

# CityPULSE

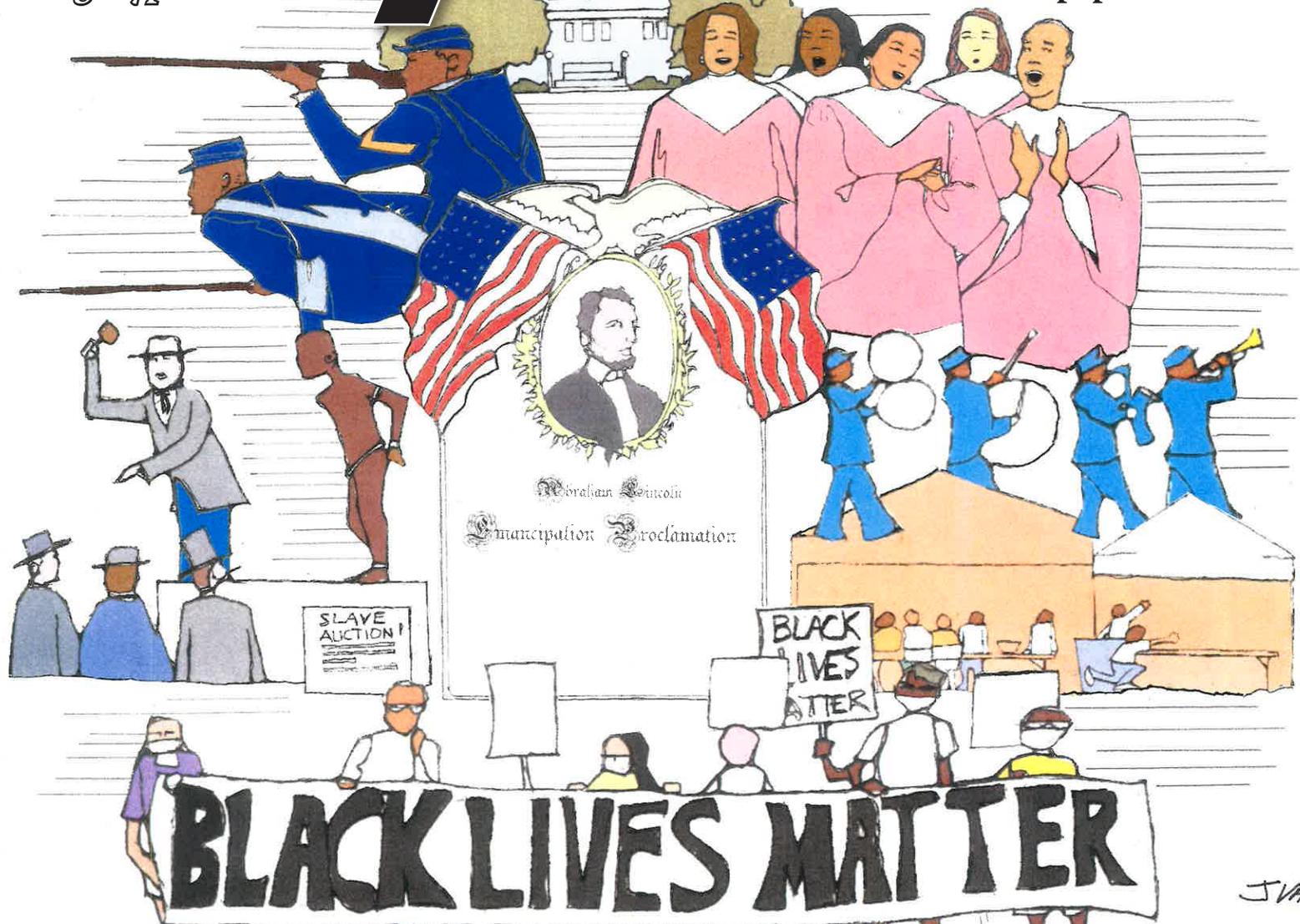
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A newspaper for the rest of us



J. Van Dyke

**Juneteenth is busting out all over**  
See page 14

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# CityPULSE

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**PAGE 10**

Part II of Greater Lansing's Pride history



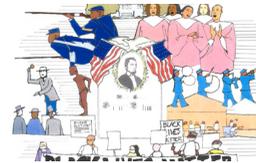
**PAGE 18**

ELFCO is coming back on Allen Street



**PAGE 28**

Flash in the Pan: Scape skewers



**Cover Art**

Julian Van Dyke

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MARKETING/DIGITAL DIRECTOR** • Aimee West  
aimee@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6708

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

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

**SALES ASSISTANT**  
Earlisha Scott • earlisha@lansingcitypulse.com

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

by TOM TOMORROW

A short while ago in a galaxy very nearby...

JEDI MASTER LIEBERMAN, I NEED ADVICE ONLY YOU CAN PROVIDE! MY FELLOW DEMOCRATS WANT TO PASS A *DISTASTEFULLY* PARTISAN VOTING RIGHTS BILL!

A STRONG VOICE OF PRINCIPLED INDEPENDENCE YOU MUST BE, JOE MANCHIN!

THIS ATTEMPT TO PROTECT VOTING RIGHTS FROM REPUBLICANS MUST HAVE REPUBLICAN *SUPPORT*! ANYTHING LESS WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLY *DIVISIVE*!

TO THEIR FRIENDS ACROSS THE AISLE, DEMOCRATS MUST REACH OUT!

A CRUCIAL VOTE IN A CLOSELY DIVIDED SENATE, YOU ARE! THE *FORCE*, YOU MUST USE! THE *FORCE OF CENTRIST POLITICS*!

I'M TRYING, MASTER LIEBERMAN--

DO OR DO NOT! THERE IS NO *TRY*!

AND RESIST YOU MUST THE TEMP-TATION OF THE *DARK SIDE*--THE *LIBERAL LEFT*!

YOU CAN COUNT ON *ME*, MASTER! I'LL *NEVER* GIVE IN TO *THOSE* WACKOS AND THEIR OUTRAGEOUS DEMANDS!

LONG AGO, DEMOCRATS PRESSED *ME*! HMMMPH! SUPPORT FOR THE "PUBLIC OPTION," THEY WANTED! SHOWED *THEM* WHO WAS BOSS, I DID! THE SAME, YOU MUST DO, HMMMMM?

YES--I'LL STAND MY MIDDLE GROUND!

I'LL GO BACK TO THE SENATE AND CONTINUE MY SEARCH FOR *TEN GOOD REPUBLICANS*! I KNOW THEY MUST BE OUT THERE *SOMEWHERE*!

POWERFUL THE CENTRISM IS, WITH THIS ONE! DONE, MY WORK HERE IS!

I'M *SURE* DARTH MCCONNELL WILL LISTEN TO REASON!

NO FLAW IN THIS PLAN DO I SEE!

Tom Tomorrow © 2021 ... www.thismodernworld.com ... twitter.com/tomtomorrow

# A crisis of violence

Two more murders. Two more Lansing teenagers dead, bringing the city's 2021 death toll by homicide to 15. And it's only June. At this rate, Lansing is on track to easily outstrip last year's record of 22 homicides — the most murders in a single year in decades. With the hottest days of summer just ahead, we're bracing for even more senseless violence while community leaders scramble for answers.

Lansing is not alone, of course. Social isolation, economic disruption and rising frustration due to the pandemic are key drivers behind a sharp uptick in violent crime in cities across the country. But every fire starts with a spark, and the dry tinder of Lansing's present circumstances — too many people living in poverty, too little opportunity for young people of color, a broken system of mental health services, escalating domestic violence, and too many guns on the street — all provide the deadly fuel for a conflagration of killing.

According to Everytown for Gun Safety, the national advocacy group that was borne from former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Mayors Against Illegal Guns initiative, 2020 was one of the deadliest years on record for the United States. Gun homicides and non-suicide-related shootings took approximately 19,300 lives, a 25 percent increase from 2019. A January survey by the Police Executive Research Forum found that gun-related homicides increased in 57% of a diverse set of cities last year.

Bloomberg's group also estimated that more than 22 million guns were sold in 2020, a 64% increase over 2019, driven at least in part by pandemic-related paranoia and irrational fears that the incoming presidential administration would start confiscating guns, a fictional narrative stoked by the National Rifle Association to boost their membership whenever a Democrat is elected president.

It's also important to recognize that not everyone is equally at risk. Black people are 10 times more likely to die from gun violence than whites. Systemic discrimination, inequities in health care, housing and education, and other factors amplify the risks of gun violence for people of color. Research also shows that access to a gun makes it five times more likely that a woman will die at the hands of a domestic abuser.

In the wake of the latest murders, Mayor Andy Schor announced he is forming a Gun Violence Task Force to develop recommendations for action. While



## The CP Edit

### Opinion

something is better than nothing, Schor's response is about a year late and typical of his favored approach to vexing issues: form a committee. In this case, the group is composed entirely of his own staff and Cabinet members, which isn't a good look. We think it would have been better to reach out to the community from the start to enlist the assistance and perspectives of key stakeholders.

We don't fault Schor for the city's murderous crime wave, but we prefer to see immediate action rather than another round of hand-wringing by committee. While many of the needed reforms fall to state and federal lawmakers, who have the power to enact stricter controls on gun purchases and direct more resources toward gun violence prevention, there are also affirmative steps that Lansing leaders can take to move the needle in the right direction, right now.

With the risk of exposure to COVID-19 significantly diminished, we think it's time to double down on community policing strategies that embed officers in troubled neighborhoods. Getting police officers out of their cars and into the neighborhoods builds the relationships and trust that are essential to detecting trouble before it turns into deadly violence. Schor should also impose a summer curfew for minors and direct the Police Department to aggressively enforce it.

City funding for community-based violence prevention strategies should also be increased. Ingham County's Advance Peace initiative, which uses mento-

ring and counseling targeted to at-risk youth, has tremendous potential to stem the tide of gun violence. Lansing is already a partner in the initiative, but city leaders should leverage the coming windfall of federal American Rescue Plan funds to expand the scope and scale of the program and make other key investments in gun violence prevention, including summer youth employment programs and crisis intervention services that can help turn anger and frustration away from violent outcomes.

We would also support a bounty system that pays citizens for information that leads to the seizure of illegal guns.

At the state and federal levels, we must demand that our elected representatives strengthen background

checks for gun purchases, reenact the ban on assault weapons and make gun owners liable when they fail to securely store their firearms. It is also imperative for lawmakers to pass what are known as "Extreme Risk" laws, which allow authorities to confiscate firearms from known and suspected domestic abusers.

There will be no quick fixes for the city's epidemic of gun violence. We, the people of Lansing, have our own work to do to rectify the ills of economic, social, and structural inequity that perpetuate the cycle of violence in our city. Let's each start where we live by getting to know our neighbors, keeping an eye out for trouble, and supporting and mentoring at-risk youth. Step by step, one relationship at a time, we can help reverse the tide of violence and restore peace and safety in the Capital City.

### Correction

Due to an editor's error, City Pulse incorrectly reported last week that community activist Farhan Sheikh-Omar had not responded to an invitation to attend an upcoming mayoral debate on June 24. His invitation was sent to an incorrect email address. He accepted his invitation upon receipt on June 12. City Pulse regrets this mistake.

# Sheikh-Omar: Lansing desperately needs strong leadership

By FARHAN SHEIKH-OMAR  
OPINION



Sheikh-Omar

My name is Farhan Sheikh-Omar. I was born in the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya. Violence first pushed my family out of Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia. As a civil war spread, my

family decided the country was no longer safe. My parents worked hard to find a solution to long-term living in a refugee camp. They were fortunate to be granted resettlement in the U.S. We were fleeing conflict, insecurity and persecution.

This is the last in a series of guest columns by candidates for mayor of Lansing in the Aug. 3 primary election. The order was determined by lot. Patricia Spitzley declined to participate.

Lansing residents greeted us with open arms, open hearts and an outpouring of support. Fifteen years later, I am running for mayor. Only in America is my story possible. It is why I believe so firmly that Lansing is, and has always been, a city of promise and possibility.

Unfortunately, that promise and possibility has vanished over the past few years. By so many measures, our city is weaker and less prosperous than it was four years ago. In 2020, our city saw a

record number of homicides, with 22 citizens killed in Lansing. This year, we've had 15 homicides, which means if we continue at the same rate, that record will be doubled in 2021.

How has this been allowed to happen? My vision for Lansing stands in sharp contrast to the failed record of the current administration. I believe the level of crime in our city is unacceptable.

However, we know more cops don't mean less crime. In fact, if policing and the city jail stopped crime, Lansing would be the safest city in the country. But years of evidence show us this is not the case. We need to be more creative and deploy community-led violence intervention programs to help target and disrupt gun violence. The purpose of these programs is to prevent crime before it happens, rather than responding to crime after it occurs.

I will secure more funding for community programs that protect at-risk youth. I will not task our police officers to deal with public health issues like substance abuse, homelessness and mental illness. Instead, we will create a mobile crisis response unit and hire social workers.

I will be a proactive mayor and not reactive. Our neighborhoods are suffering from systemic disinvestment and Lansing residents have been neglected and ignored. Building new affordable rentals is not the solution. I will address and eliminate the homelessness crisis in Lansing. As a refugee, I understand the importance of housing. Lansing must develop thriving and livable neighborhoods with walkable

sidewalks, affordable housing and accessible transportation. My top priority is to improve all aspects of community life, including health, crime prevention, employment and training, local business development, family stability and housing.

Lansing desperately needs strong leadership from a mayor with vision, drive and unquestionable personal integrity. Unfortunately, current Mayor Andy Schor cannot provide that leadership.

Not only has he overseen the worsening of crime, homelessness and our city's finances, but he and his administration are mired in accusations of racial discrimination and even wrongful death. Nine current and former Black city staffers are suing the city and Mayor Andy Schor for racial discrimination. Additionally, the Hulon family has filed a federal lawsuit against the city and Mayor Andy Schor for the wrongful death of Anthony Hulon. This is a disgraceful state of affairs in a city with a proud heritage of diversity and anti-racism.

Two centuries ago, Lansing was united against slavery and formed part of the Underground Railroad. We have to recognize the past has a profound impact on the present. If we are not conscious of it, it will direct our future. We must reject racism, hate and bigotry.

Together, we will build systems that are equitable, just and put people first.

Today, I'm asking for your vote, to serve you as the next mayor of Lansing.

Please visit my website at [farhanforlansing.com](http://farhanforlansing.com) or reach me on Facebook at Farhan Sheikh-Omar for Lansing Mayor.

## City of East Lansing Historic District Commission

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AT ELECTRONIC MEETING Thursday, July 8, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

The Historic District Commission of the City of East Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan ("Historic District Commission") will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, July 8, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.**, concerning the following:

1. A public hearing will be held to consider a Certificate of Appropriateness from Gregory Spiridakos for the property at 123 Beech Street to replace the front steps.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider a Certificate of Appropriateness from Alan and Cheng-Yuh Kinnersley for the property at 447 Kensington Road to replace the garage doors and install a gutter on the front of the garage.

This meeting will only be held electronically pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Act 267 of 1976, and the capacity restrictions and social distancing requirements set forth in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Director's Emergency Orders. The purpose of the meeting will be to hold the public hearing described above and consider any other business that comes before the Historic District Commission. Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, the City gives notice of the following:

1. **Reason for Electronic Meeting.** The Historic District Commission is holding this meeting by electronic means only due to the restrictions imposed by the MDHHS Director's Emergency Orders. If the Orders are revised and if an in-person meeting is to be held instead of an electronic meeting, the meeting may be rescheduled to a different date and time. Notice of any such change will be posted at the City Hall and on the City's website.

2. **Procedures.** The public may participate in the meeting and may make public comment electronically by video/telephone using the following method:

**Join Zoom Meeting by Video:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86276110982>

**Or Dial In By Telephone\*\* - Call in: 312-626-6799, Toll Free: 888-788-0099**

**Meeting ID: 862 7611 0982**

**Password: Not required**

\*\*To unmute microphone from a cell phone dial \*6 (star 6)  
To raise your hand from a cell phone dial \*9 (star 9)

3. **Contact Information.** For those who desire to contact members of the Historic District Commission to provide input or ask questions on the business that will come before the public body at the meeting, please contact Raphael Kasen at (517) 319-6828 or [rkasen@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:rkasen@cityofeastlansing.com) prior to the start of the meeting.

4. **Persons with Disabilities.** Persons with disabilities may participate in the meeting through the methods set forth in paragraph 2. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services in order to attend electronically should notify Rebecca Urdiales at (517) 319-6922, TDD 1-800-649-377, or [rurdial@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:rurdial@cityofeastlansing.com) within a reasonable time in advance of the meeting.

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

CP#21-145

## CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1285

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 656, Section 656.05, to provide that the penalty for violation of this Ordinance shall be a municipal civil infraction.

Effective date: July 7, 2021

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

**Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MIPMC**  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)  
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CP#21-143

# GOP exploiting societal progress to replace Trump on ballot

Before transgender people in public bathrooms, it was gay marriage. And before it was gay marriage, it was legalizing gay rights of any sort.

Today, the issues are letting young transgender women play in high school sports as women,

critical race theory, sanctuary cities and “wokeness.”

As progressives continue to pioneer the new frontier of social acceptance, conservatives use these arguably socially taboo topics to rile up the morally rigid, those with little to no experience with different lifestyles.

Mostly white, mostly rural and typically lightly educated, these voters tend to close themselves off to those who may look or act contrary to their limited societal web.

It's these voters Republicans have riled up with such things as the ban on affirmative action programs in 2006 and the one-man, one-woman constitutional marriage amendment of 2004.

Donald Trump's dog whistle sang in these voters' ears in 2016 and 2020, but he's not on the ballot in 2022. Instead, the GOP is checking the boxes on a buckshot of debatably relevant social topics to keep this demographic politically engaged.

The Portland protesters long, long ago crossed the line of effectively conveying a police reform message into a distasteful image of vigilante mob rule. The once socially awake term “woke” has been nabbed by conservatives as a pejorative to describe out-of-touch snowflakes, who view laws on civil disobedience as annoying parental suggestions.

Defund the police? Republicans transformed that message into such a political loser that only those on the lefty left like U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib feel brave enough to use it.

The Michigan Republicans are beside themselves in glee that former Detroit Police Chief James Craig is on the verge of announcing his candidacy for governor.

His strengths are not about banging away on Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's old executive orders and personal freedoms. Ult-right freedom lovers like Garrett Soldano and Tudor Dixon are

reploting that old ground.

No, the pandemic will be practically a history book chapter by November 2022. People's entrenched prejudices? They aren't going anywhere.

Who better to appeal to voters' indigestion over political correctness gone wild than Detroit's former Black police chief? He's the guy who went on FOX News to label Tlaib's call to abolish police “disgusting.” He's the guy who cracked the whip in Detroit and stopped chaos from running wild amidst the George Floyd reaction.

There's no “woke” with him.

Meanwhile, the Michigan legislature is doing its part to check the boxes.

No. 1 on the agenda is transgender females playing high school sports as women. Of the 180,000 high schoolers who played in competitive sports in the last five years in Michigan, it's been an issue 10 times. Each time, the Michigan High School Athletic Association has addressed the issue.

Young men are not claiming to be women in the hopes of bettering their chances to take home trophies or setting records.

Yet, Sen. Lana Theis has a bill to lay down a statewide mandate that high schoolers can only play with athletes who match their birth gender.

It hasn't moved from Theis' Senate Education Committee, but it's ready and waiting. Moving it during Pride Month would have been bad form. But with even Progress Michigan finding such a bill having 50% support among the electorate, it's only a matter of time.

Another bogeyman issue is something called “Critical Race Theory,” an academic framework examining how racism shaped the U.S. legal system. It's an issue that exploded in the public arena recently, leading more than a dozen state legislatures, including Michigan, to introduce bills seeking to restrict or ban its use in the classroom.

Theis has a bill on this, too. Again, it hasn't moved out of her committee. The polling isn't as good (39% wouldn't support her bill, 34% would). But again, this could be used more to whip up the base than influence swing voters.

In short, no Donald Trump to rally Trump-like voters? The GOP is doing its best to make sure that isn't a problem.



POLITICS

KYLE MELINN

OPINION

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Potter Park Zoo © Potter Park Zoo





### Eye Sore: 2109 Worden St., Lansing

This week's eyesore is running out of time. The City Council is slated to green-light a city-mandated demolition process next week for this southside home, which was considered too dangerous to remain standing in late 2019. That is, unless owner Dennis Radke can convince the city's code enforcement department that he plans to get the place fixed up — and quickly.

"My plan was to do the rehab right before COVID-19 hit," Radke told City Pulse. "I started working on the financing — which I have now — but then everything went cahooey. Now that things are opening back up, I really want to get the place repaired as fast as it can be done."

Radke's contractors are in for quite the job. Photos taken during city inspections show a thick accumulation of trash, debris and furniture scattered across the house, busted appliances, a crumbling rear porch, exposed wood and chipped paint, mold accumulating in the bathroom, improper electrical wiring and plumbing, shattered windows, broken soffits and (much) more.

Photos also show a collapsing ceiling and sun shining through portions of the busted roof.

Because the decaying property has sat in an empty state of disrepair for more than a year, City Councilwoman Carol Wood wants Radke, by June 21, to present a timeline for repairs, pull permits and prove that he can pay for it all. Only then would the Council consider delaying the demolition process, she said. Radke is hoping for some leeway.

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

# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By KYLE KAMINSKI

### Top cop leaves Capital City

Lansing Police Chief Daryl Green is retiring on June 25 and has accepted a new job as chief of staff for Michigan State University Police Chief Marlon Lynch. Green has worked at LPD since 1997, taking the helm after former Police Chief Mike Yankowski retired in 2019. LPD Captain Ellery Sosebee will serve as interim chief amid a search.



Green

### Legacy costs decline in Lansing

A new analysis of the city's unfunded pension and retiree healthcare obligations shows that recent changes in retiree health benefits have



made "considerable progress"

in reducing unfunded liabilities. Estimates from last year showed unfunded post-employment benefit liabilities totaling \$563.5 million. The latest reports show a total obligation of \$247 million.

### Lansing kids can stay home forever

The Lansing School District announced plans to continue offering online learning options to all mid-Michigan students next fall through the Capital Area K-12 Online school — a program that will remain available for students indefinitely, the Journal reports.

### Guilty plea in terrorism case

Mohamed Haji, 28, was the last of three Lansing men to plead guilty to providing material support to ISIS, the Journal reports. Codefendants Muse Muse and Mohamud Muse pleaded guilty last year. The three men reportedly picked up money to assist ISIS and pledged allegiance to the organization in recorded videos.

### Ethics Board: No issue with Betz' profanity

Lansing's board ruled that a series of profane text messages City Councilman Brandon Betz sent to local activist Michael Lynn Jr. were discourteous but did not violate the city charter. Those texts from February included Betz' calling Lynn a "weak ass bitch" and "dickbag troll." Betz lost his job and the Council censured him and stripped him of committee assignments.

### Women sentenced for Nassar survivor theft

Tammy Johnson — the first of seven people charged with stealing \$527,000 from a Michigan State University fund to pay for counseling and treatment for Nassar's survivors — was sentenced Thursday, reports the Journal. Johnson will pay \$75,000 in restitution and serve three years' probation.



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#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS: Decedent's Trust.

TO ALL CREDITORS, the Settlor, William Rankin Riddle, DOB: December 6, 1930 of 2015 West Hillsdale, Lansing, MI 48915, died February 1, 2021. There is no personal representative of the Settlor's estate to whom Letters of Authority have been issued. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against The William R. Riddle Revocable Living Trust, dated January 2, 2007, will be forever barred unless presented to successor Trustee Velma Riddle, within 4 months after the date of publication or attorney Bradley A. Vauter J.D. (P35762) of Bradley Vauter & Associates, P.C., 11963 E. Andre Dr., Ste. D, Grand Ledge MI 48837, (517) 853-8015. Successor Trustee Velma Riddle has an address of 530 W. Genesee Lansing, MI 48933. CP#21-146

### Police investigate attempted murder

They said Manvil Darnell Pinder, 41, assaulted — with "blunt force trauma" — a 3-year-old boy, a 27-year-old woman and a 37-year-old man before shooting himself to death at Oak Park about 3 p.m. Sunday. The woman and young boy have "serious" injuries. Those with details should call 517-483-4822.

### Two killed in Rotary Park shooting

Damon L. Johnson and Marshawn M. Beard, 19 and 16, of Lansing, were shot along the Lansing River Trail at about 1 a.m. Monday. Cops said a 14-year-old girl and 17-year-old boy were also wounded by gunfire during the incident. No arrests have been made. Those with information are asked to call 517-483-6867 with details.

### Schor forms 'Gun Violence Task Force'

The Lansing mayor has recruited a team that consists of mostly high-level city executives to join an effort to curbing spiking rates of gun violence in the city. The group will "engage other partners" in Greater Lansing to find solutions, according to a release.



Schor

### Founding LCC president dies

Plans are underway to commemorate and celebrate the life of Philip J. Gannon, who was 98. In a statement, LCC officials said they are committed to continuing his legacy and commitment to higher education.

### Whitmer bans LGBTQ conversion therapy

Her gubernatorial executive order prohibits the use of state and federal funds for the harmful practice on children and requires state departments to explore what actions can be taken by the state to further protect children from any therapeutic attempts that operate under the false premise of "repairing" or "fixing" sexual orientation or gender identity.



Whitmer

# Is a man being unfairly prosecuted over his HIV status?

Girlfriend claims he knew but did not tell her; activists cry 'injustice'

A former Lansing resident is facing up to six months behind bars for allegedly failing to disclose his HIV positive status to his girlfriend despite apparently weak and questionable evidence on the record to support his prosecution.

Ingham County Prosecutor Carol Siemon said she plans to press forward with the criminal charges and upcoming sentencing hearing under a felony law that she herself labeled as "discriminatory" and "fear based" just last week.

The origins of the pending criminal case began in late 2018 when a then 41-year-old man met his then 29-year-old girlfriend, started having sex and moved in together in Lansing.

Both of their identities are being withheld by City Pulse amid efforts to protect their privacy.

In January 2019, the woman tested positive for HIV in a routine screening at a plasma donation center and in February she attempted suicide as a result of the diagnosis, court records show.

While at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing for mental health treatment, the woman claimed to have asked her boyfriend if he was HIV positive and he did not answer, records state. When asked again by hospital staff, she also claimed that the man "slammed a door" in a doctor's face.

Four days later, she filed a complaint with the Lansing Police Department.

A felony charge of knowingly engaging in sexual penetration "however slight" without disclosing his HIV status was levied against the man in late 2020. He was arrested in February. In March, he waived his preliminary examination. In May, he pleaded guilty under a deal with Siemon's office to serve a cap of six months in jail. He is set to be sentenced June 22.

One issue: There is little to no public evidence that the man is HIV positive or even knows his status. Siemon has not disclosed what other evidence she may have that may have led to a plea deal. Activists are crying foul.

The man was charged under a felony law that was repealed and replaced with a series of misdemeanor charges by the state Legislature in 2019. The old law makes it a felony for a person living with HIV to engage in sexual penetration "however slight" without first disclosing his positive HIV status. That

"Prosecutor Siemon previously called this law discriminatory, but for the life of me, I cannot understand how she can continue to allow this man to plead guilty in a case that simply has no evidence."

— **Jake Distel,**  
executive  
director, Lansing  
Area AIDS  
Network



old law has been lambasted by activists as a stigmatizing tool that lends itself to racial disparities in prosecutions and clashes with interests of public health.

Another issue is race. The man being charged is Black. Multiple studies have shown that the law was also the basis for apparent racial disparity. Black men who have sex with women represented only 17% of the people living with HIV outside of Wayne County but accounted for 44% of the felony prosecutions, one study showed.

Siemon herself labeled the law as "discriminatory" and "fear based" last week in ordering a review of all cases charged by her office under that old law. Her review uncovered two cases — one that had already been dismissed and another that has had an open warrant since 1999.

Siemon dismissed that case from the '90s, last week labeling the prosecution "inconsistent with my focus on equity and anti-discrimination to charge or prosecute charges" under that statute. After discovering the third case days later, she changed her tune and is still pressing forward.

Saying she was facing time constraints, Siemon did not answer a series of questions about the prosecution, including why charges were filed with little apparent evidence that the man is living with the virus, whether a phylogenetic test had been done to rule him in as a possible source of his girlfriend's HIV infection or how this prosecution could clash with the interest of justice in Ingham County.

All of those items are standards under the United Nations guidance for prosecuting HIV cases.

"I simply will not have the time to quickly and adequately review the extensive materials and the very detailed questions you have prepared," Siemon wrote in an email Friday, regarding questions posed two days earlier. "I

hope that you would understand that I have significant time constraints that impact me taking on this topic."

Court records show that LPD Det. Jeremy Wonnacott sought medical records from the girlfriend. But the police report and testimony supporting the issuance of a warrant revealed that he did not attempt to verify that the man was actually aware of his alleged HIV-positive status or that he was HIV-positive at all. Medical records are generally exempt from release under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act.

Wonnacott's sworn statement to 54A District Court Judge Stacia Buchanan instead relied on the statement of another woman who was friends of the accuser. That woman said she had spoken with the man's mother, who revealed that he had disclosed his HIV status 13 years earlier.

Legal experts label that as "hearsay" evidence, which is generally not admissible in court. And now advocates for those living with and at risk for HIV are sounding alarm bells over the case.

"A third hand account purporting that" the man "knew about his HIV status would seem to be insufficient and something that" the man's "defense attorney would want to point out," said Jay Kaplan, an attorney from the ACLU of Michigan who also reviewed court and police records.

The man — who did not respond to requests for comment — is represented by a public defender in Ingham County.

Chief Public Defender Russell Church declined to comment.

"They still will need to prove that he had knowledge of his HIV status when they first were intimate," Kaplan explained. "It would seem that the prosecuting attorney's office has a lot of elements that it will have to prove in order to justify felony charges."

Jake Distel, executive director of the Lansing Area AIDS Network, also challenged the merits of the prosecution in the case. He said he was speaking for himself because he has not yet had a chance to bring the latter to his board. Distel reviewed records made available to him by this reporter.

"As a person who has worked in the HIV care field for over 18 years, the case in question is terrifying," Distel said in a statement. "Not only does the record not even establish whether the accused is living with HIV, but it builds on serious and damaging assumptions about HIV and people living with HIV. Prosecutor Siemon previously called this law discriminatory, but for the life of me, I cannot understand how she can continue to allow this man to plead guilty in a case that simply has no evidence. This prosecution will make it harder for people living with HIV to disclose their HIV positive status, and could allow for people assumed to be living with the virus to face criminal prosecution based solely on second hand statements. This is an injustice."

— **TODD HEYWOOD**

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M. IN COMPLIANCE WITH MICHIGAN PUBLIC ACT 254, THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM PLATFORM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Sanders, Treasurer McKenzie  
Trustees: Harris, Brewer, Broughton, Ruiz  
MEMBERS ABSENT: None  
ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney  
Randy Ramsey, Engineer, Bogus Swamp Drain Project

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:  
Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.  
Approved minutes of meetings held on May 11, 2021.  
Agenda approved as amended.  
Approved referring R-21-04 to Planning Commission to schedule a public hearing.  
Approved referring R-21-05 to Planning Commission to schedule a public hearing.  
Approved referring Proposed Ordinance 77 – Emergency Management to Ordinance Committee for study and recommendation.  
Approved moving into Executive Session to discuss attorney-client privileged communication.  
Approved returning to Regular Session.  
Adopted Resolution 21-09: Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Notes in Anticipation of Taxes  
Approved claims as presented.  
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor  
Maggie Sanders, Clerk

CP#21-144

# 'Gays not monsters': '70s liberation and separatism

By **TIM RETZLOFF**

The headline on the front of the Lansing State Journal on July 25, 1972, might be described as cheeky: "City's Night Life Can Get Real 'Gay.'" The accompanying tagline, "Perversion Downtown Varies," carried a darker message, at once moralistic and salacious.

Beyond grouping gay life with sex work and adult entertainment, as if any of these would be worthy of contempt, the snide ogling suggests that as queer people increased their public presence after Stonewall, voyeurism, not journalism, provided the first draft of local LGBTQ history.

"Activity in Covello's reached a social high point lately with the 'Miss' Capitol City beauty contest and the crowning of the 'queen,' Aretha, a 6-foot, 200-pound cook from a local restaurant," the article stated.

The writer seemed bewildered that a spot welder from an area auto plant would be among the contestants. This might be interpreted as charming curiosity, except the quotes around "Miss" and "queen" carried an air of straight condescension.

If LGBTQ life in Greater Lansing remained largely hidden before Stonewall, in the 1970s it became considerably more visible. People we now understand as LGBTQ began to organize locally, to push back against prevailing attitudes that viewed queer folk as criminal, sinful and sick.

Greg Kamm pushed back.

Kamm, an officer in the Gay Liberation Movement at Michigan State University, submitted an op-ed to the LSJ in protest. The paper gave it the headline, "Gays Not Monsters."

"Gay Liberation sponsored the drag pageant mentioned in the article," Kamm wrote. "We did so because we recognize that different facets to homosexuality exist, running the range from the 'drag' queen to the football player, from the spot welder to the teacher, to the hairdresser."

Perhaps as significant as Kamm's critique, the Miss Capitol City contest was part of the first statewide celebration of Gay Pride Week. Aretha, with the runners-up serving as her court, road atop a Ford Galaxie to lead the first Pride parade in Detroit.

Gay activists at Michigan State were on the vanguard of taking to the streets. Formed in April 1970, the Gay Liberation Movement roused gays on campus to become politically involved.

## Greater Lansing's LGBTQ+ Past

This is Part II of a four-part City Pulse series to commemorate Pride Month. On June 30, City Pulse will announce this year's Inclusion Award honorees for the work they have done for the LGBTQ+ community.

The GLM played an instrumental role in the first ever gay march on the state Capitol, in December 1971.

GLM leader Elyse Eisenberg ran for East Lansing City Council. Don Gaudard, also a leader in GLM, ran for school board. Although both lost their races, they were among the first out candidates to run for elected office in the United States.

Gaudard was also a key instigator in pressuring the East Lansing Council to amend its policy in 1972 to prohibit bias against gay people in hiring city workers. A year later, East Lansing enacted a broader ordinance that prohibited discrimination based on sexual preference.

Meanwhile, a Gay Community Center opened in Lansing at 117 S. Pennsylvania Ave. in summer 1972, with many MSU GLM activists involved. Though it lasted barely half a year, it hosted dances and weekly spaghetti dinners, and served as home base for Lansing's first gay newspaper, Sunflower.

The Radicalesbians registered as a student group in 1970, supposedly as an offshoot of the GLM. One historian credits its founding to a scheme to bolster gay influence on campus through multiple phantom groups that existed primarily on paper.

Besides favoring a male-centered lens for understanding the local queer past, this view seriously downplays the vibrant lesbian community being forged. By the mid-1970s, Greater Lansing was poised to become a lesbian center of gravity nationally and globally.

Trudi Sipolla, for one, became involved in a lesbian group called the Purple Perils as an undergrad and was exhilarated to discover so many women in their 20s like her. "I was in a pretty radical state of mind," Sipolla said in a 2019 phone interview. She remembered thriving in the consciousness-raising sessions, putting feminist theories into action.

Barbara similarly embraced feminism as an entrée into the nascent les-



Courtesy of Greg Kamm

The Miss Capitol City pageant at Covello's, June 22, 1972.

bian movement. Soon after arriving at MSU to attend grad school in the early 1970s, Barbara began a 10-year relationship with Anne Tracy, who worked at the MSU Library.

To Barbara, Lansing area feminists were much more energized than in Ann Arbor. "The women's movement is what pulled me in," she said recently via Zoom. "I wanted to be part of that."

In 1974, the Lesbian Connection began publishing, central to a coalescing of community that included the arrival of lesbian-feminist philosopher Marilyn Frye on the MSU faculty in 1974, the emergence of women's music, and the opening of Motherwit bookstore in 1977.

Another turning point came when a homophobic landlady evicted the Lesbian Center from its original location at 547½ E. Grand River Ave. in East Lansing in early 1975. It soon moved to 427 Spring St. in Lansing, away from the university.

East Lansing was a college town. Lansing, besides being the state capital, was a factory town. Many queer residents found refuge in bars.

The Long Branch Bar, on Washington Avenue near the old Diamond Reo Truck plant, was reputed to attract lesbian clientele into the early 1970s.

The Rustic Village, which also hosted drag contests, adopted the name of its owner, Rudy Stober, in 1972. "Stober's is such a Gay-straight Redneck mix," Greg Kamm wrote in his diary after a visit that August. The bar was rechristened Stober's RS Disco a few years later, but eventually it turned straight.

Covello's began welcoming gay customers around 1972, when the Sir Club down the block kicked them out in favor

of featuring topless dancers. Trammpp's opened next door to Covello's in the summer of 1976. Within months, the Toledo gay bar magazine Rapping Paper reported, weekend crowds at Trammpp's could expect a 15-minute wait to get in.

As gay commercial spaces took root, so too did organizations. A 1976 issue of the Lansing Star, a local alternative newspaper, listed the MSU GLM and the Lesbian Center, along with an East Lansing support group called the Monday Night Group and Integrity, an organization for gay Episcopalians. A chapter of the Catholic gay group Dignity first met in 1978. The Lansing Association of Human Rights was established in 1979.

Particularly momentous was the formation of the Michigan Organization for Human Rights in response to the threat posed by Anita Bryant and her "Save Our Children" campaign. In June 1977, Bryant secured the repeal of a new gay rights ordinance in Dade County, Florida, and promised to take her anti-gay crusade to other cities.

Michiganders launched MOHR to brace for attack.

While much of the impetus came from Detroit, MOHR's founders sought to be a truly statewide collective political force. It held its founding convention in Lansing in October 1977. At the weekend confab, Barbara found herself elected to the policy council.

"I was the sole woman in this male world," Barbara recalled, adding that she felt "there's got to be women willing to work with men."

*(Historian Tim Retzloff teaches LGBTQ Studies at Michigan State University.)*

CORONAVIRUS IN MICHIGAN				WEEK 65			
BY THE NUMBERS...							
<b>Michigan</b>				<b>Eaton County</b>			
CASES	DEATHS	VACC.		CASES	DEATHS	VACC.	
6/8/21	891,057	19,432	4,673,866	6/8/21	8,857	202	53,363
6/15/21	892,651	19,574	4,743,270	6/15/21	8,869	202	54,139
Weekly Change	↑0.2%	↑0.7%	↑1.5%	Weekly Change	↑0.1%	No Change	↑1.5%
<b>Greater Lansing</b>				<b>Clinton Co.</b>			
CASES	DEATHS	VACC.		CASES	DEATHS	VACC.	
6/8/21	37,508	662	234,876	6/8/21	6,005	84	40,249
6/15/21	37,574	666	238,128	6/15/21	6,022	85	40,714
Weekly Change	↑0.2%	↑0.6%	↑1.4%	Weekly Change	↑0.3%	↑1.2%	↑1.5%
<b>Ingham County</b>							
CASES	DEATHS	VACC.					
6/8/21	22,646	378	141,264				
6/15/21	22,683	378	143,275				
Weekly Change	↑0.2%	↑No change	↑1.4%				

The "Vaccines" category refers to residents that have received at least one dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, according to state data.



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7 P.M. Thursday, June 24

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Kathie Dunbar



Citizen-activist  
Melissa Huber



Lansing Mayor  
Andy Schor



Citizen-activist  
Farhan Sheikh-Omar



Lansing City Councilwoman  
Patricia Spitzley

### The news panelists:

City Pulse managing editor Kyle Kaminski

City Pulse columnist Kyle Melinn of MIRS Capitol News Service

Erica Murphy, FOX 47 News reporter

Larry Wallace, FOX 47 News reporter

Moderator: Sarah Grimmer, FOX 47 News senior reporter

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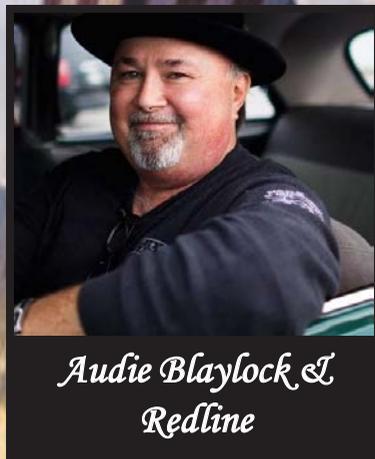
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**E**ver heard of a news desert? It's what you call a community that has lost its local newspapers. Over the past two decades, it's happened far more often than you might think. More than 2,100 local newspapers, including 70 dailies and 2,000 weekly publications, have permanently turned off the lights, leaving hundreds of communities across the nation with no local print journalism.

The rise of the Internet, Facebook and other social media platforms has certainly contributed to the trend, fundamentally changing the habits of news consumers and bulldozing newspaper economics, especially for small publications like this paper. Gone are the days when subscriptions and print advertising revenues were more than sufficient to cover operating expenses. It's fair to say that the traditional business model supporting independent journalism has all but collapsed, forcing publishers to cut costs by laying off staff, scaling back coverage, downsizing their physical product, and exploring the potential for alternative sources of revenue.

City Pulse is not immune to these challenges. Worsened by the disastrous effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which crushed our advertising revenues over the past year, this newspaper is admittedly struggling to stay afloat. That's why we — Lansing's "newspaper for the rest of us" — are asking for your help.

You may be familiar with our nonprofit City Pulse Fund for Community Journalism. If you've made a donation to the Fund in the past, we thank you. But now we ask you to give directly to City Pulse, not the Fund, which is limited in its purpose: We can only use its resources to pay journalists to write stories; we can't use it to pay the rent or keep the lights on. As we consider ways to make ends meet, we have resisted the temptation to move to a subscription-only model or putting up a paywall on our website. Those options leave too many people of limited means with zero access to the news that matters in their lives. So it's up to those of us with a few extra dollars in our pockets to keep City Pulse available



Perhaps you enjoy our restaurant reviews and our annual Dining Guide as a way to introduce new flavors to your palate. Are you a cannabis connoisseur? Our weed reviews can help you find the right strain to achieve your desired results.

Our Top of the Town Awards (now moved to the Fall) celebrate the "best of the best" in hundreds of categories, from your favorite watering hole to the Lansing area's best cheeseburger. We sponsor and host the annual Inclusion Awards, to highlight champions of equality and

social justice in the LGBTQ+ community, and the Pulsar Awards to honor local theater. And, we're particularly proud of our election offerings, with in-depth coverage, profiles and candidate questionnaires that provide valuable information for voters as they head to the polls. After Election Day, we continue to hold public officials accountable and demand transparency on behalf of our readers so they can gain insight and perspective on issues that matter.

City Pulse goes where other newspapers fear to tread. We were founded on the principle that "objectivity is bullshit" and we continue to embrace this provocative idea. We're not afraid to tackle controversy, or to "create" it when necessary, in the sense of recognizing an issue that ought to be controversial. Our editorial page, created in the vacuum left by the daily paper, which has largely abandoned print's traditional role as a community opinion leaders, fearlessly tackles all manner of issues, from racial equity and social justice to government ethics. Not everyone is happy with everything we write, but that's OK. Even when we are criticized, the exchange of viewpoints is usually constructive — and instructive. We learn from our readers as much as we hope you learn from us.

But all of this goodness doesn't come cheap. It takes real money to publish a real newspaper. Please consider making a donation to City Pulse to keep independent local journalism alive and well in Lansing.

## The CP Edit

### Opinion

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for free on newsstands across the region. Thus, the drive we kick off today is for City Pulse, not the Fund, which will focus its efforts on those seeking tax deductions for large gifts.

Why give to City Pulse? Let us count the ways: Tired of the dearth of quality local journalism in the corporate daily? Look no further than this paper to get your fix each week. Looking for in-depth coverage and insightful analysis of state and local politics? We've got it in droves. How about mid-Michigan's most comprehensive event listings and our special sections featuring Lansing's top festivals and seasonal attractions?

# A belated feast

In Lansing and beyond, Americans awake to the power of Juneteenth

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

For many African-Americans, the sudden mass embrace of the Juneteenth holiday in 2021 smacks of Columbus “discovering” America.

The holiday goes back to 1865. Lansing’s own Juneteenth celebration (Thursday, June 17, through Saturday, June 19) has been going on for 28 years.

Belated recognition is baked into the story of Juneteenth (the name an apparent mashup of June and nineteenth). On June 19, 1865, enslaved African Americans in Texas were finally informed that slavery had ended, two months after General Robert E. Lee’s surrender and two years after Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation.

Separate bubbles of reality are nothing new in American politics. Until U.S. Army General Gordon Granger prepared General Order No. 3, months after Lee’s surrender, Confederate forces in Texas were still active — and winning — on the field, fighting the tide of emancipation.

It’s no wonder that many Juneteenth celebrations, including Lansing’s, have featured a costumed re-creation of General Granger reading his terse order: “The people of Texas are informed that,



Lansing educator and world traveler Willie Davis Jr. will be on hand at Saturday’s Juneteenth celebration with artifacts from his “All Around the African World Museum.”

Courtesy photo

in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves.”

For Greta McHaney-Trice, a volunteer in Lansing’s Juneteenth celebration committee, belated recognition of humanity is the central theme of Juneteenth, and of American history. She compared people who didn’t know about Juneteenth until recently to the freed slaves in Texas who didn’t know they were free until the first Juneteenth in 1865.

“Buried history is buried history,” she said. “Juneteenth, and what it stands for, is pivotal right now. It’s more relevant than ever. It needs to be celebrated by this whole union, not just for people of color. If you want a more perfect union, you’ve got to look at the imperfections.”

## Another level

Juneteenth organizers are proud that members of Lansing’s Juneteenth committee, including the late Rev. Michael Murphy, the Rev. Dr. A. Richard Doss and Marilyn Rogers, led the push for the holiday’s official recognition in Michigan. The third Saturday in June was officially designated Juneteenth Celebration Day in

Michigan in 2005.

Today, 48 states recognize Juneteenth as either a state holiday or ceremonial holiday.

“It’s gone to another level,” Doss said. “It has been linked with other movements growing around the country, such as Black Lives Matter. A lot of younger people are discovering Juneteenth and understanding how far back the struggle for the recognition of freedom and securing of rights has gone.”

Texas was the first state to recognize Juneteenth, in 1980. North Dakota was the most recent, in April of this year. Hawaii’s Legislature passed a bill recognizing the holiday April 27. If Gov. David Ige signs it, South Dakota will be the only holdout left.

“Juneteenth has gone from 0 to 60 on the American holiday celebration map in less than a year,” MSU English Professor Jeff Wray said. “But what a year, right?”

This year’s Juneteenth events ride a nationwide wave of pent-up, post-George-Floyd, post-Donald-Trump, post-COVID emotions crying for an outlet.

Wray, who teaches English and African-American film, has never seen anything like it.

“The suddenness of this awareness and celebration is a bit mind boggling and a little desperate,” he said.

The reason, Wray said, is in plain sight. “A serious discussion of reparations or addressing the wealth gap with concrete moves seems remote,” he observed. “But a broad cultural and corporate embrace of Juneteenth is and can be done quickly.”

Wray is pleased, but wary, about the current surge of interest.

“Elevating Juneteenth feels good, and is good, and it is doable,” he said. “I have not seen a Juneteenth Hallmark card yet, but ...”

Artist Julian Van Dyke, a longtime Lansing Juneteenth board member, pitches in to organize and set up the event and helps with educational outreach to local schools. He painted the Lansing Juneteenth logo and rendered this week’s City Pulse cover.

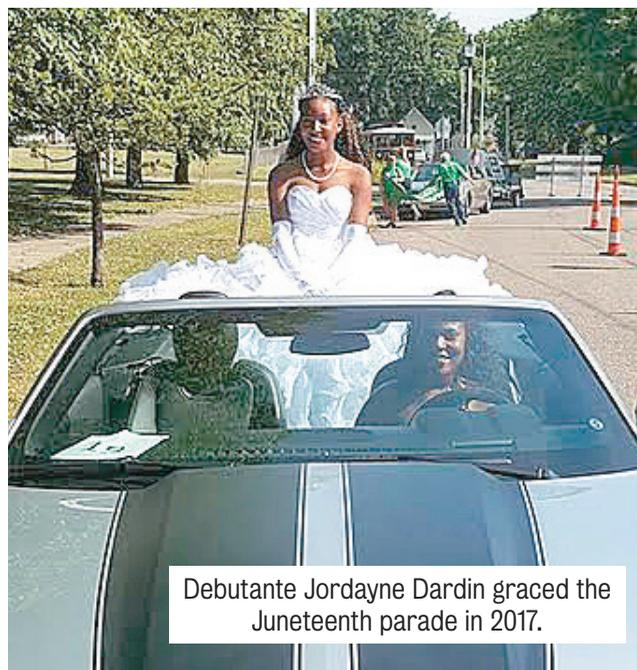
“I don’t want to throw shade on anybody, but a lot of people of color did not know what Juneteenth was,” Van Dyke said. “If you asked me 20 years ago, I couldn’t have told you. Last year, with Black Lives Matter, and especially after George Floyd case happened, we were reaching out for something we could celebrate, and it was Juneteenth. You have the spiritual need and movement to grasp onto something, and Juneteenth was it.”

## Starting small

Lansing’s Juneteenth celebration took root almost 40 years after Gordon Haskins, a longtime member of Mask Memorial CME Church, 5601 S. Waverly Road, came to Michigan from Douglasville, Texas, in 1954.

For years, Haskins took his family to Lake Lansing Park each Juneteenth for a small, private celebration of half a dozen people or so.

In the early 1990s, Haskins began to lobby other church members to start a local Juneteenth celebration. Among these were Debra Plummer, who had just returned to Lansing after living in Wisconsin and California for more than



Debutante Jordayne Dardin graced the Juneteenth parade in 2017.

Courtesy photo

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## Juneteenth

from page 14

15 years, and her sister, Marilyn.

Debra Plummer had witnessed Juneteenth celebrations in Milwaukee, but Marilyn Plummer, now Marilyn Rogers, said the holiday was almost unknown in Michigan.

“I’m a Northerner,” Rogers said. “Not many of us in the congregation knew about it. We hadn’t put too much thought into it because we couldn’t identify with it. Gordon told us he felt we should learn about Juneteenth, and we should start celebrating, so the city and the community would know about it.”

In her 2021 book, “On Juneteenth,” Pulitzer Prize-winning author Annette Gordon-Reed, a native of Texas, confesses that she was “mildly annoyed” at first when other states took up the holiday, but she has since changed her mind.

“It’s really a very Texas move to say that something that happened in our state was of enough consequence to the entire nation that it should be celebrated nationwide,” Gordon-Reed writes.

The Lansing celebration started small at Mask Memorial, as a dozen or so members gathered at 4 p.m. on Father’s Day 1993 to hear a guest speaker Haskins corralled from Texas to teach the members about the holiday’s history.

The setting was apt. At first, Juneteenth was celebrated almost exclusively in

churches across Texas, as the post-emancipation 1860s unleashed a wave of white backlash against freed Blacks across the state. Open celebration was met with violent reprisals, and an understaffed federal Freedmen’s Bureau struggled to keep the streets calm and enforce the emancipation order. But joy burned brightly in those days, too. Slavery was fresh in the memory of Gordon-Reed’s grandparents and their friends.

“Black Texans were determined, despite the early intimidating anger of whites, to celebrate what was initially called Emancipation Day,” Gordon-Reed writes in “On Juneteenth.”

Juneteenth made its way out of the church, but the church has never left Juneteenth. Urging Lansing organizers to think beyond the church, Haskins told the Mask Memorial congregation about four Black Houston men who pooled their money in 1872 and bought a park, which they called Emancipation Park, where the holiday could be celebrated in the open. In segregation times, it became a city-owned park where Blacks could safely gather.



In 2005, Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed legislation designating the third Saturday in June Juneteenth Celebration Day. Organizers of Lansing’s Juneteenth celebration (Rev. Michael Murphy, Rev. A. Richard Doss and Marilyn Rogers, left to right) led the statewide push for official recognition.

Courtesy photo

Back in Lansing, Debra Plummer, Marilyn Rogers and other church members began to form a committee. The event grew into an outdoor picnic and barbecue, with theatrical “Jubilation Day” presentations in the grassy backyard recreating the reading of General Order No. 3 and the rejoicing that followed. Baseball and softball games were added in subsequent years, some of them honoring the history of the Negro Leagues.

Year by year, the event outgrew the church until it moved to Riverfront Park in downtown Lansing in 2001, then to Benjamin Davis Park in south Lansing from 2002 to 2005, and finally to St. Joseph Park on the southwest side, where it is still held.

The committee formed a nonprofit and began to work closely with the city, applying for grants to supplement the donations of church and community members.

Van Dyke is proud that the event has endured, uninterrupted, for so long. “Debra and Marilyn were instrumental in putting in the effort to keep it going in Lansing,” Van Dyke said. “A lot of people don’t know the effort they went through.”

Ask any one of the committee members what they do and you are likely to get a shrug, as if to say, “What don’t I do?”

“It’s a small group of grass-roots community members,” McHaney-Trice said. “We all do what we got to do.”

### ‘We’ve always had Juneteenth’

Rogers said this year’s event is a “hybrid program” beginning Thursday (June 17) with a virtual kickoff ceremony recognizing the Juneteenth Essay and Scholarship winners.

By now, the history of Juneteenth is widely known, or at least easily accessi-

ble. This weekend’s keynote speaker will set aside the customary origin stories and bring home the holiday’s relevance in the current political landscape.

Heaster Wheeler, Michigan’s assistant secretary of state, will run down widespread legislative measures meant to restrict voting rights, in Michigan and other states, and detail state and local efforts to push back.

“He’s sharp, quick-witted and right to the point, and we’re looking forward to his message,” Rogers said.

Friday will feature an online tribute to the Negro Leagues and major league great Hank Aaron, with the participation of legendary Sexton High School educator Dan Boggan, a community pillar for decades and the winningest football coach in the school’s history.

The big day, Saturday, will start with a caravan parade of decorated vehicles (including decked-out bicycles) from Wainwright School to the Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center, a COVID-era replacement for the customary parade on foot. The parade grand marshal is Lee Taylor, longtime activist and leader of community programs for at-risk youth.

After the caravan, an African drummer will lead a procession from the community center parking lot to the main stage, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor will read a proclamation and the festivities will begin. Rogers has asked Alfreda Schmidt herself to make an appearance at the community center that bears her name, health permitting. The African Masquerade Dancers, a Lansing-area youth dance troupe, will take the stage, along with other performing youth groups.

Food and merchandise vendors offer up a head-spinning swirl of sights and

## ‘Juneteenth’ and Julian

This week’s City Pulse cover artist, Julian Van Dyke, has deep roots in Lansing. Since his early days in Old Town studios in the 1980s, his art has sprung up like colorful blossoms all around town — at the downtown library, music festivals, on walls, in galleries and, most recently, in a series of lively coloring and activity books for young people. As a volunteer member of Lansing’s Juneteenth committee, Van Dyke designed the event’s logo in his trademark up-with-people, coloring-book style.



Van Dyke

Van Dyke has produced a growing body of work as an author, illustrator, poster artist, muralist and even a theater actor, all while spending 20 years as a UPS driver to help support a family of four. His work exudes a positive vibe, but his coloring and activity books don’t shy from tough issues like bullying, the legacy of slavery and the

fragility of the natural world.

“Now you have certain districts trying to take information out of the history books, and it’s very hurtful,” he said. “Education has never been more important.”

Introducing the story of Juneteenth, with its tragic and violent roots, to children, meant making some difficult choices. Van Dyke decided to leave the “hard core” images, such as lynching and whipping, out of a story meant for kids in third grade and under.

“The story has to be told, but you don’t give graphic images to kindergartners,” he said. “They’ll find out.”

“Juneteenth: Celebrating Freedom” begins with a brief history of the holiday, going back to pre-slavery African life, but most of the book showcases the fun and activities common to Juneteenth celebrations across the nation: parades, baseball, music, barbecues and the cakewalk, a dance with a bittersweet history originating in the time of slavery days.

“Juneteenth” is available at Absolute Gallery in Old Town, on Van Dyke’s web site and at local bookstores.

— LAWRENCE COSENTINO

# Juneteenth

from page 15

smells. Inveterate traveler, educator and Lansing resident Willie Davis Jr., also known as Babakubwa Kwefu, will bring artifacts from his "All Around the African World Museum." A slate of musical performers, including Washington, D.C.-based gospel star Tim Bowman, will provide the soundtrack.

In a pandemic-era wrinkle, a COVID vaccination clinic will be set up on the festival grounds.

"If it rains, we'll come back when the sun comes out," Rogers said. "We've had all kinds of weather you can imagine over the years, but we've always had Juneteenth."

Visitors will have a chance to sign the petition to make Juneteenth a national holiday. Steve Williams, president of the national Juneteenth Observance Foundation, will join the virtual events Thursday. Williams calls Juneteenth "America's second independence day" and "the completion of the celebration of freedom in America."

Greta McHaney Trice agrees with Williams that the holiday's mix of joyful celebration and solemn remembrance gives it a unique power in the soul-searching, divided America of 2021.

"Juneteenth is, for me, far beyond a



Juneteenth in Lansing means re-connecting on a parade route, over a barbecue, under a shady tree or at the chess board.

Courtesy photo

parade, far beyond some food, people gathering and whatever," she said. "It is Black African Americans legally beginning to reclaim their humanity. It's an observance of legal humanization in a very dehumanizing condition that is ongoing. That's worthy of celebration."

Richard Doss is looking forward to watching the kids run around, the old folks play chess and the lovers dance to the music. Doss hasn't been going out much lately, but the chance to celebrate freedom after a year of COVID restrictions is too much for him to resist.

"Most of all, I will enjoy the fact that we can celebrate face to face," Doss said. "I admit, I will be a little nervous, because I haven't been around a lot of people. I've had both my shots, but if I get to feeling challenged, I'll put on the old mask and I'll sit there and take it in."

## Juneteenth Events

The Lansing Juneteenth Festival kicks off Thursday with a livestream celebrating the 17th Annual State of Michigan Juneteenth Freedom Day. The stream will recognize students who entered the Olivia Letts Juneteenth essay/scholarship awards program and will feature keynote speaker Heaster Wheeler, Michigan's assistant secretary of state. The ceremony will also include community performers and presenters. Friday will feature more public announcements and a special video tribute to the Lansing Negro League baseball team. Saturday's festivities include a parade led by Grand Marshal Lee Taylor and a community gathering at the Alfred Schmidt Southside Community Center featuring live music, vendors, games for kids, a health fair, educational exhibits and much more.



### Lansing Juneteenth Festival

Virtual events and more info available at [lansingjuneteenthcelebration.org](https://lansingjuneteenthcelebration.org)

Livestream ceremony,

Thursday, June 17, 7 p.m. (Online)

Negro League Tribute, Friday, June 18, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. (Online)

African-American Caravan Parade, Saturday, June 19, Begins at 11 a.m.

Parade route goes from the Wainwright School (4200 Wainwright Ave., Lansing) to the Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center (5825 Wise Road, Lansing)

### 2021 Lansing Juneteenth Festival Celebration,

Saturday, June 19,

Begins at noon

5825 Wise Road, Lansing

### REO Town Juneteenth Festival

More info at:

[JuneteenthFestival517.com](https://JuneteenthFestival517.com)

Saturday, June 19, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

REO Town Neighborhood South Washington Avenue between South Street and East Elm Street

Lansing's REO Town neighborhood is hosting its first-ever Juneteenth block party featuring live music, food and beverages from Black-owned restaurants and in-depth community panel discussions about the Black experience in Lansing.

The event is a diverse celebration of the many different forms of Black art and culture. Performers include Ozay Moore, Sareem Poems, Michael Austin and several more. Among the many food vendors there will be Everything is Cheesecake and Smoothie Queen. Check the website for the full schedule of festivities and a full list of vendors.

### Michigan State University's Juneteenth Celebration

Saturday, June 19, from noon to 2 p.m.

The historic commemoration will include a panel discussion, live music, food and messages from key leaders.

# HIRING

The community mental health movement in this country was founded on the belief that mental health services are best provided in the community in which the person receiving such service lives. In keeping with this philosophy, Community Mental Health provides a wide range of community-based services. Annually, the organization serves over 11,000 persons at 122 sites throughout the tri-county region.

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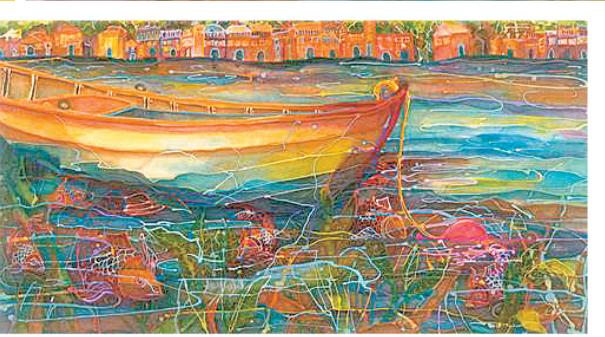
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# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## UrbanBeat keeps live music marching onward

By SKYLER ASHLEY

The devastation of the pandemic took away live music for much of 2020 and the first half of 2021, but now live music is starting to slowly trickle back. One Lansing venue, UrbanBeat, has been soldiering on in recent months, hosting a slew of small intimate gigs featuring a selection of chamber crooners and jazz musicians.

Club owner Terry Terry said it's been quite a revelation to get back into the swing of hosting live music for an in-person audience.

"I'm not into this for the money. I just want a place where people can come together, hear great music and enjoy each other's company," Terry said. "It's been a long time, so I'm pretty excited. We've had good turnouts already. Musicians are calling and wanting to play; we're booking further into the future."

UrbanBeat began to experiment with a return to regularly scheduled shows earlier this spring by hosting sets by solo musicians five nights a week. The shows required limited capacity and several COVID safety protocols, such as requiring the non-vaccinated to continue wearing masks.

"The vision has always been to have the premier listening room in Mid-Michigan. We made sure to do every-

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**Charlie Richardson**

Thursday, June 24, 5 p.m.  
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UrbanBeatEvents.com

thing just right. We had a long quiet period with COVID. We weren't able to do much," Terry said.

UrbanBeat places a large emphasis on making gigs comfortable for musicians. Many traveling bands are all too familiar with gigs that see them shoved into the corner of a bar that also lacks a green room. UrbanBeat instead tries to make them the main attraction.

"We've taken great pains to put the music front and center," Terry said. "We have a private space for musicians where they can chill out. If they're enjoying themselves, everybody plays better."

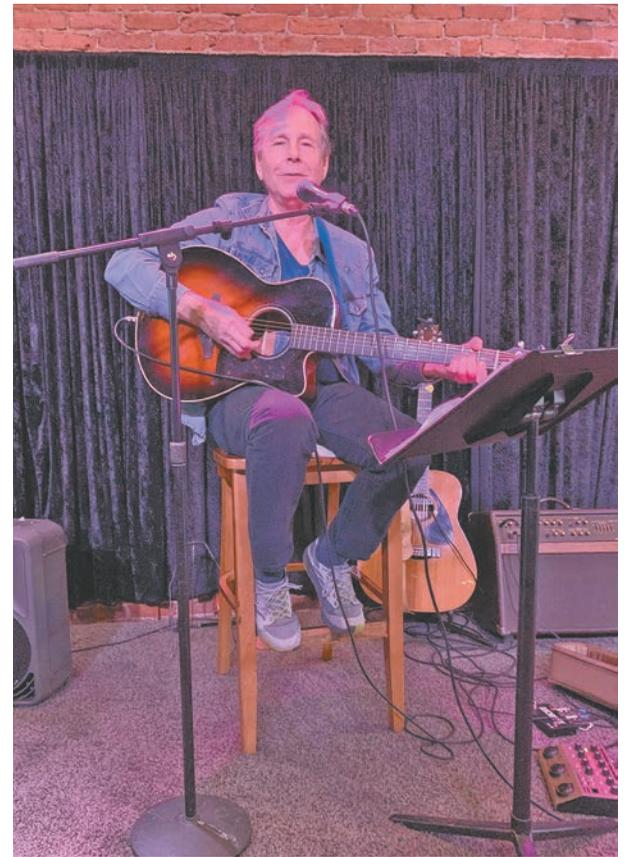
As summer fast approaches, UrbanBeat is now beginning to host full bands once again. Jazz band Michael J. Reed and Friends per-

formed at the venue on Saturday. Terry said UrbanBeat plans to utilize the recently enacted social district drinking laws, which allow people to enjoy alcoholic beverages outdoors within certain confines, for a slew of larger shows later this summer in the large back parking lot behind UrbanBeat.

"People can come and buy drinks and walk around Old Town and enjoy them. With concerts out back, that's going to work out really well."

Lansing JazzFest, which was held virtually last year, is so far scheduled to make a live return in 2021. Terry said the bulk of the performers have been booked, and Michigan BluesFest is expected to make a live comeback as well.

"We're optimistic, things are turning in the right direction. We're ready for it, the musicians



Courtesy

Dave Mingus performing at UrbanBeat on June 5.

are ready for it, and the people who are ready for live music are ready for it," Terry said.

## ELFCO finds new home on the in Allen Place Complex

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

The East Lansing Food Co-op shuttered its doors in 2017. Since then, locals have been wondering when it would ever return. Well, the wait is almost over.

This fall, ELFCO is reopening in the Allen Place Complex under a new name: Eastside Lansing Food Co-op. A page on the crowdfunding site, Patronicity, was set up to raise funds for this new project. The goal is to raise \$50,000.

If the goal is met, the Michigan Economic Development Corp. will match it. The money is for renovations, buying equipment, building a coffee bar and adding new signage and lighting fixtures.

"Allen Place has been under construction since last year," said Joan Nelson, executive director of the Allen Neighborhood Center. "When completed, it will have 21 mixed-income apartments, plus several food/health focused entities. Including an Ingham Community Health Center clinic, an accelerator kitchen for graduates of our incubator program and — of course — ELFCO!"

When ELFCO first opened about 40 years ago, it was hard to find organic food on store shelves. Now, it's everywhere, from Kroger to Whole Foods.



Courtesy

The interior of ELFCO's former location.

The challenge for today's shoppers is finding high-quality, locally-produced food.

Nelson said that the new ELFCO will not just be a food co-op. It will be something closer to Argus, a consignment grocery store in Ann Arbor.

"Local farmers provide the produce to the store. People at the store put it on display, promote it, sell it. Then, they pay the farmer for the food," she explained. "If it doesn't sell, they give it back to the farmer. It's a great model."

The grocer keeps a portion of the proceeds in order to keep the store running. The rest goes straight to local farmers. More than 30 farmers already work with the Allen Farmers Market. Nelson plans to connect these farmers to ELFCO once it opens.

"Urban farming is so prevalent on the east side," said Nelson. "There's a food innovation district on East Kalamazoo, with the greenhouse and farm in Hunter Park. Plus, all of the urban farms in the Urbandale neighborhood. There's a whole lot of

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ELFCO**

[patronicity.com/project/open\\_the\\_eastside\\_lansing\\_food\\_coop](https://patronicity.com/project/open_the_eastside_lansing_food_coop)

food-focused activity going on in this area, right on this block."

The ELFCO board felt that the east side was the perfect landing spot for its proposed consignment grocery store. It is estimated that — within three years — ELFCO will partner with over 100 farms and generate up to a million dollars in sales per year.

It will be the first food co-op to serve the Greater Lansing Area since the original ELFCO shut down four years ago.

"People still remember the East Lansing Food Co-op. Many people on the Eastside have fond memories of the Wolf Moon Food Co-op, too, which was on Michigan Avenue," said Nelson. "People are still mourning that loss. We're excited to bring a food co-op back to this area."

# It's on for real

Lansing Symphony girds for full-scale return in fall

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The first thing a real, live audience will hear from a real, live Lansing Symphony Orchestra at its 2021-'22 season opener Oct. 9 will be the blinding neon smack of Leonard Bernstein's "On the Town" — brash New York chords that bark "open for business."

"We're back on the town, gathering together," maestro Timothy Muffitt said. "It's not very subtle, but we wanted to make the very first thing the audience hears to really have an impact."

When the 2020-'21 season was announced a year ago, between peaks of COVID, it felt like a noble but doomed gesture. The 2021-'22 season lineup, announced this week, feels more than just aspirational to the orchestra's executive director, Courtney Millbrook.

"After the last year, I'm hesitant to say I feel sure about anything, but this feels very real to me," Millbrook said.

The last time the orchestra played a full-on concert at the Wharton Center was January 2020. Since then, it has kept the flame lit with online recitals and distanced outdoor concerts featuring small subunits of musicians.

Muffitt avoided the temptation to mark the occasion by packing the stage for a full-throated choral "Ode to Joy" or "Carmina Burana." Most of the music calls for a medium-sized orchestra that can be socially distanced on the Wharton state if necessary. Selections are timed in such a way that intermissions will be optional. (Muffitt envisions bringing intermissions back in the early spring.)

"We planned for contingencies," Muffitt said. "These aren't tiny works, not chamber music, but you don't see a Mahler symphony or a big oratorio. You see things that are going to keep us nimble."

Millbrook said the orchestra's board, staff and musicians are still working out a safety protocol and have yet to decide whether vaccinations will be required of musicians.

"We follow what the state requires and what the science tells us," she said. "Across the country, orchestras are going to be back to capacity, likely without social distancing, depending on the venue. Some people might do masks, because that's what their audi-



Courtesy photos

The Lansing Symphony's 2021-'22 season will feature music by composer Jessie Montgomery and solo turns by pianist Michael Brown and violinist/actress Lucia Micarelli.

ence wants, but we haven't made a decision yet."

The season will feature many of the same soloists and works planned for the doomed 2020-'21 season, minus the now-outdated Beethoven birthday bash and without star Beethoven pianist Jonathan Biss.

The season's only explicit nod to the pandemic will be the second work on the Oct. 8 program, "Gathering Together," by American composer Roger Briggs.

Muffitt gave the piece a compliment Briggs surely didn't foresee when he wrote it in 1985: "It's the perfect piece for bringing an audience back into a concert hall after a global pandemic." Based on a poem by Patricia Goedicke, the music's dream-like pulsations will give listeners a luminous 20 minutes in which to let the enormity of the past year, and the joy of getting back together, sink in.

"The composer spins these long lines that are achingly beautiful, that put the audience in this space of warm contemplation," Muffitt said. The LSO's composer-in-residence, Patrick Harlin, alerted Muffitt to the piece.

Harlin's own works, yet to be finished, will be featured on two of next season's MasterWorks concerts and one entire chamber concert Dec. 5.

Aside from the Briggs piece, no targeted laments, requiems or tributes are in the cards. Muffitt is ready to move on and believes the audience will feel the same way. The Oct. 6 concert bangs to a climax with Tchaikovsky's famous first piano concerto, with brilliant pianist-composer Michael Brown as soloist.

"I didn't want to create a program where we'll still be wallowing in our thoughts of the pandemic," Muffitt said. "We didn't want a season to be reliving all that, but I do feel it's

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important that our first concert coming back has a tone that suits the occasion."

The Nov. 12 concert will feature charismatic violinist Lucia Micarelli, a post-modern, multi-talented artist who also sings and acts and is known to many HBO viewers as the busker Annie Talarico in the "Treme" series. Micarelli will perform Jean Sibelius' Violin Concerto. The same concert will also feature "Strum," by American composer Jessie Montgomery, and Robert Schumann's Fourth Symphony.

Muffitt felt lucky that Micarelli was able to re-schedule her Lansing appearance after the pandemic vaporized the 2020-'21 season. Another happy holdover from the season that wasn't is MSU cellist Suren Bagratuni, the featured soloist for the Jan. 14, 2022, concert. Bagratuni, a Russian master in the tradition of David Oistrakh and Mstislav Rostropovich, will play searing music that is very close to his heart, Dmitri Shostakovich's First Cello Concerto. The concert will close with Antonin Dvorak's Sixth Symphony.

The March 19 concert is a tightly braided set of witty, classically scaled works by Haydn, Mozart and Francis Poulenc.

The program is the sleeper of the bunch. There are no blockbusters, but the combination of three sublime voices with many traits in common, with Poulenc as the wild card, will give Muffitt a chance to serve up one of his purest musical offerings.

The season closer March 19 will feature Brahms' magisterial Second Symphony.

By then, Muffitt hopes, "the pandemic will be fading in our memories."

"The symphony is both joyous and melancholy. I don't know how he does that," Muffitt said. "The whole experience, from beginning to end, gives you a feeling of elation, but the emotional complexity is representative of what we've all been through."

# The mesmerizing creations of Michigan's Pewabic Pottery

By **BILL CASTANIER**

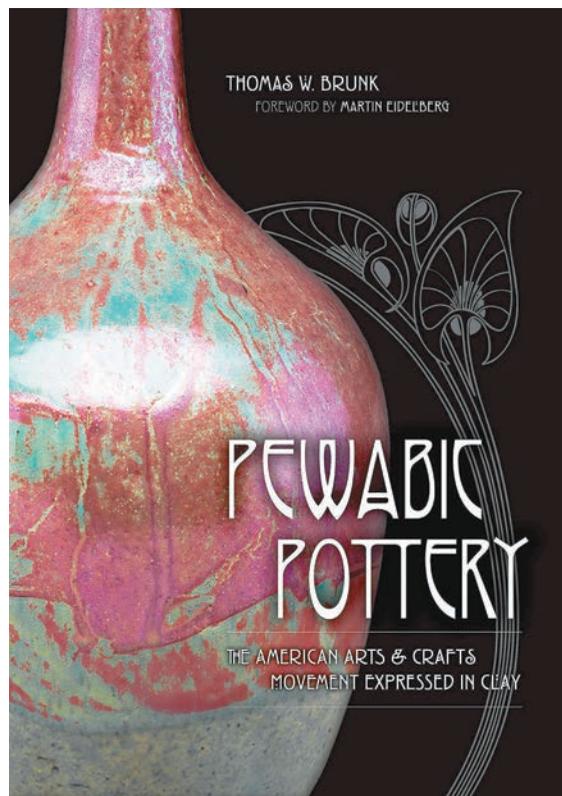
Michigan is known for its iconic brands: Vernors, Sanders, Better Made, Stroh's, Faygo and you can add Pewabic Pottery to that list. Long known for its gorgeous tiles and decorative pottery, Pewabic Pottery is rarely recognized outside of Michigan. I asked Susan Bandes, former director of Michigan State University's Kresge Art Museum and an expert on local Pewabic installations, why that was the case.

"Pewabic came on my radar when I first moved to East Lansing in 1986. It was a hidden jewel, and it is still odd that outside of Michigan it is not well known," she said.

Detroit residents Mary Chase Perry Stratton and Horace Caulkins founded the Revelation pottery studio in 1903 and renamed it Pewabic Pottery in 1904. Bandes attributes part of Pewabic Pottery's obscurity due to its crafts never becoming commercial or retail products that were sold in Department stores.

Pewabic Pottery's long journey is detailed in the new book "Pewabic Pottery: The American Arts and Crafts Movement Expressed in Clay," by the foremost expert on Pewabic, Thomas W. Brunk. Brunk, who died in 2018, was an art historian and archivist who wrote his seven-volume dissertation on Charles Lang Freer, a Detroit art collector and railroad car manufacturer. Brunk was an important chronicler of Detroit's architectural and cultural history.

Brunk had a catbird's seat for observing the Pewabic Pottery operation, serv-



ing as the curator and archivist of MSU's Pewabic Pottery collection from 1974 to 1981 and was co-founder of the Pewabic Society, a nonprofit organization founded to ensure Pewabic survived.

"The reality is MSU saved Pewabic Pottery during hard times," she said.

Pewabic Pottery was donated to MSU in 1965 during a time when the operation was at one of its low ebbs. MSU managed Pewabic Pottery and maintained and upgraded its building on East Jefferson Avenue in Detroit. Stratton had died in 1961 and the operation was somewhat rudderless. Although MSU helped it get back on track, when MSU faced a budget crisis of its own in the '70s, Pewabic Pottery was jettisoned to the Pewabic Society in 1979.

MSU had seemed a great fit, since eight campus buildings built between 1926 and 1952 have Pewabic installations. The first installation took place in 1926 in the Chemistry Building, now Kedzie Hall, and is the most impressive installation, which includes nine heraldic shields with 26 tiles on the exterior, along with 16 book shields of Pewabic tile. "The tiles are used like gemstones to dramatically reflect sunlight as it varies throughout the day," Brunk writes in "Pewabic Pottery."

Bandes compiled a walking guide to Pewabic installations on MSU's campus, and curated a 2005 exhibit at MSU showcasing the vast array of decorative pottery created by Pewabic Pottery.

Some of the mystique associated with Pewabic Pottery is directly trace-

able to the iridescent glazes created by Stratton, the formulas for which she kept secret. Bandes said some of the glazes used lead and uranium and were reformulated with safer compositions.

Bandes said the book will surprise some people who are not familiar with the variety of shapes and pieces created at Pewabic Pottery. "The numerous color plates are important to understand Pewabic Pottery," she said.

During its heyday, Pewabic Pottery did scores of installations in the homes of Detroit bluebloods — including installations at the homes of the Dodge Brothers and Edsel Ford. The book also details the large number of installations at churches throughout the Detroit

area. Other more public and recent installations can be seen at Comerica Park, Belle Isle and in Lansing at the Sparrow Cancer Center, which has a large installation of tile at the top of staircase. The tile is installed in a circular swirling pattern using a variety of colored tiles.

Bandes said Brunk's book has become the definitive history of Pewabic Pottery.

"In the future, anyone writing about Pewabic will begin there," she said.

Brunk was the first researcher who had unlimited access to Pewabic records, and by using documents such as Pewabic Pottery's "day books," which places specific dates, times and places regarding Pewabic Pottery's huge body of work. The book details Pewabic Pottery's history from its inception in 1903, the construction of its studio in 1906 and its turnover to the Pewabic Society in 1979.

The book's research is well documented and also contains chapters on the founder's homes. It also collects the numerous marks and labels the studio used over the years, which will be a boon for collectors.

MSU's relationship with Pewabic Pottery came full circle in 2020, when the Cowles House underwent a restoration and a Pewabic Pottery mural was installed in the President of Michigan State University on-campus home.

Now that Brunk's book has laid the groundwork, there is an opening for an art historian to write a history of Pewabic Pottery's last 42 years. If there is need for inspiration, spend a few quiet moments in the MSU Chapel with its floor of Pewabic Pottery. It is still mesmerizing after nearly 70 years.

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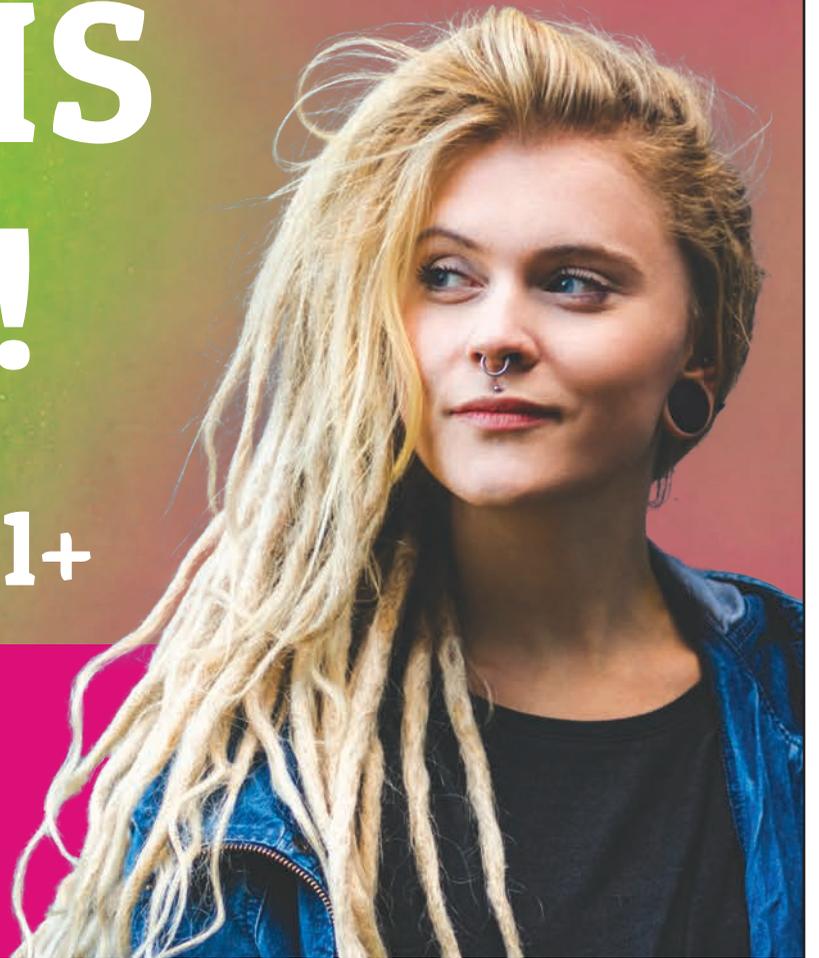
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# *Favorite Things*

## Ezra Kelly and their copy of 'Think on These Things'

*Ezra Kelly, who uses they/them pronouns, is a multimedia artist and musician. They discovered the book "Think on These Things" during a chance car ride with a friend. Since devouring the book, it has become their favorite thing.*

I got into my friend's car in the Frandor parking lot back in 2016 and saw a book in her car. Her car was literally filled with so much stuff. She wouldn't let anybody else besides me ride in it, because it was so embarrassing. I saw the book on the dashboard. There was a little pink flower on an off-white cover, so I grabbed it. At the time I was constantly wearing pink. She told me, "That's yours! You have to read it."

I don't ever read books that people tell me to. I have a weird thing about discovering things for myself. It was in my backpack for a while, I was working at Target's Starbucks and I started reading it on my breaks. I don't get into books easily; I hadn't even finished a book since "The Catcher in the Rye" in high school. Even just reading the names of the chapters, I knew this book would align with me well. There was "The Function of Education," "Freedom and Love," "Creative Discontent" and "The Myth of Life."

It flows very poetically, and that is what I love about the author, Jiddu Krishnamurti. He is a philosopher, speaker and writer. The book is a collection of his teachings. He would give a lecture on the topic and then he would let his students ask him questions. It was really helpful to hear about how he feels, and then read how he responds to questions. It's beautiful. If somebody asks him a question, he'll respond by saying something like, "Have you ever sat by the river and listened to the birds fly through the trees?" He'll go on a tangent about listening to the things around you



and being aware of them. There is so much beauty and love in that.

Krishnamurti talks about fear and love as if they are opposites, instead of hate. It's actually really crazy, I literally underlined almost every single line this book. It really caught me because of that, I felt like I was finding something that I already naturally felt before reading the book. He also talks about the things that we are taught and how they affect us in so many ways. We become so ingrained in our conditioning and traditions. It's good to start new traditions — that's what he'll say. Become your own thing and not be a replica. Do what you love.

When I get into rereading it, I'll just open to any page and see what the question is. That's what I'll think about that day. I do believe it really helped shape my understanding of myself as a human.

*Interview edited and condensed by Skyler Ashley. If you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, please email [Skyler@Lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:Skyler@Lansingcitypulse.com)*

# This northside pot shop sells the cheapest weed in Lansing

Newest dispensary in Lansing also offers most affordable products



**Lansterdam in Review:**  
**First Class Cannabis Co.**  
2515 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing  
(517) 993-6490  
[first-class.kushcart.us](http://first-class.kushcart.us)

By KYLE KAMINSKI

This weekly column has allowed me an opportunity to sample some of the best recreational cannabis products available in Greater Lansing. And over the last year, I've browsed through just about every store in town. That's why I can say — with some degree of certainty — that First Class Cannabis Co. holds the title for the cheapest selection in the Capital City.

The current mark to beat: Ounces of select strains that sell for as low as \$125 for recreational customers and \$100 for medical patients, along with a free prerolled joint with new customers. Eighthers are available for \$15. Wake and bake between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. with bottom-tier grams for \$5 each. Buckets of live resin — a massive 3.5g each — are also available for \$125.

To be clear, this isn't a paid advertisement. In fact, I dropped more than \$200 there last week. Consider this more of a stoner public service announcement. Let the local bidding wars begin.



**LivWell — El Diablo X Chem Dawg #4**  
**Price — \$125/oz**  
**THC — 21.2%**

This strain is billed as an "indica dominant" hybrid, but I found it to be perfectly balanced. It offers a quick-hitting but short-lasting head buzz and a mild body high — a good daily driver sort of strain that doesn't provide much of a cerebral energy kick. It won't knock you out either.

These bright green nuggets are enormous (yet somehow still light and fluffy) and caked in a golden layer of trichomes. It also twists up perfectly into a joint without totally caking my grinder.

A bright mango and lemon scent

burst from the bag. Earthier pine notes become more apparent after it's ground up — which carries into a smooth hit and a funky sort of grassy cheese flavor.

All in all, this strain is a good starter option for newbie smokers. It might not be the most powerful bud out there on the market, but it's incredibly affordable and will get the job done.



**HYMAN — Kelly Kapowski**

**Price — \$60/3.5g**  
**THC — 20.2%**

Kelly Kapowski, whose name you might recognize from "Saved by the Bell," was chief among TV babes in the 1990s and apparently is the namesake for this sweet and sleepy hybrid strain. The folks over at HYMAN (which is pronounced "High Man") never did get back with me about how they landed on the name, but the gimmicky packaging and nostalgic vibes had me totally sold.

These buds were even bigger than the last strain and carried a tart and earthy smell, almost like freshly cut grass with hints of perfume. The taste was much more floral and woody with notes of sage and chocolate. I ended up smoking this for breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday. It was balanced enough to where I still had enough willpower to do the laundry and clean the house, but I still found myself caught up in a blissful (almost dream-like) state for most of the afternoon.

# Owosso's Lebowsky Center returns with new productions

## Theater group gets back into the swing of things

By **DAVID WINKELSTERN**

Owosso's Lebowsky Center for the Performing Arts' newest show is "Icons: The Show Must Go On!"

**Tickets and schedule available at lebowsky-center.com**

For seating options, call (989) 720-3410

The Show Must Go On!" After about a year and a half of no inside stage shows, due to the

COVID pandemic, the subtitle is fitting.

"Icons" debuts today (June 16) and runs through Sunday (June 19). The multi-generational musical revue includes nine vocalists and a 15-piece dance ensemble. Three dancers also accompany John Dillingham on piano. All-time piano greats are saluted in a musical journey in the first of three summer events that signal Lebowsky shows indeed will go on.

"Pop Up in the Park" runs July 22 through July 24. Some favorite performers from the Lebowsky stage will perform a mix of popular songs from Broadway and beyond. "Head Over Heals," the Broadway jukebox musical comedy that features songs by the punky new wave group The Go Go's, runs from Aug. 11 through Aug. 15.

Because the safest way to reopen performances is outdoors, "Icons" and "Head Over Heals" will be performed under an outside dome at Fortitude Farms and Events. The owner, Alec Faber — a Lebowsky supporter for many years — offered the space.

The dome was built and designed by a Lebowsky set team. It has already withstood recent thunderstorms.

"Pop Up in the Park" will be staged on a closed-off Park Street, which is adjacent to the Lebowsky Center on Main

Street.

The Lebowsky Center has been following federal and state guidelines since the beginning of the COVID outbreak in Michigan. "Our number one priority was always to keep our patrons, staff, volunteers, and performers safe," Kathy Brooks said.

Brooks has been a part of the Lebowsky since appearing on stage in the '80s during a production of "The Will Rogers Follies." "My claim to fame was being a dancing cow," she said.

Brooks has been a Lebowsky prop master, stage manager, usher, ticket-taker and house manager. This month marks her sixth year as executive director.

"My sole purpose this past year plus was to make sure the theater would be able to open again when it was allowed," Brooks said. That included writing grants, managing online fundraisers and applying for loans.

"We received both PPP loans, SBA and MEDC grants and loans, grants from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, grants from the Cook Family Foundation and the Shiawassee Community Foundation," she said. The Lebowsky was also able to keep afloat without stage shows because of a \$22,000 donation from "100 + Women Who Care of Shiawassee County."

"But what was really appreciated was the generous gifts received from so many during our fundraising campaigns," Brooks said.

Money and an empty stage allowed an upgrading of the Lebowsky Center's technical capabilities and renovating the box office with new computers and digital displays. "We also used the downtime in the theater to clean and organize the prop and costume rooms and other areas of the theater we don't usually have an opportunity to orga-

nize," Brooks said.

She remains optimistic despite the cancellation of more than an entire season and the loss of ticket sales. The Lebowsky Center is known for lavish productions and large casts. Before the pandemic, a season would feature four musicals and two plays. Even its annual holiday show scheduled for last November was canceled due to rising COVID cases.

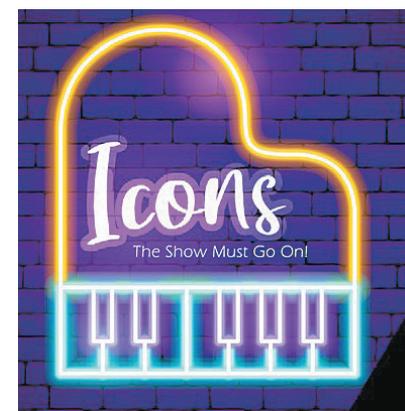
"We don't measure what we may have lost, we measure what we have gained," Brooks said. "The greatest gift to us is the knowledge of the absolute support we have from the community."

The outlook for a return to shows inside the Lebowsky Center is cause for optimism. "Our board just approved several shows for this fall," she said. The first is a September production of "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress," a comedy that was canceled in 2020. "We have plans for a musical in October and also our full "Holiday at Lebowsky" in December," Brooks said.

Getting back to regular inside stage spectacles would mean getting back to a nearly 100-year tradition. The grand Lebowsky building has featured shows since Joseph H. Lebowsky opened the Capitol Theater in 1926.

The George J. Bachmann designed theater began as a vaudeville and moving picture house, becoming a movie-only theater until 1985. Since the '50s — after a brief occupancy by a church — the building has featured theatrical productions.

A devastating arson fire in 2007 closed the playhouse for seven years. Since it reopened in 2014 with "Shrek, the Musical," the Owosso Community Players — now just the Lebowsky Center For the Performing Arts — have been determined to make sure that the show goes on and on.



### "Icons"

June 16, 17, 18, 19 • 7:30 pm  
\$23 plus \$2 service fee  
Parties no larger than 6 at tables  
Fortitude Farms and Events  
4377 South M-52 Owosso



### "Pop Up in the Park"

July 22, 23, 24 • 7:30 pm  
Park Street and Main Street, Owosso



### "Head Over Heels"

August 11, 13, 14, 15 • 7:30 pm  
Fortitude Farms and Events  
4377 South M-52 Owosso

## Cannabis

from page 22

**HYMAN — Apple Runtz**

**Price — \$40/2g**

**THC — 18.6%**

This massive two-gram joint — which was slightly larger than Wynkin, Blynkin and Nod — is designed for special occasions. And now that social gatherings are resuming, it's a good time to pick one up. My special occasion was a cup of coffee on my front porch on Sunday morning.



As the name implies, I picked up some major apple aromas and flavors after I sparked it up. Perhaps my

neighbors thought I was baking an apple pie; They'd be at least halfway right.

The complimentary glass tip attached to the end made this already smooth strain even smoother. A complex sort of musky, loamy sweetness became more apparent on the exhale.

This strain was easily the most potent of the three. An immediate and energetic head buzz was perfect for getting the lawn mowed quickly. As that subsided, a lasting (and much more relaxing) body high was great for taking a post-mow shower and locking into a long movie on the couch.

Side note: HYMAN is produced by

3843 Euclid LLC — the same Bay City processor that was dinged by state officials last year after its staff had reportedly licked a joint before it was sold to a retailer. The company's newly rebranded labels on this joint proudly declared: "No saliva."

*Kyle Kaminski is City Pulse's managing editor and a cannabis enthusiast who has been smoking marijuana just about every day for the last decade. Almost weekly, Kaminski samples some of the best cannabis products available in Greater Lansing, gets real high and writes about them.*

# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"BAD Company"--it works, initially.

by Matt Jones

**Across**

- 1 File extensions?
- 6 Chipotle option, for short
- 10 Gifford's TV successor
- 14 Neckwear for Fred in "Scooby-Doo"
- 15 "Take \_\_\_" (1985 hit)
- 16 "\_\_\_ Ruins Everything"
- 17 Nicknames of two legendary bebop musicians (and the title of their 1952 album)
- 19 "Swan Lake" movement
- 20 Oscar-winning role for Forest
- 21 \_\_\_ Maria (coffee liqueur)
- 22 They're risky
- 24 Obligation
- 26 Way to look inward?
- 28 "The Matrix" role for Keanu
- 29 Country duo behind "Ain't Nothing 'bout You" and "Boot Scootin' Boogie"
- 35 Ant habitat
- 37 Twisted tale
- 38 Item on a ring
- 39 Get together
- 40 Out-and-out battle
- 41 Syndicate bosses
- 43 U.S. hwy.
- 44 Soldier or solder material
- 45 "Everybody Loves Raymond" surname
- 46 Caillou's Daddy and Mommy, according to the official website (sorry, parents, I feel your pain)
- 50 Open \_\_\_ night
- 51 Spotted
- 52 State, to Sarkozy
- 55 Red, white, and blue frozen treat
- 59 "It's whatever"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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55	56	57				58	59		60		61	
62					63		64		65			
66					67				68			
69					70				71			

- 61 MV divided by V
- 62 "What You're Made Of, We're Made For" insurance co.
- 63 The McKenzie brothers of SCTV's "Great White North" sketches
- 66 "Le Freak" disco group
- 67 Character before Borat
- 68 Sierra \_\_\_ (California range)
- 69 Hit the bottom
- 70 Supreme Court garb
- 71 "People tell me ..."
- 7 Sturm \_\_\_ Drang (German artistic movement)
- 8 In the center of
- 9 "The Card Players" painter Paul
- 10 2013 Eminem song that has a Guinness World Record
- 11 Without much movement
- 12 Twosome
- 13 Iowa State University location
- 18 "Three Men and a Baby" director Leonard
- 23 Homer Simpson's neighbor
- 25 It's slower than a gallop
- 27 Archipelago components
- 30 It depicts "the unit of counting or measurement," per Wikipedia
- 31 Inflatable couch filler
- 32 SW1P, for Westminster Abbey, e.g.
- 33 Inert lamp gas
- 34 Wall St. fixture
- 35 "\_\_\_ Your Enthusiasm" (Larry David show)
- 36 Unfooled by
- 40 Prevail
- 41 Station wagon, e.g.
- 42 Indy 500 winner Luyendyk
- 44 Buffet that might have several salsas
- 45 Current "SNL" cast member Yang
- 47 Return remark
- 48 Wee drink
- 49 Adjuster's assessment
- 53 Upscale Honda
- 54 "Life of Pi" feline
- 55 Super Bowl XXXVII champs
- 56 Accident prevention org.
- 57 Principal
- 58 Ralph Lauren brand
- 60 Cable that connects to a TV
- 64 Lobster shack wear
- 65 "Well, la-di-freakin' \_\_\_!"

**Down**

- 1 Beyond zealous
- 2 Line that breaks the fourth wall
- 3 More illegible, like some signatures
- 4 "\_\_\_ Save America" (show cohosted by Jon Favreau) (no, the other Jon Favreau)
- 5 Sports factoid that I'll never understand
- 6 Lose luminosity

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Answers on page 27

# SUDOKU

# Advanced

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

## 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 27

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

June 16-22, 2021

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Aries playwright Tennessee Williams was honest about the trickery he engaged in as he composed his entertaining masterpieces. "I don't want realism," he exclaimed. "I want magic! Yes, yes, magic! I try to give that to people." I fully support you, Aries, if you would like to make that your goal in the next three weeks. In my astrological opinion, you and the people in your life have more than a mild need for magic. Your ability to thrive depends on you all getting big doses of magic.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** On my wall is a poster that says, "Avoid the Tragic Magic Triad: taking things too personally, taking things too seriously, and taking things too literally." This advice doesn't refer to important matters, like my health or my ongoing fight against our culture's bigotry. I take those issues very personally, seriously, and literally. Rather the motto refers to trivial and transitory issues, like the new dent made in my car by a hit-and-run driver in the Whole Foods parking lot, or the bad review of my book on Amazon.com, or the \$18 that a certain Etsy seller cheated me out of, or the joke about the size of my nose that some supposed friend made on Twitter. According to my reading of astrological omens, Taurus, you would benefit right now from meditating on things like these that you take too seriously, personally, and literally. Here's Don Miguel Ruiz: "There is a huge amount of freedom that comes to you when you take nothing personally."

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** "I remember wishing I could be boiled like water and made pure again," writes poet Jeffrey McDaniel. Judging from the current astrological omens, Gemini, I think you could be made reasonably pure again without having to endure an ordeal like being boiled like water. Do you have ideas about how to proceed? Here are mine: 1. Spend 15 minutes alone. With your eyes closed, sitting in a comfortable chair, forgive everyone who has hurt you. Do the best you can. Perfection isn't necessary. 2. Spend another 15 minutes alone, same deal. Forgive yourself of everything you've done that you think of as errors. Perfection isn't required. 3. Spend another 15 minutes alone. Imagine what it would be like to unconditionally love yourself exactly as you are. 4. Spend another 15 minutes alone. Remember ten amazing moments that you enjoyed between ages five and 13.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** On June 23, 1940, Wilma Rudolph was born prematurely to a family that already had 19 other children. During her childhood, she suffered from pneumonia, scarlet fever, polio, and infant paralysis. The latter two diseases damaged her left leg, and she wore a brace until she was 12 years old. Nevertheless, by the time she was in high school, she had become a very good athlete. Eventually she competed in the Olympics, where she won four medals and earned the title "the fastest woman in history." I propose that we name her your official role model for the rest of 2021. May she inspire you to overcome and transcend your own personal adversity.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Leo-born P. L. Travers wrote the children's books about Mary Poppins, a nanny with magical powers. She was thoroughly familiar with folklore, ancient myths, and the occult. The character of Mary Poppins, Travers said, was a version of the Mother Goddess. But in her writing process, she drew inspiration mainly from what she thought of as the vast dark nothingness. She wrote, "I've become convinced that the great treasure to possess is the unknown." To generate her tales, she listened to silence and emptiness. I recommend you emulate her approach as you create the next chapter of your life story.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Virgo poet Melissa Broder writes, "Romantic obsession is my first language. I live in a world of fantasies, infatuations and love poems." I wouldn't normally authorize you to share her perspective, but I will now. The astrological omens suggest you have something important to learn from being more enamored and adoring than usual. If you say YES to the deluge of

yearning, you'll gain access to a type of power that will prove very useful to you in the coming months.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Libran author Oscar Wilde disproved the misconception that Libras are wishy-washy, overly eager to compromise, and inclined to overthink everything. His writing had wit and flair, and his life was vivid and daring. He wrote, "There are moments when one has to choose between living one's own life, fully, entirely, completely—or dragging out some false, shallow, degrading existence that the world in its hypocrisy demands." I suspect that one of those pivotal moments will soon be coming up for you. Be Wilde-like!

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Philosopher Simone Weil wrote, "Only the light that falls continually from the sky gives a tree the energy to push powerful roots into the earth. The tree is actually rooted in the sky." As you bolster your foundations in the coming months, as you deepen your roots, I hope you keep Weil's brilliant observation in mind. Like a tree, the nourishment that will help you grow the stamina and strength and structure you need will come as you turn to the brightest, warmest, highest sources of inspiration.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** To be in groovy alignment with cosmic rhythms, you won't merely walk, and you certainly won't trudge. Rather you will saunter and ramble and promenade. You will strut and rove and prowl. Likewise, you won't just talk, and you certainly won't mutter or grumble. Instead you will banter, rhapsodize, improvise, beguile, and lyricize. Catch my drift? You won't simply laugh, but will chortle, cackle, and guffaw. In other words, Sagittarius, you are authorized to imbue everything you do with style, panache, and imagination.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Congratulations on being such a duty-bound, no-nonsense adult. May you continue to ply your dogged persistence and beast-of-burden attitude as long as it gets important tasks done, helps you feel useful, and doesn't make you sick. But if you do get tempted to depart from the sacrificial path anytime soon, please know that you will not offend any gods or demons. Nor will you incur a karmic debt. In fact, I believe you have cosmic clearance to dabble with lightheartedness for a while. You should feel free to experiment with fun and games that appeal to your sense of wonder.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** "I can barely conceive of a type of beauty in which there is no melancholy," wrote poet Charles Baudelaire. What?! That makes no sense. I'm aware of millions of beautiful things that aren't tinged with melancholy. California's Mount Shasta in the late spring twilight, for example. New York City's Guggenheim Museum, a gorgeous gleaming building designed by genius architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The Marmore waterfalls in central Italy. The gardens of painter Claude Monet in Normandy, France. David Byrne's gloriously hopeful website, ReasonsToBeCheerful.world. I mention this, Aquarius, because I expect life to bring you a flood of non-melancholic beauty in the coming days. Take advantage of this grace to replenish your trust in life.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Piscean author César Aira praises the value of escaping one's memories. He writes, "Forgetting is like a great alchemy free of secrets, transforming everything to the present." I'd love to see you enjoy alchemy like that in the coming weeks, dear Pisces. It's a favorable time to lose at least some of the inhibitions and limitations you think you have to accept because of what happened in the past. As Aira says, forgetting "makes our lives into a visible and tangible thing we hold in our hands, with no folds left hidden in the past."

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

# TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

THIRD MAN RECORDING ARTIST DANNY KROHA TALKS  
'DETROIT BLUES'



Danny Kroha of The Gories has a new solo LP, "Detroit Blues," on Third Man Records. (courtesy photos)

## Aside from The Gories, Kroha digs deep into the roots of American music

Danny Kroha is probably best known as a member of The Gories, the legendary Detroit-based blues-punk band. But his resume is much deeper than that. Over the last 30 years, he's also co-founded The Demolition Doll Rods and recorded and produced stacks of other projects. A somewhat newer terrain for Kroha is his venture into performing stripped-down traditional gospel, blues, and folk songs — played on a range of instruments, including mouth harp, diddley bow and slide guitar.

Kroha chatted with City Pulse about his latest LP on Third Man Records, "Detroit Blues."

**What was your goal with the new "Detroit Blues" LP?**

I didn't have a goal really. I had already done an album in the same vein — that "Angels Watching Over Me" album that came out in 2015 on Third Man Records. I'd just learned some more songs since I'd done that album. I just keep hearing songs that I like. I want to learn them and expand my repertoire. I just had a batch of songs and figured it was about time to record them.

**Why did you decide to cut tra-**

**ditional songs? Are they all traditional?**

Yes, but I'd like to think that I do some unique arrangements. So why traditional? I don't know. I've never been a big songwriter. I'm not one of those guys who writes a bunch of songs. I just don't do it.

**How do you come up with your own arrangements on these old tunes?**

It comes naturally. Some of it comes out of my inability to play it correctly (laughs), because I am not a super great old-time guitar picker kind of guy. I've got to make do with my skills, so I end up coming up with my own way of doing it.

**I love these kinds of records, because I'll know some of them, but it also introduces me to songs I've never heard. They're old, but new to me.**

I'm glad to turn people on to this stuff. When the Rolling Stones started, all they wanted to do was turn people on to blues music. That was their only goal when they started, which is a fine goal to have. But I really enjoy these songs and coming up with my own way of playing them that's fun for me and it's a bonus if

other people happen to like it too.

**These days, how do you find the songs?**

It's mostly records I own. I'll sometimes go through my records and rediscover things that I'd overlooked before. Sometimes, I'll just be browsing around on YouTube and find something. There are a million channels out there. There are channels devoted exclusively to songs from the 1920s and '30s. There's a wealth of material, literally, at your fingertips.

**What about Michigan, specifically. Are any of them inspiring you these days?**

The thing about Michigan is, all the great music that happened here, for the most part, happened because people moved up here from the south to find jobs. To work in the auto industry. Our music is so rich here, because we have people from Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama and Georgia, North and South Carolina. They all came up here.

**Doctor Ross "The Harmonica Boss" is one of them—moved to Flint for an auto plant job.**

Dr. Ross was from Mississippi.

John Lee Hooker was from Mississippi. James Jamerson was from South Carolina. We had a bunch of good bluegrass and hill-billy stuff, also, because those folks moved up from Kentucky and Tennessee.

**When did you first get into old music, from the 1920s through the '50s? As a kid?**

Well, not as a kid, but as a late teenager. I wanted to get into the roots of music. I was always interested in "where did it come from?" I started really liking the Yardbirds, Rolling Stones, Kinks and the Animals and all that stuff when I was in high school so I wanted to know where it came from. Then I started reading the record labels and seen these songwriters' names on there. From that, I'd find Howlin' Wolf, Bo Diddley and Muddy Waters. I listened to them and really dug it. Then I'd say, "Well ... where did that come from?" Those guys were from the '50s—what happened before that?

**For more information, visit: [thirdmanstore.com/collections/danny-kroha](http://thirdmanstore.com/collections/danny-kroha)**

# OUT ON THE TOWN

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

## Wednesday, June 16

**Allen Farmers Market** - Open 2:30-7 p.m. May-September at 2100 E Michigan Ave. Lansing. 517-999-3911.

**ArtPath 2021** - through August 31. Selection of 20 works by Michigan artists! 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N Washington Sq, Ste 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org).

**Comedy Night** - Beginning at 10pm. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. [crunchyseastlansing.com](http://crunchyseastlansing.com).

**Lansing Bike and Seek** - Bicycle treasure hunt around the city of Lansing. Through June 20. Info and signup: [bikeandseek.org](http://bikeandseek.org).

**Live Music with Mike Eyia** - 5-10 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St. Old Town, Lansing. [urbanbeatevents.com](http://urbanbeatevents.com).

**Mason Area Historical Society General Meeting and Presentation on "Mason's Barns" by Jim Mulvaney** - 7 p.m. The Mason Area Historical Museum, Mason. [business.masonchamber.org](http://business.masonchamber.org).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild 12x12 Show** - 10 a.m.-7 p.m. through June 30. Framer's Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave, Okemos.

**Summer Reading Kickoff** - The Library will be out at the Car Show! Get a free yard sign when you sign up for our 2021 Summer Reading Program: Tails & Tales. 4-7 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. [eradi.org](http://eradi.org).

**Threads of Wisdom: Protection and Guardians** - Join us on Zoom for a discussion. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Weavers of the Web. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**Transportation Job Fair** - 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Capital Region International Airport - Community Room, 4100 Capital City Blvd., Lansing.

**Wednesday Workdays at CCBS** - D9 a.m.-12 p.m. Capital City Bird Sanctuary, 6001 Delta River Dr., Lansing.

[michiganadubon.org](http://michiganadubon.org).

**World Sea Turtle Day** - Join MSU Museum Education Assistant Nick VanAcker in exploring sea turtles using Science on a Sphere. 12-12:30 p.m. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. 517-355-2370.

## Thursday, June 17

**Bath Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St, Bath. [shopbfm.org](http://shopbfm.org).

**Dimondale Farmers' Market** - 3-7 p.m. 136 N Bridge St, Dimondale. 517-230-0520. [villageofdimondale.org](http://villageofdimondale.org).

**Juneteenth Celebration Kick-Off Ceremony** - will be virtually held on June 17. Info at [lansingjuneteenthcelebration.org](http://lansingjuneteenthcelebration.org)

**On The Spot Residential Hiring** - 12-4 p.m. Community Mental Health of Clinton-Eaton-Ingham Counties (CMHA-CEI), 812 E Jolly Road, Lansing.

**REACH Virtual Meet-up:** Arts Incubator for Young People - with Sara Gothard on Zoom. 4-5 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center. Info at [reachstudioart.org](http://reachstudioart.org).

**Transportation Job Fair** - 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Capital Region International Airport - Community Room, 4100 Capital City Blvd., Lansing.

**On The Spot Residential Hiring** - CMHA-CEI is doing on the spot hiring! 12-4 p.m. Community Mental Health of Clinton-Eaton-Ingham Counties, 812 E Jolly Road, Lansing.

**Zoo Nights** - our 21+ guests: These after-hours events includes evenings of drinks, appetizers, and games. 5 p.m. 1301 S Pennsylvania. [potterparkzoo.org](http://potterparkzoo.org)

**Zoo Nights** - #2 - Join us after-hours for a night of Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S Pennsylvania Ave. 517-483-4222. [potterparkzoo.org](http://potterparkzoo.org).

## Friday, June 18

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

**Amythyst Kiah, Irish Mythen and Diana Jones** - From the Archives: Audio of the the Amythyst Kiah; Irish Mythen. [tenpoundfiddle.org](http://tenpoundfiddle.org).

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

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

**Charlotte Fire Flow Jam Series** - 9 p.m. 125 Cochran Ave., Charlotte.

**Juneteenth Celebration** - Visit the Juneteenth Celebration website for more information. [lansingjuneteenthcelebration.org](http://lansingjuneteenthcelebration.org)

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

**Oreo Tasting** - Do you have the perfect

palate? Put your taste buds to the test and try to correctly identify all the crazy cookie flavors. 2-3 p.m. Eaton Rapids Teen Space, 501 Union St., Eaton Rapids. [eradi.org](http://eradi.org).  
**Sparrow Covid Vaccine Clinic** - Hosted by Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos 3-6 p.m. 4515 Dobie Rd., Okemos.

**Summer Take-Home Crafts @ GLADL** -Kits available first come, first serve. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

**TGIF weekly Friday dance all welcome!** Dinner/dance/win a TV. 7-11:59 p.m. Hawk Hollow Golf Banquet Center, 15101 Chandler Rd., Bath. 734-604-5095. [tgifdance.com](http://tgifdance.com).

**Virtual Preschool Family Storytime** - Listen, play & sing along virtually with new stories and old favorites. 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

## Saturday, June 19

**Curbside Sauerkraut Dinner** - 4-6 p.m. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania, Lansing.

**Drive-Through Mobile Food Distribution** - free, fresh and non-perishable food to city of Lansing residents. 9-11 a.m. Tabernacle of David, 2645 W. Holmes Rd, Lansing.

**Juneteenth Celebration and Parade** - The African-American Caravan Parade and Juneteenth Celebration will be held on-site at the Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center in Lansing. 11 a.m. Lansing.

**Juneteenth Festival '21** - REO Town will be hosting its first Juneteenth Festival! 4 p.m. S. Washington Ave. between Elm & South St.

**Michigan March for Medical Freedom 2021** - Informed Choice Michigan. #MarchForMedicalFreedom at our State Capitol 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

## Sunday, June 20

**East Lansing Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com](http://cityofeastlansing.com).

**"Forward Together"** - Black Wall Street of Lansing presents Forward Together, a 5K walk/run. 2-6 p.m. Lansing downtown at the Capitol. [blackwallstreetoflansing.com](http://blackwallstreetoflansing.com).

**Summer Trailfest Ultra and Half Marathon** - 7:30 a.m. 7835 Price Rd, Laingsburg. [trailrunner.com](http://trailrunner.com).

## Monday, June 21

**Dinosaur Stomp!** - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Jump Into Reading** - Join Ms. Anna every Monday at the Playground of Dreams (Pavilion 2) 11-11:30 a.m. 100 Howe Dr., Eaton Rapids. [eradi.org](http://eradi.org).

**LEGO Robotics** - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Natural Disasters** - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 6-7 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing. [refugerecovery.org](http://refugerecovery.org)

**Sustainable Energy** - 8 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

## Tuesday, June 22

**Animal Yoga in the Park** - 1-2 p.m. Playground Of Dreams, 100 Howe Dr., Eaton Rapids.

**Board Game Meet Up** - for ages 18 & up. Everyone welcome! 6:30-10 p.m. Spare Time Bowling Alley, 3101 E. Grand River, Lansing.

**Dancing in the Park** - Let's get together and learn simple solo swing/jazz steps in the park! 16-7 p.m. Hunter Park, Kalamazoo St., Lansing.

**In-Person Picnic Playdate:** An Outdoor Family Storytime - for kids of all ages. 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

**Zoo Nights** - our 21+ guests: These after-hours events includes evenings of drinks, appetizers, and games. 5 p.m. 1301 S Pennsylvania Avenue, Lansing. [potterpark.org](http://potterpark.org)



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# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### Scape skewers

By ARI LeVAUX

Across the Northern Hemisphere at about this time, garlic plants are reaching for the sun. Each clove planted last fall has divided and swollen into a bulb of cloves, while the flowers emerge in a circuitous path.

Each flower sits on a stalk that, before it will stand up straight like a stalk is supposed to, spends a few days curling around like Cupid's hair, before finally reversing course and uncurling, at which point the stalk straightens and the flower opens in a firework-like bloom. Or at least, that's what would happen if the garlic growers were to let it. But any serious grower will pick this flowering stalk, known as a scape, long before it uncurls.

Otherwise, the plant will focus too much energy on flowering and not enough on bulbing. This intervention is just like when a cattle grower removes the little boy flowers from the bull cows and turns them into steers, which grow massive, delicious bodies. For garlic growers, picking the scapes is a chore, something you must do if you want the big bulbs. But it's also kind of a celebration. You are harvesting the first garlic of the season, in the form of these whimsical looking plant sex organs. Garlic juice runs down your hands as you hold a clump that grows as you walk among your garlic plants.



Between the curves and curls and organs and whatnot, it's hard to not be flowery when writing about garlic flowers. And to a farmer who has run out of garlic from last year's harvest, those scapes are a lifeline of garlic to cook and eat while you wait for the new crop.

Most growers don't wait for the scapes to curl around twice, because that's just too much time for the plant to lose focus on bulb growing. Another matter of debate, and ultimately personal preference, is how to harvest the scapes. Do you snap them off with a flick of the wrist, slice them like a rose, or grip the stalk as soon as it emerges from the plant and pull straight up, gently, until it snaps and slides out?

"We pull them," says my friend Cua Grogan, a vegetable farmer of Southeast Asian descent. "We think if you can get it to snap deep down in the plant, the bulb will get the biggest." It was the end of market and she was probably exhausted, but she perked up talking scapes. I'm a puller too, I confided to Cua. I don't know if you get bigger bulbs by pulling, but you get a lot more scape by pulling, including the tender part from deep in the plant, like the end



Ari LeVaux

Ari LeVaux's special scape skewers.

of a perfectly plucked blade of grass.

When I got to Cua's stand, I had been walking around the farmers market asking growers what to do with scapes. But all I got was the typical advice to stir-fry, grill or make pesto. Thankfully, Cua had some better ideas.

She likes to use scapes as kebab skewers for grilled meat and veggies, and she makes a chopped relish-ish sauce of garlic flowers and fresh herbs that she calls "pepper."

"We put pepper on everything," she told me. "It's so good!"

Since that conversation, I've made several rounds of scape skewers on the grill. It's like making anything else on a skewer, except in this case you chew the skewer, which has the flavor of grilled garlic, and tastes delicious with the meat or pepper or whatever else happened to be on the skewer. The only special advice I can offer is to skewer stuff that will cook at the same rate as whatever else is on the same scape. And before you skewer the item, ream it out with a chopstick to make a scape-sized hole, and push it through. Then it's like stringing beads on a green garlic necklace.

#### Gua's Scape Pepper

This relish is meant to be eaten fresh, or a few days old. Put it on everything, or straight in your mouth.

1 bunch of scapes cup minced scapes

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup minced spring onions, white parts

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup minced cilantro

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup minced parsley

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup minced mint

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup minced lemongrass leaves

1 tablespoon hot chile flakes (plus or minus, depending on your heat tolerance)

1 teaspoon salt

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup lime juice

1 tablespoon fish sauce

Assess the scapes and determine how woody they are at the bases, as there is a broad spectrum of possibility. If they are too woody at the ends, snap them like asparagus spears — they will naturally break along the line between woody and soft.

Hold the scape in a small bunch with the curls superimposed and ends lined up, and slice coins of the ends as thinly as possible. When you have a cup, mince the other herbs and mix everything together. If you wish, carefully use a blender to lightly chop it further, but don't homogenize it. You want it chunky like pico de gallo. Taste and adjust the seasonings as necessary.

(Flash in the Pan is food writer Ari LeVaux's weekly recipe column. It runs in about 100 newspapers nationwide, nourishing food sections large and small with complete protein for the belly brain.)

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 americanfifthspirits.com

## 2. Sanctuary Spirits Distillery, Brewery & Winery

902 E. Saginaw Hwy.  
 Grand Ledge  
 517-925-1930  
 sanctuaryspirits.com

## 3. Michigrain Distillery

523 E. Shiawassee St. Lansing  
 517-220-0560  
 michigrain.net

## 4. Lansing Brewing Co.

518 E. Shiawassee St. Lansing  
 517-371-2600  
 lansingbrewingcompany.com

## 5. Red Cedar Spirits

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**THURSDAY, JUNE 17**  
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**FRIDAY, JUNE 18**  
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**SATURDAY, JUNE 19**  
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Visit our website for additional details:  
[LansingJuneteenthCelebration.org](http://LansingJuneteenthCelebration.org)

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**Magritte** is a very spunky senior beagle who doesn't know she's an old lady! Not a fan of cats but should be fine with kids and older dogs.  
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**Gershwin** is a handsome dignified tabby. He isn't one to beg for attention and would prefer an easygoing person to relax with.  
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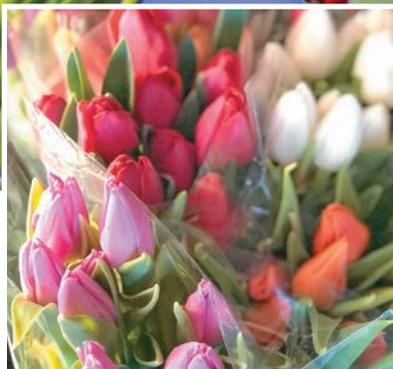
**Quentin** is a gentle border collie mix who loves to snuggle. He ignores cats and would do best in a calm home as sudden movements and noise scare him.  
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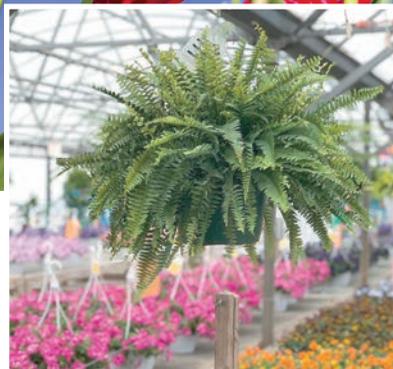
**Mallory** is a sweet little beautiful tortie with a gentle personality. She doesn't mind other animals and has been around older kids.  
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