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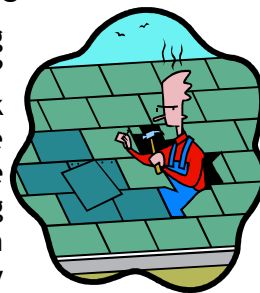
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The Mission

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. The Ingham County Health Department and the City of Lansing sponsors the Initiative. Program partners include residents, neighborhood organizations, local nonprofit organizations, human service agencies, and units of Michigan State University.

Vision 2020, Continues to Share Resources

Do you need *external* home repairs, such as help fixing any holes in your porch or steps? Is a hand rail needed? Does your home need a fresh coat of paint? Let's work on it together! Add your name to our external home repair list and you may be eligible to get help for the services you need. Vision 2020, Lansing's recycling centers, HERO, Tuesday Tool Man and various youth groups would like to revitalize our neighborhood by helping you update the exterior of your home.



Vision 2020, Habitat for Humanity and Franklin Street Community Housing Corporation would also like to offer help with repairing your credit and home ownership. If you are interested in home ownership, credit or external home repair, please come to the next Vision 2020 Resident Steering Committee meeting, **Friday, May 29th from 4:00-5:30pm**. This meeting will be held at **Lett's Community Center** (1220 W. Kalamazoo St., in Lansing). Don't forget, every Vision 2020 resident's meeting offers a full table of information, to help improve your quality of life. If you have any questions, please contact Janine at (517) 999 - 2894 or e-mail her at janine@nwlansing.org.

Drumming in Spring



Spring marched into Riddle Elementary School and Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy, with special guest speakers. Becky Jo Farrington from Urban Options taught that worms are free garden warriors, who improve and feed the soil. Worm bins for the class room were made by the students from newspapers, soil, water and wiggly worms. Some of the children named their worms and wrote them letters.

Q Sagataw shared a lovely Three Sisters Native American story about how corn, beans and squash compliment each other in the garden. The story introduces the important concepts of companion planting and cooperation in the plant world. We fixed a succotash based on The Three Sisters Story. It was a nutritious dish from the vegetable and meat and beans food groups. The highlight for the students was Q leading a successful drumming and singing of a Native American Scooby Do song.

It was great to have such knowledgeable guest speakers share their enthusiasm with us. Thanks goes out to Becky Jo, Qosmon, and Charlene for providing these unique, enriching experiences to the school garden club students.

NWI is Helping Our Youth Grow!

April showers bring May flowers. That is exactly what is happening at NorthWest Initiative. Our youth groups are planting beautiful flowers and fresh vegetables for our community garden, located on the south side of 1012 N. Walnut St. We would like to invite any youth between the ages of nine and sixteen, to come and enjoy the fun activities on Saturday mornings, starting at 9:00am.



Everyone is welcome to come and see the great projects our youth are involved with. Volunteers are always appreciated!