



LOOKING AT Lansing

Your quarterly connection to Village government news, community updates, and local pride.

Happy Holidays from My Family to Yours!

As 2025 draws to a close, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to the residents, businesses, and community partners who help make Lansing such a special place to call home.

This has been a year of change, momentum, and community pride. Since stepping into the role of Mayor this spring, I've had the privilege of working alongside dedicated Village staff and officials, hearing from passionate residents, and seeing firsthand the strength of our neighborhoods. Whether it's the excitement at Fox Pointe, the hard work behind our infrastructure improvements, or the countless volunteers who give their time and talents — Lansing's heart continues to grow and shine.

The holiday season is a time for reflection, connection, and looking forward. As we gather with loved ones, I encourage everyone to take stock of the blessings in our lives and the opportunities that lie ahead. Let's continue to support one another, lend a hand where it's needed, and enter the new year with hope and determination.

From my family to yours, I wish you peace, joy, and a Healthy and Happy New Year (2026).

Warm regards,

Mayor Brian P. Hardy



SERVING LANSING



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Village of Lansing

3141 Ridge Road, Lansing, IL 60438
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Village Board Meetings

First and third Tuesday of each month.

Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. and are held at the
Municipal Court Facility, 2710 170th St., Lansing, IL 60438
No meetings the first week in January, July and August

Municipal Center Hours

Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Special thanks to Dan Bovino for his photographic contributions.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



NOVEMBER 2025

Thursday, Nov. 27

Thanksgiving Day –
The Lansing Municipal Center is closed; no waste collections are scheduled. Refuse, recycling & yard waste collections are scheduled one day later for Thursday & Friday.

Saturday, Nov. 29

Village Tree Lighting & Opening of the Santa House, 5:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 2025

Tuesday, Dec. 2

Village Board Meeting --
Lansing Courthouse, 6 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 12

Last day for yard waste collections.

Sunday, Dec. 14

First Day of Hanukkah

Tuesday, Dec. 16

Village Board Meeting --
Lansing Courthouse, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 25

Christmas Day
Lansing Municipal Center will be closed; no refuse collections are scheduled. Refuse and recycling collections will be one day later on Thursday & Friday.

Friday, Dec. 26

First Day of Kwanzaa



JANUARY 2026

Thursday, Jan. 1

New Year's Day – Lansing Municipal Center will be closed; no refuse collections are scheduled. Refuse and recycling collections will be one day later Thursday & Friday.

Saturday, Jan. 17

MLK Unity Brunch, sponsored by the Lansing Human Relations Commission, Memorial Junior High School, 11 a.m.

Monday, Jan. 19

Martin Luther King Jr. Observance
The Lansing Municipal Center will be closed. Refuse and recycling collections are on regular schedules this week.

Tuesday, Jan. 20

Village Board Meeting --
Lansing Courthouse, 6 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2026

Monday, Feb. 2

Groundhog Day

Tuesday, Feb. 3

Village Board Meeting -- Lansing Courthouse, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 14

Valentine's Day

Monday, Feb. 16

Presidents' Day
Lansing Municipal Center will be closed. Refuse and recycling collections are on regular schedules this week.

Tuesday, Feb. 17

Village Board Meeting --
Lansing Courthouse, 6 p.m.

Get the Scoop!

In between quarterly issues of Looking At Lansing, you can keep up with the Village by registering for E-News! Get the latest news straight to your inbox.

Use the QR code or visit VillageofLansing.org and click Communications under Departments.



REGISTER FOR E-NEWS

COVER PHOTOS:

Top: Mayor Hardy and his wife Kathy; Center: (son) Patrick Hardy, wife Kara, and baby Russell Hardy; Bottom: Mathias, wife (daughter) Shannon, and baby Jerome Godsfil.

Lansing Municipal Airport named 2025 Reliever Airport of the Year

The Lansing Municipal Airport (IGQ) was named the 2025 Reliever Airport of the Year by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Division of Aeronautics. This prestigious award underscores the airport's pivotal role in enhancing regional aviation capacity and supporting the Chicago metropolitan area's air traffic management.

Village of Lansing Mayor Brian Hardy and Airfield Maintenance Supervisor Tom Gorski accepted the award in Galena, Ill., during the annual Illinois Public Airports Association fall conference.

As a designated reliever airport, the Lansing Municipal Airport plays a crucial role in alleviating congestion at major hubs like Chicago O'Hare and Midway International Airports. Its strategic location and facilities contribute to the efficiency and safety of the broader aviation network.

"We are immensely proud to receive this recognition," said Mayor Hardy. "This award reflects the dedication of our team and the support of the Lansing community in maintaining and advancing our airport's operations."

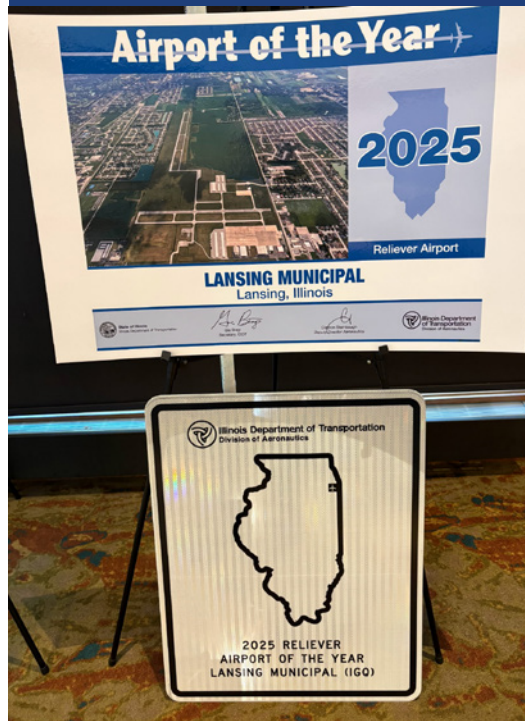
The award highlights Lansing Municipal Airport's commitment to excellence in airport management, safety, and service. It also acknowledges the continuous improvements and investments made to enhance the airport's infrastructure and capabilities.

For more information about Lansing Municipal Airport and its services, please visit lansingmunicipalairport.org.



Above: Airfield Maintenance Supervisor Tom Gorski and Village of Lansing Mayor Brian Hardy show off the airport's award.

Below: The new sign that will be featured at the airport.



LANSING AREA ON DEMAND BECOMES PERMANENT WITH MINOR SCHEDULE CHANGE

Pace Bus announced in October that the Lansing Area On Demand pilot service is now permanent, with minor adjustments to the service hours. In response to ridership trends during the pilot period, the weekday and Saturday service hours have changed from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. to 6 a.m.-7 p.m.

One year ago, the Village of Lansing celebrated the launch of the Lansing Area Pace On Demand service with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Lansing Municipal Center. Lansing Area On Demand offers a convenient, accessible, and flexible transit option for all residents, particularly benefiting those with limited access to traditional public transportation.

This service improves access to vital destinations, including schools, healthcare facilities, shopping centers, and workplaces.

Rides can be booked just 10 minutes ahead or up to seven days in advance, ensuring ease of use for diverse schedules.

Booking a Ride:

- Call 847-269-3099
- Visit www.pacebus.com/on-demand

Fares:

- \$2 per one-way ride with Ventra
- \$2.25 cash fare (exact amount required)

Reduced Fares for Students, Seniors, and People with Disabilities

- \$1 per one-way ride with Ventra
- \$1.10 cash fare (exact amount required)

With Lansing Area On Demand, Pace enhances mobility, supporting the community's transportation needs and contributing to a more connected Lansing. More information is available online at www.pacebus.com/on-demand.



Official Tree Lighting Ceremony & Santa Welcome

Saturday, Nov. 29, 5:30 p.m.

It's time to kick off the holiday season in Lansing! Bring your holiday spirit and join us for an evening of cheer at Fox Pointe. Sing along with carolers! At 5:30 p.m., help Mayor Hardy and Village officials count down to the magical moment when the switch is flipped, lighting up Fox Pointe's holiday tree along with dozens of beautifully decorated trees sponsored by local businesses and organizations.

Between 5:45-6 p.m., let's give Santa & Mrs. Claus an enthusiastic welcome back as they travel down Randolph Street to their Lansing home! Visit Santa & Mrs. Claus, 6-8 p.m.

Additional Santa House Hours

Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus:

- Fridays, Dec. 5 & 12, 6-8 p.m.
- Saturdays, Dec. 6 & 13, noon-3 p.m.

Tree Viewing

Fox Pointe will open for viewings from 3-8 p.m. Wednesdays-Sundays, beginning Dec. 3, with the addition of Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 22 and 23.

All dates and activities are weather-dependent and may be canceled at any time. Check the Fox Pointe and Village websites for updates.



Christmas tree disposal

Homewood Disposal, Lansing's contracted waste hauler, offers free Christmas tree curbside disposal in January for both real and artificial trees! Trees should be free of decorations and lights.

Dispose of your once-live Christmas tree within the first few weeks of January and put your tree next to your trash tote on your regularly scheduled pickup day.

If you have an artificial tree, take the tree apart and place it in its box next to your trash tote. Artificial trees are considered bulk items and are included in your weekly garbage service. You can also consider donating your artificial tree to a nursing home, thrift store, or charity if it is in good condition.

SAVE THE DATE! MLK Unity Brunch

Join the Lansing Human Relations Commission for this special event, a celebration of community, equality, and the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.,
at Memorial Junior High School**

While this event is free to attend, registration is required because seating is limited. Watch for details on VillageofLansing.org and facebook.com/VillageofLansing.



**REGISTER HERE
BEGINNING
DEC. 1**



District Champs again!

Lansing Little League wraps season with pride and momentum

Lansing's 12-and-under Little League All-Stars capped off another exciting season by earning their second straight District 6 championship and proudly representing the community at the Illinois state tournament in Elgin.

The team secured the district crown with a win over South Holland on July 11, a victory that highlighted both the depth of their pitching staff and the strength of their defense. That title punched their ticket to state, where they faced off against some of the best youth baseball programs Illinois has to offer. While Lansing's tournament run ended short of the championship, the experience marked another milestone in what has been a remarkable stretch for the program.

Lansing Little League continues to thrive thanks to its strong roots in the community. Many of the coaches and volunteers once played in the program themselves, and that sense of tradition keeps families coming back. Little League Board President Saad Abbasy, whose own son plays on the team, credits the success to both the kids' hard work and the adults who dedicate countless hours to the league.

"We're not just developing athletes," he explained, "we're building character and community."

Under Little League rules, pitch counts and mandatory rest days mean teams can't lean on just one arm. Lansing's roster stood out this season for its balance, with multiple players contributing on the mound. Pitchers Andy Barron, Pablo Cortez, Alonzo Ledezma, Renzo Ledezma, and Natalia Savage-Lopez all rotated through, keeping the team competitive in every game. Most of them also filled roles in the infield or behind the plate, showing the versatility that sets successful teams apart.

Rounding out the lineup were Joseph Abbasy, Brayden Boer, Dillon Cross, Judah Israel, Shakir Jones, Chase Lightfoot, and Caiden Williams, each of whom provided steady offense and defense throughout the summer season.

The All-Stars were honored for their achievement at the August 19 Village Board meeting, where they were presented with trophies in front of the community.



Front row from left: Joseph Abbasy, Shakir Jones, Brayden Boer, Dillon Cross; second row: Andy Barron, Caiden Williams, Judah Israel, Chase Lightfoot, Alonzo Ledezma, Pablo Cortez, Renzo Ledezma, Natalie Savage-Lopez; Coach Pablo Cortez, Manager Miguel Ledezma, Coach Saad Abbasy.



The team celebrates their achievement with trophies presented to them at the Aug. 19 Village Board meeting.

2026 Season

Registration for the 2026 Lansing Little League season will open in January. Families with children who are interested in joining are encouraged to watch for announcements on these sites:

- Facebook.com/lansinglittleleague
- lansingyouthbaseball.com
- leagues.bluesombrero.com/lansingoldtimers

For more information, email LansingYouthBaseball@gmail.com.

2025 Winter Safety Tips: Sharing the road with snowplows & salt trucks

As winter returns to the Village of Lansing, Public Works crews will be out day and night keeping roads safe. Snowplows and salt trucks are large, powerful vehicles that require extra room to operate. Please keep safety in mind when encountering them this season:

1. Slow Down

Snowplows and salt trucks move at reduced speeds, so they can clear and treat the roads effectively. Match their pace and avoid sudden braking.

2. Give Extra Space

Keep a greater following distance. Salt spray can damage vehicles, and plowed snow can temporarily block your vision. More space gives you time to react safely.

3. Never Pass a Plow

Passing is dangerous due to limited visibility and drifting snow. Wait until it is absolutely clear and safe—better yet, stay behind and let them finish the job.

4. Be Patient

Our crews are working hard to make sure roads are safe for everyone. Delays are temporary, but safety lasts all season long.

5. Expect Changing Conditions

Snowplows may leave snowbanks, slush, or temporary ridges. Drive cautiously and be prepared for sudden changes in road conditions.

6. Watch for Flashing Lights

Yellow and amber flashing lights mean the vehicle is actively working. Stay alert and give them the right-of-way when possible.

Snow Removal – Parking Restrictions

When it snows two inches or more, it triggers a snow removal event. During these events, the Village asks vehicle owners, lessees, or community members in charge of vehicles to follow parking rules so streets can be safely cleared.

Here's what to do:

- Even-numbered days of the month: Park on the even-numbered side of the street.
- Odd-numbered days of the month: Park on the odd-numbered side of the street.
- One-sided parking streets: Restrictions are temporarily lifted on the no-parking side until the street is cleared.
- No-parking streets: No parking is allowed on either side at any time.
- Driveways: If your home has a driveway, please park there and make sure sidewalks are clear.

The parking rules are in effect until all the snow is cleared in your area. Following these rules helps Public Works plow streets safely and keeps everyone moving.

Safety & Service to Community of Lansing



Welcome to the Village's newest Snowplow Team Operators, from left: Miguel Maciel, Andrew Moehilg, Cruz Ibarra, and Frank Studevart. Dave Planer (far right) lent support to training efforts. These new team members have undergone thorough training, preparing to help keep Lansing's roads clear and our community safe during the winter.

Meet Earl O'Neal: Lansing's new Superintendent of Public Works

At the September 16 Village Board meeting, Earl O'Neal was officially appointed as Lansing's new Superintendent of Public Works. A long-time Lansing resident with a strong professional background in infrastructure and organizational leadership, O'Neal is eager to bring fresh ideas, new technology, and a spirit of teamwork to the department that keeps Lansing running.

O'Neal's career has taken him across the country, developing staffing models and aligning infrastructure for multiple companies. His expertise lies in building efficient teams and integrating new technologies into everyday operations. Now, he sees an opportunity to bring those skills home.

"In Lansing, there's a unique opportunity to realign day-to-day operations around program types that incorporate new and innovative technologies," O'Neal explained. "This isn't to say the department has been heading in the wrong direction, but advancements are happening quickly across all industries. Lansing can certainly capitalize on these advancements, and the development of our staff at the start of my term is crucial to long-term success."

When asked about his reaction to being chosen to lead Lansing's Public Works Department, O'Neal laughed: "Honestly, my first thought was, 'Wow, every task I'll be working on is just seven minutes from my house!'"

But he quickly shifted to the bigger picture. "I saw it as a tremendous opportunity to transition from the corporate world, where decisions are driven by profit margins, to community service, where the focus is on investment and engagement.

"It's a completely different world, and one where your actions directly impact your neighbors, families, and the community as a whole," he said.

O'Neal has been on the job since May and said those early days were a crash course.

"It was a classic case of 'you don't know what you don't know,'" he admitted. "Learning the inner workings of the how and why behind the scenes was just as important as avoiding the temptation to act too quickly and risk making things worse.

"Over this short time, I've developed a better understanding of both the staff and the systems, which has made collaboration and problem-solving much smoother," he said.

Looking ahead, O'Neal's vision for Lansing Public Works centers on transparency, organization, and community engagement.

"Community engagement is a major focus, and new initiatives are being launched," he said. "It begins with a full self-evaluation of our operations, staff, and assets.



Public Works Superintendent, Earl O'Neal

"Once we clearly understand where we are, we can more effectively define where we're going," he continued. "Residents will notice a department that is more transparent, organized, and responsive to community needs."

O'Neal highlighted the strengths of the department and the people who make it run.

"Simply put, we have a wealth of knowledge and expertise at our fingertips," he said. "Our staff is deeply committed to the success of Lansing's day-to-day operations. The goal is to unify that energy so we move forward as one team, speaking with one voice."

He also praised Lansing's leadership: "This administration is the best team of people I've ever had the opportunity to work with. From Mayor Hardy to the Village Board members, frontline staff, and each department, everyone is fully invested and working together toward Lansing's success."

O'Neal is more than a Public Works professional; he's also a neighbor who has called Lansing home for 27 years. A South Side Chicago native who grew up in the Bridgeport area, O'Neal describes himself as "a small part of a big team." In his spare time, he enjoys life as a professional musician, having performed with multiple bands and entertainers over the years.

Winter Flood Risk

How snowmelt, ice jams, and winter storms can impact your property

Flooding isn't just a spring or summer concern—winter brings its own risks. Snowmelt, ice jams, and winter storms can all lead to flooding, even during the cold months. Here's what you need to know and how to protect your property.

Snowmelt

When snow thaws faster than the ground and drainage systems can absorb it, nearby areas—including basements—can flood. While snowmelt floods are often localized, they can still cause significant damage. Unseasonably warm winter temperatures in the Chicago area make this risk year-round.

Ice Jams

Ice jam floods happen when river surfaces freeze during cold spells, then large chunks break off unevenly during warmer periods. These ice blocks can block waterways and push water into nearby communities.

Winter Storms

Strong winter winds can create large waves on lakes like Lake Michigan, while heavy rains—even in winter—can trigger flash flooding.

Protecting Your Property

1. Secure Flood Insurance

Standard home insurance usually does not cover flood damage. Lansing participates in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System as a Class 5 community, giving residents a 25% premium reduction. Renters can purchase contents-only coverage. With active insurance, filing a claim after damage is simple and fast.

2. Shovel and Maintain Drainage Systems

Prevent winter floods by keeping snow and ice away from your foundation and runoff paths. Clear snow from roofs and ensure gutters, sump pumps, and other drainage systems are free of ice and debris. Test sump pumps periodically with a bucket of water.

The same floodproofing steps you use in spring and summer—like proper drainage and grading—also help during winter. For guidance on flood hazards or property-specific floodproofing, contact the Building Department at 708-895-7200.



Building a Better Lansing: Capital Projects Overview

Several infrastructure and maintenance projects are moving forward throughout Lansing into next year. From resurfacing streets to improving water systems, the Village continues its commitment to keeping Lansing safe, functional, and well-maintained.

• 2025 Pavement Management Program

- o Construction is underway and will be substantially completed by December 2025; restoration/seeding to be completed in Spring 2026.
- o Village is identifying streets for crack sealing program to go out for bid for construction in Spring 2026.

• Stony Island Avenue Street Resurfacing – Thornton-Lansing Road to 186th Street

- o Punch list items remain; construction is substantially completed.

• Public Works Site Development & Building

- o Ongoing site development; currently on hold as building progresses.
 - Site work (parking lot) to be completed Summer 2026

• FY26 Commercial Buildings – 17130 Torrence Avenue (Bank Building) and remaining Public Works Yard Building Demolition

- o To be completed early 2026

• Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Program – Year 1

- o Work to begin and continue for one year.
- o Village will move forward with design on year two (construction to start in 2026) over the winter and apply for additional funding in early 2026.

• Paxton Avenue & Willow Lane (Fernwood) pond clearing, regrading, and dredging to go out for bid Fall 2025 with work taking place over Fall/Winter 2025 and Spring 2026.

• Water Ground Storage Reservoirs Rehabilitation (at Bernice water pump station) to go out for bid in Winter 2025 with construction beginning in Spring 2026.

Shop local, support Lansing this holiday season

The holiday season is a time for gathering, giving, and celebrating—and it's also one of the easiest times of year for Lansing residents to make a real impact on our community. Every gift purchased, every meal shared, and every celebration held in Lansing helps keep our Village strong.

Sales taxes are a vital piece of Lansing's budget, estimated to make up 19.2% of this fiscal year's revenue. That money goes directly toward the services we rely on every day—like public safety, snow removal, and street maintenance. With a sales tax rate of 9.5%, Lansing receives 1% back from the State of Illinois and an additional 0.5% home-rule tax, meaning that a portion of nearly every purchase made in town is reinvested in Village operations.

That's why Lansing has placed such an emphasis on economic development. Attracting and retaining businesses keeps our commercial areas vibrant, provides jobs for residents, and ensures a steady stream of sales tax revenue that reduces



the pressure on property taxes. A strong local economy allows Lansing to reinvest in the things that matter most—like infrastructure, public safety, and quality-of-life improvements that benefit every resident.

That means when you:

- Buy holiday gifts from a Lansing shop,
- Host family dinners at a local restaurant,
- Pick up your holiday supplies from a Lansing store, or
- Choose Lansing businesses for party catering, entertainment, or services—

...you're doing more than just checking items off your holiday list. You're helping fund the very services that make Lansing a safe, welcoming place to call home.

Shopping local also supports the many family-owned businesses and local workers who are part of the fabric of our community. By keeping holiday spending in Lansing, you're not only helping businesses thrive during their busiest season, you're also ensuring that your dollars stay here—circulating in ways that benefit all of us.

This holiday season, consider the difference you can make with every purchase. When you shop and celebrate locally, you give a gift back to Lansing.

Welcome new businesses!

Here are the latest additions to our business community. Be sure to stop by, explore, and support these new local businesses:

- **Vital Leaf Wellness** 3365 Ridge Rd., vitamin store
- **Dee-Ann International Inc.** 18225 Burnham Ave. Suite 2 medical office, exams for Veterans
- **Hassel Transport** 2700 175th St. Unit 103 liquid bulk transportation
- **Familiare LLC** 17599 Paxton Ave. importing, wholesale consulting, and distribution
- **The Print Firm** 17414 Burnham Ave., printing services
- **Family First Strikes & Bites, Inc.** 2524 Ridge Rd. bowling alley
- **J&K Building Specialist, LLC** 18525 Torrence Ave., Unit C3, consulting & design
- **Napleton's River Oaks Kia** 17151 Torrence Ave. new & used motor vehicle dealership
- **L.O.S.T INC.** 2535 Bernice Rd. IE, child welfare agency
- **Prestige Business Solutions Group** 3232 Ridge Rd. Business Service, co-working space
- **Ozinga Bros., INC.** 3250 Glenwood-Lansing Rd. Operation of concrete, aggregates, cement, and material sales and services.
- **Maria Lozano** 17149 Torrence Ave., seamstress for K&G Store

Sales tax for general merchandise in Lansing 9.5%

9.5% is divided among these entities:

- State Tax 6.25%
- County Tax 1.75%
- Village of Lansing 0.5%
- Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) 1.0%

Food, drugs, and beverages are taxed at 2.25%; (including a 1% local grocery tax approved by the Village Board to replace the state's grocery tax, repealed effective January 2026.)

Titled goods like autos, trucks, boats, etc. are taxed at 7.25%.

Fire Department announces three promotions

The Lansing Fire Department recently promoted three members of the department. Each has demonstrated outstanding commitment to the community, leadership within the department, and a passion for serving Lansing. Please join us in congratulating them as they step into their new roles.



Randall Wright promoted to Deputy Chief

The Lansing Fire Department recognized the promotion of Randall Wright to Deputy Chief. Wright has been with the department for 14 years and most recently served as Lieutenant of Fire Prevention, where he oversaw inspections, public education, and community risk reduction initiatives.

In his new role, Wright looks forward to continuing the department's strong tradition of service. "I'm excited to build upon the progress made by past and present fire department leadership to strengthen our service to the community," he said.

Wright values the camaraderie of the fire service and the shared dedication among members of the LFD.

Originally from Urbana, Ill., Wright enjoys boating in the summer and skiing in the winter, as well as tackling projects around the house.

He and his wife Danna are raising 2 daughters, ages 4 and 7. Above all, Wright is committed to keeping the community educated, prepared, and safe.



Joseph Szerletich promoted to Lieutenant

Joseph Szerletich joined the Lansing Fire Department in February 2016 and has been promoted to Lieutenant.

In his new position, Szerletich looks forward to continuing to bring positive change and growth to the department, while carrying on the strong tradition of service to the Lansing community.

Prior to his promotion, Szerletich served as an Engineer, where he was responsible for driving and operating the fire engine on emergency calls, as well as maintaining the apparatus and the equipment it carries. He credits his co-workers as the reason he has made Lansing his home, saying their dedication and camaraderie make the department what it is.

A native of Auburn, Ill., Szerletich enjoys spending his free time with his wife, Tina, and their two children, Madison, 6, and Jake, 3. He looks forward to continuing to serve the residents of Lansing with dedication and pride.



Robert Karpel promoted to Engineer

The Lansing Fire Department announced the promotion of Robert Karpel to Engineer. Karpel has served with the department for six years, most recently as a firefighter/paramedic. In that role, he primarily worked on the ambulance caring for patients, and also drove and operated the fire engine. He rarely took command of a fire scene, but in his new role as Engineer, he looks forward to taking on greater responsibility.

"What I'm most excited about is the leadership role I'll be undertaking," Karpel said. "I want the community to know that I'm extremely excited to serve them to the best of my ability as an Engineer/Paramedic."

Karpel grew up in Burbank, Ill. He and his wife of five years have two young children, ages three and one. His wife, a longtime special education teacher, now trains new teachers at St. Xavier University. Family time is a top priority for Karpel, who enjoys taking his kids to the park, zoo, library, and children's museum.

When asked what he likes most about serving with the LFD, Karpel said: "My coworkers and the community family environment."



A new ambulance serves Lansing

The Lansing Fire Department announces the arrival of its newest ambulance—a 2024 Ford F550 Wheeled Coach Type I, delivered on June 20, 2025.

Originally approved for purchase in 2021, the vehicle's delivery was delayed by COVID-related supply chain challenges and nationwide parts shortages. Now fully equipped with advanced life support (ALS) capabilities, including state-of-the-art medical and computer systems, the ambulance officially entered service in October.

This new unit replaces the department's 2019 ambulance, which had been pressed into frontline service despite being intended as a reserve. With the arrival of the new vehicle, the 2019 unit will return to its original role as a backup, helping extend the life of the fleet while ensuring reliable coverage for residents.

Ambulances take six to nine months to build under normal circumstances, and while it was received in 2025, it was built on the most current model year of cabs available at the time.

"Mayor Brian Hardy and the Village Board of Trustees played an important role in making this addition possible," said Fire Chief Chad Kooyenga. "Their support ensures that the Lansing Fire Department has the tools and technology needed to continue delivering the highest level of emergency medical care to our community."

Keep an eye out! You'll be seeing Lansing's newest ambulance on the streets!

Keep your home and vehicle safe

Protecting your property starts with awareness and simple precautions. Every year, thousands of cars and homes are burglarized, often because of small oversights that can be easily avoided. Taking a few extra steps can help keep you and your family safe.

Prevent vehicle theft and break-ins

- **Always lock up.** Close and lock all doors and windows, even in your own driveway.
- **Take your keys.** Never leave them in or on the vehicle, including spare keys or garage door openers.
- **Remove valuables.** Keep wallets, electronics, purses, and firearms out of your car—and out of sight.
- **Park smart.** Choose well-lit areas or spaces near streetlights.
- **Use deterrents.** Consider a car alarm, steering wheel lock, flashing lights, or window etching.
- **Immobilize it.** Modern anti-theft systems can disable the engine or ignition system, making it harder to hot-wire a vehicle.
- **Recovery systems.** GPS-based devices can help police locate stolen vehicles quickly.
- **Don't warm up your car with the keys inside.** It's an open invitation for thieves.

Thieves don't just want whole cars—they also target airbags, GPS units, phones, laptops, purses, and even parts like engines and transmissions. Protect your ride by making it as difficult as possible for them to succeed.



Protect your home

- **Lock everything.** Secure all doors, windows, and garage doors, even when leaving for just a moment.
- **Reinforce entry points.** Install high-quality locks and use dowels or pins in sliding doors and windows.
- **Mind your landscaping.** Trim shrubs and trees to reduce hiding spots near your home.
- **Light it up.** Install exterior lights to light up the outside of your house. Light up your address so first responders can locate your home easily.
- **Secure outdoor items.** Store bikes, grills, and tools inside locked garages or sheds.
- **Check for weak spots.** Don't forget pet doors or hidden spare keys—burglars know where to look.

Make your home look occupied when you're away

- Use timers on indoor lights.
- Suspend mail and newspaper deliveries or ask a neighbor to collect them.
- Maintain your lawn and landscaping.

Build community and awareness

- **Install a security system.** Professional-grade alarms with cameras and sensors can deter intruders.
- **Be a good neighbor.** Watch out for each other and report suspicious activity right away.
- **Be cautious online.** Wait until you return home to post vacation photos, and don't advertise travel plans.
- **Know who's at the door.** Use a peephole and request ID from unexpected visitors.

By taking these steps, you greatly reduce your chances of being targeted—and you help make our whole community safer.



LOOKING AT
Lansing

PRESORTED STD
U.S. POSTAGE
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PERMIT NO. 125
Lansing, IL 60438

Looking at Lansing is circulated to all residents and businesses in the Village of Lansing, Illinois.
Comments or questions can be directed to: The Village of Lansing: 3141 Ridge Road, Lansing, Illinois 60438; communications@villageoflansing.org or (708) 832-4554.



Adopt-A-Family

HELP SPREAD THE HOLIDAY JOY!

Calling all **businesses, organizations, churches, and families** — let's come together as a Village to make the season brighter for Lansing neighbors who could use a little extra cheer this holiday season.

Through the Adopt-A-Family program, you can sponsor a Lansing family and provide gifts from their children's holiday wish list. Each list is created by parents, and families are identified by their schools and remain completely anonymous. Your kindness will bring warmth and joy to local children during the holidays.

How It Works:

- 1. Select a Family:** Stop by the Lansing Municipal Center, 3141 Ridge Rd., Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–5 p.m. to choose a family to sponsor. List availability TBD.
- 2. Shop for Gifts:** Purchase items from the family's wish list.
- 3. Drop Off Gifts:** Bring the unwrapped gifts back to the Municipal Center by the designated deadline.
- 4. Spread the Cheer:** Village employees will wrap the gifts and deliver them to the schools for families to pick up.

YOUR GENEROSITY CAN HELP MAKE THE HOLIDAYS MAGICAL FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.