



dialog

A newsletter
for East Lansing
residents
May 2013

NEIGHBORHOODS

City's Neighborhood Partnerships Initiative Engages Residents

Last fall, the City of East Lansing launched a new Neighborhood Partnerships Initiative in an effort to support citizenship, foster two-way communication and build community. The philosophy behind the initiative is for the City to "partner with people" by providing tools for an engaged and active citizenry, working together to enrich their community.

As a part of this new initiative, three pilot neighborhoods were assigned City staff liaisons in 2012 and five neighborhoods are currently utilizing a free City-sponsored, community-maintained website, www.eastlansingneighborhoods.com.

The staff liaisons are dedicated City employees who are working one-on-one with assigned neighborhood associations to create important two-way dialogue. The liaisons provide support by creating a personal link to City Hall and offering residents with one point of contact for questions, concerns and ideas for their neighborhood. This year, the City will examine the feasibility of expanding its offering of City staff liaisons to additional East Lansing neighborhoods.

The City-sponsored, community-maintained website offers neighborhoods with an online *continued on page 2*



Staff liaison Ami Van Antwerp, resident Hanno Meingast and ELPD's Adrian Ojerio talk at a neighborhood meeting.

CONSTRUCTION

Summer Road Construction Update

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will continue its construction project along Grand River and Michigan avenues this summer and fall.

This multiple-phase project will result in improvements on Grand River Avenue from Coolidge Road to Park Lake Road and Michigan Avenue from the west City limits to Grand River Avenue. Improvements will include road resurfacing, sidewalk and ramp improvements, installation of non-motorized pathways, traffic signal upgrades and more.

The work currently taking place on Michigan Avenue, from the west City limits to Grand River Avenue, is tentatively slated for completion on June 26. Road improvements on Grand River Avenue from Michigan Avenue to Bogue Street are slated to begin on May 6 and are slated for completion on Aug. 9. These dates are tentative and may change. Find additional information at www.michigan.gov/capitalinvestment or www.cityofeastlansing.com/construction. *continued on page 2*

IN THIS ISSUE

Manager's Message: Public Input Key to Planning Process for City 2

Project Pride is Now Recycle! East Lansing 3

Earlier Opening Date for Farmer's Market 4

One Book, One Community 2013 Book Selection Announced 5

Summer Fun at the East Lansing Public Library 6



MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Public Input Key to Planning Process for City



Community members are encouraged to let their voices be heard in the coming months, as the City initiates its Comprehensive Plan update and continues

to evaluate the future of the Park District Planning Area. There will be a number of opportunities for formal and informal feedback.

This fall, public meetings and community design charrettes will take place for East Lansing's Comprehensive Plan update. Our Comprehensive Plan is extremely important, in that it serves as a visionary document for future development in East Lansing. As this important update moves forward, residents are encouraged to share their goals and aspirations for East Lansing in terms of community development.

Community members can also familiarize themselves with the ongoing Park District Planning Area work by attending upcoming public meetings and visiting www.cityofeastlansing.com/parkdistrict. The Review Team has held a series of public meetings to review the submitted proposals/developers and the final recommendation to City Council will be finalized this month. Many additional opportunities for public feedback are to come, as there is still plenty of work to be done in advance of negotiating a development agreement.

George Lahanas
East Lansing City Manager



MDOT's project along Michigan and Grand River avenues will continue this summer and fall.

CONSTRUCTION

In addition to MDOT's project, the City began an infrastructure improvement project on Kalamazoo Street this past April, with a tentative completion date of Aug. 23. Kalamazoo Street will be completely closed to traffic from Clippert Street to Harrison Road from

May 6 to Aug. 23. Harrison Road, from Kalamazoo Street to the Red Cedar Bridge, will be reduced to one lane in each direction for approximately one week in August. The pathway and entrance to the River Trail will also be intermittently closed.

NEIGHBORHOODS

destination for community news, neighborhood documents and more. The website and web support are provided by the City free of charge, while participating neighborhoods are responsible for updating content on their specific webpage. Community members can visit www.eastlansingneighborhoods.com/redcedar to see an example of a

participating neighborhood's page on the website. Neighborhoods interested in using the website can contact Communications Coordinator Ami Van Antwerp at (517) 319-6927.

The Neighborhood Partnerships Initiative is a high priority of the East Lansing City Manager's office and will continue to grow in the months to come.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

In addition to the Neighborhood Partnerships Initiative, the East Lansing Police Department (ELPD) has assigned 26 officers to different sectors of the City as part of East Lansing's Neighborhood Watch Program. These ELPD officers partner with residents interested in the safety of their neighborhood.

Residents are encouraged to report suspicious activity to their sector officer/officers. These officers are also available to answer questions and attend meetings. Visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/neighborhoodwatch or contact ELPD Sgt. James Campbell at (517) 319-6897 ext. 6467 for more details.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

City's Comprehensive Plan to be Updated

The City of East Lansing will be updating its Comprehensive Plan in 2013; a document that will help guide future development and enhancement in the local community. It is required that this document be updated every five years.

Community input is vital in the Comprehensive Planning process and, beginning this September, there will be many opportunities for residents to let their voices be heard at public meetings and design charrettes. This summer, City staff will be working with a consultant to do necessary research/prep work and will also develop community steering committees, which will focus on different areas of the plan.

RECYCLING EVENT

Project Pride is Now Recycle! East Lansing

The Project Pride community recycling and reuse event has been renamed Recycle! East Lansing.

While the name may have changed, the same popular event will be back in action on Saturday, June 1 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Abbott Center, 1400-1500 Abbot Road. Participants should bring proof of East Lansing residency to the event, along with the items they wish to drop off for recycling, reuse and proper disposal.

A list of items that will be collected this year can be found at www.cityofeastlansing.com/recycleEL. Most items are collected free of charge, while some require a disposal fee. Volunteers are always needed! Contact Cathy DeShambo at (517) 337-9459 to volunteer.

FESTIVAL SEASON

Festivals Bring Cultural Enrichment to East Lansing

Festival season will bring a wealth of cultural enrichment to the heart of downtown East Lansing this spring and summer.

The season will kick off with the **50th Annual East Lansing Art Festival (ELAF)**, taking place over the weekend of May 18-19. Hundreds of artists from across the country will be exhibiting and selling their work, including but not limited to 24 returning invitational artists, seven emerging artists and 51 new artists. In

addition to the art, there will be a children's activities, an international food court and live music. Visit www.elartfest.com to view the artists, music lineup and more.

The **Summer Solstice Jazz Festival (SSJF)** will take place June 21-22. This two-day, jazz-infused festival will feature a talented lineup of local and national jazz performers, including headliners Cyrille Aimee and The Frederick Sanders Trio featuring Germaine Bazzle. In addition to the music, there will be onsite local food and children's

activities. View the SSJF insert or visit www.eljazzfest.com for more information.

The **Great Lakes Folk Festival (GLFF)** will take place Aug. 9-11. The festival will feature live music, dance, a taste of traditional foodways, children's activities, a GLFF Marketplace with recycled and upcycled goods, traditions showcases and more. The keyword is "Great" for this popular annual event, hosted by the MSU Museum. Learn more about the GLFF at www.greatlakesfolkfest.net.



Julie Schwarz, of Sawyer, Mich., will return for the 2013 ELAF as an invitational artist. Schwarz creates beautiful art through a self-taught process of manipulating Polaroids.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

Tutti Frutti

Downtown East Lansing visitors can get their frozen yogurt fix at Tutti Frutti, a new business that opened this past March on the second level of 515 E. Grand River Ave. Tutti Frutti features a wide variety of soft serve frozen yogurt flavors and a toppings bar with fresh fruit, candy, nuts, sprinkles and more.

In addition to Tutti Frutti, the new business also houses O' My Buns. O' My Buns serves up specialty dessert buns that originated in Asia. Bun flavors include coffee, coffee with cream cheese, vanilla bean and vanilla bean with cream cheese. Toppings, such as coconut and nuts, can be added to these light and sweet tasty treats.

Tutti Frutti and O' My Buns are located next to Splash of Color Tattoo and above Campus Street Sportswear.



TUTTI FRUTTI

Address: 515 E. Grand River Ave.,
Suite G

Facebook:
[www.facebook.com/
tfEastLansing](http://www.facebook.com/tfEastLansing)

Website: www.omybuns.com



The East Lansing Farmer's Market draws approximately 1,300 weekly visitors.

FARMER'S MARKET

Earlier Opening Date for Farmer's Market

The popular East Lansing Farmer's Market (ELFM) will be back in action this spring, with an earlier opening date of June 9. The market will be open every Sunday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. through the end of October in Valley Court Park, 201 Hillside Court.

Twenty-four vendors will bring their fresh, farm-grown Michigan produce and products to the market this year. The ELFM prides itself on being 100 percent homegrown, meaning all vendors must either grow their own produce or make their own products.

Of the 24 vendors participating in ELFM's 2013 season, 17 will be weekly vendors and seven will be daily vendors. The weekly vendors will be at the market each week, while the daily vendors will attend the market on an intermittent, rotating or limited basis.

Items sold will include a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables, honey, fresh fish, rubs, gluten-free products, baked goods, pasta, grass-fed beef, all natural chicken, granola, artisan bread and more. The popular Trailer Park'd food truck will also be at the market each week serving up farm-to-table cuisine that can be enjoyed on-the-go or in the park.

The market also features live music each week and special events, including Spartan Appreciation Day and Autumn Fest. Eligible ELFM customers can also enjoy SNAP Bridge Card (EBT) benefits and Double Up Food Bucks benefits.

Community members can visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/farmersmarket to learn more about the ELFM and the 2013 vendors. Community members are also encouraged to sign up for the ELFM e-newsletter, sent weekly during the season, at www.cityofeastlansing.com/news.

ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY

One Book, One Community 2013 Book Selection Announced

The City of East Lansing and Michigan State University recently announced “The Yellow Birds” as the 2013 One Book, One Community book selection.

Written by debut novelist and Iraq War veteran Kevin Powers, “The Yellow Birds” gives readers an intimate look into the Iraq War as told through the eyes of the fictional main character, 21-year-old Pvt. John Bartle.

Pvt. Bartle’s story is about the responsibility - that is imposed and accepted - to survive the war. It is also about the internal war he faces upon arriving home. Pvt. Bartle must explain what he saw, justify what he did and face the blank stares of those who can’t begin to understand what it was like to be there.

“The Yellow Birds” has received critical acclaim and was a 2012 National Book

Award finalist. Powers will kick off the 2013 One Book, One Community program with a special visit to the East Lansing-MSU community Aug. 25-26.

Powers will talk about the book, answer questions and sign books at a special community kickoff on Sunday, Aug. 25 at 7 p.m. at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road. Powers will address the incoming MSU freshman class at the Academic Welcome in the Jack Breslin Student Events Center on Monday, Aug. 26. Both events are FREE to the community.

The annual One Book, One Community program encourages the East Lansing-MSU community to read the same book and come together to discuss it at a variety of events and programs in the fall. Learn more at www.onebookeastlansing.com.



Debut novelist and Iraq War veteran Kevin Powers will visit East Lansing Aug. 25-26.

PARK DISTRICT

Review Team Makes Progress

The Park District Review Team has held a series of public meetings over the past two months to review the six proposals for the Park District Planning Area.

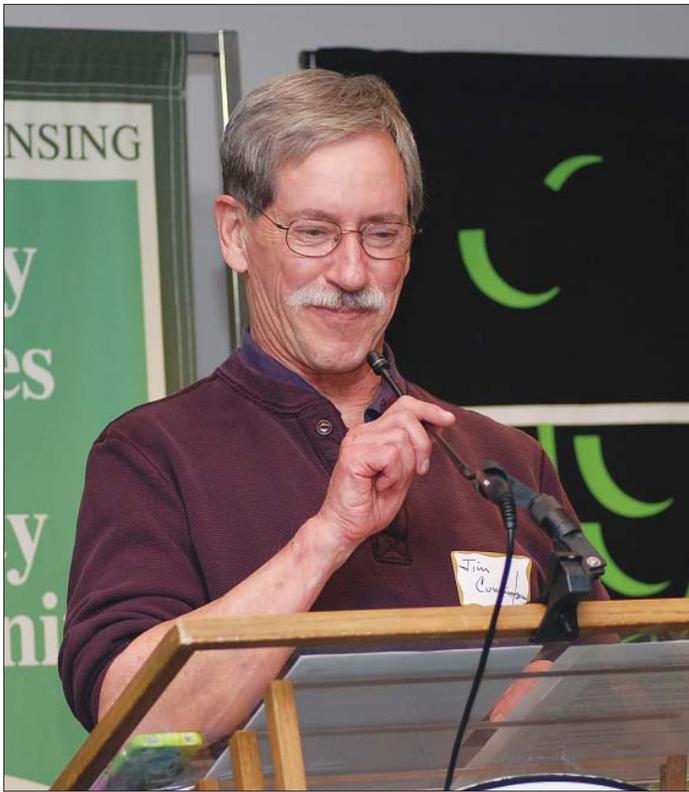
The meetings included developing review criteria, scoring the proposals, conducting public interviews of the developers and a financial review of the top three. The Team will hold a public meeting on May 22 to finalize its recommendation to East Lansing City Council, which could include up to three developers. This is the first step toward choosing a developer, however, there will be many other steps in advance of a development agreement. Community outreach by the selected developer is expected to begin in the fall. Learn more at www.cityofeastlansing.com/parkdistrict.

PRIME TIME

Senior Housing Survey

The Friends of the East Lansing Seniors’ Program have been awarded a \$5,000 Community Reinvestment Fund Grant administered through the Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council as part of the HUD-funded Mid-Michigan Program for Greater Sustainability.

The funds will be used to conduct a senior housing survey, online and in print, of East Lansing’s 55+ community and MSU alumni. The survey will help determine senior housing needs in East Lansing and the results will be used to guide future development decisions. The results will also be incorporated into East Lansing’s Comprehensive Plan. In addition to the survey, community forums will be held.



Local artist Jim Cunningham was one of four recipients of a 2013 Crystal Award. Visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/crystalawards to read the recipients' bios.

CRYSTAL AWARDS

Unsung Heroes Honored at 2013 Crystal Awards

The 26th Annual Crystal Awards reception brought community members together to honor four exceptional unsung East Lansing heroes. This year's recipients included Jim Cunningham, Tom Petroni, Michigan Flyer and Hometown Housing Partnership.

From sculptures to Little Free Libraries, local artist Jim Cunningham has created beautiful art for many groups throughout the City - oftentimes at little to no cost.

Tom Petroni turned a hobby of playing music into a vehicle for helping those in need by forming two community bands that have donated all of their performance fees to local community events and charities.

Michigan Flyer, created by Ody Norkin, is a well-run business that has brought thousands of people to downtown East Lansing each year. The public transportation service creates an easy and affordable option for travel to and from the Detroit Metro Airport.

Hometown Housing Partnership is a non-profit organization that has provided homeownership assistance programs to income-qualified East Lansing homebuyers and homeowners for 20 years.

LIBRARY

Summer Fun at the East Lansing Public Library

The East Lansing Public Library (ELPL) will offer its Summer Reading Program to patrons June 10-Aug. 3. This year's theme is "Dig Into Reading." The program offers children, teens and adults with special incentives to read over the summer.

The program will kick off with an event on Tuesday, June 11 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., featuring Tim the Music Man, Buddha the Mime, face painting, sidewalk chalk and more. Patrons can pack a picnic lunch and spend a day at the library! The program will wrap up with the popular Touch-a-Truck event on Saturday, Aug. 17 at 11 a.m.

Also this summer, ELPL will offer a Code Camp for kids. Participants will spend four weeks learning about computer programming. Code Campers, ages 7-10, will use their new coding knowledge to build and program robots, which they will debut at the Touch-a-Truck event on Aug. 17. Registration for Code Camp is limited and will begin Monday, June 3. Once spots are filled, patrons can be placed on a wait list in case of cancellations. Code Camp will meet July 13, July 20, July 27 and Aug. 3. Visit www.elpl.org for additional summer events and information.

ORDINANCES

Fireworks, Dog Owner Reminders

With warmer weather ahead, residents and visitors are reminded of a couple of pertinent City ordinances aimed at creating a safe, clean and respectful environment for all community members.

Last fall, East Lansing City Council approved Ordinance No. 1283, which prohibits the ignition, discharge and use of consumer fireworks except on the day preceding, the day of and the day after a national holiday in East Lansing. The ordinance was approved in response to citizen concerns over the increase in firework use in East Lansing neighborhoods after the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act was passed. Learn more by visiting www.cityofeastlansing.com/OnePagerPlus and clicking on "Fireworks Ordinance."

Dog owners are reminded that, per the City Code, dogs must be on a leash in public (unless in a park where it is permitted) and all dog droppings must be removed from public property and other people's private property. Owners are asked to be respectful of neighbors by cleaning up after their dogs.



East Lansing Art Festival: May 18-19 • East Lansing Farmer's Market: June 9-October 27 • Summer Solstice Jazz Festival: June 21-22
 Great Lakes Folk Festival: August 9-11 • One Book, One Community Kickoff: Aug. 25

JUNE

- 14 **Summer Concert:** Greg Nagy
- 15 **Summer Concert:** Time2Play
- 28 **Summer Concert:** Kitty Donohoe with David Mosher
- 29 **Summer Concert:** Rob Klajda's Hopening Quartet

JULY

- 5 **Summer Concert:** The Nomads
- 6 **Summer Concert:** Sea Cruisers
- 9 **Play in the Park:** Zeke the Wonder Dog
- 11 **Moonlight Film:** The Lorax (PG)
- 12 **Summer Concert:** Kathleen & the Bridge Street Band
- 13 **Summer Concert:** Lincoln County Process
- 16 **Play in the Park:** The Joel Tacey Magic Show
- 18 **Moonlight Film:** Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (PG)

- 19 **Summer Concert:** The Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle
- 20 **Summer Concert:** East Harvest
- 23 **Play in the Park:** (TBA)
- 25 **Moonlight Film:** Groundhog Day (PG)
- 26 **Summer Concert:** Root Doctor featuring Freddie Cunningham
- 27 **Summer Concert:** Gifts or Creatures
- 30 **Play in the Park:** (TBA)

AUGUST

- 1 **Moonlight Film:** Big Miracle (PG)
- 2 **Summer Concert:** Delicious Bass
- 3 **Summer Concert:** Hot Club of Lansing
- 8 **Moonlight Film:** Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG)
- 15 **Moonlight Film:** Hugo (PG)
- 22 **Moonlight Film:** Karate Kid (PG)

Events will be canceled if it rains. Bring a chair or blanket! For information, call (517) 319-6927.

Summer Concert Series

Downtown E.L.
 Fridays & Saturdays
 June 14-Aug. 3
 7-9 p.m.

Play in the Park

Valley Court Park
 Tuesday nights
 July 9-30 • 7 p.m.

Moonlight Film Festival

Valley Court Park
 Thursday nights
 July 11-Aug. 22
 9:30 p.m. in July
 9 p.m. in August

www.cityofeastlansing.com/communityevents



dialog

City Council

410 Abbot Road, (517) 319-6904

Mayor Diane Goddeeris

Mayor Pro Tem Nathan Triplett

Councilmember Kevin Beard

Councilmember Victor Loomis

Councilmember Kathleen Corkin Boyle

City Manager George Lahanas

Dialog Staff Mikell Frey, Kathryn Gardner

Published for the information of East Lansing residents. If you have any questions or need information, please call (517) 319-6873; write Dialog, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823; or send an email to mfrey@cityofeastlansing.com.

Visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/news to sign up for the e-Dialog.

Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/CityofEL and like us on

Facebook at www.facebook.com/CityofEastLansing.

facebook

twitter

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
E. LANSING, MI
PERMIT NO. 75

community events

More details and other community events are featured inside.

East Lansing Art Festival

May 18-19

The 50th Annual East Lansing Art Festival will take place in downtown East Lansing from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, May 18 and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday, May 19. Learn more at www.elartfest.com.

Aquatic Center Opens

May 31

The East Lansing Family Aquatic Center, located at 6400 Abbot Road, will be open May 31-Sept. 2. Find rates, hours, a list of amenities and more at www.cityofeastlansing.com/AquaticCenter.

Recycle! East Lansing

June 1, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Recycle! East Lansing, formerly Project Pride, invites East Lansing residents to drop off a variety of items for recycling and reuse at the Abbott Center, 1400-1500 Abbot Road. Learn more at www.cityofeastlansing.com/RecycleEL.

East Lansing Farmer's Market

June 9-Oct. 27

The East Lansing Farmer's Market takes place on Sundays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in Valley Court Park. The market features fresh Michigan produce and products. Learn more at www.cityofeastlansing.com/farmersmarket.

Summer Solstice Jazz Festival

June 21-22

This two-day, jazz-infused festival will take place in downtown East Lansing from 4:30-10 p.m. each evening. Enjoy live music, dancing, children's activities, onsite food and more. Learn more at www.eljazzfest.com.

Great Lakes Folk Festival

Aug. 9-11

The MSU Museum annually hosts the Great Lakes Folk Festival in downtown East Lansing. The festival features music, dance and culture from across America and around the world. More info: www.greatlakesfolkfest.net.

