playground equipment, a soccer field, and picnic tables. For years Holly Park was undeveloped until Julie Russell and her committee applied for a grant from Project Play.

Anne Wilson, CVNA's Vice President, started the first CVNA Meet the Candidates Night: This event was designed for neighbors to get to know political candidates running for local, state & federal office.

CVNA began a tradition of placing red bows on all the street light posts on Boston Blvd for the holidays as well as on the CVNA sign on MLK and Mt. Hope. Holly Park Playground in partnership with Project Play dedication held



Colonial Village Neighborhood Association History

1998 - 2016

Traffic Calming project begins (2002-2004) in conjunction with the CSO project. Traffic circle plants selected by designers to ensure plants will be able to be maintained and perennials selected for beauty. The Flower Committee was developed to help with weeding, watering, and maintaining the traffic circles.

2003

CSO Project Construction began: CVNA worked with area businesses and neighbors to minimize impact of construction and developed a plan used widely by the city. June Kenfield, CVNA's President worked with the City of Lansing, neighbors and local businesses to create a working document to assist neighbors during the construction called, "CSO Project Survival Tips.

Randy Williams, CVNA's founder and first elected president was appointed to Lansing City Council to fill the vacant 3rd Ward seat. In November he was elected to his own term.

2004

CVNA neighbors formed a team and participated in the Relay for Life Cancer event. They raised over \$1,000

A permanent CVNA Sign was designed and placed at the corner of Martin Luther King Blvd. and Mt. Hope Avenue in 2004. The sign was replaced after an accident in 2008. Both the original and damaged signs were purchased with grant funds and donations from residents.

CVNA's Anne Wilson applied for Neighborhoods in Bloom grant funds in 2004 and 2005 for flowers to beautify the neighborhood. Flowers and plants were planted by Garden Committee volunteers

Full-page article about the Colonial Village neighborhood was published in the Lansing State Journal and the Lansing Community News.

AARP representatives approached CVNA and asked for volunteers to assist with their walk-ability Project. The study was to show how walk-able Lansing's streets and corners in Colonial Village and City of Lansing overall were. Multiple neighbors volunteered. The results of this study were presented to the City of Lansing and resulted in being a part of Lansing's plan to make Lansing a walk-able community and member of AARP's Age Friendly Communities. Lansing joined the National Age Friendly Communities project in 2015.

Lansing Neighborhood Council established the Bea Christy Awards. Each year neighborhood associations are asked to nominate an outstanding volunteer to be recognized at their annual Bea Christy Award Event. CVNA has nominated a candidate each year. CVNA Bea Christy award nominees from 2004 – 2016 have been:



Colonial Village Neighborhood Association History

1998 - 2016

Randy Williams, Anita Beavers, June Kenfield, Evie Bush, Willie Vinson, Anne Wilson, Pat Zue and Connie Doyle.

2005

CVNA bylaws were revised and approved.

CVNA neighbors Relay for Life Cancer event raised over \$2,800 for fight against cancer.

2006

CVNA Newsletter highlighted all businesses operating within CVNA's boundaries. Volunteers hand delivered the newsletters to homes.

CVNA neighborhood beautification project: Volunteers decorated the traffic circles on Boston Blvd. and parks with flowers & plants. Plants were provided by Lansing Beautification project and planted by CVNA Volunteers.

2007

Monthly meetings continue: Monthly programs include speakers, community news updates by Lansing City Council members, Lansing Police Department, County and various other organizations.

2008

CVNA newsletter includes survey. Survey results are generally positive.

Anne Wilson nominated as Bea Christy Awards nominee.

2009

City of Lansing invited CVNA members to participate in a Design Lansing Workshop and Planning process in order to assist with revising their five year plan. CVNA participated in a research project for the re-design of the Pleasant Grove and Holmes Road corner.

Anita Beavers, nominated for the Bea Christy Award

2010

Tennis courts at Elmhurst renovated by Lansing Parks and Recreation. The tennis courts were originally scheduled to be taken out. City changed its status after feedback from CVNA residents.



Colonial Village Neighborhood Association History

1998 - 2016

Facebook Page created by Suzanne Salay, CVNA Treasurer and maintained by resident Brandess Walker. In 2014, Anne Wilson began working on the Face Book page.

Revised CVNA brochure created by Willie Vinson

2011

Neighborhood undergoes redistricting. Residents who live north of Victor will be in the 4th Ward and residents living south of Victor will remain in the 3rd Ward.

Community gardens created at Grace United Methodist Church – Gardens of Grace and the South Lansing Urban Gardens & South Lansing Community Development Association.

Community forum to discuss project updates and feedback on the Colonial Village Shopping Center was held in partnership with South Lansing Community Development Assoc. Lansing Economic Development Corp., Lewton Rich and Avrill Woods Neighborhood Associations to revitalize the Colonial Village Shopping Center along with other possible projects in the area. This forum was created to discuss the Colonial Plaza changes due to the loss of the L&L Supermarket. As a result, Family Dollar and Valuland Supermarkets moved into the Colonial Shopping Center.

Tennis Court revitalization project re opening ribbon cutting ceremony held. City of Lansing Mayor and Todd Martin Tennis Foundation held tennis lessons for youth. Coordinated by Board and President Anita Beavers and Secretary Willie Vinson

2012

Elmhurst Elementary School ceases to operate as an Elementary School at the end of May 2012 school year but remained open for Lansing School District programming.

South Lansing Farmers Market comes to the neighborhood, South Lansing Community Development Association

Walking group formed by June Kenfield

RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) moves into Elmhurst Elementary School.

Family Dollar opens a store in the Colonial Village Shopping Center



Colonial Village Neighborhood Association History

1998 - 2016

2013

Valu Land takes over the empty space in the Colonial Village Shopping Center and completely renovates the space. Owner of Colonial Village Mall Greg Singer, made a substantial donation to CVNA as a thanks for assistance in the revitalization of the Colonial Village Shopping Center.

City launches Basement Backup Prevention Program to deal with flooding in basements due to once in a life time flooding on June 13 and due to concerns of residents. CVNA arranged meeting to discuss options.

2014

CATA Bus route approved to extend route 11 through neighborhood due to CVNA's response to neighbors request.

Elmhurst School building task force formed to discuss various uses of the building. Several CVNA board members served on the task force.

Colonial Village full page article, a glimpse of life in Colonial Village, written by Anne Wilson appeared in Lansing State Journal.

Colonial Village t-shirt, designed and provided for sale, by Laura Ford, CVNA President

2016

CVNA sign on Martin Luther King Blvd was hit by a car and had to be repaired. The sign and landscaping were repaired by a City of Lansing grant.

CVNA introduced new electronic newsletter. (CVNANews.com) or [www.facebook.com /CVNANEWS](http://www.facebook.com/CVNANEWS)) Created by Kris Klein and Karl Biasi.

The City of Lansing Champion Award was accepted by Connie Doyle. The award was presented to her in recognition for her outstanding community spirit and neighborliness. Colonial Village Neighborhood Association received the Love Lansing award for Local Organization & Volunteer Excellence. CVNA was nominated by Anne Wilson.