

the Westsider

FALL 2017



IN THIS ISSUE:

Westside History:
Dr. William Pipes

4

Neighbor Spotlight:
Melik Brown

6

WNA Picnic is a
Huge Success

8

Upcoming Events
in the Westside

10

Westsider
Crossword Puzzle

14

PRESENTED BY THE

Westside
Neighborhood
Association



WELCOME

Hello Neighbors!

I hope everyone is enjoying the fabulous summer weather we're having, and looking forward to all the fun fall is going to bring!

There are some exciting Westside Neighborhood events coming up this late summer/fall. We've got the second annual Neighborhood Night Out & Movie at Letts on September 8th (showing The Lego Batman Movie!), a Meet the Candidate Night on September 27th where you can grab a slice of pizza with the candidates running for election this fall, and our annual Fall Festival on November 12th, a fundraiser with an awesome silent auction. Find more details throughout this newsletter and online.

With all of the recent turbulence happening in our neighborhood and around the world, I encourage you to come out to these events, meet your neighbors, and get involved. Strike up a conversation while walking around the neighborhood. Plan a block party (some streets have already started.) Making people feel welcome and part of the community will help mitigate the crimes we are seeing and the exclusion people are feeling. We are one Westside family!



COREY & EMILY DERUSHIA

Remember in addition to the Facebook discussion group to also follow our official Facebook page at www.facebook.com/wnalansing for all the latest news and events throughout the neighborhood.

All the best,

Emily DeRushia
President, WNA Board of Directors
board@wnalansing.com

2017 WNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Emily DeRushia
Vice President: Elizabeth Battiste
Treasurer: Merry Rosenberg

John K. Addis | Emily Bergquist
Amy Campbell | Jason Gabriel
Emily Johnson | Mohammed Khan
Rob Mathis | Cassandra Nelson
Emily Stevens

Committees and Liaisons:
Events | Communications | Grants
Crime and Safety | Sexton Liaison
Mayor and City Council Liaison
Lansing Parks and Recreation Liaison
Point West Art and Trail Project Liaison
SOCA Liaison

The Board meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Letts Community Center on Kalamazoo. Join us!

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition (GLHC) offers regular Homeowner Education Resource Organization (H.E.R.O.) classes?

Classes are held at the Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 West Maple Street, and are offered weekly on Monday evenings from 6-8 pm (bi-weekly in the summer months, check for fall and winter dates). Recent topics have included deck maintenance, lock re-keying, and ceiling fan installation. For upcoming classes, please check the GLHC website at www.glhc.org/classes.

GLHC also offers tool rentals to individuals and groups through its Tool Mobile, a mobile tool lending library with an inventory of over 500 tools for your painting, plumbing, and landscaping needs—perfect for community projects and home DIY. Apply online at www.glhc.org/toolmobile. Additionally, GLHC volunteers build accessibility ramps and perform minor home repairs for income eligible seniors and persons with disabilities through their Tuesday Toolmen program. Since 2010, the Tuesday Toolmen have built over 130 accessibility ramps in the Lansing area.

For more information on the Tuesday Toolmen, or any of these programs, contact the Greater Lansing Housing Coalition at (517) 372-5980.



GLHC'S TUESDAY TOOLMEN



Food, Fun, Cocktails

Harry's Place

Lansing, Michigan • Est. 1921

Open to serve you

Monday-Saturday
10am - 11:30pm

**Proud to serve
the Westside
for more than
90 years!**

404 N. Verlinden Avenue
517-484-9661



"The best design firm in the area."
"Polished creativity."
"A creative, cutting-edge,
top of their game team."
"Brilliant." **"Amazing."**



aenow.com
award-winning web, print & video

Westside History:

WILLIAM HARRISON PIPES, Ph.D.

The Westside Neighborhood was one of the first racially integrated neighborhoods in Lansing. Several of Lansing's African Americans, who made history in a variety of areas of achievement, made their home in the Westside.

We would like to pay homage and tribute to William Harrison Pipes, Ph.D. Pipes was Michigan State University's first African-American professor. Born in 1912 and raised in Inverness, Mississippi, Pipes was the son of cotton sharecroppers, and was not allowed to attend school in Mississippi after the sixth grade, since high school education was restricted to white citizens in the state. He eventually went to Tuskegee Institute High School and College in Alabama, earned a Master of Arts degree from Atlanta University and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, becoming the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in Speech.

Prior to coming to MSU in 1957, he taught at several colleges, including Fort Valley State College, Southern University, Philander Smith College, and Wayne State University. During his career Dr. Pipes received Rosenwald and Fulbright study grants, and published several acclaimed books, including *Death of an 'Uncle Tom'* and *The English Major*.

Dr. Pipes married Anna H. Russell, who herself taught at MSU and Lansing Community College. They were the parents of three MSU alumni: Harriette Pipes McAdoo, Ph.D., Willetta Pipes Ewing, and William Pipes. The Pipes family lived on the corner of West and Hillsdale. Dr. Pipes remained at MSU until his retirement in 1975 and passed away in 1981.



DR. WILLIAM PIPES

2017 HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

On Tuesday, June 27th, approximately 60 residents gathered at J. W. Sexton High School to participate in a Historic Neighborhood Walking Tour sponsored by the Westside Crime and Safety Committee. With their comfortable shoes on, walkers embarked on a 1.5 mile route that took them past 16 historic homes built between 1893 and 1940. The purpose of the walk was to highlight the diversity of our neighborhood, learn the history of the Westside, and bring neighbors together.

Safety is fundamental to the health and vitality of communities. People need to know that their children can walk to school without fear. Currently the Westside has the lowest crime rate of any other neighborhood within the city. The Crime and Safety Committee, chaired by Mitzi Allen, wanted to get the word out that the Westside is a safe place to live, raise a family, and attend school.

Andi Crawford, Lansing's Neighborhood Resource Coordinator, led and narrated the walk. Following the walk, neighbors enjoyed a social reception at Letts Community Center. Councilwoman Carol Wood was on hand to answer questions.

I LOOK FORWARD
TO WORKING
WITH THE
WESTSIDE
TO BUILD
A BRIGHTER
FUTURE FOR
FAMILIES
IN LANSING.

**ANDY
SCHOR**
FOR LANSING MAYOR

Paid for by Schor for Lansing | P.O. Box 13073 | Lansing, MI 48901

SERVING AGES 18 MONTHS
TO 12 YEARS OLD



Tours daily by appointment

2100 West St. Joseph St., Lansing, MI 48915
(517) 482-9191 • www.MCHLansing.org



DENNY'S AUTO DIAGNOSIS

Voted #1

**People's Choice
Best Auto Repair Shop**

LSJ's Delta Waverly Community News

More than high tech diagnostics! We are full service and able to maintain the latest vehicles from oil changes and brakes to suspension and engine repair. Check us out!

SERVING THE WESTSIDE
NEIGHBORHOOD SINCE 1969

517-321-2255

2738 NORTH GRAND RIVER
LANSING, MI 48906

DENNYSAUTODIAGNOSIS.COM

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
WATCH US ON YOUTUBE



LANSING **BWL** Mobile App!

Keeping You Connected.

Download the BWL Outage Center mobile app available on Apple and Android! Log in to report outages, view estimated restoration times and check on the power status of your home!

www.lbw.com/app



Neighbor Spotlight: MELIK BROWN

by John K. Addis

"Hi Neighbor," began Melik Brown's open letter to nearby homeowners. "You have probably noticed some activity on the corner. We meant to introduce ourselves beforehand, however, things began to move quickly."

For anyone who's followed Melik's career in the past twenty years, this ice-breaking approach to meeting new neighbors should come as no surprise. He's performed as a comedian and actor, hosted a live call-in show, produced hip-hop concerts,



been involved in a wide variety of Lansing-area organizations and associations, and worked as a promoter of places and events of all shapes and sizes. He's been on screen with Elizabeth Berkeley, delivered pizza to Dustin Diamond, and was booed off stage in Toronto "on three separate occasions." Most recently, he's been the face of **LansingMade.com**, a site devoted to showcasing and highlighting the people, stories, events, and businesses that make up Metro Lansing. Whether he's served you a cocktail at Soup Spoon Café or you've watched him on local television, you probably know who he is. If not, you'll soon see him around.

And he won't be alone. Melik has a loving partner, Jessica, a nurse whose smile "lights up a room" and who softens Melik's "tempermental gruffiness." Together, with Jessi's two children, ages 12 and 8, they're embarking on a new adventure of stripping and refinishing wood floors, pulling weeds, and building a life in the Westside.

Melik may have developed a public persona filled with sarcastic barbs and keen observations, but is clearly humbled at his experiences transitioning into family life, recounting the tears that flowed when Jessi's daughter first asked if she could call him "daddy." Melik and Jessi are expecting their first child together in October, which resulted in conversations about the need to move away from apartment living to purchase their first home. "I'm ecstatic. I tell people that we are blessed. We are very fortunate and thankful and grateful. The kids can't wait to get in."

Although Melik is new to the neighborhood, he's been fascinated by the Westside for some time, particularly with regards to how Lansing's most diverse neighborhood handles racial tension in the age of social media.

"I've been following the Westside Neighborhood Facebook page for a few years now, and it's been interesting," he explains. "I thought I didn't know what I would do if I was ever in a neighborhood like that. Because on one side, I think it's great that people are actively involved. On the other side, people need to understand how

they're miscommunicating, and how what I call 'accidental racism' happens when you're in this pocket, this circle. I've been watching it and seeing how there's a lot of similar things that keep happening, and we're not progressing. And it's just a microcosm of what's happening in the rest of the country."

But Melik is not discouraged by the challenge. "I'm excited, because now you're going to have to deal with me."

Melik has lived in Lansing for decades, but was born in Ohio and grew up in Oscoda ("through an importation program they had," he jokes.) His primary attraction to the Westside is its small-town feel. "I like the fact that it's an active community. It means someone's going to be looking after my kids. I want to feel okay when my kids go around the corner."

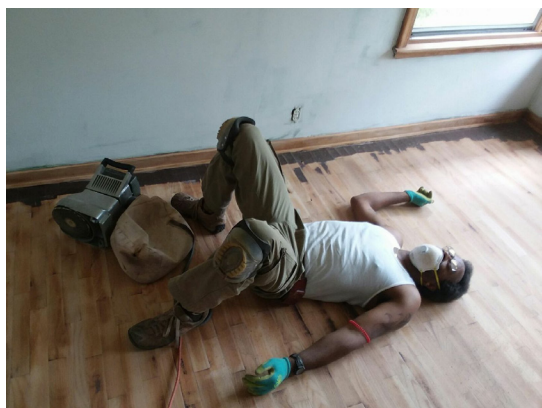
However, Melik admits he's coming to terms with the move being such a well-publicized event.

"I've never moved into a place where it's been so public a transition. I'm a very private individual, which is the big misconception of my personality. My public personality came about because I enjoyed doing certain things, but I didn't think through it as a public thing. I just liked doing TV. I just liked doing acting. It took a long time to realize that the stuff I was doing was actually 'of note.' But it's part of my being. It's part of my nature. If I don't do it, I don't feel whole."

Melik's upcoming project is a one-man stand-up special at the Robin Theatre on Thursday, September 14th. "Somehow, mysteriously, I was just voted Top Comedian in the Top of the Town Awards," he observes, referring to the annual City Pulse survey, "yet I haven't done a show in a couple years." It was Melik's first time winning, though he won the #2 spot in the past. "Virg won that year, so I went around telling people 'I'm doing comedy right now, but I'm only second best, so don't expect much.'" Now that he's recognized as Lansing's de facto comedic leader, he confesses he'd rather be called a humorist. "Nobody takes a comedian seriously. I

have a lot of things to say that I think are important. We can have fun talking about it, and it can be funny, but sometimes it's serious. And that's how this show is going to be. A stand-up show meets NPR." He smiles, proudly, then laughs. "I just hope I can get 90 people to show up."

Given his continued popularity, that shouldn't be a problem. As long as dust from the floor sander hasn't taken his voice first.



Tickets for Melik's show, "Alright People," are available at www.therobintheatre.com.

Know of a great neighbor who you'd like to nominate for the next Neighbor Spotlight? Let us know at board@wnalansing.com.

WNA PICNIC IS A BIG SUCCESS

Despite the extreme heat again this year, the 2017 Summer Picnic at St. Joseph Park on July 19 was a smashing success! Approximately 70 neighbors turned out to enjoy good food and conversation with longtime residents and those new to the neighborhood. Grill-masters Rod Lambert and Phillip Bergquist served up burgers and hot dogs, complemented by a variety of side dishes and desserts provided by neighbors. The Hartman family helped us beat the heat by providing a cooler full of ice cream sandwiches! Neighbors competed in games of corn hole, ladder ball, and giant jenga, while several of our youngest residents enjoyed playing with a giant parachute—all of which were purchased for our continued use by a Mayor's Grant from the city. New this year was a piñata, stuffed with candy and small toys, which was a big hit with the Westside kids!

The WNA Board thanks all the residents who attended for joining us. We look forward to picnicking with our neighbors again next year!



COMPUTER CENTER OPENING SOON

Lansing Parks and Recreation is excited to roll out our new Computer Center this Fall! This small computer lab, generously sponsored by the Letts Advisory Board and the Westside Neighborhood Association, will host a variety of classes for youth through senior citizens. Open computer lab times will be offered as well. We hope to have it fully operational by October 2017. Please call Letts Center for information: (517) 483-4311.



CLERK'S OFFICE



(517) 483-4131

www.lansingmi.gov/clerk



CHRIS SWOPE
LANSING CITY CLERK

*Proud Resident and Advocate
of the Westside Neighborhood!*

facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

- Business Licensing
- City Council Agendas & Minutes
- Passport Services
- Voter Registration
- Absentee Ballots
- Notary Public Services

Westside Pet Spotlight: BENJI

It was a typical case of “who rescued who?” When owner Elizabeth first set eyes on an adorable pup named Benji (previously “Hash”), she knew that he would be her furever friend. The two have been inseparable ever since, growing together through the college years and eventually starting a wonderful life in the Westside Neighborhood.



BENJI

Benji is a 9-year-old Shih Tzu/terrier mix, but his mom says he's 100 percent cute. A resident for just over two years, Benji serves the neighborhood by “greeting” passersby, keeping the squirrel population on its toes, and marking every bush as his own. He also loves to play with one of his best friends and fellow neighbors, James the King Charles Cavalier. Like many neighbors, he is not a fan of fireworks – or lightning storms. His favorite pastimes include looking out the front window for hours on end, sleeping in, visiting Hawk Island Dog Park, and making new friends.

Letts Fall Carnival | Friday, September 8, 2017 | 6pm - 9pm

The Westside Neighborhood Association is sponsoring a fall carnival at Letts Community Center (1220 W Kalamazoo St), in conjunction with Lansing Parks and Recreation. The event will run from 6 pm until 9 pm, and will be followed by an outdoor screening of The Lego Batman Movie in the field behind Letts. We are planning to have carnival games, face painting, a bounce house, a DJ, a magician, Reach Art Truck, Lansing Police Department, Lansing Fire Department, an ice cream truck, a food truck, the CADL Bookmobile, and representatives from the Northwest Initiative, Lettuce Live Well, and more!



Westside Candidates Forum | Wednesday, September 27, 2017 | 6pm

Please join us for a candidate forum to discuss the issues you care most about in the City of Lansing, our neighborhoods, and our vision for the future. The evening will be structured as a panel Q&A for candidates in the Mayoral, City Clerk, At-Large, and 4th Ward City Council elections with opportunities for questions from neighbors. More details on the event structure will also be released prior to the event. Please bring questions with you or submit them to board@wnalansing.com. Pizza from Harry's Place Bar & Grill and pop will be provided!

Festival and Silent Auction | Sunday, November 12, 2017

Save the date for the WNA's annual fundraiser. It is a new venue this year, the Cadillac Room in REO Town, and we are working hard to make it a great event for everyone. We will have food, a silent auction full of wonderful items, and an atmosphere of fun for you, your neighbors, and your friends to enjoy. Information about tickets will be coming soon, so cozy up to your favorite board member to make sure you get first shot at them! If you have items or ideas for the silent auction, contact Emily Bergquist (mle314@yahoo.com) and she will get you set up.

Weichert, Realtors®

Cell: (517) 749-6946
Office: (517) 543-7363
Fax: (517) 543-7220

Emerald Properties
111 N. Bostwick St.
Charlotte, MI 48813



Let me be
your Westside
expert! I have
lived in the
Westside for 16
years.

Kathryn Russell

kathryn russell4you@yahoo.com
www.emeraldrealtyco.com

Each office is independently owned and operated.



DIGITAL DAYS

@ LETTS COMMUNITY CENTER

Digital Days Training runs Monday through Friday, 3 hours per day, for 1 week. Themes for each day are Multi-Media Monday, Tech Time Tuesday, Website Wednesday, Tricks/Tips Thursday, Flyer Friday. Participants will learn a variety of skills all week on the computer with various technology topics. \$50/Resident, \$60/Non-Resident. Materials \$7.

ADULTS 9am-Noon
September 25, 26, 27, 28 & 29
November 13, 14, 15, 16 & 17

YOUTH 4pm-7pm
October 16, 17, 18, 19 & 20
December 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15

ALSO AVAILABLE:

SURFING SENIORS SATURDAYS
October 7, November 4,
December 2

TECHNOLOGY TUESDAYS
October 10 & 24, November 7 &
21, December 5 & 19



SAFETY WHILE SURFING ONLINE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7 9am-Noon
Includes topics such as being safe on the internet,
passwords, etc. Free class for residents only!

Elder Law,
Estate Planning,
Planning for Disabilities
and Protecting Assets

The Place for Good Counsel SM

Visit or Call us:

517-853-8015

www.theplaceforgoodcounsel.com

www.bradvauterlaw.com



Bradley A. Vauter & Associates, P.C.
912 Charlevoix Drive, Suite 120
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Get Involved:

CRIME & SAFETY COMMITTEE

by Mitzi Allen

The Crime and Safety Committee is a committee of the Westside Neighborhood Association charged with helping to improve the livability and safety of the neighborhood by sponsoring community safety awareness programs and working to rid the neighborhoods of blight as related to code violations. The Committee provides WNA residents with information regarding crime in the neighborhood and with tips for preventing crime, proper ways to report crimes, and best ways to support our law enforcement officers. The committee partners with LPD, Neighborhood Watch, neighborhood schools, and business owners within the designated boundaries.



Meetings are 6:30 pm on the last Tuesday of the month and held at Letts Community Center, 1220 West Kalamazoo St., Lansing. Our Crime and Safety Meetings provide an opportunity for the public to discuss matters of mutual concern with the police, collaborate on ways to improve police community relationships, and hold the police accountable for achieving desired results.

Using Facebook posts to alert neighbors to crimes and emergencies within our neighborhood is a wonderful tool.

However, developing a plan of action is most effective when done in person at the Crime and Safety Meetings with all necessary parties at the table.

I'd like to encourage you to attend the meetings. It takes all of us working together to make our community safe and free of crime. Hopefully, we'll see your face at the next meeting!

WREATHS AND GARLANDS



The Letts Citizen Advisory Board is promoting our Annual Holiday Wreaths & Garlands Sale earlier than last year. The fundraiser in 2016 made enough money to give a number of youth scholarships to attend the After School Drop-In Program and Summer Kids Camp Program. This year we're starting earlier hoping to raise even more funds to benefit additional youth. You may be aware that Mr. Jim Booth spearheaded this fundraiser over 20 years ago.

So start thinking about your greenery needs, and contact friends and neighbors so we can send in a record-breaking order for the youth at the Letts Center!

If you would like to order any of these handmade crafts from balsam fir and natural pine cones, the Letts Center (483-4311; email duck411@yahoo.com) and Kathy Booth (371-1754; j.kbooth@att.net) will take orders from October 16 until the deadline to order, Tuesday, November 28, 2017. Delivery should be December 1, 2017.

Wreaths: \$20.00 each, buy two for \$19.00 each, buy three for \$18.00 each.
Garlands: \$16.00 each, buy two for \$15.00 each, buy three for \$14.00 each.

Your ears are as unique as you are

Meet The Dash^{PRO}
tailored by Starkey[®]
Hearing Technologies.
**Personalized wireless
custom-made earphones**

Starkey[®] Hearing Technologies is the world leader in custom products built for your ear. Bragi partnered with Starkey[®] Hearing Technologies to offer a wireless earphone tailored just for you.



The world's first custom-made wireless earphones



Like fingerprints, no two ears are alike. The tailored Dash Pro is customized to fit the exact shape of your ear canal for the best isolation and TailoredFit — allowing no loss of bass frequencies, detail or clarity. Its all-day comfort is perfect for an activity lifestyle, even for professional athletes.

Experience truly wireless freedom

Connect The Dash Pro tailored by Starkey to any Bluetooth[®] device for crystal clear stereo sound and hands-free communication, all without the hassle of wires.

Or, if you don't like taking your smartphone with you, the tailored Dash Pro contains 4 GB of storage to hold up to 1,000 songs.



Connect to
Bluetooth devices



Use a stand-alone
music player



Experience truly
wireless sound



0
Wires



Available in Lansing from

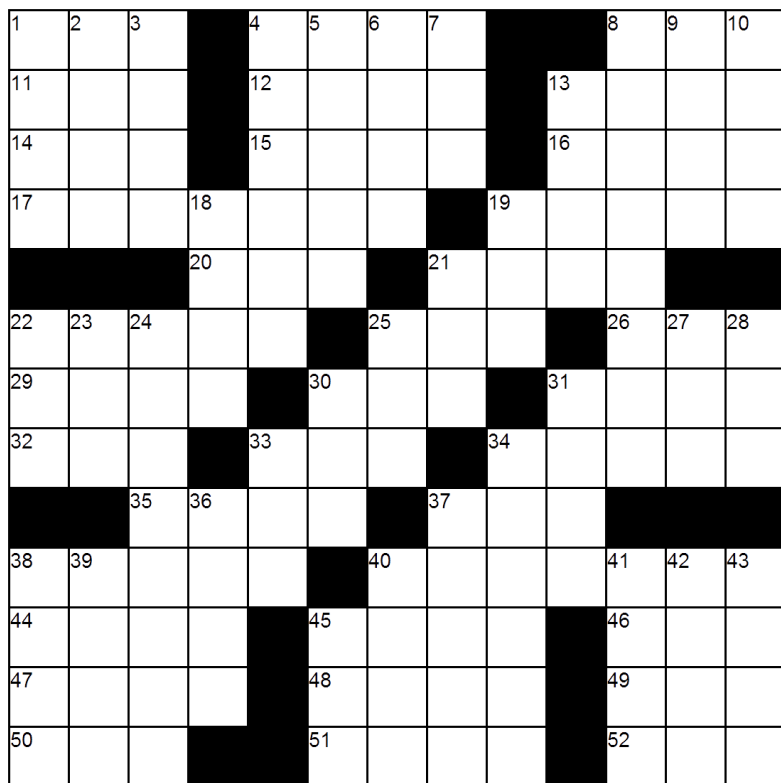
**MaryRose Hecksel,
AuD, LLC**

Audiology & Hearing Aid Center
Your path to better hearing.

(517) 321-6801 hearingpath.com

WESTSIDER CROSSWORD

SOLUTION KEY AT
WNALANSING.COM



ACROSS

- 1 Channel 6-3
- 4 A prime department
- 8 Morsel
- 11 Where Valentine went
- 12 Ruder than rude
- 13 Citizen of Denmark
- 14 Fish
- 15 East of Verlinden
- 16 A major dipper
- 17 East of Clare
- 19 A place of voting and carnivals
- 20 Possessive pronoun
- 21 Play featuring the WNA
- 22 Beware their enchanting voices
- 25 Set up
- 26 Serving of corn
- 29 --- Owl Coffee...
- 30 ...is served in one of these
- 31 A shorter lawyer
- 32 Santa's helper
- 33 Loose gown worn at mass
- 34 Lauder
- 35 Subject of a Great Lakes festival
- 37 Auditor
- 38 Local cook-off
- 40 Jumbeaux cross-street
- 44 Burden
- 45 Experts
- 46 Part of IOU
- 47 Has
- 48 Any
- 49 Red or Dead
- 50 Is the Westside awesome?
- 51 After the shock and trauma
- 52 To do this is human

DOWN

- 1 Edge forward
- 2 Double-reed instrument
- 3 Zilch
- 4 Marine echinoderm
- 5 Shoe bottoms
- 6 Worker
- 7 Hubbub
- 8 East of Carey
- 9 A gram (social media)
- 10 Also served at 29 Across
- 13 The challenge: demand satisfaction
- 18 Biblical "you"
- 19 Lower limb
- 21 Perfect hair, sort of
- 22 Compass point
- 23 Unwell
- 24 Trouble makers
- 25 Chafe
- 27 Snacked
- 28 Seed bread
- 30 Our Eastern border
- 31 WS NHBD
- 33 Born a Clay
- 34 Wiped out
- 36 Ransom
- 37 Objects
- 38 Distasteful through overabundance
- 39 West of Carey
- 40 Man from Edinburgh
- 41 Win or...
- 42 Vessel
- 43 Time required to get three Westsiders
- 45 Viper

advertise in *the Westsider*

- 16-20 full color, full bleed 5.5" x 8.5" pages
- Locally written articles & interviews
- Reach a diverse, active & engaged community
- 2,200+ copies printed every issue
- 2,000 mailed to all Westside households
- Posted to 1,100-member Facebook group

quarter page

\$65 *per issue*

2.75" w x 4.25" h

half page

\$105 *per issue*

5.5" w x 4.25" h

whole page

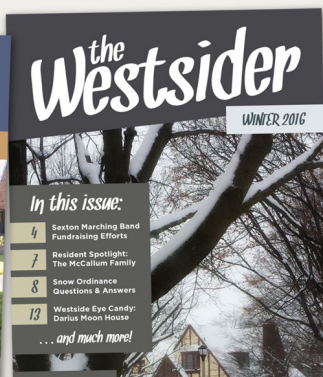
\$165 *per issue*

5.5" w x 8.5" h

Reach Lansing's premier neighborhood for pennies per household, in glossy full color to every home *and* online. It's the best value in Lansing advertising.

Don't have a color ad created? We'll even design one for you for free. Plus, when you commit to all three issues (Summer, Fall, and Winter) you save 15%.

Contact **board@wnalansing.com** *to learn more!*



CREDITS

Edited by John K. Addis and the WNA Board.
Design & layout by AE (aenow.com).

COVER PHOTO: Melik Brown at his new home in the Westside. Photography by John K. Addis.

Visit us online at facebook.com/groups/WestsideNeighborhoodAssociation

Email your newsletter ideas and photos to board@wnalansing.com.

Westside Neighborhood Association
c/o Letts Community Center
1220 W. Kalamazoo
Lansing, MI 48915

WNALansing.com

the Westsider

The Westside Neighborhood Association
c/o Lefts Community Center
1220 W. Kalamazoo
Lansing, MI 48915

