

# Churchill Downs Newsletter

Churchill Downs Community Association

December 2025 – February 2026

## Upcoming Events

### Holiday Party

Tuesday, Dec 16, 6:30-8pm  
at the Alfreda Schmidt  
Community Center.

### Churchill Downs

#### Community Meetings

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month,  
6:30-8pm, Alfreda Schmidt  
Community Center.  
December meeting is the  
Holiday Party and there is  
no meeting in January.  
Regular meetings will  
resume in February.

*In Churchill Downs, we get together as neighbors to support and initiate activities that benefit our community, work cooperatively to solve problems, and establish communication links between neighbors and local government/other organizations. Everyone has a part to play in making our neighborhood an enjoyable place to live, and we are glad to have you with us.*

## Treasurer Needed

We want to thank our previous treasurer, Garrett Amstutz, tremendously for his faithful and diligent work for our community. Garrett and his family moved out of the neighborhood this year, and we are seeking a new treasurer to fill his place. If you would like to serve our community in this way or have any questions about the position, please reach out to us at [churchilldownslansing@gmail.com](mailto:churchilldownslansing@gmail.com).

We would also like to give a big welcome to Gloria Denning as she just joined the CDCA Executive Board as an At-Large Member.

## Keeping Up With Snow

Please do your part to make our neighborhood safe and walkable this winter by keeping your sidewalks clear of snow and ice. Plenty of neighbors continue to walk through the neighborhood in the cold months out of necessity, or just to get some fresh air. If you are having trouble keeping your sidewalks clear due to physical limitations, please reach out to your neighbors for help! If none of your immediate neighbors are available to help, email us and we will see if we can coordinate any help. For anyone who has the time and ability, we encourage you to bless your neighbors by shoveling their snow as well as your own! We can keep up the warmth of neighborliness even in the cold of winter.

## Holiday Happenings

### Holiday Party

Our annual holiday celebration will be on December 16 at 6:30pm at the Alfreda Schmidt Community Center, in place of our December community meeting. Food will be catered, Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be there, and we will vote on our favorite Christmas Lights in the neighborhood. We will also have a raffle fundraiser for CDCA, so bring cash for raffle tickets and/or a fun prize to be raffled off.

### Shining Light Award

Do you have a neighbor that *consistently goes above and beyond* for our neighborhood? Do they set a good example for our community? Please nominate them for our annual **Shining Light Award** by emailing Elizabeth at [hossinke@gmail.com](mailto:hossinke@gmail.com) with their name and why they are a shining light. Nominations will be taken until December 8. The winner will be announced at the Holiday Party and will receive a gift.

### Holiday Lights Contest

This is our eighth year recognizing houses that do a great job decorating with Christmas lights. Starting this year, we will be giving out the "Jimmy McConnell Christmas Lights Award", in honor of our neighbor on Maybel St. that has won first place every year. Jimmy's lights still look great, but he has withdrawn himself from the contest, so we will see which new house gets first place this year! Voting will take place at the Holiday Party, and winners will be announced on Facebook.



# Churchill Gardens – A Ladybug Sustainable Community

At our November Community Meeting, Hope and Donald Lovell shared with us about a sustainable community they are helping to develop just south of Tabernacle of David Church, between Gibson St and Catherine St. This development would consist of single family homes, townhouses, apartments, a farm, a community center, and more. Their goal is to create an intergenerational, affordable, environmentally friendly community, and they want to have lots of open discussion with the surrounding neighbors to make sure the project is supported by the existing community. If you missed this presentation, you will want to visit [churchill-gardens.com](http://churchill-gardens.com) to learn more. They would also like our feedback, as the project will be very close to us. You can fill out this survey [here](#) to provide your feedback.

## Get Involved!

We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the Alfreda Schmidt Community Center from 6:30-8pm. This is a time to meet neighbors and talk about what is happening in the neighborhood. If you would like to be involved in some way other than the monthly meeting, consider any of these options:

- Attending or volunteering at neighborhood events
- Passing out welcome packets to new neighbors
- Offering to shovel snow or assist neighbors who need help in other ways

To get involved or if you have questions, send us an email or message us on Facebook.

## Share this newsletter with your neighbors!

Currently our email newsletter is only reaching about 12% of the households in the neighborhood. We want to make sure everyone has the opportunity to hear about what is going on. **If you are willing to help pass out physical newsletters to your street or block, please email us and let us know!** And please encourage neighbors to sign up to receive this via email (sign up on our website), as that is the only way we can ensure they will receive it every time.

## Stay Connected

For more regular updates visit our website: [churchilldownslansing.info](http://churchilldownslansing.info)

Facebook Page: Churchill Downs Community Association

Facebook Group: Neighbors of Churchill Downs

Email: [Churchilldownslansing@gmail.com](mailto:Churchilldownslansing@gmail.com)

## Mod Pod Discussions

We had a large discussion about the Mod Pods at our October Community Meeting. These pods are 50 transitional housing units that the City of Lansing is planning to use to help people transition out of homelessness. For more information about this project, visit their website:

<https://www.lansingmi.gov/1364/NOVA-Lansing-Housing-Initiative>.

On November 20, the top 5 locations for these pods were revealed:

- 1) Former warming house and ice-skating rink of Debbie Stabenow Park
- 2) Former Shabazz School
- 3) Comstock Park
- 4) Hunter Park
- 5) Reasoner Park.

A final decision for location will be made by December 18. If you have any thoughts about where these pods should go, please email

[HRCS.CommunityEvents@lansingmi.gov](mailto:HRCS.CommunityEvents@lansingmi.gov) and [HRCSgeneral@lansingmi.gov](mailto:HRCSgeneral@lansingmi.gov) or call the HRCS Department at 517-483-4477 and let them know! This is our last chance to give our input before they move forward with the project.

If you have any events or activities you would like to share with your neighbors, even as simple as going on a walk to pick up trash, email that information to [hossinke@gmail.com](mailto:hossinke@gmail.com) for it to be posted in the next newsletter. Newsletters are written quarterly. We also encourage you to use our Facebook group to invite neighbors to activities.