

# WARDCLIFF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN.

East Lansing/Okemos, MI

[www.wardcliff.org](http://www.wardcliff.org) / [www.facebook.com/WardcliffNA](https://www.facebook.com/WardcliffNA)



Winter, 2017-18

## County Alert System Has Moved

The Ingham County Alert System has moved to a different platform for community messaging. Called the Capital Area Ingham County Alert System, it combines the emergency notifications sent from CodeRED and Nixle into one alert for six communities: Meridian Township, Lansing, Ingham County, Delhi Township, East Lansing, and Lansing Township.

Here is the link to sign up or change your existing Nixle info to the new program through Everbridge:

<https://tinyurl.com/capitalalerts>

## Car Break-ins

Starting in October 2017, there have been multiple reports of someone breaking into unlocked cars in the Wardcliff area overnight, by a person who takes items, tosses them around both inside and outside the vehicle, and also takes some valuables.

Be sure to lock all doors if the vehicle is left outside, and keep any valuables out of sight.

## Cabin Fever 2018

The annual WNA Cabin Fever event is planned for Feb. 25, 2018 from 2 pm – 4 pm, and will be held at Ellison's Brewery on Dawn Ave.

There will be plenty of good food, lots of neighbors to talk with, and memberships available if you are interested in joining.

## Another Coyote Sighting

Another coyote has been seen by two residents in both the Glencairn and Chesterfield Hills neighborhoods of East Lansing on JANUARY 9, 2018. It is presumed to be the same animal.

Here is the East Lansing notice from their website with more DNR information:  
<https://www.cityofeastlansing.com/1861/15783/Coyote-Sighting>

After the killing of a cat by a coyote at the corner of Wardcliff and Rockwood on Sat., June 24 at about 2:00 am, people have been advised to bring all pets indoor at night.

## A Beautiful Part of Local History

*By Gail Richmond*

It is such an honor to own a piece of Meridian Township history! When we purchased our home in 1990, we were somewhat aware of the historic nature of the house, but as the years passed, we have learned much more.

Our home, at 5229 Park Lake Road, is often referred to as the Proctor Farmhouse. It was built in 1880 by Asa Proctor II, the son of Alonzo and Sara Proctor, who had a family farm on the west side of Park Lake Road north of Grand River Avenue. When the plank road between Lansing and Howell was constructed, Alonzo's father, Asa, became the tollgate operator, and Alonzo took over the task after Asa's death. That tollgate, by the way, was moved and can be seen today in the Meridian Township Historical Village. Most members of the Proctor family were buried in a small cemetery on the rise at the intersection of Grand River Avenue and Hamilton Road.

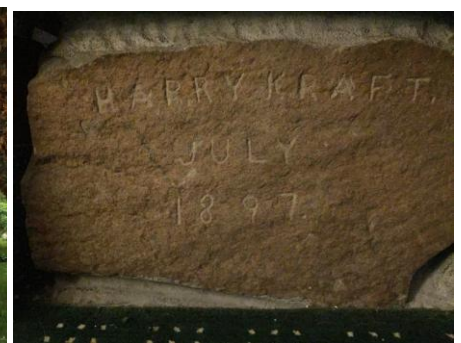
Our home originally had a front door facing Grand River Avenue with an enclosed porch and a side porch as well. There were several changes made to the exterior, including a major renovation in about 1980 in which the front door was relocated (twice) and the side porch was removed and replaced by a room which we now use as a den, and which has a wonderful fieldstone fireplace. (By the way, the cornerstone of this fireplace has these words etched deeply in it: "Harry Kraft July 1897." If anyone has any information on this individual, we would LOVE to hear from you!)

Over the years, we added a major addition upstairs and have done several other, more minor renovations.

Every so often, we are visited by someone who knew someone who lived here, or is just curious about the home, and we love the interest. It's great to be a part of the neighborhood and to have the privilege of living in such a significant historic home.

You can read more about our home, the Proctor Tollgate, and other Meridian Township historical buildings here:

[www.meridiantownship.com/uploads/8/0/0/7/80072866/rural\\_meridian\\_township.pdf](http://www.meridiantownship.com/uploads/8/0/0/7/80072866/rural_meridian_township.pdf)



## WNA Donates to Meridian Cares

The WNA Board donated \$50 to the Meridian Cares program, and has received a letter of thanks from the organizer, Ms. Darla Jackson.

According to U.S. Census data, 12% of our township residents, or about 5,000 people, have incomes below the poverty level. Darla Jackson, Meridian Township Human Services Specialist, has worked in the human services field for over 10 years and helps clients navigate the local safety net of services, facilitates the delivery of over 500 food baskets to households in need annually, and provides access to many other services to help residents achieve greater financial stability.

## Mankowski Christmas Party

For the past 27 years, retired Meridian Township Police Officer Gayelord Mankowski has held a Christmas party for kids in the Okemos community to ensure that all of our kids can have a joyous holiday season. What started out as a small gathering of a few kids from a local trailer park, totally funded from Ofc. Mankowski's own pocket, has turned into a full-fledged annual celebration!

This year's party was held on Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017 at Murphy School in Haslett. The event was able to provide lunch and gifts to over 200 kids!

Pizza, pop, cookies, and candy are provided, and Santa always makes an appearance. Each child tells Santa what he wants for Christmas, then names are drawn from a hat, and the children each get to pick a present.

On behalf of the Wardcliff Neighborhood, the Board approved a donation of \$50.00 to the Mankowski Christmas Party. Gayelord was our neighborhood officer, which included the trailer park. He knew which families needed extra support, and everyone pitched in to help. We are happy that your annual dues help us carry on this tradition.



## 2018 Meridian Township Street Repaving Plan

At its Dec. 5, 2017 meeting, the Meridian Township Board approved a list of goals for the upcoming year.

Goal B is to: "Develop a comprehensive plan to fund our deteriorating local road system."

In earlier 2018 budget discussions, the Board had indicated that they will add \$550,000 dollars to the \$400,000 dollars generated by the Township Road millage. Adding in the annual contribution from Ingham County, the total road repair budget will exceed one million dollars for 2018.

If any residents in the Wardcliff Neighborhood feel their streets need to be re-paved, one of the best ways to bring the problem to the attention of the Meridian Public Works Director Derek Perry is to circulate a petition among all affected households requesting those repairs.

The Township staff annually inspects local roads, but either a petition, letters, or e-mail messages will assist them in prioritizing the streets needing repair.

The contact information for sending in requests is:

Derek Perry, Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works  
Meridian Charter Township  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864  
e-mail: [perry@meridian.mi.us](mailto:perry@meridian.mi.us)  
517-853-4654

## MTFD Chief Cowper Retires

On Dec. 20, 2017, Chief Fred Cowper began his retirement after 20 years with the Meridian Township Fire Department. Congratulations Chief! You will be missed.

And we meet our new interim Chief Lori Schafer, as she returns to work after only three years of retirement herself, having retired from MTFD in June, 2014 after a 25-year career with the department. She was the first female firefighter hired at MTFD, who then rose through the ranks from firefighter paramedic to Lieut. to Capt., and finishing her career as a Battalion Chief.



Chief Cowper and Interim Chief Schafer.

## Wardcliff Neighborhood Assn.

P.O. Box 65, Okemos, MI 48805-0065

[www.wardcliff.org](http://www.wardcliff.org)

[www.facebook.com/WardcliffNA/](https://www.facebook.com/WardcliffNA/)

### Board of Directors 2017-2018

Christine Beavers	President
John Scott-Craig	Vice-President
Andy Phelps	Treasurer
Margo Stork	Co-Secretary
Betsy Montgomery	Co-Secretary
Vicki Goldammer	Director
Don Isleib	Director
Kay Lockwood	Director, Newsletter Editor
Brian Pillar	Director, Technical Support

WNA website board contact page:

[www.wardcliff.org/contact/](http://www.wardcliff.org/contact/)

The Wardcliff neighborhood is in Meridian Township, and borders the City of East Lansing to the west, Grand River Ave. on the south, Park Lake Rd. on the east, and Burcham Dr. on the north.

### Links:

[Copy and paste text into your browser.]

[www.wardcliff.org/links/](http://www.wardcliff.org/links/)

- Meridian Township  
[www.meridian.mi.us/](http://www.meridian.mi.us/)
- Meridian Township Police
- MTPD on Twitter  
[twitter.com/MeridianTwpPD](https://twitter.com/MeridianTwpPD)
- MTPD on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/MeridianTwpPD](https://www.facebook.com/MeridianTwpPD)
- MTPD Blog  
[meridiantwppolice.blogspot.com/](http://meridiantwppolice.blogspot.com/)
- <https://tinyurl.com/capitalalerts>
- Nixle – Local Community Alerts  
[www.nixle.com/](http://www.nixle.com/)
- Crime Mapping  
[crimemapping.com/map/agency/452](http://crimemapping.com/map/agency/452)

### Emergency Preparedness

- Ready.gov: [www.ready.gov/](http://www.ready.gov/)
- Do1Thing: [www.do1thing.com/](http://www.do1thing.com/)

### How to contact the Police Dept:

- Emergencies: 911
- Non-Emergencies: 332-6526
- Front Desk: 853-4800

### How to contact the Fire Dept:

- Emergencies: 911
- Non-Emergencies: 272-6026
- Administration: 853-4700

## Leadership Award Given to WNA Board Member

On November 2, 2017, our own John Scott-Craig was recognized as one of the 2017 Meridian Township Leadership Recipients at the 3rd Annual Boards and Commissions Appreciation Night.

John Scott Craig, Vice-President of the Wardcliff Neighborhood Association, was honored as one of two recipients of the Leadership Award. He has given many hours to both the Township and the neighborhood.

John currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Planning Commission, having previously served as Chairman. But John does not stop there. He also attends other meetings and lectures on various topics that affect the Township.

John was actively involved in developing the Master Plan, Shaping The Avenue, and other developments around the township. John brings a calm voice to the sometimes heated discussions, and is well-respected by his peers. We congratulate John and are honored that he is an active member of our neighborhood.



## Meridian Township Winter Farmers' Market

The Meridian Township Farmers' Market is open **Saturday, January 20th, 10am to 2pm** inside the Meridian Mall. There are plenty of vendors to shop from in the warmth of the mall during winter.

The market features Michigan strawberries, beans, tomatoes, peaches, and blueberries in June, and apples, winter squash, and pumpkins in the fall. Fresh bouquets of flowers are available throughout the season. A majority of the products sold at the market are grown locally or within the state.

Upcoming dates are: 1/20, 2/3, 2/17, 3/3, 3/17, 4/7, and 4/21 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Any questions, the market manager is Christine Miller, 517-712-2395 (p/t) or at [farmers.market.manager@gmail.com](mailto:farmers.market.manager@gmail.com).

## Fall Fun Fest 2017

Our annual Fall Fun Fest was held this past October 15th, on a rather inclement day, but we still had attendance of about 25-30 people throughout the event, and we received some applications to join WNA. The Meridian Township Fire Department was kind enough to send out a fire truck for the kids, big and little, to explore.

As usual, we had our famous S'mores cooked over the firepit, and plenty of cookies, donuts, and cider to enjoy. Youngsters were treated to gift bags, projects, and games to play.



## Meridian Township Police Department Offers Place for Online Transactions Posted online: 01/08/2018

The MTPD reminds residents they can use police facilities as a safe location to complete Facebook Marketplace transactions, as well as Craigslist, Let Go, Offer Up, and any other online transaction type of service.

There is no need to call ahead or make an appointment. Buyers and sellers can use the foyer of the Public Safety Building at any time. The Police Department can provide a venue for people to make the transaction without feeling uncomfortable or unsafe.

Some buying and selling tips:

- Meet in a public place.
- Consider having a friend accompany you.
- Do not meet in a secluded place, or invite strangers into your home.
- Be especially careful when buying or selling high value items.

- Tell a friend or family member where and when you are going.
- Take your cell phone along.
- Trust your instincts.
- Make the payment in person.
- Know what items/actions are prohibited.

## Costco Now Open

The long-awaited grand opening of the East Lansing Costco was held on Oct. 27, 2017 at 8:00 am. The 156,170 sq. ft. warehouse at Park Lake and Saginaw has close to 200 employees, 700 parking spaces, a tire center, and a 24-pump gas station. There are also three out-lots for any future development.



## Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale June 1st and 2nd, 2018



Start sorting and pricing now so there's no rush at the last minute. Empty out the garage and basement of all those things you don't use any more, get some extra cash - and more space!

Put dates on your calendar now, and check the WNA website and Facebook for more details in the months to come.

## The Great Divide! Meridian Township Fire Department Wins Car Cutting Contest

Congratulations to our Meridian Township Fire Department who are again winners in this year's DeWalt Great Divide Car Cutting Competition held at the Okemos Home Depot on October 6, 2017.

Their winning time for cutting a car in half was 2 minutes, 25 seconds, making the Meridian Fire Team undefeated. This year, they faced off against the East Lansing Fire Department. East Lansing's time was 3 minutes, 4 seconds.

The Great Divide Car Cutting Contest began as a way to honor the yearly football game between Michigan State University vs. University of Michigan. This year's event included the Williamston High School Marching Band, the Michigan State University Competitive Cheer Team, and plenty of free food and refreshments.

### MERIDIAN FIRE



BOTH TEAMS

### EAST LANSING FIRE



BOTH TEAMS

"If you don't have time to do it right, when will you have time to do it over?"

- Albert Einstein