



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

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Happy Spring!

May /June 2011
NorthWest Initiative
Newsletter!



May / June Calendar 2011				For further May/June events—see page 3			
Title	Day	Time	Location	Title	Day	Time	Location
Programs				Meetings			
				ARRO Meeting Linda Archer	May 27/ June 24	4:30pm	NWI
Youth Engagement Program	Saturdays	9:00 am- 12:00 noon	GLC	Hull Ct. Park Neighborhood	March 2/ April 6		For info call 267-9848
Celebrate Your Health Club	Third Sat- urday of Month	9:30 am- 11:00 am	TLC	Genesee Neighborhood Assoc.	May 5/ June 2	7:00pm	GLC
Financial Literacy & Credit Repair Classes—4 Weeks (5/10/11—5/31/11)	Tuesdays	6-7:30 pm	NWI	NWI Board Meeting Rudy Wilson	May 12/ June 9	5:45pm	NWI
National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) Support Group Sessions	Thursdays	7:00 pm- 8:30 pm	NWI	Westside Neighborhood	May 18/ June 15	7:00pm	LC
Location Addresses and Phone Numbers				Old Forest Neighborhood Kevin Webb	May 19/ June 16		For info call 372-8649
BCFI= Black Child and Family Institute, 835 W. Genesee, 487-3775	GLC = Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. MLK Jr. Blvd., 372-5830	Knollwood/ Willow N'hood Walter Brown	May 19/ June 16	5:30pm	WE		
CADL= Capitol Area District Li- brary, 401 S. Capitol, 367-6300	NWI= North West Initiative, 530 W. Ionia St., Suite D, 999-2894	Edmore Park Neighborhood Dayle Benjamin	May/ June		For info call 372-1455		
LC= Letts Community Center, 1200 W. Kalamazoo, 483-4311	SH= Scott House, 125 W. Main, 999-2894	Downtown Neighborhood Monica Zuchowski	Mary26/ June 23	6:00pm	CADL		
WE= Willow Elementary, 1012 W. Willow St., 325-6886	TLC= Trinity Lutheran Church, 501 W. Saginaw St. 372-1631	Walnut Neighborhood Rina Risper	May/ June		For info call 372-8466		

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.

May / June 2011

Grand Happenings

Grand Happenings is
produced by
NorthWest Initiative

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May / June
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.nwlaning.org

Submit an Article!

Send July/August newsletter
submissions by June 6th to
peggy@nwlaning.org

Financial Literacy & Credit Repair Classes Starting Now!

Do you have a household budget? Do you know how to develop a budget? Do you have a bank account? Do you know how to balance a checkbook? Have you reviewed your credit report in the past year? Is your credit score above 700? If you answered no to any of these questions, then you should consider signing up to attend our **four-week Financial Literacy & Credit Repair (FLCR) series**. We will meet on **Tuesday evenings from 6-7:30 pm on May 10, 17, 24, and 31**.

The FLCR classes are designed to help low to moderate income residents learn how to create and live on a budget; learn the importance of bank- ing, credit, and establishing a savings program; review your personal credit history and determine steps that can be taken to improve your credit score, as well as helping you to open a new bank account!

Classes will be held at **NorthWest Initiative, 530 W. Ionia St., Suite D Lansing, MI 48906**. Snacks will be provided. For more information or to register contact **Peggy at 517-999-2894 or peggy@nwlaning.org**.

5th Annual Westside Summer Fest—July 23, 2011

NorthWest Initiative is pleased to announce the **5th Annual Westside Summer Fest** event will take place 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! If you would like to become a sponsor, vendor, or volunteer, please contact **Peggy at 517-999-2894 or peggy@nwlaning.org**.

New Community Gardens in Northwest Lansing

The Food Systems Project will be coordinating three new community gardens this year. Below are the potential locations:

- Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. MLK (MLK/Lapeer)
- Vacant Lot on the corner of Pine/St. Joe/I-496
- 5052 Ballard (between High and Larch St.)



All of the above lots are currently empty and will be developed in the next few months. We hope to have all new sites fully established by June. Our goal is to have 20 gardeners at each site. NWI will have some seeds and transplants to share with participating gardeners.

If you are interested in having a garden plot at any of the above locations, please contact Joy at 999-2894; joy@nwlaning.org.

Board of Directors
Margaret Groves Michael Flowers, Vice President Nick Lynch Carol Skillings, Treasurer Vennisha Smith Rudy Wilson, President Angie Zamora, Secretary
Staff
Jonathon Bailey WCA Program Assistant
Joy Baldwin Food Systems Project Manager & Webmaster
John Bolan AmeriCorps FSP Volunteer Coordinator
Rick Bennett Program Assistant
Stephanie Campbell FSP Nutrition Education & Physical Fitness Coordinator
Lori Eva Volunteer Youth Coordinator
Elizabeth Collins-Jones Office Assistant
Renee French Office Assistant
Monica Jahner ARRO Outreach Worker & Legislative Advocate
James Ramos AmeriCorps Outreach Worker— Food Access Specialist
Laymon Risper Jr. Program Assistant
Qosmon Sagataw Food Systems Project Assistant
Ramona Spencer FSP Garden Coordinator
Peggy Vaughn-Payne Executive Director & Westside Commercial Association Manager
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 the public perception about returning citizens.

Join us on **Wednesday, May 18, 2011 at 6:00 pm at the Capital Area District Library** (auditorium) for the first workshop: **"Leadership: On the Road to Advocating"**. The workshops are free and open to the public. Certificates will be awarded to those who complete all six workshops. 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 an ex-offender who is ready to stand up and challenge the barriers that you faced when you were released, then these workshops are for you!

For more information or to **RSVP** for the workshop, please call **Monica at 517-999-2894**.

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. For more information, please call our **Outreach Program, 999-2894 or stop by our office at 530 W. Ionia St., Suite D, Lansing, MI 48933 (M-F—10am-3pm)**.

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.

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.

If you are interested in changing your life one step at a time, feel free to contact **Stephanie at (517) 999-2894; stephniec@nwlansing.org**.

Spring Clean Up of West Saginaw—Need Volunteers!

Join NorthWest Initiative staff as we gather to clean up trash and debris along W. Saginaw St. between MLK Jr. Blvd. and Chestnut St. on **Saturday, May 14, 2011 from 9am-12 noon**. We will meet in the Rite Aid parking lot at the corner of W. Saginaw and MLK Jr. Blvd. Refreshments will be provided for all volunteers. For more information or to volunteer, please call **Jonathon at 999-2894**; or email **jonathon@nwlansing.org**.

Kudos to NWI Volunteer Tax Preparers

Thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers, NWI just completed our eighth year providing free tax preparation services for low to moderate income residents! Our **volunteers** were able to **prepare 544 tax returns and helped our residents receive \$781,969 in total refunds and credits** (\$377,330 in federal refunds, \$128,429 in federal EIC credits; \$135,752 in state refunds, \$27,404 in state EITC credits, \$19,025 in state home heating credits; and \$94,029 in homestead tax credits). Kudos goes to Jonathon Bailey; Michaela Blackman; Pam Bolden; Ryan Breen; Christine Bryant; Randy Chapel; Pete Coscarelli; DeLee Dankenbring; Katie Fritz; Megan Kur-sik; Paul Marsh; Kim Metzger; Bryson McDonald; Tom Norton; Rebekah Osterman; Amber Paxton; Ken Slater; Kathy Smith; Julia Wu; Phillip Mitchell and our partners at the IRS and the Asset Independence Coalition. If you are interested in **volunteering to become a certified IRS tax preparer next year**, please call **Peggy at 999-2894** or email **Amber at aic.midmichigan@gmail.com**.

Farmers' Market Coming to Lansing's Westside

A new farmers' market will be coming to Lansing's Westside from **July 18th—September 19th**. The market will be located in **Shanora's parking lot** on the corner of W. Saginaw & Butler (829 W. Saginaw: just two blocks north from BCFI). The Market will be open on **Mondays from 4-7 pm**.

The Food Systems Project is currently **seeking 6-12 vendors to participate** in this market. We are also open to home and community gardeners interested in selling overstock produce. If you are interested in becoming a vendor at this market, please contact **Joy to reserve your spot at 999-2894; joy@nwlansing.org**.

Summer Is Around the Corner—What Plans Do You Have For Your Children ages 9-18?

NWI is planning to offer the free breakfast and lunch program for area children; summer garden camps; and much more. For more information about our **Summer Youth Programs**, please contact us at **999-2894** for details or a brochure.

Upcoming Events at Trinity Lutheran Church

Spring Downtown Salad Luncheon—Wednesday, May 11th—11am-1pm

For a donation of only \$7.00 you will enjoy a large variety of salads, breads, meatballs, ethnic sambusas, beverages and desserts. Bring your friends and enjoy the fellowship. Take-outs are also available.

Neighborhood Block Party—Saturday, June 4th—11am-3pm

We're planning a day of fun for you!! Bounce in the bounce house; have some dogs and chips; play games, enjoy the bands and music; get your face painted; jump rope; and more! And it's **FREE!**

For more information on either event you can call **Trinity Lutheran Church** (W. Saginaw & Chestnut St.) at **(517) 372-1631** or contact **Joanne von Werder at (517) 515-7279**.

Upcoming Events

Mother's Day
May 8, 2011

Father's Day
June 19, 2011

Do You Make the Best BBQ in Lansing?

We're looking for restaurants and individuals who would like to enter our **"Lansing's Best Bar-B-Que Contest"** in July. For more information, please call **Peggy at 999-2894**

National AmeriCorps Week
May 9-15, 2011

Join us as we thank the thousands of dedicated AmeriCorps members who give tirelessly to help build the capacity of non-profit organizations to make the greater Lansing community a better place to live, work and play!

Let's Garden Lansing

For a full calendar of gardening education events, visit: **www.letsgardenlansing.org** or call **272-4146**.

NWI Closed — May 31st

NorthWest Initiative will be closed on **Monday, May 31, 2011** in observance of **Memorial 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)