

the Westsider

Fall 2020

PRESENTED BY THE

Westside Neighborhood Association



WELCOME TO THE WESTSIDE!

Dear Neighbors,

If life is about change, then a blitz has certainly been thrust upon us. We, the Westside Neighborhood Board, missed you this summer. We had some fun events planned, including the family-friendly favorite, the Westside Neighborhood Picnic. Now we find ourselves in a quandary as to how to continue with neighborhood engagement, as well as continue to raise funds for future events and publications like this newsletter. With that, thank you to our advertisers for their support.

Even though social distancing has caused us to curtail lively interactions, I hope that you continue to smile and wave at your neighbors. There is an air of unease that has swept across our country. However, no matter your political affiliation or social construct stance, I feel that we can agree that we want to continue to live in a safe and welcoming neighborhood. One of the ways to achieve that is to know your neighbor.

Whether it was by choice, by law, or by happenstance, the Westside Neighborhood has a rich history of inclusion and diversity. It seems for the most part that the neighborhood has continued to embrace and even in some cases, celebrate our differences. It has been observed with respect. Other times, lifted up to be showcased. That is encouraging. It offers hope that the world around us could possibly have a majority set of people that truly wish to see a more inclusive way of being.

I encourage you Westsiders to rise to the occasion and become leaders in the quest to justice, peaceful resolution, and equity. It may be a long road that will need to be traveled. However, the first step could be simply a wave and a friendly hello to your neighbor. Especially if it means introducing yourself to someone you don't know.

We are here together. And as we enter into the cold season of partial hibernation, I hope you remain diligent in offering a friendly face to help show the world that we can be a gumbo mix of people who want what is best for individuals that make up this nation.

Thank you for your time,

~Melik



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Safe & Healthy Halloween

We know that everything is different in 2020, and Halloween will be no exception. We want all neighbors to know about the guidance from our state and federal experts so that we can have a safe and healthy holiday.

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) considers trick-or-treating a high-risk activity. If you choose to trick-or-treat, stay home if they are sick, maintain social distancing of at least six feet, wear a cloth mask that covers both the mouth and nose, and wash hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.

Ideas and other information is available at [CDC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) or [Michigan.gov/coronavirus](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus).

Westside in Bloom!

The City of Lansing and the Ingham County Land Bank provided the Westside neighborhood with 25 free flower kits on May 16. Those flowers, intended to beautify common areas throughout the neighborhood, have certainly done so! While COVID-19 prevented a community planting party, it has not prevented us from sending a friendly greeting — in the form of a cheerful and colorful flower display — to others enjoying the great outdoors.

Volunteers responding to the call at the annual meeting, in the Spring online newsletter, and on the WNA Facebook group, chose flowers from among the 20 flats of annuals and perennials (along with 50 bags of mulch) from Letts Community Center. Then, they dispersed throughout the neighborhood, adding beautiful gardens to medians, islands, and around traffic signs. Many thanks to those who volunteered their time and talent to



beautify our neighborhood! Please be mindful that some of the new plantings (coneflowers and coreopsis) are perennials and, while they did not flower this year, should not be removed as they will provide color for years to come.

Thanks, also, to those who have been tending to our common areas on an ongoing basis. In a year when many of us have been spending more time than usual walking, running, and biking around the neighborhood, an ever-changing horticultural display in the islands dividing our winding streets has been a welcome respite, and is a big part of what makes the Westside special.

Be Informed about Your Rights & Resources as a Lansing City Voter

By Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope

In this Presidential Election Year, I want to pass along information to assist you in making the voting process as easy as possible. Voters now have many more options to ensure their voice can be heard in our democracy.

Voting from home (Absentee Voting)

Because we are still encouraged to limit our exposure to other people, I encourage every voter to take advantage of the opportunity to vote from home (also known as absentee voting). In order for my office to mail you a ballot, you need to complete an application. The application can be found on my website at Lansingmi.gov/clerk. However, the form is not even required. You can write a short note stating to mail you a ballot, write your address that you want the ballot mailed to and sign it. You can also submit an application online by visiting Michigan.gov/vote.



There are lots of options to submit the request:

1. Take a picture and email application to city.clerk@lansingmi.gov
2. Fax the request to 517-377-0068
3. Use a secured drop box at Letts Community Center, South Washington Election Unit, 2500 S. Washington, Lansing City Hall, or any Lansing City fire station or community center
4. Mail to Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope, 124 W. Michigan Ave 9th Floor, 48933
5. Online at Michigan.gov/vote

You can fill the application out NOW and request a ballot to be mailed to your home for the November General Election. Ballots will be mailed to you on September 24, 40 days before the election. You have until November 3, Election Day at 8 p.m., to return your ballot.

We will accept absentee ballots at any drop box. If you do not drop off or mail your ballot, then you can still vote in person at your precinct. If you bring your absentee ballot to your precinct, you will have to surrender it and start with a new ballot to vote at the polls.

Forty days before every election, I open the South Washington Election Unit during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.), and provide extended evening hours on Wednesdays and some weekends, to allow one-stop, in-person voting until 4 p.m. on the

Monday before the election. Located at 2500 S. Washington, the Election Unit offers free parking, a 24-hour secure drop box, and is conveniently located on CATA Route #2.

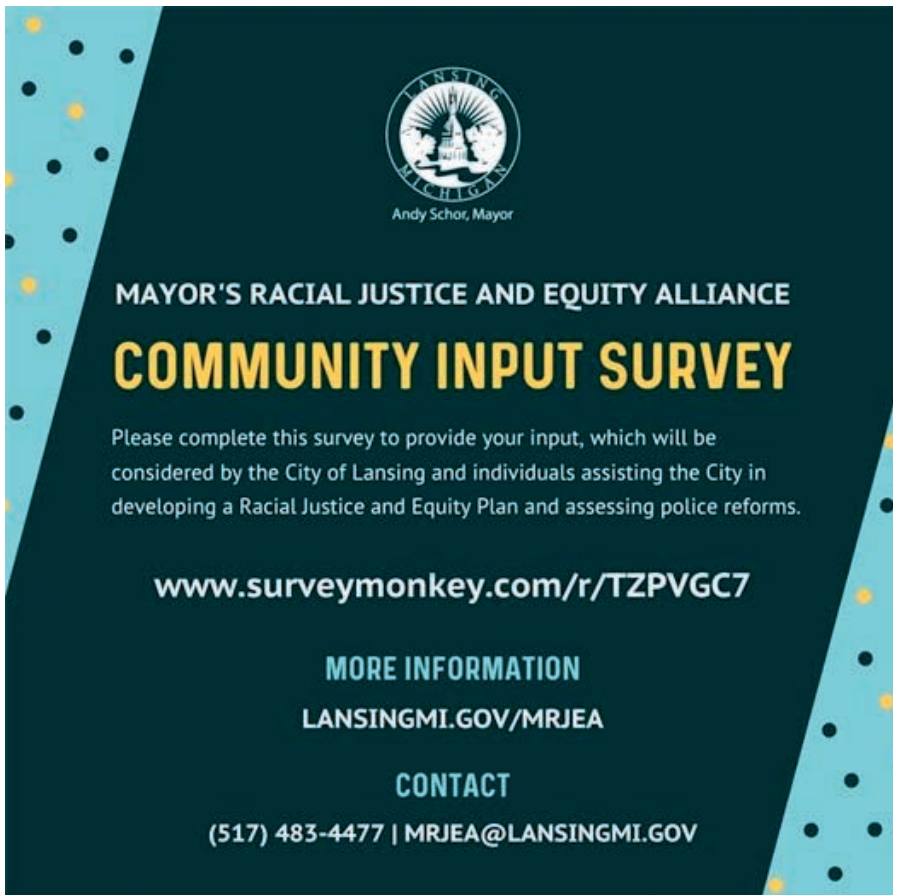
City of Lansing voters may also come to the City Clerk's Office on the 9th floor of City Hall during regular business hours to register to vote, complete the absentee voter application, secure a ballot, and vote.


Voter Registration at your Local Clerk's Office up to and Including Election Day

There is no longer a deadline for voter registration. Through Election Day, a Lansing City citizen can come to either location of the City Clerk's Office with proof of residency to register and vote both in one visit.

Prior to 14 days before an election, U.S. citizens can register to vote at the Clerk's Offices, Secretary of State Branches, by mail, or even online with your Michigan driver license or state ID. It is very easy to register to vote online at Michigan.gov/vote. One does not have to wait until they're 18 years old to register to vote. If someone will be 18 by the

Continued on p. 6




Andy Schor, Mayor

MAYOR'S RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY ALLIANCE

COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY

Please complete this survey to provide your input, which will be considered by the City of Lansing and individuals assisting the City in developing a Racial Justice and Equity Plan and assessing police reforms.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/TZPVGC7

MORE INFORMATION
LANSINGMI.GOV/MRJE

CONTACT
[\(517\) 483-4477](tel:(517)483-4477) | MRJE@LANSINGMI.GOV

Be Informed ... *Cont. from p. 6*

November 3 Presidential Election, they can register NOW! There is no need to wait until Election Day to register to vote.

Many people incorrectly believe that they are unable to vote. Returning citizens who are no longer incarcerated can vote. Also, people who have moved within the City are **STILL** able to vote. Don't assume that you are unable to vote. Call my office and let's make sure you have correct information both as to your voting status and your polling location.

Before going to the polls, make a plan. You have many options to exercise your right to vote. Please visit Lansingmi.gov/clerk or call 517-483-4133 if you have questions. And links on our website will direct you to:

- Voter Registration Verification & Polling Location (with a map!)
- Preview YOUR Personal Sample Ballot
- Absentee Ballot Request Forms
- Links to Nonpartisan Voting Resources

Photo ID and Voting

If you happen to forget your photo identification on the way to the polls or do not possess an acceptable ID, your vote will still be counted in most situations. You will be asked to sign a brief affidavit that states that you do not have an ID with you. Also, you do **NOT** need your voter registration card to vote.

The following types of photo ID are acceptable at polling locations:

- Michigan driver's license or state-issued ID card
- Driver's license or personal identification card issued by another state
- Federal or state government-issued photo identification
- U.S. passport
- Military ID with photo
- Student identification with photo from a high school or accredited institution of higher learning
- Tribal identification card with photo

There are first time voters who registered by mail who must meet a federal ID requirement. If you are a first time voter and did not register at the Secretary of State, county clerk, or local clerk's office, I strongly advise you to bring ID or a document with your name and current address, such as a utility bill.

Bradly and I are proud to have been part of the Westside Neighborhood for 20 years. It is easy to take for granted doing our civic duty — things like completing the census or voting. However, it is these actions which provide a collective voice to elected leaders, myself included. Voting: Make it a Habit!

Census Deadline Approaching

Have you completed the Census? The deadline was Sept. 30, but a legal challenge may extend it, so you may have time to complete it!

The Census is vitally important to our community. The results determine how many seats in Congress each state gets. The results also help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into communities through programs such as Head Start, Pell Grants, school lunches, adult education, and grants for preschool special education.

If you have not yet submitted your 2020 Census, time is running short! Visit lansingmi.gov/Census or 2020census.gov to learn more, complete the census, and be counted today!



Lansing Fireworks Ordinance



There has been a lot of controversy on the WNA Facebook page about neighbors setting off fireworks illegally. Per Lansing ordinance, fireworks may be lawfully set off in the summer months on the Saturday and Sunday before Memorial Day between the hours of 11 a.m. and 11:45 p.m., June 29 to July 4 between 11 a.m. and 11:45 p.m., and the Saturday and Sunday before Labor Day between 11 a.m. and 11:45 p.m.

People violating this ordinance are subject to a \$1,000 fine. More importantly, setting off fireworks is very unsettling to many neighbors in the community. People suffering from PTSD may be further traumatized by the loud and unpredictable noises, as are many children. Folks who need to be up for work are awakened by them. And many dogs are ultra sensitive to the fireworks.

Please show respect and kindness to your neighbors by complying with the local ordinance.



NorthWest Initiative's Mobile Farmers Market

The NorthWest Initiative's Mobile Farmers Market exists to help low-income people have easier access to produce. Since transportation is often an issue, the NorthWest Initiative has established a mobile pop up market every Thursday and Friday. On Thursdays, it is held at Capitol Commons from 1:30-2:30 p.m., Riverfront Apartments from 3-4 p.m., and Riddle Elementary School from 4:30-6 p.m. On Fridays, it is at Mt. Vernon Park from 12-1:30 p.m., Family Dollar from 2-3 p.m., and Abigail Senior Apartments from 3:30-4:30 p.m. The Market accepts cash, debit/credit, EBT, WIC Project Fresh, Double Up Food Bucks, and Senior Market Fresh Coupons. The last three can only be used on Michigan grown produce. For up to date info, its Facebook page is "Lansing Mobile Farm Market."



For Westside Neighbors, the easiest way to visit the Riddle stop is via Chelsea St. (accessible from Huron, between Allegan and Washtenaw).

Walking Wednesday: Stay Tuned!

Many will fondly remember the guided tours around the neighborhood, with guides pointing out historic homes, lovely gardens, and buildings of note. The Board applied to the City of Lansing for a "Walking Wednesday" this year and was awarded one to take place on May 6, 2020. Neighbors would have joined with the mayor and other city officials to enjoy an hour-long walk and learn about some of the neighborhood's unique characteristics. The event was initially postponed until September, but the ongoing health concerns have led to some creative problem solving.

Instead, the City plans to send out members of Lansing Public Media to film a walking tour of the neighborhood, which will be aired on the public access station, social media, and YouTube. Tune in on Wednesdays throughout the fall to see the streets you call home, along with walking tours of neighborhoods such as Prospect Place Neighborhood, Oak Park Neighborhood, and the Baker Neighborhood.



The Westside and Lansing Lost a National Treasure in Dr. Eva L. Evans

By Andrea King Collier

There are so many reasons to be a proud member of Lansing's Westside Neighborhood. And one of those is the legacy left by so many community servant leaders who have called it home. We lost one of those dear people on July 20, 2020, with the passing of Dr. Eva L. Evans.

If you ask anybody who has been active in the Greater Lansing Community for any period of time, most will have a great Dr. Evans story for you. One that will make you so proud to have known her. Or one that will make you sad that you didn't get a chance to spend time with her. It might be about her years of commitment to Lansing's children. She was the first woman to serve



as the deputy superintendent in charge of instruction at the Lansing School District. Eva had an unflinching understanding of the power of a good education and the upward mobility it could bring; she worked tirelessly to lift every child up. Lansing children were all of her children, and she was invested in their wellbeing.

She was an icon on the local, state, and national levels in all that she did. There are so many people who knew her and loved her. I am one of them, through serving with her on many civic and cultural boards, and I can tell you how much I learned from sitting at the table with her. Or maybe it was the many women here in town and internationally who proudly called her Soror, as she was the 24th International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., one of the first Black sororities in this country, a position she held from 1994 to 1998. She was a charter member of the Lansing/East Lansing Links, Inc. With all her other pursuits, she was an amazing cook and a fabulous songstress, whether it was a solo cabaret event or singing with the Earl Nelson Singers.

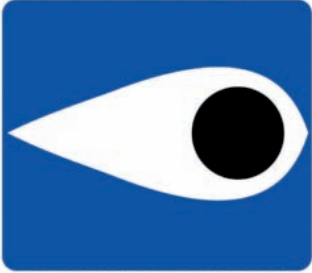
I could go on about her powerful resume, and all of her networks and connections. But there are many obituaries of her on social media and in the newspapers. I want to talk about this wonderful talent she had to be a friend, a wonderful friend. She embraced us as a young family, when we moved here 30 years ago. She was my wise counsel on so many occasions and, when my husband decided to go into teaching, she was a sounding board for him as well. My very first book gathering as a new author was at Eva's house, attended by all of her friends.

There is an old and powerful saying about being motivated to greatness—you have to see it to even have the audacity to want to be it. Being in her presence made you want to be the best you that you could. She modeled kindness, elegance, and grace. She owned any room just by showing up and giving you that smile of hers. We were all lucky to have the national treasure that was Eva L. Evans right here in our Westside neighborhood.

Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood watch is one of the oldest and best-known crime prevention concepts in North America. In the late 1960s, an increase in crime heightened the need for a crime prevention initiative focused on residential areas and involving local citizens.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER

The National Sheriffs' Association responded, creating the National Neighborhood Watch program in 1972, to assist citizens and law enforcement. In the years since, strengthening and securing communities has become more critical than ever. Neighborhood watch programs have responded to the challenge, expanding beyond their traditional crime prevention role to help neighborhoods focus on disaster preparedness, emergency response, and terrorism awareness.

The WNA Neighborhood Watch Program is part of the Crime and Safety Committee and is coordinated by Laura Hall. Due to the COVID-19

Pandemic, Crime and Safety and Neighborhood Watch have not had meetings since March.

However, we know that crime doesn't take any time off and it's important that we reconnect and reunite to continue to keep our neighborhoods safe. Watch Members are the eyes and ears of Neighborhood Watch. The success of Neighborhood Watch depends on neighbors who are alert and who communicate with each other.



If you are interested in participating in the Neighborhood Watch, please message Laura Hall at board@wnalansing.com. If there is enough interest, we will schedule a Zoom meeting.

Welcome

Officer Anthony VandeVoorde is the new Neighborhood Watch and Business Officer of Lansing Police Department. He replaces Officer Osborne who has moved to the Detective Division. Officer VandeVoorde will attend Crime and Safety meetings when possible.

If you have any issues, you'd like to discuss with him, please contact him at (517) 483-6812. His office is located at 5815 Wise Road, Lansing 48910.



Officer Anthony VandeVoorde at a summer gathering in Lansing.

Masks are Required

In light of the recent Michigan Supreme Court decision, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has taken action to ensure the safety of all residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. The department issued an emergency order under its pandemic authority to require people to wear masks in public spaces. The Ingham County Health Department has issued a similar order.

It's important that all Michiganders wear masks properly - not down around the neck, not only over the mouth, but correctly over the mouth and nose. Correctly wearing a mask or face covering can significantly decrease the chance of spreading COVID-19 and save lives.

Before putting on a mask, clean your hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and water.

Cover your mouth and nose and make sure there are no gaps between your face and the mask.

Avoid touching the mask while using it. If you do touch it, clean your hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and water.

Replace the mask with a new one as soon as it is damp and don't reuse single-use masks.

To remove the mask, remove it from behind. Do not touch the front of the mask. Discard immediately in a closed bin. After disposal, clean hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and water.

Pet Spotlight: Callahan and Argo

Callahan and Argo are greyhounds who live with Joel and Will near the corner of Westmoreland and Genesee drives. The pooches, and their humans, can be seen taking walks all over the Westside neighborhood, and Joel and Will say they are very grateful for their friends and inspiring neighbors.



Callahan (left) and Argo (right) pictured with Joel.



Lansing School District Reimagined for 2020

The Lansing School District went 100% virtual when the fall semester began Aug. 31.

All school districts were required to put together plans for fall instruction, depending on how well the state was advancing in the fight against COVID-19.

Under Lansing's plan, the fall semester began with screen-to-screen live instruction between teachers and students. Superintendent Sam Sinicropi reported that this plan was more interactive than classes were in the spring, with several different teachers likely to engage with each student throughout the school day.

If you are facing a new challenge or being asked to do something that you have never done before don't be afraid to step out. You have more capability than you think you do but you will never see it unless you place a demand on yourself for more."

— Joyce Meyer

The school district's website said the district will provide a computer to students who don't have them. It also said the district is working with internet providers to make sure each family has internet access.

Under the plan, attendance for online classes is mandatory. Students' daily schedules include time for meal breaks and physical activity.

For parents who can't work from home, school leaders worked with local organizations to set up child care. Free breakfast and lunch is still provided

Sinicropi says administrators hope to get students back in school for face-to-face instruction as soon as it is safe.

Speeding Update

Speeding on residential streets is probably the most persistent problem facing residents and traffic officers. Residents observe vehicles being driven at speeds they perceive as too fast and often propose solutions that simply won't reduce speeds or that create other traffic safety problems.

Excessive speed has been the cause of two accidents at Union Baptist Church this summer. June 29 Lansing Police and Fire responded to a two-car crash at Martin Luther King Boulevard and Malcolm X Street near St. Joseph. When emergency crews arrived, they found two damaged cars that had come to a stop on the lawn of the Union Missionary

Baptist Church. One of the cars had rolled over. Then, on July 18, a young lady died when her vehicle left southbound Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., striking a telephone pole.

Why won't the police ticket the speeders on our streets?

You can assist the police. When you notice a speeder, make note of the time, location, and vehicle in question (make, model, year, color, license number) and driver (size, age, clothing, sex). Pass this information on to your local police department to be included in their selective enforcement program by calling the non-emergency number at 517-483-4600.

Pledging his help in curbing this problem, Officer Anthony VandeVoorde has asked that when you call the non-emergency number to report the offenders, you also call him to let him know at (517) 483-6812. He will then follow up to make sure an officer comes out to catch the offenders.

Music on the Street

Charlie Richardson and Jackalope performed a pop-up concert in August in the Westside Neighborhood. Members of the band are: Michael Lawrence, bass/backup singer; Charlie Richardson, lead singer, guitar; and David Stowe, drummer, saxophone. The trio performed pop-up performances of their Americana-style music to the delight of neighbors and friends, with more shows planned.

Learn more about the band at facebook.com/jackalopeband.



A Different Hidden Gem

Westside neighbor Tiffany McGillie painted and hid rocks throughout the neighborhood in August, and some of them are hidden throughout this edition. Be sure to post to the Westside Neighborhood Association Facebook group if you find one while exploring Lansing's Westside neighborhood!



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“My family and I have lived in the Westside Neighborhood since 2007. I am familiar with the best attributes of this wonderful neighborhood and will work hard to find a buyer who loves the area as much as we do! Let my love for the Westside Neighborhood work for you!”

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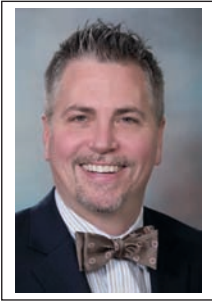
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Lansing, MI 48912





Chris Swope

Lansing City Clerk

Proud Resident and Advocate of
The Westside Neighborhood!

Services of the Clerk's Office include:

- Voter Registration
- Absentee Ballots
- Notary Public Services
- Business Licensing
- City Council Agendas & Minutes
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