

The Eastside Neighbor

A publication of the Allen Neighborhood Center

1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48912 — (517) 367-2468
www.allenneighborhoodcenter.org

Volume VII, Issue VII

July-August 2007

Neighborhood Meetings
(For more meeting info, see page 3)

- **July 4: We Care Neighborhood Picnic**, 5:00, 423 Beech St.
- **July 5: FAIR Neighbors**, 6:30, ANC
- **July 9: ABC**, 6:00, Pilgrim Church
- **July 10: PLACE**, 6:30, ANC
- **July 12: Holmes St. School Comm. Assoc.**, 6:30, ANC
- **July 18: Foster Your Neighborhood**, 7:00, Foster Ctr.
- **July 26: Green Oaks**, 6:00, Christ Lutheran Church
- **July 27-28: PLACE Neighborhood Garage Sale**, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM
- **July 28: Foster Your Neighborhood Annual Picnic**, Foster Center grounds, time TBA
- **August 2nd: FAIR Neighbors**, 6:30, ANC
- **August 7: National Night Out**, various locations
- **August 7: Prospect Protectors Block Party**, 7:00
- **August 9th: Holmes St. School Comm. Assoc.**, 6:30, ANC
- **August 13: ABC Neighborhood Night Out Planning Meeting**, 6:00, 1220 Prospect
- **August 14: PLACE**, 6:30, ANC
- **August 15: Foster Your Neighborhood** 7:00, Foster Ctr.
- **August 23: Green Oaks**, 6:00,

The Eastside Neighbor is published every month by Allen Neighborhood Center. To have your submissions included, contact the editor, Franny Howes, at 367-2468 ext. 2007, or email her at ancfranny@gmail.com by **the 12th of the preceding month.**

Neighbors please note: this is a combined July and August issue. We will see you again in September!

Organized Neighborhoods Plan Junk Day 2007—Please Help!

There has been great demand from neighbors on the Eastside for clean-up projects large and small this summer. PLACE, ABC, and Prospect Protectors are stepping up and organizing **Junk Day 2007**, which will take place this coming August.

They can't do it alone! They need volunteers to help with the following:

- Canvass the neighborhood: canvassers will recruit block captains and people to help load the trucks on the day of the cleanup. They will also determine needs of their neighbors (such as who is elderly or disabled and needs help the night before to take stuff to the curb).
- Distribute fliers a week before the cleanup
- Recycle scrap metal
- Plan a potluck for after the cleanup

If you would like to be a part of this exciting project, please contact the leader of your local neighborhood group: Corie Jason of Prospect Protectors at 482-8756, Jennie Grau of PLACE at 484-5756, or Denise Kelley of ABC at 484-9109.

Façade Improvement Grantees Brighten the Cityscape

Allen Neighborhood Center is proud to spotlight some of the buildings that were given a new "lease" on life via the Façade Improvement Grant project, funded by The Capital Region Community Foundation and Michigan Interfaith Trust Fund.

Some familiar names and some possibly less familiar names fill the list of buildings that were improved with this money: Bake 'N Cakes, the Green Door Lounge, Stober's, Robinson Memorial Church of God in Christ, Blimpie, the Eastside Barber, the Serkaian Communications Building at 2200 E. Michigan, the Robert Sepeter building at 1915 E. Michigan, and 2200 and 2208 E. Michigan, owned by Karakitsos Properties.

At right, the new awning and sign installed at Stober's Bar, 812 E. Michigan; below, the beautiful new awnings, lighting,



siding, doors, and façade trim installed at the Serkaian Communications Building, 2200 E. Michigan.

Calling All Neighborhood Musicians!

Patrons of the Allen Street Farmers Market have expressed their enjoyment and appreciation of our Market Musicians. They truly help create a festive, lively, and entertaining atmosphere. Music is something we would like to offer at every market, however we are in need of more musicians willing to volunteer their talents.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming one of our featured local musicians, participating in an open mic, or even jamming with other local artists, please e-mail Kate Nault, Farmers Market Manager at katen@allenneighborhoodcenter.org for more details. We can provide a P.A. system, two mics and access for up to four acoustic pick ups.

ANC Update

Activities and programs offered by Allen Neighborhood Center

Good Byes...

In July, we are saying good-bye to three of this year's VISTAs and one other staff member while welcoming new VISTAs.

Leaving for new adventures are Julia Herzog, Sanjay Bisht, Jenn Hoffman, and Judith Bridger. Julia's major contributions (everyone gets drafted for half a hundred 'minor' tasks as well) include coordination of Breadbasket, Information and Referral (I & R), volunteer recruitment, and a good 80% of our graphic design work over the last year. Sanjay was a familiar presence in the Youth Service Corps and the Youth Gardening Program. He was also tapped to help develop the Good Neighbor Bulletin, provide I & R, and support organized neighborhoods. Jennifer Hoffman will be long remembered for her amazing logistical skills as she organized Junk Day for an area involving over 1300 households and took the lead on our May 12 Saturday in the Park. In her 'spare' time, she helped facilitate the Urbandale Project, including all of the activities around Elizabeth Park. Thanks, all three of you, for your service to the Eastside. Jen and Julia are off to graduate school now, while Sanjay is exploring both job and school options.

Judith Bridger, our Food/Gardening Program Director, is retiring in July. Judith has provided superb leadership in overseeing the growth of the Allen Street Farmers Market for the last two seasons and getting the Hunter Park GardenHouse built! We will miss her very much, but are confident that she won't be able to stay away from the greenhouse once green things are growing inside of it!

...And Hellos!

Welcome to two new energetic VISTAs: Kevin Madison and Leslie Retzlaff, both of whom will begin their year of service on June 30.

Stop by to introduce yourself to Kevin and Leslie, and join with us in thanking Julia, Jen, Sanjay, and Judith for their outstanding contributions to ANC and to the Eastside.

Thank You To...

- Ann Francis and Jen Hoffman for their outstanding work on Elizabeth Park Raingarden, Floodpole, and Educational Displays.
- Shannon James Kahne, Principal of Resurrection School for the wonderful rainbarrels.
- Corie Jason for the filter on our kitchen tap.
- Dave Stewart for use of the parking lot for yet another Farmers Market season.
- Jim Dravenstatt and Members of IBEW 352, Harold Armour (City Plumber), Harold Peffley and the Board of Water and Light for an extremely generous donation of labor and equipment and materials for installation of the utilities in the Hunter Park GardenHouse.
- Smith Floral and Van Atta's for their plant donations
- Black Soil for help planting petunias on the west side of the GardenHouse
- J.T. Stout for tilling and helping plant petunias as well!

Attention seniors: the Senior Coffee schedule was not available at press time. Stop by the center of call to find out what's going on at Wednesday Morning Senior Coffee!

Job Opening:

Market Manager for the Allen Street Farmers Market

Allen Neighborhood Center has an opening for the Market Manager of our Allen Street Farmers Market, effective September 1. The Market Manager will oversee all operations of the Market, which operates on Wednesday afternoons, from May to October. Responsibilities are year round, with hours varying with the season (i.e., 20-30 hours/week). Responsibilities include farmer/vendor selection and support, marketing, logistics, volunteer recruitment and training. Salary will be commensurate with experience.

Strong candidates will have education or training related to the position. Experience on the Eastside, in urban gardening/farming or food security initiatives, in neighborhood development, planning and program management are preferred. Please submit your resume and cover to joann@allenneighborhoodcenter.org or drop it off at the Center, located at 1619 E. Kalamazoo St. in Lansing, by July 30. Call Joan at 999-3912 with questions.

Don't forget! The Allen Street Farmers Market runs every Wednesday (except for the 4th of July) through Halloween. Check out our Tomato Festival on August 22nd!



Across the Neighborhood

Neighborhood News

ABC: We have lots of activities coming up in the next couple of months:

- We will have our regular ABC meeting on July 9th at 6:00 PM at Pilgrim Church. This is a change due to the July 4th holiday.
- ABC's Neighborhood Night Out will take place on Friday, September 14th, at Pilgrim Church's covered porch area and parking lot. We are having a planning meeting for this event on Monday, August 13th, at the Kelley's home, 1220 Prospect, at 6:00 PM. Anyone who would like to help is welcome to attend! (More details on this event will follow in late August.)
- Mark your calendars for the CARS Country to the City picnic on Tuesday, August 21st, at the Oak Park building. (Fliers will be coming in late August.)
- Please remember that we have a neighborhood shed full of tools, including a lawnmower. Many neighbors are already taking advantage of it!

Any questions or concerns about ABC, please contact Denise Kelley at 484-9109 or email abcneighborhood@sbcglobal.net. Enjoy the weather and get out and meet your neighbors!

We Care Neighborhood Watch and Association: We have a neighborhood picnic on the Fourth of July. This will be held in front of 423 and 419 Beech St. at 5:00 PM. Bring a dish to pass and come join in the fun.

August 7th we have a National Night Out Picnic planned. We have guests from the police department and the fire department. We also have McGruff the Crime

Dog for the kids that attend. It is again held in front of 423 and 419 Beech on the sidewalk and front yards. We hope to have a lot of fun and enjoy some time with our neighbors.

FAIR Neighbors: FAIR Neighbors meets on the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 PM at Allen Neighborhood Center. The July meeting will be held on Thursday, July 5th at 6:30 PM at Allen Neighborhood Center. Door prizes are raffled off at every meeting.

At the July meeting, neighbors are planning the details for National Night Out (NNO) on August 7th. NNO promotes neighborhood safety through drug and crime prevention. NNO is also a great opportunity to meet and get to know people in your neighborhood. Past NNO activities have included block parties, cookouts and visits from local police and fire departments.

Come to the general meeting on August 2nd to discuss ideas for future projects.

PLACE: Come to Our 6th Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale!

Dates: July 27 & 28, 2007

Time 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

It's a great feeling to clean out your closets, attics, and basements! Join the fun.

The fee is \$3.00 per household. These fees will cover the costs of an ad in the Lansing State Journal, signs at intersections, and balloons/signs on your lawn.

Nancy & friends will come door-to-door in July to find out if you will participate, and to collect fees. If you have questions please call: Nancy McCrohan (220 Allen St) 372-2472.

Foster Your Neighborhood:

We will be holding general membership meetings on July 18th and August 15th. These meetings are both at 7:00 PM at the Foster Community Center.

Our Annual Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 28th at the Foster Community Center grounds, and we will be holding a neighborhood garage sale the weekend of August 11th.

Prospect Protectors will not be having an August meeting, but will be holding a block party on August 7th at 6:00. Their next meeting will not be until October 18th.

SAVE THE DATE!

The **2007 WESTSIDE SUMMER FEST** is Saturday, July 14, 2007, 12 PM - 9 PM, just east of El Azteco on W. Saginaw. This FREE community event is part of the revitalization/beautification effort for Saginaw Street business district, organized by the NorthWest Initiative/Westside Alliance program.

The festival will include a farmer's market, ice cream, and hot food sales; art, poetry, and music activities and performances; bicycle rodeo and bike safety information; misting station; home repair fair from City of Lansing to help people learn basic home repairs; onsite lead testing for kids and lead safety information. More than a dozen musical performances by local artists are planned – everything from gospel to rock to R&B to blues - as well as poetry jam and kids' poetry workshop from the NuPoets group. It will also include booths and info from Lansing Police and Fire Departments. The focus is on fun, family, diversity, creative expression, and building community. Come out and be part of the Westside community, where there is something for everyone. For more info, contact Jessica at 214-5684 or jessica@nwlansing.org.

Growing in Community

The People and Groups Making a Difference On the Eastside

TRIAD Senior Prom 2007

Ingham County TRIAD, in partnership with Elder Law of Michigan, has joined forces to bring you the second annual **Ingham County TRIAD Senior Prom 2007**. It will be held on Friday, August 10th, 2007 at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center. A portion of our proceeds will be donated to Elder Law of Michigan to support its mission to help seniors throughout the state.

The Senior Prom held last year was a wonderful opportunity for our seniors to socialize and dance with friends and feel honored for the many contributions they make in our lives. It was a fun and exciting evening including food, fun, and dancing. The senior prom is worthwhile event that has and continues to provide assistance and benefit to seniors in our community. Tickets will be available starting July 9th at the Tri-County Office on Aging, 5303 S. Cedar Street. For more information on this event, please call 517-372-0593.

Ingham County TRIAD is a non-profit organization committed to assisting senior citizens. It consists of a joint effort among law enforcement, community members, and seniors working together to reduce criminal victimization of seniors and enhance the delivery of law enforcement services to older citizens. It also focuses on reducing fear of crime and improving their quality of life.

Questions about TRIAD? Contact the Tri-County Office on Aging at 887-1440.

Hunter Park Thirty-One Club

Cliff Conrad, an Eastside resident of Prospect Protectors, is looking for 31 neighbors, groups of neighbors, or families to join the **Hunter Park Thirty-One Club**.

Each neighbor or group will pick a day of the month. On that day each month, they will be responsible for picking up trash and bottles at Hunter Park.

This is a 12-time-per-year commitment and Cliff hopes folks who have not helped out with neighborhood activities before will take the time to get involved! We strongly encourage families with children to participate and teach our Eastside youngsters stewardship of our environment.

To join, please contact Cliff at 749-7870 or by email at cliffconrad@sbcglobal.net. See you in the park!

Back-to-School Backpack Drive

The City Rescue Mission is holding their annual backpack and school supply drive this summer. Donations of backpacks, pencils, notebooks, rulers, and other goods will be accepted until August 21st. Monetary donations are also accepted but "Backpacks" must be included in the subject line of all checks.

The big backpack giveaway day will be **August 25th** from 9:00-4:00 at the Rescue Mission's Maplewood Facility, 2216 S. Cedar Street. Parents must bring identification for every child who needs a backpack.

For more information, or if you would like to volunteer to stuff backpacks, please call Jim Ellsworth at 485-7145.

GardenHouse Update

We are seeing the finish line on construction of the GardenHouse at Hunter Park.



Earthworks Construction, our builders, only have to put on two replacement outer panels when they arrive

from manufacturer in California, and then install doors at both ends of the building!

We recently received the results of our soil test and things look good; next, we'll be preparing the soil to create 6" raised beds, approximately 3' X 24'.

Huge praise and thanks goes out to the amazing workforce from the Lansing Board of Water & Light, Harold Armour (the City Plumber), and IBEW Local 352 for their volunteer effort. Their tireless work trenching and installing the electric and water lines lasted all day Saturday, June 2nd.



On June 22nd, ANC Staff, neighbors and volunteers from Black Soil, a local church, planted scores of petunias on three sides of the GardenHouse. It was an exhausting task but we got them all planted. Stop on by and check it out!

Community Builder's Toolbox

Ideas and Information for Strengthening Neighborhoods

Free Lead-Safe Work Practices Training from GLHC

The Greater Lansing Housing Coalition is hosting a series of FREE classes on lead safety and work practices. These classes will be held at 600 W. Maple, on the corner of Maple and Pine, and free lunch is also provided.

Class Schedule:

Reducing Lead Paint Hazards in Your Home: For everyone, Wednesday, June 27, 2007, 8:30-3:00

Lead Safe Work Practices for Remodeling and Rehabilitation of Residential Housing*: for professionals, landlords, and workers, Tuesday, July 10, 2007, 8:30-4:00

Lead Safe Work Practices for Volunteers and Homeowners: Wednesday, July 11, 2007, 8:30-4:00

Hands-On Skills Training/Basic Construction Techniques for Lead Hazard Reduction: For anyone interested in learning skills in lead hazard reduction for the purpose of gaining employment, Wednesday, July 18, 2007, 8:30-4:00

For more information, or to register, please call the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition at 372-5980.

***NOTE:** This course has been approved by HUD and EPA for lead based paint reduction work. It is not a certification class for lead abatement.

Home Improvement Teachers Wanted

The Greater Lansing Housing Coalition is also looking for qualified individuals to volunteer their time and skills to teach basic home maintenance, repair, and resource classes. For more information, please call Dawn at 372-5980 or email her at dawn@glhc.org.

Elizabeth Park Floodplain Garden: A New Destination on the Eastside!

On Saturday, June 2nd, the Elizabeth Park beautification and education project was completed. Forty three volunteers cleared brush and trash out of two wooded lots that adjoin the park, planted the rain garden, beautified the park signs, and enjoyed lunch together. An educational sign has been placed in the garden that describes the history of the floodplain, precautions to take before and in the event of a flood and information about rain gardens.

At the end of the day the garden was dedicated to Eugene and Cheryl Basey who were instrumental in the development of the Park. The day was very meaningful and a celebration of what community members working together can accomplish.

Many thanks to all the people who made this project a success. Take a bike ride or walk to Elizabeth Park to check out this wonderful addition to our neighborhood. Elizabeth Park is located in the 500 block of Charles Street, south of Kalamazoo.

Clockwise from right: Tameshia Bridges and Noah Filipiak at work clearing brush in the park, Tameshia, Dave Muylle, and Corie Jason planting in the garden, and the

Basey family to whom the Elizabeth Park garden is dedicated. Thanks everyone for all your hard work, and we will see you in the park!

A List of Thanks and Credits for the Elizabeth Park Project :

- Barefoot Lansing Church (Noah Filipiak, Tameshia Bridges, David Wigglesworth)
- Lansing Township (John Daher, Steve Hayward, Michael Fomby)
- The staff at Allen Neighborhood Center (Julia Herzog, Judith Bridger, K'Anna Burton, Joan Nelson, Kate Koskinen, Sarah Steele, Don Moore, Kate Nault)
- The Garden Project (Phil Throop)
- Eastside Neighbors (Nancy Lombardi, Kate Barrier, Molly Ryan, Dave Muylle, Matt Smar, Stephaney Guild, Dawn Kettinger, Lori Mack, Paul Mack, The Basey Family, The Jason Family, Joyce Hanford, Dan Shafarman)
- City of Lansing Forestry Department (Irene Cahill)
- Lansing Emergency Management (Ronda Oberlin)
- Bake N' Cakes (Jeff Johnson)
- Delphi Corporation



HEALTHY NEWS!

A publication of the Allen Neighborhood Center 1619 E. Kalamazoo Lansing, MI 48912 (517) 367-2468

July/August 2007

Infant Safety Workshop and Dinner

Do you have young children or are you expecting a new baby? If so, please join us for a *free* two-part workshop about infant health and safety.

The workshops will cover important caregiver issues like

- safe sleep
- car seat safety
- child proofing your home
- general infant health and well baby check ups

Different topics are covered at each session so plan on coming to both. The workshops are open to families who are expecting a baby or have small children in the home—including relatives raising a relatives child (kinship care). Each family attending will receive free health and safety items for your home.

The workshops will be held at the Allen Neighborhood Center on Wednesday August 15 and 22, from 5:30-7:00 pm.

Dinner and childcare will be provided.

Seats are limited, so please call **Monica at 999-3919** to RSVP.

The presentation will include hands-on activities and answers to your questions about the health and safety of your baby.

The information is presented by the Expectant Parent Organization and is funded by the Ingham County Health Department and the Michigan Department of Community Health.



Good health is contagious. Catch some on the Eastside!

KINSHIP CARE: What You Need To Know

“Kinship Care” refers to a child being raised by a relative, most often a grandparent. This happens for many reasons including:

- economic hardship
- divorce
- domestic violence
- substance abuse
- mental illness
- other challenges to the family

Many of these children would be in foster care if their relatives were not caring for them.

In Michigan alone, there are close to 185,000 children being raised by their relatives, mostly their grandparents.

Sometimes the courts have awarded custody to the relatives, sometimes it is just an agreement between the parents and care giving relatives. Both situations bring up questions and issues that traditional families don't have. But help is available.

The ANC has a Kinship Care support group where neighbors share their concerns about their kinship families.

The group meets every second Saturday of the month from 1:30 – 3:30 pm., right at the Center. We provide snacks and childcare so the whole family is welcome. (continued at right)

Healing Foods Highlight: **CARROTS**



Have you ever heard that carrots are good for your eyes? It's true! Carrots are an excellent source of Vitamin A and Beta Carotene. Studies have shown that diets high in Beta Carotene are linked to lower rates of cancer and blood sugar regulation.

Pick up some fresh, locally grown carrots at the ANC Farmers Market this Wednesday!

(continued from left)

Kinship Care meetings usually have a speaker who talks about an issue important to raising a relative's child, or raising children in general. Past meetings have highlighted truancy, bullying, gang violence, underage drinking, and infant health and safety.

Each year we have a picnic where all families and children are invited to play and eat together in the park.

The next two meetings will be on July 14 and August 11 from 1:30– 3:30 pm. at the Allen Neighborhood Center.

All kinship families are welcome. For more information contact Francine Watts, Program Coordinator at 367-2468.

Healthy News is published by the Allen Neighborhood Center and is made possible by support from the Ingham County Health Department and the Komen Foundation. For input about the newsletter, please call 367-2468 x.2010 or email monicak@allenneighborhoodcenter.org

Eastside Events for July 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Youth Service Corps: 10:30-12:30 Breadbasket: 1:00	4 <i>Independence Day</i> ANC Closed <i>No Farmers Market</i> We Care Picnic: 5:00, 423 Beech St.	5 Youth Service Corps: 10:30-12:30 FAIR Neighbors: 6:30, ANC	6	7
8	9 ABC: 6:00, Pilgrim Church	10 Youth Service Corps: 10:30-12:30 Breadbasket: 1:00 PLACE: 6:30, ANC	11 Senior Coffee: 10:00 Farmers Market: 2:30-6:30	12 Youth Service Corps: 10:30-12:30 Holmes St. School Comm. Assoc: 6:30, ANC	13	14 Kinship Care: 1:00
15	16	17 Youth Service Corps: 10:30-12:30 Breadbasket: 1:00 Over-the-Counter Meds:1:00-4:00	18 Senior Coffee: 10:00 Farmers Market; 2:30- 6:30 Foster Your Neighbor- hood: 7:00, Foster Ctr.	19 Youth Service Corps: 10:30-12:30	20	21
22	23	24 Youth Service Corps: 10:30-12:30 Breadbasket: 1:00	25 Senior Coffee: 10:00 Farmers Market: 2:30-6:30	26 Youth Service Corps: 10:30-12:30 Green Oaks: 6:00, Christ Lutheran Church	27 PLACE Garage Sale: 9:00-4:00	28 PLACE Garage Sale: 9:00-4:00 Foster Your Neighborhood Picnic: Foster Center, TBA
29	30 ANC Board of Direc- tors Meeting: 4:30, ANC	31 Youth Service Corps: 10:30-12:30 Breadbasket: 1:00				

Eastside Events for August 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Senior Coffee: 10:00 Farmers Market: 2:30- 6:30	2 Youth Service Corps: 10:30-12:30 FAIR Neighbors: 6:30, ANC	3	4
5	6	7 Youth Service Corps: 10:30-12:30 Breadbasket: 1:00 Prospect Protectors Block Party: 7:00	8 Senior Coffee: 10:00 Farmers Market: 2:30- 6:30	9 Youth Service Corps: 10:30-12:30 Holmes St. School Comm. Assoc: 6:30, ANC	10	11 Kinship Care: 1:00
12	13 ABC Neighborhood Night Out Planning Meeting: 6:30, 1220 Prospect	14 Youth Service Corps: 10:30-12:30 Breadbasket: 1:00 PLACE: 6:30, ANC	15 Senior Coffee: 10:00 Farmers Market: 2:30- 6:30	16 Youth Service Corps: 10:30-12:30	17	18
19	20	21 Youth Service Corps: 10:30-12:30 Breadbasket: 1:00 Over-the-Counter Meds: 1:00-4:00	22 Senior Coffee: 10:00 Tomato Festival at the Allen Street Farmers Market: 2:30-6:30	23 Youth Service Corps: 10:30-12:30 Green Oaks: 6:00, Christ Lutheran Church	24	25
26	27 ANC Board of Direc- tors Meeting: 4:30, ANC	28 Youth Service Corps: 10:30-12:30 Breadbasket: 1:00	29 Senior Coffee: 10:00 Farmers Market: 2:30- 6:30	30 Youth Service Corps: 10:30-12:30	31	