

the Westsider

PRESENTED BY THE

Westside Neighborhood Association

wmlansing.org



2022
Vol. 2

Welcome to the Westside!

Hello neighbors!

For the last couple years, we have been the faces behind the development of *The Westsider* newsletter. Amidst our busy work and home lives, we have been working to fill the shoes of the creative people who launched and produced our neighborhood newsletter for more than a decade.

Serving on the Westside Neighborhood Association board and helping develop *The Westsider* lets us connect with our community and contribute to the positive things happening here.



Non-Westside friends often comment that they've never said one word to their neighbors. That is certainly not the case here. In our experience, the Westside neighborhood is a large but relatively close-knit community. We exchange friendly hellos on walks, support neighbors' businesses, plant trees, pick up trash in the park – and much more. Our neighbors are friendly and fun, and we count ourselves lucky to live here, which is why it is important to us to give back where we can.

We'd encourage you to think about getting involved or attending a meeting sometime, and this edition has details about both – how to get involved in the Westside Neighborhood Association Board and information about planning for our 2023 Annual Meeting in January. There's also important information about the upcoming Election, how to deter catalytic converter theft, and updates about the city's upcoming sewer separation project.

We hope you enjoy this edition as much as we enjoyed putting it together, and we hope you'll shoot us an email at board@wnalansing.com if you're interested in submitting an article or placing an ad in 2023!

Laura and Eric Hall

WNA Board Member and Volunteer

2022 WNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Melik Brown

Vice President: Mitzi Allen

Treasurer: Laura Hall

Secretary: Heath Lowry

Maya Lowry | Heidi Frei Clancy

The Westsider Layout and Design: Eric Hall | Cover Photo by Eric Hall

On the cover: Signs of fall in the Westside Neighborhood.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!!

Do you have a passion for improving where you live? The Westside Neighborhood Association is seeking new volunteers and board members for 2023!

The WNA works to bring together neighbors and enhance our community through projects and events. The volunteers of the WNA work hard to support our neighbors through projects like Neighborhoods in Bloom, installing dog waste stations, picnics and ice cream socials, and even this newsletter – and we need your help to continue these efforts!

The WNA meets monthly and anyone can volunteer to support the WNA's events and projects throughout the year. If you are interested in getting engaged or if you would like to learn more – contact the WNA board at board@wnalansing.com. For a schedule of upcoming meetings, visit WNALansing.com/Events1.



2023 Annual Meeting Survey

Plans are underway for the Westside Neighborhood Association's 2023 Annual Meeting. The meeting will likely be held 6-8 p.m. one evening in January 2023 – details will be mailed to neighbors later this year!

Prior to COVID-19, the meeting was held in the Sexton High School cafeteria, and it has been hosted virtually in 2021 and 2022. To assist us in deciding whether to host this meeting in person or virtually in 2023, we are asking neighbors to complete a brief survey to share their preferences for the meeting.

The survey is posted at WNALansing.com/Annual-Meeting or on the Westside Neighborhood Association Facebook group at [Facebook.com/groups/WestsideNeighborhoodAssociation!](https://Facebook.com/groups/WestsideNeighborhoodAssociation)

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



By Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope

For this upcoming Election Year, I wanted to pass along information to assist you in making the voting process as easy as possible. Voters have so many more options now to ensure their voice is heard in our democracy.

Voting from Home (Absentee Voting)

I encourage every voter to take advantage of the opportunity to vote from home or come to the Clerk's office and vote early, also known as absentee voting. You may return your absentee ballot at any City of Lansing election drop box. We

have one in our Westside Neighborhood at Letts Community Center.

You can fill the application out NOW and request a ballot to be mailed to your home for the November General Election. Ballots are being mailed starting on September 29, which is forty days before the election. You have up until Election Day by 8 p.m. to return your ballot.

If you do not return 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.), as well as extended hours on Wednesdays and some weekend hours, to allow one-stop in-person voting until 4 p.m. on the Monday the day 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 complete the absentee voter application, ballot, and register to vote.

Voter Registration at Your Local Clerks up to and including Election Day

There is no longer a deadline for voter registration. Fourteen days out 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



VOTE

does not have to wait until they are 18 years old to register to vote. If someone will be 18 by the November 8th Election Day, they can register now!

Many people incorrectly believe that they are unable to vote. 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 the correct information.

Before going to the polls, make a plan. You have lots of options on exercising your right to vote. Please visit LansingVotes.gov or call 517-483-4131 if you have questions. You will discover links on our website to:

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

Bradley 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 us a collective voice to elected leaders, myself included. Voting – Make it a Habit!

History of the Lansing CSO Control Program

Submitted by the City of Lansing

Like many older cities in the State of Michigan, the older section of the City of Lansing was constructed with a “combined sewer”, which is a single sewer that handles both sewage and rainwater during wet weather. However, these sewers were designed to overflow raw sewage to area waterways when sewer pipe capacity is exceeded due to rain. Therefore, in 1991, the City began construction of a State-mandated Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Program with the goal of “separating” sewers in order to eliminate overflows of raw sewage to area waterways during rain events. Specifically, sewer separation is accomplished by building a new sanitary sewer to handle sewage, while the old combined sewer becomes the designated storm sewer on the street.

Notably, the City always completes the CSO Projects with Lansing Board of Water & Light participation, so that replacement of the decades old watermain is accomplished with the same construction project; thereby, minimizing inconvenience to the neighborhood.

CSO 015 South Project Overview

- The project area, including the Westside Neighborhood, currently overflows raw sewage to the Grand River during rain events.
- The project will be a 3-year construction project in seasons 2023 through 2025 with work in the Westside Neighborhood largely occurring in 2024 and 2025.
- This utility project will result in construction of many new or renewed facilities, including:
 - Over 25,000 feet of new sanitary sewer;
 - Over 30,000 feet of new watermain, and
 - Several thousand feet of new roadway pavement and curb & gutter.
- Upon completion in 2025, **sewage overflows to the Grand River will have been reduced by an estimated volume of 80 million gallons, annually.**

Protect our Islands, Preserve our History, Save our Trees

By Hillery Glasby and Heidi Frei

Many Westsiders are proud of the charm, history and character of our neighborhood including our homes, gardens and unique street design. Trees and tree-lined streets were so prized that a US Forest Service forester was called upon to assist in development of Westmoreland. It is believed that a few at-risk island trees were planted shortly after Westmoreland was developed! Equally, we are proud supporters and advocates for the City of Lansing and the Grand River. Undeniably, sewer separation in Lansing is long overdue and everyone supports protecting the River.

Protecting the River also includes growing and maintaining green infrastructure, which reduces waste water before it enters the City sewer system. Green infrastructure consists of the network of trees and vegetation in the city that provide services like absorbing greenhouse gases, reducing urban heat island effect, reducing waste water, providing habitat and enhancing quality of life. For example, one mature oak tree can transpire 40,000 gallons of water each year. Considering only water and air quality, greenspace with trees provide a value of \$7,200/acre in services each year.

The proposed CSO work first targeted safety and confusion as selling points for removal of trees and razing of the islands, which were platted and deeded to the City as miniature parks. Following notification, over 100 neighbors participated in 'Island Hops' this summer to learn more and share ideas; countless more submitted their concerns to city staff. Though the City has confirmed that the curvilinear design, a defining feature of the early 20th century City Beautiful movement, will be retained, the fate of the trees and island parks, is not clear, nor is and the location of pipes and the

necessity to demolish parks.

The Westside neighborhood, and Lansing as a whole, needs trees. In 2021, Lansing removed 497 trees and replaced with 215 trees, only 43% of what we lost. Considering this rate, the City cannot afford to fell trees without careful consideration. Would you demolish your home and rebuild anew without knowing the value of the initial

structure first? Decisions must weigh the cost of preservation in order to make an informed decision. Considering the wastewater remediating potential of mature, historic trees, tree and perennial preservation makes good environmental sense.



Westsidiers value community. These islands have been cared for and stewarded by volunteers for decades, a value of thousands

of dollars in volunteer service. They have been meeting places, picnic areas, play areas and a cultural community resource since the neighborhood was created. They contribute to our quality of life and property values. Neighbors believe this is not something that can be razed and recreated by replicating the form and hope to further collaborate with the City on the best outcome for the neighborhood, history and the environment.

Thank you to our neighbors, past and present, that have stewarded island parks including: Doris Beck, Todd Cook, Deb Devine, Steve Kozera, Teresa Martinez, Thomas Marshall, Jackie Payne, Dale Rainey, George Smith, Tim Stricker, Jeff Wood, the Harveys, the Goodwins and many more.

For more details, visit [SaveTheWestsideIslands.weebly.com](https://www.savethewestsideislands.weebly.com) or join the Save the Westside Islands Facebook group by scanning this QR code with your phone's camera.



A Safe and Happy Trick or Treat

With Halloween right around the corner, we want to ensure everyone has a safe and spooky time! Trick-or-treating will run from 6-8 p.m. on Halloween night, October 31!

A few tips to keep the little ghouls and goblins of the Westside safe:

- Pick costumes with bright colors or wear bright materials when near the road.
- Dress for the weather.
- Always have an adult accompany younger children.
- Go over safety rules with children, reminding them to never enter a stranger's home and always stay with their group.
- Only go to houses that are well-lit.
- Do not cut through backyards, alleys, parks, or heavily wooded areas.
- Determine a meeting spot with your group in case you get separated.
- Check candy, throwing out any candy with ripped or open wrappers, fresh fruit, and homemade candy or treats.

Have a spooktacular Halloween!

Protect Yourself from Catalytic Converter Thefts

Nationwide, catalytic converter thefts have been on the rise, and the Westside Neighborhood has not been immune to the trend.

A catalytic converter is part of a vehicle's exhaust system and is designed to remove pollutants from a car's exhaust. Converters contain small amounts of rare and precious metals such as platinum, making them a target for thieves. Often, these thefts occur in the middle of the night and can go undetected until the vehicle is started in the morning.

To protect your vehicle from this type of theft, the National Insurance Crime Bureau recommends that you take the following steps:

- Install a catalytic converter anti-theft device. These are available from various manufacturers and can provide a level of security from theft.
- Park vehicles in a garage if possible.
- If vehicles must be parked in a driveway, consider installing motion sensor security lights. While lights may not provide complete security, it may make some thieves think twice, making them leave the area and your vehicle untouched.
- Call local law enforcement and your insurer should you become the victim of a catalytic converter theft.

Pet Spotlight: Simon

The Westside neighborhood is home to many four-legged friends, but one of our most unique pets is Simon the pig who moved to the neighborhood in 2020.



Simon wasn't originally destined to be a Westside resident, though he was connected to the neighborhood from Day 1. Simon's mom, Blossom, is the sister and litter mate of perhaps the Westside's most well-known porcine resident, Henry, who unfortunately passed away in early 2020.

When Simon was a piglet, another family cancelled on picking him up until he was the last of his litter left. With sensitivity to the recent passing of a beloved pet, the breeder reached out to Henry's human to see if she was ready to welcome a new pig into her home, and fortunately for everyone, she could not pass up the opportunity to give a forever home to a new piglet pal.

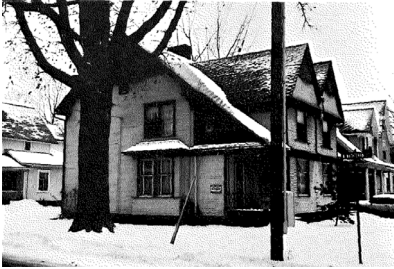
Simon enjoys life in the neighborhood with his human friend and four cats, especially his best feline friend Alice B. Toklas, AKA Baby Kitty. The two are thick as thieves, with Baby Kitty hanging out in Simon's house and bathing him like he's her baby.



Neighborhood Roots: The Resistance

By Heidi Frei

What do sunflowers and basketball have in common? They hang under the oak! In fact, you may find yourself so taken by a game of hoops that you completely overlook this giant!



View along Washtenaw St. in the 1960s.

The corner of MLK and Washtenaw has changed quite a bit over the decades. This tree has resisted conversion of roads to one-way streets, demolition of homes and more. A garden has replaced the 1894 built home on the corner of what was once Logan and Washtenaw. But this white oak is still here, nudging the sidewalk out of the way.

A white oak this size could easily pass for over 200 years old in a forest among friends. Given its location, it's really tough to say. Having aged so well, she may not be interested in sharing anyway.



The Washtenaw oak showcases a sunny demeanor this fall.

Westsiders Screams for Ice Cream!

The Westside Neighborhood Association hosted its annual ice cream social at St. Joseph Park on August 17. About 20 neighbors attended, and we shared the park – and some ice cream – with the kids and families from Kappa Football! It was a very nice opportunity to come together as a community, support young athletes from our city, and enjoy a lovely summer evening – with just a little rain.



Remembering a Westsider: William Carl McCallum

The Westside neighborhood lost a lifelong resident this year with the passing of William Carl McCallum on March 1, 2022. William, also known as “Dirty Bill,” “Wild Bill,” and “Willie,” was born on June 21, 1943.



Bill attended Sexton High School but didn't graduate because he was kicked out of the Lansing school district (a true hellraiser). He served in the U.S. Marines, and held many roles in the Lansing area, including working as a disc jockey for many different radio stations and working

in advertising for Gannett. He retired from the State Senate in 1994 as an Ombudsman for Corrections for Sen. Jack Welborn.

He was most proud of making films with his son, Michael, and their company, Rebel Pictures.

Bill was an award-winning actor, writer, producer and was the star of the multi award-winning films “Fairview St.,” “Handlebar,” and “Buffalo.”

Bill loved music from the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, and loved classic cars, working on cars, and car shows. He loved cruising around and taking road trips. Bill was gentle, loved by children and animals alike, but could be a badass when necessary and had a wit and a storytelling ability second to none.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, William T. and Margaret N. McCallum; and his second wife, Josephine B. McCallum. He is survived by his children, Michael McCallum and Scott Maskiell; grandchildren: Henry Maskiell and Maxx Maskiell; first wife, Carol Maskiell; and Michael's close childhood friends who thought of Bill like a second father: Steve Russell, Josh Russell, Jerrod Root, and Levertis Crump.

To see Bill's work, visit RebelPictures.net





Sexton High School to Rebrand

Sexton High School will soon undergo a rebranding, dropping its Native American mascot and starting a search for a new one. The move comes with the help of an \$87,500 Native American Heritage Fund grant, which supports projects aimed at reducing the number of insensitive school mascots while honoring Native American culture and history.

The search for a new mascot and logo will be driven by students, alumni and community members.

This move comes after Riddle Elementary School changed from the Little Reds to the Rhinos in 2021.

School officials have said that community members will have multiple chances to provide feedback during the design process. The final mascot and logo will be unveiled to the public during a future pep rally. The new logo and mascot is expected to be fully implemented by the start of the 2023-24 school year.

Northwest Initiative Fall Programs

Now that the weather is turning cooler, we are gearing up for a very active fall with programming for kids, seniors and all residents of the Westside! Follow us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/NWLansing](https://www.facebook.com/NWLansing) for up-to-date details and exciting news.



Food Distribution

Our Outreach team will resume distributing free food boxes on Wednesday, October 19. Boxes include fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, juice, assorted Panera Breads and other items as available.

- 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month noon to 2 p.m., or until supplies run out
- ID required. No zip code restrictions.
- No cost, one box per family/car
- Located on the lower level of First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St, Lansing 48933

Weekend Survival Kits – 35 Volunteers Needed

NorthWest Initiative serves as the Lansing Co-Coordinator of the Weekend Survival Kit Program. Last school year, our volunteers helped to pack over 10,400 food kits twice a month for thousands of children in the Greater Lansing area who do not have enough food to eat each day. The WSK Program is a collaboration between Weekend Survival Kit LLC, Sodexo Magic Food Service Program/Lansing School District, Greater Lansing Food Bank, and NorthWest Initiative. We are seeking 35 volunteers to help pack 5:30-8:30 p.m., Wednesday evenings twice a month starting October 19. We pack at the Hill Center, 5815 Wise Road, Lansing, 48911. Follow the north entrance by the police station around to the rear of the building. We pack in the hallway, so you can't miss us!

If you or your group are interested in helping out, please call Sinclair at 517-999-2894 and leave your name and contact information.

Food Systems Program

Our Food Systems Program is offering several nutrition education programming and policy, systems and environmental (PSE) change activities targeted to individuals who received SNAP benefits in the greater Lansing community.

- **Healthy Schools/Healthy Communities** – Staff will be engaging all grade levels at Riddle and Willow Elementary schools in a 6-week nutrition education program
- **Fresh Conversations** – Senior citizens are invited to participate in our 8-week nutrition education program as a way to help increase their knowledge of healthy recipes to prepare. These classes are offered at the following locations: The Abigail Apartments, Riverfront Apartments, Capital Commons Senior, and NWI Office Site.
- **Cooking Demonstrations** – This fall, we'll kick off our in-person nutrition education/cooking demonstrations. Visit [Facebook.com/NWLansing](https://www.facebook.com/NWLansing) for up-to-date information on the days and times of our classes. For specific information, email the team at foodsystemsnwi@gmail.com.

We are currently seeking qualified candidates for our Nutrition Education Coordinator position. Please forward resume and cover letter to peggy@nwlansing.org.

Personal Needs Boxes for Vulnerable Women

While there is ample free food available for low-income residents in our community, there is a growing need for non-food items such as laundry detergent, dish soap, toothpaste and toothbrush, lotions, razors, chap stick and other similar items. NWI has received a grant from Zonta Club-East Lansing and we would like to supplement that so we can provide at least 65 women with a “basic needs” non-food box three to four times between this fall and next spring. Our target audience is low-income women living on their own that have been hesitant to reach out for help due to pride or believing that there is someone more in need of assistance.

We need your help! We are seeking donations or special pricing on these items from

corporations or local businesses. If you are interested in helping launch this program, please contact Peggy at 517-999-2894 or at peggy@nwlansing.org. All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Interns & Volunteers Needed

If you are a college student interested in an internship or a person who has a few hours each week to volunteer, we have several opportunities listed below:

• ARRO PROGRAM

- Program Assistants
- Workshop Leaders
- GED Tutors

• OUTREACH PROGRAM

- Weekend Survival Kits
- Mobile Food Distribution
- Mobile Farmers Market
- Website Coordinator
- Social Media Coordinator
- Neighborhood Canvassing

• FOOD SYSTEMS PROJECT

- School based nutrition-education program
- Nutrition Education for Senior Citizens
- In-person nutrition education/ cooking demonstrations
- Riddle and Willow Schools garden maintenance

For specific information on internships or volunteer opportunities please call our front desk at 517-999-2894 or email frontdesk@nwlansing.org.

Our Food Systems Program is funded in whole or in part by the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Michigan Fitness Foundation.

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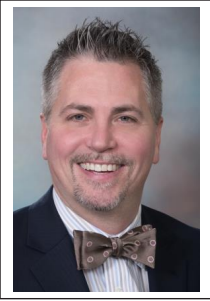
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Chris Swope

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
- Passport Services

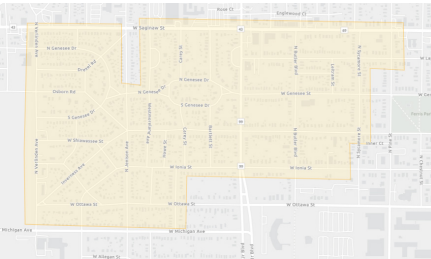


www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope
www.lansingmi.gov/clerk

Office Phone: (517) 483-4131

Consumers Energy Construction Update

Submitted by Consumers Energy



Consumers Energy has begun work in the Westside neighborhood to upgrade our gas system, and is slated to continue work until November 2022 (weather permitting). A map outlines the area work will be happening. This is part of a larger project that will start in spring of 2023.

Your natural gas service line will likely be replaced, and the gas service to your house will be paused for around an hour. If you have a gas meter inside of your home, to adhere to safety requirements, that needs to be moved outside.

Once work is complete, you are able to relight the pilots on your affected appliances. If you prefer, a Consumers employee or contractor can also perform the re-lights. If you are not home, a door-hanger will be left instructing you to call the number (800) 477-5050.

All landscaping and sidewalks affected by the work will be restored. For questions related to restoration, you can call (844) 660-3477.

For additional questions, you can email Adam Bertram at adam.bertram@cmsenergy.com or call at (517) 614-8570

We appreciate your patience as we work to provide the best energy service possible.

the **Westsider**

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

