



Westside Neighborhood Association



The Westsider

A Quarterly Publication for Lansing, Michigan's Westside Neighborhood

2013 Board Members & Responsibilities

Mike Schury (President)
Cathy Bacile Cunningham (Vice-President) (Committee chair: Voter Education/Civic Engagement)
Danielle Casavant (Secretary, Committee chair: Fiesta; Fun)
Josh Boehme (Treasurer)
Lisa Alicea (Committee chair: Community Engagement)
Cassandra Nelson (Committee chair: Grants; MLK Garden)
Dan Boutell (Committee chair: Newsletter Editor)
Ellie Wong (Committee chair: Business Promotion)
Jackie Payne (Committee chair: Crime and Safety)
Jen Long (Committee chair: Riddle Elementary Liaison; Places of Worship)
Keith Kris (Committee chair: Yard Sale; Communications)
Paul Pratt (Committee chair: Scholarships; GM Liaison)
Sara McCormick (Committee chair: Sexton High School Liaison; Summer Quarterly Event)
Suzanne Knight
John Stratton

To contact the board, email board@wnalansing.com or call 517-618-WNA1(9621) and leave a message. To learn more about the work of these committees visit our website: <http://wnalansing.com/?p=736>

WNA Annual Meeting

If you want to meet some neighbors for the first time, chat with some “old” neighbors for awhile, or share a meal with your neighbors, then be sure to attend the Westside Neighborhood Association’s annual meeting!

The meeting will take place on **Thursday, January 23rd at 6:00**, at the Sexton High School Cafeteria. It is a time to share what the WNA has done over the past year and to connect with those who make up the WNA—your neighbors.

It is also a time to discuss topics of interest to the neighborhood. If you have a topic that you wish to be discussed at the meeting, please suggest that topic to the WNA Board in advance by: email, board@wnalansing.com or call, 517-618-WNA1(9621) and leave a message.

This year you will also have the opportunity to purchase a WNA Tshirt, and if you are one of the first 100 to arrive, you will receive a free WNA LED flashlight key chain. So please attend this annual event that celebrates the Westside Neighborhood Association.



“Like” us on
Facebook!

Follow the WNA

The WNA tries to connect with everyone in our neighborhood. There are so many things going on. Be sure to view our website at www.wnalansing.com. You can also “like” the Westside Neighborhood Association on Facebook. Be sure to check out both!

Access to the WNA Website



Westside Wednesday at Harry's Place

Westside Wednesdays are an informal gathering of neighbors for dinner and conversation. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at Harry's place at 6:00 pm. Mark your calendar for upcoming gatherings:

January 8th, February 12th, and March 12th.

Holiday Wreath and Garland Sale

Once again the Letts Community Center Advisory Board is selling holiday wreaths and garlands to support youth programming at Letts. The price for wreaths with red ribbon bow (or without) is \$19 for one, \$18 for a second and \$17 for a third. The 15' garland is \$15.

To make arrangements for payment and delivery, contact Jim Booth at 517-371-1754 or j.kbooth@att.att

The kids at Letts Center really appreciate your support of their programming!

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.

MLK Garden News

WNA is seeking a Garden Coordinator for the MLK garden near Washtenaw. The garden was created in 2010 as a Westside Neighborhood project on vacant property under the Ingham County Land Bank garden program with the help of the Greater Lansing Food Bank's Garden Project and the Northwest Initiative. There are 10 plots for individual to grow their own vegetables. If you are interested in learning more about this volunteer opportunity, please contact Carol at 487-6467. The Garden Project provides garden leadership training in January which is helpful but not required.

Follow us on Facebook!

Did you know our neighborhood Facebook group has over 550 members? It has become a “go to” tool for many of us to communicate important (and fun) information related to the neighborhood and/or of interest to neighbors. If you have an account, consider joining the group and getting to know even more of your neighbors. <http://www.facebook.com/groups/WestsideNeighborhoodAssociation/>

In addition to the main group, neighbors have created special interest groups for neighbors. Groups include:

Lansing Westside Freebies - to post items you want or that you have to give away for FREE.

Lansing's Westside Neighborhood For Sale Group - to post items for sale.

Westside Gardeners - interested in gardening vegetables, fruits, and some beneficial flowers.

Westside Stories - a book club that meets every 4-6 weeks at Harry's Place.

Westside Runners - for runners and walkers.

Westside Worters - for homebrewers of beer, cider, mead; wine makers; and craft-beer enthusiasts.

Westside Wee Ones - for parents of young children

You should be able to find the group by searching for the name on Facebook. If you can't find them, or aren't on Facebook but are interested in events held by these groups, send an email to dcasa-vant@ameritech.net with the name of the group in the subject line and I'll put you in touch with the group leader(s).



**When we first started,
“Direct Deposits” were collected in a
lunch pail on the line at the Fisher Body Plant.**

We've come a long way.

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WNA Crime and Safety Committee

The Lansing Police Department wants to remind you to help keep you and your family safe with some Winter Crime Prevention Tips:

1. Call the LPD non-emergency number 483-4600 if you see any suspicious activity including people checking car doors to see if the car is locked.
2. Do not leave your car unlocked and running in the driveway to warm it up. This is an invitation to criminals to steal your car.
3. Lock your car and keep it locked when you are in the house or shopping. When shopping, keep packages out of sight in your car. Lock them in the trunk or other area where they cannot be seen from outside. Criminals check for packages in cars in shopping mall parking lots. Don't be a victim of "smash and grab" thieves.
4. At home, take any valuables out of your car and lock your doors every time you exit your vehicle, even if it is parked in your own driveway.
5. Keep your doors locked at all times. If you are shoveling snow in the front of your house, be sure your back door is locked. Always lock your doors even if you are going to be gone only for a few minutes.
6. Lock your doors when you are inside at home. Criminals can and will enter an unlocked house and grab valuables while you are at home.
7. Install motion-activated lights in your front and back yards so that if someone approaches your home at night the lights will automatically come on and illuminate the area.
8. Put ladders and tools you may have used this summer for yard work in a secure and locked garage or shed. Criminals can use these to break into your home.
9. Beware of home improvement scams or requests to do handyman work. Ask for identification from persons providing the work before the services begin. Ask how many people will perform the work and request their identification as well. Write down all information regarding the workers and vehicle information as well.
10. Do not let anyone inside your house that you do not know and trust. This includes young people who may ask to do chores such as shoveling snow for money. There have been several instances this fall of young people asking to do yard work, or use the bathroom or the telephone, that have then used the opportunity to remove valuables from the home or to target the home for break-in later.
11. Request identification of any utility representative that comes to your house. True representatives will carry identification and will gladly show it to you. Call the company for verification.
12. Call Ingham County Animal Control at 517-676-8370 to report stray dogs.
13. Be a good neighbor; this is one of the best crime prevention tools. Watchful, attentive neighbors can spot potential criminals and alert the police. Get involved in your Neighborhood Watch group. If you do not have a Neighborhood Watch on your street, contact the LPD Community Service Unit, 517-483-6812 to get one started.

Show Your Support!

The Westside Neighborhood is one of the oldest and most diverse neighborhoods in the City of Lansing. The Westside Neighborhood Association (WNA) works hard to ensure that our neighborhood is a strong and vibrant community. Some of the activities organized and implemented by the WNA Board of Directors includes:

- Candidate Forums to help neighborhood residents make informed decisions when voting in local elections
- Neighborhood clean-up and beautification projects
- Academic and need-based scholarships for graduating high school seniors in our community
- Opportunities for neighbors to come together socially to strengthen neighborhood bonds, learn more about issues that impact our neighborhood, and raise funds for the scholarship program
- Quarterly Westsider newsletter to share community information and announcements

But, the board can't do it alone. We need your help and financial support! Did you know that the WNA is a 501c(3) organization? That means your contribution could provide you with a deduction at tax time.

Please consider a donation of \$25, \$50, \$100, or any amount you can afford. Checks should be made payable to the Westside Neighborhood Association and mailed

to:

Westside Neighborhood Association

c/o Josh Boehme, Treasurer

1516 N. Genesee

Lansing, MI 48915.

Westside Stories

The Westside Stories book club will meet at Harry's Place at 7:30 pm on the following dates to discuss the books noted. All are welcome! Join our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WestsideStoriesLansing/>

Jan 27: The Cuckoos Calling by Robert Galbraith

Feb 24: The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery and Alison Anderson

March 24: Brilliance by Marcus



*Lansing Neighborhood Council
for the Westside Neighborhood
Association
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Lansing, MI, 48911*

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The Westside Neighborhood's tree-lined streets provide shade throughout the summer, vibrant color during the autumn, and the first glimpses of new life each spring. Cultivating "green" streets and preserving the rustle of leaves for future generations of neighbors is undoubtedly a priority for all of us. To that end, the Westside Neighborhood Association (WNA) is partnering with the City of Lansing to replace many of the curbside trees removed from our neighborhood over the past several years. The City identified 162 potential planting sites throughout the Westside Neighborhood and we will be preparing the sites for tree plantings in the spring of 2014. That's right, we, as in you and I and any of our neighbors reading this riveting newsletter. One-hundred-sixty-two is a lot of trees which thus requires a lot of holes to be dug. By who? By us! The WNA is collaborating with the City to coordinate the tree plantings into five zones within which neighborhood volunteers will prepare the planting sites over the course of five days. That's roughly 32 holes, of roughly one foot in depth, per night, for five nights. We need you, your shovels, and a few hours of your time to preserve and improve our neighborhood in a concrete—err, timber way. More information will follow as spring 2014 approaches and the WNA and City work out more of the details. In the meantime, if you are able and willing to help out, please contact Paul Holland (1536 Spencer St.) at pba.holland@gmail.com with questions or to sign up.