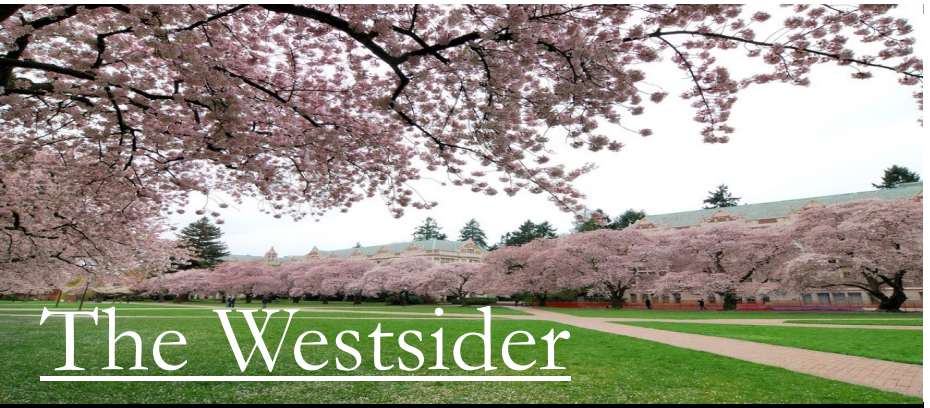


# Westside Neighborhood Association



## The Westsider

A Quarterly Publication for Lansing, Michigan's Westside Neighborhood

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### Annual Westside Neighborhood Summer Picnic

This year will, once again, host a Concert in the Park at St. Joseph Park. Many thanks to Lansing Parks and Recreation and the Concert in the Park Series sponsors for making this possible! The picnic is **free** to all neighbors. Your RSVP for the picnic will be very helpful to our planning.

Please RSVP in one of the following manners:

online <http://goo.gl/forms/W0SC8sPrit>

email: [dcasavant@ameritech.net](mailto:dcasavant@ameritech.net)

phone/text: 517-402-2785.

If emailing or calling, please provide your name, street address, number of adults/kids and number of vegetarians attending from your household.

Date: **Wednesday, July 29, 2015**

Location: St. Joseph Park (just south of Sexton)

Picnic: 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm - food and beverage provided

Concert: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - featuring Lansing's own Big Willy (blues/rock)

Bring your lawn chairs or blankets to enjoy the picnic and the concert!

## Follow the WNA



"Like" us on  
Facebook!

To contact the board, email [board@wnalansing.com](mailto:board@wnalansing.com) or call **517-618-WNA1**(9621) and leave a message. To learn more, visit our website: <http://wnalansing.com>

Access to the WNA Website



**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](mailto: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.



**e LANSING PARKS & RECREATION'S  
KIDS CAMP PROGRAM**



**\$30/Residents; \$55/Non-Residents per week!**

**6 Sites to choose from:**

**Foster, Gier, Letts and Schmidt Community Centers,  
Cumberland and Lewton Elementary Schools**

\*Camps run 9am-3pm. Pre and Post care available at most sites for additional fees.

**Games \* Trips \* Themes \* FUN!**

**Register online and save \$5!**

**[www.lansingmi.gov/parks](http://www.lansingmi.gov/parks)**

**Call 517-483-4277 for more information.**



# FIBER OPTIC INTERNET NOW AVAILABLE!

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A Michigan based company.

## RACER Trust Moving Forward on Lansing Sites

RACER Trust appreciates the opportunity to update the Westside Neighborhood Association (WNA) on its remediation and redevelopment activities at the former General Motors (GM) properties in Lansing and Lansing Charter Township.

You may have noticed on the RACER website that the Lansing-area properties are under contract. In this case, this does not mean that a purchase agreement is in hand, or even imminent; an interested party requested that RACER suspend active marketing of the properties while it performed due diligence on the properties. The Trust evaluates requests on a case-by-case basis, and decided that the reputation and track record of the prospect justified granting its request. RACER has confidentiality agreements with several interested parties for the sites, which prohibit us from commenting on the identity of these parties or the nature of their interest.

If an agreement is reached to sell all or any part of the RACER properties, RACER will announce the transaction at the appropriate time. It is our hope that time will happen sooner rather than later.

RACER Trust understands the WNA's interest in future development of the sites. Any purchaser approved by RACER will be subject to the same development process the city and township require of all land developers. Those processes include an opportunity for public review. While efforts to find a suitable buyer for the Lansing area properties continue so, too, does the remediation of the Lansing and Lansing Charter Township sites.

As of March the former press pit basement - an area commonly referred to as the "coliseum" on the Plant 3 site north of Saginaw Street - is filled.

Further, RACER continues to complete testing and work with MDEQ to develop and select a remedial approach for the lower 1,4-dioxane groundwater impacts. (Public drinking water sources are not impacted).

The need for further testing related to the lower 1,4-dioxane groundwater impact will push back MDEQ's selection of a final remedy. While the timing for final approval will depend on testing results and data evaluation, it is unlikely to occur until sometime in 2016. Interim remedial measures include relatively small, targeted excavations at three locations at Plant 6 (Lansing) and one location at Plant 2 (Lansing Township). Those will be completed this summer and/or fall pending results of final delineation investigation and agency approval.

Questions regarding general site maintenance should be directed to Sam Solomon: 248-990-1042 or [ssolomon@racertrust.org](mailto:ssolomon@racertrust.org). Questions regarding environmental issues should be directed to Grant Trigger: 313-670-6226 or [gtrigger@racertrust.org](mailto:gtrigger@racertrust.org). Questions regarding redevelopment issues should be directed to: Bruce Rasher: 734-355-2900 or [brasher@racertrust.org](mailto:brasher@racertrust.org).

## Cyberbullying Is Online Harassment! It Is "Social Terror" By Technology And It's On The Rise.

When a kid of any age, up to 18 is threatened, humiliated, harassed, or humiliated via use of technology --- this is Cyberbullying - a form of digital abuse. It's harmful and can be dangerous! It is now **Against the Law**. Cyber bullying is now an official type of prohibited bullying under Michigan law after Gov. Rick Snyder signed a bill passed by the Michigan Legislature.

**Senate Bill 74**, which is now Public Act 478, adds cyber bullying to Matt's Safe School Law. The law defines cyber bullying as "any electronic communication intended to harm one or more students by interfering with education opportunities, adversely affecting a student's ability to participate in school or district education programs, having an actual or substantial negative effect on a student's mental or physical health or causing a substantial disruption the operation of the school."



## Fun on the Westside!

Lansing Parks and Recreation is gearing up for a great summer at Letts Community Center and we hope you will join us! We are very excited this year to be the recipient of three grants to enhance our Kids Camp Program! The National Recreation and Parks Association along with Walmart have provided us with \$25,000 to help us address nutrition education and access to healthy food. Through this grant we will be implementing the OrganWise Guys Curriculum to educate youth about how to keep their organs healthy. We are also proud to be part of the USDA summer Meet Up, Eat Up program, provided free breakfast and lunch Monday – Friday at the Center. The Michigan Recreation and Parks Association has provided us with a \$30,000 grant to focus on physical activity in our camps and after school programs. We will be focusing on games that build healthy bodies and measuring fitness levels so youth can track their progress. This exciting grant is sure to get kids moving and having fun. Finally, we received a \$5,000 grant through Good Sports and Dr Pepper which provided us with all sorts of athletic equipment so we have the tools to be successful! As you see, our camp program is growing and we want you to join us! Kids Camp at Letts Center starts June 15<sup>th</sup> and runs until August 7<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 3pm. Weekly cost is \$30/Residents and \$55/Non-Residents. This fee includes camp, breakfast, lunch, t-shirt and field trips. Pre and Post care are available for additional fees. For more information check out our website at [www.lansingmi.gov/parks](http://www.lansingmi.gov/parks), call 517.483.4311 or stop by, we'd love to see you!

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Concert in the Park with Big Willy (blues) at St Joe on July 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm! We are excited to partner with the Westside Neighborhood Association again this year to provide this concert.

Also, new this year! We have partnered with the Capital City Crisis Rugby Team to offer a Rugby Camp August 11<sup>th</sup> – August 13<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm at St Joe Park. Cost is \$30/Resident and \$35/Non-Resident. Information on this and all our other great summer activities can be found on our website [www.lansingmi.gov/parks](http://www.lansingmi.gov/parks)

Be sure to follow us on Facebook @LansingParksandRecreation and Twitter @LansingParksandRec !

## DENNY'S AUTO DIAGNOSIS

**Celebrating A New Road  
To Denny's and  
The Westside!**

**Pothole ridden Martin Luther King BLVD  
is being resurfaced and they will add a  
bike lane!!!**

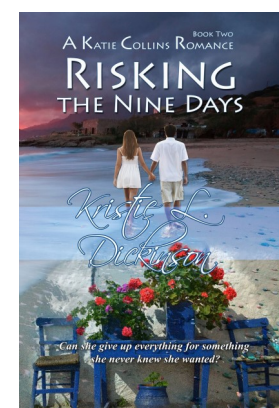
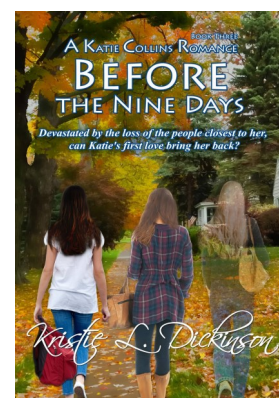
**Speaking of potholes, wheel alignment  
checked with print-out is only 24.95!**

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experienced Technicians. Call Today!**

2738 North Grand River  
Lansing, MI 48906  
5 1 7 - 3 2 1 - 2 2 5 5  
[dennysautodiagnosis.com](http://dennysautodiagnosis.com)  
[tim@dennysauto.net](mailto:tim@dennysauto.net)  
f a c e b o o k  
y o u t u b e



Check out on  
Amazon the follow-  
ing books written by  
neighbor **Kristie  
Dickinson**, who  
has lived in the  
neighborhood for  
over 20 years.



## SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, August 4, 2015, 6-8pm the Westside Neighborhood Association will participate in the National Night Out. The theme this year will be Anti-Bullying!

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods a safer, better place to live. Together, we are making that happen.

If anyone is interested in working on the National Night Out committee, please contact Mitzi Allen at [mdallen7241@gmail.com](mailto:mdallen7241@gmail.com). We also have a guide on "How to Host a Block Party" on our website, under resources. Check it out!

National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community and provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Save the Date! You won't want to miss this event.

## Reminder!!

### Westside Neighborhood Association Annual Fundraiser

#### Fall Fiesta and Silent Auction

Sunday, October 4, 2015 at 4:30 pm

Radisson Hotel Lansing

111 N. Grand Ave

Tickets: Adult \$20, Children 3-12 \$10

3 and under are free

Tickets will be available in September

"Full House Band" to perform

If you would like to serve on the Fiesta Planning committee or make a donation to the Silent Auction, please contact Cheryl Hecksel at [checksel@comcast.net](mailto:checksel@comcast.net)



**Chris Swope**  
Lansing City Clerk

### Passport Services at City Hall



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  - Photo Service on-site
  - Buy local
- Processing Fee stays in the City

**Passport Service Hours**  
Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm  
124 W. Michigan Ave, 9th Floor

[www.Lansingmi.gov/passports](http://www.Lansingmi.gov/passports)  
517-483-4131 [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov)

Sponsored by the Northwest Initiative are the Westside Summer Celebrations at Ferris Park.

Join us the second Saturdays each month from 12:00 - 3:00

July 11th—BBQ and cookouts

August 8th—Healthy Harvest

September 12th—Back to School

We will have, live music, fun and games, Farmers Markets, community resources, and more!



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M-W 11-7 • Th 11-9 • Fr-Sa 10-6

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## Westsider Summer 2015 Volume 4 Issue 2

### Thump the Stumps Initiative

To continue the momentum of neighborhood beautification accelerated by last year's successful tree planting initiative, the Westside Neighborhood Association (WNA) is thrilled to announce the Thump the Stumps initiative to eliminate the tree stumps blemishing and blighting our streets.

As many of you have no doubt noticed there are numerous stumps remaining throughout the neighborhood in the right-of-way easement (the strip of grass between the sidewalk and the street). Due to budgetary limitations, the City ceased removing the stumps several years ago and their numbers have swelled during the intervening years as dead, dying, or obstruent trees are chopped down. While the residual stumps are public property, their cumulative quantities mar our neighborhood and may diminish property values. In effort to mitigate these adverse effect, the WNA is organizing a collective initiative to reduce the cost associated with removing the stumps and contribute to the improvement of our neighborhood.

The WNA is currently completing an inventory of all of the stumps within the right-of-way easements and will soon select a private vendor, via a competitive bid, to grind the stumps located adjacent to participating neighbors. By aggregating the number of stumps to be ground, the WNA will enable neighbors to combine their purchasing power to take advantage of economies of scale and consequently facilitate a reduction in the cost borne by participating neighbors to grind each stump.

Moreover, the WNA will coordinate volunteers to dig-up and carry-away the debris remaining after the stump is ground and the City of Lansing will provide soil and seed at no cost to resurface the area from where the stump was situated. Because the labor required to remove the debris remaining after the stump is ground and resurface the affected area contributes to a substantial portion of the cost to eliminate stumps when performed by a private contractor, these volunteered and donated services and supplies will further reduce the cost contributed by participating neighbors.

Now, you may ask, "What does all this have to with me?" Well, if you happen to be a neighbor for whom a stump is located in the right-of-way easement adjacent to your home, the WNA would like to invite you to participate in the initiative. While, the cost to individually hire a contractor to grind the stump, dig-up and carry-off debris, and resurface the area may be prohibitively expensive, the WNA's collective efforts to reduce such cost via bulk purchasing, volunteer labor, and donated resources, may encourage and enable you to participate by contributing a yet-to-be-determined, amount to eliminate that eyesore stump and thereby increase your property value and further beautify our neighborhood.

If you have any questions or are interested in participating, please email Paul B.A. Holland at [pba.holland@gmail.com](mailto:pba.holland@gmail.com) with your name, address, and contact information. The WNA anticipates selecting a private vendor sometime in June for work to be performed in August. The per stump cost for participating neighbors will be calculated subsequent to selecting a vendor and interested neighbors will be notified of such cost via email. The more neighbors who participate, the lower the per stump cost to eliminate these unsightly tombstones of bygone timbers.