

# 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

Page 1

Westside Farmers' Market  
 Free Financial Literacy & Credit Repair Classes  
 Food Systems Project Goes Back To School

Page 2

Do You Need Health Coverage, Emergency Food, or Other Assistance?  
 Sign Up For Fall Youth Engagement Program  
 NWI Seeking Volunteers  
 Senior Citizens and "Aging-in-Place"!

Page 3

NWI Welcomes New Staff & Summer Interns  
 Do You Need Health Coverage?  
 NWI on Facebook & Twitter—Check Us Out!  
 Celebrate Your Health!

Page 4

September/ October 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 November/December newsletter submissions by October 1 to [peggy@nwlansing.org](mailto:peggy@nwlansing.org)

## Westside Farmers' Market—Bringing Farm Fresh Foods To Northwest Lansing!



NWI's Farmer's Market is bringing fresh locally grown fruits and vegetables to residents of northwest Lansing. Come out and join us for a fun-filled afternoon to purchase great produce, shop a variety of vendors, enjoy musical entertainment and free food samplings! **The market is open every Monday from 4-7 pm until September 19th in Shanora's parking lot at 829 W. Saginaw St.** For more information about the market, contact Annette at 999-2894; [annette@nwlansing.org](mailto:annette@nwlansing.org).

## Free Financial Literacy & Credit Repair Classes

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 free Financial Literacy & Credit Repair Classes.

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 banking, 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!

**September Workshops: Wednesdays – September 7, 14, 21 & 28**  
**October Workshops: Tuesdays – October 4, 11, 18, & 25**

Class size is limited to ensure individualized attention, so register early. You must attend all four sessions to receive a certificate of completion! **Each workshop is held from 6-7:30 pm at NorthWest Initiative, 530 W. Ionia St., Suite D, Lansing, MI 48933. To register, call 999-2894!**

## Food Systems Project Goes Back to School

The Food Systems Project **School Garden-Based Nutrition Education Program** will begin monthly classroom visits at four Lansing elementary schools this October. Over 1,000 students at Willow, Cavanaugh and Riddle Elementary and Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy prepare a new healthy food sample each month, and also participate in lots of fun educational activities using fruits and vegetables.

FSP is in desperate need of volunteers to assist with nutrition education lessons in the classroom this school year. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Annette at (517) 999-2894.

<b>Board of Directors</b>
Rebecca Budde Margaret Groves Michael Flowers, Vice President Nick Lynch Carol Skillings, Treasurer Vennisha Smith Rudy Wilson, President Angie Zamora, Secretary
<b>Staff</b>
Jonathon Bailey <i>FSP Garden Assistant &amp; Workshop Coordinator</i>  Joy Baldwin <i>Food Systems Project Manager &amp; Webmaster</i>  Molly Benjamin <i>FSP School Nutrition Educator</i>  Rick Bennett <i>Program Assistant</i>  John Bolan <i>AmeriCorps FSP Volunteer Coordinator</i>  Stephanie Campbell <i>FSP Nutrition Education &amp; Physical Fitness Coordinator</i>  Elizabeth Collins-Jones <i>Office Assistant</i>  Lori Eva <i>Volunteer Youth Coordinator</i>  Renee French <i>Office Assistant</i>  Monica Jahner <i>ARRO Outreach Worker &amp; Legislative Advocate</i>  Karen Kapala <i>Ex-Offender &amp; Family Advocate</i>  Jacqui Milton <i>Outreach Worker</i>  James Ramos <i>AmeriCorps Outreach Worker—Food Access Specialist</i>  Annette Sokolnicki <i>FSP Farmers' Market Manager &amp; School Nutrition Education</i>  Ramona Spencer <i>FSP Garden Coordinator</i>  Peggy Vaughn-Payne <i>Executive Director</i>  Maria Zavala <i>Outreach Manager</i>

## Do You Need Health Coverage, Emergency Food, 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 assistance for those who are returning to Ingham County from a correctional facility. **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).**

## Sign Up for NWI's Fall Youth Program at NWI

Our Fall Youth Engagement Program is open to all children ages 9-18. The Program meets every Saturday morning from 9am-12noon at Grace Lutheran Church (528 N. MLK Jr. Blvd—corner of Lapeer). The Fall Program will start on Saturday, September 17, 2011. Youth participate in a variety of activities including career exploration, financial literacy, community service projects, arts and crafts, fun field trips, photography, music and much more. For more information or to register your child, please call Lori at 999-2894.

## NorthWest Initiative Seeking Volunteers

NWI is looking for individuals who are interested in volunteering with our **Food Systems Development** (School Nutrition Education Program; Children's Garden; Community Gardens; Westside Farmers' Market, and Corner Store Project); **Outreach** (assisting clients with services, door-to-door canvassing, free tax preparation site, self-improvement workshops, free weekly bread/food distribution; and ex-offender assistance); **Youth Engagement** (working with at-risk youth on a variety of skills); and **Office Assistance** (greeting clients, answering telephones, copying, database entry, etc.). For more information on volunteering at NWI, please call John at 999-2894 or john@nwlansing.org.

## 5th Annual Prison Poetry Reading

The 5th Annual Prison Poetry Reading Fundraiser to benefit our ARRO Outreach Program is scheduled for  
**Mark Your Calendar - ARRO event in January!**

## 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, Michigan Fitness Foundation, Capital Area United Way, Self-Development of People, Presbyterian Church and the City of Lansing 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.

## News from the NWI Team!

We would like to welcome **Annette Sokolnicki** as our new Westside Farmers' Market Manager and School Nutrition Educator and **Molly Benjamin** as our School Nutrition Educator and say **good-bye to Carolyn Drake** who was instrumental in helping to develop the market. We would also like to welcome **Shelia Burtley** who joined our Youth Program as an Assistant; and **Judy Eva** and **Sara Brown** who joined NWI as interns. As summer ends, we say **thank you and good-bye** to a great group of summer interns from MSU: **Suji Choi, Jasmine Jones, Courtney Morra, and Catherine Leaym** and wish them well with their continued education!



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

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September/October 2011  
NorthWest Initiative  
Newsletter!



September / October Calendar 2011				For further September / October events—see page 3			
Title	Day	Time	Location	Title	Day	Time	Location
<b>Programs</b>				<b>Meetings</b>			
				ARRO Meeting Frank Rodriguez	September 23/ October 28	4:30pm	NWI
Youth Enrichment Program	Saturdays	9:00 am - 12:00 noon	GLC	Hull Ct. Park Neighborhood	September 7/ October 5		For info call 267-9848
Celebrate Your Health Club	Third Saturday of Month	9:30 am- 11:00 am	TLC	Genesee Neighborhood Assoc.	September 1/ October 6	7:00pm	GLC
Financial Literacy & Credit Repair Classes—4 Weeks September 7, 14, 21, 28 OR October 4, 11, 18, 25	Wednesdays Thursdays	6-7:30 pm	NWI	NWI Board Meeting Rudy Wilson	September 8/ October 6	5:45pm	NWI
National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) Support Group Sessions	Thursdays	7:00 pm- 8:30 pm	NWI	Westside Neighborhood	September 21/ October 19	7:00pm	LC
<b>Location Addresses and Phone Numbers</b>				Old Forest Neighborhood Kevin Webb	September 15/ October 20		For info call 372-8649
<b>BCFI</b> = Black Child and Family Institute, 835 W. Genesee, 487-3775	<b>GLC</b> = Grace Lutheran Church, 528 N. MLK Jr. Blvd., 372-5830			Knollwood/ Willow N'hood Walter Brown	September 15/ October 20	5:30pm	WE
<b>CADL</b> = Capitol Area District Li- brary, 401 S. Capitol, 367-6300	<b>NWI</b> = North West Initiative, 530 W. Ionia St., Suite D, 999-2894			Edmore Park Neighborhood Dayle Benjamin	September/ October		For info call 372-1455
<b>LC</b> = Letts Community Center, 1200 W. Kalamazoo, 483-4311	<b>SH</b> = Scott House, 125 W. Main, 999-2894			Downtown Neighborhood Cindy Redman	September 29/ October 27	6:00pm	CADL
<b>WE</b> = Willow Elementary, 1012 W. Willow St., 325-6886	<b>TLC</b> = Trinity Lutheran Church, 501 W. Saginaw St. 372-1631			Walnut Neighborhood Rina Risper	September/ October		For info call 372-8466

### NWI Seeking Decadent Desserts & Silent Auction Items

We are looking for individuals and corporate sponsors for silent auction items and chefs and bakers to donate delicious desserts for our **2nd Annual Decadent Dessert & Silent Auction Fundraiser to be held on Thursday, December 1, 2011 from 5-8 pm.** All donations from the Decadent Desserts & Silent Auction are tax-deductible and benefit the programs of the NorthWest Initiative which help to improve the lives of low to moderate income residents in our community! For more information, call Peggy at 999-2894; or [peggy@nwlansing.org](mailto:peggy@nwlansing.org).

### Celebrate Your Health!

Now that the summer is coming to a close, I hope all of you have taken the opportunity to make the most of it! If not, you still have some time!

Over the course of the next two months, we will definitely be focusing on health! To begin, we will be hosting Celebrate Your Health Club, where we will be **discussing how food can be used to help heal your body**, among other topics. We will also be finishing up our fitness season with bocce ball and a softball game to end the season with a bang!

**Celebrate Your Health Club** —meets the **third Saturday of every month** at Trinity Lutheran Church (501 W. Saginaw) from **9:30 - 11:00 am.**

### Farmers' Market at the Capitol

One last chance this season to stop by the **State Capitol on Thursday, September 15, 2011 from 10am-3pm** to enjoy Michigan farm fresh fruits and vegetables as well as a variety of other unique Michigan food vendors. For more information about the upcoming Farmers' Market at the Capitol, go to [www.nwlansing.org](http://www.nwlansing.org).

### 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 NWlansing](https://twitter.com/nwlansing)

### Upcoming Events

#### Mark Your Calendars

^^^  
Join us on

#### City of Lansing's Homeless Connect

If you are homeless or know someone who is homeless and in need, then share this information and have them stop by the old National Guard Armory at 201 S. Washington Ave. on Friday, September 23, 2011—9am-3pm for an event designed to provide a variety of on-site assistance to those in need! For more information, call 111-1111!

#### 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 — September 5th

NorthWest Initiative will be closed on Monday, September 5, 2011 in observance of Labor 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)