

the Westsider

SPRING 2016

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*Cover photo: Fun at the Annual Westside Picnic
Photo by Luke Anthony Photography*

a publication of the

Westside
Neighborhood
Association



Welcome!

Dear Neighbor,

Happy 2016 and spring! I'm so pleased to welcome you to the first issue of the "new and improved" Westsider newsletter. We hope you'll enjoy the new format and content, in addition to the new publishing schedule. The Westsider will now be published three times a year: Spring (April), Summer (August) and Fall/Winter (November). This allows our newsletter team to focus on quality, useful articles as well as connect with awesome advertisers interested in reaching you. If you have any feedback, submissions or concerns, please contact the newsletter editors at communications@wnalansing.com.



The Board is so excited for the upcoming neighborhood events - details for each can be found throughout this newsletter. I know I'll be hitting the Yard Sale on June 25 and my family is looking forward to BBQ and meeting neighbors at the Annual Picnic and Concert in the Park on July 20, featuring our own neighborhood band - Full House. I hope to see many of you at the popular Westside Wednesdays at Harry's Place (our favorite watering hole) the second Wednesday of each month.

On a personal note, I am so excited to serve on this board. I grew up in this neighborhood and am a proud graduate of Sexton High School! I look forward to serving the Westside and hope you will join me by getting involved. We have several committees looking for members (Events, Crime and Safety and Neighborhood Improvement, to name a few). Email the board (and me) at board@wnalansing.com for details.

I hope everyone is having a fantastic spring. I know I'm looking forward to another wonderfully warm Michigan summer full of waving neighbors and late nights on the patio.

Cheers,

Emily Stevens
President, Westside Neighborhood
Association Board of Directors



2016 Board of Directors

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SOCA Liaison | Mayor and City Council
Liaison | Lansing Parks and Recreation
Liaison | Point West Art and Trail Project
Liaison

The Board meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Letts Community Center. Interested in joining or learning more about a committee? Email us at board@wnalansing.com!



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Point West Art & Trail Inaugural Volunteer Event

On the chilly first Saturday of April, members of the Westside Neighborhood, Old Oakland Neighborhood and students from Michigan State University descended upon Dunnebacke Park, dodging snowflakes and mud throughout the day. The mission: To begin the removal of sod and dirt for the trail that will meander through Dunnebacke and West Side Parks.

The Point West Art and Trail Project builds upon efforts to use public art and collaborative, community design to build community and spur revitalization on Lansing's Westside. The Saginaw Oakland Commercial Association and Old Oakland and Westside Neighborhood Associations have teamed up to improve the "Point" at Saginaw and Oakland, as well as West Side and Dunnebacke Parks.

By all accounts this was a rousing success. Students from Alternative Spring Break and from MSU's Greek Life Day of Action joined in to help move about 100 feet of sod and dirt. Coffee was provided by Biggby at the Point (thanks, TJ!). Lunch was provided by long-term supporter, Harry's Place and new supporter, Jumbeaux. Thank you to the Harry's and Jumbeaux crews! Our next volunteer day is **Saturday, May 14 from 9 am to 2 pm**. We will do some planting, set one of the benches and do general park clean up - and have delicious food again! Watch for the sign-up sheet on Facebook - great for kids!



Strong Schools Make a Strong Community!

In support of the Lansing School District bond proposal

At its February meeting, the WNA Board of Directors voted to endorse the Lansing School District's bond proposal on the May 3, 2016 ballot.

The \$120 million proposal is a two-pronged plan. First, the proposal addresses much-needed upgrades and repairs to Lansing's aging school buildings. Nearly \$19 million will be devoted to improvements in roofing, windows, HVAC systems and lighting. District-wide technology upgrades account for another \$5 million and will consist of replacing obsolete devices, installing classroom projection systems, purchasing wireless device carts and increasing wireless access and bandwidth. Other district-wide improvements include replacing furniture and upgrading security systems.

The rest of the bond monies are for remodeling existing facilities or for additions at specific schools, most of which are designed to help the district implement its Lansing Pathway Promise plan. For example, \$6 million are earmarked to convert the annex at Sexton into laboratories for its STEM (science, engineering, technology, and mathematics) programs. A full explanation of the cost breakdown can be found at the Lansing Pathway Promise website, www.lansingpathwaypromise.net.

The tax increase based on a median home value of \$94,729 is only \$35.52 per year, which amounts to less than ten cents per day. This is a low cost bond for Lansing homeowners. Our children deserve facilities and equipment that are on par with

other nearby school districts. The previous bond is expiring, and it is time to invest in our schools once again.

The WNA Board of Directors strongly believes that the future success of Lansing is linked to the success of its schools. Great schools create strong communities, attract businesses and new residents and increase property values.

We therefore urge you to vote yes on May 3. We thank you in advance for your yes vote and continued support of Lansing's children!



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Westside Resident Spotlight: The Hecksel Family

Did you know that we have a family in our neighborhood that has been here for four generations? It's true! Jacob and Alice Miller moved into the neighborhood in 1924, one year after they were married. Their home on Drexel Rd. was built in 1921. Jacob was employed by Oldsmobile. He and Alice were charter members of Holy Cross Church and raised four children: Miles, Faith, Marie and Therese (aka Ellen). Jacob lived in this house until his death in 1979, at which time his grandson Mike Hecksel and his wife, Terri, purchased the house. They continue to live in

this home, where they raised their two children. In addition to Mike and Terri, Ellen and Bob's sons Rob and Phil, with their wives, MaryRose and Cheryl, call the Westside neighborhood home. Generation number four, Rob's daughter Sally, recently became a Westside homeowner.



Ellen was raised in the house on Drexel and has been a resident of the Westside neighborhood for most of her life. Ellen and Bob Hecksel bought their home on S. Genesee in 1966. Ellen was a teacher before stopping to focus on raising her family. Bob had a long career with the Lansing School District teaching and as a

guidance counselor and an Assistant Principal, before spending 20 years as the principal at Gardner Junior High.

Ellen recalls that the neighborhood has always been beautiful. She remembers growing up when the neighborhood was filled families and children. Neighborhood kids played games such as hide and seek and kick the can until dark. In the summer they would walk to Westside Park to watch baseball games. In the winter the city would flood the fields at Westside, Comstock and St. Joe parks for ice skating. One fond memory is the milkman with horse-pulled wagon that would stop for a rest near the fire station, so the horse could graze on grass in the fire station yard. While Bob and Ellen raised their family, their side yard on the corner of S. Genesee was home to continuous neighborhood football and baseball games. Often it was flooded for skating in the winter. Bob even opened up the basement of the house to create an open space for the neighborhood kids to play floor hockey. They feel fortunate that so many of their children live in or close to the neighborhood. Bob went on to say that during his time in the neighborhood, people of different backgrounds have been accepting of each other in a neighborly manner.





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Westside Pet Spotlight: *Tori*



Hi, my name is Tori! You may have seen me cruising around the neighborhood with my mom and my bestie Teagan. When I was three years old I ruptured two discs in my back and had to have surgery at Michigan State University veterinary clinic. Unfortunately, I had to have a second surgery, but thanks to my wheelchair it hasn't slowed me down. I even have skis so I can zoom around the neighborhood in the winter. With therapy, I have regained some function in my back legs but still need my wheelchair when we go on walks. My mom loves to dress me up but I don't mind. When we go for bike rides we

wear matching helmets and I have a hard hat that

I wear when monitoring neighborhood activities. I am a certified therapy dog and love when kids struggling with reading, read out loud to me.

I'd love to keep you in the loop of some of my adventures. You can check out my Facebook page or stop by my website, **www.ToriTheDog.com**. If you see me around the neighborhood, make sure to say hi! I love making new friends and would love to be yours.

Westside Events

Annual Summer Picnic and Concert in the Park

Wednesday, July 20

St. Joe Park

Picnic @ 5:30 p.m.

Concert @ 7 p.m.



The WNA will be hosting the annual neighborhood picnic followed by a concert presented by the Lansing Parks & Recreation Department. Join your neighbors for a friendly social gathering. The WNA will provide hot dogs and hamburgers along with all the fixings. We ask neighbors to bring a dish to pass and your own beverages as well as lawn chairs. Stay after dinner for a concert by the Full House Band. This is always a great way to meet neighbors and enjoy a night out in your own backyard - don't miss out! RSVP here: tiny.cc/2016Picnic

Westside Neighborhood Yard Sale

Throughout the Westside

Saturday, June 25

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The official Westside Neighborhood yard sale will be Saturday, June 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.* Please register your garage sale at www.goo.gl/sKaZOU. The WNA will promote the sale through various avenues but everyone's promotion is appreciated! Please send any questions to organizer, Nancy Whittiker at Nancylyw@gmail.com. (*Feel free to add Friday on to your sale by indicating on the sign-up sheet.)

Westside Wednesdays

Harry's Place

2nd Wednesday of Each Month

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The WNA invites you to a dinner gathering at Harry's Place each month. This is a great way to connect with neighbors and meet new people. We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. Come and join us! Upcoming dates: May 11, June 8, July 13



Harry's Place

See more events on page 23!

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Business Spotlight

Jumbeaux: Kickin' it Southern Style

by Caryn Coyle

On a chilly, windy mid-March afternoon, I entered the warm, cozy comfort of Jumbeaux. Cheery colors and the aromas of cooking a late lunch for one patron and prep for dinner made it feel homey and welcoming.

Situated on "The Point" where Saginaw Street and Oakland Avenue meet - our own Westside gateway to Lansing, Jumbeaux is celebrating its first year in business in that spot on April 2, 2016.

Born and raised there, owner/chef Keith Havard was living in Louisiana when he met his future wife, a native of Michigan, and the rest is history.

Mrs. Havard wanted to return home to the Lansing area, and at the same time, the former Fork in the Road building was available to lease. For Keith, it was just the right size to get started and get Lansing hooked on Louisiana cooking.

Inspired by the cooking from south Louisiana, Jumbeaux dishes are all about comfort. It's authentic southern cooking and includes all the favorite classic Cajun and creole dishes. From chicken and dumplings to shrimp po' boys, jambalaya, gumbo, crawfish etoufee, muffaletta and alligator, Jumbeaux takes great pride in delivering a unique culinary experience, with as much kick as you want (or don't want).

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Calling all artists!



After a number of similarly themed arts and crafts posts popped up in the Westside Neighborhood Association Facebook group over the last month, the suggestion was made that there might be enough interest to start a neighborhood arts group. We created a Facebook group to connect and organize, and with that, the Westside Artists' Guild (WAG) was born.

There are a wide variety of interests, including fiber art, photography, metal work, crochet/knitting, painting, collage, stained and fused glass, quilting, Zentangle, up-cycled art, woodworking, egg painting, jewelry making, pottery, drawing, soap making and sculpture – this is just the short list! We hope these interests will lead to projects, including a group art piece for donation to the annual WNA silent auction, decorations for the traffic triangles, craft nights led by group members and many more!

Residents of all skill levels are welcome - you need only have the desire to be creative. The Westside Artists Guild is a judgment free zone, filled with positive energy and support. WAG is designed for adults, although we may host special nights for children.

Those interested in joining or learning more can find us on Facebook at: **facebook.com/groups/westsideartistsguild**. Email neighbor Jen Baker at **tinyglasscanvas@gmail.com** for more information.

Parks and Recreation Fun on the Westside!

The Letts Center is gearing up for its Spring Carnival on May 7. Join them from 1 to 4 p.m. and enjoy inflatables, face painting, carnival games and connect with local health and wellness agencies. Admission is free and concessions will be available. Celebrate Spring at Letts!



Letts has several drop-in gym times for many age groups to take advantage of:

Age	Day	Time	Cost
5 and under with guardian	Tuesdays & Thursdays	10 - 11:30am	\$1/child
Teens (12-17)	Tuesdays	6:30 - 8:30pm	Free
Adults (18+)	Wednesdays	7:30 - 9pm	\$2/person
40+	Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays	11am - 1pm	\$2/person



Summer is just around the corner, be sure to check out our Summer Camp program for youth ages 5-13, beginning the week of June 20. Teens can check out our VolunTeen program that provides them opportunities to learn valuable job skills while having fun all summer. Details for both programs can be found at www.lansingmi.gov/parks.

We are also searching for motivated, creative, and enthusiastic teens (Grades 7-12) to join the Mayor's Youth Council. Teens will have the opportunity to advise Mayor Bernero on issues of importance, volunteer at events and improve teen programming in the community. Contact Letts Programmer, Micah Lurie, for more details at 517-483-6029 or just stop by!

For more information on these and many other programs check out our website at www.lansingmi.gov/parks or call 517-483-4311.

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Henry Ford

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RACER:

Update on Lansing Area Properties

RACER Trust continues working with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality on cleanup activities on Plants 2 and 3 in Lansing Township and Plant 6 in Lansing. Under current conditions, contamination at the sites does not pose a risk to the community.

RACER is evaluating remedies for addressing the lower 1,4-dioxane plume on Plants 2 and 3. Currently the information from previous site investigations and from the recently completed phase of investigation does not allow for identifying an appropriate remedy. Therefore, recommendations will be made to MDEQ for further investigation and testing to obtain additional data.

Work to close out the clarifier on the Plant 3 property has been completed. Targeted excavation of contaminated soil at Plant 6 began November 23 and was also completed earlier this year.

Small areas of concrete surfaces impacted with low levels of PCBs should be removed by the end of June. RACER continues to monitor groundwater quality and in the event changes occur, RACER will address them.

Maintenance: In late March repairs were made to the fence on the Plant 6 site, along Verlinde Avenue.

Redevelopment: RACER worked for several months with a prospective buyer for its Lansing area properties. Significant resources were invested to develop the proposal, but the underlying business drivers for the project did not coalesce and the project was tabled.

RACER has resumed active marketing of the properties. RACER received and responded to inquiries from prospective buyers even while active marketing efforts were suspended, and remains confident that it will select a buyer who will maximize the redevelopment potential of its Lansing-area properties.

Questions about RACER's Lansing sites can be directed to Sam Solomon at ssolomon@racetrust.org or (248) 990-1042.



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Letts Food Pantry

The Food Pantry at Letts Community Center is an invaluable resource for low-income families in our community (anyone in the 48915 zip code). The pantry is open by appointment only between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. weekdays and on Wednesday evenings 5:30-7:00 p.m. There is a strict no walk-in rule, but same day appointments are often available. There are income guidelines that are set up by the Greater

Lansing Food Bank, which also provides the food.

To learn if your family is eligible to participate call (517) 483-4311 or email **micah.lurie@lansingmi.gov**. Starting this year, the Westside Neighborhood Association is a proud partner in this effort.

As a neighborhood, we are covering the delivery costs of the food, which runs from \$50-\$70 per month. Currently, the Letts Food Pantry serves 35-40 families per month which equates to about 150-180 people. Also of interest, there is free bread distribution every other Monday at noon. May dates are May 9 and 23.



Welcome to Sexton Principal Glenn Stevens

Sexton High School welcomed a new principal in January! Mr. Glenn Stevens formerly served as one of the assistant principals at Eastern for seven years and was a math teacher at Everett for many years before that.



Mr. Stevens has chosen to focus on the climate and culture of Sexton in his first few months at the school.

Mr. Stevens also has plans to implement some beautification projects to create a more warm and welcoming atmosphere at Sexton. One of the projects he is most excited about is redesigning the front steps and landscaping. He would like to create a partnership between Intro to Engineering Design students and an architect so that the students have a central role in the design of the new steps and learn some essential job skills by working on the project.

The WNA welcomes Mr. Stevens and looks forward to working with him and his staff to create a stronger bond between the school and neighborhood.

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Thanks to everyone in the WNA for being such wonderful neighbors. I hope to earn your support to represent our community on the Ingham County Commission.

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Westside History: Ernest and Elmer Dail Houses

Several of the oldest and grandest homes in the Westside were built for important figures in Lansing's automotive history, including two on North Genesee constructed for brothers Ernest and Elmer Dail in the early 1920s.

Ernest Dail House

1306 N. Genesee

The house at 1306 N. Genesee was built in 1921 for Ernest Dail and his wife Bernice. One of the oldest homes in the Westside, it is a fine example of Arts and Crafts design in Lansing, with a focus on natural materials and fine craftsmanship. A spectacular example of the English Cottage style, its notable features include coursed stone walls, numerous small-paned casement windows, and rolled eaves (the house originally had a cedar shake roof). Ernest Dail was the president of Dail Steel Products Company, which was founded by his father in 1911. The company produced stampings for the automotive, agricultural and home appliance industries through the 1960s. Dail also served as the vice president of the Capitol Savings & Loan Co. The home was owned and occupied by Dail until his death in 1941, and his wife remained in the house until she remarried in the early 1950s. Current owner Terri Haas-Wittman was told by Dail's granddaughter that he acquired the land to build the house by trading an early automobile for the parcel, and that the stone for the house was transported to Lansing from Torch Lake, where the family still vacations.



Elmer Dail House

1204 N. Genesee

Located a block to the east at 1204 N. Genesee is the home of Ernest Dail's brother, Elmer. Built in 1922 for Elmer Dail and his wife Edith, it is a two-story, brick and stucco Colonial Revival house with a symmetrical facade, central entry porch and a one-story porch wing on the side. The house also has distinctive half-timber details in the gable ends. Elmer Dail was a civil engineer and worked as manager at the Jarvis

Engine & Machine Works, one of the pioneers of the structural steel business in Michigan. Dail also served as the president of the Jarvis Flint Erection Company, a structural steel company founded in the 1930s. Elmer and Edith Dail lived in the house through the late 1940s. Current owner Kristie Dickinson owns and operates Dickinson Reporting, Inc., Kristie's Kookies, Trafalgar Properties and is the author of the four-book Nine Days in Greece series.



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This is how much power a bulb consumes. Most LEDs have a wattage equivalent on the package. A 60 watt bulb consumes about six watts of electricity.

Look at the lumens!

Lumens are a measure of bulb brightness. A good quality 60 watt bulb is about 800 lumens.

You get what you pay for.

If the price seems too good to be true, there may be a reason.

The true payback for a quality LED bulb is:

- No ultraviolet rays to breakdown and fade fabrics, lampshades and artwork
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Harry's Place

Lansing, Michigan • Est. 1921

Open to serve you
Monday-Saturday
10am - 11:30pm

**Proud to serve
the Westside
for more than
90 years!**

404 N. Verlinden Avenue
517-484-9661



Events Calendar

April through August 2016

Tuesday, April 25 6 p.m.

Crime and Safety Committee Mtg.
Letts Community Center

Thursday, April 28 6 p.m.

WNA Board Meeting
Letts Community Center

Tuesday, May 3 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Lansing Schools Special Election,
Bonding Proposal

Your local polling location (info
at www.lansingmi.gov/Elections
or 517-483-4131)

Wednesday, May 11 6 p.m.

Westside Wednesday
Harry's Place

Saturday, May 14 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SOCA Work Day
Dunnebacke and Westside Park

Tuesday, May 23 6 p.m.

Crime and Safety Committee Mtg.
Letts Community Center

Thursday, May 26 6 p.m.

WNA Board Meeting
Letts Community Center

Wednesday, June 8 6 p.m.

Westside Wednesday
Harry's Place

Thursday, June 23 6 p.m.

WNA Board Meeting
Letts Community Center

Saturday, June 25 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Westside Yard Sale

Saturday, June 25 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SOCA Work Day
Point West Art & Trail

Tuesday, June 27 6 p.m.

Crime and Safety Committee Mtg.
Letts Community Center

Tuesday, July 25 6 p.m.

Crime and Safety Committee Mtg.
Letts Community Center

Wednesday, July 13 6 p.m.

Westside Wednesday
Harry's Place

Wednesday, July 20

5:30 p.m. Annual Summer Picnic

7 p.m. Concert in the Park
St. Joseph Park

Thursday, July 28 6 p.m.

WNA Board Meeting
Letts Community Center

Wednesday, August 10 6 p.m.

Westside Wednesday
Harry's Place

Tuesday, August 22 6 p.m.

Crime and Safety Committee Mtg.
Letts Community Center

Thursday, August 25 6 p.m.

WNA Board Meeting
Letts Community Center



CLIP AND SAVE!

Newsletter edited by John K. Addis and
Veronica Gracia-Wing. Design & layout by
AE: Adventures in New Media (aenow.com)

Email your newsletter ideas and photos to
communications@wnalansing.com.

Visit us online at facebook.com/groups/WestsideNeighborhoodAssociation,
www.wnalansing.com, or contact the board at board@wnalansing.com.

Westside Neighborhood Association
c/o Letts Community Center
1220 W. Kalamazoo
Lansing, MI 48915

*Westside Neighborhood Professional
Gardening Services*



full circle gardens

Libby Rice, Owner

Cell: 517.648.2096 Office: 517.487.5012

Email: gardening.gal23@gmail.com

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*half
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*whole
page*

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issue

5.5" w x 8.5" h (add 1/4" for full bleed)

learn more at
wnalansing.com

The Westside Neighborhood Association
c/o Letts Community Center
1220 W. Kalamazoo
Lansing, MI 48915