

News for people who live, work, and play in Lansing's grand neighborhoods- the City area bounded on the north, east, and south by the Grand River.

July /August 2011

# Grand Happenings

Grand Happenings is produced by NorthWest Initiative

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July /August Meeting Calendar

NorthWest Initiative  
North Neighborhood Center

530 W. Ionia St., Suite D  
Lansing, MI 48933  
Phone: (517) 999-2894  
OR (517) 999-2895  
Fax: (517) 999-2897  
www.nwlansing.org

Submit an Article!

Send September/October newsletter submissions by August 1 to peggy@nwlansing.org

## New Westside Farmers' Market



**Eat fresh, healthy and local!** NWI's Food Systems Project will host a farmer's market on Lansing's Westside from July 18<sup>th</sup> to September 19<sup>th</sup>. The market will be open on **Mondays** from 4:00-7:00 pm in **Shanora's parking lot** at 829 W. Saginaw. If you have questions about the market or would like to volunteer, please contact **Joy** at 999-2894; [joy@nwlansing.org](mailto:joy@nwlansing.org).

### 5th Annual Westside Summer Fest— July 23, 2011

NorthWest Initiative is pleased to host the **5th Annual Westside Summer Fest** event on **Saturday, July 23, 2011** in city parking lot #9 (north of the 900 block of W. Saginaw & Princeton Street). This is a family-friendly event that will feature a health and wellness expo; community resource area; children's activities; farmer's and artisan markets; delicious food vendors; and a variety of music and entertainment. Don't miss out on exciting new activities for 2011! It's still not too late, if you would like to become a sponsor, vendor, or volunteer, please contact **Jonathon** at 517-999-2894 or [jonathon@nwlansing.org](mailto:jonathon@nwlansing.org).

## NWI Hosts *Free* Summer Food Program for Children!

NorthWest Initiative is pleased to partner with the Lansing School District's Food Service Department to provide neighborhood children with a **free breakfast and lunch** (all food must be eaten on site). Families are welcome to join us for **breakfast from 8:30-9:30 am** and **lunch from 12-1 pm** — **Monday through Friday starting Monday, June 20th and ending Friday, August 19th** at 530 W. Ionia St., Suite D, Lansing, MI 48933. To register your child, call 999-2894!

## New Community Gardens Plots Open

Seeking residents to fill plots at three new community garden sites; NWI can provide the land, soil and seeds. If you are interested in growing your own food, please call Joy at 999-2894.

**Board of Directors**

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Food Access Specialist

Ramona Spencer  
FSP Garden Coordinator

Peggy Vaughn-Payne  
Executive Director

Maria Zavala  
Outreach Manager

**The Mission**

The NorthWest Initiative is a 501 ( c ) (3) non-profit organization working to strengthen and sustain healthy communities in Lansing's grand neighborhoods'- the City area bounded by the Grand River on the north, east, and south and western city limits. Ingham County, City of Lansing, and the Michigan Fitness Foundation are major sponsors of NorthWest Initiative. Program partners include residents, neighborhood organizations, local nonprofit organizations, human service agencies, Michigan Department of Community Health, and departments of Michigan State University and Lansing Community College.

**ARRO Presents: Leadership & Advocacy Workshops**

NWI's ARRO Program is pleased to offer a series of six workshops that are designed to teach individuals how to advocate and how to help ARRO change public perception about ex-offenders returning to our community.

Join us on Tuesday evenings from 6-8 pm at the Capital Area District Library (auditorium) for the third and fourth workshop:

- June 21, 2011—"Gathering the Data/Researching the Issue"- presented by Jane Zehnder-Merrell;
- July 12, 2011- "Preparing Your Message and How to Effectively Communicate Your Message to the Media" - presented by Kelly Rossman-McKinney.

The workshops are free and open to the public. If you have a loved one that is connected to the criminal justice system and want to learn how to advocate to help remove barriers that they might face upon their return to our community; or if you're passionate about another issue and want to learn how to effectively rally support for your cause or challenge injustices then these workshops are designed for you—don't wait, register today by calling Monica at 999-2894.

**NWI Youth Are Having an Awesome Summer!**

Our Summer Youth Enrichment Program is buzzing with lots of activities, including learning entrepreneurship, financial literacy, managing a new garden; writing comics; going on exciting field trips; swimming; sports and games; and much more. So, if you're sitting at home and thoroughly bored with summer, then come join us! This program is open to all children ages 9-18. The youth meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9am-3pm. For more information, call Lori at 999-2894.

**Westside Commercial Association Leaves the Nest**

We are so proud to announce that after six years of nurturing and continued growth of our Westside Commercial Association Program, they are now ready to venture off on their own and become an independent non-profit organization effective July 1, 2011. The NWI Board of Directors and staff wish them much success! NorthWest Initiative will still be actively engaged with the businesses along the W. Saginaw/Oakland commercial corridor through our corner store project with Quality Dairy, new Westside Farmers' Market at Shanora's, outreach activities at the various businesses, and programs that we hold at several churches. For more information, please call Peggy at 999-2894 or [peggy@nwlansing.org](mailto:peggy@nwlansing.org).

**Senior Citizens—Are You Interested in “Aging in Place”?**

NWI is seeking input from senior citizens living in northwest Lansing to determine if there is an interest to start a senior citizen program designed to help seniors age-in-place. This program would provide a variety of virtual services to seniors so that they can live in their homes as long as possible. If you are interested in completing a survey for us, please call 999-2894. To participate on the planning committee or for more information about the Village Program concept, please call Peggy at 999-2894.

### NWI Welcomes New Staff & Summer Interns

We are fortunate to have three new staff members and three summer interns join our organization. Please join us in welcoming the following:

**Carolyn Drake** is our new Westside Farmers' Market Manager. She has been a volunteer with our Food Systems Program for the past year and a half with our nutrition education and school garden program and brings a wealth of experience to the position.

**Karen Kapala** is our new Ex-Offender and Family Advocate for the ARRO Program. Karen has several years of experience working with both incarcerated individuals and ex-offenders on various issues relating to injustices that they have experienced in our criminal justice system.

**Jacqui Milton** is our new Outreach Worker and will be canvassing the neighborhoods this summer and fall. Jacqui started as an LCC intern with NWI this year and lives in northwest Lansing.

**Jasmin Jones, Courtney Morra, Suji Choi, Catherine Leaym, and Stephanie Harris** are interns from Michigan State University who are working with us on a variety of projects, such as coordination of our Westside Summer Fest event, updating our social media presence, updating our Outreach database, assistance with the development of workshops, and interaction with clients.

NWI would also like to also thank **Qosmon Sagataw** and **Laymon Risper** who have been with us for over two years and have moved on to other positions. We wish them well!

### Do You Need Health Coverage or Other Assistance?

The NorthWest Initiative's Outreach Program is here to help you sign up for a variety of programs and services to assist you and your family. We can help you sign up for the Ingham Health Plan, MIChild, Healthy Kids, Plan First, Medicaid, food stamps, and much more. We also offer special ex-offender outreach assistance. Call our Outreach Program, 999-2894 or stop by our office at 530 W. Ionia St., Suite D, Lansing, MI 48933 (Monday-Friday—10am-3pm).

### NWI now on Facebook & Twitter—check us out!

You can now follow NorthWest Initiative on the following social media websites:

- [www.facebook.com/nwlansing](http://www.facebook.com/nwlansing)
- Twitter us at NWIlansing

### Celebrate Your Health!

Are you looking to get fit and feel like you need some support? We offer a variety of fun group fitness activities that meet weekly and/or monthly.

**Celebrate Your Health Club** —meets the **third Saturday of every month at Trinity Lutheran Church** (501 W. Saginaw) from **9:30 - 11:00 am**. Join us for a healthy snack, exercise and occasional guest speakers on a variety of topics related to women's health.

**Fitness Newbies** —Shed some pounds and have fun while doing it! We will meet **biweekly** for some physical activities; be it walking, dancing, yoga, biking, laser tag, or ice skating.

For information on upcoming activities, call **Stephanie at 999-2894**.

### Upcoming Events

#### Mark Your Calendars

^^^  
The next **Financial Literacy & Credit Repair Workshop** series starts on Wednesday, September 7, 14, 21, and 28

For more information or to register, call Jonathon at 999-2894

#### Emergency Cooling Centers in northwest Lansing

**Letts Community Center**,  
1220 W. Kalamazoo St.,  
483-4311

**Cristo Rey Community Center**, 1717 N. High St.,  
372-4700

**Lansing Mall**, 5330 W. Saginaw Hwy. —321-0145

#### Let's Garden Lansing

For a full calendar of gardening education events, visit:  
[www.letsgardenlansing.org](http://www.letsgardenlansing.org)  
or call 272-4146.

#### NWI Closed – July 4th

NorthWest Initiative will be closed on Monday, July 4, 2011 in observance of Independence Day

#### Food Resources

**Panera Bread Distribution**  
Every Thursday from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
**NorthWest Initiative**  
530 W. Ionia St., Suite D  
517-999-2894

**Angel Food Ministries**  
Monthly Distribution  
Call Julie @ (517) 485-0174  
(Must enroll prior to distribution)

**Food Movers Distribution**  
Monthly from 11am-12pm  
**Black Child and Family Institute**, 835 W. Genesee St.  
*and*

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
528 N. MLK Jr. Blvd.  
(517) 487-3775  
(Must enroll prior to distribution)



NorthWest Initiative  
530 W. Ionia St., Suite D  
Lansing, MI 48933

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# Westside Summer Fest

July 23, 2011

July /August 2011  
NorthWest Initiative  
Newsletter!



July / August Calendar 2011				For further July /August events—see page 3			
Title	Day	Time	Location	Title	Day	Time	Location
<b>Programs</b>				<b>Meetings</b>			
				ARRO Meeting Mary Sabaj	July 22/ August 26	4:30pm	NWI
Summer Youth Enrichment Program	Monday, Wednesday & Friday	9:00 am - 3:00 pm	NWI	Hull Ct. Park Neighborhood	July 6/ August 3		For info call 267-9848
Celebrate Your Health Club	Third Sat- urday of Month	9:30 am- 11:00 am	TLC	Genesee Neighborhood Assoc.	July 7 / August 4	7:00pm	GLC
Financial Literacy & Credit Repair Classes— 4 Weeks September 7, 14, 21, 28	Wednesdays	6-7:30 pm	NWI	NWI Board Meeting Rudy Wilson	July 14/ August 11	5:45pm	NWI
National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) Support Group Sessions	Thursdays	7:00 pm- 8:30 pm	NWI	Westside Neighborhood	July 20/ August 17	7:00pm	LC
<b>Location Addresses and Phone Numbers</b>				Old Forest Neighborhood Kevin Webb	July 21/ August 18		For info call 372-8649
<b>BCFI</b> = Black Child and Family Institute, 835 W. Genesee, <b>487-3775</b>	<b>GLC</b> = Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. MLK Jr. Blvd., <b>372-5830</b>			Knollwood/ Willow N'hood Walter Brown	July 21/ August 18	5:30pm	WE
<b>CADL</b> = Capitol Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol, <b>367-6300</b>	<b>NWI</b> = North West Initiative, 530 W. Ionia St., Suite D, <b>999-2894</b>			Edmore Park Neighborhood Dayle Benjamin	July / August		For info call 372-1455
<b>LC</b> = Letts Community Center, 1200 W. Kalamazoo, <b>483-4311</b>	<b>SH</b> = Scott House, 125 W. Main, <b>999-2894</b>			Downtown Neighborhood Cindy Redman	July 28/ August 25	6:00pm	CADL
<b>WE</b> = Willow Elementary, 1012 W. Willow St., <b>325-6886</b>	<b>TLC</b> = Trinity Lutheran Church, 501 W. Saginaw St. <b>372-1631</b>			Walnut Neighborhood Rina Risper	July / August		For info call 372-8466