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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Ingham County Land Bank helps build a more energy efficient Lansing: new project to be unveiled

LANSING, Mich. – The Ingham County Land Bank in partnership with the Lenawee Company announce the start of construction on a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified home in Lansing. A press conference unveiling the details of the property will take place on Monday, Sept. 29 at 1:15 p.m. The event will be held at the construction site located on the southwest corner of Chestnut and Maple.

The construction of this home represents an important step for the City of Lansing. With the introduction of the city's first two LEED certified homes in 2006, this project demonstrates the city's ongoing commitment to building a healthier, more energy efficient Lansing. The property was purchased by the Ingham County Land Bank in mid-2008 as a tax-foreclosed property. The construction of this project is made possible by the use of Brownfield dollars.

Ingham County treasurer Eric Schertzing said, "We are excited to bring additional innovation to the western Old Town neighborhood". Schertzing continued, "Projects like this provide neighborhood improvements necessary to encourage homeownership and economic investment."

LEED is a third party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. LEED certification offers validation of a project's green features. There are six certification categories. The Chestnut-Maple property has been given points in all six of these categories.

With the foundation, outside walls and roof made from pre-insulated panels, the home will allow for much smaller and more-efficient heating and cooling equipment. In addition, the faucets in the home were specially selected to use less water, increasing efficiency and decreasing wasted resources. These and other building considerations will translate into lower utility bills for the homeowner – a savings that will be reflected in the first utility statement.

Following the completion of the construction process, the Ingham County Land Bank will provide the new homeowners a thorough education on the home's mechanisms and how they work to maximize the home's energy efficiency. This educational component is part of the LEED certification process.

Lenawee Company president and developer Gene Townsend said, "This is a modern home that utilizes the most up-to-date building science." Townsend continued, "We are excited to bring to Lansing attractive, energy-efficient and healthy homes that are also affordable."

Mayor Virg Bernero, Ingham County treasurer Eric Schertzing and developer Gene Townsend, as well as other partners will be present for the Sept. 29 press conference.

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