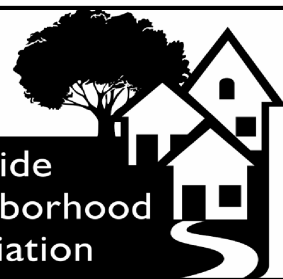


Westsider

Westside
Neighborhood
Association



A quarterly publication for Lansing, Michigan's Westside Neighborhood - www.wnalansing.com

Westside Neighborhood Association

Board of Directors

President - Danielle Casavant
Vice President - Randy Watkins
Secretary - Ian Mull
Treasurer - Michael Schury

Members-At-Large

Mary Derby
Vivek Joshi
Keith Kris
Kathleen Garner
Douglas Meeks
John Putnam
Carol Rall

Board Meetings:

The WNA Board meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Letts Community Center located at 1220 W. Kalamazoo St. Meetings begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. All neighborhood residents are welcome to attend. You can email us at:

board@wnalansing.com

At A Glance

Upcoming Events & Activities.

March 15	WNA Scholarship Application Due
March 16	WNA Board Meeting
March 19	80s Flashback Party
April 9	Recycle Rama
April 16	Document Destruction Day
April 20	WNA Board Meeting
April 29	WNA Spring Fiesta
May 15	WNA Board Meeting
June 22	WNA Board Meeting
June 25 & 26	Neighborhood Yard Sale
June 26	Westside Garden Tour

Westside Spring Fiesta!

Annual Scholarship Fundraiser with Silent Auction

When: Friday, April 29, 2011 at 6:00 pm
Where: The Irish Pub & Grill - corner of Verlinden & Saginaw Street
What: Make your own Tacos & Nachos buffet (including vegetarian options)
Cash bar - the Pub features many Michigan craft beers
Silent Auction featuring items donated from local businesses and members of the community.
Dessert auction featuring scrumptious homemade creations!
Why: This event helps provide two \$1,000 college scholarships for graduating high school seniors (see page 2 for details)

Join us for great food and great fun with neighbors - all for a great cause!

Tickets are just \$15 each and only \$5 for children 12 and under. You can purchase your ticket from any WNA Board Member (see list to the left) or by contacting Carol Rall - 517-487-6467 or via email at carolrall@sbcglobal.net. Carol is our Fiesta coordinator, feel welcome to contact her with any questions about the event!

Donations of Silent Auction items are needed! We welcome gift certificates or products from local businesses and hand-crafted items. Want to help but need ideas? Contact our Silent Auction coordinator John Putnam - johnthequilter@sbcglobal.net or 517-482-2883.

Planning to attend and want to donate a baked good to our Dessert Auction? Just bring your dessert contribution with you to the Fiesta and be sure to use packaging you don't need returned.

Neighborhood Yard Sale

June 25-26 (Saturday & Sunday) 8:00 am - 4:00 pm each day

Spring is coming! That means, it's time to start decluttering and collecting 'stuff' for the WNA Yard Sale. This year the yard sale and the WNA Garden Tour (Sunday) will share the same weekend, ensuring lots of people traffic through our neighborhood.

This year's Yard Sale Coordinator is Mary Derby. Contact her **no later than June 18** if you plan to have a sale and would like your address included on a map. Provide your name, street address, and email address so she can contact you. Email yardsale@wnalansing.com.

Participants will set up their own sales in their yard and can host one or both days. WNA will provide a map of all yard sale locations, which will be available in advance of the sale weekend (address only on map - no names will be provided). The Garden Tour Committee would appreciate having information for their event at sale locations.

Don't have yard space? Register for a table at the Letts Community Center. This is for Saturday June 25th, 10 am - 4 pm. Call the Letts at 483-4311.

Westside Scholarships



The Westside Neighborhood Association Scholarship will provide two student scholarships worth \$1,000 each toward the 2011-2012 college academic year for class of 2011 graduates. One scholarship is based on academic success, leadership, and personal goals and one scholarship takes into account financial need of the applicant. Applicants must either attend Sexton High School or reside within the boundaries of the Westside Neighborhood. The application for the WNA Scholarship can be found on our website: www.wnalansing.com. The deadline to submit the application, along with supporting documents, is Tuesday, March 15, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Ian Mull, Scholarship Committee Chair, at 517-899-3161.

Share your Westside News! Advertise your Westside Business!

Deadlines for article and ads are February 28, May 31, August 31, & November 30 of each year. The newsletter is delivered to about 2,000 addresses in the Westside Neighborhood. Articles for upcoming events should refer to dates at least one month after the submission deadline. The Westsider also welcomes ads from your business! Email for more information westsider@wnalansing.com.

Per issue advertising rates are:

- ◆ Eighth-page = \$40 (2.5" h x 3.5" w)
- ◆ Quarter-page = \$60 (5" h x 3.5" w)
- ◆ Half-page = \$100 (5" h x 7.5" w)

There is a 25% discount for purchasing identical ads in four consecutive newsletters with full payment due upon first ad placement.



Westside Garden Tour

The Advent House Ministries - Westside Neighborhood Garden Tour will return in June – on Sunday, June 26th to be precise. So far, we have a committee, a plan, some gardeners' commitments, and a fabulous hand-crafted garden-themed quilt made by WNA board member, John Putnam, for the top raffle prize. We need volunteers to act as hosts in the gardens and lots of visitors on that day. Can we count on you? For more information, or to volunteer, please call Mary Eckart at 487-0646.

Free Bread for Families in Need!

The Letts Community Center distributes **Free Bread** to local families in need. Thanks to the Greater Lansing Food Movers, you can pick up free bread at Letts (1220 W. Kalamazoo St.) Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning at noon each day.



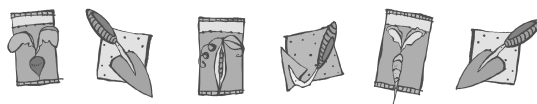
MLK Community Garden

The MLK Community Garden at 226 S. MLK started in 2010 on Ingham County Land Bank property as a project of the Westside Neighborhood Association with resources and support from the Northwest Initiative and the Garden Project. Individuals are responsible for their own plots as well as participation in group responsibilities to maintain the overall property. Planning for the 2011 growing season is just getting under way. There may be a few openings for plots which are roughly 8x10 feet with a \$10 plot fee. If you are interested or have questions about the garden, call Carol Rall 487-6467.

For more information on community gardens in Lansing visit the Garden Project website:

<http://www.greaterlansingfoodbank.org/the-garden-project/community-gardens.html> or call 517-853-7809.

The Garden Project helps both home and community gardeners in our area to grow and preserve their own fresh vegetables. They provide access to land, seeds, plants, tools, and more. Workshops, classes and events are listed at www.letsgardenlansing.org.



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**Criminal Defense
Bankruptcy**

**Wills & Estates
Social Security**

Douglas Meeks is a general practice attorney committed to promoting justice and ensuring fairness for all citizens in the legal system.

Mr. Meeks is also a Westside Neighborhood resident and member of the Westside Neighborhood Association Board of Directors.



2nd Annual Recycle Rama

Mid-Michigan is gearing up for the area's second Recycle Rama! This may be the **biggest recycling event in local history**: Shoes, clothing, unwanted medications, unwanted appliances and electronics are just some of the items that will be accepted for recycling. In addition to bringing your items for recycling to the Ingham County Health Department - **5303 S. Cedar St. in Lansing on April 9, 2011 from 9 am and 2 pm**, they are also seeking volunteers! People are needed to help with assorted tasks such as greeting and working with the public, traffic control, and lifting objects (depending on abilities). A Recycle Rama T-Shirt, drinks and snacks will be provided to volunteers. Two volunteer shifts are available: 8 am to 11:30am or 11 am to 2:30 pm. Please call Martha Knorek at 517-887-4521 or email at mknorek@ingham.org to sign up now!

Lansing Parks & Recreation Summer Job Interviews! - Ages 18+

Lansing Parks and Recreation will be holding interviews for upcoming summer jobs starting in April. The majority of positions are for those ages 18 and up. Please go to the City of Lansing website at www.lansingmi.gov and click on Department of Human Resources for more detailed information. You will find dates, times and locations for interviews, positions available, and when and how to apply. If you have any questions, please call Kathy Woodman at 517-483-4012. **Some summer positions will be based at the Westside Neighborhood's Letts Community Center!**

Host/Friendship Families Needed for Japanese MSU Students

Submitted by Westside Neighbor, David Price

For the past eight years my wife Marcie Alling and I have been a host/friendship family for Japanese study-abroad students attending the fall semester at Michigan State University from Hosei University in Tokyo. We have had incredibly wonderful experiences with this program. Four years ago we took on the responsibility of recruiting and coordinating host families for this program. (By the way, we speak no Japanese)

Eighteen students (12 males and 6 females, ages 18-20) will be coming this year. Students will likely arrive on

Thursday, August 18 and spend their first night at a local hotel. 8/19 - 8/22 would be their first home stay. Students live in the dormitory during the semester, but have "homestay" visits with host families when they first arrive, a few weekends a month during their stay and for a few days prior to their departure. The purpose of the "homestay" is to include them in your family life--just doing what you normally do. Likely departure back to Japan will be Monday, December 19. We are currently in need of families for male students and would prefer, if possible, that you host two students. (It actually makes it easier.) If you want to learn more, please email me at dprice@maro.org or Marcie at marcie_a@sbcglobal.net or call us at 517-484-1069.

An exceptional place for young children

Educational Child Care Center's play-based curriculum targets developmental needs and characteristics of children from birth to five.

- Small class sizes with low child-to-teacher ratios
- The only NAEYC accredited center in the Westside neighborhood
- Highly trained child development staff
- Nurturing, family-friendly atmosphere
- Over 20 years of service to Lansing families
- Welcoming to families of all backgrounds
- Three age-specific playgrounds plus an indoor gym
- Governor's Quality Care Award recipient

Call us today for a tour or visit us on the web.

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1715 W. Main Street, Lansing

Convenient to the Westside plus easy access to 496.

Genesee Studio of Music

Private lessons for:

- Voice
- Piano
- Guitar
- Music Theory
- Composition
- Improvisation

with instructor, Mike Vasas:

- Master of Music, Music Education, Michigan State University
- Bachelor of Arts, Vocal Music, Kalamazoo College
- Music Educator & Lansing Westsider!

\$25 per half-hour session

All ages and skill levels welcome!

Schedule your lessons today!

517-485-3054 mike@mikevasas.com

Sexton "RoboReds"

In February, the J.W. Sexton Robotics team, the RoboReds, competed in a competition at De Le Salle High school in Warren, Michigan. They qualified in the 3rd seed of 21 teams and allied with Holy Cross of Ontario and De Le Salle of Warren for the finals. Not only did Sexton make it to the championship round, the RoboReds also took first place earning them a trophy, and a chance to compete in the World competition this April in Orlando! The team is very excited, and working very hard to raise the \$8,000 needed to travel to Florida for the competition by holding multiple fundraisers at the school. However, due to the large amount of money needed and the short time in which they have to acquire it, the RoboReds are reaching out to the community for help. Every bit helps and is much appreciated by the team! If you would like to help out, checks can be made out to Sexton High School Robotics and sent to:

Sexton High School, C/O Angela Kolonich, 102 S McPherson Ave, Lansing, MI 48915



80s Flashback Party

Capital Area Women's Style Magazine is hosting an 80s Flashback Party on Saturday, March 19, 2009 from 7 p.m.- Midnight at the Washington St. Armory located at 2500 S. Washington in Lansing. The evening will feature:

Live music by Starfarm ~ 80s Idol Contest ~ Presentation of the first-ever Caring About Women Locally Award

Purchase tickets at: <http://www.cawlm.com/article/80s-flashback-party/>



DSN SATELLITE

Westside Neighborhood Cable Buster Special

**VISIT OUR NEW LOCATION AT:
2819 E. Saginaw St., Lansing, MI
517-325-9973**

OR

Call our Mason Office: 517-244-0771

Special for our Westside Neighbors:

**FREE DISH & \$31 OFF BASIC PRICE
FOR 1 YEAR!!**

**PLUS FIRST 25 PEOPLE RECEIVE
FREE MOVIES FOR 90 DAYS!!**

Friedland Industries FREE Document Destruction Day

Document Destruction Day is Saturday April 16th from 8am - 12 noon. This is an opportunity for the general public to have their confidential documents shredded for **free!** Last year we shredded, baled and recycled 15,490 lbs of confidential documents in 4 hours!

Friedland Industries, Inc. is located at 405 E. Maple St., Lansing, MI 48906 – for more information email Christopher at cmolitor@friedlandindustries.com or call 517-482-3000.

Announcing:

Westside Neighborhood Professional Gardening Services

full circle gardens

Specializing in Michigan native plant designs
www.fullcirclegardensmich.com

Libby Rice

cell: 517.648.2096 | office: 517.487.5012 | email: gardening.gal23@gmail.com

Spring Clean-Ups, Brush Removal, Shrub/Ornamental Pruning, Planting,
Weeding/Mulching/Composting. Scheduled & One-Time Maintenance

Experienced Insured/Bonded Involved Knowledgeable

Beautiful native designs in small urban settings realized collaboratively

Always Free Estimates.

Mention this ad for 15% Discount on First Service.

(Offer good for services performed March 21 through June 15, 2011)



SCRIBBLES AND GIGGLES Child Care Learning Center

609 N. Verlinden Ave Lansing MI 48915 - 517-482-1551 - www.scribblesandgiggleschildcare.com

Scribbles and Giggles Child Care is remodeling its playground in the spring and needs help in raising funds. Scribbles & Giggles will host a community garage sale on May 7th 2011. All proceeds will go directly to purchase a new playground. You can support the garage sale by donating your unwanted household items (clothes, toys, furniture, electronics - anything you no longer need) Donated items can be dropped off at Scribbles & Giggles any time up until the day before the sale. If you have any questions please contact Scribbles & Giggles Child Care the phone number above or email:

brynn.kelley@scribblesandgiggleschildcare.com



Scribbles & Giggles Child Care Learning Center provides a nurturing environment for the children of working parents. We provide Child Care (Day Care) Services for children 2 weeks to 12 years old. We have infant, toddler, preschool, and summer camp programs. The center makes every effort to assure that the children in its care are well supervised, fed nutritious meals/snacks, and are given the individual attention necessary to provide for their comfort and growth during these important years of their lives.



- *Better Business Bureau Accredited
- *5 Star Center
- *Child Care Food Program
- *Secure Keycode Entry(Each family has their own number)
- *Large Classroom
- *Large outdoor play area(Purchasing brand new playground in spring)
- *Large indoor gym with climbers, bikes, balls and scooters
- *High quality care at affordable price
- *Private internet secure log in parent page



Visit our website (see above) for more information about our center, schedule a tour and view our blog. We can also be found on Facebook!

Lansing Police Advisory Board

The Lansing Police Department Advisory Board (LPDAB) is a voluntary board of 20 people who live or work in Lansing, and who come from all areas of the city. The purpose of the board is to serve as a liaison between the citizens and businesses of the city and the police department by bringing neighborhood concerns to the attention of the police and to help with projects that bring the police and the community together.



The board supports specific projects that bring the police and community together, such as the annual Touch a Truck event that lets kids get up close to and in the drivers seat of fire trucks, commercial trucks and construction vehicles, and a program through the middle and high schools to recognize students who make a significant effort to overcome problems that may cause them to drop out of school.

All meetings of the LPDAB are open to the public. The board meets at 5:30 pm on the first Monday of each month at the Patrol Division headquarters at 740 May Street. Captain Michael Yankowski attends the meetings which may also include a guest speaker who addresses police and community issues. Jackie Payne, a fellow Westside neighbor, is the current secretary of the LPDAB. If there are issues that you wish brought to the attention of the police, you may attend any meeting or call Jackie Payne at 517-482-4068.

The Lansing Police Patrol Division is divided into 16 teams, each of which patrol a specific area of the city. Each team has a team leader to whom issues may be brought. To find your team leader go to the Lansing Police web site (<http://www.lansingmi.gov/police/>), click on the Patrol Division link and then on the Team Officer List. You can find the Team Area Map by clicking on the "Documents" link.

Want to Stay Connected?

Send a blank email to stayconnected-subscribe@wnalansing.com. You'll receive a confirmation email. Reply to it and you're on your way to receiving periodic updates. If at any time you'd like to stop receiving messages, start with step 1, but change "subscribe" to "unsubscribe" and follow the same procedure. The WNA will only use the email address you provide to send periodic updates. It will never be sold or shared with any other individual or group.

Spring 2011 Westsider

Annual Meeting Recap

The Westside Neighborhood Association held its annual meeting on Friday, January 28, 2011 with over 60 neighbors enjoying a wonderful variety of soups provided by the board members.

- WNA treasurer, Michael Schury, presented the organization's annual financial report. The full report is available at www.wnalansing.com.
- Keith Kris, board member at-large, previewed the new website (www.wnalansing.com).
- The annual election was also held. The 2011 WNA Board of Directors is listed in the shadow box on page 1 of this newsletter.

In addition to WNA business, invited speakers provided information on subjects of interest to our neighborhood.

- Eric Schertzing, Ingham County Treasurer, discussed how the Land Bank acquires properties and the process for demolition versus restoration. Projects in our neighborhood include a tear down on Michigan Ave across from Sexton and the new construction of a single family home on W. Ionia St. Home purchase through the Land Bank requires owner occupancy.
- Several speakers addressed the Verlinden plant site and its future. Currently belonging to Motor Liquidators Corporation (old GM), most of the property is in Lansing Township. We were pleased to have Matt Brinkley from Lansing Township join the discussion with Bob Trezise from the Lansing Economic Development Corporation. Additionally, Peter Quakenbush and John McCabe with the MDEQ explained that the site comes under the Federal Resource and Recovery Act. First steps include sampling to determine the contamination before any remedial work can be considered. Because documentation of chemical use is not extensive, the DEQ welcomes any personal histories or knowledge that neighbors or workers have that may be helpful in testing. Contact Peter at 373-7397.

The evening ended with door prizes including movie tickets to NCG Theater and dinner certificates for the Irish Pub and El Azteco restaurants. **A huge thank you to these businesses for donating the door prizes and congratulations to door prize winners Emily Baker, Libby Rice & David Hill, and Liz Homer.**