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The politics and science of wearing masks

SEE PAGE 14



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Attorney At Law

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~Anthony Bahm

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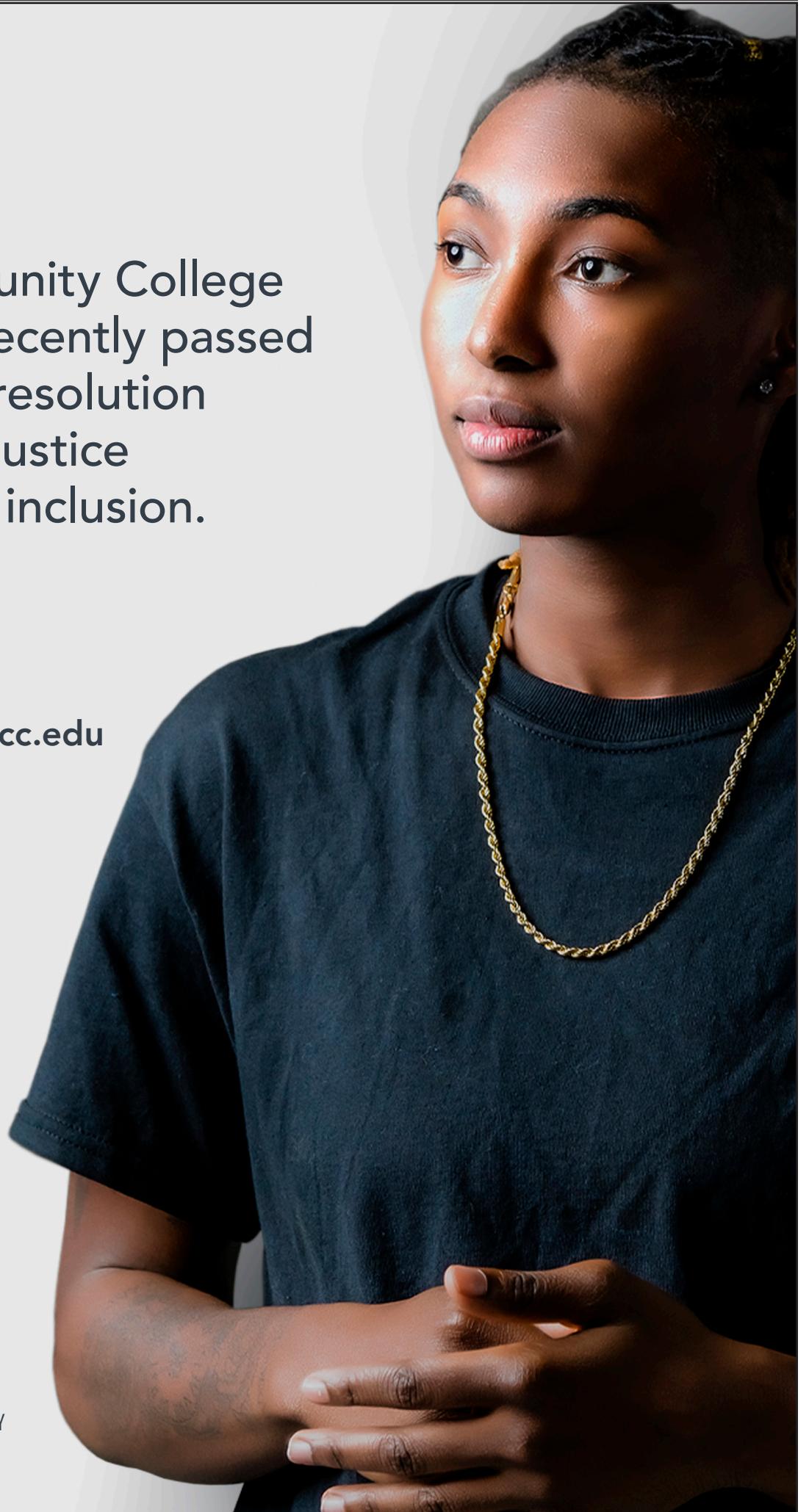
The Lansing Community College Board of Trustees recently passed a bold and historic resolution addressing racial injustice through equity and inclusion.

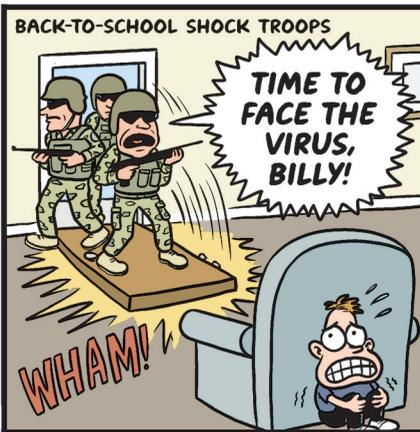
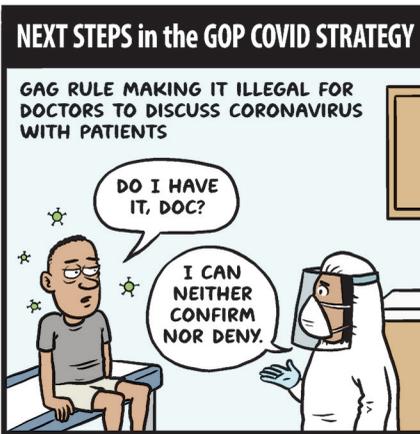


Read the full resolution at lcc.edu



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CityPULSE

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A piece of Lansing history is up for sale



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An in-depth list of movies about Black life



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New in Town: Sparty's Kabob



Cover Art

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

TRUMP RE-ELECTION STRATEGY

1. PROJECT OWN FLAWS ONTO OPPONENT

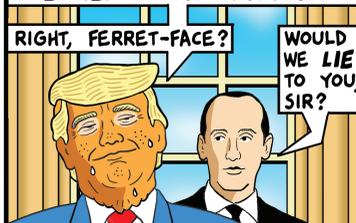
JOE BIDEN VERY MUCH CAN'T USE WORDS GOOD! HE RAMBLES FROM ONE TOPIC TO ANOTHER, AND BY THE WAY WE'VE BUILT VERY MANY MILES OF WALL AND CHINA SENT THE VIRUS!



2. EMPHASIZE ANY SCRAP OF EVIDENCE REMOTELY SUGGESTING POPULARITY

THERE ARE BOATERS FOR TRUMP, FLOATING AROUND, IN BOATS! AND BIKERS FOR TRUMP, BIG STRONG GUYS ON VROOM-VROOMS!

AND, AS I TWEET CONSTANTLY, 96% APPROVAL RATING IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY!



3. COMMUTE SENTENCE OF MAN WHO APPARENTLY HAS THE DIRT ON YOU, LIKE ANY TOTALLY INNOCENT PRESIDENT WOULD DO

I WOULD NEVER RAT YOU OUT, SIR! AND HOW COULD I, SINCE YOU HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG?

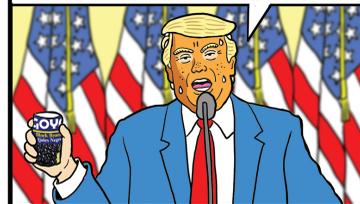
HAH! WHAT A JOKE-MAKING GUY YOU ARE! UH, I MEAN, YES, THAT'S VERY MUCH TRUE!



4. NEVER MIND THE STUPID VIRUS, FOCUS ON THINGS THAT REALLY MATTER

I WILL SEND UNACCOUNTABLE PARAMILITARY FORCES TO STOP THESE PROTESTS--AND PROTECT AMERICA'S PRECIOUS STATUES!

THEY WILL BE CALLED THE STATUE FORCE! AND THESE ELITE WARRIORS WILL SUBSIST ENTIRELY ON A DIET OF DELICIOUS GOYA BEANS!



5. EMBRACE RACIST ICONOGRAPHY

THIS FLAG'S NOT ABOUT RACE! IT'S ABOUT THE PROUD HERITAGE OF A BREAKAWAY NATION THAT LASTED SOME NUMBER OF YEARS, MAYBE FOUR, BUT SOME PEOPLE THINK FIVE!



6. WHEN IN DOUBT, MAKE STUFF UP

IF BIDEN WINS, CRIMINALS WILL RUN FREE! SUBURBS WILL BE ABOLISHED! THE STOCK MARKET WILL BE VERY MUCH NOT GOOD! YOUR BELOVED GOYA BRAND BEANS WILL BE OUTLAWED!



Tom Tomorrow © 2020

Better late than never

After more than two months of “recommending” that Michigan residents wear face coverings to help contain the spread of the coronavirus, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer finally decided to do what she should have done from the start: issue an executive order that makes the willful refusal to wear a mask in enclosed public places punishable as a misdemeanor, just like any other violation of her orders. The delay in getting tough on those who refuse to wear a mask (except children under age 5 and those with bonafide medical conditions) only served to allow political divisions over mask wearing to gain momentum and solidify into a pathetic and dangerous form of partisan protest. That said, we’re thankful she changed course, a move that will certainly save lives by increasing compliance, despite the childish tantrums and acts of foolishness and violence that continue to bedevil the retailers, restaurants and others who are on the front lines of enforcing the mandate. To those establishments that continue to serve maskless customers, shame on you for endangering your employees and contributing to the spread of the virus.

LPD gets it right

Kudos to Lansing Police Chief Daryl Green and Mayor Andy Schor for adopting policy changes in the Police Department that should help reduce racial disparities in the enforcement of traffic laws in Lansing and reduce the chances that an innocent person will be killed in a police raid. As to the first policy change, Green and Schor eliminated minor violations as a legitimate cause for a traffic stop, meaning LPD officers will need a better reason to pull you over than a burned-out license plate light, tinted windows or tchotchkes hanging from the rearview mirror. We’ll be watching closely to see if the changes move the needle on how often people of color are pulled over compared to white citizens. The other policy change prohibits Lansing officers from executing so-called “no-knock” search warrants of the sort that cost Breonna Taylor her life when police officers in Louisville raided her home and killed her, despite the fact that she was not the target of the raid. Ending the practice of no-knock raids,



The CP Edit

Opinion

in which officers enter a property by force with no warning to the occupants, will mitigate the potential for danger to innocent citizens. Judges issue such warrants in an effort to reduce the chances that a suspect will destroy evidence or prepare to harm police personnel involved in the raid. We understand these concerns but nonetheless support LPD discontinuing the practice. Nor will the department assist in no-knock warrants executed by another agency.

Lawless enforcement

On the other end of the spectrum, the law enforcement officials who refuse to enforce the governor’s face covering directive are guilty of nonfeasance and dereliction of duty. Full stop. It’s not the job of a local sheriff or police chief to question the validity of a legal emergency order issued by the governor. It’s akin to a soldier ignoring the orders issued by their commanding officer. Lest these fine officers forget: Each of them swore an oath to uphold the Constitution of the State of Michigan, which, they should note,

explicitly grants the governor the power to enact emergency orders with the full force and effect of law. As a public official, you don’t get to pick and choose which parts of the Constitution you recognize, or which emergency orders you will enforce. Even worse, refusing to enforce the order encourages defiance and noncompliance, which will only result in more infections, more deaths and the very real possibility of another lockdown order that will cause yet another wave of job losses and economic disruption. Voters would do well to remember in November.

East Lansing Council drama

Last week’s sudden resignations from the East Lansing City Council by now-former Mayor Ruth Beier and Council member Mark Meadows were entertaining political theater to be sure. Yet we’re not convinced it was the right thing to do. Even though we share the former Council members’ concerns about the process employed in firing longtime City Attorney Tom Yeadon, we believe it is better to stand and fight for what you think is right, rather than walking away in a huff. It’s not easy being in the minority of a deliberative public body — ask the Michigan Senate Democrats, who have been outnumbered in the state’s upper chamber for nearly four decades. It takes courage and perseverance to continue advocating for your constituents even when the odds are heavily stacked against you. We would have rather seen Beier and Meadows show some fortitude and continue to serve the people who voted for them until the end of their terms. Now their former and woefully inexperienced colleagues on the Council will appoint their replacements, diminishing the voices of those who chose Beier and Meadows to represent them, and reducing the institutional knowledge, diversity of perspectives and rigor of debate on future issues that come before the body.

Send letters to the editor on this editorial or any other topic to letters@lansingcitypulse.com.

Please limit them to 250 words. See Letters to the Editor on page 6.

LETTERS to the editor

What happened on the EL City Council?

I'm a resident of East Lansing since 1958 and have loved living here with my family. I've observed Council over decades of change and progress and was appointed to the Planning Commission, Economic Development Commission and the Arts Commission. I've been on a committee which hired a City Manager. My involvement has been unpaid, and hopefully, of service to my community.

The recent resignation from Council by the sitting Mayor and the former Mayor and State Representative is unprecedented. East Lansing is a thriving Midwestern University town in the middle of major economic development involving Council, City employees, City appointees with fiduciary responsibilities, and local and out of town developers, builders, and business interests.

At the moment, the remaining three members of Council are defining the story. They now have the right to appoint two citizens who will serve, as I understand it, until the next general election in 2021.

Clearly, there is a journalistic duty to discover what would compel two seasoned, dedicated, and experi-

Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages?

Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor.

• E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com

• Snail mail: City Pulse,

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Lansing, MI 48912

• Fax: (517) 371-5800

• At lansingcitypulse.com

2.) Write a guest column:

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information:

publisher@lansingcitypulse.com

or (517) 999-5061

(Please include your name, address and

telephone number so we can reach you.

Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City

Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and

columns.

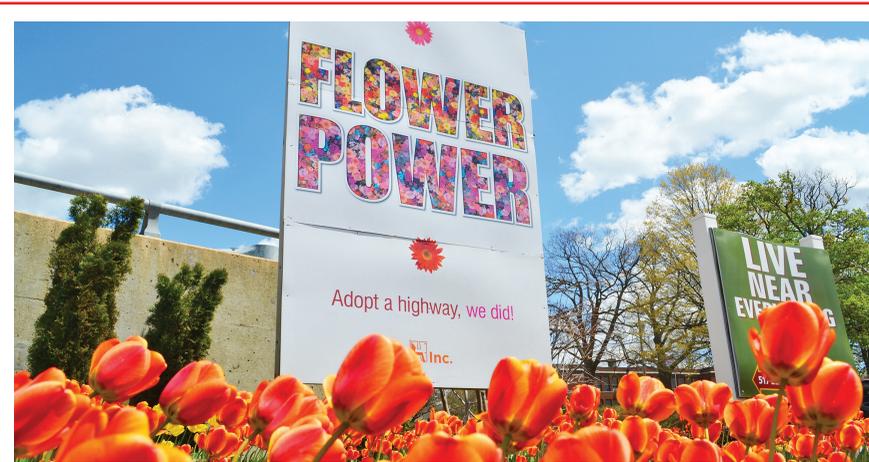
enced City Council members to resign during a regularly scheduled Council meeting. I would like to know more and I'm sure the public would also.

Elinor M. Holbrook
East Lansing

Black with a capital B is wrong

It is wrong to treat some people less than other people – that is discrimination. To capitalize 'B' but not 'W' and other skin color references – is discriminatory. Two wrongs ≠ a right. How about treating everyone equally?! Why not capitalize the 'w' in women but not the 'm' in men?

Mel Holden
Lansing



A few changes in 95 years

Thank you for the lovely "Covid Spring" page. I saw the beautiful tulips on Oakland and enjoyed the prose and poetry below the picture. As a lifetime resident, born in Sparrow Hospital 95+ years ago, I have seen many changes and comparisons.

At the tuberculosis "San", now McLaren Hospital, contagious persons were treated and isolated for months. Even now workers need "T.B." shots. The Health Dept. put warning signs on a house if a childhood disease was present there. Now "Baby Shots" are used. I remember many boys missed our graduation in 1942, though the war

was far away in other countries, we watched and feared an invasion here. We lived near the Oldsmobile & Fisher Body and saw their fast change to war-time needs. In 1949 we lived through Polio deaths and the terrible fear of paralysis and iron lungs. Children swallowed Salk vaccine sugar squares at schools.

My father worked at the MI Tuberculosis Assn. after his mailman retirement and may have known Mr. Nichols in the "Coping with Quarantine" picture feature.

Hopefully, while this "Covid-19" coronavirus crisis has uprooted and affected many families world-wide, this pandemic, with a great Vaccine, will be another bad memory!

Kathleen Graham Kehren
Lansing

The Legislature should do its job: Pass laws to make elections smoother

By **BARB BYRUM**

(The writer is the clerk of Ingham County.)

The recent spat between Sen. Ruth Johnson and Sec. of State Jocelyn Benson regarding Benson's mailing of absentee ballot applications to Michigan voters is not productive as we approach a significant presidential election in November and during a global pandemic.

Instead of further spreading the misinformed claims made by President Trump, Sen. Johnson should be focusing on ways the Michigan Legis-



Byrum

lature can make it easier for registered voters to exercise their constitutional right to vote.

That is what Michigan voters approved when they overwhelmingly passed Proposal 3 in 2018, which allows every registered voter to vote an absentee ballot if they choose. The Legislature should make sure our state election laws reflect the will of the voters.

Both the League of Women Voters of Michigan and American Civil Liberties Union recently filed lawsuits to ensure what voters approved in 2018 is implemented.

As your local clerk, I do not have time to get caught up in misinformation being spread by the President and his Republican allies. Clerks like me have worked hard to adapt to make sure Proposal 3 is enforced. Here are

ways the Legislature can support that:

Make creation of permanent absent voter ballot application lists mandatory

Proposal 3 allows voters to receive a ballot application no less than 45 days before an election without having to request one. Legislation requiring this would ensure voters have sufficient time to choose if they want to vote in person or absentee and make it consistent between communities.

Limited pre-processing of absentee ballots

Reporting results of absentee ballots takes much longer than in-person votes because clerks are not allowed to pre-process ballots until polls open on Election Day. Bills currently in the Michigan Legislature would allow clerks to process absentee ballots early while keeping them safely stored.

Change election-related deadlines

If the filing dates for candidates and ballot proposals are moved back several weeks, county clerks could more easily meet election deadlines and get ballots to local clerks more quickly so they can meet the ballot availability requirements for overseas and absentee voters.

Require ballot applications be fulfilled immediately

Some local clerks that hold onto ballot requests for days before mailing ballots out to residents. Local clerks should be required to send ballots to all voters who request them within one business day when inside the 40-day.

Allow ballots to be postmarked by Election Day

Voters should not be penalized because of delays in the process of mailing their ballots. Counting ballots postmarked by Election Day ensures every vote is counted and not left out because of delays that are out of voters' control.

Require local clerks to have drop boxes for completed applications and ballots

Many voters who want to drop their ballots off in person are working during business hours. The state should require all local clerks to make this option available to their residents.

I urge the Legislature to pass this important Legislation right away so we can improve our electoral system as voters demanded in 2018.

Local cop pushes back against defunding the Lansing Police Dept.

Officer: Councilman only promoting 'rampant racial hysteria' to push political agenda

A decorated officer at the Lansing Police Department is speaking out against a recent proposal that would halve his department's budget by 2025. The "rampant racial hysteria" driving the push for reforms simply doesn't exist in Lansing, he said.

"Something is broken. Something isn't working. I know there are national examples of shitty police work," said John Cosme, a 22-year LPD veteran, named Lansing "Officer of the Year" in 2016. "I just don't see those national examples taking place in our community. At the end of the day, this rampant racial hysteria driving this whole conversation just doesn't exist in Lansing."

Cosme, said he was speaking without permission from Police Department. He sent a seven-page letter to City Pulse last week that rebutted a recent proposal from Councilman Brandon Betz and local Black Lives Matter activists to slash Police Department funding by 20% in 2021 and halve it by 2025.

Cosme's goal: Reset the local narrative surrounding recent social unrest. Officers in Lansing don't have the same institutional problems as places like Minneapolis and plans that would kowtow to national demands for reforms are largely unnecessary at LPD, Cosme contended.

"I just know our training has been substantially reduced over the last five years because of these budget constraints," Cosme added. "I also know that without proper funding, this department and this city will suffer, and that will have a real impact on the citizens of Lansing."

Earlier this year, Betz stood alongside Black community leaders outside Lansing City Hall and introduced a proposal that aims to launch a Council committee that would redirect half the police budget into social equity programs over the next five years, cleaving LPD's total budget by \$23 million.

Cosme argued that LPD's budget, if anything, should see an increase to allow for additional training for his colleagues. Lansing officers already adhere to progressive standards and policies, wear body cameras and are held accountable through a complaint system, he said.

A "knee-jerk reaction" like defunding the Police Department "to satisfy mis-



Cosme

informed bullies" is neither prudent or fair, Cosme wrote in his letter. LPD cannot operate at its current standards with a 50% budget cut and it "should be embarrassing for anyone supporting the idea," he said.

Betz contends that local Black communities have been "victimized" by police violence for years in Lansing. It's not time for "half-measures or small reforms" like more simple training, he said. "We have to stand for justice and fundamentally change the way we think about public safety."

In nearly 28,000 traffic stops in Lansing over the last three years, about 33% of drivers were Black, statistics showed. They were also about three times more likely to be searched or arrested compared to white drivers in the capital city. Betz wants to curb that statistical bias.

Cosme, who is Puerto Rican, argues that communities of color face more socio-economic challenges in Lansing, which inherently leads to a higher rate of criminal activity. That doesn't mean local cops are targeting Black people. He doesn't have a "race radar detector," he said.

Betz' proposed committee would also be designed to issue recommendations on how to administer public safety with the reduced funding levels by assembling a report by February.

Police officers nationwide have been expected to fill the void created by ever-shrinking mental health services. Studies show that up to 20% of police encounters involve mental health or substance abuse issues. Betz' proposal aims to unbundle those services from law enforcement.

But with about 80% of LPD's annual budget heading directly to payroll and benefits, that means many local cops will invariably be out of a job over the next five years. And Cosme said that's a risk the city cannot afford to take — if only for the sake of public safety in local neighborhoods.

LPD officials said every officer-involved shooting over the last 29 years has been justified and involved the other party

being armed with some type of weapon. There has also been no documented and verified instances of excessive force at the hands of local cops in 22 years.

(Cosme is on administrative leave with five other Lansing police officers and a sergeant while the Michigan State Police investigate their role in a May 26 fatal shooting on Walnut Street. Such suspensions and investigations are routine in fatal incidents.)

Cosme said the city's Violent Crime Impact Team have also seized a total of almost 400 firearms over the last six years. A funding reduction could be those efforts in jeopardy, he said.

"LPD does not deserve to be judged by the mistakes of any other agency in this country," Cosme said, urging residents to "slow down and take a deep breath" before defunding anything.

Police Chief Daryl Green rolled out at least two noteworthy policy reforms in the wake of recent social unrest. Local cops will no longer pull

over drivers for minor infractions like broken taillights in an effort to curb unnecessary police contact. No-knock warrants have also been banned.

But with secondary equipment violations only accounting for about 15% of traffic stops, and only three no-knock warrants included among 284 searches conducted over the last five years, some have questioned whether the so-called reforms are actually geared toward meaningful changes.

"At the end of the day, we're all going to be held accountable because we have our body-worn cameras on all the time anyway," Cosme added. "We also have a complaint process in place. I don't think the idea of less contact with the community necessarily changes a whole lot here."

"If there are discussions on where we can cut the fat, then let's cut it," he said. "If we can get rid of these traffic stops, fine. If our tactical guys lose the ability with warrants, sure. To me, that all shows progress and that we're all open and willing to communicate. We just also need to be careful to understand what's actually effective and impactful for our specific police department."

Cosme also told City Pulse there had been a "dramatic" increase in 911 calls for gunshots this year to stress the importance of police funding. Records show LPD tracked 205 "shots fired" incidents in 2020, only a slight uptick from 196 of those calls reported at this time last year.

"I'm a big fan of the family concept," Cosme added. "If our families work, then our communities work. If you come from a strong family, you're less

See Police, Page 8



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Lansing City Councilman Brandon Betz announces a plan earlier this month to redirect half of the police budget into social equity programs. To his left are Angela Waters Austin, a cofounder of the local chapter of Black Lives Matter, and local activist Michael Lynn Jr.

Police

from page 7

likely to get involved in things that invite law enforcement in your life. I can't agree with some of the other narratives being thrown around."

Betz said Cosme does not speak for the residents who have experienced harassment, violence and racism at the hands of police. Endlessly increasing police budgets will not reduce police violence, end the school-to-prison pipeline or protect local citizens, he said in response.

"We, the residents of Lansing, have a choice to make," Betz said in a written

statement.

"We can choose to live in fear and use police as a weapon to suppress the lives of Black and brown people or we can choose to invest in our communities to weaken the root causes of poverty and crime while maintaining more effective public safety measures," Betz explained. "Our resolution will start the critical work of looking into the real numbers and centering the voices of Black and brown communities so we can transform public safety in Lansing."

Cosme said Betz thrives on "emotional rhetoric" to promote his own political agenda.

"He likes to say things that put people into an emotional quicksand. He's using his platform to scare people into this racial hysteria. I don't trust someone's intentions are fair when there is

so much emotional crap attached to it," Cosme added. "If he was on my football team, I'd tell him to stand in line or sit on the bench. You know? This rookie isn't going to get the ball for this game."

City officials and other Council members have been hesitant to make any cuts to the Police Department budget. The concept wasn't even mentioned when the latest budget passed in May. Betz said he only recently became aware of the pressing need for financial reforms at LPD.

Mayor Andy Schor's "Racial Justice and Equity Community Action" plan — a work in progress — aims to eventually hire a diversity officer and create a more detailed plan on any funding adjustments.

Betz said the results and recommendations that eventually come from his

recently proposed ad-hoc committee on police divestment would still almost entirely rely on Schor's office to weave them into a working budget proposal for the next fiscal year. Schor has made no commitments.

A series of virtual community meetings on racial justice, social equity and Lansing Police Department funding designed to collect public feedback begins this week with an online meeting from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 23. Future meetings are also slated for Aug. 6 and 20.

Visit lansingcitypulse.com to read John Cosme's unedited seven-page letter in its entirety. As noted in this story, some of its factual assertions on crime statistics in Lansing are incorrect.

— **KYLE KAMINSKI**

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF ELECTION TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2020

To the qualified electors of the City of Lansing:

Please take notice that the City of Lansing will hold an Election on Tuesday, August 4, 2020.

For the purpose of nominating candidates to the following offices:

U.S. Senator, U. S. Representative in Congress, State Senator, State Representative, County Prosecuting Attorney, County Sheriff, County Clerk, County Treasurer, County Register of Deeds, County Drain Commissioner, County Commissioner, Delegates to County Convention

For the purpose of voting on the following proposals:

County: Elder Persons Millage (Ingham County ONLY), Emergency Telephone Service Millage Renewal (Ingham County ONLY)

City: Parks and Recreation Millage Renewal

Voting Precincts and Polling Places are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Pct. 1 – Gier Park Community Center | Pct. 22 – Southside Community Center |
| Pct. 2 – Grand River Head Start | Pct. 23 – Woodcreek School |
| Pct. 3 – Post Oak School | Pct. 24 – Southside Community Center
(August 2020 ONLY) |
| Pct. 4 – Pattengill School | Pct. 25 – Southside Community Center
(August 2020 ONLY) |
| Pct. 5 – Foster Community Center | Pct. 26 – Southside Community Center |
| Pct. 6 – Pilgrim Congregational Church | Pct. 27 – Pleasant View School |
| Pct. 7 – Pilgrim Congregational Church | Pct. 28 – Dwight Rich School |
| Pct. 8 – Bethlehem Temple Church | Pct. 29 – Tabernacle of David Church |
| Pct. 9 – Board of Water and Light | Pct. 30 – Tabernacle of David Church |
| Pct. 10 – South Washington Office Cplx. | Pct. 31 – Dwight Rich School |
| Pct. 45 – Foster Community Center | |
| | Pct. 32 – Elmhurst School |
| | Pct. 33 – Lewton School |
| Pct. 11 – South Washington Office Cplx. | Pct. 34 – South Washington Office Cplx. |
| Pct. 12 – Lyons School | Pct. 35 – First Presbyterian Church |
| Pct. 13 – Cavanaugh School | Pct. 36 – Letts Community Center |
| Pct. 14 – Gardner School | Pct. 37 – Letts Community Center |
| Pct. 15 – Mt. Hope School | Pct. 38 – Willow Elementary School |
| Pct. 16 – Parker Memorial Baptist Church | Pct. 39 – Emanuel First Lutheran Church |
| Pct. 17 – Kendon School | Pct. 40 – Willow School |
| Pct. 18 – Gardner School | Pct. 41 – Cumberland School |
| Pct. 19 – North School | Pct. 42 – Transitions North |
| Pct. 20 – North School | Pct. 43 – St. Stephen Lutheran Church |
| Pct. 21 – Forest View School | Pct. 44 – St. Casimir Catholic Church |

To comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), voting instructions will be available in audio format and in Braille. Arrangements for obtaining the instructions in these alternative formats can be made by contacting the Clerk's Office in advance of the election. All polling locations are accessible for voters with disabilities.

To see if you are registered or to find your polling location, check the Secretary of State Voter Information web site at www.michigan.gov/vote.

Photo Identification OR Affidavit Required to Vote:

Under a Michigan law upheld by the Michigan Supreme Court, ALL voters will be asked to show photo identification to vote at the polls. Voters without identification will be required to fill out and sign an affidavit in order to receive a ballot.

Anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the following locations and times:

Location	Address	Regular Business Hours
Lansing City Clerk - City Hall	124 W Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933	Mon - Thur 8am - 5pm
Lansing City Clerk - Election Unit	2500 S. Washington Ave. Lansing, MI 48910	Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm Wednesdays 8am - 7pm

Additional times outside of the above listed regular business hours are as follows:

Location	Address	Additional Hours
Lansing City Clerk - City Hall	124 W Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933	Election Day August 4 7am - 8pm
Lansing City Clerk - Election Unit	2500 S Washington Ave. Lansing, MI 48910	Saturday August 1 11 am - 5pm Sunday August 2 11 am - 5 pm Election Day August 4 7am - 8pm

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS

Any registered voter may request an Absent Voter Ballot. No reason required.

The Lansing City Clerk's Office must have a signed application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. Applications are available at the locations referenced in the above table or by visiting our website at lansingmi.gov/clk.

Monday, August 3, 2020 at 4:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot except for those who register to vote on Election Day. Ballots issued on Monday, August 3, 2020 must be requested and voted in person at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, locations referenced in the above table.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, August 4, 2020, are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, locations referenced in the above table.

Chris Swope, MMC/MIPMC
Lansing City Clerk
Phone: 517-483-4131
Email: City.clerk@lansingmi.gov
Website: www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#20-171

Do you have one and a half million bucks to spare?

One of Lansing's grandest and biggest old houses, the 1926 Potter House at 1348 Cambridge St., was listed for sale last week.

Co-owner James McClurken has lived in and cared for the 15,000-square-foot Tudor pile for 12 years, along with his husband, pianist and recording engineer Sergei Kvitko. McClurken said he's "getting old" (he's about to turn 70) and has been thinking about downsizing for a while.

"I don't need this much space, and I'm looking for a less complicated life," McClurken said.

Caring for the house and its extensive grounds has long been a challenge for McClurken, who considers himself a steward of a community resource more than an owner and takes the house's preservation seriously.

In his first several years of occupancy, McClurken estimated that he spent about \$1,000 a month on restoring and maintaining the house.

"I've had to forego a lot of vacations and a lot of other stuff to do this house," he said. "I want to get out of here while I'm young enough to enjoy it."

One of Potter House's most remarkable features is a 2,000-square-foot ballroom on the third floor, the largest single residential room in Lansing. The ballroom has served Kvitko as both concert hall and base of operations for his internationally acclaimed recording studio and Blue Griffin CD label.

But as the music business has changed, Kvitko has shifted more toward bringing his engineering skills to studios and other venues around the country and the world.

"Sergei travels a lot more to do his recordings, and it just doesn't bear the expense anymore," McClurken said. Kvitko is now on a swing through the southern United States, producing recordings in Nashville and Louisiana.

One of the city's biggest and most idiosyncratic homes, Potter House served a stint in the '60s and '70s as a lavish crib for three successive heads of Lansing's Roman Catholic diocese.

Each room and hallway is enriched by innumerable details, from painted animal murals to Scottish thistles, Moravian star light fixtures and odd Zodiac tiles from Flint Faience.

Much of the detail work, including the murals and the delicate, seven-colored acanthus leaf moldings, had to be restored after brutal makeovers from previous owners.

Sarah Potter, the guiding spirit of



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

The third floor of the Potter House is a glittering stucco ballroom used as a concert hall and recording studio by co-owner Sergei Kvitko.

Potter House, gave her favorite cat a 10th life by enshrining her likeness in concrete on the front door lintel.

Ray and Sarah Potter commissioned the house in 1926 from Lansing architect Harold Childs. Ray Potter was a timber scout, businessman, banker, benefactor of Sparrow Hospital and founder of the Greater Lansing Foundation, predecessor of the Capital Region Community Foundation.

His father, James Potter, donated Potter Park to the city of Lansing; his grandfather, Linus, settled Potterville. Sarah Potter was a mainstay of the Lansing Woman's Club and an indefatigable hostess. When Ransom E. Olds hosted Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford in his home, Olds asked Sarah Potter to be the hostess.

The Potters had no kids, but they used their rambling digs to entertain almost continuously, a tradition McClurken and Kvitko redoubled with an anti-elitist, egalitarian flair. A consultant specializing in Native American issues, McClurken seems to take a tribal view of homeownership.

"The house been a community center for a long time, and we just continued that tradition," McClurken said.

Hundreds of people drifted through the house for the couple's New Year's Eve bashes and thousands more have attended art shows, concerts and fundraisers for organizations as diverse as the Potter Park Zoo, Fenner Nature Center, Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. and various non-profits and political causes.

Potter House can handle a shindig. It was built to industrial, not residential, standards, with bones of steel and concrete.

As soon as McClurken and Kvitko

moved in, they had to deal with three disastrous leaks, caused by rampant ivy and consequent wall and ceiling damage. Truckloads of tangled brush, including 20 long-dead elm trees, had to be hauled away.

For several years, McClurken and Kvitko picked a room each year and waded into the ongoing restoration. In 1961, Bishop Joseph Albers had redecorated the house in a modern style, stripping the hardware off the walls

and painting the whole house institutional green, including the copper fireplace hood. Fortunately, the bishop stored the fixtures in the attic.

Subsequent owners, the Mussers — of the family that owned the Grand Hotel — introduced a paint scheme so radical McClurken thinks it scared off prospective buyers. McClurken retained tiny traces of Mussers' extreme décor, including a crimson light switch.

In one of the most drastic makeovers in the city's history, the Mussers turned Bishop Albers' chapel into a lounge and converted the altar into a rolling bar. They left blood-red walls, blue ceilings, and a bedroom with a portrait of George H.W. Bush over one bed and George W. over the other.

"We thought we might need another exorcism," McClurken deadpanned.

Outside the walls, McClurken restored 12 original steel-lined garden beds in the front and back yards, and the landscaping never ends.

"I spent way, way, way too much time tending gardens and trimming," he said. "I'm ready to do much, much less."

Passersby often mistake McClurken for a gardener as he works on the grounds, spattered with soil. He often surprises them by offering them an impromptu tour.

He said the listing, announced Wednesday, is a "trial balloon" and he is in no rush to sell, but he added that the house has already attracted national interest.

"We'll sell it to someone who will appreciate the place, and then they'll go and change everything," he said sardonically. "But it's already been butchered twice, and it'll come back."

— LAWRENCE COSENTINO



Swallowtail Farm 1633 Hagadorn Road, Mason

There is something especially lovely about a drive in the country on a summer day, and this week's Eye Candy offers a destination for just such a trip. The farm stand operated by Swallowtail Farm, 1633 Hagadorn Road, just north of Mason, is open in the afternoons on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. The first sight one sees when coming from the north is the two-story red brick Italianate structure that is the home for this family-owned and operated farm. From property records, it appears the house was built in 1860. While it now might seem incongruous to see such a formal-looking home in the middle of the countryside, it was fairly common in the mid-19th century. In fact, this style — characterized by a low-pitched roof with widely overhanging eaves, decorative brackets under an ornamental cornice, and tall, narrow windows — was the most popular Romantic style in the mid-19th century. Adding to the charm of this place is the owner's ingenuity. The farm is environmentally verified, a state designation that means they are good stewards of the land. Swallowtail Farm also hosts events at the farm, offers a salad club, and sells its award-winning syrups at select locations throughout the region.

— CARRIE SAMPSON

"Eye Candy of the Week" is our look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call Berl Schwartz at 999-5061.

Christine Timmon is on the ballot and other curiosities

The eccentric political gadfly Christine Timmon is back.

Believe it or not, the litigious political agitator known for her rambling public access television show and wild appearances is running for the

state House in St. Clair Shores, the 18th District represented by state Sen. Curtis Hertel's brother.

"Capitol City Chris" is running as a Republican and has no shot at beating two-term Rep. Kevin Hertel, but the fact Timmon is back on the Michigan politics scene may have some politicians feeling a little uneasy.

For those unfamiliar with Timmon's antics, give Virg Bernero a ring. About 15 years ago she railed against the senator-turned-mayor in whatever venue she could muster. She ran a public access show. She published her own hard-copy newspaper once.

The 78-year-old Eastpoint resident worked at the Detroit Edison



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Engineering Department a lifetime ago and has since pushed for government transparency through at least seven lawsuits.

She left for Florida a decade ago and wrapped herself into local and state politics in the Sunshine State. There, she advertised herself as a lieutenant gubernatorial candidate, but she never made the ballot.

Timmon is one of several colorful characters to make the ballot in 2020 as state representative candidates, none of whom have any chance at all of winning. Here they are:

— James Forrest Chapman, 21st House District: His well-established checkered past came before he showed up at the Capitol lawn with a Barbie doll wrapped around the end of a fishing pole to presumably protest the governor.

The Van Buren Township Republican is a habitual offender with a lengthy rap sheet interspersed with prior political runs. While of most his convictions are for petty crime, he was flagged for a felony assault charge in

1990.

— Michelle "Shelly" Gregoire, 62nd House District: The pro-liberty activist strode onto a closed state House gallery this spring with a couple of pals, blowing off a couple of House sergeants in the process. Security didn't like that.

When requests to leave didn't work, Chief Sergeant David Dickson dragged Gregoire out of the gallery by the arm as she yelled, "Don't fucking touch me!"

— Chad Baase, 62nd House District: Before he started putting together a Recall Whitmer petition drive, the Albion Republican was sentenced to 30 months in prison for threatening to poison water supplies and kill court referees, county judges and their children.

Baase later said he was drunk and the time and neck deep in a contentious child custody matter with his former wife. Earlier this year, he was paroled from prison for a third drunk driving offense.

— Raymond and Lynne Freiburger, 50th House District: He's running as a Democrat and she's running as a Republican. Yes, for the same Genesee County seat. The friendly married couple want to unseat Rep. Tim Sneller so badly they're willing to try twice. He

in the primary and she in the General Election, if she wins her primary.

What happens if they both win their primaries and face each other in the General Election? "Well, I'll probably kick her out of the house," said Raymond, before pausing and saying, "No, she'll probably kick me out."

— Kevin Seamon, 94th House District: The self-proclaimed "government medium psychic" claims to be involved in a "real-life government assassin program with the Code Name 'White Knight 196.'"

According to Facebook, the 41-year-old Saginaw Democrat has worked at Delphi and as an auditor for a consulting company, but based on his prior claims, it probably wouldn't hurt to double-check that.

— Shane Atwell, 97th House District: If elected, this 20-year-old progressive would be the youngest person ever sworn into office as a state representative at age 21 years, 1 month and 11 days.

— Elizabeth Goss, 27th House District: This Pleasant Ridge mother of six may be the only Michigan state House candidate to ever say she's won on the game show "Jeopardy."

(Kyle Melinn of the Capitol news service MIRS is at melinnky@gmail.com.)

WeGO Together

Vote

DeKeea Quinney-Davis Ingham County Clerk

August 4th

- Former Ingham County Deputy Clerk, 2012-2015
- Fair, Honest, and Respectable
- Working to make a more inclusive Ingham County



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING
NOTICE OF THE
PRIMARY ELECTION
TO BE HELD ON
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2020**

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING, COUNTY OF INGHAM, STATE OF MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the Primary Election will be held in the
Charter Township of Lansing,
County of Ingham, State of Michigan

TUESDAY AUGUST 4, 2020
From 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

AT THE PLACE OR PLACES FOR HOLDING THE ELECTION IN SAID TOWNSHIP AS INDICATED BELOW, VIZ:

PRECINCT 1 - First Christian Church, 1001 Chester Road
PRECINCT 2 - Asbury United Methodist Church, 2200 Lake Lansing Road
PRECINCTS 3, 4, 6, - Waverly East Intermediate School, 3131 W. Michigan Avenue

ALL POLLING PLACES ARE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE, VOTING INSTRUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE FOLLOWING FORMATS: BRAILLE AND AUDIO

FOR THE PURPOSE OF NOMINATING CANDIDATES OF THE DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PARTIES FOR PARTISAN OFFICES:

CONGRESSIONAL: **U.S. Senator and U. S. Representative in Congress – 8th District**
LEGISLATIVE: **Representative in State Legislature – 68th District**
COUNTY: **Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Clerk, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Drain Commissioner, County Commissioners in Districts 1 and 10**
TOWNSHIP: **Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, Trustees (4)**
DELEGATE: **Delegates to County Convention of the Democratic and Republican Parties**

ALSO TO VOTE ON THE FOLLOWING COUNTY PROPOSALS: Full text of proposals can be found at www.michigan.gov/vote.

COUNTY PROPOSALS

INGHAM COUNTY ELDER PERSONS MILLAGE

For the purpose of authorizing funding to eliminate wait lists and expanding critical services such as in-home care, meals on wheels and crisis services to support the growing population of persons age sixty (60) and older residing in Ingham County, shall the Constitutional limitation upon the total amount of taxes which may be assessed in one (1) year upon all property within the County of Ingham, Michigan be increased by up to 30/100 (0.3000) of one (1) mill, \$0.30 per thousand dollars of state taxable valuation, for a period of four (4) years (2020-2023) inclusive? If approved and levied in full, this Millage will raise an estimated \$2,304,866 in the first calendar year of the levy, based on state taxable valuation.

Yes or No

INGHAM COUNTY EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE (911 SERVICE) MILLAGE RENEWAL QUESTION

For the purpose of renewing funding for a comprehensive countywide 911 Emergency Telephone and Dispatch System at the same millage level previously approved by the voters in 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012 and in 2016, shall the Constitutional limitation upon the total amount of taxes which may be assessed in one (1) year upon all property within the County of Ingham, Michigan, previously increased by up to 0.8500 mills, \$0.85 per \$1,000 of taxable value, be continued and renewed for a period of ten (10) years (2020-2029) inclusive? If approved and levied in full, this millage will raise an estimated \$6,530,454 for the countywide 911 Emergency Telephone and Dispatch System in the first calendar year of the levy based on taxable value.

Yes or No

THE POLLS of said election will be open at 7 o'clock a.m. and will remain open until 8 o'clock p.m. of said day of election.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK, MONDAYS THRU FRIDAYS FROM 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

My Office will be open on Saturday, August 1, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to accept absentee applications.

Susan L. Aten, Clerk
Charter Township of Lansing

CP#20-167

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL**

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider an application for a special use permit from Gateway of East Lansing, LLC for the property at 300 West Grand River Avenue to convert first floor retail space to a fitness center for residents and non-residents of 300 West Grand River Avenue. The subject property is zoned B-2, Retail Sales Business District.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider a Site Plan and Special Use Permit application from CA-East Lansing, Inc. for the property at 1234 E. Grand River Avenue to create an adult-use marijuana retail establishment. The subject property is zoned East Village.
3. A public hearing will be held to consider a Site Plan and Special Use Permit application from Green Peak Industries, LLC d/b/a Green Peak Innovations for the property at 3315 Coolidge Road to create an adult-use marijuana retail establishment. The subject property is in the B-4, Restricted Office Business District.
4. A public hearing will be held to consider a Site Plan and Special Use Permit application from RJB Enterprises, LLC for the property at 1950 Merritt Road to create an adult-use marijuana retail establishment. The subject property is in the B-1, General Office Business District.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing, prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-377.

Note: This hearing is currently scheduled to occur as a regular public hearing at the meeting. If, at the time of this hearing meetings are still not permitted under an Executive Order of the Governor and an Executive Order permitting meetings electronically allows for an electronic meeting, this hearing will occur electronically and a notice of the means of participation in that hearing will be published in compliance with the Open Meetings Act and any relevant Executive Orders.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#20-168

**CITY OF LANSING
PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST
FOR THE TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2020 ELECTION**

Notice is hereby given that the public test of the program, which will be used for tabulating the results of the Election to be held Tuesday, August 4, 2020 in the City of Lansing, will be conducted at the Lansing City Clerk's Election Unit located at the South Washington Office Complex at 2500 South Washington Avenue on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

The public accuracy test is conducted to determine that the program used to tabulate the results of the election counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

ABSENTEE VOTER BALLOTS

Any registered voter may request an Absent Voter Ballot. No reason required.

We must have a signed application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. Applications are available at www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk or by calling 517-483-4131.

The Lansing City Clerk's Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave., 9th Floor, will be open Monday thru Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to issue absentee ballots to qualified electors.

The Lansing City Clerk's Election Unit, 2500 S. Washington Ave (rear entrance), will be open:

- Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
- Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Saturday, August 1, 2020 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sunday, August 2, 2020 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

to register voters and to issue absentee ballots to qualified electors.

Monday, August 3, 2020 at 4:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot except for those who register to vote on Election Day. Ballots issued on Monday, August 3, 2020 must be requested and voted in person at the Lansing City Clerk's Office or the Lansing City Clerk's Election Unit.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, August 4, 2020 are eligible to receive an absentee voter ballot at the Lansing City Clerk's Office or the Lansing City Clerk's Election Unit.

Chris Swope, MMC/MiPMC
Lansing City Clerk
Phone: 517-483-4131
Email: City.Clerk@lansingmi.gov
Website: www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#20-170

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

**MONTGOMERY DRAIN MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
DIVISION XI**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Patrick Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, being Chair of the Montgomery Drain Chapter 20 Drainage Board, will receive bids until **August 3, 2020, at 11:00 a.m.** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Social Distancing protocols are being implemented for this Project by conducting a Virtual Bid Letting only and will only accept bids submitted through the QuestCDN website, unless further advised via Addendum. Bids relative to Division XI will then be opened and announced on August 3, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. and, after a meeting of the Montgomery Drain Drainage Board, will be publicly awarded for work to be undertaken in connection with a drain known and designated as the "Montgomery Drain." The format of bid opening will be via a Zoom web conference available through the following link or telephone conference:

Topic: Montgomery Drain Bid Opening
Date / Time: August 3, 2020, 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82897476199>
Dial by your location
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 828 9747 6199

The major items of work in connection with construction of the Montgomery Drain and coordination of work for other permitted activities within Division XI include the following:

1. Storm Sewer 12" to 30" – Approx. 5,600 lf
2. Drainage Structure – Approx. 83 each
3. Sidewalk – Approx. 7,000 syds
4. Curb & Gutter – Approx. 12,200 lf
5. Paving – Approx. 22,300 syds
6. Water Quality Infiltration Swales/Channels
7. Water Quality Supply & Return Piping
8. Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control
9. Traffic Control

All quantities listed are approximate and final payment will be made on measured quantities.

One contract is being let for this work, which will include all material necessary to perform same. These contracts will be let in accordance with the Contract Documents and bids will be made and received in accordance with these documents.

Bidders wishing to download the Plans and Specifications at a cost of \$30.00 (which includes the cost of bid submission) may do so by going to the Bidding section of the LSG Engineers & Surveyors website at www.lsg-es.com. You may view and download the digital project bidding documents by entering Quest Project Number **7221225** on the website's project search page. Please contact Quest CDN Customer Support at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with the digital project information.

A pre-bid conference will be held on July 28, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Social Distancing protocols will continue to be followed and this pre-bid conference will be conducted via video and telephone conference. The format of pre-bid conference will be via a Zoom web conference available through the following link or telephone conference.

Topic: Montgomery Drain Division XI Pre-Bid Conference
Date / Time: July 28, 2020, 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81506239197>
Dial by your location
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 815 0623 9197

Representatives of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner and Engineer will be available at the pre-bid conference to discuss the Drain Contract. All prospective bidders will be required to submit a certification of compliance with Public Act 517 of 2012 prior to bid award. The Engineer will transmit to all prospective Bidders of record such Addenda as the Engineer considers necessary in response to questions. Oral statements may not be relied upon and will not be binding or legally effective. Use the Bid Worksheet on QuestCDN for submittal of bids. **You must download the Contract Documents from QuestCDN to bid on the project, to be included on the plan holders list, and to receive Addenda.** The Contractor is responsible for ensuring all addenda have been received and acknowledged prior to submittal of the bid.

Bid security in the amount of 5%, for and subject to the conditions provided in the Instruction to Bidders, must be submitted through the QuestCDN site with each Bid. Bids may not be withdrawn for a period of 90 days after the actual date of opening thereof. This time period may be extended by mutual agreement of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner and any Bidders.

Contracts will be entered into with the successful bidder giving adequate security for the performance of the work and meeting all conditions represented in the Instructions to Bidders. The Montgomery Drain Chapter 20 Drainage Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids, award the Contract to any bidder for any reason, and to adjourn the letting to such time and place as it shall publicly announce.

Bidders shall comply with the Ingham County policies regarding the payment of Prevailing Wages, and Equal Opportunity/Nondiscrimination, as set forth in Ingham County Board of Commissioners Resolutions #02-263 and #02-283, respectively. The work must be substantially complete by May 1, 2021.

CP#20-172

Anniversary Sale
THURSDAY JULY 30 THRU MONDAY, AUGUST 3
All locations

THANKS TO YOU. WE'RE 22

Better not miss this sale

- Up to **50% OFF** 30 top brands
- Better foods **BOGOS**
- Prizes and giveaways

First 25 customers (each day) get this **FREE IMMUNE PACK**

It's our anniversary, but you get the gifts at our best sale ever

SAVE 50% OFF RETAIL

SAVE 45% OFF RETAIL

SAVE 30% TO 40% OFF RETAIL ON THESE TOP BRANDS AND MORE...

BOGO'S AND MORE DEALS ON BETTER FOODS

<p>All Essence pH10 Water</p> <p>50% OFF RETAIL</p>	<p>All GT Dave's Kombucha, Kefir & Elixirs Excluding alcohol</p> <p>50% OFF RETAIL</p>	<p>All Peeled Snacks Dried Fruit and Puffs</p> <p>50% OFF RETAIL</p>	<p>Primal Kitchen Sauces, Dressings & Proteins</p> <p>50% OFF RETAIL</p>	<p>All Navitas Seeds, Nibs & Powders</p> <p>50% OFF RETAIL</p>
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See complete list of promotional sale items at www.betterhealthstore.com/22sale

BetterHealth
MARKET & CAFÉ
www.BetterHealthStore.com



Photos by Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

(Above Left) A sign at a Meijer store in Lansing warns customers to wear a mask while shopping.

(Above Right) Meijer stores in Greater Lansing have employees keeping watch

over entry points to ensure customers are wearing a mask. Under executive order, only those with a medical intolerance and other limited exceptions can enter without one.

Personal responsibility key to enforcing mask mandate

Editor's note

Lansing area residents were shocked last week when a knife-wielding assailant injured a 77-year-old man at the Quality Dairy in Dimondale. The attacker had been refused service for not wearing a mask. He took out his anger on an innocent bystander, who was hospitalized in critical but stable condition. An Eaton County deputy sheriff later shot and killed the attacker, identified as Sean Ruis, 43.

But as unnerving as the episode was, it appears to be an isolated case involving confrontation over the new reality of masks— though that's in part due to the exercise of discretion by so-called mask police.

This week's cover story looks at how area residents are coping in general with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's requirement that masks be worn indoors in most situations. It also reports on the history of masks going back to the Spanish flu pandemic as well as the change in heart about masks that health experts locally and nationally have undergone since the COVID-19 pandemic struck the United States.

Retailers crack down as health officials urge 80% mask rate

By KYLE KAMINSKI

Grocery stores and other retailers across Greater Lansing have introduced a new type of frontline worker amid the fight against the ongoing coronavirus pandemic: the Mask Police.

Over the last few weeks, big box chains like Meijer, Kroger, Target and Walmart have deployed staff, usually in pairs, to patrol their entranceways, fending off maskless shoppers from coming inside and carefully monitoring capacity to ensure aisles and checkouts don't become crowded.

Badged with some newfound executive authority from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, these employees act largely as the first line of enforcement in preventing newly reopened retailers from becoming a breeding ground for COVID-19. Masks, officials have emphasized for months, are the solution.

"I've been called all kinds of names — every cuss word in the book," said an employee at Target in Okemos tasked with ensuring customers wore masks last week. "People have been good. I'm technically supposed to say something, but I'm not about to put

my life on the line for this stuff."

Though compliance with the mask mandate appears to have made substantial progress in Lansing, a few customers strolled inside without a mask while employees looked the other way.

"It's just not worth it," she added. "People are going to do what they want to do anyway."

City Pulse sent reporters to several major retailers across Greater Lansing over the last week to gauge compliance with the state mandate. And the vast majority of local shoppers appear to be masking up. Only a few bare faces were spotted among hundreds of customers in recent days.

Under an executive order on face masks released from Whitmer's office earlier this month, all residents must continue to wear face coverings in indoor public spaces and crowded outdoor spaces unless they "cannot medically tolerate" wearing one, among other limited exceptions.

Whitmer beefed up that order late last week, further requiring businesses to do more than just post a sign about the mandate. The new order clarified that businesses can't just assume that maskless customers are unable to medically tolerate wearing one. It demands confrontation.

The expanded guidance from Whitmer's office tells businesses that hanging up a "masks required" sign

alone isn't enough. Stores are expected to have dedicated staff posted at entry points to turn away maskless customers, said Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail.

Vail said staff should also be reminding maskless shoppers to put them on once inside.

Maskless shoppers must now give staff explicit "verbal representation" that they have a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask. They needn't elaborate further or have any sort of written confirmation to display, and businesses shouldn't pry further into that condition.

From there, businesses can choose whether to allow those shoppers inside, according to the order. And they'll never be punished for turning away a maskless shopper.

"They can also work with customers," Vail added. "I've seen businesses do things like more curbside pickup, or smaller shops that will actually bring out a few items for this customer to browse. At the end of the day, you have the option of who you want to allow inside your store."

The Michigan Department of Civil Rights said businesses can remain in compliance with federal accessibility laws by providing those who do not wear face coverings with an



In this 1918 photo courtesy of the San Francisco Public Library, a San Francisco police officer confronts a man in public for not wearing a face mask.

Masks and ‘slackers,’ a century ago

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

When the deadly Spanish flu swept across the United States in 1918 and 1919, mask-wearing ordinances were passed in many cities, mostly in the western states, including San Francisco, Seattle, Denver and Phoenix. The nation was at war, and wearing masks was framed as a patriotic duty, but then, as now, there were resisters.

The pandemic killed tens of millions of people worldwide, including about 675,000 people in the United States. Eastern cities, including New York City and Washington, limited mask mandates to specific professions, like health workers, police and barbers.

The Red Cross spread the word in no uncertain terms: “The man or woman or child who will not wear a mask now is a dangerous slacker,” reads a poster of the period.

The resisters claimed the masks infringed on their civil liberties, spread panic, were hot and stuffy and weren’t effective anyway. Detroit’s health commissioner, J.W. Inches, said gauze masks were too flimsy to do any good. Many people wore masks made of light gauze at the time; fashionable women favored porous “influenza veils” with chiffon borders.

Mini-rebellions, like poking a hole in the mask to smoke, were commonplace. In fall 1918, tensions over the San Francisco mask ordinance escalated when nearly 300 people were arrested by police officers for refusing to wear a mask or wearing it improperly. Fines started at \$5 (about \$100 today) and went up to \$50. A maskless citizen exchanged gunfire with a health inspector, injuring two bystanders.

In mid-November, the San Francisco ordinance was dropped, and theaters, sports events and concert halls opened back up. Influenza cases soared, a stricter ordinance was passed in 1919, and tensions boiled over. Public meetings of an anti-mask league, also known as the “Sanitary Spartacans,” attracted thousands of people, including influential suffragette Emma Harrington and former San Francisco Mayor Eugene Schmitz.

Mayor James Rolph didn’t back down. He said he would repeal the ordinance “when the doctors, the Board of Health and common sense permit.”

The Anti-Mask League dissolved in February 1919, when the ordinance was repealed.

Mandate

from page 14

alternative — like curbside pickup. Alternatively, retailers can continue to allow for customer medical exemptions.

“There are very few medical reasons to not wear a mask,” Vail added. “Asthmatics can wear masks. The actual portion of the population that cannot medically tolerate them is just so small, and if we can get mask wearing at about 80% or so, then we’ve covered most of everyone.”

Vail said those who are suffering from traumatic experiences — like child abuse — and who have diagnosed stress disorders could have genuine issues with masks, as well as those with other mental disorders. But oxygen flow generally isn’t a problem for most, Vail emphasized.

State officials said violations are dealt with by local law enforcement in conjunction with state regulatory agencies. Individual shoppers can face a misdemeanor conviction and a \$500 fine. Businesses could also theoretically face licensing consequences on a state regulatory level. (The state Liquor

Control Commission has announced it will hold a hearing Thursday requiring the owners of Harper’s Restaurant and Brewpub to answer questions after 186 cases of coronavirus were tied to the business.)

In most cases, that enforcement first falls to lowly paid retail employees who are often hesitant to escalate tensions over an already polarizing debate over masks. Cops can be called, but it hasn’t happened in Lansing, and employees don’t expect that it will.

“We’ve had a few angry people that have just walked away,” said an employee at a Kroger in Lansing. “Most people just forgot to grab it or left it in their car. I think it’s all starting to sink in.”

The Lansing Police Department and the Ingham County Sheriff’s Office have yet to take a report on a mask violation since the order took effect. Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth said he hasn’t even had any deputies respond to any close calls, but they could be handled like trespassing complaints.

It’s like adding “no mask” to the familiar line of “no shirts, no shoes, no service,” he explained.

“They can refuse service, but what might start as a mask dispute could also turn into trouble with a suspect. It really isn’t about masks once it gets to that point,” Wriggelsworth said. “We’re

taking everything on a case-by-case basis, but we haven’t cited anybody for anything on this.”

“Emotions get involved and sometimes poor decisions could be made,” he added.

Neither agency, however, is sending mask patrols to grocery stores. They’ll handle complaints of rowdy customers — just as usual — but it’s impractical to expect much more, officials have said. Ingham Co. Health Officer Linda Vail said enforcement largely relies on personal responsibility.

“Any business can call up the police and say there are people in the store that are refusing to wear a mask,” Vail added. “They should also be telling people to wear one and keep it on inside the store. Other than that, any other type of confrontation probably isn’t going to be productive.”

The enhanced regulations are designed to ramp up compliance in an order that already has unavoidable weak spots. Banning all maskless shoppers could pose an accessibility issue for those with bonafide health concerns, but even those shoppers increase the risk of transmission.

Still, shoppers across Greater Lansing appear to be playing it as safe as reasonably possible.

“I’ve only seen one person all day

without a mask,” said an employee at a Walmart in Lansing.

Exceptions to Whitmer’s executive order on masks, in addition to the medically intolerant, include children younger than 5 years old, those eating and drinking while seated at a restaurant, exercising where masks would interfere with activity or while in a polling place.

In the last two weeks, every region of Michigan has tracked an uptick in new cases of COVID-19. Daily case counts now exceed 20 cases per million in all but one region in the state. State officials have casted the blame on “spotty compliance” with face masks requirements.

A study on different regions in Germany, for example, suggests the adoption of mandatory mask ordinances stilted the daily growth rate of COVID-19 infections by 40%. Models from the University of Washington also suggest 40,000 lives would be spared with a 95% masking rate.

“Wearing a mask is the right thing to do to protect our families, our businesses, and our economy,” Whitmer said last week. “If everyone in Michigan masks up, we can save thousands of lives and put ourselves in a better position to send our kids back to school in the fall.”

Learning curve

How the message flipped from 'don't buy masks' to 'mask up'

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

In the first four months of the COVID-19 pandemic, masks have gone from a “don’t” to a “do.” Both the CDC and the World Health Organization now recommend that people wear masks to slow the spread of the virus.

The number of states with mask mandates like Michigan’s has grown to 28.

Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control, reflected the change July 14. “If we could get everybody to wear a mask right now I think in four, six, eight weeks we could bring this epidemic under control,” Redfield declared.

Even conservative Republican leaders like Sen. Mitch McConnell, former vice president Dick Cheney and Fox news commentator Sean Hannity advocate masking up.

That’s a major sea change from early March, when the CDC recommended masks only for health care workers and people infected with the virus.

What has changed?

As the pandemic swept across the globe in late spring, health officials and scientists learned more about how the COVID-19 virus spreads. The newly gathered information, along with a shift in culture in the traditionally mask-averse United States, raised the status of masks as a crucial tool in the toolbox for fighting the spread of COVID-19.

However, the change in messaging has given mask avoiders and skeptics, including President Donald Trump, an obvious talking point.

“A lot of them said don’t wear a mask, don’t wear a mask. Now they’re saying wear a mask,” Trump said in an interview with Fox News’ Sean Hannity last week. “A lot of mistakes were made.”

Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, recently explained the shift in message in terms of supply



Redfield



Fauci

and demand. Back in March, Fauci said, health authorities were worried about impending mask shortages that would put health care workers at risk.

“So the initial recommendation was: Don’t put masks on, because we’re going to be taking them away from health care workers,” Fauci said. “That understandably got interpreted as, we didn’t think masks were of any benefit.”

But some health officials said just that.

“The thing is, the masks aren’t effective,” Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail told City Pulse in early March.

Later that month, Vail was still downplaying the effectiveness of masks for “civilians.”

“Wearing a mask is shown to have some limited effectiveness,” Vail said. “It’s limited, but at least it’s something additional.”

In late February, U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams tweeted, “Seriously people — STOP BUYING MASKS.”

Adams, Vail and other health officials worried that masks could give people a “false sense of complacency” and lead to neglect of more important anti-viral practices such as hand-washing.

“If I look at all the tools I have to protect myself from COVID-19, the mask is probably the first thing I would give up, before I’d give up washing my hands, having hand sanitizer, being able to keep space from people,” Vail said in March. “A lot of people are grabbing onto it as the be-all and end-all of protecting themselves.”

But the COVID-19 virus was still new. The CDC warned that public health recommendations might change as more becomes known about how it spreads.

Everyone knew that coughing and sneezing were the heavy artillery for spreading big virus-bearing droplets, but as spring moved into summer, a growing number of studies indicated that the virus also spreads via tiny aerosolized droplets from talking, singing, laughing, even breathing. Worse yet,



Vail



Adams

the person across the table from you, talking into your face, could be carrying the virus without showing any symptoms.

In April and May, The Journal of the American Medical Association and The New England Journal of Medicine reported people getting sick after being just hanging out near people who were infected but had no symptoms and weren’t coughing or sneezing.

A CDC report found that some people, such as especially loud talkers, are “super-emitters” of aerosolized particles.

Health officials began to consider the possibility that masks, while not 100 percent effective, might at least stop a significant percentage of droplets from getting out of your mouth into the air.

There’s a good reason the shift in mask recommendations was driven, not by definitive research, but by piecemeal observations and anecdotal evidence. To conduct a randomized controlled experiment would mean doing something blatantly unethical, like putting COVID-19 patients in one room and healthy people in another, with an air vent between.

As the pandemic spread, observational data mounted by the day. Double- and triple-digit COVID-19 outbreaks resulting from choir practices around the country, and at loud-talking bars like Harper’s in East Lansing, added weight to the aerosolized particle theory.

The novel virus inspired some quick-draw, novel research, such as a joint project between Bavarian Broadcasting and two German universities mapping out aerosolized droplets spewing from Bavarian Radio Choir singers. The researchers used high-speed cameras, white light and carrier solutions from e-cigarettes to make the droplets visible.

The study preliminarily found that mask wearing, social distancing of 1.5 meters and good ventilation might enable choirs to safely rehearse during the pandemic.

If all of this science sounds spotty and inconclusive, it is.

Even without the authoritative ring of randomized trials, support for mask wearing mounted as summer approached, boosted by widespread observational studies like the Bavarian choir experiment and a wave of “meta-analyses” in which researchers processed data from previous epidemics.

Acknowledging the growing case for masks, on April 3, the CDC set new guidelines, recommending that people use cloth or fabric “face coverings” (not “masks”) as “an additional, voluntary public health measure.” The World Health Organization was slower to change its recommendations, but followed suit in June.

As spring moved into summer, lockdowns, re-openings and changing rules in various states offered new points of data. In June, researchers at the University of Iowa looked at the COVID-19 infection growth curves in 15 states that adopted mask mandates in April or May. They found that the curve began bending downward a week after adopting the mandate, and shrank to 2% three weeks later. By May 22, mask use may have prevented 230,000 to 450,000 Covid-19 cases, the researchers found. At an overall infection fatality rate of 1.45 percent, that’s as many as 6,500 lives saved.

On June 14, the CDC released a study of two Missouri hair stylists who had the COVID-19 virus but wore masks and didn’t pass it on to 139 clients. “Adherence to the community’s and company’s face-covering policy likely mitigated spread of SARS-CoV-2,” the summary concluded.

Other researchers collected the data available and ran models of various possible outcomes. According to the University of Washington’s Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, more than 45,000 deaths could be prevented if 95% of Americans wore face masks in public.

Meanwhile, a wide range of polls showed a majority of Americans support wearing masks. Many put an American spin on the bland uniformity of mask wearing by choosing fanciful fabrics and using them as a vehicle for self-expression.

“Mask wearing is just not something that we’ve ever done as a culture in the United States,” Vail said. “As more businesses open and more employers require it of employees, that will normalize it a little bit more.”

The notion of wearing masks to protect others, not necessarily the wearer, was a confusing idea for many people and it took time to sink in.

The story came full circle when Adams, the surgeon general who tweeted “Stop buying masks” in March, made the message loud and clear at a press briefing earlier this month: “Please, please, please wear a face covering when you go out in public. It is not an inconvenience. It is not a suppression of your freedom. It actually is a vehicle to achieve our goals.”

Misinformation about coronavirus, masks persists

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Misinformation about the coronavirus continues to spread by word of mouth and across the vast and often unregulated planes of Twitter and Facebook. While City Pulse covered the epidemic of viralt conspiracy theories back in its May 20 issue, the following letter to the editor is a perfect example of the staying power possessed by faulty coronavirus claims. City Pulse is withholding the letter writer's name to save him embarrassment.

To the Editor,

Your recent article, July 15 issue, regarding Governor Whitmer's response to the CoVid epidemic in Michigan noted one paper, without citation, from Imperial College, which two months earlier gave the world a highly inaccurate paper which modeled that the US will have 2 million deaths, and has been wildly wrong. There is no evidence in this scientific paper, just speculation. (1)

The rest of your article is subjective praise for the governor while demeaning Michiganders (protestors) who felt Governor Whitmer's quarantining of healthy people, an unprecedented historical action (2), without the consent of her constituents, to be authoritarian. (3)

Where were the investigative, journalistic questions in this piece? What a lot of people would like to know is what was her cost/benefit analysis of shutting down the economy? Assuming the Imperial College study is accurate, even though in the paper the researchers make clear they are estimating based on a model, which does not have actual numbers, the next logical question to ask is, how many deaths will the lockdown itself cause? If the lockdown strategy causes more deaths than the disease, then Governor Whitmer ought not to be praised as much as criticized.

According to institutionally accepted actuarial tables, not a newly written model, the results are clear: the lockdowns will cost more years of life than deaths from the disease. (4)

The obvious question few journalists have asked at all is, where is the gold standard scientific paper, which proves that SARS-2 causes CoVid19?

No such paper exists. What researchers have found is a genetic sequence of particles - not a virus. Further, no one has yet to show how this hypothesis satisfies Koch's postulates for infectious disease, the Gold Standard of discovery of an infectious agent. Please see this for details and citations: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CN09lI9kzKI> (5)

There is very little we can actually know from this epidemic because the numbers are all distorted: (<https://twitter.com/paulsperry/status/1284165348267302918>) deaths are

over counted in different ways, the most obvious being from the April directive from the CDC to count probable deaths as actual. (6)

The Nobel Prize Winning scientist who created the PCR test currently being used was clear — his test should never be used for diagnosing a disease, as we are doing now. The false positives of the test are well known and up to 50% inaccurate. The antibody tests are equally as inaccurate. (7) Remember, in Italy, an original hot spot that terrified the world, their own government institute of health retracted their death count to just 12% of the original because the evidence was not there (<https://www.cebm.net/covid-19/global-covid-19-case-fatality-rates/>). There are many experts who disagree with the official narrative, but unfortunately, they do not get coverage by the mainstream media or the City Pulse. (8)

When news organizations begin to investigate, and ask the important, logical questions, we will get to a more accurate picture of CoVid19, rather than the simple parroting back to Michiganders the official narrative and press releases.

The governor states often that she is led by the science. But science without evidence is misleading; we must distinguish the difference. Science, for instance may say that masks are somewhat helpful in reducing the spread of CoVid19, but there is no evidence to back that science up, as you can hear about here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3plSbCbKSA&feature=youtu.be> and here: <https://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2020/07/19/are-face-masks-effective.aspx> (9)

A logical question regarding masks is why, if they work so well, were we not ordered to wear them in March when the epidemic was spiking? We all had cloth and bandanas and could've easily "masked up" then. (10)

Please consider a more balanced approach to your reporting that will offer readers alternative sides of the current situation, while also presenting the scientific evidence, without bias, and therefore providing a larger understanding so that people can make informed decisions.

The facts:

1. The 2.2 million American deaths estimate from The Imperial College London's March report was the result of a worst-case scenario simulation that featured NO mitigation efforts.

2. Authority for Gov. Whitmer's emergency executive orders come from The Emergency Powers of the Governor Act of 1945 and The Emergency Management Act of 1976. Back in May, Michigan Court of Claims Judge Cynthia Stephens sided with Gov. Whit-

mer, tossing a Republican-led lawsuit against the governor and declaring her actions were within the authority of the 1945 act.

3. Several polls note a majority of Michiganders approved of Gov. Whitmer's handling of the coronavirus, including one conducted by the Detroit Regional Chamber in April that observed a 57% approval rating.

(detroitchamber.com/micovidpoll)

A June study by Northeastern University notes Whitmer as one of just five U.S. governors that saw their approval rating increase.

(news.northeastern.edu/2020/07/09/new-survey-shows-systematic-decline-in-domestic-approval-for-u-s-leaders)

4. There is no peer-reviewed research that suggests a "lockdown" is more deadly than allowing the state to remain open as if the pandemic has gone away. As mentioned earlier, the worst-case scenario death estimate by The Imperial College London was the result of no mitigation — or lockdown — efforts. Here in Michigan, we immediately saw the consequences of relaxing the shutdown, with Harper's in East Lansing providing a perfect case study. People conjoining at the bar led to 174 new coronavirus cases in Ingham County. There are numerous studies — not just the one conducted by The Imperial College London and Oxford University — that praise the shutdown efforts for saving thousands of lives. A peer-reviewed study that explains the effectiveness of shutdown efforts was published in the science journal Nature.

(nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2404-8_reference.pdf)

5. There is scientific consensus that COVID-19 is a disease caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2. The YouTube video this letter refers to is an interview with Andrew Kaufman, a self-employed health consultant who has peddled many conspiracy theories about the coronavirus, including that a vaccine will be used to "genetically modify humans," a claim about DNA vaccines that can be debunked with information from the World Health Organization.

(www.who.int/biologicals/areas/vaccines/dna/en)

You can learn more about the SARS-Cov-2 virus in a report by John Hopkins University School of Medicine.

(hopkinsguides.com/hopkins/view/Johns_Hopkins_ABX_Guide/540747/all/Coronavirus_COVID_19__SARS_CoV_2_)

6. The Tweet referred to here is misleading. Many probable deaths reported to the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention are later confirmed as actual, or dropped altogether. Per the CDC's website:

"Please note that jurisdictions may reclassify probable cases at any time to confirmed cases (if confirmatory laboratory evidence is obtained) or withdraw probable case reports entirely if further public health investigation determines that the individual most likely did not have COVID-19. As a result, probable case counts can fluctuate substantially. A jurisdiction might even report a negative number of probable cases on a given day, if more probable cases were disproven than were initially reported on that day."

7. The scientists referred to here is Kary Mullis, inventor of the Polymerase Chain Reaction test. In a viral social media post, Mullis is quoted as saying "...these PCR tests cannot detect free infectious viruses at all." The quote is not from Mullis, but from an article written by John Lauritsen in 1996 about HIV/AIDS.

8. The article referred to in this paragraph contains this notable disclaimer:

"Disclaimer: The article has not been peer-reviewed; it should not replace individual clinical judgement, and the sources cited should be checked. The views expressed in this commentary represent the views of the authors and not necessarily those of the host institution, the NHS, the NIHR, or the Department of Health and Social Care. The views are not a substitute for professional medical advice."

9. Again, the article being cited by this letter refers to the website of Joseph Mercola, a proponent of alternative medicine that has a long history of supporting health-related pseudoscience. His supplement company has been warned by the FDA several times for making misleading claims about its products. He is not a reliable source for coronavirus information.

10. Health officials, such as Anthony Fauci, have stated the public was not immediately advised to wear masks in order to preserve then limited resources for frontline healthcare workers. Obviously, it would be unethical to do randomized studies on the efficacy of masks by subjecting healthy people to the virus. However, as the COVID-19 virus spread around the world, more information became available on how it is transmitted. Numerous observational studies and models pointed to transmission via droplets from speaking, singing or breathing in close quarters, often from people who showed no symptoms. Today, masks are widely recommended.

(who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks)

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ARTS & CULTURE

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Beyond pain

Jeff Wray's must-see list digs deeper into nuances of African American life

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

There's a downside to the growing list of "Black film lists" popping up in the spring and summer of 2020.

"A lot of it is serving the white audience, saying, 'This is the Black perspective. This is what you need to look out for,'" film scholar Jeff Wray said. "I totally reject that."

When he sits down to watch a movie, what grabs Wray, a professor of African-American literature and culture at MSU, is the same thing that motivates him as a writer and filmmaker.

"I'm interested in just presenting Black life, without necessarily thinking in terms of white audiences," he said.

Wray's list of "films to see" rockets beyond the polar opposites of noble Sidney Poitier characters from the '50s and '60s and low-down Blaxploitation images from the '70s.

To mold a film, or draw up a list of films to see, based on the "image" of Black life it presents to white people is, for Wray, an artistic dead end.

His own 2014 film, "The Evolution of Bert," nominated for an Ebert Award at the Chicago International Film Festival, follows a Black college student's everyday travails, from breaking up with his girlfriend to wrangling with a professor over grades.

Near the top of Wray's list of great Black films is Charles Burnett's 1978 "Killer of Sheep," a non-narrative mosaic of working-class life in Watts, Los Angeles, shot for \$10,000 over two years' worth of weekends. The film has drawn comparisons to Robert Altman, Stanley Kubrick, John Cassavetes and Italian neo-realists like De Sica and Rossellini, but Burnett's dream-like vision is completely his own.



Wray



Courtesy Magnolia Pictures

Tanya Hamilton's 2011 film "Night Catches Us" explores the inner lives of 1960s Black activists.

"It's the most beautiful film about life, struggles, relationships," he said. "It's a film that ain't trying to explain nothing to you in terms of Black life. It's about life."

Another of Wray's all-time favorites is a stunning 1990 film by Michigan filmmaker Wendell Harris Jr., "Chameleon Street," available on Amazon Prime. It's the true story of a Detroit con man and high school dropout, William Douglas Street, Jr., who breaks out of his dead-end life by pretending to be a reporter, a lawyer and even a surgeon. The scene where Street performs a hysterectomy after consulting a medical book in a bathroom stall is a queasy mix of comedy and horror.

Street is funny, charming and intellectually superior to everyone around him, but his boredom with life corrodes his emotional life and clouds his moral sense.

"This character is flawed and we go on this journey with him," Wray said.

In a recent New York Times op-ed, film scholar Racquel Gates of the City University of New York cautioned that the recent spate of "Black films to see" lists are "performative nods to blackness" packed with films that "deliver Black pain for white consumption." (Wray tweeted Gates, thanking her for writing the essay.)

What is more, the delivery is not always welcome. Many white film lovers, whether they admit it or not, watch the films on these lists out of a sense of

duty or guilt. Lost in the middle is the pure joy of finding brilliant, original movies that delve into life on the creator's singular terms.

Wray echoed Toni Morrison's lament in her 1975 speech, "A Humanist's View," that racism "keeps you explaining, over and over again, your reason for being."

"She said that Russian literature is not great because it's trying to explain Russian life to Americans, or to black folks," Wray said. "She loves the specificity of it, and out of that, she can grab this broadly human thing."

Another "very underrated" indie gem on Wray's must-see list is "Night Catches Us," a 2010 film directed by Tanya Hamilton, starring Anthony Mackie.

Via flashback, the story peels back layers of generational change and racial politics to portray the emotional lives of '60s Black Panther activists. Hamilton said in interviews about the film that she wanted to "add to the conversation about people of color" by making a film "about Black people just being people."

"Night Catches Us" would make a strong double feature with another of Wray's favorites, "Black Power Mixtape," available on Amazon Prime. Rather than a sensationalistic documentary full of activists brandishing weapons and shaking fists, the 2011 film is a compilation of 16mm film clips of Black Power movement leaders caught in intimate and unguarded moments by a visiting Swedish film crew.

Wray also includes films by white film-makers in his MSU film course, most notably "The Landlord," by Hal Ashby, director of "Harold and Maude," "Being There" and other offbeat classics.

"The Landlord" features Beau Bridges as a privileged, clueless white landlord who has no idea what kind of life his Black tenants lead.

Wray said that in films like "The Landlord" and Norman Jewison's "A Soldier's Story," white directors do a creditable job depicting the "Black male psyche."

"When I show 'A Soldier's Story,' that's the kind of discussion we have in class," Wray said. "I don't want to make my students comfortable by saying that only Black people should be making this stuff."

Other films on Wray's must-see list are the culty, experimental 1973 vampire film "Ganja & Hess," available on YouTube; the 1972 drama "Sounder," which Wray called "quiet and almost perfect;" and the gritty 1964 Harlem gang drama "The Cool World," directed by Shirley Clarke (no relation to the Ralph Bakshi animated film).

Wray also has a soft spot for the 1934 "weepie" melodrama "Imitation of Life," about a young Black woman's attempt to "pass" for white.

With its dated language and references to race and gender, "Imitation of Life" needs, as the scholars like to put it, "contextualization" in 2020, but Wray is happy to provide it.

"Students think, 'I don't know if this is appropriate,'" Wray said. "It presented itself as progressive in the 1930s, but it's a beautiful, emotional mess and we always have strong discussions around it."

Wray knows all too well that making a movie, unlike writing a short story or a poem, costs money, and that leads to commercial pressures. He is applying for a \$2 million grant from Sundance for his next project, "Eclipse," about a teenage boy coming of age in a small Ohio town amid local tragedy and national unrest. He's resisting what he calls "the white man on my shoulder."

"As strong creatively and artistically as I may think I am, I find that creeping into my head," he said. "Will the white audience get it? No. Just tell your story and put it out there."

The Fledge rallies through the coronavirus

By SKYLER ASHLEY

When the coronavirus broke big in March, it was all-systems-go at The Fledge. The Lansing community center, with a dizzying array of services like computer coding clubs and business startup fundraisers in its repertoire, immediately went to work.

The effort saw The Fledge, which is housed in an old church on Eureka Street on Lansing's east side, become a headquarters for important tasks such as emergency food distribution and mask production.

“On the very first day of the shutdown, High Caliber Karting had made a bunch of food that would’ve just rotted in their refrigerators. We took that food and passed it out to the community,” said owner Jerry Norris. “On the second day, we had another restaurant, so we put our pantry out on the porch so it was grab-and-go. We immediately began feeding the community.”

The Fledge didn’t just put its storage resources to use. It also took advantage

of its supply of sewing and 3D printing machines as valuable tools to ramp up production of masks.



Courtesy

Boxes of fresh produce donated to The Fledge for free distribution.

“We got our sewing machines into the hands of people who could start sewing masks. We put our 3D printers into the basement of somebody’s house, so he

could start 3D printing masks,” Norris said. Another major concern at The Fledge in the beginning days of the pandemic and at the height of Michigan’s stay-at-home orders was losing connections with people that frequented The Fledge on a daily basis. Norris and company were also concerned about the members of Refuge Recovery, a therapy group for recovering drug addicts that meets often at The Fledge.

Like practically every other organization on planet Earth, The Fledge turned to virtual meeting applications such as Zoom for help.

“We were worried about losing connections. A lot of people come here just to hangout, to have somebody to talk to if they’re struggling with something, whether it’s depression or thoughts about suicide,” Norris said. “We immediately started working on virtual meetings with Refuge Recovery and Narcotics Anonymous, and we started a morning meeting where anybody could dial in. We still do it today.”

One of the other main services of The Fledge is its assistance and guidance of small businesses or startups. The Fledge partners with LEAP on the monthly Hatching program, which provides funding to people who present creative business pitches to a panel of judges. The reward for a successful pitch is \$2,000.

The Fledge also runs 99 Problems But a Pitch Ain’t One, which provides \$99 grants on a weekly basis. Participants dial in to a Zoom Call with Fledge members, pitch their idea in 99 seconds and, if it gets enough votes, they’re rewarded the cash.

Norris said The Fledge kept reaching out to businesses it has worked with to see which ones could help out in coronavirus relief efforts — and to see which ones needed relief of their own.

“We looked at who could pivot and start helping with COVID, and who needed to pivot to just survive this,” Norris said.

The Fledge was able to help certain businesses get started on providing virtual services, such as hosting online art shows and galleries.

But in order for The Fledge itself to survive, Norris said the same community it serves was highly generous with donations of its own.

“The community has been great. When the community needs us, we help them. When we need the community, they help us. It’s been a great symbiotic relationship,” Norris said. “We put out a donor box, and people starting making donations immediately and we raised three months of operational costs in about 20 days.”

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Rick Jones for Eaton County Sheriff

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held to consider a modified special use permit application from Delta Gamm House Corporation for the property at 605 MAC Avenue to allow for an increase in occupancy of three residents at the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. The subject property is located in the RM-32, Center City Multi-Family Residential District.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing, prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager’s Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-377.

Note: This hearing is currently scheduled to occur as a regular public hearing at the meeting. If, at the time of this hearing meetings are still not permitted under an Executive Order of the Governor and an Executive Order permitting meetings electronically allows for an electronic meeting, this hearing will occur electronically and a notice of the means of participation in that hearing will be published in compliance with the Open Meetings Act and any relevant Executive Orders.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#20-174

Dabs: The final frontier in Lansing's marijuana market?

Pure Options offers plenty of concentrates for experienced tokers

By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

This week's review comes with a disclaimer: These powerful cannabis concentrates available at dispensaries in Lansing are not your grandfather's brick weed. Clocking in at THC rates well above 60%, these waxes and resins give new meaning to the phrase "A little dab'll do ya."

If you're not a seasoned weed smoker, please, tread lightly on these potent pot products.

Holy Grail Wax

Price — \$44/gram

THC content — 70.4%

I haven't had dabs since college, but I remember being simultaneously intrigued and sort of put off by the concept of using a butane torch to heat up a glass rig before smoking. And with prices about doubling the standard flower rate, I never invested too much into the concentrate market.

But, with the wide product availability in Lansing, I figured it was time to give it some more attention. I won't walk through an entire instructional guide, except to recommend Wild Bill's Tobacco for a starter kit. I



Lansterdam in

Review: Pure Options

5815 S. Pennsylvania., Lansing
(517) 721-1439
pureoptions.com

Skymint

2508 S Cedar St., Lansing
(810) 250-7627
1015 E. Saginaw St., Lansing
(810) 379-0090
skymint.com

found a glass nail attachment for my bong, a tool and a butane torch for under \$50.

Several varieties of concentrates are on the market nowadays — like wax, budder, cured resin, live resin, shatter, diamonds and more. Wax is the industry standard, and like others, the gooey extract is just a concentrated dose of THC made using a solvent like butane or carbon dioxide.

Holy Grail Kush is an indica-dominant crossbreed between Kosher Kush and OG No. 18, probably most noted for winning the first-ever perfect score at the 2011 High Times Cannabis Cup. And the concentrated version, just as expected, rattles the mind like a freight train.

Northcoast Extracts packages its

wax wrapped in a small sheet of paper inside a credit-card sized cardboard envelope. The translucent, mustard-brown wax smells and tastes a bit like citrus. But, like with my past experiences with dabs, it's usually more about effects than flavor.

After overheating a few rounds of dabs and breaking into a coughing fit that lasted a solid two minutes, beads of sweat were dripping off my forehead and I was ready to get outside. It wasn't that the wax was harsh, just too smooth to notice I had practically cleared the bong twice over.

The familiar, stoney buzz that I usually experience from a solid indica-rolled joint was increased tenfold in its wax form. I didn't feel much of the usual couchlock from this indica, instead total stress relief as I strolled down the street with my dog. This could be a powerful pain reliever.

Holy Grail — paired with the evening sunshine — washes away the anxiety while keeping you alert and awake, and still lends well to socializing with friends without putting you into a daze.

Garlic Breath Pre-Rolled Joint

Price — \$12/0.75 gram

THC content — 17.4%

Not ready for dabs? No worries. Skymint also has you covered on some



dank flower. Garlic Bud is reportedly the same classic strain from the '90s using Afghani genetics. I picked up a pre-rolled joint

during a recent sale, otherwise these large cones could set you back \$15.

Garlic Breath carries its name for a reason. It hits with a pungent smell and taste from the moment you crack open the jar until the very last puff of the roach. But I wouldn't describe it as pure garlic, perhaps more of a subtle blend of 420 herbs and spices with a pine-like finisher.

This is some of the best "chill out" bud I've had the pleasure of smoking in Lansing. My usual 10-minute scroll through Netflix ended in about 60 seconds, where I comfortably spaced out into a new sci-fi series about time travel. Prepare for drymouth and a full night of sleep afterwards.

Kyle Kaminski is 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

Brian Payne and his vinyl collection

Brian Payne, aka Dƒ Cutt-Nice, came of age during the golden-era of hip-hop and quickly fell in love with the genre. The Lansing resident chatted with City Pulse about his favorite thing, and it's no surprise that his choice is connected to his passion in life: music.

I first started collecting vinyl in 1984, at the age of 8. That's when I bought my first album, by The Fat Boys. After that, I was inspired to start DJing by DJ Jazzy Jeff. I started practicing my craft in 1987, after my parents bought me my first set of turntables for Christmas. But, really, vinyl has been in my life since I was born.

I was introduced to it at the age of 2 by my parents. They used to place an "x" on the center of a record, stand me up on a milk crate and have me play music for their card parties. Vinyl is a powerful ingredient that

is a part of my heart and soul.

Some of my favorite albums in my collection are Eric B & Rakim's "Paid In Full," NWA's "Straight Outta Compton," Redman's "Whut? Thee Album" and DJ Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince's "He's The DJ, I'm The Rapper." The lyrics and the musicality of these albums make them classics. I keep all of my classic vinyl in my studio. I stopped counting records when I reached 8,000.

I collect my vinyl from pawnshops, record stores and the internet. Wherever I can find them, I buy them. I spend at least two hours every day in my studio playing records, mixing and scratching with my collection.

While technology has been changing, I continue to use vinyl when I DJ because I love it and it's a part of me. My DJ sets carry a smooth and transitional vibe that uplifts the



spirit of those in attendance. I enjoy being a DJ and record collector. This isn't a hobby for me. It's a way of life.

(This interview was edited and

condensed by Rich Tupica. If you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, email rich@lansingcitypulse.com.)

Meet Michigan's greatest con artist

By **BILL CASTANIER**

While reading Miles Harvey's latest book, I was reminded of "Popeye" character J. Wellington Wimpy's famous catchphrase: "I'll gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today."

Wimpy — along with Canada Bill Jones, Charles Ponzi, C.L. Blood, Cassie Chadwick, George Parker, P.T. Barnum, Susanna Mildred Hill, Bernie Madoff and William Thompson — are some of history's most famous con artists. While they are surely nefarious, none of them match Michigan's own King James Jesse Strang, who in the mid-19th century held court at Beaver Island while serving two terms in the Michigan State House of Representatives.

Author Miles Harvey's unusual biography of Strang boasts a 19th century-style title: "The King of Confidence: A Tale of Utopian Dreamers, Frontier Schemers, True Believers, False Prophets and the Murder of an American Monarch."

Harvey, in a nonjudgmental style, sorts out reality from myth when recounting Strang's bizarre life. Several capable books have been written about Strang, but Harvey's book contains fascinating and previously unreported historical information. Harvey uses his background as a DePaul University English professor to illustrate how contemporary writers influenced Strang's own psyche.

Legendary authors, such as Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Charles Dickens and, of course, Herman Melville, are cited and analyzed by Harvey to tease out the real James Strang.

Strang was a man of opportunity. He bounced from one get-rich-quick scheme to another, whether it was the construction of canals in the United States, glorious land grifts, or just pronouncing himself both a medical doctor and a lawyer. He also had been a postmaster, which would play large in one of his most audacious schemes.

His most improbable scheme came in 1843. With creditors on his heels, Strang fled westward. He eventually discovered the Mormon faith and became a follower of Joseph Smith. This led to the bold and opportunistic move of self-anointing himself as Smith's successor following his assassi-



Harvey

nation in 1844.

Using a letter — most likely forged — allegedly sent by Smith that named Strang as his successor, he began overseeing a splinter group of the fast-growing Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which was directed by Brigham Young, a staunch opponent of Strang.

In 1845, Strang conspired with friends to fabricate and bury three plates of brass with indecipherable cuneiform writing on them. Only Strang could read them.

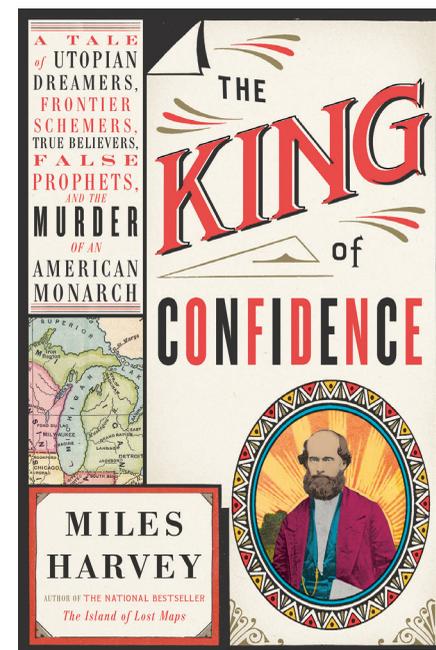
Miles writes about the translation: "In his effort, Strang was assisted by a pair of seer stones called 'Urim' and 'Thummin,' a combination of magical glasses and crystal balls, which he claimed an angel had loaned him to specifically for the task. The whole deal replicated Joseph Smith's translation of the Book of Mormon."

Harvey also makes the case that Strang was a genius for using new technology and modern communication to propel his life forward. He had a daguerreotype of himself made as early as possible, and launched the newspaper "Northern Islander" upon settling on Beaver Island. The paper promoted his causes, such as plural marriages, in which Strang participated with his five wives.

"He constructed himself out of words and understood his audience," Harvey said.

Harvey also makes a credible case that Beaver Island, where Strang moved his flock in 1848, became the center of a pirate operation run by Strang and his followers. Using modern search tools that weren't available to previous writers, Harvey provides proof that Strang was running everything from horse thievery to counterfeiting.

In 1850, Strang crowned himself



King of Beaver Island. In 1852, he was elected state representative from a district that was one-quarter of Michigan's landmass. There was talk of ballot box stuffing, especially on Beaver Island where he received 695 votes and his opponents received 0.

Harvey gives kudos to Strang for his lifelong commitment to abolitionism and opposition to the Fugitive Slave Act, which was first detailed in a series of journals he wrote as a young man. Strang even reprinted an excerpt from Frederick Douglass's slave narrative "My Bondage and My Freedom" in his newspaper.

Strang's rule came to a violent end on June 16, 1856. He was shot by two followers and died three weeks later. Shortly after this incident, the Mormons on Beaver Island were run off by vigilante-marauders. Today, a small town on the island is still named St. James and the King's Highway runs across the island.

"When I was approached to write a book on Strang, I was skeptical. When I delved deeper, I knew instantly I wanted to write it," Harvey said. "Strang's story was mostly considered a footnote to Mormon history, but I was excited because it was a Midwestern story that had been overlooked by the book industry in the East and the movie industry in the West," he said.

In the book's last paragraph, Harvey acknowledges the comparisons to today's political atmosphere: "People like James Strang never really vanish. When the time is right they reappear, wearing a new guise, exploiting new fears, offering new dreams of salvation. Americans are fixated on such figures especially in periods of profound social and economic upheaval. So the King of Confidence lives on."

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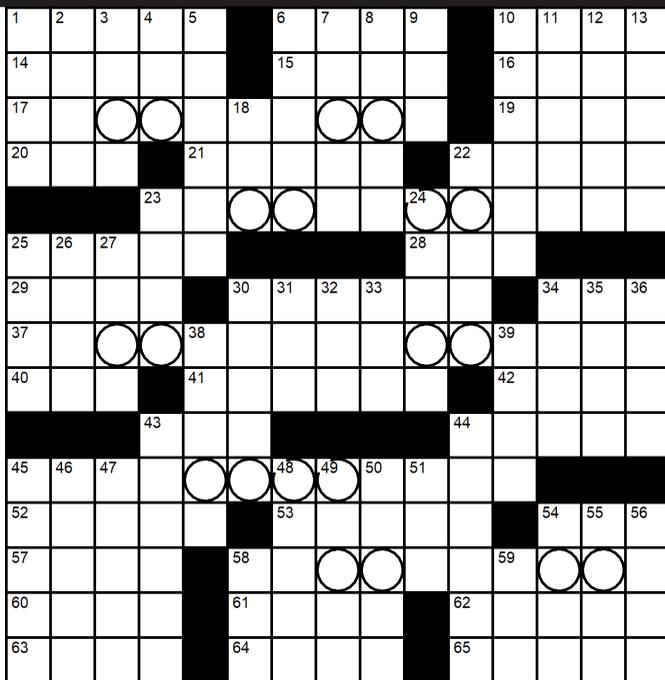
By Matt Jones

**"Double Negatives"-
-it's one way to
double up.**

By Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Maker of Musk cologne and perfume
- 6 1990 World Series MVP Jose
- 10 Ruler of Iran, once
- 14 "Legend of a Cowgirl" singer Coppola
- 15 No longer a fan of
- 16 Sagacious
- 17 Subject of library censorship
- 19 Like many vaccines
- 20 Before, to Byron
- 21 ___ terrier (Toto's breed)
- 22 Fantasy sports option
- 23 Bandleader known as "The King of Swing"
- 25 Orchard measures
- 28 Basis of the game Ticket to Ride, for short
- 29 "Dawn" author Wiesel
- 30 Awards show hosts
- 34 Twaddle
- 37 In fine order
- 40 Multi-vol. reference set
- 41 Lets pass
- 42 Fridge problem
- 43 Life story
- 44 Basil and pine nut topping
- 45 Cheap bowlful, maybe
- 52 "Magpie and the Dandelion" band The ___ Brothers
- 53 Prepare for baking, as challah dough
- 54 "The Racer's Edge"
- 57 Coin-shaped Hanukkah candy
- 58 Pet owner's alternative to kibble
- 60 Kathryn of "Law & Order: Criminal Intent"
- 61 One way to run



- 62 Actress Dreyfuss of "Dear Evan Hansen"
- 63 Yelp rating unit
- 64 Past the due date
- 65 Canadian ballplayers, once

Down

- 1 Agree (with)
- 2 Epps of "House M.D."
- 3 Barn attachment
- 4 "Barbara ___" (Beach Boys hit)
- 5 Family tree members
- 6 Batman's sidekick
- 7 Soap that floats, per old slogans
- 8 "The Masked Singer" panelist Ken
- 9 1978-82 sitcom planet
- 10 Suit in a tarot deck
- 11 U.S. Grant's original first name
- 12 Carne ___ fries
- 13 "Hobbs & Shaw"

- actress Mirren (Tupac Shakur song)
- 18 Rather prominent on the internet these days
- 22 Many a museum marble
- 23 Served as
- 24 108-year-old cookies that thankfully have a bunch of varieties to keep things fresh
- 25 Prefix with plane or dynamics
- 26 You're reading it
- 27 What a tangelo is tangled up in?
- 30 ___ a high note
- 31 "2001" studio
- 32 CBS show with many spinoffs
- 33 911 responder
- 34 High degrees
- 35 Enormously
- 36 One who believes that one hand makes light work?
- 38 "___ Mad At Cha"
- 39 Little piggies, perhaps
- 43 Recovering
- 44 Hawk
- 45 Goes ballistic
- 46 Deflect
- 47 Peach ___ (Escoffier creation)
- 48 Appointer of Justice Kagan
- 49 "Ready ___, here I come!"
- 50 Thanks, to J. rgen
- 51 "Where's the ___?"
- 54 Stock option?
- 55 Lawnmower brand that eans "bull" in Spanish
- 56 BlackBerries and Palm Pilots, e.g.
- 58 Schenel who designed many Zappa album covers
- 59 Not-entirely-secure method of sending documents

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Answers Page 25

SUDOKU

Advanced

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

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 25

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

July 15-21, 2020

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "The creation of the world did not take place once and for all time, but takes place every day." Aries playwright Samuel Beckett made that observation, and now I'm passing it on to you as you glide into an extra-creative phase of your astrological cycle. I hope you will regard Beckett's idea as an open-ended encouragement to improvise and experiment. May it rouse you to brainstorm about novel possibilities. May it inspire you to explore fresh trends you could launch. May it mobilize you to imagine the new worlds you might "Big Bang" into existence.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Author Diane Ackerman tells us, "So often loneliness comes from being out of touch with parts of oneself." That's the kind of loneliness I worry you may be susceptible to right now, Taurus. You're a bit out of touch with aspects of your psyche that are crucial for you to include in your total sense of self. You've been neglecting to nurture certain soulful qualities that keep you healthy and wise. Please note: It won't be useful to try to find those parts of you in other people; you will have to locate them in your own depths. Here's the good news: The coming weeks will be an excellent time to do just that.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "Someone ought to do it, but why should I?" Author and activist Annie Besant identified that sentence as the motto of people who are moral cowards: those who know about an injustice but do nothing to address it. Very few of us have completely avoided that behavior. Most of us, including me, have now and then chosen to serve our need for comfort instead of standing up against corruption or unfairness. But I think it's more important than usual that you Geminis don't engage in such moral cowardice now. More depends on your integrity and bravery than you realize.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Born in 1936, Cancerian author and activist June Jordan was a black feminist bisexual born to Jamaican immigrant parents. When she was growing up, her father beat her and her mother committed suicide. Later, she raised her child alone as a single mother. Despite the challenges she faced, she published 28 books, won numerous awards, and wielded significant influence. How did she do it? She was a highly evolved Cancerian in the sense that she put a priority on treating herself well. "I must undertake to love myself and to respect myself as though my very life depends upon self-love and self-respect," she testified. I'd like to make that your keynote for the rest of 2020. Your task is to achieve June Jordan-levels of self-care.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "How can I communicate to wild bunnies that I am their ally?" asked a Twitter blogger named Ghost Girl. That question is a good place to start my oracle for you. In the coming weeks, I think you'll be wise to meditate on how to enhance your relationship with all kinds of wild things: animals, people, weather, landscapes, and your own exotic thoughts and fantasies. In my opinion, you will upgrade your intelligence and well-being by increasing your access to influences that don't necessarily play by conventional rules and that draw their energy from primal sources.

VRIGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's never too late to have a rebellious adolescence—hopefully bigger and better and smarter than any you've had before. And according to my analysis, now would be a favorable time to get started. Is there any stuffy authority you'd be wise to flout? Any dumb and oppressive conventions you would benefit from breaking? Any stale old traditions you're primed to ignore so you can create some lively new traditions? In my estimation, you will generate good fortune for yourself if you try some benevolent mischief and creative experiments.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your word of power for the coming weeks is "ubuntu", a Zulu term meaning "I am because we are" or "the belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity." Nobel Prize-winning theologian Archbishop Desmond Tutu writes, "A person with

"ubuntu" is open and available to others, affirming of others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished." I hope that between now and August 25, Libra, you will put "ubuntu" at the center of everything you do. Make it an intensely practical practice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "The size of your dreams must always exceed your current capacity to achieve them," says Scorpio-born Liberian politician Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. "If your dreams do not scare you, they are not big enough." I trust you've arrived at this realization on your own in the past few weeks. And I hope you have audaciously expanded and supercharged your dreams so that they do indeed surpass your current ability to accomplish them. If you have not yet done this daring work, please attend to it now. If you have done it, move on to the next step: making definite plans to acquire the power and resources necessary to achieve your new, improved dreams.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "The soul should always stand ajar," wrote Sagittarian poet Emily Dickinson, "That if the heaven inquire, / He will not be obliged to wait, / Or shy of troubling her." I'm confident that this will be a fertile meditation for you in the coming weeks. So what does it mean? By "heaven," I assume Dickinson meant marvelous interventions, sacred revelations, and lucky accidents—and maybe also soulful invitations, out-of-the-blue opportunities, and supernatural breakthroughs. What do you think, Sagittarius? What can you do to make your soul ajar for phenomena like those?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "Everything is complicated," wrote poet Wallace Stevens. "If that were not so, life and poetry and everything else would be a bore." I agree! And therefore, I conclude, you should shed any resentment you might feel for the fact that our world is a crazy tangle of mystifying and interesting stories. Drop any wish that life will stop being so fascinatingly messy and confusingly intriguing. Instead, why not celebrate the deep riddles? And revel in the intriguing complexity? And give holy thanks for the paradoxical beauty? Everything I just said should prepare you well for the next four weeks.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll be extra sensitive to stimuli in the coming weeks. Every little event will touch you more intensely than usual. Every perception will flow into you with an unusually strong potential to move you and influence you. That's why I think you should be vigilantly self-protective. Erect a psychic shield around yourself. Make sure your boundaries are firm and clear. Affirm your unshakable commitment to deflecting vibes that aren't of use to you and welcoming vibes that will enhance your well-being.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Actress Gwyneth Paltrow founded Goop, a company that markets exotic, expensive health treatments. She claims that far-infrared gemstone therapy and crystal-based sound-healing baths will dissolve your negativity. Allowing bees to sting your scars will supposedly cause the scars to fade. Drinking "sex juice," a blend of watermelon and alkaline water, will enhance your libido. The "collagen martini," which is a mix of vodka, vermouth, olive juice, and collagen peptides, will smooth your skin's wrinkles. I'm favorably disposed to you taking strong actions to improve your well-being in the coming weeks, Pisces, but I recommend that you try cheaper, more reliable modalities than those Paltrow recommends. Like what? Ample sleep and good food, for starters, along with fun exercise, time in nature, enjoyable meditation sessions, and tender expressions of love.

TURN IT DOWN! LOCAL MIX

BY RICH TUPICA

A TRACKLIST OF OBSCURE MICHIGAN-MADE GARAGE-ROCK SONGS

The New Era "We Ain't got Time" — 1967

Holland's own The New Era recorded the obscure jangle-pop gem "We Ain't Got Time" in 1967 while the band was still in 10th grade, yet it's still one of my favorite Michigan-made ballads. This lone single, released on Great Lakes Records (a Fenton subsidiary), featured the equally enchanting flipside "Won't You Please Be My Friend," a mellow Rickenbacker-driven, Byrds-esque tune. The band, which was known for its stupendous live cover of "Light My Fire," comprised Dana Dunn (drums, vocal), John Williamson (lead guitar, vocal), Jay Bertalan (rhythm guitar, vocal) and bassist Steve Kunkel. Later, keyboardist Jeff Brown joined the group. Both sides of The New Era's majestic folk-garage 45 was written by Dunn's brother, John Dunn of the fellow Holland-based band The Sheffields.



& The Ones. The Pedestrians was also a regular at local high schools, gigging at Catholic Central and Union High School dances. The group included Tony Cooper (lead vocals/rhythm guitar), Jay Kilpatrick (drums), Kim Weighous (lead guitar/vocals) and bassist Bill DeYoung. The band's delicate, moody single "Think Twice" was a No. 1 local smash in 1966 and even topped radio charts in parts of Florida and Alabama. Following the widespread buzz, the group road-tripped down south for shows and a television appearance. A visit to New York saw them performing on "The Lloyd Thaxton Show," an appearance in support of a never-to-be released LP. After a deal with Atco Records went sour (the major label re-issued "Think Twice"), the band fell apart and was totally dismantled by the end of the '60s.



Fennville High School, The Chentelles recorded one lone Fenton single, 1967's punky party-starter "Be My Queen." This highly collectible slab of local wax (only 400 pressed) has fetched in the neighborhood of \$1,200 on eBay. The band comprised William Dalton (keys/vocals), Dennis Smiertka (accordion/vocals), Bruce Smiertka (guitar), John Willerton (guitar), Mark Adams (bass) and drummer Gary Adkins. The original Chentelles drummer, Barb Overhiser, left early on and didn't play on the



record. In its heyday, the group gigged at West Michigan teen clubs like The Warehouse, Noah's Ark, The Morgue, and Holland's Edgar Allan Poe teen-dance club. After the

band dissolved, a couple of the Chentelles members formed The Embryonic Marshmallow, a band fronted by Pam Busscher.

JuJus "Do You Understand Me?" — 1966

The JuJus formed at Godwin Heights High School in Wyoming, Michigan, after the members met in the school's jazz band. While its first gig was a Beatles cover set at a school assembly, the group would go on to record some stone-cold garage-rock classics — in their own folk-rock and British Invasion-influenced way. The original JuJus lineup was comprised of saxophonist Max Colley Jr., Bill Gorski (drummer) and lead guitarist Rod Shepard. After adding vocalist Ray Hummel III, the group headed to Sparta and cut one of its most sought-after 45s, 1965's "You Treat Me Bad," on the Fenton Records imprint. The single was backed by the tremendously poppy "Hey, Little Girl." Locally, "You Treat Me Bad" reached No. 2 on the October '65 charts and earned the band a performance on WOOD TV's American Bandstand-style show, "McKay's Place" — hosted by the late Dick McKay. After the band had some turnover. In 1966 Ron Burke stepped in on vocals and the band released its primitive masterpiece, "Do You Understand Me." Over the years, The JuJus' tunes have appeared on countless CD and vinyl compilations, even landing spots on the legendary "Back From the Grave" and "Pebbles" '60s collections.



The Pedestrians "Think Twice" — 1966

After forming in the spring of 1966, The Pedestrians quickly became a fixture at local teen clubs like The Place and Beach Bash in Grand Haven — sharing stages with the likes of the Lansing-based, Motown-signed Danny Hernandez

The Chentelles "Be My Queen" — 1967

The first rock 'n' roll band to ever form out of

CITY PULSE'S MITTEN MUSIC QUIZ

1. This legendary smooth Motor City soul band scored hits with "I'll Be There" and "Rubberband Man"
2. This Ann Arbor folk club has been open since 1965.
3. In 1985, the Flint-based group Ready for the World scored a No. 1 hit with this poppy R&B single.
4. Negative Approach, a Detroit punk mainstay, is fronted by this legendary hardcore vocalist.
5. For a stint in the 1960s, this iconic Funkadelic frontman was a Motown staff songwriter.

Answers on page 25

✓ VOTE August 4, 2020



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candidate for
Ingham County
Commissioner,
District 10

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The Reading People Need Your Help!

By Barbara Schmidt

The Capital Area Literacy Coalition provides a number of free services for the tri-county area. This includes basic reading help as well as tutoring, GED completion, English as a Second Language help and our two children's programs: Read to Succeed and Family School Partnership.



During this unprecedented period that we are all dealing with the effects of COVID, we at CALC are working on a plan to make our environment safe for our students, tutors and staff. In addition, we are working to make remote learning possible and sustainable from our building site, in people's homes and out in the community. We have a great need for IT support services and expertise and equipment such as computers and Wifi accessibility. We hope to offer services to all in need and be a resource once again for community organizations. Staff development will also be necessary to implement these programs in a new and safe way. This

will have long term implications towards preparing adults to reenter the work place with new skills. Naturally this will all be done with the help of the community in the form of donations to make this happen! If you are able to help, it would be greatly appreciated. You have the opportunity to help those greatly in need today and into the future as they are able to proceed with their lives and into the work force in our area.

You can visit our website at thereadingpeople.org to learn more about our organization and make donations. You can also send donations directly to CALC at **1028 E. Saginaw St. Lansing, MI 48906.**

If you have questions, please call us at **517-485-4949.**



OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at 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 22

2020 East Lansing Kiwanis "Virtual BBQ" - 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. For info and tickets: elkiwanis.org.

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., ongoing, along the Lansing River Trail. 517-374-6400. lansingartgallery.org.

Dreamscapes: Artists in Dialogue with Luzhen Qiu & Cathy Jacobs - a Zoom conversation about their artwork. 12-1 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center Facebook page for link.

Summer Impact 2020 - The Office of Diversity and Inclusion at Lansing Community College invites area 11th and 12th graders to participate. 1-4 p.m. lcc.edu

MITTEN MUSIC QUIZ ANSWERS

1. The Spinners
2. The Ark
3. "Oh Sheila"
4. John Brannon
5. George Clinton

SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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

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

Thursday, July 23

Bath Township Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13751 Main St., Bath. shopbfm.org.

Dimondale Farmers' Market - 3-7 p.m. Village Square, 136 N Bridge St, Dimondale. 517-646-0230. villageofdimondale.org.

MACC Golf Classic 47th Annual - 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Eldorado Golf Course, Mason. business.masonchamber.org.

Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual) - 6-7 p.m. facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing

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

Friday, July 24

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

Saturday, July 25

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

Polish MANIA Food Truck - Come enjoy gourmet polish cuisine at Ellison Brewery + Spirits! 4 p.m. 4903 Dawn Ave, East Lansing.

Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)



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PROUD LGBTQ SUPPORTER
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PUBLIC SAFETY
WORKERS' RIGHTS
SUPPORT FOR VETERANS

Paid for by Dave Rowland for House of Representative candidate committee 11119 Resort Rd. Pleasant Lake, MI 49272

- 10:30-11:30 a.m. facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing

Sunday, July 26

East Lansing Farmers Market - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 300 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Monday, July 27

Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual) - 6-7 p.m. facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing

Tuesday, July 28

Book & Brew Book Club (Virtual Meeting) - via Zoom. Please register to receive the login information. 6:30-7:30 p.m. DeWitt District Library, DeWitt. dewittlibrary.org

Magic Show - Since Mr. Jim cannot come to the Library this summer, he has recorded his show for us! 1-2 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library Facebook page. All ages.

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

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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ELECT L. BRUCE PORTER FOR EATON COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER EATON COUNTY SOIL EROSION CONTROL AGENT EATON COUNTY PARK BOARD MEMBER



THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE

- Reduce cost of drain maintenance 50% by eliminating engineering and legal fees for maintenance work
- Obtain sealed bids for maintenance work as required and train staff to prepare documents
- Stop drain consolidations to prevent unfair assessments, unfair engineering and legal fees
- Work with the entire drain staff to prepare fair and proper assessments
- Attend all meetings
- Resume cooperation with Eaton County Road Commission
- Mark all county vehicles - prohibit private use
- Eliminate high cost of consultants for drain reviews, inspections, preparing assessments and development reviews
- Obtain engineering proposals when engineering services are needed (proposals are not being obtained now)
- Roll back the cost of doing business with the drain office that has doubled and tripled

Paid for by The Committee to elect Bruce Porter 4532 Whittum Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Experience

- 8 Years City of Indianapolis - Assistant Engineer of Street Design
- 11 Years Drain Office - Deputy Drain Commissioner and Chief of Engineering at Ingham & Eaton Counties
- Obtained grants for culvert replacements
- To serve as county soil erosion control agent, my MDEQ certification for soil erosion inspections, permit reviews and issue soil erosion permits will be renewed. The current commissioner has never been certified to review applications, plans and issue permits.
- 32 Years of civil engineering design experience
- Designer of 15 low cost county drain projects in 5 counties
- Past member of county park board and zoning board of appeals

If elected, I will replace the pipe to reduce flooding at Columbia and Canal Roads, with the cooperation of Eaton Rapids Township, as soon as weather permits in 2021. The new pipe flow capacity will be more than 200% of the existing pipe when it was new. The current commissioner has known about this problem for 7 years and told land owners this could have been done 5 years ago.

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

New Iraqi eatery comes to East Lansing

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Sparty's Kabob, now open on Trowbridge Road in the same plaza as Fresh Thyme, opened by Iraqi immigrant Rayan Hussein and his family, brings a distinct style of Middle Eastern cuisine to Greater Lansing.

Hussein moved to the United States in 2013, and previously owned restaurants in his home city of Mosul.

"We want to serve this community. There's no Iraqi cuisine here in Lansing, a lot of local restaurants' food is Lebanese," Hussein said. "Iraqi and Lebanese food is very different — the spices are different. But there are many people interested in new things, and that's why we decided to open a restaurant here."

Sparty's Kabob operates with a deli-style ordering system. Customers go down the line and customize their order with the various items on the menu.



Sparty's Kabob

930 Trowbridge Road,
East Lansing
Monday-Friday,
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday,
11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
(517) 993-5150
spartyuskabob.com

There are several entrée options. The Students' Regular gets you two scoops of rice, salad, hummus, your choice of tandoori or grilled chicken and bean stew. The Students' Special gets you an extra scoop of rice and your choice of any kind of meat. And then you have the larger options, Sparty's Special and the Mixed Grill Plate, which gives you more meat and kabob — including lamb — in addition to a side of okra. You can also choose to stick with Iraqi falafel with grape leaves and fries.

Sparty's Kabob also has a wide variety of vegetarian and vegan options. Of these choices, the vegan kabob is



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Sparty's Kabob owner Rayan Hussein takes a customer's order.

Hussein's signature. "We've created a new item, the vegan kabob. It's 100% veggies. There's no fat and there's no meat," Hussein said.

Hussein said Sparty's Kabob menu includes several special dishes that originate from Iraqi recipes, such as the Eggplant Salad, which includes cooked eggplant, tomatoes, onion, green peppers and cucumbers. All of

the salads include sauce that "comes directly from Iraq" that packs a spicy, sour punch.

Sparty's Kabob doubles as a bakery, and you can sample a range of traditional Middle Eastern desserts, as they are prepared in Iraq. The restaurant serves its own take on baklava, konafa, cheesecake and custard. You can also try out klecha, a quintessential sweet treat of Iraq. It's a cookie stuffed with a sweet filling made with date and cardamom.

Hussein said the process of opening Sparty's Kabob, which required several renovations to the building, took more than an entire year. Opening during a pandemic didn't make matters easier either, as the citywide shutdown caused a delay in receiving the proper licenses from the health department.

"With COVID-19, it's a hard time. We're trying our best to make sure everything operates smoothly," Hussein said. "We are working to keep everything sanitized; we keep the place clean and all of the food healthy."

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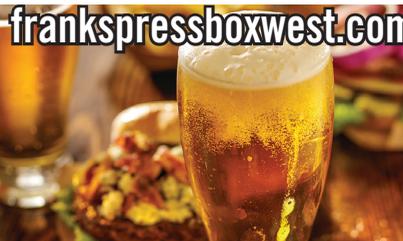
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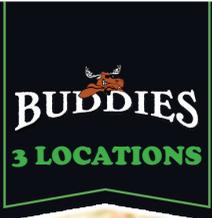
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**PUBLIC NOTICE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2020, has been scheduled for 28th day, July, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. in the Board Room in the Lansing Township Administration Building at 3209 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to determine that the program being used to record and tabulate the results of the election counts the votes in the manner prescribed by the law.

SUSAN L. ATEN, Clerk
Charter Township of Lansing

CP#20-164



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(517) 993-5988
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(517) 321-3852
FB: @AirportTavernandSteakhouse

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EATON COUNTY SHERIFF

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4367 Eaton River Trail, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

A public hearing will be held to consider a Site Plan and Special Use Permit application from Walgreens Co., for the property at 100 W. Grand River Avenue to allow for a new Walgreens Retail Store and Pharmacy pursuing a liquor license for the sale of packaged beer and wine. The subject property is located in the B-3, City Center Commercial District.

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning, Building and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. These matters will be on the agenda for the next Planning Commission meeting after the public hearing is held, at which time the Commission may vote on them. The Planning Commission's recommendations are then placed on the agenda of the next City Council meeting. The City Council will make the final decision on these applications.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services should write or call the Planning Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. Phone: (517) 319-6930. TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777.

Note: This hearing is currently scheduled to occur as a regular public hearing at the meeting. If, at the time of this hearing meetings are still not permitted under an Executive Order of the Governor and an Executive Order permitting meetings electronically allows for an electronic meeting, this hearing will occur electronically and a notice of the means of participation in that hearing will be published in compliance with the Open Meetings Act and any relevant Executive Orders.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#20-169

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