



NorthWest Initiative
1012 N. Walnut St.
Lansing, MI 48906

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September/
October 2010
NorthWest
Initiative
Newsletter!

September/October Calendar 2010 (September/October Events see P3)							
Title	Day	Time	Location	Title	Day	Time	Location
Programs				Meetings			
				ARRO General Meeting Linda Archer	Sept. 1/ Oct. 6	5:30pm	NWI
Youth Summer Enrichment Program	M, W, & F	8:30 am- 3:00 pm	NWI	Hull Ct. Park Neighborhood	Sept. 1/ Oct. 6	For info call 267-9848	
Healing Circle Support Group	Thursdays	5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	NWI	Genesee Neighborhood Assoc.	Sept. 2/ Oct. 7	7:00pm	Grace Lutheran Church
Photography Class for Children	Fridays	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	NWI	Food Systems Project	October 5	4:00pm	LC
National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) Support Group Sessions	Thursdays	7:00 pm- 8:30 pm	NWI	NWI Board Meeting Rudy Wilson	Sept. 14/ Oct. 12	5:30pm	NWI
				Cherry Hill Neighborhood	Sept. 16/ Oct. 21	For info call 351-1389	
Location Addresses and Phone Numbers				Old Forest Neighborhood Kevin Webb	Sept. 16/ Oct. 21	For info call 372-8649	
BCFI= Black Child and Family Institute, 835 W. Genesee, 487-3775	MMLA = Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy, 730 W. Maple, 485-5379			Westside Neighborhood Don Clearwater	Sept. 15/ Oct. 20	7:00pm	LC
CADL= Capitol Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol, 367-6300	NWI= North West Initiative, 1012 N. Walnut St. 999-2894			Knollwood/ Willow N'hood Walter Brown	Sept. 16/ Oct. 21	5:30pm	WE gym
LC= Letts Community Center, 1200 W. Kalamazoo, 483-4311	SH= Scott House, 125 W. Main, 999-2894			Edmore Park Neighborhood Dayle Benjamin	Sept. 17/ Oct. 22	For info call 372-1455	
WE= Willow Elementary, 1012 W. Willow St., 325-6886	TLC= Trinity Lutheran Church, 501 W. Saginaw St. 372-1631			Downtown Neighborhood Monica Zuchowski	Sept. 23/ Oct. 28	6:00pm	CADL
				Walnut Neighborhood Kenetha Gibson	Sept. 23/ Oct. 28	For info call 267-0453	

September/October 2010

Grand Happenings

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.

Grand Happenings is produced by NorthWest Initiative

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Sept./October Meeting Calendar

NorthWest Initiative
North Neighborhood Center

1012 N. Walnut St.
Lansing, MI 48906
Phone: (517) 999-2894
OR (517) 999-2895
Fax: (517) 999-2897
www.nwlansing.org

Submit an Article!

Send November/December newsletter submissions by October 5th to peggy@nwlansing.org

Neighborhood...What? Creating Great Places: October 23rd!

Neighborhood... What? Creating Great Places is a conference designed to engage, inform and inspire residents to take ownership in making Lansing neighborhoods safer, healthier and more connected. Yep, that's right! We want to get people excited about their neighborhoods. We want them to start thinking of ways they can make a difference. How, you might ask? Well, through wonderful speakers, great workshops and enlightening information booths, we will challenge your mind and help you to understand just how you can create change! It is that easy, and it is going to be a conference you will not want to miss!



The date is set for **Saturday, October 23rd**, from **8:30 – 3:30pm** and will be located at 2500 S Washington, in Lansing. Admission is only **\$5.00** - which covers your materials and food. Best of all, parking is **FREE** and childcare may be provided. If you'd like to register, please log onto www.lansingneighborhoodconference.wordpress.com and click on the registration tab. Please register by October 10, 2010. If you have questions about this conference, please contact **Stephanie at (517) 999-2894**. We hope to see you there!

Prison Poetry Project

NorthWest Initiative's Advocacy Re-entry, Resources & Outreach (A.R.R.O.) program is proud to once again present its **Prison Poetry Project**. Join us on **Wednesday, October 20, 2010 at Sir Pizza, 210 E. Grand River (Old Town), from 7:00pm – 9:00pm**.

The suggested ticket donation is \$10.00 per person, but no one will be turned away. This is an annual fundraiser in which inmate poetry is read by prominent community leaders and all monies raised go to support our ex-offender program. A.R.R.O. is looking for poems written by currently incarcerated prisoners. The deadline for submitting a poem is September 30, 2010.

For more information, poetry submissions, or questions please call Maria at **517-999-2895** or email her at maria@nwlansing.org.

NorthWest Initiative is Relocating

We're happy to announce that Niowave is expanding and creating new jobs for the Lansing area, however, that also means that they need more space. As a result, NorthWest Initiative is moving out of the old Walnut School facility. As of this date, we do not have a new address to share with you – but watch your mail for more details as we should be in our new location by November 1st!

Board of Directors
Cindy Carlano Margaret Groves Michael Flowers, Vice President Joe McDonald Nick Lynch Carol Skillings, Treasurer Vennisha Smith Rudy Wilson, President Angie Zamora, Secretary
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Jeana-Dee Allen VISTA Community Building Assistant Joy Baldwin Food Systems Project Coordinator & Webmaster Rick Bennett Program Assistant Janine Boylan Americorps FSP Volunteer Coordinator Stephanie Campbell FSP Nutrition Education & Physical Fitness Coordinator Elizabeth Collins-Jones Office Assistant Lori Eva VISTA Program Development Assistant Renee French Office Assistant Monica Jahner ARRO Outreach Worker Charlene Jamison FSP Assistant Maxine Mills Receptionist Diane Rethamel Office Assistant Laymon Risper Jr. Program Assistant Ramona Spencer FSP Garden Coordinator Qosmon Sagataw Food Systems Project Assistant Ramona Spencer FSP Garden Coordinator Annette Stamm Outreach Worker Peggy Vaughn-Payne Executive Director Jessica Yorko 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. 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.

Seeking Volunteers to Teach Nutrition, Cooking and Gardening in Classrooms

The Food Systems Project School Garden-Based Nutrition Education Program visits over 1,000 students in 50 classrooms across 4 schools every month throughout the school year. Volunteer opportunities range from leading school garden activities in K-8 classrooms, to garden planning, to simply helping water and weed the gardens.

Volunteers wishing to assist in the classroom will visit the same classroom for one hour every week or every month (depending on availability) and will lead a garden based nutrition education activity. Activities include: veggie bingo, harvesting vegetables, cooking in the classroom, garden art projects, writing about the garden, and much more. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, reliable, timely, and able to work with diverse student populations.

If you would like more information on volunteer opportunities, please contact **Joy at 999-2894; joy@nwlansing.org**.

Come Celebrate Your Health with Us!

As some of you may know, Celebrate Your Health club is back. This time though, we are taking a slightly different spin on things. Instead of just focusing on breast health and awareness, we will be focusing on topics across the health spectrum. As expected, last month's meeting went over well and we gathered quite a few ideas of future topics from the participants. Now that we have a plan in mind, we would like you to join us at our next two meetings, taking place **Saturday, September 18th and October 16th from 9:30 – 11:00am at Trinity Lutheran Church (501 W. Saginaw - corner of Chestnut & Saginaw in Lansing)**. Food will be provided and children are welcome. Please contact Stephanie at (517) 999-2894 with any questions you may have. Otherwise, we look forward to seeing you soon!

Do you need health Coverage? Have you considered the Ingham Health Plan (IHP)?

IHP is a county sponsored health coverage created for those who cannot afford health insurance, and that don't have any other health coverage. This service is income based, so for example if you are employed, single, earn under \$27,075 a year, and don't have any medical coverage, you may qualify.

Please call or Outreach Team 517-999-2895 or stop in to see us at 1012 N. Walnut St. Suite 106 to see if you: qualify for IHP; see if you are currently using IHP wisely, and to find out if this the health care coverage for you.

For an appointment please call **Maria at 517-999-2895** or email her at **maria@nwlansing.org**.

Halloween is October 31st!

Be sure to celebrate safely: don't go out without a buddy or parent, and check all candy before consuming it. Have fun!

Fresh Produce at Quality Dairy

The following four Quality Dairy stores will carry up to one dozen items of fresh, Michigan grown produce from mid-June to October.

- QD Store #5** - 700 N. Pine Street, Lansing, MI 48906
- QD Store #7** - 1200 W. Willow, Lansing, MI 48915
- QD Store #20** - 500 E. Saginaw Street, Lansing, MI 48906
- QD Store #28** - 2625 E. Jolly Road, Lansing, MI 48910

Thank You 4th Annual Westside Summer Fest Sponsors, Partners and Volunteers

The event was another great success. New features included an expanded Health Expo, kids' drum making and drum circle, hands-on display from Woldumar Nature Center, visit from Big Lug, and salsa dancing. Many of our popular activities were featured again this year such as the kids' bike rodeo and helmet fitting and give-away; Home Depot kids' building workshop, face painting, live music, Got Chess? program, and farmers' and artisans' market. More than 400 people participated in the Health & Wellness Expo throughout the day; all the activities and stations were well-visited! Thank you again to our 2010 Volunteers and Sponsors!

Summer Youth Engagement Program Update

Wow, our neighborhood kids have been busy this summer! From the planting of our garden to harvest time, all of our youth have done work they can be proud of. Our activities included gardening (our sunflower 'house' is finally in bloom, come check it out!), learning about financial literacy with Consumers Professional Credit Union (thanks Marie!), and learning to sew with Ms. Ginger Petty. A special thanks goes out to her for her special dedication and patience. We also organized several fundraisers to finance field trips, including our trip to Michigan's Adventure. Last, but not least, a big thanks goes out to Ms. Jeana-Dee Allen and her troupe of volunteers for the great leadership and dedication to their very popular photography program. This program was educational in many ways, and helped ensure that our youth will always have something to remember this summer by. Thanks to all of our parents, volunteers, drivers, donors, and most of all, neighborhood kids!

Reminder: Youth Engagement for ages 9-17 starts up again on Saturday, Sept. 11th from 9am-1pm. **Call Lori at 517-999-2894** if you have questions.

Check 'YES!' for Michigan's Great Outdoors

A new and easy way for residents to purchase entrance passes into state parks, called the Recreation Passport, will be available when you renew your license plate registration, beginning in October 2010. For just \$10, you will be able to enter into all state parks, recreation areas and boat launches in Michigan. This is a huge savings from last year's cost of \$24 for an annual motor vehicle permit. Motorcycles are just \$5. When you check "yes" on your license plate renewal form, you will be helping to preserve access to Michigan's magnificent natural and cultural resources, mature forests, including rivers, waterfalls, lakes, and lighthouses.

Want more information? Visit the DNRE informational Web page at www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport.

Upcoming Events

Neighborhood What?: "Creating Great Places" Conference

Mark Your Calendar for Saturday, October 23, 2010 from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm and plan to join your fellow neighbors as the NorthWest Initiative hosts the first-ever Neighborhood Conference in Lansing. Watch for more details!

Let's Garden Lansing

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

Save The Date!

Come Celebrate 10 Years of Community Building with NWII!

"Decade of Giving and Decadent Dessert" Fundraiser on Thursday, November 11, 2010 from 5 – 8 pm (location tbd)

Food Resources

Panera Bread Distribution
 Every Thursday from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm
 NorthWest Initiative
1012 N. Walnut St., Room 106
517-999-2895

Angel Food Ministries
 Place orders in the middle of the month and pick up at the end of the month.
 Call Julie @ (517) 485-0174 (Must enroll prior to distribution)

Great Food for All
 Place orders at the beginning of the month and pick up in the middle of the month. Call Jack @ (517) 374-2650 (Must enroll prior to distribution)

Food Movers Distribution
 September 8th and October 13th from 11am-12pm
Black Child and Family Institute
835 W. Genesee St.
Lansing, MI 48915
517-487-3775