

the Westsider

Summer 2021

PRESENTED BY THE

Westside Neighborhood Association
wnaa.org



Welcome to the Westside!

Hello Neighbor,

Time keeps on slippin'...

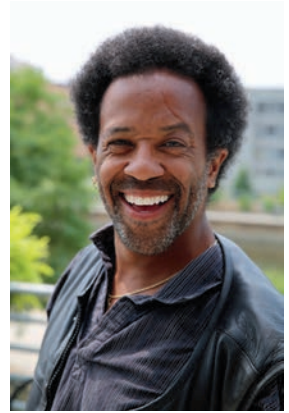
Four years on the Westside seems like a flash. It's almost cliché to say as many things have changed so much has remained. Our introduction to the neighborhood was different from any place I've lived before. In most other places I lived, it was kind of kept as an accidental secret. Coming to a place where everybody knows your name was an abrupt adjustment.

Our introduction to the neighborhood had an unfortunate dichotomy. We enjoyed the warm welcome from some, the offers of yummy food after Lord Raiden was born, waking up to the sound of a snowblower clearing our sidewalk, and other niceties. There were some hiccups as well as we were trying to find our place in our new place. It caused us to pause, refocus, and decide to concentrate on making a warm cozy abode for our kids. We wanted to show them that no matter what happens out there, that inside our walls will be filled with love. And that we would welcome those we know if they need a safe space to experience a judgment-free visit in the Blue Room of Happiness.

I often speak on saying "hi" to someone new. I realize it's not the easiest thing to do. People have their social set, whether they're a longtime resident of the Westside Neighborhood. I fully respect that. A few happy moments happened in a blitz. I met a long-time resident who lives a few houses down from us. He was transferring items from his recently furloughed position from Michigan State University to his home. It was a tender moment I will cherish. Across the way from him a day or so later, I was introduced to someone who recently moved into the neighborhood. He and his wife were recently hired to teach at MSU. As if the circle of life was playing out in front of me. Then a day or so later someone who has walked their dog past our house since our beginning said "hi" for the first time. No grand gestures. No big moments. Just a simple neighborly exchange can bring a little peace to one's soul.

Respectfully yours,

~Metro Melik



2020 WNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President: Mitzi Allen

Treasurer: Laura Hall

Secretary: Jenny McInerney

Matt Black | Heath Lowry | Maya Lowry | Heidi Clancy

The Westsider Layout and Design by Eric Hall | Cover photo courtesy of Metro Melik

Westside Reunited

Westside neighbors are gathering again in 2021! As part of its summer concert series, Lansing Parks and Rec hosted “Life Support” at St. Joe Park on June 23. Neighbors gathered for a low-key neighborhood social hour, including drinks and popsicles! Check out photos from the social hour and concert, as well as a neighbor-organized Pride Parade and our first in-person Crime and Safety Meeting throughout this edition of *The Westsider*.

In July, the Westside will be filming a “Walking Wednesday” video tour of the neighborhood that will be available on the city’s YouTube channel. In the meantime, check it out to learn more about what other neighborhoods love most about their little pockets of the city (search for City of Lansing Walking Wednesday). We will also post the link for our tour on our Facebook page and wnalansing.com.

Coming up: The Board applied for and was awarded a neighborhood bulk clean-up, which will take place in the fall (it will be on a Saturday, but the date is to be determined). Neighbors will be able to dispose of large items like mattresses, fencing, and rugs at no-charge! Prohibited items include hazardous materials and used oil. More info to follow!

Your Vote, Your Voice 2021

The 2021 Election is Nov. 2, and the Westside Neighborhood Association hosted a virtual nonpartisan Candidates’ Night so neighbors could meet the candidates.

The Candidates’ Night was held July 14 via Zoom. To watch the recording, visit WNALansing.com/2021-Candidates-Night. More information is available from City Clerk Chris Swope on page 14.

To view your ballot preview and check your registration status, visit Michigan.gov/Vote.

Neighbors Pitch in to Clean the Westside



One thing that makes the Westside a great place to live is neighbors’ passion for their neighborhood and the willingness to put that passion into action. Thanks to Jill Rinckey-Hall for recognizing a need, securing a dumpster (and donuts!) and posting a call to action on the neighborhood Facebook page.

We had a great turnout at the clean-up of St. Joe’s Park and the area behind Sexton High School on May 22, and made good use of that dumpster!

Thanks, also, to all of the neighbors who go out of their way every day to pick up trash, clear sewer grates, plant flowers and keep our neighborhood beautiful in other ways.

Westside Black History: **Clarence C. Wills**

From humble beginnings Clarence C. Wills, Jr., (Tony) worked as a migrant worker picking cherries in northern Michigan, and as a junk man picking up scrap metal and materials, to becoming the first Black person to run for state representative.

Born in Gary, Indiana in 1927 young Wills and his family relocated to Muskegon where his father found work at a local foundry. Following the death of his father the family came to Lansing where Wills graduated from Sexton High School in 1945.

The eldest of five children, young Wills helped support the family by waiting tables on weekends at Coral Gables, a locally owned restaurant. After graduation he was drafted by the US Navy where he served on the USS Barton during World War II. In the Navy, he continued to support his family by sending his entire check to his mother.

Within two weeks of being honorable discharged from service, Wills became a machine operator at Oldsmobile. While there, Wills worked with a Black man who had gone to college for two years. Swayed by this man's argument of obtaining a college degree Wills entered Michigan State University and obtained both his Bachelors and Masters degrees. He obtained his Doctorate in Education from Wayne State University in 1977.



In 1952, public schools of the North were hiring only whites. Refusing to go south to work, according to Wills' personal memoir, he was in the actual process of negotiating for a job in Ethiopia when the Lansing School District decided to hire its second Black person. Wills was offered a position in the junior high school that had the largest Black population, West Junior High.

Four 14 years Wills taught Social Studies and English and was counselor at West Junior. He became extremely interested in the plight of students labeled “dumb”, before E.S.E.A. Title I was adopted by Congress, and specifically sought out assignments

where he could apply his special gifts of encouragement, leadership, mentorship to these students. Wills wrote that “the children in such classes desperately needed teachers who wanted to help them.”

In 1957 Wills took a leave of absence and served as an exchange teacher in Bayamon, Pureto Rico teaching English. He spent summers teaching Drivers Education at Sexton High School.

From his earliest years, Wills had always had a desire to help Black people and other alienated groups. He became active in the Union movement and party politics at General Motors and served as shop steward. At LSD he became active in employee organizations and held various offices within MSEA despite his frequent disagreements with the

structure and goals of the organization. He became part of a group that was instrumental in changing the character of the Lansing Chapter of the MEA.

“Damaging headline and the ill repute heaped on Michigan last fall,” Wills was nominated by the Democratic Party to run for Representative of the 1st District. He was the first Black person to run for a seat on the State Legislature. At a rally held at the VW Hall, Wills urged greater participation in government as a means of securing equal rights and economic opportunity for Michigan’s citizens.

Despite having run a successful primary campaign, none of the party candidates survived the general election. Wills withdrew from political activities in 1964 citing, “the political games I experienced during the 1964 campaigns shattered my faith in political parties.

He went on to work for the Department of Education where he was hired as an Educational Consultant and Administrator. There he was able to continue his work of helping the alienated. Wills retired in 1988.

Wills was a voracious reader with a passion for newspapers and financial materials. He became a self-educated investor and a well-informed generalist whose knowledge awed family and friends. He was intrigued by the stock market, and was a member of the Investors Club, which was a group of Black men who discussed economics, finance, and made investments.

He never missed an opportunity to visit the public library. Wills visited Capital Area District Library every Saturday from 1964 until his death in 2018. Even the day of his daughter’s wedding!

In 2018 his family started a Go Fund Me Campaign to get Wills’ name on the donation tree on the wall of the library. The endeavor was so successful the library used these contributions towards the purchase of a statue of a tree in the Children’s Section of the Library. The tree is large enough for a parent to sit inside the tree and read to their child.

The library also planned to place a plaque on the wall with a picture of Clarence Wills image on it by the tree. The dedication ceremony planned for his birthday in 2020 was cancelled due to the pandemic.

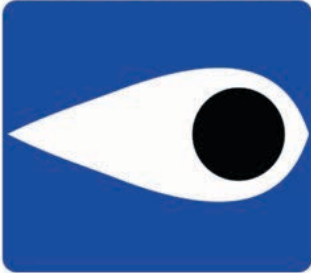
Wills married his high school sweetheart Shirley Watkins and the two were married 68 years before her passing. The Westside has always been home to Wills. He and Shirley lived at 710 Birch St before moving into what was to become their forever home on West Street.



Crime and Safety Updates

The Westside Neighborhood Association hosted the first in-person Crime and Safety Committee meeting outside at Letts Community Center on May 25.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER

More than 30 neighbors gathered in a socially distanced manner to hear updates from city representatives on many important topics.

Chief Daryl Green talked about the uptick in crime in Lansing, concerns about 911 response times, speeding, and more. He said that violence has increased nationwide, and Lansing has seen a 50% increase in shootings. The Department has hired a social worker and is seeking other assistance to better respond to mental health-related police calls. Chief Green also talked about the serious concerns with fireworks.

Director of Lansing Parks and Recreation Brett Kaschinske talked about St. Joe Park maintenance.

Community Services Officer Anthony VandeVoorde talked about neighborhood watch and ways neighbors can protect themselves and their property.

Resources shared during the meeting included:

Lansing Alert to get notifications about potential safety hazard or concerns in our community: lansingmi.gov/802/Lansing-Alert.

Security Camera Registry & Mapping (SCRAM) to allow residents to register their cameras with LPD to voluntarily assist in police investigations:

lansingmi.gov/501/Security-Camera-Registry-Mapping-SCRAM.

Lansing Connect to report concerns to the city, from code enforcement issues to burned out street lights: lansingmi.gov/lansingconnect.

Watch the WNA Facebook group and website for information about upcoming Crime and Safety meetings.



Street Sign Topper Grant

Exciting news! The Westside Neighborhood was awarded a grant from the city to install street sign toppers. The toppers will welcome visitors, project the pride we feel in our neighborhood, and provide a physical connection with our WNA neighbors south of I-496 and north of Saginaw. The toppers will be installed by the city on top of existing street signs at neighborhood intersections.

Pictured below, you can see our mock ups. We are choosing from 3 designs with the options of black or white backgrounds and “Westside Neighborhood” or “Historic Westside” written below the illustrations.

Neighbors can cast their vote by July 22 at WNALansing.com/Street-Sign-Toppers!

After the final design is chosen, installation will take about a month. Most signs will be installed around the boundaries of the neighborhood – Oakland on the north, MLK on the east, Olds on the south, and the boundary of the city on the west – and along main roads that run through the neighborhood like St. Joe’s, Malcolm X, Saginaw, Jenison, and Michigan. For more information, including proposed locations of the toppers, go to: WNALansing.com/Street-Sign-Toppers.



Lansing Residents Gathered to Mark Anniversary of George Floyd's Death

A year after the murder of George Floyd that sparked nationwide protests, On May 25, 2021, Lansing Black Lives Matter came together at Michigan's Capitol on the one-year anniversary of George Floyd's death for a call to action for the community.

Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin killed Floyd on May 25, 2020. Throughout the summer following the tragedy, people came in support of Black Lives Matter across the country with calls to defund the police and to put a stop to police brutality.

Co-founder of the BLM Lansing, BLM Michigan, and the director of operations and policy for BLM Grassroots Angela Waters Austin spoke to the crowd about the systemic racism and spiking violence being faced by people of color in Greater Lansing.

Black Lives Matter Lansing co-leads Mike Lynn Jr., Sean "Mordecai" Holland and Angela Waters Austin called on attendees to hold Lansing's city council accountable for its promise to protect and advocate for the city's Black residents. They reiterated calls to divert the Lansing Police Department's \$26.3 million budget toward community programs and urged residents to vote in the city's upcoming Aug. 3 primary and Nov. 2 general election.

The speakers also called for an end to the violence currently spiking in Greater Lansing, which has claimed 18 lives so far this year and is on track to outpace 2020 and 2019's numbers. They blamed the uptick on longstanding issues in Lansing's Black neighborhoods gone unaddressed or exacerbated by the city.

"We are not fighting something new or some magical force that popped up in 2020 when George Floyd died," said Karrington Kelsey, a Lansing resident who spoke at the rally. "It's not a question of when you join a movement, it's a question of you being here and doing the work right now."

Black Lives Matter Movement

In 2013, three female Black organizers — Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi — created a Black-centered political will and movement building project called Black Lives Matter. Black Lives Matter began with a social media hashtag, #BlackLivesMatter, after the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin back in 2012. The movement grew nationally in 2014 after the deaths of Michael Brown in Missouri and Eric Garner in New York. Since then it has established itself as a worldwide movement, particularly after the death of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis, MN. Most recently, #BlackLivesMatter has spearheaded demonstrations worldwide protesting police brutality and systematic racism that overwhelmingly affect the Black community.

To receive additional information on BLM Lansing, go to its FB page and click on the link to sign up. Or contact blmmichigan.org/blm-lansing and lansing@blmmichigan.org.

Neighborhoods in Bloom

The Westside Neighborhood Association, thanks to a generous City of Lansing grant, was able to disperse 25 flower kits on May 15. Those flowers, intended to beautify common areas throughout the neighborhood, have certainly done so! Now, Westsiders send a friendly greeting — in the form of a cheerful and colorful flower display — to all those enjoying the great outdoors.



Volunteers chose flowers from among the 25 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.

This event would not be as successful without those who volunteered their time and talent to beautify our neighborhood and build community! 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.



In Memoriam:

The Lahoma Street Hackberry (ca. 1900 – April 2021)

By Heidi Clancy

This spring, our neighborhood lost a long-time resident; a centenarian who resided at the corner of Ionia and Lahoma Streets long enough to watch the transformation of the corner from grocery store, church and now a modern Lansing Housing Coalition home. This tree was not doomed by disease or decay, rather disadvantage and desire for more direct access to a dated transmission system.

This sturdy hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), a species related to elms that can live 150-200 years, stood at that corner through the ultimate demolition of the corner grocery store. Built in 1900 (according to real estate records), the corner grocery store occupied the same lot as the adjacent proprietor's house. Operated by the Stoney family until it was reimaged as a church in the 1960s, it was torn down in 2004 to make way for new construction. Through all of that - the neighborhood kids grabbing a pop or gum, church goers coming and going - The Lahoma Street Hackberry watched the passing merriment silently. Indeed, it has been the background for the enjoyment of several generations of Westsiders while grabbing nourishment for the body or the soul.



A winter view from 1956 (photo courtesy of CADL), clearly shows the distinctive form of what was already a mature tree, whose destiny this spring was determined by those overhead power lines the giant had already surpassed. Who was there first ... line or tree? Likely the tree, but we know who prevailed. A count of the rings and assessment of tree growth factors place the age of the tree approximately 120 years. The 62-inch diameter tree (at the base) was perhaps first planted to accompany the new grocery store in 1900's French's subdivision.



At our last visit, the kids could no longer marvel at the sturdy giant's warty, undulating bark but found the sad pedestal surrounded by fresh sawdust. To visit the remains is to travel through time and read the conditions of over a century stamped into the memories of the growth rings. Standing near the center of the heartwood, and possibly



a ringed record of 1900, the children wondered if (and when!) the Lorax would pop out of the stump (and why the Onceler cut it down).

One by one, rightly or wrongly, we continue to lose these silent giants. In their place, with luck, a crabapple may someday find a home. We wish those new additions well yet they are not equals to our large and rare trees, the irreplaceable markers not just in Westside history, but that of our City. Thank you, Lahoma Street Hackberry for many years of happiness and roots in the Westside!

What is Juneteenth Day and Why Do We Celebrate?

Juneteenth is a holiday marking the end of slavery in the United States.

In the confusion and turmoil as the Civil war drew to a close, many Black people did not immediately learn of General Robert E. Lee's April, 1865 surrender to Union General Ulysses S. Grant in Virginia. In fact, Texans fought on through May, when they finally learned that the war had truly ended.

When Union Army General Gordon Granger landed at the Texas Port City of Galveston to take command of the military district of Texas, one of his first actions after landing in June, 1865, was to read General Order #3 to the people of Galveston.

General Granger read, "The people of Texas are informed...all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves..."

Thus, June 19th (Juneteenth) - became the emancipation date of those long suffering for freedom, the newly freed slaves of Texas.

In June, 2005, Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm signed legislation officially designating the third Saturday in June as Juneteenth National Freedom Day in Michigan. Senate Bill 384 (PA 48) was sponsored by Senator Martha G. Scott. Michigan was the 18th state to officially recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday.

The celebration of Juneteenth is a multi-cultural recognition of the triumph of the human spirit over the cruelty of slavery. For African-Americans, it is a tribute to the strength, endurance and faith of their ancestors. For all of America it is a reminder that none of us is free until all of us are free!

Westside Pride

Westside neighbors organized a Pride Parade that was held June 16. More than 50 neighbors met at Harry's Place and walked to the boulevard at Westmoreland and Dinsmore for dancing and socializing with friends old and new.

The parade was a joyful celebration of our LGBT+ neighbors.

Huge thanks go to organizers Amanda Henriquez and Jeffrey Wood! Thank you for bringing together our neighborhood in such a special way.

Photos courtesy of Skyler Ashley



NorthWest Initiative



Need Help Signing up for Medicaid, Bridge Card (EBT) and other social or emergency services? We are here to help you apply for a variety of social service programs. Email renee@nwlansing.org, elvincaldwelljr@gmail.com to schedule an appointment!

Food Distribution – Seeking volunteers to help with our twice a month free food program. Held on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or until food runs out. Need volunteers from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. If you can help, we would certainly appreciate your time. Email Elvin at elvincaldwelljr@gmail.com.

Lansing Mobile Farmers Market (MFM) – Will begin our 5th season on Thursdays, starting July 8 through October 7, 2021. We'll be selling a variety of fresh healthy fruits, vegetables, jams, honey, Great Harvest breads, sweet treats, and other items at great prices! We are a nonprofit organization and are not trying to mark items up like most retailers. Our goal is to bring fresh fruits and vegetables to people who do not have easy access to the large grocery retailers! We accept all forms of payment including the EBT & P-EBT cards, Double Up Food Bucks, Senior Market & WIC Project Fresh coupons, Prescription for Health coupons, debit/credit cards, and cash!! For more information, email peggy@nwlansing.org.



Here's our tentative schedule for the 2021 MFM season:

11 a.m. to noon – Open

12:30-1:30 p.m. – Abigail I & II Apts., 715 Willow St., 48906

2-3 p.m. – Riverfront Apartments – 601 N. Cedar St., Lansing, 48912

3:30-4:30 p.m. – Capitol Commons Senior – 500 S. Pine St., 48933

5-6 p.m. – Riddle School Garden – 221 Huron St., 48915

Riddle School Garden – Seeking gardeners and volunteers to help with growing and maintaining the Riddle Garden this summer. In exchange for volunteering and helping in the garden, individuals are able to harvest vegetables to take home for their family. For more information, email peggy@nwlansing.org.

Riddle Garden Tour Days – Held on Thursdays from 5-6pm, starting July 8th. Join us as we have a lot of fun with the Mobile Farmers Market, working in the garden, distributing free Panera Bread and Fresh Thyme items, and grilling out. Just a fun way to spend an hour touring and helping the community garden! Email peggy@nwlansing.org for specifics.

Lansing City Clerk's Office 2021

By: Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope



Elections in 2021

We have city elections scheduled this year with the primary being held on Aug. 3rd and the General Election on Nov. 2nd.

I encourage every voter to take advantage of the opportunity to vote from home (also known as absentee voting). If you are interested in being added to our automatic application list so that you receive an application to vote at home, you can do that online at www.lansingvotes.com or call 517-483-4131.

You can return your absentee ballots at any election drop box. We have one in our Westside Neighborhood at the Letts Community Center.

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 until 4 p.m. on the Monday 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.

Clerk's Office is Open by Appointment

We have made changes to ensure the safety of our citizens and staff by using an appointment system to provide adequate social distancing for any face to face transaction.

If you need to apply for a U.S. Passport, you need to make an appointment through our website lansingmi.gov/clerk or call 517-483-4131.

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 15 years. If the Lansing City Clerk's Office can ever be of service, please contact us by email at city.clerk@lansingmi.gov, phone 517-483-4131 or through Facebook [@lansingclerkswope](https://www.facebook.com/lansingclerkswope).

Pet Profile: Maggie



Originally hailing from the mean streets of Philadelphia, 4-year-old Maggie came into his humans' life as part of a sneaky scheme: cat-person Betsy decided to foster some kittens as a way to convince dog-person Matt that cats can make a great pet too. Maggie started in on a charm offensive immediately, and the rest is history.

When the family moved to the Westside in November 2020, Maggie was beyond thrilled to discover he now had access to a BACKYARD to patrol! He's been spending the last few months of quarantine zoom-bombing important meetings and learning some sweet new tricks (he's the most proud of "high five" and "roll over").

You can check him out on Instagram at @thehandykitten (he's got thumbs!), where he sometimes shares the spotlight with new litters of foster kittens.

CITY OF LANSING
FIREWORKS ORDINANCE

WHEN CAN I SET OFF FIREWORKS?

December 31st - January 1st	11 AM - 1 AM
Saturday & Sunday before Memorial Day	11 AM - 11:45 PM
June 29th - July 4th	11 AM - 11:45 PM
If July 5th falls on Friday/Saturday	11 AM - 11:45 PM
Saturday & Sunday before Labor Day	11 AM - 11:45 PM

Violation of the ordinance could result in a \$1,000 fine per infraction.

LANSINGMI.GOV/FIREWORKS

BWL Update on Tree Trimming

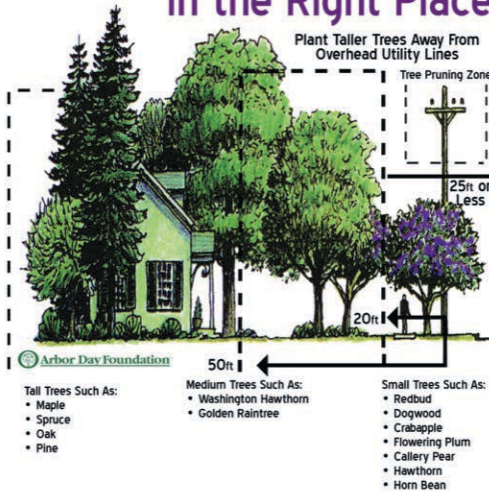
The Lansing Board of Water & Light is currently in our second, five-year tree trimming cycle. The purpose of our tree trimming program is to improve reliability and maintain our ability to provide safe and reliable power to the Lansing community. Our tree trimming standards do not allow overhang of main power lines in accordance with the American National Standards for Line Clearance. Since completing our first tree trimming cycle, our tree-related outages have been significantly reduced and BWL is in the best-in-class category.



BWL has contracts with Wright Tree to trim out our power lines in our second cycle, with oversight during the entire process from our BWL Forestry Department. Our certified arborists work with homeowners to gain permission to remove trees if needed and trim all trees that are in the zone of danger to the public and power reliability. Customers can decide to have a tree they own removed but cannot refuse trimming. BWL works closely with the City of Lansing Forestry Department to remove or trim city-owned trees

in the right of ways. For more information on our tree trimming process, visit www.lbwl.com/treetrimming.

Plant the Right Tree In the Right Place



BWL has partnered with the City of Lansing through its neighborhood grant program to replant trees in neighborhoods throughout the city. BWL partners with a tree contractor to provide roughly 6' tall trees. The Westside Neighborhood will be receiving trees again this year and will be working with local Boy Scouts to get those planted. For more information on this, visit <https://neighborhoods.lansingmi.gov/562/Neighborhood-Grants>.

Westside Amp-LEAF-ication!

By Heidi Clancy

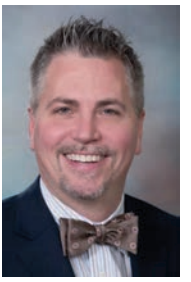
It's not easy to be a tree in the City! Seventy years ago, Westside Neighborhood streets were lined with graceful American elms that shaded streets and sidewalks. Many years later, emerald ash borer has removed ash trees from our yards and street sides. Add on construction, overhead utilities and damage from mowers and weed whippers and it makes for a tough life! Trees do more than provide shade. They can help manage stormwater, provide habitat, improve air quality and improve mental health and reduce speeding through their calming effects.

Did you know you can do your part to add more trees to beautify our neighborhood streets? Trees growing between the streets and sidewalks (on the 'tree lawn') are green infrastructure managed by City of Lansing Forestry Staff. Use the Lansing Connect app or call Lansing City Forestry Staff at 517-483-4161 to request a tree planted in the tree lawn in front of your home. Tree plantings throughout the city are determined by requests received.

Spring and fall are great times for tree planting! If you would like to plant your own tree or shrub in the tree lawn, Forestry staff can assist you with a permit and answer questions about planting the right species of tree. Care should be taken to avoid planting large trees beneath overhead utility lines.

Learn more about Right Tree, Right Place at the Arbor Day Foundation website: www.arborday.org/trees/righttreeandplace/.

Learn more about the benefits of trees in our City: <https://www.arborday.org/programs/alliance-for-community-trees/downloads/tree-facts-benefits-of-trees.pdf>.



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 by appointment



www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope
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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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the **Westsider**

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