



Prospective Graduate Open House  
Wed, Oct 7 The Graduate Center-Downtown



Site Search Search Local Business Listings

Brought to you by:

Search by keyword, town name, Web ID and more...



- Home
  - News
  - Business
  - Sports
  - Entertainment
  - Living
  - Interact
  - Jobs
  - Autos
  - Real Estate
  - Classifieds
  - Shop
  - Place An Ad
- News Michigan News Advance Weeklies Crime Opinion Obituaries Lottery Weather



## NORTHEAST ADVANCE

The Latest News, Updates and Opinions

### ADVANCE PAPERS

- [Cadence](#)
- [Grand Valley](#)
- [Northeast](#)
- [Northwest](#)
- [Penasee Globe](#)
- [Southeast](#)
- [Southwest](#)
- [Local Sports](#)
- [Local Opinion](#)
- [On the Town](#)
- [Photo Galleries](#)
- [Advance Weeklies home](#)
- [MLive.com home](#)

Browse by day posted:

Select a date

Browse by week posted:

Select a date

### NEWSFLASH

- [Lions WR Johnson looking for breakout year](#) 8/5/2009, 7:22 a.m. EDT
- [VP Biden to announce Mich. electric vehicle grants](#) 8/5/2009, 6:00 a.m. EDT
- [Ex-Detroit officer to be sentenced for tax evasion](#) 8/5/2009, 4:01 a.m. EDT

[MORE AP HEADLINES >>](#)

### ADVERTISEMENT

- [The Upper Hand in Business - See the Michigan Advantage](#)
- [See coupons and values for local businesses. Click here!](#)
- [Get Free Moving Quotes from Prescreened, Licensed Moving Companies](#)

### CONTESTS

[Contests and Games](#)  
[Click Here](#)

## Program aims to protect children from lead hazards in their homes

by Chris Hecox

Monday August 03, 2009, 3:27 PM

Grand Rapids' Get the Lead Out Program has completed work on more than 800 homes since the program began in 2005.

The program aims to keep children in the city safe from lead poisoning by removing lead-based materials from homes at little or no cost to homeowners.

"Really this program is all about protecting kids," said Paul Haan from the Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan.

Anyone living with children under the age of six in older homes with lead-based paint can apply for the program, Haan said.

For a family of four to qualify, however, its annual income cannot exceed \$50,500.

Landlords can also take advantage of the program and receive a low-interest loan to perform lead-removal work.

Residents who wish to take advantage of the program must first complete an application.

"We ask a lot of questions because it's federal money that funds this program," Haan said.

Once an application is approved, the city hires a third party consultant to perform a risk assessment and formulate a plan to remove lead-based hazards from the home. Then, state licensed contractors perform the work on the home.

Not only does the program work to keep children safe, it's also a boost to the local economy, Haan said.

"Another really great thing about this program is that it benefits the local economy," he said. "This program pays a lot of local contractors and inspectors."

The most common types of work done to remove lead hazards from homes are repairing or replacing windows, re-painting and replacing siding.

Haan said he's quite pleased with how successful the program has been since its inception.

"This has exceeded our wildest dreams," he said. "We are really thrilled about it."

Though the Healthy Homes Coalition administers the program, several other organizations play a key role in the program's success, Haan said.

Those organizations include the Kent County Health Department, Home Repair Services, Lighthouse Communities, the Rental Property Owners Association, and the city of Grand Rapids Housing Rehabilitation Office.

For more information about the Get The Lead Out Program, call 456-3030 or visit [www.gettheleadoutgr.com](http://www.gettheleadoutgr.com).

See more in [Northeast Advance](#)

[Send To A Friend](#) | [Print this](#) | [Permalink](#)