

Sunday: Potluck in the Park

Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony's 14th annual summer picnic

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Holland — Sunday's 14th annual Potluck in the Park is a time for neighbors and newcomers to connect in a social atmosphere.

The annual potluck, organized by members of the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony, is set for 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday at Ransom Street Park, 16500 Ransom St. between 160th and 168th avenues in

Holland Township. The picnic is free and includes games, music, beverages and table service, but organizers ask participants to bring a dish which reflects their own community heritage.

"It's one of two community meals we host," said organizer and ACEH board member Marvin Younger. The other is a December holiday meal.

The potluck is "a time for the community to come together with like-minded people who are interested in and appreciate the diversity of the community. We come together and celebrate that with games and food."

Younger said he'll supply grilling equipment and cook up hot dogs and sausages. ACEH founding member Ann Weller said she'll bring blueberry pies.

"A lot of my heritage is in the Upper Peninsula," she said. "We used to spend a lot of our time picking wild blueberries in the summer."

Weller said the potluck's Ransom Street Park location is intended to encourage more migrant workers to visit, so they can connect with more people in the community.

"We are diverse and that diversity is absolutely marvelous," Younger said. "I put in my order every year for wonderful weather and we've been so fortunate with that."

Weller said people should bring extra lawn chairs or blankets. A piñata as well as balloon animals are among the entertainment plans for kids.

ACEH was founded in 1999 in Holland "to work for justice and equal opportunity and cross-cultural appreciation," Weller said. "It's a way for people of many different cultures to meet together and work together."

ACEH's next general meeting is at 7 p.m. Sept. 14, at the Center for Women in Transition, 411 Butternut Drive. The topic is Native American culture. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Learn more about the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony by calling (616) 392-5086, writing P.O. Box 3007, Holland, MI 49422-3007 or visiting harmonyalliance.org.

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