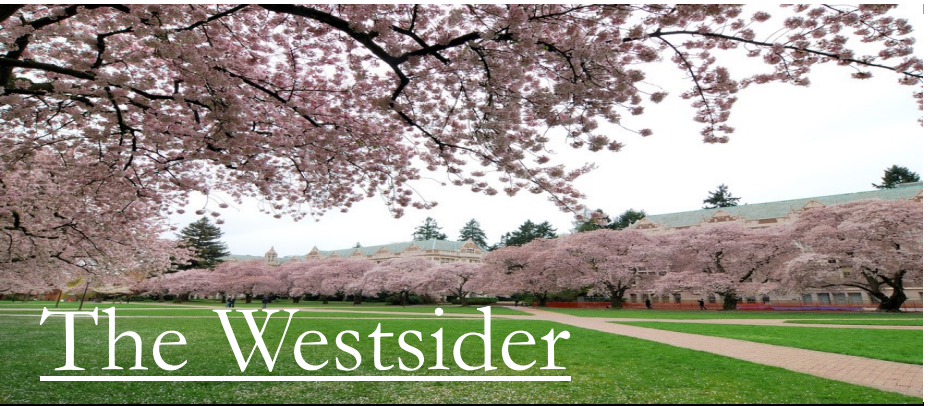


**Westside  
Neighborhood  
Association**



**The Westsider**

**A Quarterly Publication for Lansing, Michigan's Westside Neighborhood**

**2015 Board Members  
& Committees**

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**Westside Neighborhood Association  
2016 Annual Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 20, 2016**

6:00 – 8:00 PM Sexton Cafeteria

(parking and entrance on west side of building)

The Annual Meeting is a free event that includes dinner, provided by board members and donations from local businesses, as well as time to meet and reconnect with neighbors. Neighbors are welcome to bring a dish to share, but are not required to do so. We'll go over WNA highlights from 2015 and elect the 2016 board and officers.

We will have two short presentations this year: Bill Castanier of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing will give details about an upcoming exhibit that examines the impact of I-496 on Lansing. Neighbors will also get an update on the Point West Art and Trail Project.

If you have questions about the Annual Meeting, contact Danielle (dcasavant@ameritech.net – 517-402-2785) or Cathy (cathycbc@gmail.com – 517-281-2979)

**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.

## HOWLING DOGS MUSIC STUDIO

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 since 1994



VOICE • PIANO • SONGWRITING

# Fun on the Westside!

We are gearing up for exciting times at Letts Center this winter! We are happy to announce that we are now offering an after school program for K-6<sup>th</sup> grades! Cost is \$25/residents for the Winter/Spring session (Jan-Jun). This after school program runs from 3:30-6pm, Monday – Friday and offers clubs, snacks and fun – stop in to Letts reserve your child's spot today! For youth in grades 4<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> we will still have our Todd Martin Youth Leadership afterschool program that covers tennis, tutoring and leadership training.

Have a little one under 5? Try out our drop in Tot Time or Fridge Art Studio programs! Tot time is open gym time on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-11:30am for \$1/child. Fridge Art Studio is open crafting time on Wednesdays from 10am-11:30am for \$2/child

Adults, be sure to check out our Total Body Wellness program - \$45/Lansing Residents for 20 sessions, meeting on Wednesdays and Fridays from 5:30-6:30pm starting Jan 13<sup>th</sup>.

Families can participate together with our Family Judo or Karate Classes!

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 follow us on Facebook @LansingParksandRecreation and Twitter @LansingParksandRec !

## **WNA Teams Up with SOCA to Launch Crowdfunding Campaign to Support Point West Art and Trail Project**

### **\$13,000 goal to secure matching grant through MEDC's *Public Spaces Community Places* initiative**

The Westside Neighborhood Association has joined forces with the Saginaw Oakland Commercial Association (SOCA) and the nearby Old Oakland Neighborhood Association to announce a new fundraising campaign through the Michigan-based crowdfunding platform Patronicity. Launched the first week of December, the crowdfunding campaign is raising funds to support the Point West Art and Trail project, slated to be built at the City of Lansing's far western city limit. The project will consist of a new one-mile multiple-use trail within Dunnebacke and West Side Parks and will connect to a gateway public art project and traffic calming improvements at the triangular plot of land where Saginaw Street meets Oakland Avenue.

The Point West Art and Trail project is a collaboration between SOCA, the Old Oakland Neighborhood Association, and the Westside Neighborhood Association. "The Point West Art and Trail project will be an asset to our neighborhoods and surrounding businesses. The project will provide improved access to fitness and recreation opportunities for young and old alike, as well as providing a gateway to the City of Lansing on the Saginaw-Oakland corridor," said OONA President Joseph Duris. "The Point West Art and Trail project will help to express the character of the wonderful neighborhoods on Lansing's west side, and engage local residents to actively transform public space in Lansing."

If the campaign attains its crowdfunding goal of \$13,000 by Wednesday, December 30, 2015, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) will provide a \$13,000 matching grant. For project details and to contribute, please visit: [www.patronicity.com/PointWest](http://www.patronicity.com/PointWest)

"SOCA is very excited to partner with our neighborhood stakeholders to launch this crowdfunding effort," said Rory Neuner, consultant to SOCA. "The Point West Art and Trail project is an opportunity to transform and connect. Not only will we create a new trail and build public art on Lansing's west side, this project will connect the Westside and Old Oakland neighborhoods to each other, and to nearby businesses."

The Point West Art and Trail project will provide local park users with a one-mile long, safe, multi-use trail that will be accessible from both sides of the Saginaw-Oakland corridor. The trail will have landscaping, benches, public gardens, physical-fitness stations, and informational signs. The public art will be designed to represent the surrounding community and to produce a traffic calming effect for cars on M-43.

Prior to the crowdfunding campaign launch, SOCA, OONA, and WNA have raised \$25,000 of the estimated \$238,000 total project costs. They are collaboratively pursuing several other grant and funding opportunities to bring this project to completion. Groundbreaking on the project is expected in spring of 2016.



## **MINK MOONLIGHTING**

**In Lansing's  
Old Westside Neighborhood  
Mary Ann Mink  
517-614-2430 (call/text)  
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**25 years of experience**

**PHOTO EDITING**  
remove unwanted objects,  
fix errors, remove red eye

**DESIGN**  
flyers, print ads, tri-folds and  
other brochures

**MICROSOFT OFFICE**  
PowerPoint, Word, Excel

## **RACER Update on Lansing Area Properties**

Recent media reports have highlighted that there is a party interested in redeveloping the RACER Trust's Lansing sites. Indeed, RACER has been in discussions for several months with a party interested in acquiring RACER's Lansing and Lansing Township properties. If these discussions result in a purchase agreement, redevelopment activities would likely begin soon after closing on a sale. RACER's focus is on maximizing the redevelopment potential of the properties for the benefit of the community and the prospect is believed to be fully capable of doing just that. If and when RACER is in a position to say more about this prospect it will do so without delay.

In addition to finding new uses for properties that will help create jobs, RACER remediates properties owned by the old General Motors Company prior to the 2009 bankruptcy. Its mission is to ensure that environmental conditions are not an impediment to sale or industrial re-use. In fact, in most cases, RACER properties can be sold for new uses even before environmental cleanups are started or completed, assuming RACER is guaranteed continuing access to the properties to conduct cleanup work. That is likely what will occur with the Lansing area sites.

RACER has been working diligently with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) on the cleanup activities on Plants 2, 3 and 6 in Lansing and Lansing Township. As a result of this effort it has been determined that under current conditions, contamination at the sites does not pose a risk to the community.

RACER is continuing to investigate possible remedies to address the lower 1,4-dioxane plume located 80 feet below ground on Plants 2 and 3. As part of that investigation RACER is installing additional borings and monitoring wells on the Plant 2 site and in two locations in the neighborhood west of Plant 2. The latter will help to determine if the Adams Plating site located on Rosemary Street is impacting the lower plume. Making that determination is one factor that will allow RACER to identify the best remedy for addressing the 1,4-dioxane plume.

In other activities, targeted excavation of contaminated soil at Plant 6 on Verlinden Street in the city began on November 23 and will continue at least until the end of December 2015. Work to clean and close out the clarifier, an in-ground, uncovered, circular concrete storm water storage structure about 40 feet in diameter south of Willow Street on the Plant 3 property, will likely continue until at least the end of December. RACER continues to monitor groundwater quality on the Lansing and Lansing Township sites and will take additional steps in the event the monitoring identifies changes in groundwater quality that need to be addressed.

Once RACER has all of the information from the investigation activities noted above, it will make recommendations to MDEQ that may include the need for further investigation or a request to approve a cleanup plan.

Finally, we are pleased our agreement with Peckham's Next Step Program has been so successful. Under the agreement, students were able to transform the concrete barriers along Saginaw Street into a piece of art called Project RestART. The nonprofit vocational rehabilitation organization partnered 100 youth in its various programs and with 30 Michigan State University students and students at Riddle Elementary School to complete the project. Congratulations to everyone who made the project such a success!

As always, RACER is committed to communicating with residents. Questions about the Lansing sites can be directed to:

General site maintenance: Sam Solomon: [ssolomon@racertrust.org](mailto:ssolomon@racertrust.org) or 248-990-1042.

Environmental issues: Grant Trigger: [gtrigger@racertrust.org](mailto:gtrigger@racertrust.org) or 313-670-6226.

Redevelopment: Bruce Rasher: [brasher@racertrust.org](mailto:brasher@racertrust.org) or 734-355-2900.



## Simple Recycling reminder!

Remember that the green Simple Recycling bags should go out on your regularly scheduled recycling day. If you've been skipped over, please call 866-835-5068 to notify them - they're usually great at picking them up the next day! Help keep our neighborhood looking lovely and please avoid letting these sit at the curb for long lengths of time.

For more information, visit [www.lansingmi.gov/ClothingandTextileRecycling](http://www.lansingmi.gov/ClothingandTextileRecycling).

## Pick up after your pup - it's the neighborly thing to do...

Is there anything worse than stepping in dog doo? Yuck! Please, do the responsible thing and clean up after your pup when walking the neighborhood. Your neighbors and the grass will thank you for it!

## Home safety tips

Stay safe and protect yourself with some personal safety tips from Lansing Police Department:

1. Dead-bolts on every exterior door
2. Secure sliding doors with commercially available locks and wood dowel in the track.
3. Don't hide keys in a mail box, planters or under door mats, etc. Give the key to a trusted neighbor.
4. All porches, entrances and yards should be well-lighted.
5. When you go away, put lights and a radio on timers. Leave curtains and shades in normal positions.
6. Be suspicious of people coming to your home by mistake. Frequently this is the M.O. used to determine if someone is at home.
7. Become involved in neighborhood watch.
8. Exchange work and vacation schedules with a neighbor you trust. Keep an eye on each other's homes.
9. Keep garages closed – even when you are home and outside.
10. Lock your vehicles when parked outside – even if you are leaving soon.
11. Never leave valuables in your vehicle (lap tops, CD cases, briefcases, purses).
12. Keep your car keys next to your bed. If you hear an intruder, activate your car alarm. That will alert neighbors and likely frighten off anyone in the home or outside.



**Chris Swope**  
Lansing City Clerk

## Passport Services at City Hall



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- Processing Fee stays in the City

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

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**The WNA Board wishes you and your  
family**

Happy



Holidays!