

# *the* **Westsider**

**Class of**  
**2023**  
**Congratulations!**

PRESENTED BY THE Westside Neighborhood Association



[www.wnasa.org](http://www.wnasa.org)

**2023**  
**Vol. 1**

# Welcome to the Westside!

## Hello Neighbor,

Mowing, weeding, and BBQs, oh my! It is summertime in the Westside Neighborhood and it is fantastic to see young people who were in strollers, now navigating our sidewalks on their two feet. After a season of windy weather, it's nice to have the meandering of slow strolling through the neighborhood. It is also a perfect time to get to know a new neighbor. That could start with just a simple wave. Or if you are like young Raiden and Ciarán, you'll yell "hello!" to anyone within earshot.

Over the years I've witnessed grumbings between neighbors that would lead to interesting inquiries on social media. People would ask what they should do about a situation. My first thought is always, why don't they talk to the person directly? It may seem

a little intimidating but the end result could very well lead to a deeper understanding of not only the matter but the people involved.

Just getting to know your neighbors can be rewarding and fulfilling. Hopefully, you'll be able to take advantage of some activities hosted by the Westside Neighborhood Association throughout the year. Those things include the neighborhood picnic, Candidates' Nights, WNA Crime and Safety Meetings, WNA Board Meetings, as well as the Annual Meeting.

Happy summertime to you, neighbor. Maybe we'll cross paths soon and share a smiling hello.

~Melik



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## 2023 WNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Melik Brown

Vice President: Mitzi Allen

Treasurer: Laura Hall

Secretary: Heath Lowry

Maya Lowry | Heidi Frei Clancy | Keshawn Mitchell-Roland | Rodney Singleton

On the cover: Celebrating Sexton's graduating class of 2023!

# WESTSIDE FUN IN SUMMER 2023

## Watch for News about Annual Picnic

The WNA has received a grant from the city of Lansing to host a picnic for neighbors this summer! The Annual Picnic is always a fun event, hosted at St. Joe's Park, featuring food and fun for the whole family.

Watch for updates at [WNALansing.com](http://WNALansing.com) or on our Facebook group at [Facebook.com/groups/WestsideNeighborhoodAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WestsideNeighborhoodAssociation).

## Get Involved!

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

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, visit [WNALansing.com/get-involved](http://WNALansing.com/get-involved).

## Lansing Celebrates Fourth of July

The city's 4th of July Celebration begins with the Independence Day Parade on Tuesday, July 4 starting at 11 a.m. at the Capitol Loop. The 4th of July Concert will be held at Adado Riverfront Park starting at 8 p.m. with fireworks to follow!

Under the City of Lansing Firework Ordinance, fireworks can be lit within the following timeframes:

From December 31st to January 1st between 11 a.m. and 1 a.m.

The Saturday and Sunday before Memorial Day between 11 a.m. and 11:45 p.m.

From June 29th to July 4th between 11 a.m. and 11:45 p.m.

If July 5th falls on a Friday or Saturday, between 11 a.m. and 11:45 p.m.

The Saturday and Sunday before Labor Day between 11 a.m. and 11:45 p.m.

To report illegal use of fireworks, please call the non-emergency Lansing Police Department line at 517-483-4600. For more information, visit [lansingmi.gov/fireworks](http://lansingmi.gov/fireworks).

# Earth Day at Riddle

On Friday, April 21, Earth Day 2023 was celebrated in a big way by Riddle Elementary School and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR)!

Riddle Rhinos learned about protecting forests and the valuable role that trees play in protecting our climate, forests and cities through a reading of the real story of Smokey Bear. In a surprise twist, students grade Kindergarten through 3rd grade were treated with a visit from Smokey Bear in person!

Fresh from a long winter nap, Smokey gave hugs and high-fives to students!! They were able to ask Smokey about his favorite tree and if he's friends with Ralphie the Rhino (as it turns out they go way back!).



*Smokey and his friends from the Riddle Family, Dr. Ken, Riddle Elementary and DNR staff*



*Smokey Bear makes friends with Riddle Elementary students.*

Friends of Riddle Elementary, including Anita, Ralph Jr., and Natalie Riddle along with Dr. Ken Poff and Dr. Holly Schaefer arranged for each student to receive a white pine seedling, along with instructions for planting, to go along with Smokey Bear activity books and resources from the DNR. To keep the learning going year-round, Dr. Ken and Dr. Holly donated a collection of science-themed books to the Riddle Elementary library for each grade!

Special thanks to the Riddle family, Smokey Bear, Dr. Ken and Dr. Holly, Riddle Elementary School and DNR Parks and Recreation and Forest Resource Division staff for making the day possible!

# Supporting Students' Success

*Submitted by Communities In Schools of Michigan*

At Communities In Schools of Michigan, we build a lasting network of trust around them, fostering transformative relationships in their lives. We empower students to break through any personal challenges in their lives so they can define the future they want. We inspire students to define what success looks like for their future. We're building a powerful change movement and are committed to providing equitable education for an equitable future. We do this by placing positive and trusted community members directly in schools to identify opportunities to support student success. We currently have Student Support Coordinators serving in seven schools in the Greater Lansing area. Our sites include: Riddle Elementary, East Intermediate, Elmwood Elementary, Winans Elementary, Lansing Charter Academy and the Lansing Public Schools Districts Hub.

We have partnered with National Energy Foundation, Impression 5, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated, Greater Lansing Food Bank, WILX news and more. These partnerships allow us to provide support and basic needs to our students and their families, as well as offer community-wide support. Supports include food and clothing distributions, educational events, family enrichment opportunities and more.

For those who would like to support our mission, ways to get involved include serving as volunteers for upcoming food distribution events, or donating to our back-to-school and clothing drives. If you are interested in volunteering, please complete our Volunteer Application at [CISmichigan.org/volunteer](https://CISmichigan.org/volunteer).

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# Neighborhood Roots: Celebrating Urban Forest Diversity

By Heidi Clancy

American elm, Norway maple, white ash. If these species of trees and their eras of overuse were characterized in terms of trends, it would be symmetry-core. The appeal is obvious; neat rows of seemingly ideally urban suited trees lining each street side. The simple recipe of one tree fronting each lot arranged along city blocks provided an appearance of organization and standardization in the 20th century.

What seemed like a really good idea at the time has underscored the benefits of diversity. The ease of installation and planning



*A view of the 600 block of Westmoreland Ave. (1947), looking south from the intersection of Dinsmore and Westmoreland, makes a strong case for street trees in the Westmoreland Subdivision.*

*Photo provided by City of Lansing Forestry Department.*



*Having watched all their friends leave, this 26" diameter Norway maple was happy to have a young Westsider share a moment together. Down the block, a young sweetgum tree awaits planting.*

was later countered by the eventual ease of disease and pest distribution and destruction. Many communities that lost trees to Dutch elm disease, beginning in the 1950s, turned to white ash and Norway maple.

Norway maple first made its transatlantic settlement of the young United States in the late 1700s, including a place in the landscape of George Washington, and has since grown to be one of the most popular urban planted tree species. Capable of growing quickly without feeling too constrained by urban tree lawns, Norway maple was accessible and planted in new developments to compensate for the fate of the American Elm. Neatly planted in front of homes and park space along Westmoreland Ave., these Europeans shaded the expanding City of Lansing including the homes below, many only around 30 years old at the time.

Neighbors bid farewell while City staff removed perhaps one of the last of this cohort left to make way for much needed diversity in November of 2022.

Though Norway maples can live up to 200 years in native conditions, spending 90-100 years in the Westside Neighborhood sounds alright to me. One at a time, trees composing the symmetry and simplicity that was once favored have left; their absence now providing an opportunity to grow the diversity that makes my street, our neighborhood and our community a better place.



*City of Lansing Forestry staff safely remove an aging Norway maple from Westmoreland in November 2022.*

# CURBSIDE COLLECTION UPDATE

Curbside collection of yard waste will switch to bi-weekly collection starting the week of Monday, June 19, 2023.

Yard waste guidelines must be followed for materials to be collected.

Yard waste will be picked up on your scheduled recycling collection day. Materials should not be set out any earlier than the day before your scheduled collection day. Once yard waste has been set out, please leave it until it has been picked up.



**FIND MORE INFORMATION AT:  
[LANSINGMI.GOV/YARDWASTE](https://www.lansingmi.gov/yardwaste)**



Andy Schor, Mayor

# City Clerk Update 2023

Submitted by Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope

## Sign up for the NEW Permanent Mail Ballot Voter List and never miss an Election!

Become a Permanent Mail Ballot Voter and never worry about missing election again. Voters who sign up will never have to complete an absentee ballot application again. I encourage every voter who wants to vote from home to sign up. You can return your absentee ballots at any election drop box, including one in our Westside Neighborhood at Letts Community Center.



The City Primary Election will be August 8 and the General Election is November 7. To be decided this year will be who will fill Ward 1, Ward 3 and 2 At-Large seats on City Council. Our Westside Neighborhood is in Ward 4. There will be one proposal asking voters if the City of Lansing should have a Charter Commission; it is too early to know if any additional proposals will be on the General Election ballot.

Forty days before every election, I open the South Washington Election Unit during regular business hours (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.), as well as extended evening and weekend hours, to allow one-stop in-person voting before the election. Located at 2500 S. Washington, the Election Unit offers free parking. 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.

As I write this, legislation is being considered that may change your voting options. Please follow my Clerk's Office Facebook page, and make sure you include your email on your voter application form to obtain updates.

## Passport and Notary Services by Appointment

If you need to apply for a U.S. Passport, you need to make an appointment through our website [lansingmi.gov/clerk](http://lansingmi.gov/clerk) or call 517-483-4131. The U.S. of Department of State is facing high demand for passports. It will take many weeks to obtain a passport so don't delay. We also provide notary services for Lansing City residents at \$5 per document by appointment too.

Bradly and I are proud to have been part of the Westside Neighborhood for over 20 years and I have been proud to be your clerk for 17 years. If the Lansing City Clerk's Office can ever be of service, please contact us by email at [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov), phone 517-483-4131 or through Facebook [@lansingclerkswope](https://www.facebook.com/lansingclerkswope).



# NorthWest Initiative Summer Programs

*Submitted by NorthWest Initiative*

Summer is here and at NorthWest Initiative (NWI), this means we will have more hours to provide access to services and pack in programming for kids, seniors and all residents of the Westside! Follow us on Facebook ([Facebook.com/nwlansing](https://www.facebook.com/nwlansing)) for up-to-date details and exciting news.

## Lansing Mobile Farmers Market

Fresh fruits and vegetables coming soon to a neighborhood parking lot near you! Mark your calendars for the first week in July when the team at NWI will load up our mobile bus with local and regional fresh produce, baked goods, jams, jellies and honey, and head out! This year we have extended hours at each location to make it more convenient to stop by. Our Farmers Market Food Navigators will be onsite to offer tips, recipes and inspiration to

try new produce. A representative from Tri-County Office on Aging will join us, at a date TBD, early in the season to distribute Senior Market Fresh Coupons to qualifying older adults. Check our Facebook page ([Facebook.com/nwlansing](https://www.facebook.com/nwlansing)) for updates on the date of coupon distribution and more! Volunteers needed! Please contact Kayla at 517-999-2894 or [kaylao.nwlansing@gmail.com](mailto:kaylao.nwlansing@gmail.com).

Payment accepted: EBT, WIC, DUFEB (double up food bucks), Senior Market and WIC Fresh Coupons, Cash, Credit, Debit.

### Tuesdays - July 11 through October 3

1-3 p.m. at Letts Community Center, 1220 W. Kalamazoo St.

4-6 p.m. at Capitol Commons Senior Apartments, 500 S. Pine

### Thursdays - July 6 through October 5

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Riverfront Apartments, 610 N. Cedar St.

2-4 p.m. at the Abigail Senior Apartments, 715 W. Willow St.



## Garden Club Day Camp - Growing Healthy Habits

Calling all young people (1st - 8th grade) with an interest in gardening, STEM activities, being outdoors, cooking, healthy choices and having fun! We will be hosting an 8-week garden-based program this summer on Wednesdays from June 14 to August 14 (no camp on 7/5 or 7/26). Choose between 10 a.m. to noon or 1-3 p.m. All programming will take place at our offices located in First Presbyterian Church (510 W. Ottawa St.).

## Michigan Secretary of State Mobile Office

The MI Secretary of State Mobile Office will be on site at the NWI office/First Presbyterian Church on the following Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: September 29, and November 24. This service is available by appointment only so please call 517-999-2894 today to make yours! Follow us on Facebook ([Facebook.com/nwlansing](https://www.facebook.com/nwlansing)) for more information and additional dates.

## Volunteers Needed

In addition to the programs above, our dedicated staff is involved in many projects for community improvement and enrichment. We are digging in on the work necessary to re-establish the community gardens at local schools and continue to offer programming specifically formatted for older adults at several senior apartment centers around town, meeting them where they are at and discussing health and nutrition.



Lastly, our ARRO program, on its 15th year, is an adult diversion program that provides a 12-week intensive, holistic, wrap-around program for individuals to participate in lieu of being sent to jail or prison. All of this is only possible with help from volunteers.

If you have a passion for kids, gardening, food, community or experience in criminal justice or social work, please consider sharing the gift of your time to help us with our mission to strengthen and sustain healthy communities in the following Lansing zip codes: 48906, 48915, 48933 and 48917-east of Waverly.

## Contact NWI!

- Facebook: [Facebook.com/nwlansing](https://www.facebook.com/nwlansing)
- Phone: Main - 517-999-2894; to leave a message for Food Systems: 517-798-6742

Email:

- Front Desk: [frontdesk@nwlansing.org](mailto:frontdesk@nwlansing.org)
- Outreach Manager: Destiny - [destiny@nwlansing.org](mailto:destiny@nwlansing.org)
- Volunteer Coordinator: Kayla - [kayla@nwlansing.org](mailto:kayla@nwlansing.org)
- Food Systems Program: [foodsystems@nwlansing.org](mailto:foodsystems@nwlansing.org)

# Serving Lansing Youth

*Submitted by Todd Martin Youth Leadership*

Todd Martin Youth Leadership (TMYL) is thrilled to be a part of the Westside Neighborhood since moving its operations to Letts Community Center in July of 2022. TMYL is a Lansing-based non-profit organization that has been serving Lansing youth and families for nearly 30 years through tennis, education, and life skills programming. Since its inception, TMYL has partnered closely with Lansing Parks and Recreation, and the relocation to Letts strengthened that partnership and provided TMYL with the opportunity to expand its footprint in the community.



*Inspiring Youth To Serve*

TMYL made a strategic decision to invest in Riddle Elementary School (given its proximity to Letts) by providing Lunch Time Tennis five days a week and starting an after-school program this school year. In order to continue the impact and progress that TMYL has seen with Riddle students, they are piloting a full day summer program for the after-school participants, which will include tennis, academic enrichment and support, life skills, financial literacy, and a variety of other enrichment activities (sports, career investigations, etc.).

TMYL prides itself on meeting kids where they are – physically, emotionally, socially, mentally, and academically – and walking alongside them to set them up for success as individuals and as active, responsible citizens. This means providing programs in schools, parks, gyms, and at indoor clubs and utilizing evidence-based practices,



including trauma informed coaching, to ensure that each interaction and program is meaningful. Tennis is used as a vehicle to develop meaningful relationships with youth and teach them to live by the code of conduct, become academically successful, and acquire the life skills necessary to be active and confident. Research shows that tennis participation positively influences the lives of U.S. youth across all socioeconomic levels. In fact, youth who play tennis get better grades, are better behaved, are more community-minded, and are less likely to engage in risky behaviors (drinking, smoking) than youth who play other non-contact sports or youth who do not participate in sports.\*



In 2022, TMYL served 3,636 youth and provided over 19,000 hours of physical activity. Currently, TMYL provides over 30 hours of programming per week and that number increases to 50 hours per week during the summer months. TMYL is on track to provide over 27,000 hours of physical activity in 2023 due to expanded partnerships with the Lansing School District, including running middle school tennis teams at North, Gardner, Dwight Rich, and Pattengill.

As a means to support the growth of TMYL and the game of tennis, TMYL is working with Lansing Parks and Recreation to develop a plan to update the current tennis courts at Letts through a complete rebuild and addition of two courts.

If you are interested in getting involved with TMYL, please reach out to Rebecca



Johnson at [rebecca.johnson@tmyl.org](mailto:rebecca.johnson@tmyl.org).

The organization is very dependent on volunteers and community support through monetary donations.

\*Source: [http://assets.usta.com/assets/822/15/More\\_than\\_a\\_Sport\\_Executive\\_Summary-v7-web.pdf](http://assets.usta.com/assets/822/15/More_than_a_Sport_Executive_Summary-v7-web.pdf)



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# Chris Swope

## Lansing City Clerk

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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 by appointment



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[www.lansingmi.gov/clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/clerk)

Office Phone: (517) 483-4131



## WESTSIDE LANSING FARMERS MARKET

On the campus of the Union Missionary Baptist Church  
500 S Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd (junction of I-496 and MLK)

**Saturdays 9:00 - 1:00**

Featuring:

**Stone Circle Bakehouse** – breads and pastries

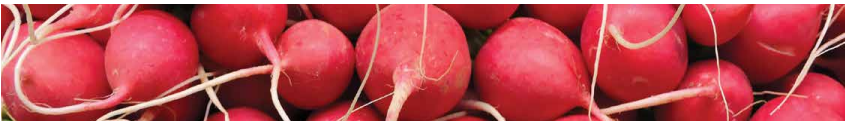
**Grazing Fields Coop** – eggs, pork, lamb, honey, maple syrup

**1991 Greenery Homestead** – wide range of herbs and vegetable starts in season

**Atomic Squirrel Peppers** – hot and sweet peppers and vegetable starts in season

**Lansing Grown Farmers** – seasonal vegetables

**A program of the Lansing Urban Farm Project (LUFF)**





# First Presbyterian Church of Lansing

*Come as you are!*

*Worship hours*  
*Sunday 10am-11am*

*Food Pantry*  
*Mon- Thurs 9am-2pm*

*Music. ART. Drama.*  
*Dance. Camp*  
*July 24th-July 28th*

*"We are believers in Jesus Christ, who gives us faith, life, unity and mission to the world. As a diverse, multi-cultural and enthusiastic congregation, we meet in downtown Lansing to grow in love and knowledge of God.*

*Downtown Lansing*

*510 W Ottawa Street*

*517-482-0668*



## PoP-ToP Lid

- \* Pop Microwave Popcorn
  - Pour popcorn into bucket
  - Add Seasoning on Popcorn
  - Attach Lid shake up and down
  - Seasoning popcorn, use lid as a bowl
- Candy options: M&M peanuts, M&M plain, Whoppers, Reeses pieces, Sno Caps, Junior mints, Rasinets, Buncha crunch, Mike&Ike, Milk Duds, Good and Plenty, Sweedish fish



## PoP-ToP Lid

You Get: 1 popcorn tub, 2 theater candies, 1 PoP-ToP lid, 2 microwave popcorn packets, 1 Kernel seasoning.

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c/o Letts Community Center  
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