



# LOVE BEING A HOLLAND NEIGHBOR

Getting to know your neighbors and becoming part of your neighborhood community is quite a rewarding experience. You'll appreciate it and so will they!

Holland's neighborhoods are active, vibrant, cool and fun. And you'll find them throughout the City. They are chock full of diverse people, businesses, schools, and residences. This makes all of our neighborhoods unique and Holland as a whole a richer community.

Here are a few suggestions for helping make that happen.

[www.cityofholland.com](http://www.cityofholland.com)  
[www.enjoyhollandmichigan.com](http://www.enjoyhollandmichigan.com)

## 1 We'd love to meet you.

Your new neighbors would love to get to know you! It's always great to **stop by and introduce yourself**, or you can even stick a note on their door. If that's not your thing, they'd love a simple **"hello"** or even a wave. These are great ways to begin building neighborly connections.

## 2 We might be different.

The great thing about Holland's neighborhoods is that each one is different. We celebrate that! So, when you move in you'll see differences in lifestyles between yourself and your neighbors. They may have small children or teenagers, be retired, be elderly, have a career, or be students. Some may even have different work and sleep schedules. You or your neighbor may have pets, so don't forget to make sure your pets are considerate of others.

## 3 Talk. Talk. Talk.

Talking to your neighbors is a great way to make friends and build relationships. They are a wealth of info about what goes on in the neighborhood. If you're planning on having guests, it's always helpful to ask about parking or noise that may be intrusive. Opening the line of communication can help keep concerns or issues from turning into conflicts. If conflicts do occur, with good communication you may be able to resolve it together. Know when to

call for help by involving a community police officer or Mediation Services, when necessary.

## 4 A helping hand.

If you notice your neighbor's yard looks like it needs a helping hand, it might be nice to ask if they **need a little help**. There's always a chance that they aren't the reason for the mess. In Holland, you'll often see neighbors helping out older folks in the neighborhood. That's what makes living in Holland great. So, join in, grab a rake or a shovel and be a part of helping them out. Your neighbors will appreciate it and may even offer to help you out too!

## 5 Getting connected.

Some neighborhoods in Holland are served by one of several organizations working to help neighbors connect and work together on neighborhood projects. To learn more or find out if you live in one of these neighborhoods, call the Community Development Coordinator at 616-355-3139.

## 6 Doing our part.

Making sure you adhere to city ordinances is crucial to good neighborhood relations. If you live in a neighborhood with property owner covenants (such as a condo association) make sure you follow these also. See more details about some city ordinances on the other side.





# OTHER STUFF

As a new resident in your Holland Neighborhood, one thing you should know is that you're going to have a lot of great neighbors. In turn, it's always great to be a good neighbor back. Sharing your home with family and friends is a great way to enjoy your neighborhood. To make sure that these visits are enjoyable, and in order to prevent unhappy neighbors, remember to be courteous and follow City Ordinances.

## Keeping it down.

In order to make our neighborhoods enjoyable to everyone, the City of Holland has a **noise control ordinance** (Chapter 19) which regulates noise levels in the city. Just know that any excessive noise from loud music, outdoor activities, and guests coming or going to your home during late night or early morning hours might cause concern with your neighbors.

If you do bring your dog to these parks, they must be on a leash at all times. Holland also has a dedicated Dog Park at Van Raalte Farm (located at the 24th Street entrance) where dogs are allowed to be off-leash.

## Clean and green.

As we all know, trash can become a major issue in neighborhoods. But it's not that way in Holland! We're known for being a clean and green community – in part due to our successful waste management and recycling programs. Trash and recycling bin should be taken to the curb **no earlier than 6pm the evening before your designated trash day**. Then, after trash is picked up you need to remove the bin from the curb no later than 6pm. Sometimes we have really big items that don't fit in the trash. If that's you, call the City and ask for a **"Project Pride" coupon**. This will allow you to haul any larger, unwanted items to the local sanitation station at no charge. And, you can do this up to twice a year!



## Park smart.

**Parking in front yards, on sidewalks, in front of fire hydrants and other people's driveways, or on-street overnight between October 15 to May 15 is not allowed in the City of Holland.** Since no one likes to see that yellow piece of paper (that's the color of our parking tickets!) on your car windshield, you should make sure that your guests are aware of these rules.

## Lookin' great.

The City of Holland has several ordinances that make sure our homes are kept up and looking good. In general, we ask that you keep your grass mowed, your sidewalks and driveways edged, and your flower beds weed free. Also, if your siding or porch is painted and starts to peel, sand and repaint them to keep them looking nice. And – you never know – one of your neighbors might just walk over and help out!

## Bark. Meow.

Pets make great friends, but not to everyone! Disruptive pets can put a strain on your neighborly relationships. In Holland, **all dogs must be licensed** (you can do this at City Hall). Other important pet-related concerns include making sure they are properly vaccinated and cared for, preventing excessive pet-related noise, keeping pets restrained in an appropriate manner, and very importantly, disposing of your pet's waste. Also, please note there are 20 public parks that allow dogs. See the complete list at [dogs.cityofholland.com](http://dogs.cityofholland.com).



## RESOURCES

Area code 616

- Medical Police Fire Emergencies . . . . . 911
- Non-Emergency Police . . . . . 994-7850
- Solid Waste and Recycling . . . . . 355-1330
- Code Enforcement . . . . . 355-1330
- Street and Sidewalk Issues . . . . . 928-2400
- City Hall . . . . . 355-1300
- Parking and Animal Control . . . . . 994-7850
- Dead Animal in Street . . . . . 928-2400
- Rubbish Complaints . . . . . 355-1330
- Graffiti Report . . . . . 994-7850
- Property Violations . . . . . 355-1330

- Mediation Services . . . . . 399-1600
- Social Services Needs . . . . . 211
- Holland Board of Public Works . . . . . 355-1500
- Holland Hospital . . . . . 392-5141
- Herrick District Library . . . . . 355-3100
- MAX Transit . . . . . 355-1010

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