

THE EASTSIDE NEIGHBOR

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



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The plants are blooming, the birds are chirping, and ANC is busier than ever.

This summer is shaping up to be one of the best yet here at **Allen Neighborhood Center**. With the Allen Marketplace's brand-new roof, we can finally close the book on the construction era at ANC. With the major renovations to the 1600 block of Kalamazoo St. finally finished, we're looking forward to the return of the outdoor **Allen Farmers Market** to where it belongs, close to Allen St.

With the added space that being outdoors grants us, we're able to offer an expanded line up of vendors. That means more locally made bread, sweet treats, mushrooms, herbs, pickles, cheese, coffee, kombucha, fruits, and veggies, not to mention freshly prepared Mexican, Korean, Nigerian, Eritrean/Ethiopian, and Peruvian meals! Add to that live performers, Market Festivals, and the occasional yard game and you've got yourself a block party.

We've been working hard all winter and spring to make sure that the Market is as accessible to every single neighbor who wants to attend so this year, we'll be offering multiple ways to get to and from the Summer Market.

We will have dedicated parking lots (locatons on pg. 2) for Market patrons with your very own pedicab chauffeurs Hayley and David. You can even book your rides in advance at bit.ly/afmrides. We'll be selling handy and stylish grocery totes for \$5 to help our walking neighbors get their market goodies home safe and sound. Plus, anyone walking to the Market can track their distance in the Pacer app and earn Market Tokens - check out bit.ly/marketwalk to learn how! We've even partnered with Lime to get electric scooters dropped off daily at ANC and brought to more sites around the Eastside.

Allen Place Open House

Join us on June 24th at 3:30 to 6:00 pm to celebrate the official completion of AllenPlace! We'll be offering tours of the brand-new **Eastside Lansing Food Co-op**, the **Ingham Community Health Center and Pharmacy**, and of course new **Allen Neighborhood Center Kitchens**. With catering by our skilled makers in the **Accelerator Kitchen - Tantay, Gogi 2, Michigan Made Treats**, and **Mr. Leslie's Cheesecake** - it'll be an afternoon to remember!

Early head's up about Joan's transition from Director to Neighbor

Our co-founder and long-time Executive Director Joan Nelson will be leaving her position at the end of this summer. While we look forward this new chapter in the history of Allen Neighborhood Center, we'll certainly miss her presence at ANC. Watch for the job posting in the coming days and going away party details later this summer. Thanks for helping spread the word!



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Shared Use Kitchens for Food Entrepreneurs

Food Entrepreneur Workshops

Join us for our 2022 series of workshops to help Growers and Food Entrepreneurs learn the skills to help your business reach its next step!

Servsafe Food Protection Manager Course, May 12, Classroom 8 am - 4 pm, Test 4 pm - 6 pm
 A national certification program for those working in food service, specifically managers and leaders. ServSafe teaches about foodborne illness, how to prevent it and how to train employees about the latest food safety issues. The ServSafe Manager course uses proven techniques, provides new Food & Drug Administration food code rules and content related to the food industry.

Branding Basics for Food-Based Businesses, May 20, AMP Greatroom 10 am - 11:30 am
 Whether you're a farmer, a food maker, or a restaurant owner, it's important to thoughtfully cultivate a recognizable brand, so your customers see you as more than just a commodity. Laurie Lonsdorf of SBDC will teach about the three components to developing a strong, identifiable brand and examples of effective branding!

How to be Loan Ready, July 22, AMP Greatroom 1 pm - 3 pm
 Learn what information lenders need to see for a successful loan application. Our good friend, Justin Haun of Lake Trust Credit Union, will provide essential tips that increase your chance of approval.

Find Registration and a full list of classes on our website; or for more information and to enroll, call Matt Jones at (517) 999-3921.

Great Room Rentals

After a long COVID Hiatus, we are once again offering our Great Room for rental for weekend gatherings and events. With a current capacity of 40 people, it makes a great space for business retreats, family gatherings, and small-scale productions. We have a variety of amenities available for rent in conjunction with the Great Room including:

Commercial Kitchen	Referrals to licensed on-site caterers
Linen tablecloths and napkins	Place settings (plates, cups, mugs, silverware)
Long run or round tables	Projector with screen

For more information regarding the availability, pricing, or rental policies, please reach out the kitchens@allenneighborhoodcenter.org or (517) 999-3921.

Volunteer Information

ANC depends on hundreds of volunteers each year to make our programming a reality, and everyone has a way they can contribute. We have opportunities every weekday, in the morning and afternoon. Folks who are interested in joining us can help garden at Hunter Park, teach kiddos about fruits and veggies, hand out food to neighbors experiencing food insecurity, set up for our weekly Farmers Market, assist with our annual neighborhood canvass, and hand out copies of this very newsletter door-to-door. We're also excited to explore new ways that community members can use their skills to support our organization, so if you think there's a way you could help us reach more people, better support our neighbors, fundraise, anything really, reach out! Email volunteer@allenneighborhoodcenter.org with your thoughts, questions, and ideas.

We are specifically looking for more volunteer support with these programs:

- Allen Farmers Market | Wednesdays, 12-2:30, 2-4:30, & 4:30-7
- Hunter Park GardenHouse | Monday-Friday, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
- Take Root Garden Club | Tuesdays, 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
- Earth Day Landscaping at Allen Place | April 22nd, 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

To sign up to volunteer and to see the full list of potential opportunities, visit bit.ly/anc_volunteer or scan this QR code with your smartphone's camera app:



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 <http://allenneighborhoodcenter.org>, email denisep@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



The Outdoor Season of the **Allen Farmers Market** begins Wed., May 11 and we are so excited to bring it back to the block--look for us in the east parking lot under the mural!

The Market has transformed to be multi-modal with increased transportation options:

- We have increased our bike parking with 5 different bike racks on-site;
- Our pedicab service will shuttle patrons from off-site parking (SE corner of E. Michigan and Shepard behind the Scooter Shop and SW corner of E. Michigan and Leslie in the Heartdance Lot) to the Market;
- If you walk to the Market, our pedicab service can take you and your groceries to your nearby home;
- There will still be limited parking in the north lot as well as street parking (though please take care not to block our neighbor's driveways!)
- A brand new CATA bus stop is located right at the entrance of the Market.

We want to make sure that you can make it to the Market and enjoy fresh produce from urban and small rural mid-Michigan farms, the highest quality meat, cheeses, breads, eggs, coffee, kombucha, the company of friends & live entertainment.

Remember to visit our on-site Market Bank to use your credit/debit card or SNAP/EBT card (plus Double Up Food Bucks). We also accept WIC and Senior Project Fresh coupons.

Let Wed. be your night to take a kitchen break and have one of our fabulous, ready-to-eat vendors provide dinner! Grab take-out from our indoor vendors (inside the north double doors) **Teff-rific** (Ethiopian) or **El Burrito**; or walk to the front of the building on E. K'zoo for Picnic Food Truck; or visit the **Rathbun Accelerator Kitchen** (also on E. K'zoo) for **Tantay** (Peruvian), **Gogi 2** (Korean), and **Michigan Made Treats**.

Beginning May 11, our Market hours will be 2:30-7:00 pm. Mark your calendar and keep your eyes peeled for monthly summer festivals on third Wednesdays.

For more information, subscribe for weekly Farmers Market updates or contact Jenny Wagemann at 517-999-3011 or jennyw@allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Hunter Park GardenHouse

Hunter Park GardenHouse Workshops

Check out our remaining Saturday morning workshops! All workshops have a \$15 suggested donation, though no one will be turned away due to non-payment.

Workshops will be held 10am -12pm at the Hunter Park Pavilion. For more information, contact Kelsi Briana Smith at 517-999-3913.

May 14, 2022: No Till Gardening w/ Allan Whitley

Register at bit.ly/notilling

June 11th, 2022: Restoration Ag in Urban Gardening w/Kelsi Briana Smith

Register at bit.ly/restoreag

June 25th, 2022: DIY Floral Arrangements w/Cait Schneider

Register at bit.ly/diyfloralworkshop

NEW! Community Potluck for Gardeners

Join Hunter Park GardenHouse staff, community gardening experts, and neighboring gardeners to share food, swap stories, and ask questions. Bring something to pass (if you can) and invite a friend to come along!

When/Where: 6:30-8pm the 4th Thursday of the Month at the Hunter Park Pavilion

Dates: May 26, June 23, July 28, August 25, September 22

Visit The Free Native Seed Library!

Located at approx. 426 Clifford St, our "little free library" structure 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 for a shift, visit bit.ly/anc_volunteer.

Our summer schedule begins May 9th:

Mon: 9:30a-12p; 5p-7:30p

Tues: 9:30a-12p; 5p-7:30p

Wed: 9:30a-12p; 5p-7:30p

Thurs: 9:30a-12p; 5p-7:30p

Fri: 9:30a-12p

Check Out Edible Park!

Edible Park is our free-to-all, you-pick community garden. Located in Hunter Park along the walking trail, our half acre site includes fruit trees, berry bushes, culinary herbs, and annual vegetables. Spring planting has begun- it won't be long until there is fresh, nutritious produce available to neighbors. Please stop by and take home some food!

Note: Garden areas within the fenced in portion of the park are not for public use.

Third Annual Summer Native Plant Sale!

Please be on the look out for our summer Native Plant Sale in early July! Each year, we partner with Wildtype Native Plant Nursery in Mason to offer neighbors a variety of native plant species well suited to urban/residential naturalization projects. Let us help you fill your pollinator garden dreams!



Sign up for a subscription to local food!

14 weeks Tuesdays: May 31 - August 30

Thursday: June 2 - September 1

Veggie Box is a multi-farm Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program that unites dozens of growers to feed a common community. Each week, we purchase the best in-season fruits and vegetables from dozens of local farmers, pack it into a box, and have it available for pick-up at ANC! Veggie Box allows you to support dozens of local businesses all through one convenient program, lessens the distance your food has to travel to get to your table (in turn, lessening the chance of contamination and reducing pollution), and creates opportunities for access to the good jobs and healthy foods our community needs.

A membership is \$322 with add-on items available at an additional cost. We offer multiple payment options, including weekly SNAP payments. If you're experiencing hardships and need financial support to participate, please reach out to our Food Hub Manager, Kat Logan, and see if you qualify for our Subsidized Veggie Box program.



Register at:
bit.ly/summerveggiebox2022

Questions? Want to be put on the Fall waitlist? Contact Kat Logan at 517.999.3923 or

foodhub@allenneighborhoodcenter.org

Youth Programs

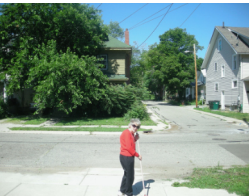
ANC is now recruiting for Youth Service Corps, a community service and gardening based program for ages 11 to 17! YSC members learn about local food systems, grow their own herbs and crops, and even prepare herbal tea blends for wholesale. During warm weather we'll be spending more time in the Hunter Park GardenHouse, and in the YSC garden plot in ANC's Edible Park. Our summer members will be learning to manage their own table at the Allen Farmers Market on Wednesdays as well. Local farmers and businesses also give tours and demonstrations for YSC members. 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 gardeningeducator@allenneighborhoodcenter.org, or stop by in person during our hours of operation.

Cottage Lane Open House

May 20, 2022, 134 Leslie St 3 - 7 pm

The Allen Neighborhood Center and good friend and builder Dave Muylle invite you to finally shake off those winter blues and come inspect the latest addition to Cottage Lane. A fully restored circa 1916 Craftsman house at 134 Leslie St. is done and anxious to show you it's beautiful original windows and oak trim. As luck would have it one of the new cottages (the purple one) is vacant that weekend will also be open. Then there are the rain and pollinator gardens to check out. All of this is free! However, ANC always appreciates your support. Be generous when you see a donation jar. For additional background information on Cottage Lane go to lansingrentalproperties.com



Senior Discovery Group

The Senior Discovery Group is meeting in person every Wednesday morning, 10 am - noon. New this year we are asking that you **RSVP your attendance beforehand** by emailing Denise at denisep@allenneighborhoodcenter.org. We hope you join us for great conversation and pretty good coffee!

We are thrilled to announce our SDG Speaker Schedule for March and April!

5/11: **CADL** | Hiedi Butler

5/18: **Music** | Alan Bloomfield

5/25: **MSU ISpeak** | TBD

6/1: **REO Museum** | Scott Mrdeza

6/8: **Foster Coffee Company** | Jane Reiter

6/15: **RSVP Opportunities** | Jim Dell

6/22: **State Representative Race** | Jon Horford

6/29: **Allen Neighborhood Center** | Joan Nelson

7/6: **LEAP Elevate** | Tony Willis

7/13: **Refugee Development Center** | Mariah Shaffer

7/20: **Lansing Makers Network** | Matt Rossi

7/27: **Capital Area Manufacturing** | Cindy Kangas

8/3: **SDG Picnic @ Hunter Park**

8/10: **Economic Advancement** | Emma Bostwick

8/17: **Arts & Crafts** | Jane Reiter

8/24: **Identity Theft & Fraud** | Justin Haun