Welcome to the downtown neighborhood! We are happy to have you join us here and experience the benefits of living in one of Ann Arbor’s downtown districts.

One of the things that distinguishes downtown from others districts around campus is the neighborliness of the residents. We take pride in our community and work hard together to make the downtown an attractive place to live, work, study and relax.

The Old Fourth Ward Association (OFWA) is a neighborhood organization for the area bounded by Huron to the south, Glen to the east, High St. to the north and Detroit St. to the west, otherwise known as the Old Fourth Ward Historic district. We love this neighborhood because it is within walking distance to the University, the Huron River, local shopping, and the downtown. For more information on the OFWA, please visit our Facebook Page at: https://www.facebook.com/OFWAA2/ For a more comprehensive introduction to our neighborhood, go to: http://tylertopics.com/DowntownLiving.pdf

PARKING: If parking is not included in your living situation, you will need to check your own street parking requirements. Some streets have metered parking between 8 am and 6 pm. Most require permits. You need to check what the rules are for your street. In some neighborhoods, parking on neighborhood streets for more than two hours at a time often requires a residential permit between the hours of 8 am and 6 pm. Some streets allow parking on alternate sides of the roadway on alternating days. To obtain a parking permit you will need to contact the City Office. Details here: https://www.a2gov.org/services/Pages/ResidentialParkingPermits.aspx
NOISE ORDINANCE: If any music or noise can be heard beyond your property line or the physical space of your property between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., you are violating the City of Ann Arbor noise regulations. The maximum penalty for each offense is $500. All loud parties are subject to these penalties.

HINT: If you are planning a large party, for example after a football game, it is a good idea to go to your neighbors in your building and up and down your block and talk to them a couple of days ahead of time. Hand out your name and phone number so they can call you if they are having problems with your noise, before they are forced to call the police. If you have an outdoor party, please clean up your yard as soon as the festivities are over.

FIRE and GRILL SAFETY: Please know the fire safety exits from your home. Please have a small fire extinguisher in the kitchen for stove fires. This is not required but is very helpful.

If you are grilling on an outdoor grill, include this in your fire safety plan. Have a fire extinguisher handy. Do not put your grill on the porch. Grills need to be at least 10 feet away from the building.

If you are using charcoal to grill, make sure the embers are completely cold before you dispose of them. Wait overnight and check them in the morning. Use water to douse them if needed.

TRASH, COMPOST AND RECYCLING: These all go into the wheeled bins at your property and are separate and identified. If you are missing a bin please call your landlord and ask if they want to contact the City or if they would rather you do it. Pick up for all three is the same day every week, depending on your neighborhood. For the Old Fourth Ward it is Monday. If there is a holiday or snow emergency that might push it to the next day. Carts should be put on the curb on Sunday evening, and returned to your residence by Monday evening. The schedule can be found at: https://www.a2gov.org/departments/trash-recycling/Pages/About.aspx

FRONT PORCH FURNITURE: No upholstered furniture is allowed on porches for regular use. This is a city ordinance. Please use solid wood, plastic or metal furniture. This is for fire safety.

GROCERIES: There are countless restaurants and eateries in the campus and downtown areas. But, if you want groceries to make your food at home, we highly recommend the People’s Food Co-op at 216 N. Fourth Ave., the Farmer’s Market (open on Wednesdays from May through December and Saturdays year round), and Sparrow Groceries at Kerrytown..

EMERGENCY ALERTS:
Washtenaw County Emergency Alerts:

- Go to www.nixle.com to receive Alerts.
- Click on the “Sign Up” box or send your zip code via text to 88877
- City of Ann Arbor Emergency Alerts (Code Red):
- Go to www.a2gov.org/Pages/default.aspx website
- Click on the CodeRED Emergency Alerts icon
- Read up on the CodeRED Emergency Alerts system
- Click on CodeRED to register (you will be directed to the registration page)

REPORTING PROBLEMS WITH CITY SERVICES: To report problems, such as trash pickup, potholes, or other problems with city services, go to: https://www.a2gov.org/services/pages/report-a-problem.asp:x