

# THE EASTSIDE NEIGHBOR

A periodic newsletter by Allen Neighborhood Center  
 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48912  
 (517) 367-2468 [www.allenneighborhoodcenter.org](http://www.allenneighborhoodcenter.org)



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

What an exciting past few months we've had in our community! The Eastside has been blessed with many new art installations that make our community more beautiful and a better place to live. We recently dedicated the new Mother Tree statue in Hunter Park, built new artistic bike racks along Kalamazoo St, and saw a new mural on the Bike Co-Op. Additionally, we are thrilled to be expanding our own mural on the building's east side!

The celebrations as each project has been unveiled continue to remind us how joyous it is to come together in community, and we are adding to it by hosting a community block party! On Friday, September 15th from 4-7pm, we are hosting our end-of-summer gala, 'Celebrating the Eastside: A Neighborhood Block Party.' We will provide food and drinks, and a presentation will start at 5:00 pm. This event is free to attend, though donations are welcome!

We will be providing many other opportunities to build community and connect with our neighbors, from our **Fall Veggie Box** to our **Breadbasket Food Pantry**, our **Farmers Market** starting a new season, and our **Hunter Park GardenHouse Community Potlucks**. Additionally we are excited to share that we are welcoming two new staff members to our organization!

Ethan Schmitt is our new Volunteer & Communications Manager. He has been an Eastside resident since early 2020 and is the neighborhood leader for Prospect PLACE Neighborhood. He understands that this work could never happen without our incredible volunteers and wants to make their experience a great one. In his spare time, Ethan loves exploring the River Trail, reading, playing with his cats, and cooking.



Aurora Seelye will be our inaugural Health & Housing Coordinator. She interned in our Outreach Office in college, and is excited to continue the important work helping our neighbors connect with resources in the area. Aurora likes to read, spend time with her roommates in her co-op, and be outside in all ways.



-Joe Enerson, Executive Director

The **Eastside Lansing Food Co-op** is now offering a convenient and affordable selection of fresh produce, package goods, frozen food, and bulk items as "your neighborhood grocery store" seven days a week. Everyone is welcome to shop at ELFCO - no membership required. Check out [ELFCO.org](http://ELFCO.org) or call (517) 999-2222 for more info!

The **Allen Community Health Center** is open Monday - Friday, 8am - 5pm. As a Federally Qualified Health Center they provide medical services to *everyone*, regardless of insurance or ability to pay. Walk-in patients will be assisted as staff availability allows, but appointments are recommended. Schedule by calling (517) 679-2880

## Senior Discovery Group

The Senior Discovery Group meets every Wednesday from 10 - 11:30am. We invite seniors from the neighborhood to come out for 'pretty good coffee and great conversation.' Meetings are facilitated by a variety of guest speakers from regional partners: MSU's International Speakers Program, the Tri-County Office on Aging, Capital Area District Libraries, elected officials, artists, musicians, nutritionists, and more! We also have more interactive meetings that range from puzzles, picnics, bocce ball, and more! With any questions or to RSVP, feel free to email Nya Jarvis at [nyaj@allenneighborhoodcenter.org](mailto:nyaj@allenneighborhoodcenter.org), or call the office at 517-367-2468.

## Allen Farmers Market

We're in our **19th Summer Season (May 10 - October 25, 2023)**, in which we take over the Eastside parking lot and the Great Room indoors **every Wednesday from 3 - 6:30pm** throughout the Summer season with over 25 vendors.

As **Lansing's only year-round farmers market**, you can pick from the highest quality, locally-sourced meat, cheese, eggs, bread, seasonal produce, flowers, plant starts, coffee, tea and more.

Buying your groceries from the market strengthens your local food system by providing direct support to local growers and producers while ensuring that you're getting the freshest food available.

While you're here, meet the chefs in the **Rathbun Accelerator Kitchen** and **Maker Kitchen powered by Lake Trust** and choose from Teff-rific's Ethiopian and Eritrean food, Tantay Peruvian food, G3Food For All for gluten-free and dairy-free options, Hong Kong Restaurant for Chinese food and Picnic Food Truck's variety of vegan, vegetarian and traditional burgers and more.

Weekly live music, entertainment and community engagement with monthly festivals (festivals we stay open until 7pm) coming up:

- **Apple Festival**, September 20 - sponsored by Lansing Board of Water & Light
- **Harvest Festival**, October 18 - sponsored by McLaren Health Plan

Additional off-site parking is available at Shepard and Michigan Ave, with the opportunity for a **free pedicab service to and/or from the Market**. Get a ride from your nearby home, parking spot or bus stop! Or join our PACER App community and **get paid to walk to the Market!**



We accept a variety of payment options including SNAP, EBT, Double Up Food Bucks, Senior and WIC Project FRESH, credit cards, and debit cards.

For more information, visit [allenneighborhoodcenter.org/market](http://allenneighborhoodcenter.org/market), call Jenny Wagemann at (517) 999-3911 or email [jennyw@allenneighborhoodcenter.org](mailto:jennyw@allenneighborhoodcenter.org).

## Outreach & Engagement

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 enroll you or refer you to other agencies. We also have a community computer for your use.

*¡Pase por la oficina de ANC donde podemos ayudarte a inscribirte en seguro de salud u otros beneficios, o ayudarte con preguntas y/o inquietudes! Podemos dirigirte a otras agencias. Además, tenemos una computadora comunitaria para su uso.*

### 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, only a \$20 enrollment fee to IHP; and you only pay a small co-pay for most services. \*IHP requires a 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 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 at [allenneighborhoodcenter.org](http://allenneighborhoodcenter.org), email [auroras@allenneighborhoodcenter.org](mailto:auroras@allenneighborhoodcenter.org), or give us a call (517) 367-2468.

### Our office hours are:

**Monday - Thursdays / Lunes - Jueves**  
 9 AM-5 PM

Walk-ins welcome! / Sin cita

**Fridays / Viernes**

By appointment only / Solo con cita



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## Breadbasket Food Pantry

Breadbasket Food Pantry distributes free produce, bread, and baked goods to Eastside residents each Monday at Allen Market Place, 1629 E Kalamazoo.

Neighbors are welcome to stop by between 9 am and 1 pm to grab a number at the door, then return at 1 pm to claim their spot in line based on their number. If you are unable to get a number before 1 pm, arrive closer to 2 pm to eliminate waiting a long period of time.

There are limited supplies, and products will change from week to week! With any questions, contact Jenny Wagemann at (517) 999-3911 or email [jennyw@allenneighborhoodcenter.org](mailto:jennyw@allenneighborhoodcenter.org).



## Volunteering

Hundreds of volunteers contribute thousands of hours each year to make our work possible. Volunteers are our community leaders—the front line people who make the health and connectivity of the neighborhood a personal commitment. They help create an environment that supports shared responsibility for our children, elders, families, and neighborhood groups. Together, we are building a more vibrant Eastside. To join the ranks of our passionate team, please visit: [bit.ly/anc-orientation](http://bit.ly/anc-orientation), email [volunteer@allenneighborhoodcenter.org](mailto:volunteer@allenneighborhoodcenter.org), or call 517.999.3919

## Hunter Park GardenHouse

### Edible Park

Fall is peak harvest season in Edible Park! Edible Park is our half-acre, you-pick garden & orchard located along the north-east corner of the Hunter Park Walking path. Please stop by and harvest vegetables, herbs, and fruit grown with care by ANC staff and community volunteers. All growing spaces outside the fenced in area closest to the GardenHouse are available to public harvest.

### Community Potlucks:

Join us the third Thursday of every month June-October for a community garden potluck, guided harvests in Edible Park, kids activities, and more! A great chance to network with other gardeners, share successes and solve problems together. Meet under the Hunter Park Pavilion.

- **September 21st 6-8pm**
- **October 19th 6-8pm (location TBD)**



### Visit The Free Native Seed Library!

Located at approx. 426 Clifford St, our "little free library" is full of native seeds collected, sorted, and packaged for neighbors by the GardenHouse team.

We also have some seed starting supplies and resources on successfully starting native plants from seed. Let's naturalize Lansing, together!



### Volunteer at the GardenHouse

We need your help! Please consider joining our team and becoming a GardenHouse volunteer! Volunteers help us tend our farm and community garden. To sign up text "volunteer" to (517) 300-8848.

**Our Fall Hours are Mon/Wed/Fri 9:30a-12:00p & Tues/Thurs 5-7:30p**

### New this Summer: Youth Field Trips to the GardenHouse!

We were delighted to host two youth field trips to the GardenHouse this summer! Youth spend time in Edible Park & the Wildflower Demonstration Garden, getting their hands in the dirt and learning about ecology, plant science, and our connection to land. If you're an educator looking for a fun, engaging experience for your group, reach out to HPGH Director Egypt Krohn, at [egyptk@allenneighborhoodcenter.org](mailto:egyptk@allenneighborhoodcenter.org) or 517-999-3910.

### Group Events at the GardenHouse:

Looking for a team building or educational outing with your group? Talk to us! We schedule group volunteer days, tours, and youth trips throughout the growing season. For details, talk to Tom, HPGH Assistant Manager, at [tomm@allenneighborhoodcenter.org](mailto:tomm@allenneighborhoodcenter.org) or 517-999-3918.

## Veggie Box

### Local Food Memberships Open

ANC's **Veggie Box** is a multi-farm harvest share program, often called community supported agriculture (CSA). It unites dozens of growers to feed a common Eastside community.

A Veggie Box membership subscription lets you commit to farm-fresh eating every week, and support dozens of local businesses, without having to source each item individually. We bring a mini mid-Michigan farmers market to you in one curated take-home package.

We buy directly from local small farms, which reduces the miles food travels to your table. Each week is a 1/2-bushel box of fresh, seasonal, high-quality food.

While the foundation of the Veggie Box is veggies, but there's also a wide variety of add-on options to customize your box! Locally raised meat, organic dried beans, eggs, fresh baked bread, and more.

Membership is \$24/week for a 14-week season (\$336). Add-ons available at additional cost.



Register for the upcoming season:  
[bit.ly/veggieboxregistration](http://bit.ly/veggieboxregistration)

Contact us: 517.999.3923  
[foodhub@allenneighborhoodcenter.org](mailto:foodhub@allenneighborhoodcenter.org)

### Veggie Box for Less

We often have financial support available to reduce the cost of Veggie Box for our neighbors experiencing hardship. Please reach out to Food Hub Manager **Jessica Short** to request a Subsidized Veggie Box.

## Youth Programs

ANC is now recruiting for **Youth Service Corps**, a community service and gardening-based program for neighbors ages 11 to 17! YSC members learn about local food systems, grow their own herbs and crops, and even prepare herbal tea blends for wholesale. During warm weather youth will spend time in the Hunter Park GardenHouse, and in the YSC garden plot in ANC's **Edible Park**. Youth members will also spend time learning culinary skills in the Maker Kitchen, and receiving tours and demonstrations from local farmers and businesses. Participants love the experience, and also earn gift cards for their service.

We only have 20 spaces at a time, so sign up while you can! To register your youth for YSC, contact Kelsi, our Educational Programs Coordinator, at 517-999-3913 or via her email and she will provide a registration form. Email the completed form to her at [kelsibs@allenneighborhoodcenter.org](mailto:kelsibs@allenneighborhoodcenter.org), or stop by in person during our hours of operation.

## Shared Use Kitchens

### Culinary 101 Training

This free program is for aspiring and novice workers in the restaurant industry looking to expand their skills. The eight-week program covers the Back of House rules and responsibilities, an introduction to kitchen stations, food prep, knife skills, and workers' voice.

Class dates will be Tuesdays 6:00pm-9:00pm: Oct 10th, Oct 17th, Oct 24th, Nov 7th, Nov 14th, Nov 21st, Nov 28th, and Dec 5th. Apply at this link!  
<https://bit.ly/Culinary101>

### Dine & Discovery Classes

Each class features a hands-on cooking class, taught by a dedicated chef instructor, followed by gathering at a communal table to eat. Many of our instructors are local chefs and Makers in our Food Incubator Program. Neighbors on the Eastside can use the PROMO code "48912" to receive the Eastside Neighbor 20% off of your ticket price.

- Aug 31st 6:00-8:00 Peruvian Pollo Saltado with Chef Jose, of Tantay.
- Sep 9th 6:00-8:00 Chinese Bao Zi with Na Zhang, of Hong Kong Restaurant.
- Sep 26th 6:00-8:30 Hone your Knife Skills with Chef Matt.
- Oct 15th 1:00-4:00 Cake Decorating with Michigan Made Treats.
- Oct 28th 6:00-8:00 Dumplings and Wontons with Na Zhang, of Hong Kong Restaurant.

Sign up at [bit.ly/ANCcookclass](http://bit.ly/ANCcookclass) or

Any questions? Contact Matt Jones at (517) 999-3921 or [kitchens@allenneighborhoodcenter.org](mailto:kitchens@allenneighborhoodcenter.org)