

THE EASTSIDE NEIGHBOR

A monthly newsletter by Allen Neighborhood Center
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@Allenneighborhoodcenter



Reflecting on 2020 and Moving Forward

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

At Allen Neighborhood Center (ANC), we are starting the New Year sobered by the challenges and difficulties of 2020 but optimistic about what lies ahead. Given our focus on 'essential services', ANC remained open almost all of last year. We are grateful to the dedicated staff and volunteers who persevered in providing these services in wildly unpredictable times. Here are a few things in store in 2021:

Thank you for taking a look at The Eastside Neighbor! Here at ANC, we are dedicated to keeping our friends and neighbors up to speed on what's going on within the Eastside. Check out this issue's contents below:

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Construction: We are moving steadily ahead on the creation of Allen Place, a mixed-use, mixed-income development on our block. We describe this as “a development at the intersection of health, food, housing and energy innovation” ---long-term priorities of ANC. Check out allenplace.org for information about the residential and commercial components of the development; and to hear about the rolling series of open houses scheduled until the Grand Opening in fall of this year. Thank you, by the way, to our nearest neighbors for your patience with the noise and dust as we demolish old buildings and build anew!

The Accelerator Kitchen: The new Accelerator Kitchen will open in mid-February and feature four graduates of our Incubator Kitchen Program. The four include Tantay (Peruvian cuisine), Mr. Leslie’s Cheesecake, Smoothie Queen, and Slows BBQ. The Accelerator is an intermediate step between our Incubator Program (offering kitchen access and business development support to entry level food entrepreneurs) and sole proprietorship. Stop in and welcome these four as they take the next step in their entrepreneurial journey! (Call Matt Jones at 999-3921 for info on either Kitchen!)

Recovery and Resolve: As we emerge from a year that was extraordinarily difficult--- for our neighborhood, our City, our World---it’s clear to us that, in addition to our usual work, we must more vigorously address the persistent, systemic racial, economic, and health disparities revealed by COVID. We ask ourselves always, what is the role of a neighborhood center in this effort? We look forward to working with as many of you as possible to answer that question and to craft neighborhood-driven strategies to create a resilient, equitable, and welcoming Eastside.

See you in the neighborhood!



Allen Farmers Market is back home and will be open every Wednesday from 3pm-6:30pm, January-May, inside at Allen Neighborhood Center. Park in the east lot (off Shepard) and enter through the north doors.

The Market features fresh produce from Toy Box Farms and Hillcrest Farms, baked goods from Stone Circle Bakehouse, cheese from Hickory Knoll Farms Creamery, eggs from Grazing Fields, coffee from Rust Belt Roastery, and Apple Blossom Kombucha.

Grab hot carry out dinner from Tantay (Peruvian cuisine) or Picnic Food Truck (vegetarian & non-veg burgers and sandwiches). Cheesecake slices from Mr. Leslie's Cheesecake and smoothies from Smoothie Queen will also be available at the Market until mid-February when these two Makers move to the new Accelerator Kitchen opening in 1615 E. Kalamazoo!

Remember to visit our Market Bank to use your credit/debit card or SNAP/EBT card (plus Double Up Food Bucks).

We are looking forward to opening the *outdoor* market season in our new parking lot on the corner of Shepard and Kalamazoo! The exact opening date will depend on Allen Place construction, so stay tuned for updates throughout the spring.

COVID-19 Resources

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyone around the world. Here at ANC, one of our goals is to help our friends and neighbors by providing as many resources as we can regarding this virus. Check them out below:

- **Statewide Coronavirus Hotline: (888) 535-6136**

The MDHHS launched a statewide hotline to respond to your COVID-19 questions. It is open *seven days a week from 8AM to 5PM*.

- **Ingham County Corona Virus Hotline: (517) 887-4517**

- **Vaccine Information: www.Ingham.org or (517) 887-4623**

- **Sparrow Vaccine Information: www.sparrow.org/vaccine**

- **Rental Assistance:** Capital Area Housing Partnership may be able to assist with your rent. Call (517) 332-4663 or log on to assistance@capitalareahousing.org.

- **Capital Area United Way Emergency Relief Fund: (866)-561-2500**

If you need help with expenses related to the COVID-19 crisis, Capital Area will take your information and give you referrals to programs that can help.

- **MiMortgage Relief Partnership: (877)-999-6442**

Facing financial hardship due to COVID-19 and face losing your home during this public health crisis? Give MiMortgage a call to see if you qualify for COVID-19 related mortgage relief.



Our Spring Plant Sale is Here!

The Gardenhouse is offering a variety of flowers and vegetables through our webstore. Take the worry out of your garden and let us grow your favorite plants with loving care and ecologically responsible practices. All orders will be available for pick-up from the GardenHouse in May, through a no-contact pick-up system. Visit allenmarketplaceonline.org to place your orders, today. Funds raised through this event support Hunter Park GardenHouse programs such as Edible Park, Garden-In-A-Box, youth programming, our workshop series, and so much more. These programs allow our neighbors, of all ages, access to fresh, nutritious food, and arm them with knowledge and power to grow food for themselves and their families. We are grateful for all your support, and the opportunity to continue serving our community for years to come.



Sign up for a subscription to local, sustainable produce!

The Veggie Box program is a multi-farm CSA that offers a weekly subscription to local, healthy, sustainably grown fruits and vegetables! Our goal is to ease the amount of effort involved with healthy conscious eating by bringing the farmer's bounty to you. Each week, we purchase the best in-season produce from an array of local farmers, pack it into a box, and have it available for pick-up at the Allen Market Place on either Tuesdays or Thursdays. We accept weekly SNAP payments!

14 weeks

Tuesdays: Jun 1 - August 31

Thursday: June 3 - Sept 2

A subscription is \$322, with add-on items available at an additional cost.

Subsidized Program Available!

Are you a member of a low-income family with children? Do you know a neighbor who is? The Summer Veggie Box program, with funding from dozens of sponsor is providing subsidized Veggie Boxes to low-income families in the 48912 zip code! For these families, a Veggie Box membership will only cost \$70, made in \$5 weekly payments! Choose this payment option by following the register link below.

Register at:

bit.ly/summerveggiebox2021 **Questions?** Contact Kat Logan at 517.999.3923 or foodhub@allenneighborhoodcenter.org

We would like to thank AF Group, Magna DexSys, Emergent BioSolutions, and Sparrow Health System for donating to ANC's Subsidized Veggie Box Program. These contributions allow 12 low-income families with children in our neighborhood enjoy the benefits of fresh, nutritionally-dense foods. Thank you!

Hunter Park GardenHouse Workshops

The GardenHouse workshop series is moving online in 2021! See below for the first half of our 2021 "GardenHouse Talks" series.

Workshop #1: Indoor Plant Care Talk w/ 1991 Greenery

\$15 suggest donation/free tickets available

Date & Time: February 6th 10AM-11:30AM

Register at: <https://bit.ly/indoorplantcare>

Workshop #2: Seed Saving

\$15 suggested donation/free tickets available

Date & Time: February 20th 10AM-11:30AM

Register at: <http://bit.ly/seedsaveworkshop>

Workshop #3: Hunter Park GardenHouse Neighbor Spotlight: Root of the Vine Urban Garden

\$15 suggested donation/free tickets available

Date & Time: March 6th 10AM-11:30AM

Register at: <http://bit.ly/spotlightrootvine>

Workshop#4: Communal Land Ownership and community Food Systems

\$15 suggested donation/free tickets available

Date & Time: March 20th 10AM-11:30AM

Register at: <https://bit.ly/csaland>

Youth Programs

Allen Neighborhood Center has worked to equip Eastside youth with job and life skills since its inception in 1999. And while the COVID-19 pandemic has halted business as usual, ANC would still like to safely engage our future leaders.

In lieu of its Take Root Garden Club and Youth Service Corps programs, ANC is offering one-hour outdoor social pod youth sessions at Hunter Park. ANC has winterized its outdoor classroom at Hunter Park and is excited to offer educational programming to self-determined "pods" in an open-air, well-ventilated setting with mask-wearing and hand washing.

Learn age-appropriate botany, naturalist, and art skills while breaking cabin fever and staying safe. This program is free of charge to Eastside neighbors; there is no cost to participate.

Please fill out a form at <https://forms.gle/8MpCxc3Snk6t9EpB8> or email ANC Youth Programs Coordinator, Ashley Bellant, at ashleyb@allenneighborhoodcenter.org to indicate your youth's interest. You may sign up as a "pod" or an individual looking to be matched. Classes are set to begin within the next few weeks.

Outreach & Engagement Office

Stop by the Outreach and Engagement Office at ANC with all your healthcare (Medicaid, Ingham Health Plan, ACA), housing, State Benefits and other questions and/or concerns! We can also refer you to other agencies, and have a community computer for your use.

What is **Ingham Health Plan**?

IHP is basic healthcare coverage for Ingham County residents. You can only apply for IHP if you are ineligible for Medicaid or have a Medicaid pending case. There are no premium costs (There is a \$20 enrollment fee to IHP.) and you only pay a small co-pay for most services.

IHP requires Picture ID, Proof of Residency (license, ID, bill) and Proof of Income (paycheck stubs, unemployment, or other proofs) to enroll.

What is **Medicaid**?

Medicaid gives health coverage to people who have a limited income.

Michigan has a several different Medicaid programs, and you can see all of them on the Michigan Department of Community Health website.

Stop by our office at 1611 E Kalamazoo St, check out our website <http://allenneighborhoodcenter.org>, or give us a call (517) 367-2468

Our office hours include:

Monday - Thursdays

9AM-5PM

Fridays

By appointment only

Walk ins welcome!

Sustaining Neighbors

ANC is excited to welcome our new donor group, Sustaining Neighbors! Sustaining Neighbors seeks to engage Eastside Neighbors in 3-year pledges, which support our health-focused programs. Contribution levels are flexible to reflect our neighborhood's diverse incomes, ranging from \$5 to \$83 a month (or \$60 to \$999 annually).

Your three-year pledge helps raise medium-term funding, meaning you will play a direct role in supporting our Allen Farmers Market, Breadbasket food pantry, and assistance accessing healthcare; programming that fosters a healthier and more connected Eastside.

If you'd like to be a part of ensuring all Eastsiders have access to food, housing, and healthcare, and wish to connect with a community of like minded philanthropists, email Iris Paul for more information at VISTA@AllenNeighborhoodCenter.org

Shared Use Kitchens for Food Entrepreneurs

In 2014, ANC opened an Incubator Kitchen, offering affordable kitchen and storage rental along with business development support to entry-level food entrepreneurs. A number of the Makers in our Kitchen have since gone on to establish their own bricks and mortar operations: Sleepwalker Spirits and Ale, Apple Blossom Kombucha, Joycakes, and more.

We are pleased to announce the opening in mid-February of our Accelerator Kitchen, an intermediate step between the Incubator and sole proprietorship, at 1615 E. Kalamazoo. Four Incubator graduates will open in the Accelerator, including Tantay, Mr. Leslie's Cheesecake, Slows BBQ, and Smoothie Queen. Until they open in the new space, these folks can be found in our Market. Come sample their delicious fare, and then visit them regularly once the Accelerator opens.

For information about either of our shared use kitchens, contact Matt Jones, Kitchens Manager, at 517-999-3921 or email him at kitchens@allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Neighborhood Groups

The **Eastside Neighborhood Organization (ENO)** is hosting monthly meetings and the public is welcome to attend! Meetings take place virtually every first Wednesday of the month at 7PM. Check out ENO's website for more information: <http://enoonline.org/wp/>

Prospect PLACE meetings are the third Monday of the month. All neighbors in the Prospect PLACE are can attend via Zoom.

Zoom Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86309430146?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86309430146?pwd=RIJnZmdENSs0Tm1VOXUzZVFpd215Zz09)

[pwd=RIJnZmdENSs0Tm1VOXUzZVFpd215Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86309430146?pwd=RIJnZmdENSs0Tm1VOXUzZVFpd215Zz09)

Meeting ID: 863 0943 0146

Passcode: 179492