

The Eastside Neighbor

A publication of Allen Neighborhood Center

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

February - March 2010

Volume X, Issue I



ANC wishes you a Happy Valentine's Day!

Neighborhood Meetings

ABC: Mar. 2, 6PM at Pilgrim Church.
Be on the look out for a yellow survey on your porch soon!
ENO: Mar. 13, 30th Annual Spring Souper, 4-7PM at Pattengill Middle School
FAIR: Mar. 4
Foster Your Neighborhood: Feb. 17 at Everybody Reads, 6:30PM; Mar. 17 at Foster Community Center, 7PM.
HERO: Feb. 22, Mar. 22
Holmes Street: Feb. 11, Mar. 11
PLACE: Tentatively Mar. 9; call 484.5756
Prospect Protectors: Feb. 18
Regent Oaks: Feb. 16, Mar. 16
(all at 6:30 PM at ANC unless noted)

ANC Events

Breadbasket: Tuesdays, 1 to 5:30
Kinship Care: Feb. 13, 1:30 to 3:30 PM; Mar. 13, 1:30 - 3:30 PM
Youth Service Corps: Every Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30 to 5:30 PM
Community Soup: Feb. 18, Mar. 18, 5:30 to 8 PM at Unity, 230 S. Holmes
Senior Coffee: every Wed., 10-noon
GardenHouse Hours: Monday to Friday 3:30 to 5:30 PM; Saturday and Sunday 1:30 to 5:30 PM
GardenHouse Workshops: Feb. 6, Feb. 16, Mar. 6, Mar. 13, Mar. 20 & Mar. 24. **Book Club,** Feb. 23 & Mar. 16, 6:30. **Film Series,** Feb. 5 & Mar. 5, 7 PM. **See page 3 for times and details.**

The Eastside Neighbor is published every two months by Allen Neighborhood Center. Please contact the editor, Meg Sparling, at mags@allenneighborhoodcenter.org by March 10 with submissions for April-May.

Two Free Workshops for Current and Future Homeowners!

The Basics of Buying a Home on Lansing's Eastside

Co-hosted by Lana Wagner and Co. and Allen Neighborhood Center

Considering buying a home? Discover why people are choosing to live on Lansing's Eastside in order to enjoy the best of an urban lifestyle. You will learn about:

- Eastside amenities such as parks, medical facilities, community gardens, churches, and our lively walkable commercial districts;
- Unique smaller neighborhoods, each with its own character and assets;
- Financing options of all sorts, with presentations and an opportunity to meet, one-on-one, with representatives from several institutions offering information about both conventional and renovation mortgages, the purchase of a HUD or foreclosed home, Individual Development Accounts, MSHDA and City of Lansing down payment and home improvement assistance programs.

This workshop will provide you with all you need to know to begin your search for a home in this affordable, friendly, and connected community.

When: Saturday, February 6, 2010
Where: Foster Community Center, Room 210
Time: 10 AM—12:30 PM
Register with Tom Curtis, 367-2468

Classes, Workshops, Films, and Books: A Busy Gardening Season!

February and March are full of gardening education opportunities you do not want to miss! **See page 3 for a complete February to March GardenHouse schedule of events.**

Landscaping Your Sustainable Eastside Home: Garden Design for Home Energy Savings, Water Conservation, and Food Production

Taught by Eastside landscape designer Matt Smar, this workshop will focus on:

- Energy savings gained by plants that provide house shade in the summer, allow winter sun to provide natural light and block winds.
- Conserving water by using drought-tolerant landscape plants to reduce the need for supplemental watering, and installing rain gardens to hold storm-water runoff and keep soil moist.
- Growing food by using trees, shrubs, and other plants that have the ornamental qualities of landscape plants but also produce food.

When: Wednesday, March 24
Where: Foster Community Center, Room 213
Time: 6:30-8:30 PM
Register with Tom Curtis, 367-2468

New Flood Plain Maps Now Available

FEMA has issued new flood maps for Lansing and Ingham County. Draft maps will be available at your neighborhood center, or you can call the Office of Emergency Management at 483-4110.

Tax Preparation Assistance Available

Families and individuals earning up to \$50,000 may be eligible for free tax preparation. A family could also receive up to \$6,800 through the Earned Income Tax Credit. For information on opportunities for assistance, simply dial 2-1-1 to schedule an appointment near you.

February 2010

March 2010

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	8	9	10	11	12	13
7		Bread Basket 1-5:30	Senior Coffee 10-12PM			Kinship Care 1:30-3:30
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		Bread Basket 1-5:30 Why Organic Workshop 6:30-8PM	Senior Coffee 10-12PM	Community Soup 5:30-8PM		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	ANC Board Meeting, 5PM at ANC	Bread Basket 1-5:30 Book Club 6:30-8PM	Senior Coffee 10-12PM			
28	February is Black History Month!					



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	8	9	10	11	12	13
7		Bread Basket 1-5:30	Senior Coffee 10-12PM			Kinship Care 1:30-3:30 Herb Garden Design Workshop 2-3:30
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		Bread Basket 1-5:30 Book Club 6:30-8PM	Senior Coffee 10-12PM	Community Soup 5:30-8PM		Flower Garden Design Workshop 2-3:30
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	ANC Board Meeting, 5PM at ANC	Bread Basket 1-5:30	Senior Coffee 10-12PM Sustainable Landscaping Workshop, 6:30-8:30 at Foster			
28	29	30	31	March is Nutrition Awareness Month!		
		Bread Basket 1-5:30	Senior Coffee 10-12PM			



Allen Neighborhood Center News

Community Soup



See you in the Kitchen!
5:30 - 8:00pm

- Every 3rd Thursday of the month (Feb. 18, Mar. 18)
- Unity Spiritual Renaissance Church, 230 S. Holmes Street, Lansing, MI 48912

It's great fun to cook with others and then even more fun to sit down and enjoy the 4-6 dishes that have been prepared by all.

Children are welcome when supervised by an adult.

For more information on Community Soup, please call Hollie Hamel at 367.2468.

Census Jobs Still Available!

The US Census Bureau is currently hiring staff to work in offices and recruiting for field positions throughout the Lansing area. For details visit: www.2010censusjobs.gov.

Interested applicants should call the toll free number, 1-866-861-2010. Call today!

Thank You!

Special thanks this month to:

All ANC Volunteers for generously donating their time and energy to all of our programs.

Allen Street Winter Farmers Market volunteers **Paul Spence, Penny Gilbert, and DelRae Finnerty**.

Brooke Fobes for all of her help with Food Chatter and Market Walk during the 2009 season of the ASFM.

Bake 'n' Cakes and **Panera** for their generous donations!

George Datsenko for his dedication to Bread Basket, especially during the month of December.

Francine Watts for all of her hard work with Bread Basket and Senior Morning Coffee.

Robert Allen for his dedication to picking up bread for Bread Basket.

Terry Link, Anne Rauscher, and Vince Delgado for their contributions to the Eastside Food Forum.

Wednesday Senior Coffee

Every Wednesday 10 AM until noon. Everyone is welcome! We have a different speaker or event every week. The following are confirmed:

Feb. 3: Payal Ravine will speak on the Greening of Mid-Michigan.

Feb. 10: International student from M.S.U.

Feb. 17: Kresge Art Center - Mr. and Mrs. Greenbaum present: "Pictures that trick the mind."

Feb. 24: Mich. Audubon Society - Tom Funke will speak about bird sanctuaries.

Mar. 3: Lynne Martinez will speak about "Aging in Place."

Mar. 10: International speaker from M.S.U.

Mar. 17: Ty Lawson will speak about his 2 years in the Peace Corps in Malai.

Mar. 24: Corie Jason will speak about "Raising Chickens in the City."

Mar. 31: Pot Luck for January, February, and March birthdays at 11:00 a.m.

Thank You (continued)

Unity Spiritual Renaissance Church for use of their kitchen for Community Soup.

All our **GardenHouse Volunteers** for the consistent dedication we need to stay open and serve the public. We wouldn't be here without you!

Corie and Matt Jason, for hosting an engaging and informative discussion about urban chickens in the GardenHouse.

Kroger in Frandor, for the donation of produce bags. (Our CSA depends on them!)

Gone Wired and **ELFCO**, for supporting GardenHouse operations with weekly purchases and advertisements of GardenHouse Greens.

Linda Anderson, for her generous donation of time and horticultural input.

Jackie Dillinger, for her unending dedication to the CSA.

Thank You (continued)

For assistance and contributions to Youth Service Corps: **Jessi De La Cruz, Steve King, Wharton Center for Performing Arts, Seats for Kids, Junior Achievement of Mid-Michigan, Resurrection School, Pattengill Middle School, and Ann Reeder**.

James Pyle for his enthusiastic help with housing programs.

Dick Baker & Jody Washington for their continued partnership in promoting the Eastside on our Landlord/Tenant Initiative.

Anderson Economic Group for donated computer hardware.

Thanks to **Scott Meloeny, Tremaine Phillips, Casey McKeel**, and many volunteers from **Global Exchange, Michigan Environmental Council, and Michigan Student Sustainability Coalition** for weatherizing six Eastside homes.

An enormous thank you to all of our dedicated volunteer **Neighborhood Navigators!**

Rich Ballor, our community police officer, and the many other dedicated officers in the Lansing Police Department.

Our partners in the newly-formed Greater Lansing Gardening Education Collaborative: **The Garden Project, MSU Extension, SLCDA, and Northwest Initiative**. See www.letsgardenlansing.org for more information.

Tom Weber for hanging with us through GardenHouse improvements.

Matt Penniman for serving as our techie for many, many years!

The Active Neighboring e-bulletin brings you weekly updates on neighboring news! To join, send an email with the subject "Add me" to director Joan Nelson at: joann@allenneighborhoodcenter.org

The ANC website is undergoing substantial updates and developments. Make sure to check out new resources at:

www.allenneighborhoodcenter.org

Health, House, Garden

Need health coverage?

If you are (1) uninsured, (2) live in Ingham County, and (3) fall within the *IHP Income* guidelines at the end of this article, you may qualify for coverage under the **Ingham Health Plan (IHP)**.

IHP covers doctor visits, prescriptions, x-rays, lab tests and urgent care for a \$5 co-pay.

Have a child with asthma?

If you (a) have a child under 18 years old with asthma and (b) fall under the *HHU Income* guidelines at the end of this article, you may qualify for assistance from **Healthy Homes University (HHU)**.

HHU provides products and services designed to reduce asthma triggers and prevent injuries in your home.

Fam. Size	IHP Income	HHU Income
1	\$27,075	\$37,500
2	\$36,425	\$42,900
3	\$45,775	\$48,250
4	\$55,125	\$53,600

For more information about HHU, IHP, or other health, housing, and human service resources in the Lansing area, call Tom, Steve, or Rae at ANC, 367.2468.

Breast Health Club



It was great to see many **Breast Health Club** members at the Winter Markets! Our ever-growing *free* breast health club is open to all women interested in receiving free educational information about breast health, such as healthy eating tips and referrals for *free* mammograms. For more information, please contact Kristi at (517)367-2468 ext. 2009.

We are still doing **Weatherization!** Generous assistance is available for people with low to moderate income. Call Tom or Steve at 267.2468 today!

Hunter Park Community GardenHouse

February—March Hours:

Monday - Friday: 3:30PM to 5:30PM
Saturday and Sunday: 1:30PM to 5:30PM

Urban Gardener Certification Course

Open enrollment has begun for the Spring 2010 Urban Gardener Certificate Program. The class, **Wednesdays from 6:30-9, Feb. 24 through Mar. 31**, is an introduction to basic yard & greenhouse gardening skills appropriate for high density, small lot neighborhoods like those on Lansing's Eastside. More information is available at Allen Neighborhood Center, or electronically by request from allisonb@allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Request and submit an application before the class is full!

Gardening Workshops Galore!

In the next few months, the GardenHouse will host the following:

- Saturday, Feb. 6
2-3:30PM
Composting, with K'Anna Burton
- Tuesday, Feb. 16
6:30-8PM
Why Organic? An information session with Vicki Morrone of the C.S. Mott Group for Sustainable Food Systems

- Saturday, Mar. 6
2-3:30PM
Basic Home Garden Design

- Saturday, Mar. 13
2-3:30PM
Herb Garden Design

- Saturday, Mar. 20
2-3:30PM
Flower Garden Design

GardenHouse Book Club

In February, the GardenHouse Book Club is reading *Food Not Lawns*, available at Everybody Reads, and meeting on Feb. 23 at 6:30 PM. The club will meet again Mar. 16. For information about the March book, email Allison:

allisonb@allenneighborhoodcenter.org

The GardenHouse First Friday Film Festival kicks off with a screening of *Food, Inc.* on Friday, February 5th at 7pm and continues March 5th with *King Corn*.

Need More Information?

Interested in receiving a weekly e-bulletin with news and notes from the GardenHouse? Email Allison Burkholder, allisonb@allenneighborhoodcenter.org to request the *GardenHouse Gazette*, or with questions related to garden programming.

Apply to be part of our Garden-In-A-Box program

You can be a part of ANC's Garden-In-A-Box program in 2010! The Youth Service Corps is accepting applications for new box holders beginning Feb. 1. Box holders will receive a 2-ft. by 2-ft. raised cedar bed, vegetable gardening start plants, soil, and informational support from the YSC for use throughout the growing season. Applicants will be chosen based on ability to tend the box and income level. Applications will be mailed upon request, and are available for pickup at ANC. For more information, call 999-3923.

An Urban Farm for the Eastside

On Monday, March 1st, the Lansing Urban Farm Project will be hosting a public meeting at 6:30pm-8:00pm at Allen Neighborhood Center to discuss plans for a proposed farm in Urbandale – the area bounded by I127, M496, Kalamazoo, and Clemens. The proposed farm will use vacant land in the 100-year flood plain (land that cannot be developed) to create not only good food to be sold at modest prices but employment opportunities, beautiful landscapes, and shared community benefits. All interested area residents – would-be farmers and eaters – are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information contact Laura B. DeLind at delind@msu.edu or Linda Anderson at lindaa@msu.edu.