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service to Lansing Community College

— Andrew P. Abood



Attorney Andrew P. Abood and  
Lansing Community College  
President Brent Knight

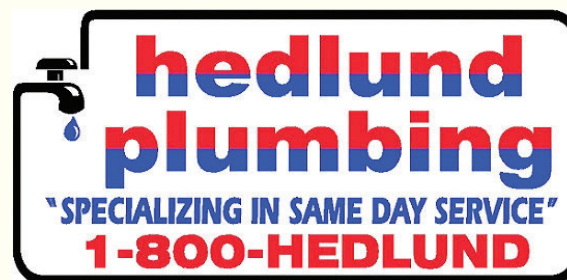


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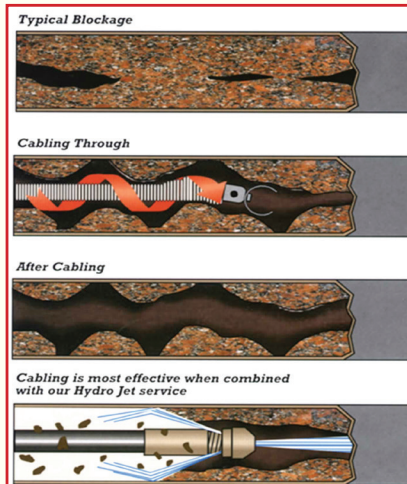
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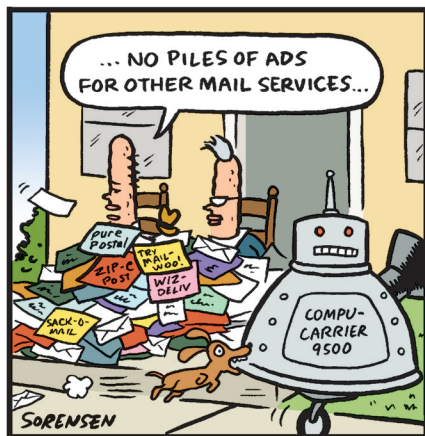
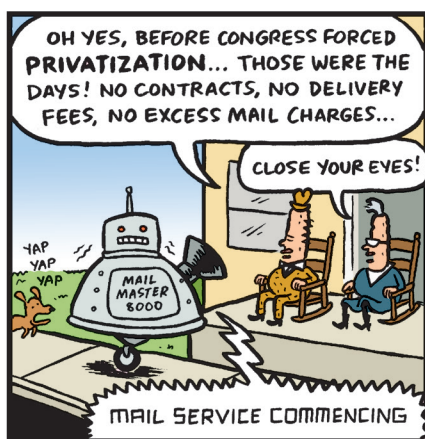
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## Steve Robinson returns to LCC campus as p Delete comma



## Meet our COVID-19 Heroes



### Elderly Instrument's catalogs through the years



**Illustration by Nevin Speerbrecher**

**ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: (517) 999-5061**  
**or email [citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com)**  
**CLASSIFIEDS: (517) 999-6704**

**EDITOR AND PUBLISHER • Berl Schwartz**  
publisher@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5061

**ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR • Skyler Ashley**  
skyler@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5068

**EVENTS EDITOR/OFFICE MANAGER • Suzi Smith**  
suzi@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6704

**PRODUCTION • Abby Sumbler**  
production@lansingcitypulse.com  
(517) 999-5066

**STAFF WRITERS • Lawrence Cosentino**  
lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5065

**Kyle Kaminski** • kyle@lansingcitypulse.com  
(517) 999-6710

**SALES EXECUTIVE**  
**Lee Purdy** • [lee@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:lee@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5064

**Contributors:** Andy Balaskovitz, Justin Bilicki, Capital News Service, Bill Castanier, Ryan Claytor, Mary C. Cusack, Tom Helma, Gabrielle Lawrence Johnson, Terry Link, Kyle Melinn, Mark Nixon, Dawn Parker, Dennis Preston, Carrie Sampson, Nevin Speerbrecker, Rich Tupica, Ute Von Der Heyden, David Winkelstern, Paul Wozniak

**Delivery drivers:** Garrett Clinard, Dave Fisher

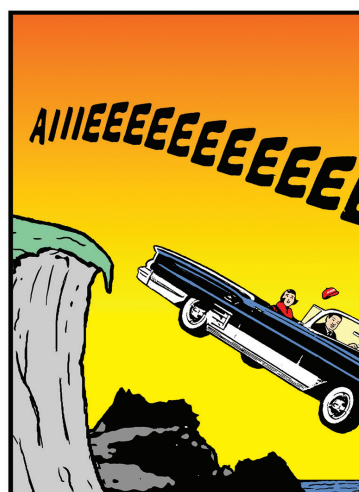
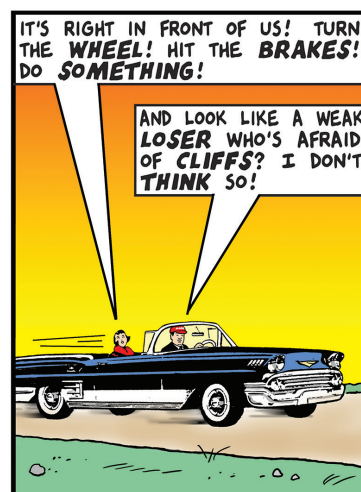
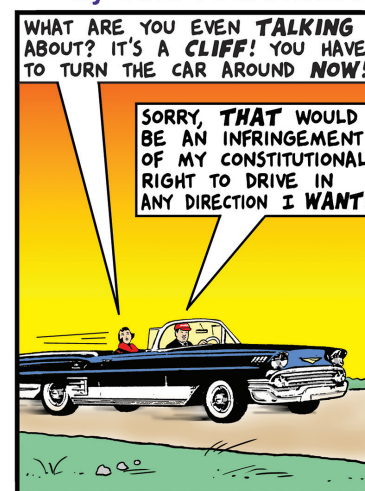
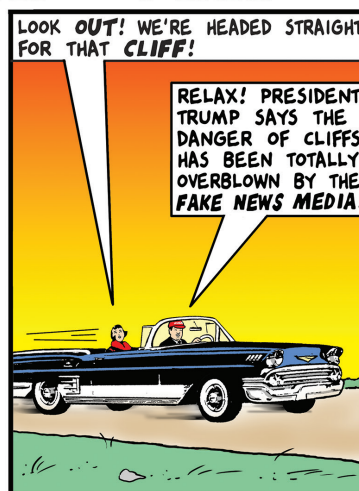
**Interns:** Matthew Stine • stinem47@gmail.com



# THIS MODERN WORLD

# AMERICA 2020

**ANOTHER IN  
AN OCCASIONAL  
SERIES OF  
PARABLES  
INVOLVING  
CLIFFS**



TAM TAM DRAWING © 2020



# Millage matters

A key lesson to be learned from our present circumstances is that democracy is not a spectator sport. Watching from the sidelines simply isn't an option because too much is at stake. At a time when our attention is understandably focused on surviving the coronavirus pandemic, on creating a more just and equitable society for people of color, and on the frightening prospect that our nation may literally come apart at the seams if Donald Trump is reelected, it is still worth paying heed to legendary House Speaker Tip O'Neil's oft-repeated maxim that "all politics is local."

Toward that end, the Aug. 4 primary election ballot features three important local millage questions, each of which asks voters to approve a special property tax levy to fund certain government services. Two of the proposals seek the renewal of existing millages, one in support of Ingham County's 911 emergency telephone and dispatch system and the other to support the City of Lansing's parks and recreation system. The third proposal is a new county millage that aims to enhance funding for support services for the elderly. All three millage proposals deserve voters' support.

## 911 Emergency Telephone and Dispatch System

Ingham County's special millage for 911 emergency services was first authorized by area voters in 1996 and has been renewed every four years since. The ballot proposal renews the existing 0.85 mills for 10 years and is expected to raise about \$6.5 million annually. If approved, the owner of a home with a market value of \$100,000 (taxable value = \$50,000) will continue to pay about \$43 per year. That's a small price to pay to maintain a robust emergency response system that is essential to the health and safety of all county residents.

## City of Lansing Parks and Recreation Millage

Lansing is the envy of many communities for its extensive system of parks, trails and playgrounds that provide residents with abundant opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and get some exercise. At a time when the coronavirus pandemic is crushing municipal budgets, threatening the city's ability to provide essential services, the dedicated millage for parks will continue to provide critical resources that help maintain a high quality system of parks



## The CP Edit

### Opinion

and recreational programs in Lansing. The ballot proposal seeks to renew one mill for five years and is expected to generate more than \$1 million per year. If approved, the owner of a home with a market value of \$100,000 (taxable value = \$50,000) will continue to pay about \$50 per year. Lansing's parks millage has been in existence for more than 30 years and has often been used to leverage additional grant resources to help pay for capital improvement projects. The Beacon Field Soccer projects, Hunter Park Pool renovations, expansions of the River Trail and other significant projects have all benefited from funding generated through the parks millage.

## Elder Services

The second Ingham County millage proposal would establish a new property tax levy to support services for the elderly, which the proposal defines as people over age 60. While we're not a fan of the semantics — we generally don't think of 60-year-olds as elderly — it's not a deal breaker. The ballot question seeks 0.3 mills and is expected to generate \$2.5 million annually to fund in-home care, meals on wheels, crisis response and other needed services over the next four years. If approved, the levy will cost the owner of a home with a market value of \$100,000 (taxable value = \$50,000) about \$15 per year. As the older segment of our population continues to grow, demand for essential services tailored to senior citizens is expected to increase. The proposal is timely for another reason: seniors are much more vulnerable to COVID-19 than younger people and need to be isolated from the virus as much as practicable for the foreseeable future. Additional funding will allow the county to eliminate waiting lists and expand in-home services to seniors, keeping them safer until the coronavirus pandemic is under control.

Skeptics may argue that Ingham County has an unhealthy addiction to millage requests. Rather than making the tough decisions to reduce spending, the argument goes, county commissioners frequently ask taxpayers for more money through millage proposals. Continually asking voters to approve new millages could also lead to "millage fatigue," which can impact neighboring jurisdictions who plan to put millages on the ballot.

While we are sensitive to the need to keep taxes at a reasonable level, we have no problem with millage requests that clearly align with community needs and priorities. If they are worthy of support, voters will approve them. If and when voters tire of them, they will exercise their democratic franchise and turn them down.

It's never been easier to vote — or safer — thanks to the constitutional amendment that allows no-reason absentee ballots for people of all ages. If you haven't received your absentee ballot application, reach out to your local clerk's office to obtain one. Whether you vote by absentee ballot or at your polling place, all three millage questions are deserving of your support in the August primary election.

**Send letters to the editor on this editorial or any other topic to [letters@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:letters@lansingcitypulse.com). Please limit them to 250 words.**



# No case built for firing mayoral employee, records show

## Former staffer alleges racial bias

The personnel record of a Black woman who claims Lansing Mayor Andy Schor fired her without explanation contains no documentation of performance issues, according to the City Attorney's Office.

The woman, Natasha Atkinson, had a spotless record from her time with the city, her personnel file reflects. In fact, City Attorney Jim Smiertka's office was unable to locate a single incident that would have led to Atkinson's firing. The response was to a Freedom of Information request for any documents pertaining to her performance, including complaints about her by other employees.

Schor has cited confidentiality in declining to say why he fired Atkinson, as a scheduler and events coordinator. She was let go in February after less than a year on the Mayor's Office staff.

Moreover, he has declined to comment on why his office did not document any performance problems in her case.

Schor appears to be operating entirely within the bounds of the law. Unless protected by some type of contractual agreement, at-will employees like Atkinson can be terminated from their job at any time and for any reason — including no actual reason at all.

Last month, Atkinson told City Pulse that her ideas for improving diversity were dismissed, white staffers had ignored her and her desk was repeatedly ransacked before she was fired.

Atkinson, among others, has argued that subtle racial discrimination motivated her firing. Schor has dismissed any suggestions of racism within his administration. He has since agreed to implicit bias training.

Two City Council members, Brandon Betz and Patricia Spitzley, were critical of Schor.

"The mayor has a legal right to fire his at-will employees, but I also think the mayor needs to provide an explanation," Spitzley said. "Everyone would like to have a reason when they're let go from their job."

"Having no records behind firing someone is poor management," said Betz.

Spitzley asked Smiertka to prepare a formal legal opinion on whether the



Cole Tunningley/City Pulse

Natasha Atkinson speaks at a Black Lives Matter rally on the City Hall plaza last month. She has alleged racial bias for her dismissal from the staff of the Mayor's Office.

Council can probe into staffing complaints — like those from Atkinson — leveled against Schor.

Smiertka told Council Monday that it was impossible.

"With Charter revisions, we can investigate the financial issues but not the operational issues of the Mayor's Office," Council President Peter Spadafore summarized. "And likewise, he has got to stay away from us."

"It's not really my place to determine how the mayor hires or fires his staff members, but I don't think, in general, this is the way the city operates," added Spadafore. "I think we should always be helping employees to improve, but I also don't control the mayor."

Spadafore, who is an executive at the Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators, said he has never before fired an employee without a well-documented paper trail of poor performance and without offering repeated opportunities for those staffers to improve. He was "surprised" to hear that Schor's office doesn't maintain the same employment protocols.

Said Betz: "Andy Schor needs to answer questions about discrimination in his office because it sounds like it has been happening," Betz argued. "We shouldn't be treating employees like that."

Spitzley said she owed it to her constituents to at least attempt to pry loose some answers.

"It's basically saying that Council doesn't have the authority to investigate the Mayor's Office," Spitzley said, describing Smiertka's recent legal opinion. "There's a separation of powers. Council does have certain authorities, but one of them is not to investigate the Mayor's

Office."

"At this point, I don't really know that it matters," Atkinson said last week. "If Council doesn't have any oversight over the mayor, then nobody really does. There really needs to be some type of check and balance. He can't just operate on his own."

Atkinson previously told City Pulse that Schor was dismissive last year when Black Lives Matter activists attempted to confront him over black teenagers who were violently arrested by local cops last year. And when she tried to step in to offer advice, Schor allegedly diminished those concerns.

"Black Lives Matter is just a dog without a bone," Atkinson claimed a mayoral staffer had said.

Atkinson also said white staffers eventually started to ignore her and contended she arrived at work to find her desk overturned and her belongings scattered across the floor. Atkinson said Schor blamed a cleaning crew and refused to recognize much of a problem with the incident.

Weeks after Atkinson recounted her

experiences with Schor, former Chief Information Officer Collin Boyce — who resigned last year — said he and other Black employees who dared to challenge Schor's authority were also pushed aside or fired from the city. His story also mirrored that of former Fire Chief Randy Talifarro, who told City Pulse last year that Black department heads were "Prejudged or completely disregarded" by Schor after he took office.

Boyce also cited Schor's decision not to retain Bob Johnson and Mary Riley, two Black department heads from the administration of his predecessor, Virg Bernero, and his suspension of Joan Jackson Jackson, who is Black, as human relations director pending the outcome of a federal examination of possible mismanagement. He also pointed out the dismissal of Martell Armstrong, another African American, as the executive director of the Lansing Housing Commission.

Schor has contended that he has hired a diverse group of leaders and that he did not influence the commission's board in letting Armstrong go. Schor has declined comment on Jackson Johnson, who retired after her suspension in January while she awaits any results of the probe.

Atkinson also alleged that Schor's staff misused city credit cards to purchase expensive lunches and drinks during the early afternoon. It's OK, they told her. The receipts just "get lost," she said. And after Atkinson tried reporting it higher up the chain, she found herself out of a job, she said.

"The mayor has made it very clear that he will not discuss his staff with anyone, including the City Council," Spitzley added. "He's just not willing to have the discussion with anybody. Does that mean that we're not reaching out to him? Absolutely not. There's just not much we can do."

— KYLE KAMINSKI

**Correction**  
Because of a reporting error, a story in last week's paper misstated how many drop boxes the city has for absentee ballots. There are two, one in City Hall and the other in the Lansing city clerk's office in the old armory at 2500 S. Washington Ave.



# New LCC president takes the rudder in a storm

Steve Robinson says Lansing Community College changed his life.

And now it's his turn to change LCC.

"LCC is where my community college career started," said Robinson, who takes over as LCC's seventh president Monday.

"Halfway through my master's degree in English, I tagged along with someone who was teaching at LCC and just fell in love with community college teaching."

Robinson, 52, moved to East Lansing at 18 to attend Michigan State University, where he earned three degrees. He lived here for a dozen years — even commuting to Flint for a few years for his first full-time teaching job, at Mott Community College.

The internship at LCC opened Robinson's eyes to a classroom setting far more diverse than his suburban Detroit high school and MSU. Some students were younger than he was, while others were older than his parents. "There were students from every socioeconomic walk of life, diversity in terms of race. I just fell in love with the exciting energy in the classroom."

He remembers returning to East Lansing after his first day at LCC knowing what he wanted to do with his career.

"It was really one of these light bulb moments," he said. On his wall is a master's degree in community college teaching from MSU. "It was the great relationship between LCC and MSU that launched my career. It's been my professional passion ever since."

Robinson comes to Lansing as LCC's seventh president after serving as the seventh president of Owens Community College, in Perrysburg, Ohio, near Toledo, a school with about half the enrollment of LCC's 16,000. He will be paid \$250,000 a year at LCC, the same as his predecessor, Brent Knight, who retires Friday, and will live on campus in the Herrmann House, on Capitol Avenue, a 5,000-square-foot, Tudor-style home built in 1893 that Knight restored as a presidential residence. Robinson's wife, Sue, who is human resources director at the Toledo Museum of Art, will stay in Ohio this year while their 16-year-old daughter finishes high school. Their 18-year-old son will be a freshman at MSU.

LCC's Board of Trustees announced its choice of Robinson on May 18. The board split, 4-3, between Robinson and LCC Executive Vice President Lisa Webb Sharpe. Longtime board member Larry Meyer voted for Webb Sharpe —



Lawrence Gosentino/City Pulse

Steve Robinson, who will become Lansing Community College's president Monday, next to "Newton's Cube," designed by Bruce Mackley, one of many sculptures his predecessor, Brent Knight, added to the campus. "The campus is absolutely transformed since when I was an intern in the Arts and Science Building in the early '90s," Robinson said.

whom he called "extraordinarily qualified" — because he believes promoting from within is "better in terms of continuity and the velocity of progress you are making." But Meyer expressed the "highest regard" for Robinson. He called the four finalists "an incredible group of talented people." The other two finalists were Northern Vermont University President Elaine Collins and Muskegon Community College President Dale K. Nesbary.

Besides his stint at Owens Community College, Robinson has worked as the executive dean of planning and research at Mott Community College in Flint, a graduate faculty member in English at University of Michigan-Flint and faculty adviser and chairman in the Doctorate in Community College Leadership program at Ferris State University.

At LCC, Robinson will face the same immediate and related challenges at LCC as he has on his way out the door at Owens Community College: budget and enrollment in the age of COVID-19. In Ohio, he said he put together a "respectable budget," given an anticipated 20% cut in state funding, and expects he will oversee further cuts to the budget that he will inherit at LCC for the new fiscal year, which began July 1.

"And then the other piece that every higher education organization is work-

ing on is how to safely get back to face to face instruction, given the public health crisis with COVID," he said. "It's a challenge for everyone, even for community colleges that don't have residence life."

Robinson said he expects "some real volatility" in revenue because of uncertainties over state funding and student enrollment, which, along with property taxes, make up the school's three prime money sources. He said enrollment normally increases as the economy sours, but no one knows whether an influx of out-of-work and underemployed workers will boost enrollment at LCC this time around. The so-called counter-cyclical relationship between higher education enrollment and the economy may not hold up "in this incredibly disruptive time of the coronavirus," he said.

"The colleges that are nimble and innovative are the ones that are going to be able to adapt," he said. "There are 28 community colleges in Michigan, and I think Lansing is poised to weather this storm through resilience and a lot of great planning. But it's going to be a challenge — and it's challenged by things that could turn on a dime."

Robinson expressed admiration for the return-to-school plan LCC executives have put together, which he called "thoughtful and, in many ways, conser-

**For more with incoming LCC President Steve Robinson, go to [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com) to see the interview with editor and publisher Berl Schwartz.**

vative. It's primarily an online semester in the fall with some notable exceptions, and I think that's prudent."

He said the pandemic exacerbates what he referred to as unequal educational outcomes for students, depending on race and financial need.

"Students of color and from lower socioeconomic backgrounds are not retained and do not complete at the same rate," he said. "Good community colleges, including Lansing Community College, have been working on this equity issue for some time because, frankly, it's just not an acceptable outcome. Community colleges exist to provide educational opportunities, and if those opportunities aren't realized at the same rate among demographic groups of students, we're not doing what we're supposed to do."

He said LCC's trustees have adopted "a very thoughtful resolution on racial injustice. What I love about that document is it's not just a posture, or a position. Built into it is some action." One of his first tasks will be to assemble a team to develop an equity action plan — "not just words, but the things that we do to address what we're seeing with systemic racism and the disparate outcomes in our community. Community colleges are this great democratizing force in our country. That's why I love community colleges, and so I think that will be a huge issue for community colleges going forward."

Add that to budgetary, enrollment and pandemic-related uncertainties that Robinson faces and it's clear he will have a short honeymoon, if any, in his new post.

But he has at least one outlet to deal with the stress: the banjo.

While still a student, he helped support himself working at Elderly Instruments, just north of LCC in Old Town, where he picked up the banjo. He ended up teaching it to himself on lunch breaks. That led to an eight-year stint playing in a string band that had a weekly gig at the old Traveler's Club and Tuba Museum restaurant in Okemos.

So, when he needed a break last week while in town to prep with his predecessor, where did he go?

To Elderly Instruments to check out the banjos.

— **BERL SCHWARTZ**



# R's struggling to find key to 'unlock' Michigan

A few Michigan Republican operatives are spending their summer collecting signatures to repeal the 1945 "Riot Act."

It's an attempt to force Gov.

Gretchen Whitmer to work with the Republican Legislature to declare an emergency.

"Unlock Michigan" is represented by two well-known Republican operatives: consultant Fred Wszolek and attorney Eric Doster. We can presume someone pays them.

Technically, they have until New Year's Eve to collect roughly 340,000 signatures from registered voters. The goal is to eliminate the law, on which the governor depends to declare emergencies. It does not require legislative input.

With enough signatures and verification by the Bureau of Elections, the Legislature can approve the citizens' initiative through a simple majority vote without the governor's approval.

The Michigan Supreme Court



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

could rule Whitmer has been abusing her authority without legislative approval, but that's a long shot.

This petition drive is, too.

Let's start with the timing. The law gives Unlock Michigan 180 days to collect their signatures, but they really don't have that long.

Collecting signatures in snowy December and Christmas time is always problematic. That's the end of the 180-day window.

Outside of the weather, there's the logistics of the Democratic secretary of state verifying the signatures and getting the question to the Legislature any time soon.

It took the Bureau of Elections from Dec. 23 to mid-June to verify the signatures on Right to Life's drive to end dilation and extraction abortions. Sure, subtract a couple months because state workers were under a Stay at Home order.

Still, we're still talking at least three months for the citizens' initiative to get into the Republican Legislature's hands. The end of the year window is important because after the November election, there's no guarantee the Legislature stays Republican. The House is 58-51 (with one vacancy in a Democratic Detroit) today.

If Democrats net three wins this November, goodbye Republican majority. Four wins and the Democrats take majority.

In the Senate, the 22-16 margin will shrink by at least one with Sen. Pete MacGregor expected to leave to be Kent County's next treasurer. If Sen. Pete Lucido win the Macomb County prosecutor's race, the R's majority will shrink to 20-16 for at least half of 2021.

Also, how are you collecting signatures from scratch during a pandemic? We're all supposed to be staying six feet apart. No football games. No concerts. No outdoor festivals. No county fairs.

The places signature collectors once cleaned up are closed. How are they getting 340,000? The governor is asking people to keep gatherings to less than 50. What if she shuts the state down again?

Fair and Equal Michigan tried collecting signatures online after the governor ordered everyone to "stay home and stay safe" in March. That didn't work. It's not ever clear if it would've been legal anyway.

Clearly, Unlock Michigan has some money to pay for signature collectors, but so did Fair and Equal Michigan.

And don't forget the politics of it all. Recently, Progress Michigan used Public Policy Polling to ask voters what they thought of the proposal. The question read that the initiative "would eliminate the governor's emergency powers."

That's not entirely true, but often what matters in politics is not what a piece of policy does, but what people believe it does. Democrats will do everything human possibly to make the proposal about "eliminating the governor's ability to keep us safe."

A total of 53% opposed the proposal and 36% supported it. This means Republicans are swimming upstream with this one.

Getting signatures will be a little harder. The legislative vote will be a little harder. Will Speaker Chatfield want this issue to be on the forefront of voters' minds before the November election?

Unfortunately for Republicans, so much has to go right for Unlock Michigan that it's bound to go wrong.

*(Kyle Melinn of the Capitol news service MIRS may be emailed at melinnky@gmail.com.)*



2703 E. Grand River Ave.  
in East Lansing

O'Reilly Auto Parts has owned this empty restaurant on eastern border of East Lansing for the better part of six years. Plans to open a store failed. Instead, a forest has sprouted in its place.

A company spokesman said the building — the former Paul Revere's Tavern — was purchased with plans to open a retail storefront, but city and township officials put up too many roadblocks. The plans have since been nixed, but the company hasn't had much luck selling off the land.

"We were just unable to get through all of the approval processes," a spokesman explained.

Broken liquor bottles now poke through more than eight inches of grass on the property. A homeless individual appears to be storing some of their belongings under the back porch. And most of the walls are entirely blanketed in an ever-thickening layer of unmaintained vegetation.

The building and its 0.88-acre lot are posted for sale by Gerdome Realty for an unlisted price. It's billed as "prime for redevelopment" — just a block from Whole Foods and within walking distance (for the hale and hearty) to Michigan State University, along with quick and easy access to the highway.

Some of the proceeds of the eventual sale will inevitably be used to pay for more than \$900 in Meridian Township enforcement fees that have been billed to the property to date — including nuisance violations and fines for municipal mowers to take care of the "prohibited vegetation." A notice nailed into the grass out front gives the property owners just days to make improvements.

"We're going to get an operations team to look at the site," a spokesman assured City Pulse.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

"Eyesore of the Week" is our look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eye Candy of the Week and Eye for Design. Have a suggestion? Email [eye@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call it in at 517-999-6715.

## CITY OF EAST LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST FOR THE TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2020 ELECTION

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Public Accuracy Test for the August 4, 2020 State Primary Election for registered voters in the City of East Lansing, Ingham and Clinton Counties, has been scheduled for Monday, July 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., City Clerk's Office located at 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the program being used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner that meets the requirements of the law.

All interested persons are welcome to attend.

Jennifer Shuster  
East Lansing City Clerk

CP#20-161

## NOTICE

The Board of Review of the City of Lansing will meet in regular session at City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933, on July 21, 2020 beginning at 9:00 am. The Board is authorized to make corrections to the assessment roll under the authority of MCL 211.53 only. These corrections are limited to qualified errors, mutual mistake of fact, clerical errors, Principal Residence Status and Veteran's Exemptions. For 2020 only, by Executive Order 2020-87; taxpayers may appeal the 2020 valuation of their property if they were unable to attend in March due to Covid-19. Taxpayers are strongly encouraged to make their appeal in writing. The written appeal must be received by July 20, 2020. Please call the City of Lansing Assessor's Office at (517) 483-7624 for information about your assessment and/or to make an appointment.

Sharon Frischman, City Assessor

CP#20-157



# 2020 MICHIGAN PRIMARY

## AUGUST 4

### Two Republicans compete for Clinton Co. prosecutor

Spagnuolo pushes for a return to 'fair and equal justice' in Clinton County

*Clinton County Prosecutor Charles Sherman leaves the post next year and three candidates have emerged to vie for his job. Two Republicans — Sarah Huyser and Tony Spagnuolo — will face off in the Primary Election. The winner will run against Democrat Brian Ameche for a four-year term in November. Huyser didn't return several calls from City Pulse.*

Spagnuolo, 58, has spent the last 26 years living in Dewitt and works as a private practice attorney specializing in a wide array of both civil and criminal legal matters as well as mediation. He has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Michigan State University and earned his legal degree from Western Michigan University's Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing. Spagnuolo said he

also helped to negotiate a settlement for Larry Nassar's survivors at MSU, ran a failed campaign for prosecutor in 2016 and served in various community organizations.

"I ran in 2016 because there wasn't any fair and equal justice in the Prosecutor's Office and that's still the case today," Spagnuolo said. "I also don't believe that victims are getting heard and represented well enough in criminal matters. It'll be my job to fix those ongoing problems."

Spagnuolo's top three priorities include ensuring that punishments appropriately match their crimes in



Spagnuolo

Clinton County, bolstering transparency within his office and personally sitting down to talk with every crime victim to ensure their voices are adequately amplified in the courtroom.

Spagnuolo pointed to an incident last year when the Prosecutor's Office leveled criminal charges against the wrong suspect, who subsequently spent months in jail for no reason. If he was the prosecutor at that time, Spagnuolo argued, that incident would never have occurred.

"Everyone in my office is going to work hard to actually research the entire case," he added. "As an attorney, I try to put myself in the shoes of my clients and I'll do the same as the prosecutor."

Unlike in Ingham County, Spagnuolo said he doesn't believe suspected murderers in Clinton County should be offered an opportunity to take plea deals to lesser charges like second-degree murder. He's also a supporter of specialty courts and reha-

bilitative alternatives to incarceration.

"It's heartwarming to see a good person do something wrong but turn their life around after a bad thing happens," Spagnuolo added. "It can really give you the satisfaction of seeing the system we have in place working, but not everyone who kills someone needs a second chance."

Spagnuolo identifies as a Trump supporter and declined to comment on whether he thinks police officers disproportionately target Black people in this country, though said one of his first plans as prosecutor is to better analyze local arrest statistics for any discriminatory patterns.

"I'm a person that treats everyone fairly and justly. I'm a hard worker. I'm involved in my community. I've put in the work for my clients. I care about people and I have the professional and educational experience to get the job done, and will get it done right," Spagnuolo added.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

### Republicans square off to unseat Dem. commissioner in Eaton Co.

*Republicans Benjamin Wetmore and Jeremy Whittum are facing off in next month's primary election for a chance to unseat Eaton County Commissioner Lisa Deavers from another two-year term in the county's 14th District, which includes Eaton Rapids, Brookfield and Hamlin townships. Wetmore didn't return several calls. Whittum agreed to an interview with City Pulse.*

Whittum, 48, a lifelong resident of Hamlin Township, served as its supervisor from 1992-96. He also served three terms as a county commissioner before he was defeated for another term in 2016, and also served nine years on the Eaton Rapids Planning Commission.

He studied at Lansing Community College, Northwood University and Central Michigan University and has a background in the military and politics as a staffer for former Republican

U.S. Rep. Joe Schwarz and former Michigan legislator Rick Jones.

Whittum plans to focus on three primary issues if he's able to defeat Wetmore next month and Deavers in November: promoting the Second Amendment (which he said is under attack in Eaton County), putting a larger focus on properly maintaining county drains and keeping taxes affordable for residents.

"When we call for protection from the Sheriff's Office, we have to wait. When you look at personal protection, the homeowner is often the first



Whittum

line of defense that we have available," Whittum said. "I don't feel it's right to quash somebody's right of personal protection. That's number one."

Although drain maintenance, by law, falls largely on the office of the county drain commissioner, Whittum also wants to slash funding to the office in an effort to motivate significant changes to the way county drains are maintained and how projects are financed over the next two years.

"Nobody can get a hold of him, so I'd just as soon stop the guy's pay altogether," Whittum said.

Whittum also complained about the sheer number of different millages facing Eaton County residents and suggested that the overall county budget needs to be more closely reviewed — perhaps the only part of his campaign platform that would fall within his purview anyway.

"I'm just not a big proponent of

millage after millage after millage," Whittum said, also noting that to better support local businesses, local governments simply need to stay out of their way. "Really, the best thing I can do is back away and be there to assist when they need help."

Whittum, who identifies as a Trump supporter, told City Pulse that he thinks immigrants are an "asset" to the future of this country, but he refused to acknowledge that law enforcement disproportionately targets Black people. Whittum also picks All Lives Matter over Black Lives.

"This really isn't my district. I just happen to live in it," Whittum added. "If I'm elected, I'm being entrusted by the people to represent them, and they can change me out at any time. It's my job to do what's truly best for the majority of the citizenry in this district, and that's exactly my plan."

— KYLE KAMINSKI



# Two Democrats face off for Bath Twp. supervisor nod

*Bath Township Supervisor Jack Phillips is squaring off against two fellow Democrats in next month's primary election: Rick Curtis and Marie Howe. The winner will serve a four-year term. Phillips declined an interview, but his challengers each outlined their plans for the township.*

Marie Howe, 72, has lived in Bath Township for the last 22 years. She retired in 2003 after a lengthy career that included time in the U.S. Marshals Service and as a sergeant-at-arms for the state legislator before moving into politics as a legislative director for a Michigan representative.

She said she decided to run for supervisor because of a desire to give back to the local community and to correct "significant problems" with the current leadership of the township.

"There have always been issues with our budget," Howe said. "To me, taxpayers pay in and should expect to get something meaningful back in return. We need to look much more closely at how those dollars are being spent and the public needs to be brought into the conversation."

Her top priorities include a careful review of how tax dollars are spent, empowering township committees to make township-level decisions and more open communication with residents.

"Proper leadership is something that makes a difference on how spending plays out," Howe added. "It's not that we don't have a balanced budget, but we need to be careful and we need to empower these committees to be able to make informed decisions on how to run the township."

Howe said she wants to do a better job engaging local residents on decisions that impact how their tax dollars are spent in Bath Township. She also wants to better support — and directly promote — small businesses within the township to ensure a more prosperous economic future.

"If a small business owner was going to support me, it would be in the hope

that economic development would continue to grow locally," she added. "I don't even know who the businesses are locally, and so I'm very interested in digging in to see how we can promote them further."

Howe also said she wants to see more diversity on township-level committees — particularly from women — amid a push for social equity. She also told City Pulse that she supports Joe Biden and recognized there are problems posed by police discrimination and climate change.

"It can be very difficult to just go with the wind," Howe added. "There is a moral compass and it's hard for me to deviate from it. If there's an issue, I'm willing to sit and listen but I'll also always have to come back to where I stand with something. I see myself as a leader with a vision."

Rick Curtis, 62, has lived in Bath for most of his adult life, took courses in township governance at Lansing Community College, Michigan State University and the Michigan Township Association and has owned his construction company, Curtis Builders, for more than 35 years.

Curtis is endorsed by "too many" businesses and former teachers to list, he told City Pulse. He previously served two terms as a trustee in Bath Township from 2008 to 2012, in addition to currently serving as the chairman of Bath Township's Downtown Development Authority.

"We need to end reckless spending, restore our neglected committees and keep our taxes low and manageable," Curtis said. "There has also been talk of East Lansing taking over the Chandler area of Bath, and I will fight that initiative. We have far too much invested and too many citizens who would be adversely impacted by a short-term gain to allow that to proceed."

Curtis said his top priorities include more fiscal responsibility, enhanced communication with the public and the prompt appointment of 24 vacancies across 15 separate township commit-



Howe



Curtis

## PUBLIC NOTICE OF CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY'S PROPOSED FISCAL 2021 PROGRAM OF PROJECTS & PUBLIC HEARING ON ITS PROPOSED FISCAL 2021 BUDGET

Capital Area Transportation Authority hereby provides notice to the public and to private providers of its proposed fiscal 2021 program of projects and public hearing on its fiscal 2021 budget.

The proposed fiscal 2021 program of projects follows:

### PROGRAM OF PROJECTS CAPITAL

#### Section 5307 Formula Funding

Item	Federal Share	Total Grant Budget
Large Buses	\$ 3,467,170	\$ 4,333,963
Small Buses	\$ 508,214	\$ 635,267
Paratransit Vehicles	\$ 384,573	\$ 480,716
Support Vehicles	\$ 80,000	\$ 100,000
Maintenance Equipment	\$ 128,000	\$ 160,000
Facility Improvements	\$ 416,000	\$ 520,000
Preventive Maintenance	\$ 880,000	\$ 1,100,000
Spare Parts	\$ 120,000	\$ 150,000
Customer Enhancements	\$ 248,969	\$ 311,211
Safety & Security	\$ 72,440	\$ 90,550
ITS	\$ 259,560	\$ 324,450
Planning	\$ 160,000	\$ 200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,724,926</b>	<b>\$ 8,406,157</b>

#### Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Funding

Item	Federal Share	Total Grant Budget
Large Buses	\$ 633,163	\$ 791,454
Small Buses	\$ 205,294	\$ 256,618
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 838,457</b>	<b>\$ 1,048,072</b>

#### Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Funding

Item	Federal Share	Total Grant Budget
Commute Options	\$ 119,182	\$ 119,182
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 119,182</b>	<b>\$ 119,182</b>

#### Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Funding

Item	Federal Share	Total Grant Budget
Operating Service	\$ 135,572	\$ 271,144
Replacement/Expansion Buses	\$ 159,294	\$ 199,117
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 294,866</b>	<b>\$ 470,261</b>

#### OPERATIONS

Federal Share Section 5307 and Other*	\$ 1,719,207
State Share*	\$ 19,028,493
Local Share	\$ 23,017,000
Farebox and Other	\$ 6,561,000
CARES Act Revenue	\$ 3,852,344
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 54,178,044</b>

**Total Capital/Operations \$ 64,221,716**

The proposed program of projects will constitute the final program of projects if there are no changes. Additional details on the proposed fiscal 2021 program of projects and a copy of the proposed fiscal 2021 budget are available for public inspection at CATA's Administration Building, 4615 Tranter St., Lansing, MI 48910.

CATA will hold a public hearing on its proposed fiscal 2021 budget Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2020, at 4 p.m. in the CATA Boardroom located at 4615 Tranter St., Lansing, Mich.

**The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.** This will be a levy under the current authorized millage. There is NO proposal for a new millage.

Written comments on the program of projects or the budget should be addressed to CATA, Attn: Program/Budget Comments, 4615 Tranter St., Lansing, MI 48910, and must be received by 4 p.m., Aug. 19, 2020. Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and should be requested by Aug. 17, 2020.

Capital Area Transportation Authority  
Bradley T. Funkhouser, AICP, Chief Executive Officer

CP#20-155



# 6 candidates vie for four slots for Delta Twp. trustee

Three newcomers run alongside three incumbent Democrats in August primary

*Six Democrats are vying for four seats on the Delta Township Board of Trustees. Trustees Fonda Brewer, Andrea Cascarilla and Karen Mojica are running for reelection. Dennis Fedewa is running unopposed for township treasurer, freeing up a fourth trustee slot. Democrats Beth Bowen, Doug Kosinski and Arnold Weinfeld are seeking a first term. Mojica didn't return calls. Brewer declined an interview. Cascarilla, Bowen, Weinfeld and Kosinski agreed to an interview.*

Cascarilla, 51, was born in Delta Township, has lived there for the last 28 years and is seeking her second, four-year term as trustee. She has a bachelor's degree in economics from Michigan State University and worked in government relations for the state Legislature before moving Acuitas, a private, multi-client, government relations, lobbying and creative firm in Lansing.



Cascarilla

Cascarilla is endorsed by the UAW CAP Council, the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce PAC and a number of community leaders, including Lansing Mayor Andy Schor, Lansing Township Supervisor Diontrae Hayes and State Rep. Angela Whitwer, among several others.

"When it comes to governance and decision making as a member of this board, it's vitally important that we really try to think thoughtfully about every policy decision we're making and how that can impact local residents," Cascarilla said. "I think I have a great deal of experience that has positioned me well to continue to build on the strong leadership in Delta Township."

Cascarilla identified three key priorities if elected to another term:

Continued prudent financial management in the wake of COVID-19, pursuing policies to alleviate systemic issues like racial injustice and social inequity and keeping the township an affordable place to live, work and play.

"Delta Township has already done a great deal of work, but social justice is clearly an area where we can always improve, so I want to continue to improve and evaluate our practices to ensure we're doing everything we can to keep this a strong, healthy and diverse community."

In addition to aggressively recruiting diverse employees into the township, Cascarilla wants to focus on community amenities, like trails and bike paths, to make the township a more walkable and connected community for both local businesses and residents to prosper, she explained.

"Fortunately, the current board and our employees have been able to take some steps to avoid substantial cuts to our financial reserves," Cascarilla added. "I'd really point to our staff, but I've also really tried to address any questions or concerns from residents at all times. I want people to feel like they're truly being served by their elected officials, and I try to bring that to the table."

Bowen, 45, has lived in Delta Township for six years and serves as the secretary for the Eaton County Democratic Party and as a vice president at Vanguard Public Affairs in Lansing. Her boss — TJ Bucholz — is also running for a slot on the Eaton County Board of Commissioners.

Bowen has a master's degree from Central Michigan University and an expansive background in communications and technical writing, having worked for both Dart Container and Jackson National Life Insurance before quickly climbing the ranks to vice presi-



Bowen

dent at Vanguard.

"I see an opportunity in Delta Township to change the focus of the board from people who are steeped in business experience to a broader array of experiences," Bowen said. "That's why I'm running as a community leader, an activist and someone there to truly serve our local residents."

Bowen lost a primary for state representative to Whitmer in 2018 and has dedicated her professional life to various community-focused issues like promoting absentee voting. Her writing experience lends well to progressive issues and community involvement, she said.

Her top three priorities: public health and safety, growing a stronger "sense of community" locally and seeking out and answering to underserved communities within Delta Township.

"Delta Township has a distinct identity from Lansing, but we only have one community event each year," Bowen said. "I'd like to see more events that bring the community together, not only to further identify ourselves as a township but to attract some new economic stimulation here."

Bowen wants to ramp up funding for police and fire services, help launch a farmers market and find different activities for all age groups, single adults, families, senior citizens, empty nesters and everyone in between. Variety is important, she said.

"Part of that is seeking out underserved communities, asking what they need and finding better ways to deliver that from the township. If the only thing I can do is connect them to resources, then fine, I have served my purpose," Bowen explained. "That's a good function to serve."

Bowen said bolstering the local economy is about attracting large employers, but also giving new opportunities to smaller businesses that allow them to succeed in Delta Township.

"I want to partner with residents and businesses to find creative solutions. It's not just about them telling me problems and fixing them. It's two-way communi-

cation that's about listening just as much as action. I'll work with people, listen and develop these solutions together," she said, noting she envisions serving a couple terms before passing off the torch to another new leader.

Weinfeld, 61, has lived in Delta Township for about 30 years. He has a bachelor's degree in social sciences from Michigan University and spent 20 years working in the state Legislature before serving for another 10 years in top executive roles at the Michigan Municipal League.



Weinfeld

He serves as associate director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research at Michigan State University.

"I like to be collaborative," Weinfeld explained. "I believe that you can never communicate enough. You can never ask enough questions. So, if there's an issue on the table, I'm going to be asking questions in a very open, transparent style of leadership. I like to build a consensus, realizing that, at times, that you have to make decisions that really not everyone is going to like."

Weinfeld also served on the board for Waverly Community Schools and serves on the Delta Township Planning Commission, among several other community roles.

His top priorities include focusing on economic development in the Saginaw Highway corridor, improving infrastructure like the senior center and the library and efficiently using tax dollars.

"Certainly, the Lansing Mall — like many malls across the country — is going to have a lot of issues that need to be addressed and I view this as a communitywide issue," Weinfeld said. "We need to do everything we can to make that area a more vibrant center of Delta Township again."

Weinfeld said he didn't support

See Delta Twp., Page 12

## Bath Twp.

from page 10

tees.

"When the public has questions, they deserve answers. As supervisor, I work for the public," Curtis explained to City

Pulse. "Everything I do in that office is the public's business. They have a right to ask any questions they wish pertaining to the position. I will answer their concerns."

Curtis said he'd also work closely with the DDA to enhance Bath Township, which will encourage more businesses, employment and economic growth. He also touted a lengthy list of personal

experiences in fighting for racial justice and against "social injustice in all forms."

"None of us are free until we are all free," Curtis said. "Everyone needs an opportunity to prove themselves. That's how I've run my company for decades, and it's how I'll run Bath Township."

Among those local services Curtis would always protect from cuts: Police

and Fire departments.

"I work hard, and others will too. I never expect others to do that which I'm not willing to do myself," he added. "I am fiscally conservative. We will have a balanced budget all four years of my leadership. I'm easy to talk to, I understand them, and they know and understand me."

— KYLE KAMINSKI



# Democrats vie for clerk and treasurer nominations in Lansing Twp.

*Two candidates are competing for Lansing Township treasurer.*

Marilyn McKenzie, 74, graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in biology and political science. Then, she obtained a master's degree in guidance and counseling. McKenzie has been in Lansing Township for 22 years. Before that, she clerk in Cheboygan County clerk. She is running against the incumbent, Leo Rodgers.



McKenzie

"The Treasurer's Office in our township is pretty archaic," said McKenzie. She said that they need to get more up-to-date technology so that the office can operate more efficiently.

McKenzie noted that the position of treasurer is now part time. With the \$53,000 that the township is saving, they plan to hire a part-time finance director. "We need someone who understands finances," said McKenzie. "They'll help get our township on another track. I look forward to working with them."

In comparison to her opponent, McKenzie claimed that she has better leadership skills. "I get things done in a timely manner," she said. "I can communicate effectively, and I can listen." Rodgers did not respond to requests for comment.

McKenzie suggested that her experience on the Lansing Township Board gave her the opportunity to connect to the community. "I've voted in the best

interests of the township and its residents. I can look ahead and see what the township needs," she said.

McKenzie has been campaigning door-to-door — while wearing a mask — and has gotten good reception.

Rodgers has been the Lansing Township treasurer for the past eight years. According to a questionnaire on Vote411.org, Rodgers earned a B.A. from Sienna Heights University and a B.S. from Grand Valley State University.

Rodgers has served on the township board for 16 years. He said that he also has experience working with taxes and tech software.

Like McKenzie, Rodgers said that — in order to increase efficiency — he supports a technological overhaul in the treasurer's office.

"The current pandemic has left residents with many uncertainties," wrote Rodgers. He promised to accommodate Lansing taxpayers with a return envelope to make it easier to pay taxes by mail.

In his career as treasurer so far, Rodgers has offered his constituents transparency and excellent service, he claimed in the questionnaire.

## Lansing Town clerk

In the race for Lansing Township Clerk, Democrats Mike Pleyte and Maggie Sanders are seeking to run against Republican incumbent Susan



Rodgers

Aten. Aten has served as clerk for 22 years.

Pleyte, 35, served in the U.S. Army Reserves for six years, including a 12-month stint in Iraq. After that, he graduated from Michigan State University with a B.A. in philosophy. He was also trained as a public affairs specialist at the Defense Information School, a Department of Defense school located in Maryland.

Pleyte worked in the election division in the Clerk's Office earlier this year in the lead-up to the 2020 presidential primary. He said that this gave him an inside view of the administration. In addition, Pleyte has worked on political campaigns for John Kerry, Hillary Clinton, and — most recently — Elissa Slotkin.

When Pleyte moved to Lansing Township in 2017, he started going to board meetings and began to think that he could bring new ideas to the Clerk's Office. "I'm a huge believer in openness and transparency in local government," said Pleyte. "We'll get a new website, new IT infrastructure and put more board information on the web. I think that would increase participation in township decision making."

Pleyte said that his public service has prepared him for the job. "Public service is in my blood," he said. "This is just another way to serve my community. I'm the best for the job."

Sanders did not respond to requests for comment. According to her campaign website, she is a lifelong Lansing resident. She graduated from Lansing Community College with an associate's

degree in political science. After that, she earned an M.S.A. in public administration.

Over the years, Sanders has worked as an election inspector for Lansing Township and Meridian Township. She also served as the administrative assistant to the Meridian Township clerk.

Sanders wrote on her website, "I am a strong believer in leadership and empowering people to take ownership and to be involved in the things that they are passionate about. This is why I am running for Lansing Township Clerk!"

As for her platform, Sanders claimed that she wants to focus on upgrading the township's parks. In addition, Sanders' vowed to use the Clerk's Office to foster a diverse and inclusive community — "one in which individuals of different races, ethnicities, religious beliefs, socioeconomic statuses, geographical origins, gender, and/or sexual orientation bring their different knowledge, background, experience, and interests together to benefit their community," she wrote.

Like her opponent, Sanders expressed support for updating the township's IT infrastructure and providing citizens with easy access to public information. She also promised to make sure that elections run smoothly so that all Lansing citizens have the opportunity to make their voices heard.

For each of these candidates, updating the township's technology is a top priority. No matter who comes out on top, Lansing Township residents can probably expect to see changes coming to the township's tech infrastructure.

— COLE TUNNINGLEY

## Delta Twp.

from page 11

using township reserve funds to make improvements at local parks and would rather see that money dedicated toward a better contract with local firefighters. He also plans to ask "tough questions" about every expenditure made at the township level.

"I've dealt with million-dollar budgets and I'm used to serving in leadership roles," Weinfeld said. "I've found my way into leadership roles with about every organization I've worked with. I understand the process and feel I'm more than capable of serving residents of Delta Township."

Kosinski, 70, has lived in Delta Township for 26 years. He has a bach-

elor's degree from Saginaw Valley State University, a master's degree in political science from Michigan State University and has worked as a researcher and program manager for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Corrections before he retired last year.

Kosinski already served one term on the township's Board of Trustees from 2012 to 2016 and returned for another because he "genuinely cares about the township and its citizens," he said.

"I think my combination of experience and training allows me to bring a unique perspective to the township's decision-making process," Kosinski said. "My entire background is in research,



Kosinski

creating processes and presenting information to improve the quality of decisions being made. We're going to need to think critically as we make tough decisions over the next couple years."

Kosinski's focus areas include efficiently maneuvering through a challenging economic forecast in the wake of COVID-19 and effectively balancing public safety, infrastructure and other social services — each of which are areas that Kosinski said represent top priorities for local residents.

"Too often we get presented with a false choice, like we can either fund public safety or the parks," Weinfeld said. "I think that's a false choice. I think we need to drill a little deeper to make those decisions as efficiently as possible. I think we'll often find it's not just one thing or another."

Weinfeld also wants to ensure township-contracted police services with the

Eaton County Sheriff's Office are routinely reviewed for potential improvements — with a focus on finding ways to improve services to local residents through the lens of racial justice and social equity.

He also wants to ramp up a social safety net with things like mental health and substance abuse services for local residents. Each could reduce an overreliance on law enforcement, he added.

"I'm very much an information-driven leader," Weinfeld added. "That means I will actively seek and welcome input from every aspect of the township — from citizens to businesses. I will seek out their ideas and opinions, listen to what's important to them and not be afraid to admit mistakes. I'm very much in favor of balanced leadership that arrives at decisions collaboratively."

— KYLE KAMINSKI



# 5 candidates face off for 4 trustee seats in Dewitt Twp.

## Two newcomers challenge three incumbent Republicans

Five Republicans, including three incumbents, are vying for four seats on the Dewitt Township Board of Trustees as Trustee Stephen Musselman prepares to leave the post later this year. Trustees Brian Ross, David Seeger and David Fedewa are running for another term. Newcomer Republicans Stephen Smith and Thomas Hamp have also entered the fray. Seeger didn't return calls to City Pulse. The others agreed to interviews to discuss their campaigns.

Ross, 62, of Dewitt Township, is seeking a second term as trustee. His career in drinking-water and wastewater operations spans decades at local treatment plants across Greater Lansing. Ross is the senior assistant director for the Genesee County drain commissioner.



Ross

He has also served on several boards and commissions, including on the Dewitt Township Planning Commission and as the president of the Michigan Water Environment Association.

"I still feel I've got fire in my belly and I have time left to serve and give back to the community. I'm giving it one more go," Ross said. "I do want to retire, but there's also a lot of stuff left to do."

Ross' top priorities include bolstering funding for public safety, including for police and fire services and to "continue the current practices of being fiscally responsible." He also wants to have deeper conversations with the public to make more collaborative township decisions.

"Public safety is our highest priority," Ross emphasized. "We want to have a strong police and fire presence in this township. I think our residents have made that very clear. We want safety."

Ross' campaign is also centered on finding new regional approaches to sharing resources, he said. He said he also wants to build more sidewalks and pathways that could bolster foot traffic for local businesses and improve services and local facilities for senior citizens in the township.

"My style is similar to work," Ross added. "Rather than sit behind a desk, I think it's more important to govern by walking around, while also always remembering you're a servant leader."

Fedewa, 58, has lived in Dewitt Township since 1989 — the same year he became a dentist after earning his doctorate degree from Washington State University. He's also a longtime member of the Dewitt Township Fire Department and is seeking his second term as trustee. Fedewa also said this term, if elected, would be his last as Dewitt Township trustee.



Fedewa

"We have five great people running for four positions and the people of Dewitt Township cannot go wrong with choosing any of the people that are running," Fedewa added. "It's a very cohesive board. Nobody has an agenda. We all get along and work to better this township."

Fedewa's top priorities in his second term: bolster funding for additional staffing and equipment at the fire department and increase walkability by building more non-motorized pathways. Like his challengers, he also wants to make strides toward more cohesive regional cooperation.

"We have the busiest fire department in all of Clinton County and we really need to be moving toward more full-time people to be able to cover this massive amount of calls," Fedewa said.

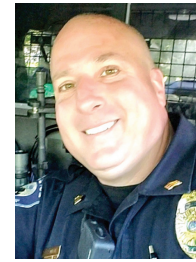
"I also know there is room for improvement on how we can cooperate with other agencies," he added. "More sharing of government resources, the more benefit to everybody that lives

here."

Fedewa said Dewitt Township doesn't share the same problems with police discrimination that larger metropolitan areas have faced. Like everyone else running for trustee, he's a Donald Trump voter who questions whether police disproportionately target Black people.

"If I'm elected, I'd like to do this four-year term and then move on to something new," he added.

Smith, 49, who has lived in Dewitt Township for a decade, retired last year as a sergeant at the Dewitt Township Police Department. He also served in the U.S. Marine Corps, including a tour in the Persian Gulf War. He owns a small lawn care and snow removal business in Dewitt.



Smith

He said he decided to run for trustee because of his passion for community service. After working for Dewitt Township for 20 years, during which time he was legally unable to run for elected office, he said it's time to give

back to the community.

"I think the township does a great job, and I don't have any problems with anyone on the board. I think they do a great job with handling finances and allocating those resources to the community," Smith added. "Really, I'd just like to maintain everything as it is. With Steve Musselman leaving, I decided I'd put my hat in the ring just to see if I could get the position."

Smith said law enforcement and public safety in the township, given his background, is important to maintain. But he also wants to expand his municipal government horizons.

"Wherever I can help out, I'm willing to," Smith said. "I'm not afraid to speak my mind and I also like to listen to all aspects of whatever particular problem we're facing. I think being an elected person, you represent the people, work for the people and you do what the majority wants."

Hamp, 56, has lived in Dewitt Township for 21 years, has a bachelor's degree in communications from Oakland University and has worked in the imaging industry for decades. He owns his own business coaching firm and served as president of the Rotary

See Dewitt Twp., Page 15

### NOTICE OF POSTING CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING Ingham County, Michigan

**TAKE NOTICE THAT,** at its regular meeting on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 the Township Board of the Charter Township of Lansing introduced the proposed ordinance referenced below, which proposed ordinance is generally described as follows:

#### Proposed Ordinance No. 75.2 –Marihuana Facilities ORDINANCE NO. 75.2

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, PROVIDING THAT THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING, MICHIGAN, BE AMENDED BY AMENDING CHAPTER 71B ("PROHIBITION OF MARIHUANA ESTABLISHMENTS") TO TITLE VI ("LICENSING") TO: CHANGE THE CHAPTER'S TITLE FROM "PROHIBITION OF MARIHUANA ESTABLISHMENTS" TO "MARIHUANA FACILITIES"; ESTABLISH THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF MARIHUANA FACILITIES THAT MAY BE AUTHORIZED WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP; ESTABLISH AN APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR AUTHORIZING MARIHUANA FACILITIES; ESTABLISH GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR AUTHORIZED MARIHUANA FACILITIES; PROVIDE FOR AN ANNUAL MARIHUANA FACILITIES FEE; PROVIDE FOR PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS AND DESIGNATE VIOLATIONS OF THE ORDINANCE AS MUNICIPAL CIVIL INFRACTIONS; REPEAL ORDINANCES AND PORTIONS OF ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT WITH THIS ORDINANCE; AND PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF.

**NOTICE:** Pursuant to Section 8 of the Charter Township Act (Public Act 359 of 1947, as amended), the full text of the proposed ordinance, as introduced, has been posted, and is available for inspection at, the following locations: (1) the office of the Township Clerk, 3209 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, Michigan 48917; and (2) the Charter Township of Lansing's website, located at the following web address: [www.lansingtownship.org](http://www.lansingtownship.org)

Copies of the proposed ordinance can be obtained from the office of the Township Clerk for a fee to be determined by the Township Clerk in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.231, et seq.

The above proposed ordinance will be considered for enactment by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Lansing at its regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 to be conducted virtually due to health concerns surrounding COVID-19 under the Governor of Michigan's Executive Order 2020-129. Zoom meeting ID 231 542 1280, Password: LansingTwp

Susan Aten, Clerk  
Charter Township of Lansing

CP#20-163

**B/21/001 VEST BID FOR FY21** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids electronically on line at [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info) or at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, at 124 W. Michigan Ave. 8th Floor, Lansing, MI 48933 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **July 21, 2020** at which time bids will be opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids re available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128, or [stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov](mailto:stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov) or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info).** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#20-162



# EYES WIDE OPEN

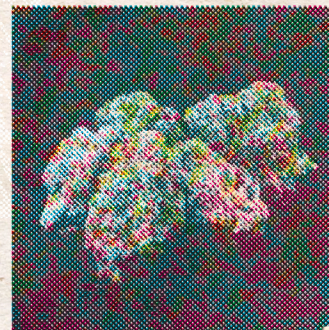
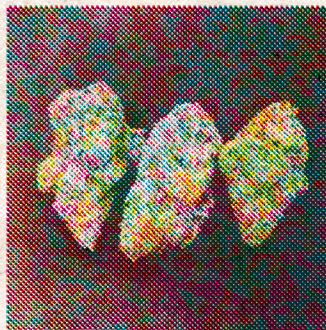
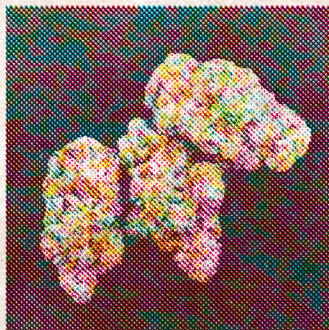
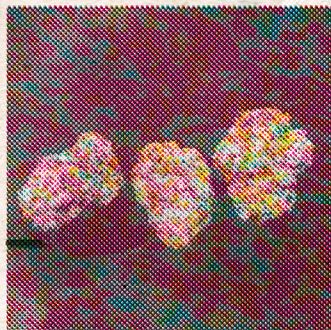
By LEMONATI FAMILY FARMS

LANSING, MI - Cannabis company "Lemonati Family Farms" product's hit provisioning center shelves this month across Michigan, and they have a story to tell. Unlike many cannabis companies, their products are not marketed around the strain name, but rather seasonal themes with the inaugural season theme based on popularized conspiracy theories.

"In the beginning, when we were discussing where we wanted to take the brand, we immediately knew we wanted to be the antithesis of the conspiratorial group "The Illuminati". Rather than being exclusive, secretive, and sinister, we wanted to stand for inclusiveness, openness, and education. The conspiracy theme was about having fun with our name, while also having fun with the stereotype that cannabis users are a bunch of conspiratorialists."

"We also recognize that there is far more to cannabis than the name of the plant. More and more information is coming to light about the entourage effect of the interaction of cannabinoids and terpenes (aromatic oils within cannabis) and how they work together to offer the effects that are currently attributed to a plant having an Indica or Sativa classification.

What many scientific studies are beginning to confirm, is that it is not the regional lineage that cause an individual to feel either energetic or tired, but rather this entourage effect between these two compounds within cannabis. This gave us confidence towards marketing around a more theme-based approach, with an emphasis on cannabinoids, terpenes, and the actual genetic lineage."



PICTURED: (L-R) Fast and Furious, MK-Ultra, Watergate & Iran Contra





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## Two Clinton Co. commissioners fight for another term

*Two incumbent members of the Clinton County Board of Commissioners, a Democrat and a Republican, are fighting for another two-year term in next month's primary election. Republican Val Vail-Shirey is taking on incumbent Adam C. Stacey in Clinton County's 7th District. Democrat Cindy Cronk is challenging incumbent Dwight Washington in the 6th District. Cronk, who currently serves as a Bath Township trustee, didn't return several calls from City Pulse.*

### Sixth District

Dwight Washington, 50, who said he has lived "on and off" in Bath Township for the last decade, is seeking a third term as a Clinton County commissioner. He has a bachelor's in psychology and a Ph.D. degree in natural resources from Michigan State University as well as a master's degree in education from Harvard University. Natural resources are his passion, he explained.



Washington

Washington said he works for Metapeace Team, a Lansing-area non-profit dedicated to nonviolence and "respect for the sacred interconnectedness of all life," according to its website, as well as a consultant in various fields like natural resources, water policy and crisis response.

He also serves on the board for Tri-County Community Mental Health, the Tri-County Aging Consortium Administrative Board and several other community-based organizations.

"I come into government with a passionate background of sustainability and I really tried to put sustainability at the forefront in how we problem-solve and approach issues," Washington explained. "Part of that is about an opportunity to network and connect various county services."

In addition to sustainability and environmentalism with a focus on curbing climate change, Washington's other priorities include economic growth and finding financial efficiencies.

"We have an opportunity to network and connect services in a way that I

think is lacking," Washington added. "Out of this COVID-19 pandemic, I'm finding that we can bring essential services together, examine their relationships to the community and build on those programs."

Washington said that community leadership also needs to be reflective of the diverse communities they serve to strive toward racial justice and social equity.

"I think our law enforcement officers in Clinton County are not able to do everything, and we need to have some better coordination with local social service agencies," Washington added.

Washington views the job of county commissioner as one that requires relationships to be built within the community in order to work collaboratively with others to reach a solution. He describes his leadership style as forthright, focused and open with a problem-solving approach.

He also told City Pulse that he plans to vote for Joe Biden, contends that Line 5 needs to be shut down beneath the Straits of Mackinac and declined to comment when asked whether he thinks police disproportionately target Black people or whether he views immigrants as a threat.

"I wish there would've been more questions about climate change," Washington added. "I feel that it's an important issue that needs to be addressed now, and whether that's making education a priority or changing behaviors, those are questions that need to be addressed."

### Seventh District

Adam Stacey, 45, has lived in Bath Township for the last 17 years and has been involved in politics for more than 20 years — working as a communications analyst, policy advisor and chief of staff for a state senator from Oakland County. He's a state Senate research director.

Stacey, whose family has owned a local farm for more than 160 years, is vying for a seventh term as a commis-



Stacey

sioner. He has also earned his master's degree in public administration from Michigan State University and is the proud father of three children.

"I've had a passion for government since I was a younger child," Stacey said. "I was honestly just looking for a way to be a help in the community. I think we've put a lot of good, solid reforms in place, especially in light of the coronavirus, and I'd like to see that work is continued through."

Stacey's top priorities include a continued focus on a balanced county budget, continuing to make improvements to county services (like 911 dispatch) and additional regional partnerships. Clinton County is a "model of financial solvency," Stacey added. He wants to keep it that way.

"I want to continue to maintain our strong financial leadership and make sure we don't accumulate debts or other large expenses," Stacey said, noting that additional efficiencies can be found through collaborations with Ingham and Eaton counties and Michigan State University.

"Small businesses in Clinton County know they're not going to be saddled with new regulations and new taxes. They know exactly what they're going to get," Stacey added. "We're fine with Lansing being the center of economic activity in our region, but we also want to make sure Clinton County remains a good place to live and play — even as the work continues to grow."

Stacey has received endorsements from political action committees affiliated with the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce and Right to Life of Michigan. He also said Clinton County has a "good" reputation in terms of racial justice and social equity, but he contended that local cops can always make improvements geared toward de-escalating violence and better serving the public.

"My style is just making sure we have good, open communications to make informed decisions," Stacey added. "I'm always one to take substantial input during any conversation. That's a good thing about Clinton: We're not so big to where we get lost in the formalities and bureaucracy."

Stacey also said he's a Trump supporter and doesn't believe police officers

disproportionately target Black people in the United States. He doesn't see climate change as a threat that requires immediate action and is more likely to say "All Lives Matter" over "Black Lives Matter."

Val Vail-Shirey, 58, is in close political alignment with Stacey (and Trump) in her quick dismissal of ongoing national problems like climate change and systematic racism among police officers. She's a farmer, a lifelong resident of Bath and for nearly 30 years worked in both chambers of the state Legislature. Vail-Shirey started her own political consulting firm but recently returned to a job at the House of Representatives as a legislative director, where she's currently employed.

"One of the big things in my township is this change from more of a rural setting to a more suburban setting," Vail-Shirey said. "I want to be a voice for all of the residents, to be an active commissioner and make sure I hear all of the different voices across my district during my term."

Her top priorities: Representing constituents over special interests, making sure roadways are improved and maintained and finding ways to save cash across all layers of county government.

"It's hard to explain, but I'll be looking outside of the box to see where the county can share services with either townships or neighboring counties," Vail-Shirey added. "We can all avoid those duplicating resources while expanding services for our residents at the same time."

Vail-Shirey also wants to promote policies that encourage and incentivize employers to grow their businesses within Clinton County in hopes of attracting more residents and creating jobs. And while she said she promotes racial equity, she doesn't want to craft any policies that benefit one community of people — like Black residents — over other specific ethnicities in the county.

"I want to be very hands-on," Vail-Shirey added. "My style is one of listening, researching, professionalism and decision making. It'll be my job to learn, educate, listen, research and investigate so that I have a broad picture and can understand all implications of a decision."

— KYLE KAMINSKI

## Dewitt Twp.

from page 13

Club in Dewitt.

Like Smith, he isn't running for trustee out of a desire to change the status quo. He said he decided to run because

he felt prepared for the job and wanted to give back to the community. His top priorities include making consistently sound decisions and supporting small businesses.

"I like to take in as much information as I can before stepping out and giving my opinion," Hamp said. "I will make decisions on the best information that I can, and I'm willing to stand

my ground. But on that token, I understand that I'll have some other board members to work with."

Smith said Dewitt Township is a "well-rounded" community, and he intends to keep it that way. He's also willing to be open-minded and entertain discussions about what types of businesses — including marijuana-related enterprises — are allowed into

the township. He's not opposed.

"We have to be open minded when we're looking at the different industries out there and what might be able to work in Dewitt," Smith said. "We should at least be giving everyone a voice and not just turn our back on the possibility of continued growth. We can always find compromise."

— KYLE KAMINSKI



# COVID-19 Heroes

## LANSING'S WARRIORS HONORED

### A pandemic of heroism

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

Like everyone else on the planet, the top three City Pulse's COVID-19 heroes hope like hell this will not turn into an annual event.

But there is a silver lining in the cloud of horrors that descended upon the globe in 2020. The pandemic and its economic consequences have spawned millions of heroic acts of kindness, com-

passion and empathy everywhere, and greater Lansing is no exception.

Last month, City Pulse asked readers to nominate individuals and organizations they consider heroes in the fight to cope with and defeat COVID-19. Then we asked readers to vote on them.

It seems almost arbitrary to acknowledge three people out of so many, but each of our top three vote getters — mask making fabric store owner Jessy Rae, bill-paying do-gooder Mike Karl and Michigan's stalwart Gov. Gretchen Whitmer — are neighbors to be grateful for.

Let their stories serve as a modest tribute to a bigger spirit, to the innumerable health care

heroes, teachers, delivery people, mail carriers, burger flippers, and so many others who are keeping the flame lit in a dark time.

Among this legions of heroes large and small are the other nominees: Julie Davis, a preschool teacher at Capital Area Community Service Head Start; Jane French, a large animal veterinary technician; the MSU 3D PPE Maker team; Scott Rolen of Lou & Harry's; Kristi Schneider, an ER nurse at Sparrow Hospital; Julie Stephenson, a crisis therapist at Clinton-Eaton-Ingham Community Mental Health; Pamela Vandervest, a clinical laboratory scientist at Sparrow Hospital; and Tracey Lynn van Duesen, a clinical therapist.

Now let's not do this again soon.

### Jessy Rae: Threads of compassion

An underground legion armed with fabric, needles and thread is up to its elastic ear bands in the biggest challenge it's ever faced.

Jessy Rae, the owner of SEAMS fabric store in East Lansing and the top vote-getter in City Pulse's COVID Heroes, is at the center of a web of volunteers making tens of thousands of masks for health care workers, at-risk people and ordinary folks.

The sudden need for facemasks, now mandatory in indoor public spaces and in crowded outdoor spaces in Michigan, pulled on a lot of human threads in 2020, from public health policy to supply chain chaos to joyful self-expression.

"There's a lot of people in our country, and it's going to be a while until we can be comfortable out in public again without something covering our faces," Rae said.

Years from now, kids and grandkids will likely find them in closets and ask questions. Some of the masks are destined for museums.

"It's definitely a unique little moment in history," Rae said. "It's a pretty amazing effort to be a involved in, just in terms of the outpouring of community love that's happening."

When retail was shut down in early March, Rae wasn't sure whether to close her year-old shop or set up delivery and curbside service. She hunkered at home with her three kids and a supply of fabrics and other items rescued from the store.

About that same time, half a dozen friends sent Rae a link to a social media post: Deaconess Hospital in Colorado was putting out the call for community members to sew masks for its staff.

Even before COVID, Rae knew the tight-knit community of crafters could mobilize fast — especially if the cause involved an adorable animal. When wildfires raged though Australia, "craftivists" around the world swung into action, knitting mittens for burned koala bears.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Jessy Rae, owner of SEAMS fabric store in East Lansing, led a small army of "craftivists" that made and distributed over 15,000 masks to organizations and people in need.

"There was another thing about an oil spill clean up in the Arctic, penguin sweaters or something," Rae said.

It's easy to scoff, but there is something deeply compelling about doing something about something, especially with your own two hands.

"People who aren't crafters don't realize how productive people can be when they put their minds to it," Rae said. "Almost immediately, it was, 'Whoa, stop sending koala mittens, we've got way more than we need.'"

But there is no "stop" in sight where COVID-19 is concerned. The growing acknowledgement in the public health community that masks help stem the spread of COVID-19 offered a rare lifeline between helplessness and help. Global crafter mojo met its ultimate match.

#### Masks, masks, masks

Rae quickly found herself poised between the pent-up energy of an army of crafters and a specific, almost infinite, public health need. The same evening she learned of the call for help from Deaconess Hospital, she got a message from a local agency

that needed masks for home health care workers.

"At that point, you couldn't purchase PPE anywhere," Rae said. "We were the latest country to have the virus take hold, and every country before us had consumed high quantities of PPE. The supply chain was backed up all the way to China and you just couldn't get it."

Fabric masks aren't perfect barriers, but health care workers were looking for a way to make scarce N95 masks last longer. The first wave of masks made by Rae and other crafters served as protective covers that could be cleaned and re-used. Other fabric masks went to home health care providers, nursing homes and other secondary health care agencies.

Rae was stuck at home anyway, so she pulled more of her stock, including all of her elastic, from the store and started distributing it to volunteers.

As March turned into April, she could barely keep up with the growing list of agencies that needed masks.

"We started with a spreadsheet, but it was so hard to update it that

we gave up on that and I just started personally fielding requests," she said.

Some 300 volunteers in all went to work.

When supply began to catch up and demand for clinical PPE passed its peak, the design of choice shifted from the fitted N95-cover-style masks, to what she calls the "second wave" of masks, the commonly seen pleated rectangle with elastic ear loops.

Rae donated the materials at first, but the numbers got so large she began to take large and small cash donations. A fundraiser by Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. brought in \$6,000. When state Rep. Julie Brixie contributed \$500 for masks for low-income families, Rae coordinated distribution with the Lansing School District's free lunch program.

By now, thousands of masks — an estimated 16,000 — have gone to community service organizations like the Allen Neighborhood Center, Community Mental Health and its affiliated group homes. Rae sent 900 masks to Midland when the dam broke there, using up every mask she had up until then.

At the same time, Rae compiled a list of "sewists" (the term "sewers" is discouraged, for obvious reasons) who could make and sell masks to people who could afford to buy them.

"Every person that depends on summer craft fairs for income has been sewing all winter, and now they're out of a job, because all of those festivals were cancelled," Rae said.

Masks have taken over a lot of boutique fabric businesses. "You can't measure somebody for a custom garment because you can't get close to them," Rae said. "I know a vintage clothing creator for Etsy who has been sewing nothing but masks for the past two months."



# COVID heroes

from page 16

## Global theater

In Jessie Rae's shop is a bottle of high-grade hand sanitizer given her by a unit at Sparrow Hospital as a thank-you for the masks. "It's basically ultra-distilled vodka from Michigrain Distillery," she said. "Drink it and it will kill you! The funny thing is, it's what we used to sanitize costumes in theater, between shows, so it's another way I've come full circle."

Before she got caught up in the global costume drama of COVID-19, Rae got involved in costume design while growing up in Moorehead, in north-west Minnesota, next to Fargo, North Dakota. For a few summers she helped to outfit some major productions for a summer theater series at Trollwood Performing Arts School and did a lot of costume work for high schools, but quickly had second thoughts.

"I realized I didn't want to work with actors the rest of my life," she said, with a shrug that seemed to add, "Sorry, but it's the truth." Besides, the format was a bit too structured for her.

"I wanted to be a little bit freer, a little more self-expression." She remembers cranking out a heap of black skirts and aprons for a production of Arthur Miller's "The Crucible."

"He writes a good yarn — probably prescient for the times we're living in right now," Rae said.

Her fine art professors at tiny Hamlin University were old-school men who didn't have much use for fabric art. Rae studied bronze casting and intaglio printmaking, but worked in the costume shop for extra money.

After college, she moved to East Lansing and worked for six years at Country Stitches, a traditional quilt shop and fabric store. She balanced



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

A bin outside the shop door is heaped with free packets of fabric, elastic and other supplies — enough to make 50 masks per bag.

the straight gig by concocting elaborate textural quilt and fabric hangings she sold at regional art festivals and galleries.

She moved into the space at SEAMS, next to Woven Art, in April 2019, with only 60 bolts of fabric, after teaching classes from home. Rae's friend, Meg Larned Croft, owns the Woven Art studio next door to SEAMS. The two of them are living out a fantasy of setting up a "textile district," combining Rae's textiles and Croft's yarns.

Rae juggles the store with her other gig as an East Lansing City Councilwoman. On Tuesday nights, before Council meetings, a shop assistant takes care of the store.

"That's so I can have my three hours of Zen, go through the agenda and mentally prepare myself," she said.

## The third wave

As June turned into July, Rae thought the demand for masks would peak, but impending school reopening chaos and continued spread of the virus make a "third wave" all but inevitable.

A sewist from Eaton Rapids who works with Rae on mask distribution is already fielding requests from Eaton Rapids, Charlotte and Mason

schools for more than 1,500 masks.

"School in the fall is such a gray area," Rae said. "Nobody knows what's happening, but a couple of Lansing schools have already contacted one of our volunteers about doing masks for the kids." Rae estimates, at minimum, her network of volunteers and collaborators will make 10,000 masks by the start of school.

It will be harder to meet this challenge, because many volunteers have gone back to their jobs and have less free time.

"There were a lot of people trapped at home, feeling helpless, and this was something they could do," Rae said.

Friday, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer likely increased demand for masks by putting some bite into the state's mask rules, mandating indoor use in public spaces, requiring retail stores to enforce masks and setting a \$500 fine for violation.

Rae is still donating materials for pick-up. A plastic case on a table just outside the store is piled with plastic bags that of fabric, elastic and other materials — enough to make 50 masks for each bag.

"Just don't sell them," she said. "That's all I ask."

There have been unexpected problems along the way. Health care workers who have to work in masks all day can get severely chafed ears from the elastic. Craftivists came up with the idea of attaching the elastic to "ear saver headbands" equipped with buttons, but the supply of buttons nearly dried up in April.

"Every new thing taxes the supply chain in a new way," Rae explained. "First you couldn't get elastic. Then you couldn't get buttons."

To fill the gap, some local middle school kids with a lot of time on their hands have been 3-D printing buttons for Rae's network of sewists.

The bags of supplies in the box outside the shop contain plastic tools, 3-D printed by volunteer kids, for making the lace-like ties that substitute for elastic in some masks.

## Things for dudes

Rae is sticking to simple, inexpensive fabrics for the donated masks, but the COVID era has sparked a burst of creativity among her customers.

"People are coming in to the store wanting really exciting fabric for their own personal masks, because they see that we're going to be wearing them for quite a while," she said.

A beekeeper chose a fabric swarming with bees. Nerdy nurses gravitated to DNA helix patterns. The store is filled with crazy prints Rae wouldn't normally stock, from hedgehogs and baby Yodas and an over-the-top print of shirtless, manly hikers and hunters strutting around in a canyon.

"People are suddenly asking for things for dudes," she explained, "so I've ordered some fabrics I wouldn't normally carry." Socially distancing farmers' market vendors snapped up lurid kale, radish and carrot patterns.

Just don't ask for plain black.

"We still can't get black fabric," she said. "It's backed up all the way to China. Nobody has black."

One more upside of the mask era is that it has sucked a lot of people into sewing for the first time and brought them a skill they'll enjoy the rest of their lives.

"They're comfortable with their sewing machines now," Rae said. "If you had told me in February that there would be some international trend that would get people sewing again, I would be thrilled," she said. "This is not exactly what I was hoping for."

See COVID heroes, Page 18



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## COVID heroes

from page 17

Mellonie, a Lansing resident who lives on \$700 a month and copes with serious medical issues, needed help with a \$150 Consumers Energy bill in April.

Mellonie asked that we not use her last name but wanted her story to be told.

"It's not about me," she said. "A lot of people are struggling right now."

Paying people to pick up her food and medicine in a pandemic — not to mention paying for the food and medicine — was stretching her resources past the limit.

"It's hard when you're already struggling and something like this comes along," she said.

She got that help from a Facebook telethon organized by another COVID Hero, Mike Karl.

"That \$150 was like everything to me," Mellonie said. "It was a huge contribution to my life."

A GM employee with quarantine time on his hands and a penchant for

do-gooding, Karl helped Mellonie and dozens of other people hit by the pandemic and the lockdown pay utility, phone, food and other bills, to the tune of \$18,400, raised in three Facebook telethons.

"People like Mike are so rare," she said. "Everything is 'me, me, me.' He's all 'you, you, you.'"

Karl is from Laingsburg but moved to West Virginia as a kid and came back to work for GM after high school.

At the height of the COVID-19 lockdown, Karl was doing fine with the \$600 supplemental unemployment benefit and a stocked larder, but he



Courtesy photo

Mike Karl (in baseball cap) raised over \$18,000 to pay utility and other bills for people crunched by the COVID lockdown. In 2018, his homeless advocacy group, Cardboard Prophets, worked with Home Depot to build food pantries.

daughter and bawled my eyes out after he helped me," Mellonie said.

"It just took off," Karl said. "It was planned for an hour, but it went on for hours and hours. People were donating and I'd just turn around and chat with someone who had an electric bill or whatever. All I asked is that they

saw that others were struggling. He started giving away his extra \$600 and saw that there was a lot more need.

But what can you do while you're locked down? He decided to launch a live Facebook telethon and found himself brokering a series of tearful epiphanies.

"I called my

show it to me, and how to make payment, and I'd pay it for them on the spot. I just connected the dots."

He partnered with Westlund's Apple Market to get six people gift certificates for \$100 food shopping sprees. For people who needed pet food and supplies, he arranged to buy 10 \$25 gift certificates at Soldan's.

And he did all of this with one good arm. On March 19, he suffered a rotator cuff injury that still causes him serious pain.

Karl's help comes with no questions asked, but he does warn people that the spirit of giving is contagious.

After the telethon, Mellonie took a drive around downtown Lansing. She saw a frail man huddled in front of the downtown library.

She checked her wallet and found that she had \$5.

"I never thought about myself like this before," she said. "But I offered him the five bucks. He probably thought I was a crazy lady. Because somebody did something for me, it made me want to do what I could for others."

## Gov. Gretchen Whitmer: Sticking with science

With a vacuum of leadership at the federal level, to put it politely, it's hard to overstate Michigan's good fortune in being governed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, one of our readers' top three "COVID-19 Heroes," in the pandemic-and-flood year of 2020.

But Whitmer wouldn't want her role overstated. Drama is not her thing. She does not consider her "liberate Michigan" feuds with President Trump and sparring with the state's Republican-led Legislature over her sweeping lockdown orders to be the main event.

Through it all, "the woman from Michigan" sticks unflinchingly with science. Pressed to negotiate with the Legislature, to "give a little" by the president, she has repeatedly declared that "we're not in a political crisis, we're in a public health crisis."

So instead of gushing over "Big Gretch," let's cede the podium to the scientists. A study released May 21 by Imperial College London and Oxford University tracked the relationship between mobility in various states and the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The study found that on March 12, before Whitmer issued her stay-at-home orders, each person with the COVID-19 virus was spreading it to 3.5 other people. By mid-May, the "reproduction number" was down to 1, meaning each person with the virus was spreading it to one other person, on average.

One of the researchers was Seth Flaxman, a senior lecturer in mathematics at Imperial College London. Flaxman did a "back of the envelope" estimate for The Detroit News of the number of lives Whitmer's orders may have saved for. He estimated that some 74,000 Michiganders might have died in an "unmitigated epidemic" instead of the roughly 6,000 that had died up to then.

The British research team estimated that about 130,000 Michiganders



Courtesy photo

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer at a press conference in June announcing executive orders to open business.

were infected with the COVID-19 virus at the end of March. By mid-May, the number was down to 25,000.

John Fox, CEO of Beaumont Health, said that thanks to the governor's stay-at-home orders, "we narrowly avoided the red zone of needing to care for more patients than we could manage."

"If the Governor had not taken or delayed the action she took on March 24 with respect to the Stay Home, Stay Safe order, I believe it would have had disastrous consequences for our patients at Beaumont Health and many other health systems across Michigan," Fox wrote in an op-ed for the Detroit Free Press May 8.

Of course, Whitmer isn't everybody's COVID hero. The uproar over the lockdown in Michigan is well known around the world and has even become an emblem of the existential battle between selfishness and compassion. Pick up a copy of the latest New Yorker, read an article about the Russian writer Fyodor Dostoevsky, and — for real — you'll find a paragraph invoking the moral ugliness of "Operation Gridlock," the first and most notorious in a series

of protests against Whitmer's stay-at-home orders.

But the drama of thousands of angry people thronging the Capitol, complete with automatic weapons, Confederate flags, Trump signs and effigies of Whitmer in a noose and a Hitler getup, has been well documented elsewhere, and to Whitmer, it's another side-show from the real work of saving lives. Check out Jonathan Mahler's

epic-length chronicle in the June 25 New York Times Magazine for a breathtaking account of the cascade of unprecedented challenges, from a pandemic to a 100-year flood to civil unrest, suddenly thrust upon a gov-

ernor whose campaign slogan set the modest goal of fixing the damn roads. Then look around the country and you will see a vast, foundering ship, with no captain in sight. Scattered in its wake are 50 lifeboats, most of them taking on water or going even further from shore. The governors who steer those lifeboats are reversing course and reversing the reversals as COVID cases spike in states like Arizona, Texas and Florida. The pandemic is far from over, and cases are ticking upward in Michigan as well, but the state has been lucky to have a governor who stuck to science all along.

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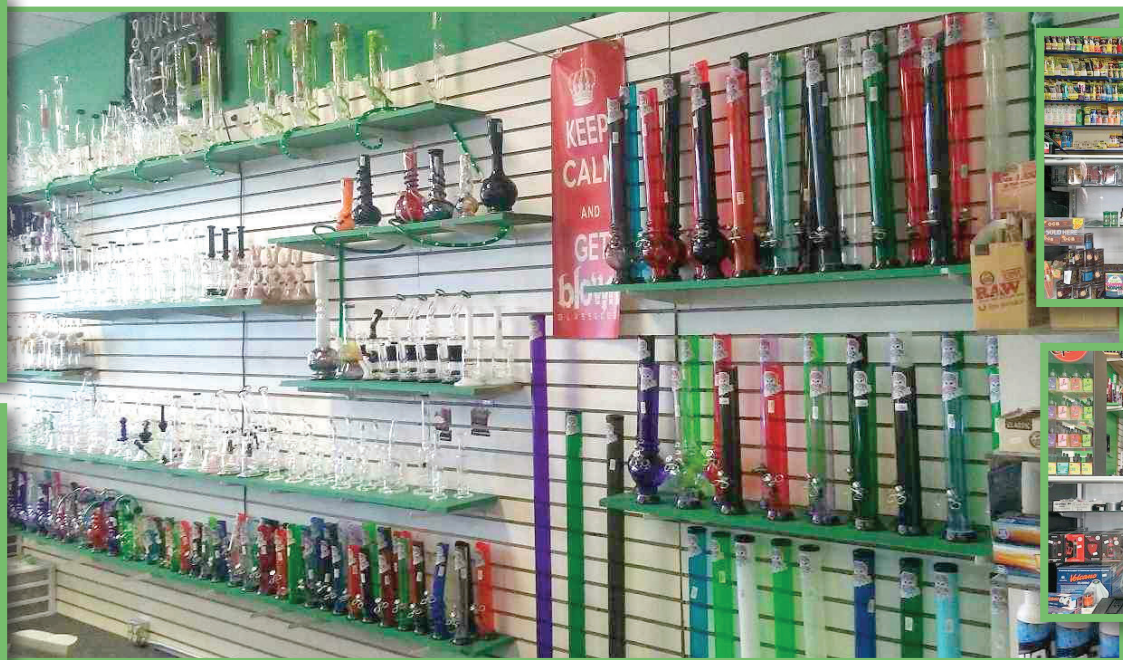
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# ARTS & CULTURE

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## Digital parchment

Catalog archive logs the history of Elderly Instruments

By SKYLER ASHLEY

A new feature on Elderly Instrument's website is loaded with pure Lansing nostalgia. Anybody familiar with the instrument shop has likely picked up a copy of its fabled catalog at one time or another before it was discontinued in 2014. For a fun trip down memory lane, you can check out the covers of each catalog in ultra high resolution on Elderly.com.

A cursory glance of the catalogs, compiled by Elderly's Michael Erlewine, is an easy way to track the evolution and consistency of the shop. The cover of the first edition — released in 1975, three years after the shop was first opened — features a late 19th-century photograph, scalped from a music magazine called Cadenza, of a musician hoisting a fancy banjo. Compared to the later issues of the catalog, and especially when looking at it side-by-side with the high-tech functions of Elderly's website, it looks totally archaic — a testament to how much time has passed since Elderly has opened.

Elderly founder Stan Werbin still fondly remembers the inception of the catalog.

"We opened in 1972, and by 1974, we knew we had a lot of unusual content. We thought we could sell more if we put out mail-order catalogs," Werbin said. "In those days, there weren't too many places that were selling musical instruments by mail. Of course, nowadays you can find thousands of people that will sell you stuff off their website."

The process of putting together the original catalogs was painful. Elderly used press type, a form of rub-on lettering, for its headlines and an early IBM electric typewriter for the body copy on the pages. What was written by typewriter was then sliced out with an X-Acto knife and pasted onto the

larger pages of the catalog's master copy. Elderly co-founder Sharon Burton led the project, as she had experience with layouts thanks to her days editing her high school's newspaper.

"Nobody had a computer," Werbin said. "You couldn't lay things out on the screen as everybody does now. What we can do now is what we used to dream about back then. It would've been so much easier. We put it together with what we had."

Before word processing and computers came along to expedite the process, producing a catalog by hand while also running a musical instruments shop could take upwards of an entire year. You can note just how long it took Elderly's small staff by observing the large gap between the original 1975 issue and the following issues in 1977 and 1981.

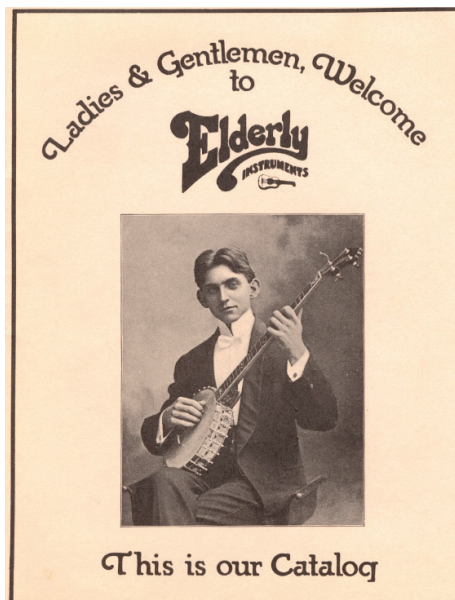
After Elderly produced the master sheets, it would hand them off to a printing company in Grand Ledge.

"The printer would take a high-quality photograph of it all, this was all black and white. Color printing was a whole different ball of wax in those days. From that, they created the plates that printed the catalogs," Werbin said.

Werbin estimated that the original run of catalogs was anywhere between 2,000 and 10,000 copies. Catalogs were distributed primarily for free. Customers could just grab a copy from the shop, and stacks of the catalog would quickly disappear.

"When we first put them out in the store, people would just take them. They went so quickly from the store that we decided to charge for it. I think we put it for a dollar or two, and that slowed down how quickly they disappeared. But we'd still give them away to anybody that wanted one," Werbin said. "We figured people ordering from us would make up for the cost of the catalog."

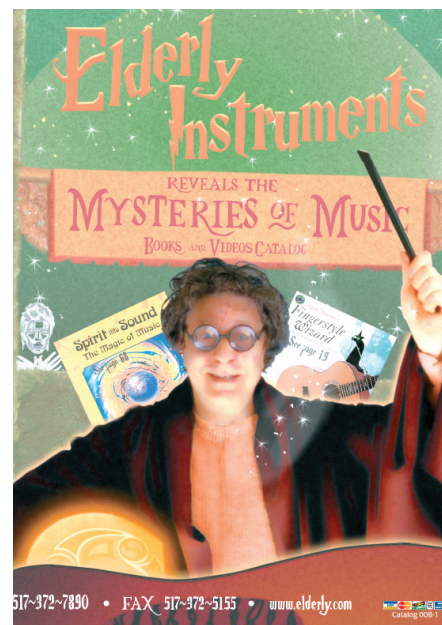
Elderly would also distribute its mail-order catalog by taking out advertisements in larger magazines such as Guitar Player and Ban-



(Above) Elderly's original 1975 catalog.

(Above, right) Elderly's 1993 catalog, featuring an illustration by Dennis Preston.

(Below, right) Elderly's 2000 catalog parodies "Harry Potter."



jo Newsletter. Werbin said in the long run it was more than worth it to practically give the catalog away. "We're still here. Those catalogs gave us a national reputation fairly quickly and we've maintained that for a long time. It wasn't until 2014 that we put out our last catalog."

As the years and decades went on, the catalog's cover featured artwork from prominent Lansing artists such as Kathryn Darnell and Dennis Preston. Werbin said Elderly and its customers were so bound to the culture of its catalog that it put out editions long past the catalog's practicality.

"If we were smarter, we probably would've stopped producing them five or 10 years earlier. By then, the Internet was a happening thing," Werbin said. "The catalog was so important to our store's identity that we kept producing them and sending them out for free. It got to the point where it was just costing too much. It's more efficient to have a website."

While Elderly has certainly invested a lot of energy into crafting a professional and easy-to-use website, Werbin hinted that it isn't entirely impossible for the catalog to make a comeback one of these days.

"It doesn't seem to me like we would. But you've got me thinking because our 50th anniversary is coming up in two years. Wouldn't it be interesting to have some kind of a small catalog — just to have it? If it happens, it's your fault," Werbin laughed.

### Elderly Catalog Archive

Check it out at [elderly.com](http://elderly.com)



# Smoke this weed and you might forget about the global pandemic

Skymint rolls out fresh strains — and chocolates

By KYLE KAMINSKI

**Platinum OG Kush**

Price — \$20/gram

THC content — 18.4%

OG Kush and I go way back. It was among the first strains I've had the pleasure of smoking and it has long been a staple in my go-to cannabis lineup. When I saw it's glitzy younger brother — Platinum OG Kush — in stock at Skymint, I had to give it a shot. And I almost forgot that I did.

This indica-dominant cross between Master Kush and OG Kush was the most potent bud on Skymint's menu last week, clocking in at 18.4% THC. And at least for me, it hit like a train. I packed up a bowl in a fancy bong that I typically only use for spe-



**Lansterdam in Review: Skymint**

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cial occasions and let it rip.

And I see why they call it platinum. This bud was so crystalized that it appeared to have a layer of precious metal coating the luscious green buds with spikes of orange hairs. The taste was heavy and complex, with a spicy, earthy and smooth sort of flavor with hints of — tobacco?

It didn't take long for a weighty high to kick in. My mind was initially racing, but it went from excitement to pure sedation to a growling, insatiable hunger. It was at this point that I knew it was good stuff, because I almost asked a friend to pick me up to grab some dinner at a buffet.

One problem: The buffet had been closed for weeks. This is a global pandemic, and this stuff was so powerful that for a brief moment, I had actually forgotten that normal life doesn't exist.

**High Life Farms Cherry Lemonade Truffles**

Price — \$25/10-piece pack

THC content — 100 mg

(10 mg per piece)

I'll admit it: I fell for the packaging on this one. It's flashy, fun, supposedly made with Michigan cherries and infused with 10 mg of THC per piece. And that makes for a convenient way to regulate how baked you want to get. Take one. Take two. Or just eat the whole bag like me.

These sugary little candies were a Dove-like milk chocolate coated over a softer layer of what appeared to be plain chocolate, but with a much more tart, lemony flavor. I really couldn't taste much of the cherry in these, which I was most excited about, but they were still a tasty snack.

Unlike the gummies last week, these didn't label whether they were a sativa- or indica-dominant variety. Personally, I don't think it matters much when it comes to edibles. After about an hour, a deep body high kicked in and I almost instinctively kicked off my shoes. The anxiety that usually creeps up toward the end of



the weekend was nicely washed away by these little truffles.

It was also a great way to relieve sunburn and rewatch a Harry Potter movie for the 20th time. Plans to write this review at the end of the afternoon eventually turned into a nap that started at 9:30 p.m. and lasted until about 7 a.m. on Monday morning. So, two thumbs up. Good stuff.

*Lansterdam in Review is a new column written by Kyle Kaminski, a City Pulse staff writer and cannabis enthusiast who has been smoking marijuana just about every day for the last decade. Kaminski samples some of the best bud in Greater Lansing, gets real high and writes about it.*

## Favorite Things

### Maggie Kay Hogan and her ring

Growing up, I became very familiar with a gold ring. It was a ring that had swirl detailing on each side and one beautiful marquise diamond smack dab in the middle.

This ring represented my life in a lot of ways. It was there for every family vacation, every choir concert, and every home-cooked meal. My mother did not let it leave her sight. She held it near and dear to her. It proved to me every single day that my parents loved each other and vowed their eternities together. It was an example of true love.

As a child, I adored the ring because of its simplistic beauty, but also because of its unwavering integrity. It was put on my mom's finger and remained there through thick and thin. It humbled me, knowing that through all of the bad times, my parents were making it. Time and time again, I found myself comfort-

ing friends from their parents getting divorced, and I was lucky enough to admire a ring.

However, after 35 years, the ring disappeared off of my mother's hand. Not because of a tragedy, or child's biggest fear, but because of a new vow to continue to remain endlessly together. As a symbol of love a new ring appeared and the gold one became a story in a jewelry box. That is, until



my mom took the ring out of the jewelry box, and offered to pass it down, so that my boyfriend could give it a new life.

Patrick got down on one knee in front of me in October of 2018, while I sat on our living room couch. He proposed to

me with a ring that represented a bond not broken and a new one that had been created. This ring has now been a part of my body and soul for

almost two years. It had been there for the birth of my mother's three children (myself and my siblings) and was now there for the birth of my first child.

It's beautiful to know that something as simple as ring that wraps about a finger can become such a story. A story that was wrapped around the hands that created me and is now wrapped around the hands that created my daughter. In a world where "things" are so accessible and can mean so little, I revere in knowing that my "thing" changed my life.

It took 26 years to find what was missing in my life, but I found it in Patrick, the love and light of my life.

*(This interview was edited and condensed by Rich Tupica. If you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, email rich@lansingcitypulse.com.)*



# East Lansing author returns for another Michigan-based murder tale

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Timing is everything. When East Lansing author Charlie McLavy decided to use Sleeping Bear Dunes as a backdrop to his third Burr Lafayette mystery, the timing couldn't have been better. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Seashore is marking its 50th anniversary this year.

According to McLavy, who is also known as Charles Cutter, he didn't know about the anniversary at the time he scouted the location with his daughter.

But instead of being able to take advantage of the timing, the pandemic has left him doing Zoom interviews and trying to maximize sales on Amazon.

He said he had planned several in-store events, but those have been shelved for now.

McLavy refers to his series as "brutal in beautiful places." All three mysteries are set in mystical Michigan locations. His first book, "The Pink Pony," takes place on Mackinac Island and his second, "The Gray Drake," on the Ausable River.

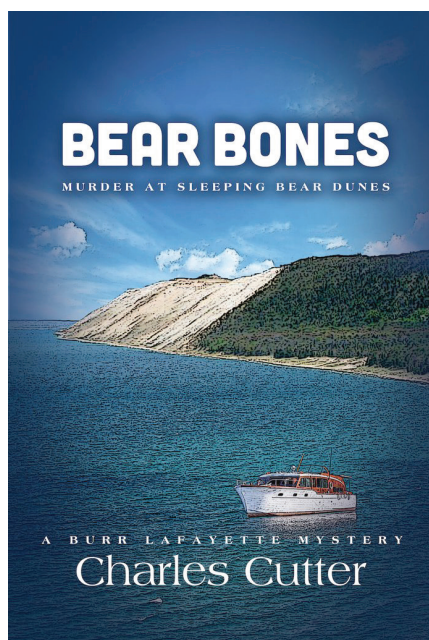
The protagonist in all three books is Attorney Burr Lafayette, who not only serves as legal counsel for the accused but also as an amateur private detective to help prove his client's innocence.

The murder in "Bear Bones" revolves around the time in the '70s when the federal government was using eminent domain to assemble the property for the Sleeping Bear National Seashore. To say the least, it was a contentious time. McLavy uses that as an opportunity to interject a gripping mystery tale with lots of false leads and red herrings.

The book opens when Helen Lockwood, the co-owner of the Port Oneida Orchards, which is in the way of the Dunes Shore completion, pilots a boat to South Manitou Island. There she goes missing. Her boat, the Achilles, is found the next day with no one aboard. The case is afoot.

For seven years, Lafayette has been acting as Helen and Tommy Lockwood's attorney in the condemnation fight. One year after Helen goes missing, a federal judge gives Lafayette an ultimatum to find the woman or the case goes to trial.

It would be easy to call Lafayette down on his luck, but it wasn't bad luck that caused him to be fired from his job at a silk-stocking Detroit Law firm. It was bad judgement in the form of having an affair with the daughter of one of his clients.



As he becomes embroiled in the case, evidence begins to turn up that the woman's husband, Tommy, may be the killer. Lafayette signs up to defend him for murder.

McLavy said, for him, this is where the hardest part of writing a mystery book takes over.

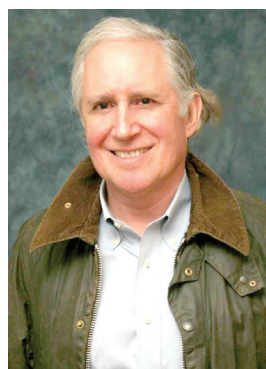
"You don't want the reader to know who did it until the very end," he said.

"That's difficult to work out. You have to give enough clues along the way, so the conclusion makes perfect sense of what happens," McLavy said.

He likes it when readers tell him, "I never would've guessed."

McLavy is at home along the Lake Michigan shoreline. He has a cottage at Harbor Springs. During his childhood, his parents would spend three weeks each summer sailing Lake Michigan often anchoring off South Manitou.

He still sails, and the love of the lakes comes through in his scenes set on the



McLavy

water.

McLavy even named Lafayette's leaky boat "Spindrift," after his parents' boat.

In addition to the murder case, the author has tied in the contentious time of

government intrusion on private property for the public good.

"In the end, even Lafayette seems to come around to see the public good," McLavy said.

Another total coincidence, according to McLavy, is the similarity between Lafayette and the fictional Perry Mason played on television by Raymond Burr and penned by writer Erle Stanley Gardner.

"It must have been in my subconscious," McLavy said.

Perry Mason and Lafayette have many similarities in addition to a climatic ending. These include an investigator and a Della Street-style administrative assistant who tries to keep him on the straight and narrow. And then there's this thing about Lafayette's first name, "Burr."

It was long after the book was on its way to the publisher that the news of a new Perry Mason series would debut on HBO.

McLavy said his next book is set in Charlevoix against the backdrop of a rock radio station and its murdered owner. In this case, the author will continue to write what he knows. After all, he was the owner of a few radio stations

himself.

Since McLavy is a lawyer, like his protagonist, readers often ask if he based Lafayette on himself.

"I didn't model him on anyone, including myself. My behavior is way better," he said.

Though he believes, like many writers, you have to "become" the character or they would seem pretty "wooden," McLavy said.

Fortunately for readers, the only thing wooden in McLavy's books are the boats, as he continues to deliver taut legal thrillers set in Michigan's water wonderland.

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### Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

**"Sugar Free"—let's do away with that sugary suffix.**By Matt Jones

Across

1 Movie in a case, e.g.

4 \$, at a currency exchange

7 Web traffic goal

13 Sign up for

15 "Insecure" star Issa

16 Wear

17 Boss of all mischievous sprites?

19 Singer Grande

20 Jazz singer Laine

21 How a typesetter turns a president into a resident?

23 "What's this now?"

24 Nebraska's largest city

26 Cross-country hauler

27 Reduce in rank

29 "Miracle Workers" network

32 Racket

33 Fanged movie creature, for short

34 Largest country bordering the Mediterranean

38 Expensive version of an East Asian board game?

41 Narrowest possible election margin

42 Neighbor of Tex.

45 NHL division

48 Numerical prefix

49 The last world capital, alphabetically

51 Dove sounds

53 Roster listing

56 YouTube interrupters

57 Removing the word before "and behold"?

60 Voting rights org.

62 Certain book page size

13

17

23

27

33

45

51

57

62

66

69

63 Good publicity for characters like Grimace, Amethyst, and Twilight Sparkle?

66 Late WWE wrestler Dusty

67 Charlemagne's domain, briefly

68 "It must have been something \_\_\_\_"

69 "\_\_\_\_ Rides Again" (classic western)

70 "Then what?"

71 Vulpine critter

Down

1 Turntablists, familiarly

2 Receipt

3 One with a mission

4 Geller who claims to be telepathic

5 "The Metamorphosis" character Gregor

6 Profundity

7 Coffeehouse order

8 Innocent fun

9 Harvard and Princeton, e.g.

10 Came to a close

11 Video game company with a famous cheat code

12 Fasten securely, perhaps

14 "Born," in some announcements

18 Ginseng or ginger, e.g.

22 Like video games for the 13-19 set

23 Like almost all primes

25 Sparse

28 Dos times dos times dos

30 Piece of cake

31 Papal topic

35 Devoted

36 Day- \_\_\_\_

37 Stunned

39 Doc for head colds

40 Vegetable part that can be served in a salad (as opposed to a gumbo)

43 Paved the way for

44 Sit-up targets

45 International agreement

46 "Well said"

47 State gambling games

50 High-priority notation

52 City, in Germany

54 A as in "Aristotle"

55 Lament

58 Bon \_\_\_\_ ("Holocene" band)

59 Prone to butting in

61 151, in Roman numerals

64 Color meaning "stop" internationally

65 Dinosaur in the "Toy Story" movies

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Answers Page 28

### SUDOKU

		4			5			
2		1					6	
9			3					
		2		8				
								1
3			4				7	9
	5			7			1	
	7	9	8					3
4			6				9	

### Intermediate

#### TO PLAY

Fill in the grid so that every row, column, and outlined 3-by-3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 exactly once. No guessing is required. The solution is unique.

Answers on page 28

### Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezсны

July 15-21, 2020

**ARIES (March 21–April 19):** "If the time is not ripe, we have to ripen the time," wrote Aries educator and activist Dorothy Height. This approach worked well during her 98 years on the planet. Her pioneering advocacy for African American women generated a number of practical improvements in their employment opportunities and civil rights. In accordance with the current astrological omens, Aries, I highly recommend her guiding principle for your use. You now have the power to ripen the time, even if no one else believes the time is ripe.

**TAURUS (April 20–May 20):** "Whatever inspiration is, it's born from a continuous 'I don't know.'" A wise and talented woman said that: Nobel Prize-winning poet Wisława Szymborska. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, it's excellent advice for you to embrace during the coming weeks. You're close to finding and accessing a mother lode of inspiration, and one of the best ways to ensure that happens in an optimal way is to make "I don't know" your mantra. In other words, be cheerfully devoted to shedding your certainties. Lose your attachment to the beliefs and theories you tend to overly rely on. Make yourself as empty and clear and spacious as you possibly can.

**GEMINI (May 21–June 20):** Gemini-born author Djuna Barnes (1892–1982) was a world traveler who wrote in several different genres, ranging from lesbian fiction to essays on boxing to plays that used poetic language. She was experimental and empirical and experiential. On one occasion, she voluntarily submitted to the force-feeding endured by hunger-striking suffragists so she could write about what it was like to be tortured. Another fun fact about Djuna: Every morning, she did up her hair and put her make-up on, then climbed into bed and wrote for many hours. In the coming weeks, Gemini, I recommend you draw inspiration from every aspect of her life—except the torture part, of course. The coming weeks will be a fine time to be versatile, exploratory, and committed to expressing yourself purely in whatever ways make you comfortably excited.

**CANCER (June 21–July 22):** As a Cancerian, you have a natural propensity to study and understand what author Margaret Atwood describes as "echoes and emptiness and shadow." I believe this aspect of your repertoire will be especially active and available to you in the coming weeks. For best results, regard your attunement to these echoes and emptiness and shadow as an asset, even a precious talent. Use it to discern what's missing or lost but could be recovered. Invoke it to help you navigate your way through murky or confusing situations. Call on it to help you see important things that are invisible to others.

**LEO (July 23–Aug. 22):** "Time can turn a scab into a beauty mark," said actor and screenwriter Nia Vardalos. That's a rousing poetic speculation—and more metaphorically true than literally. But I suspect that if it ever might have a useful and meaningful application to an actual human struggle, it will be yours in the coming months. In my view, you are in fact capable of harnessing the magic necessary to transform a wound into a lovely asset. Be bold and imaginative as you carry out this seemingly improbable feat—which is actually not improbable.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22):** Would you like to boost your mental and physical health in the coming weeks? Try this: Immerse yourself in the understanding that you're interconnected with everything in the world. Tell yourself stories about how the atoms that compose your body have previously been part of many other things. This isn't just a poetic metaphor; it's scientific fact. Now study this passage by science writer Ella Frances Sanders: "The carbon inside you could have existed in any number of creatures or natural disasters before finding you. That particular atom residing somewhere above your left eyebrow? It could well have been a smooth riverbed pebble before deciding to call you home. You are rock

and wave and the peeling bark of trees, you are ladybirds and the smell of a garden after the rain."

**LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22):** It's a favorable time to celebrate the fantastic privilege of being alive. Are you willing to believe that? Will you cooperate with my intention to nudge you in the direction of elation and exaltation? Are you open to the possibility that miracles and epiphanies may be at hand for you personally? To help get yourself in the proper mood, read this passage by Libran author Diane Ackerman: "The great affair, the love affair with life, is to live as variously as possible, to groom one's curiosity like a high-spirited thoroughbred, climb aboard, and gallop over the thick, sunstruck hills every day."

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21):** "Deciding to remember, and what to remember, is how we decide who we are," writes poet Robert Pinsky. That's useful counsel for you right now, Scorpio. You're entering a phase when you can substantially reframe your life story so that it serves you better. And one of the smartest ways to do that is to take an inventory of the memories you want to emphasize versus the memories you'd like to minimize. Another good trick is to reinterpret challenging past events so that you can focus on how they strengthened you and mobilized your determination to be true to yourself.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21):** "A person must dream a long time in order to act with grandeur," wrote Sagittarian author and activist Jean Genet. "And dreaming is nursed in darkness." According to my analysis of your astrological omens, this is an apt description of what has been unfolding for you, Sagittarius—and will continue to play out for you in the next two weeks. If you're aligned with cosmic rhythms, you have been nursing your dreams in darkness—exploring and cultivating and learning from the raw creative energy that is simmering and ripening in your inner depths. Keep doing this important work, even if there are not yet any productive results. Eventually, it will enable you to "act with grandeur," as Genet said.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19):** Poet and filmmaker Jean Cocteau said, "There are truths that one can only say after having won the right to say them." In my estimation, you have recently earned the right to express a fresh batch of scintillating and useful truths. Please do us all a favor and unveil them—preferably with both candor and tact. In behalf of everyone who will benefit from your insights, I'm sending you congratulations for the work you've had to do on yourself so as to win them.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18):** "After you make a fool of yourself a few hundred times, you learn what works," testifies musician and singer Gwen Stefani. In my own life, I've had to make a fool of myself more than a few hundred times to learn what works. My number is closer to a thousand—and I'm still adding new examples on a regular basis. In the coming weeks, Aquarius, I highly recommend that you try what has served me and Gwen Stefani so well. You're entering a phase when your foolishness will generate especially useful lessons. Being innocent and wildly open-minded will also be very useful.

**PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20):** "It is better to err on the side of daring than the side of caution," wrote author and futurist Alvin Toffler. While I hesitate to declare that idea to be absolutely and always true, I do recommend it to you in the coming weeks. Given the fact that you have recently been expanding possibilities and cultivating breakthroughs, I'd love to see you keep on pushing forward until you climax your momentum. To boost your courage, try to think of a crazy cry of exhilaration you might exclaim as you make your leaps, like "YAHOO!" or "HELL YES!" or "HERE I COME!"

Go to [RealAstrology.com](#) to check out Rob Brezсны's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.



# TURN IT DOWN! LOCAL MIX

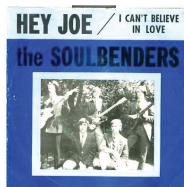
BY RICH TUPICA

## A TRACKLIST OF OBSCURE MICHIGAN-MADE SONGS FROM 1967

This week, *Turn it Down!* takes a look at the year 1967. All of these garage-rock tunes were released in that pivotal year for music. Sure, these are obscure cuts (three of which were released on the legendary Fenton Records imprint), but they're all highly revered by vinyl collectors from across the globe. As the '60s were coming to a close, this batch of singles represents the last gasp of stripped-down, primitive garage-rock, as rock music was rapidly moving towards a more complicated, progressive sound. Read on, and listen along on YouTube.

### The SoulBenders "Hey Joe"

Led by frontman and keyboardist Aris Hampers, The SoulBenders formed in Grand Rapids in 1967 and churned out a matchless cover of Jimi Hendrix's "Hey Joe" and a blistering take on Love's "7 and 7 Is" that same year. Released on the Phantasm and Mala Records labels, "Hey Joe" was No. 1 on WLAV's charts for six weeks and helped the band sell 3,000 copies in around three weeks' time. Aside from dominating charts, The SoulBenders opened a big show for The Blue Magoos and were also notorious for winning a bulk of the Battle of the Bands events. But it wasn't just cover tunes that helped them gain local notoriety. While at the Great Lakes Recording Studio, the band also put originals down on tape — including poppy tracks like "Petals" and "I Can't Believe in Love." In the



years following the band's break up, Hampers fronted his band Phlegethon, which opened shows for The Stooges, MC5 and The Byrds, among others. At the onset of the 1970s, he also became a beloved local disc jockey and spent the following decades spinning tracks on both WLAV-FM and WBFX-FM.

### The Mussies "Louie Go Home"

The climatic swagger of The Mussies' "Louie Go Home," an amped-up Paul Revere & the Raiders cover, is a prime example of garage-rock flawlessness. The menacing 1967 Fenton single, backed with the unruly psych-tinged instrumental "12 O'clock, July," was recorded by the South Haven-based band at Chicago's Chess Studios and featured Greg Erikson (vocals/bass), Paul Nabb (lead guitar), Tom Mann (rhythm guitar/vocals), Brady Rusin (keys) and Bill Johnson (drummer). Some of the band's high points included opening big shows for The Buckinghams and Shadows of Knight. After the draft broke up The Mussies, some of the band went on to form The Smoke, releasing one self-issued single, 1968's "Half Past the End."

### The Legends "I'll Come Again"

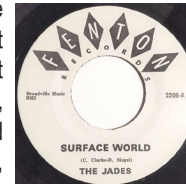
The sea of reverberated "Ooh, ooh, ooh, ooooohs!" paired with the relentless pulsation of a Farfisa organ on The Legends' "I'll Come Again" is textbook '60s Garage Rock 101. Perhaps that's why the 1967 Fenton single, backed with the soft



ballad "I'm Just a Guy," is considered one of the label's classic releases. This lone release from the Holland-based band was actually recorded in 1966, but a delayed release pushed it into the next year — right as the outfit was disbanding. Still, they had a good run. The band, which formed in 1964 at Holland High, consisted of Ray Vasquez (keys/vocals), Scott Hamberg (guitar), Andy Fierro (bass) and drummer John Bertalan. The group played local clubs like the Thunderbird Lounge in Muskegon, Noah's Ark in Saugatuck, and The Edgar Allan Poe Club in Holland (fun fact: The Edgar Allan Poe Club was previously a funeral parlor). The Legends also backed Ray Hummel III of The JuJus on his 1967 solo outing, the "Fine Day" b/w "Gentle Rain" single on Fenton. The Legends emerged from its breakup in the early 1970s as a six-man group called The Black Sparrow, but it fizzled out into obscurity.

### The Jades "Surface World"

Luckily, after forming in 1964, The Jades didn't have to travel too far to get to Sparta's Great Lakes Recording Studio. The band formed at Sparta High School and cut two 45s on the Fenton label: "Confined Congregation" b/w "Please Come Back" in 1966 and 1967's "Surface World" b/w "We Got Something Going." The pop-fueled group included guitarists Rich Seigel and Phil Succop, Craig Clarke (bass), Floyd Johnson (keys) and drummers Don Preston, Bill Alexander



and Roy Johnson. The band gigged across West Michigan, performing at high school post-games, Friday-night dances and countless teen clubs, including one massive battle-of-the-bands show at The Place (632 Plymouth Ave. N.E., Grand Rapids). The Jades also performed three nights a week, during the summers, at a club in Hess Lake before disbanding in 1968. As usual with teen bands, it was that pesky high-school graduation that dissolved the group. Last year, the band reunited for a fan Q&A in their hometown of Sparta.

### CITY PULSE'S MITTEN MUSIC QUIZ

1. This Detroit-raised R&B singer died at age 22 following a 2002 plane crash in The Bahamas.
2. Released in 1996, "Infinite" is the largely forgotten debut LP by this now iconic Detroit rapper.
3. This Grammy-winning Frankenmuth-based rock 'n roll band formed in 2012.
4. These Detroit techno legends are known as "The Belleville Three."
5. 1998's "Devil Without a Cause" LP pushed this rap-rocker into the mainstream.

Answers on page 28

## Re-Elect Patricia Herring Jackson Meridian Township Trustee - Democrat



**STILL** committed to building and sustaining our diverse community, one that makes us **ALL** proud!

- 33-year resident of Meridian Township • 28 years MSU Researcher (Microbiology & Molecular Genetics)
- 18 years Okemos Public School parent
- 16 years Meridian Township Planning Commission (2 terms as chair)
- 5 years Meridian Township Zoning Board of Appeals • 4 years Meridian Township, Board Member
- 2 years Meridian Township, Supervisor "Pro-Tem"

## VOTE AUGUST 4, 2020

Paid for by A Committee to Re-Elect Patricia Herring Jackson | 2512 Capeside Dr. Okemos, MI 48864



# OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com). Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Suzi at (517) 999-6704.

## Wednesday, July 15

**Allen Farmers Market** - 2:30-7 p.m. Allen Farmers Market 2020, 2100 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

**ARTpath | Public Art on the Lansing River Trail** - 8 a.m.-9 p.m., along the Lansing River Trail. 517-374-6400. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org).

**4-H Children's Gardens Butterfly School Virtual Tour** - Make a virtual visit to our 2020 "Butterfly School" at the 4-H Children's Gardens at MSU.It's not quite the same as a real visit, but for this year East Lansing.

**4-H Children's Gardens Virtual Tour** - Even while you are staying home due to the Covid-19 situation, you can virtually visit the 4-H Children's Garden at East Lansing.

**MSU Libraries Virtual Art Tour** - The MSU Libraries seek to provide a welcoming environment for our users. East Lansing.

**Outdoor Pop Up Art Shop** - featuring the work of Michigan artists! Today-July 18, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N. Washington Sq. 517-374-6400.

**Sunfield Virtual Fun Run** - 9 a.m.-12 p.m. all week. Sunfield Fire Dept., 162 Main. [facebook.com/pg/sunfieldcolorfunrun](https://facebook.com/pg/sunfieldcolorfunrun)

**Virtual Code Club** - on Zoom. Coders can chat about coding. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library Facebook page.

## Thursday, July 16

**2020 East Lansing Kiwanis "Virtual BBQ"** - 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. For info and tickets: [elkiwanis.org](http://elkiwanis.org).

**Bath Township Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13751 Main St., Bath. [shopbfm.org](http://shopbfm.org).

**Curious GLADL - Virtual Science & STEAM** - via Zoom for something fun, something curious, something science or STEAM! 3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library Facebook page for link.

**Dimondale Farmers' Market** - 3-7 p.m. Village Square, 136 N Bridge St, Dimondale. 517-646-0230. [villageofdimondale.org](http://villageofdimondale.org).

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 6-7 p.m. [facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing](https://facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing)

**South Lansing Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. Casimir Catholic Church, 800 W Barnes Ave, Lansing.

## Friday, July 17

**Hogwarts Adventure** - 4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 7:30-8:30 p.m. [facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing](https://facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing)

## Saturday, July 18

**Meridian Township Farmers' Market** - 8 a.m. Meridian Township Farmers' Market, 5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos.

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 10:30-11:30 a.m. [facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing](https://facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing)

**WyldWalkin'-Urban Foraging** - Learn how to identify, harvest, & utilize local plants for food & health! 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Hunter Park GardenHouse, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

## Sunday, July 19

**East Lansing Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 300 Valley Court, East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com](http://cityofeastlansing.com).

## Monday, July 20

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 6-7 p.m. [facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing](https://facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing)

## Tuesday, July 21

**Cover to Cover Book Club (Virtual Meeting)** - Register at [dewittlibrary.org](http://dewittlibrary.org) to receive the login information. 6:30-7:30 p.m. DeWitt District Library, DeWitt.

**Fairy Tale Storytime** - Join us for virtual fairy tales and adventures via Zoom! Grand Ledge Area District Library Facebook page.

**Myths & Legends** - A virtual exploration of Myths and Legends! 1 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library Facebook page for link.

**Tech Tuesday** - Tech Tuesday is an online event. 5:30-7 p.m. For info., go to [facebook.com/pg/EatonRapidsAreaDistrictLibrary](https://facebook.com/pg/EatonRapidsAreaDistrictLibrary)

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 26

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## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 26

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1	7	9	8	2	4	6	5	3
4	2	3	6	5	1	8	9	7

## MITTEN MUSIC QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Aaliyah
2. Eminem
3. Greta Van Fleet
4. Derrick May, Kevin Saunderson and Juan Atkins
5. Kid Rock

# Ingham County Animal Shelter

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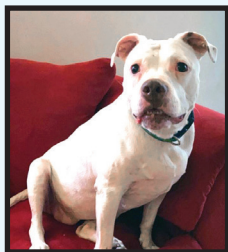
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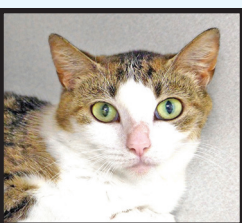
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**Cecilia** is a special needs cat with a sparkling personality who loves everyone! She has a neurological condition that makes her unsteady but it doesn't slow her down.

**In memory of**  
**Rodica's cats**



# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### Lansing Foodies Facebook group hits 10,000 members

Local restaurants celebrate milestone with discounts

By SKYLER ASHLEY

If you're looking to get the scoop on local hidden gem restaurants, or you just want to share what you cooked for dinner that evening with some strangers on the Internet, Lansing Foodies is a Facebook group you might be interested in. Launched in 2019, it quickly caught fire and now boasts 10,000 members. In celebration of the group's milestone, ten Lansing restaurants are offering special discounts and deals.

Founder James Brains started the group after moving to Lansing from Eugene, Oregon. While living in Eugene, he was a member of a Facebook group known as Eugene Foodies. When he didn't find a similar group based in Lansing, he decided to start it himself.

"We knew we were moving to Lansing, and Eugene had this group that was huge. It taught us everything about food in the area. I wanted the same thing in Lansing. I wanted to learn about the food scene and know where the 'secret' places to eat were," Brains said. "It was

slow-going at first. For a while there weren't many new members, but last summer it exploded."

Typical posts in the group will see people discuss what they liked about a local restaurant, or somebody sharing what they've cooked that night. Brains emphasized that positivity is a key factor. Strict rules prevent people from bashing restaurants. "That's what Yelp is for," Brains explained.

Brains said Lansing has incredibly tasty food, and that the food scene is perpetually improving. "A lot of restaurants are pushing themselves to be better and better," Brains said. "If you're in Lansing and you haven't updated your menu in the past decade, you're falling behind because of what the new restaurants are doing."

Brains personally reached out to the 10 participating restaurants in particular, as they are his personal favorite local places to eat. "I like a lot of new places, like Sleepwalker and Goodfella's. Good Truckin' Diner is an old standby breakfast place that is still coming up with

great new ideas," he said.

Since the coronavirus pandemic shook up the restaurant industry, Brains said members of the Lansing Foodies were supportive of local restaurants by broadcasting which places were still open and in need of support. He added that the group, as of now, is officially more supportive of takeout in place of dine-in. "We strongly encourage people that do dine-in to

wear a mask as often as possible," Brains said. "We've been looking for ways to support local businesses, and part of that is this 10,000 member celebration."

Brains also noted that Lansing Foodies strongly supports racial equity. A pinned-post in the group highlights black-owned restaurants, and two of them — Goodfella's and Finger Lickin' Chicken — are participating in the 10,000 member celebration.



#### Lansing Foodies 10K Member Specials (Good through July 19)

- **Art's Pub:** Members just mention the Lansing Foodies discount when calling in or dining in (no online).
- **Asian Buffet:** Members should mention the code "LF10K" on the phone, at checkout of the buffet, or make a note on online orders.
- **Bento Kitchen Cravings:** Mention the discount when placing an order in person. When ordering online, use the promo code "LF10K".
- **Crunchy's:** For online orders, members can use the code "LF10K" to get 10% off. Just mention the code for in-person orders. The discount is not valid for specials.
- **Finger Lickin' Chicken & Fish:** Just mention the 10% Lansing Foodies member discount when ordering.
- **Good Truckin' Diner:** Members should mention the discount when ordering over the phone or in person.
- **Goodfellas Bagel Deli:** For online orders, members can use the promo code "LF10K" on Toast to get 10% off (don't use GrubHub or DoorDash). In-person, members can get the discount by mentioning it when placing their order.
- **Red Haven:** Just mention the discount when ordering take out or dining in. The discount is not valid for harvest boxes, family meals, or alcohol.
- **Saddleback BBQ:** Use the promo code LF10K online. Or, the customer can tell their server.
- **Sleepwalker:** Mention the discount when placing an order in-person. Online, use the promo code "LF10K".

**GOODFELLAS**  
BAGEL DELI

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**Goodfellas Bagel Deli**  
625 E. Michigan Ave.  
Lansing  
(517) 580-8611  
goodfellasbageldeli.com

**OPEN FOR PICKUP, DINE IN AND DELIVERY!** Stop in and grab a bagel sandwich, or try one of our new waffle sandwiches. We feature a variety of flavors of bagels and spreads. Hot coffee and freshly made juices, too!

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(517) 699-3670  
www.buddiesbars.com

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**AirPort Tavern**  
5000 N. Grand River Ave  
Lansing  
(517) 321-3852  
FB: @AirPortTavernandSteakhouse

**WELCOME BACK!** For 50 years, Airport Tavern & Steakhouse has been a staple of Lansing's community. Full bar, daily lunch and dinner specials. Ribs, steak, burgers and salads are all crowd pleasers at this neighborhood establishment.

**Art's Pub**  
809 E. Kalamazoo St.,  
Lansing  
(517) 977-1033  
artspublansing.com

**YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS BAR IS BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER** We brought back our famous pizza for you to order whenever you want it-morning, noon or night. We're also pouring seasonal, trending and new beers daily.

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(517) 580-4400  
meatbbq.com

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**GRAVITY Smokehouse**  
1850 Cedar St,  
Holt  
(517) 258-4900  
www.gravitysmokehouse.com

**HUNGRY FOR SOMETHING UNFORGETTABLE?** Delicious, mouthwatering barbeque like no other. Perfectly cooked meat that falls off the bone and sauce so good you'll want to take some home. We have a food truck and cater events as well!

**Eastside Fish Fry**  
2417 E. Kalamazoo St.,  
Lansing  
(517) 993-5988  
eastsidefishfry.com

**GUY FIERI APPROVED!** We were featured on Food Network's Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives. Our fried home-style classics and fresh seafood are some of the best in Lansing. We've got the classics: fried chicken buckets, chicken wings, exotic fare, like frog legs and alligator tails and fresh seafood. Desserts, too!

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2501 E. Michigan Ave.  
Lansing  
(517) 882-1777  
eloasistruck.com

**TRY THE CROWN JEWEL OF LANSING'S FOOD TRUCKS.** Serving the Lansing community for 13 years, we extend an invitation to all those to give us a try to find out why we were voted the best food truck in Lansing's 2019 Top of The Town Contest.

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- Propose Term Limits for US Congress & Senate.

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#### Veterans

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Simplify benefits application process, including those to family.

#### Protect our Privacy

- Reduce government reach into our homes.

#### Michigan Oriented - Americans First

- Citizens' voices come first.

#### Sanctity of Life

- Life is a gift from God, not the Government.

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- Preserve and protect the Constitution.

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