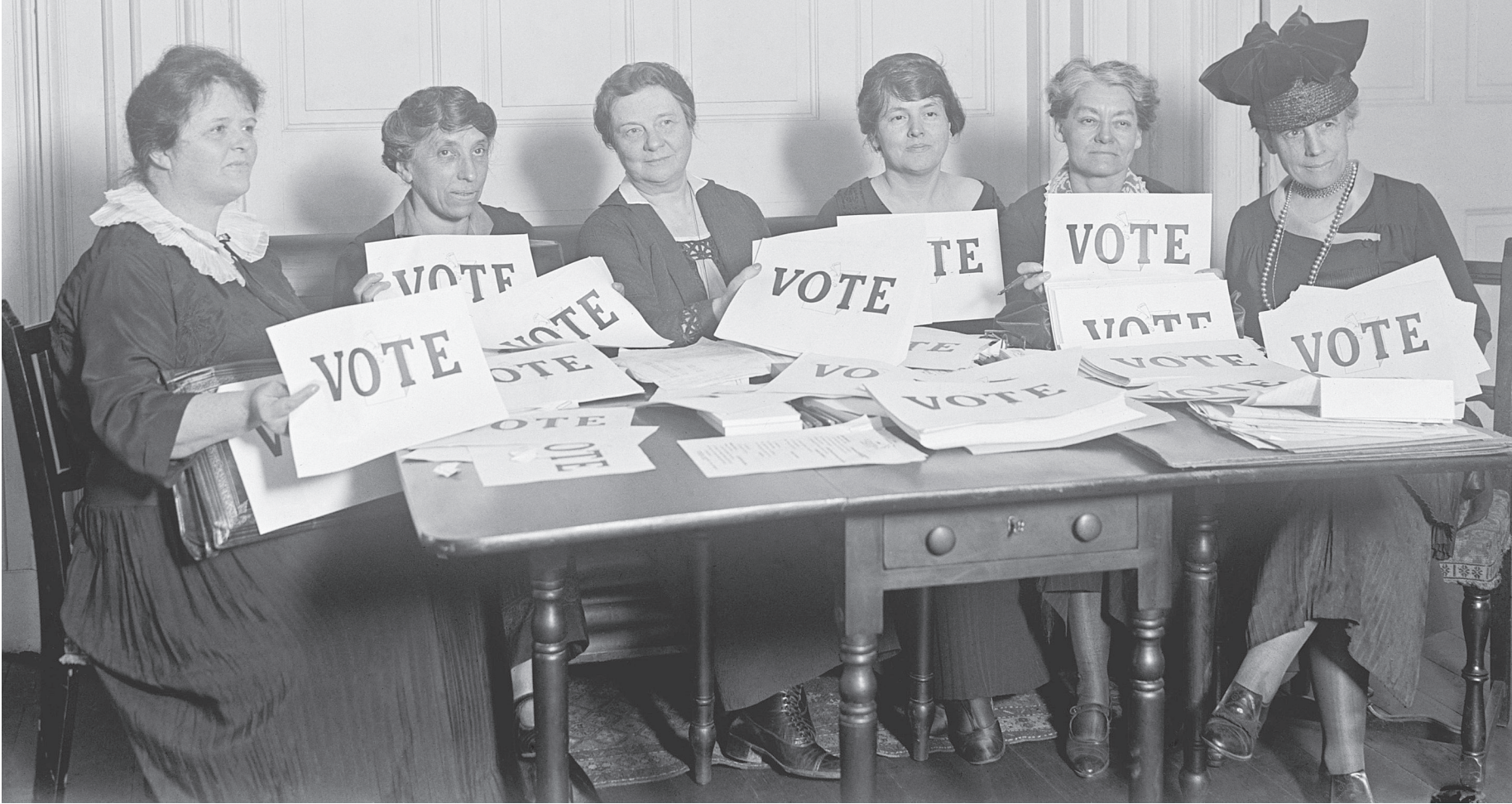


The 2021 Primary Election Voters Guide

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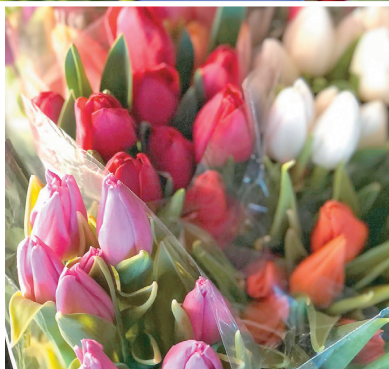
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Ever heard of a news desert? It's what you call a community that has lost its local newspapers. Over the past two decades, it's happened far more often than you might think. More than 2,100 local newspapers, including 70 dailies and 2,000 weekly publications, 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



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?

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.

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CityPULSE

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National League of Women Voters hold up signs reading "VOTE" in a 1924 photo.

**Cover
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

ATTACK OF THE CRITICAL RACE THEORY

IT'S RIGHT BEHIND US! IT'S GOING TO DESTROY EVERYTHING WE HOLD DEAR!

BUT--I DON'T SEE ANYTHING!

DON'T THINK! JUST RUN!

CONSERVATIVES AREN'T ENTIRELY SURE WHAT IT EVEN IS.

IT COULD BE A LIQUID--OR A SOLID! OR MAYBE IT'S SIMULTANEOUSLY A WAVE AND A PARTICLE!

ALL I KNOW IS THAT IT'S AN INSIDIOUS, MIND-BENDING FORCE THAT FOX NEWS HAS BEEN WARNING US ABOUT FOR MONTHS!

THE MENACE CREEPS IN WHILE AMERICANS ARE DISTRACTED BY TRIVIALITIES.

WILL TRUMP EVER FACE CONSEQUENCES FOR TRYING TO SUBVERT THE ELECTION? LET ALONE FOR INCITING THE INSURRECTION--?

LOOK OVER THERE! IT'S CRITICAL RACE THEORY!

ONE THING'S FOR SURE--IT THREATENS TO UNDERMINE THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF OUR SOCIETY.

I HEARD ABOUT AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THAT WAS INFILTRATED BY CRITICAL RACE THEORY AND NOW ALL THE LITTLE KIDS ARE BEING TAUGHT TO HATE AMERICA!

THIS IS A VERY REAL THING THAT DEFINITELY HAPPENED! TRUST US!

FOOLISH LIBERALS ARE INDIFFERENT TO THE THREAT IT POSES.

WHAT? THERE'S NOTHING THERE!

I'M TELLING YOU, I SAW IT PLAIN AS DAY! IT'S BIG AND SCARY AND IT'S COMING TO CORRUPT OUR CHILDREN!

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NEWS & OPINION

Stop voter suppression

Having apparently learned nothing from the last election, Republicans in the Michigan Legislature continue to push the false Trumpian narrative that the election was stolen amid widespread voter fraud. To “fix” this imaginary problem, they’ve introduced a ridiculous package of 39 bills that are explicitly designed to frustrate the ability of voters to exercise their electoral franchise. One of the bills would have required making a copy of your photo ID and sending it in with your absentee ballot. That bit of nonsense has since been watered down, but the intent is clear: disenfranchising as many voters as possible, especially if they vote by absentee ballot and are from predominantly Democratic areas with a high proportion of minority voters. Should lawmakers get enough votes to send these malformed voter suppression bills to the governor, we expect she will veto them without hesitation.

Clara’s to Starbucks: Meh.

Lansing developer Pat Gillespie and his team have almost single-handedly changed the face of downtown Lansing, from colorful apartments that add residential density to a new downtown grocery store and hotel. While we appreciate Gillespie’s passion and vision for improving his hometown, color us disappointed with his plans for one of downtown’s coolest buildings, the old Clara’s Restaurant (and former train station) on Michigan Avenue. The building has been idle since the legendary Lansing eatery shuttered in 2016. Gillespie recently announced plans to turn the iconic structure into a Starbucks. And office space. We understand that not every hit can be a home run, but we hoped for a more creative reuse worthy of the historical character of the place. Will it be successful? Probably. We’re still going to consider it a missed opportunity to do something really cool and transformational.

What’s next for Sears?

Gillespie also owns the defunct Sears property in Frandor. We’re heartened to see that he’s casting a wide net and thinking outside the box for what might take the place of the failed retailer. The property represents a huge opportunity to do something creative



The CP Edit

Opinion

with the space, adding new dimensions to an area that is already undergoing a massive transformation with the Red Cedar development across the street. Gillespie has hired a top firm to help envision the future of the property, and he’s looking for tenants who don’t already have a presence in the Lansing market. Given the massive footprint of the site, we think a Trader Joe’s or an Ikea would be a welcome addition to the city’s retail landscape. Even more compelling would be a year-round Michigan Farm Market, wherein the state partners with Lansing to showcase and promote Michigan’s agricultural industry and provide greater access to fresh, healthy food. The market could be combined with a big city-style food court that encourages entrepreneurship and creates a new social hub for nearby residents.

Everyday heroes: ANC’s Joan Nelson

Kudos to Joan Nelson, long-time executive director of the Allen Neighborhood Center, for her relentless drive and dedication to building a stronger community on Lansing’s East Side. Joan was recently honored by the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce for her visionary and impactful leadership. Now she’s leading a major apartments and retail construction project at ANC’s Kalamazoo Street headquarters that

will resurrect the East Lansing Food Co-op as the Eastside Lansing Food Co-op. It’s a huge win for Lansing and for the neighborhoods surrounding ANC. Keep up the great work, Joan!

Downtown disinvestment

One of the unfortunate upshots of the COVID-19 pandemic is massive vacancies in downtown Lansing office space, thanks to thousands of state employees working from home. Word is that not all of them will return to their offices, even when the coast is clear, representing a potentially devastating blow to the economic vitality of Lansing’s downtown. We note that the Michigan Constitution designates Lansing as the seat of state government. We believe that means the state should locate as

many of its offices as practicable within the borders of the Capital City. It’s not just the right thing to do, it should be viewed as a key component of an actual urban strategy that seeks to strengthen Lansing’s downtown business district. Rather than disinvesting in downtown Lansing, we think the state should be getting out of leased space in Meridian Township and Delta Township. State departments and agencies like LARA and the Michigan Public Service Commission are now located around the periphery of the city. Bring them downtown.

Accessible playground catches flak

Lansing’s Community Foundation recently unveiled plans for a universally accessible destination playground for children with disabilities at Adado Riverfront Park on the west bank of the Grand River. The concept is sound and the preliminary renderings are compelling, but Scott Keith, the director of the Lansing Entertainment & Public Facilities Authority, has raised concerns about inadequate on-site parking and taking away greenspace that supports large community events like Common Ground. We support coming up with better use of what could be Lansing’s Central Park, but we think it might be better to locate the proposed playground in a more central part of the city, perhaps Francis Park, or Benjamin Davis Park on the city’s south side, which would make it far more convenient and accessible to residents from all corners of the city.

Send letters to the editor to letters@lansingcitypulse.com.

Please limit them to 250 words

Asian-Americans face a myriad of healthcare needs

By Christopher Chiou
OPINION



Chiou

For resources on anti-Asian hate

please visit either
stopaapihate.org
or anti-asian
violencesources.
carrrd.co

(Christopher Chiou is a Taiwanese-American family physician in Lansing who works for the Michigan-based healthcare provider BridgeCare and is part of the Committee to Protect Healthcare.)

Hate crimes and pandemics have a way of exposing how we've failed our fellow Americans. But if we're willing to learn, they can also show

the path toward healing that can transform us in ways big and small.

I have thought of this more recently with the rise in hate crimes and racism against Asian-Americans, which has accelerated this past year. May was also declared as "Asian American Pacific Islander Month," further highlighting the importance of this topic.

As a Taiwanese-American, I am horrified and angry — angry that some of my fellow Americans continue to dehu-

manize me, my children and people who look like me as malevolent aliens; tired of being yelled at on the street to "go back to (insert wrong Asian country here)!"

At the same time, as a family physician, my instinct is to find healing — some treatment we can start with, so we can make something good out of all this sickness of our spirit. Instead of trying to tackle this massive topic in just one piece, I'd like to look at just one small part: affordable, accessible prescription drugs for Asian-Americans, who despite the myths, are not all the same but like all Americans are finding them increasingly unaffordable.

Unequal origins, unequal opportunities, unequal outcomes. Our diversity should end, once and for all, the myth of the "model minority."

Which brings me to what I see in medicine today. Though Asian-Americans as an aggregate population may be healthier than the general population and share some common data points with the U.S. population, with cancer and heart disease as leading causes of death, the story is very different on the disaggregated level. With 15% of them in poverty, Vietnamese-

Americans report to be in poorer health at twice the rate than white and Asian-Americans as a whole. Japanese-Americans report higher rates of obesity. Korean-Americans struggle with diabetes. Filipino-Americans have a greater prevalence of high blood pressure, asthma, heart disease and delayed medication usage compared to Asians overall.

The cost of medications, which affects Asian-Americans as it does all Americans, is a structural challenge that policymakers must reform. Recently, the Michigan Legislature passed proposals to reduce the cost of insulin and oral chemotherapy. This is a good step, but falls short of what must actually be done, which is to reduce the cost of all prescription drugs.

In 2020, prices for 500 prescription drugs went up on average at twice the inflation rate. Too many people are skipping life-saving heart medications only because of cost. For Americans, including Filipino-Americans, who struggle with asthma, their disease management should include a preventive steroid inhaler, the cheapest of which is still \$260 a month. While Asian-Americans

as whole suffer mental illnesses at comparable rates to the general population, they are three times less likely to get treatment, a situation made worse by the fact that commonly used antidepressants like Fluoxetine went up more than 800 percent in 2019.

Reducing the cost of insulin and oral chemotherapy is a good step. Condemning hate crimes against Asian-Americans, as the Michigan Legislature did recently, are also commendable.

I encourage our policymakers to make greater strides forward, especially in reducing the high cost of prescription medications. Some states are taking a proactive, reasonable approach: Maryland created an independent prescription drug affordability panel that makes drug pricing more transparent and holds drug companies accountable. Michigan should follow and bring relief to all Americans, including Asian-Americans.

Greater equity is one antidote to racism and bigotry. We can start, one step at a time, by making access to healthcare and medications more affordable, for all Americans.

LETTERS to the editor

LCC's plan endangers Spanish programming

The educational institution named Lansing Community College has a reputation of excellence in a variety of categories and has been in existence for 64 years educating the citizens of Lansing, MI, the State of Michigan and others from around the world. The cost to attend this important college is reasonable and permits many students to fulfill their dreams.

The Spanish language program on the LCC WLNZ existed for five years and now is fighting for its existence. This Spanish language radio program offered musical entertainment, announcements of Latino community events and general information relative to the Latino community. Of the 11,771 students at Lansing Community College 7% are Latino, which is 824. The population of Lansing based on the current census data is 118,768 and the Latino community is 14% of the population, which is 14,499. Of the 14,499 citizens of Lansing representing the Latino community, 5% speak in Spanish.

There is no data of how many of the 14,499 who are bilingual in English and Spanish.

There does exist a community that benefited from this program and will continue to should the program remain. We understand that the Latino community is not monolithic but the use of both Spanish and English is a common experience. Lansing Community College can use this Spanish language program to encourage more students to learn the Spanish language; it can also encourage and motivate students to learn radio in terms of communication and as a profession. This is a very important and needed program for the Latino community.

We understand that a taskforce to examine the LCC radio program is suggesting that management responsibilities be handed over to Michigan Radio, but there isn't an actual resolution at this point. If Michigan Radio is determined resulting from the task force to be the selected organization, where does that leave the Spanish language program servicing the Latino community?

We strongly recommend that the Spanish language radio program remain and that the task force in a collaboration of representative from the Latino community create strategic plans to improve and sustain the program.

Lorenzo Lopez & Rosa Martinez

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The challenge of finding an editor and how you can help

Dear Readers:
City Pulse needs your help. This time, we do not have our hand out, although your contributions are always welcome.

(Please see P. 3 for information on our June fundraising campaign.)

Rather, we are asking you to spread the word that City Pulse is seeking an arts and entertainment editor and is doing its best to find candidates with diverse backgrounds. The position became vacant before the pandemic set in, when our previous arts editor left for another job. We were sorry to lose her because, among other reasons, as an African American woman, she brought an important perspective and helped diversify our coverage. City Pulse's staff of just seven full-time people, counting the vacancy, is diverse in several ways, but our only African American employee is on the business side, not the editorial side.

Our goal has long been to conduct a true equal opportunity search. Based on more than five decades in journalism and from working in and leading newsrooms big and small, I know first-hand how important it is to have a diverse staff in covering a community.

But the pandemic intervened soon after the opening occurred, making it unwise to hire anyone in such a period of economic uncertainty. Finally, last month, we launched a national search

that made it clear we wanted a pool of candidates with diverse backgrounds.

Unfortunately — and ironically — our efforts have been dealt a blow by critics who have labeled City Pulse racist.

Here's what happened: A young African American woman from Lansing with a strong interest in the arts applied for the position. But the day before her scheduled interview, she pulled out, with this explanation: She had discovered, she emailed us, City Pulse's alleged "history of hostility towards the Black community, its members, and those who are vocal in critiquing certain articles or topics written by your publication."

This follows the effort led by Rina Risper, the publisher of the Black-oriented Lansing publication The New Citizens Press, to undermine City Pulse's credibility after we published an editorial that questioned her claim that Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar sexually harassed her. Risper's claims about City Pulse are vague. On her Facebook page she said, "City Pulse has always been anti-Black, moreso, now that Kyle is there," referring to our managing editor, Kyle Kaminski. Her claims are also false and defamatory on their face. What exactly this "history" is the job candidate referred to, she did not say.

Pulse has had a brush up or two with a few members of the Black community in recent years. Last year, we got sidewise with one leader of Black Lives Matter for using statements by

her from her Facebook page, which she considers private. We reject her contention that something anyone, "friend" or not, can access, is private. But even so, we reexamined our policy and decided from now on, we'd try our best to use Facebook as a tip sheet to be followed up on, not as a primary source for stories. We use Risper's Facebook comments here because they directly criticize City Pulse.

We also ran into a buzzsaw of disapproval from Ingham County Commissioner Derrell Slaughter, an African American man, over a candidate survey on racial equity we conducted last year as part of our election coverage. Slaughter's point, as I understood it, was the survey questions were uninformed because they lacked input from Black people. Granted, the final questions were written by a white man, our managing editor. But he consulted with Black people and researched the questions widely. No one, to our knowledge, has criticized the actual questions — just how they came about.

Risper, Slaughter and a handful of others have now staged two demonstrations outside of City Pulse, and the attendance has been about the same both times: About 20 to 25 people — and roughly half of them are members of a local family that is mad at City Pulse about something that has nothing to do with Risper and Slaughter's complaints. (The family maintains we sided with an imprisoned man who killed a

family member, but that's for another column.) By and large, members of Lansing's African-American community cooperate with City Pulse when we seek their views for stories. We are very pleased that the restaurant Gregory's Soul Food, a staple in the Black community, recently allowed City Pulse to distribute there, next to The New Citizens Press.

But thanks to social media, a few people can do damage, as we expect happened in this case with the African American job candidate who changed her mind.

The irony I referred to earlier in this column is, of course, that in accusing City Pulse of being racist, Risper and her followers have made it more difficult to attract candidates of color. If their goal is to influence change at City Pulse, how does this help?

Despite this setback, our goal remains the same: to attract a diverse pool of candidates for this position.

This is where you, the reader, can come in: Do you know a person of color who writes well with a sincere interest in the arts? No journalism experience is required (although desired)—we can train the right person. We would also be pleased to consider anyone who comes to mind, regardless of race.

If so, please email me with your suggestion, or encourage that person to email jobs.lansingcitypulse@gmail.com.

Thank you.



BERL SCHWARTZ

OPINION

Michigan's redistricting commission no magic bullet for Democrats

Michigan Democrats are beaming that Republicans are not concocting the new legislative and congressional lines this year.

They should. When Republicans drew the maps in 2001 and 2011, the Democrats gained a majority of the state House two out of 10 election cycles and the Senate zero out of 10 election cycles.

That's not a good batting average.

But to rest their hopes of becoming the majority entirely in the hands of the independent redistricting commission's handiwork — which will supposedly eliminate gerrymandering — isn't a good battle plan either.

Let's start with the obvious. Can these 13 political neophytes meet their constitutional deadlines? The U.S. Census



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

data that the commission needs to better draw maps won't be in a user-friendly format until Sept. 30. They're supposed to propose their first draft maps Sept. 17.

Their final maps are due Nov. 1. Based on the comments from the state Supreme Court this week, there's not much appetite for giving the commission a "get out of free card."

So, what happens if and when they blow the deadline? Does the commission draw them and hope the courts rule them valid anyway? Do the courts draw the maps?

Who knows?

What we do know is that when Michigan's prior redistricting commission was around, it drew a combined zero number of maps that were ultimately used. The courts drew all three. That's a .000 batting average for those of you keeping score at home.

Today's commission is structured differently, and maybe its maps will be drawn on time. But will they survive the inevitable judicial challenge? If they don't, a federal judge draws the maps.

Let's assume the commission's maps do meet the deadlines, are declared constitutional and survive a takeover from a federal judge. The state's geography for Democratic pick-ups, particularly in the state Senate, isn't great.

Democrats don't have many realistic pickup options from a map reconfiguration. Detroit is losing population, meaning those five Detroit districts will need to stretch deeper into inner-rink suburbs.

Also, Michigan has five districts where a majority of the voters are Black. By federal law, the state needs to retain those five "majority-minority districts." If Detroit isn't big enough for five, a new Pontiac-to-Southfield Interstate 75

district may be needed.

That would mean an existing bright blue district steals the Democratic base out of a marginal Democratic district. That's a net loss for the Dems.

Oakland County is a losing cause for Republicans, but Democrats have won just about everything they're going to win there. With Detroit losing population, the Oakland County and Wayne County suburban seats the Democrats won in 2020 will be pushed deeper into Republican rural areas like Livingston County or northern Oakland.

That's not good for Democrats, either.

West Michigan has some possibilities. The Muskegon-based 34th District could have Newaygo County cut out of it and replaced with Grand Haven, which went 55% for Joe Biden last year.

Kent County grew by 10.15% in

VOTE APPLING AUGUST 3



- ◆ The City of Lansing should eliminate bail requirements for misdemeanor crimes.
- ◆ Lansing should pass an ordinance creating a duty for police officers to intervene when observing force used beyond what is reasonable.
- ◆ The City of Lansing should make it illegal to open carry weapons within City limits.
- ◆ Within City limits weapons being transported should be locked in the trunk of the car.

- ◆ Quality immunity for police officers should be eliminated.

As a City Council member my goal is to provide you with affordable, high quality City services and responsive, accessible local government.

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Democrats

from page 7

the last 10 years. Suburban areas like Walker, Kentwood, Plainfield and Alpine are trending Democratic. But squeezing two Democratic Senate seats out of the Grand Rapids areas in 2022 still feels like a stretch.

This is West Michigan, after all.

The Upper Peninsula isn't going Democratic any time soon. Anything north of Saginaw isn't going Democratic. It's possible a new Saginaw/Bay City district could have promise for Democrats, but that neck of the woods loves Donald Trump. Monroe County used to be a 50/50 district. Not anymore, even if that district were

redrawn with Downriver.

You're not squeezing two state Senate districts out of Ann Arbor. There's not enough people. Same thing with Kalamazoo. They'll both retain their one Senate district a piece and that's it.

Macomb County north of Warren is trending toward Republicans. You're not getting a second Democratic Senate district there, especially if one of those five Detroit districts pushes into southern Macomb.

If the Democrats were drawing the maps, I'm sure they'd find the 20 Democratic-leaning state Senate seats needed for majority.

The map would look exactly like the type of jig-sawed puzzle this redistricting commission is trying to avoid.

(*Kyle Melinn of the Capitol newsletter MIRS is at melnnky@gmail.com.*)

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.

In an effort to make the most of this community's resources, Community Mental Health recognizes the value of, and is committed to, hundreds of partnerships with a wide range of parties. These partnerships, carried out in the form of multiple party collaborative efforts and two-party agreements, are fundamental to the provision of comprehensive and seamless mental health care service delivery.

Today, with over 1,000 employees, Community Mental Health has become the 15th largest employer in the region, and through contracts with other providers, makes an investment of an additional 500 jobs in our community



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We are seeking a bilingual Mental Health Therapist to join our team!

Responsibilities: case management and outreach, assessment, treatment plan, development, and the provision of evidence-based practice therapy to adults with serious and persistent mental illness with the specialization in serving the Hispanic community.

Requirements: Master's degree in Social Work, Counseling, Psychology or closely related field. Possession of an appropriate State of Michigan credential, LMSW preferred. Must be bi-lingual in Spanish (speak and read). One year of experience working with persons with mental illness or one academic year of graduate practicum/internship experience working with persons with mental illness required.

Salary/Hours: \$44,704-\$50,743 annually. 40 hours per week, some evening hours.

Please see the following position to apply: 21-6045 Mental Health Therapist (Bilingual-Spanish)

Please visit our website for all of our employment opportunities at www.ceicmh.org

www.ceicmh.org

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By KYLE KAMINSKI

Former intern sues Bernero for sexual harassment

Liz Hart alleges that former three-term Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero he sexually harassed and sexually assaulted her in 2013 and 2014, reports the Lansing State Journal. Hart works as an urban planner in Idaho. She alleges that Bernero had subjected her to harassment via late-night phone calls and unwanted sexual comments and sexual assault by stroking her feet and legs. Portions of Hart's claims were included in recent media coverage of Bernero's alleged sexual harassment, which was published the day after he dropped out of the Lansing mayoral race in April.



Bernero

Teenager killed in southeast Lansing

Jemaris Jarmel Leek, 17, of Lansing, was shot near the 2900 block of East Jolly Road at about 12:45 a.m. Wednesday and later died at a hospital from his injuries, authorities said. No arrests have been made while local cops continue to investigate the incident. Those with any information about the recent shooting are encouraged to call investigators at 517-483-4600.

Lansing businesses nab loans

Eleven small businesses negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic were awarded a combined \$245,000 in forgivable loans through the Lansing CARES program. They are Odd Nodd Art Supply; Smith Floral and Greenhouses; Kona Ice; Premier Oil Shop; FLEXcity Fitness; Sleepwalker Spirits and Ale; People's Yoga; 517 Coffee Co.; Value Engineering; The Power of Water; and Ahptic Productions. Additional loan awards will be announced next month.



The pandemic is over(ish)

All COVID-19 epidemic orders on gatherings and face masks have been rescinded in Michigan, again allowing for full capacity in both indoor and outdoor settings without face coverings. Infection rates have declined exponentially, and about 5 million residents have received their first vaccine dose. As a result, the Lansing City Council is also returning to in-person meetings next month, and city offices — aside from the 54A District Court — are set to fully reopen on July 12.

Five more cops head to Lansing

While the city battles a growing wave of gun violence, Mayor Andy Schor announced plans to expand the police force by five officers "as quickly as possible." About \$625,000 of those additional payroll costs will be covered by a federal grant. The city will pitch in at least \$915,000.



Schor

Emergent to build in Dewitt Twp.

The Lansing City Council approved an Act 425 agreement that essentially adopts a 34-acre parcel of land in Dewitt Township near the Capital Region International Airport. The concept enables the potential for more tax incentives on the property, in turn encouraging Emergent BioSolutions to construct a new, 181,700 biopharmaceutical manufacturing facility on site.



Kinks arise in new city website

After investing at least \$100,000 to create a new website for the city of Lansing this year, city officials are still working out various transitional hiccups — including dozens of broken links and dead webpages. The redesign will reportedly enhance search functionality and the "overall look" of the website but for now, several links to key city resources and information are inaccessible.

Tuition increase for rich kids at MSU

Families with combined incomes of more than \$100,000 will see a 2% tuition increase at Michigan State University next fall, which reportedly equates to a \$290 per year bump for incoming freshmen living in Michigan. The change marks the first tuition increase in four years.



Lansing remembers teenage shooting victim

Frances Park was filled with family and friends of Mar-shawn Beard to celebrate and memorialize his life after he and another teenager were shot and killed at Rotary Park. More than a dozen armed and uniformed police officers surrounded the park at both entrances.

BWL dinged for mercury pollution

The Lansing Board of Water & Light will pay the state \$30,000 to settle complaints that it violated environmental laws at its Erickson plant in Delta Township by negligently releasing excess amounts of mercury into the air, the Journal reports. BWL officials said the excess mercury was "very low" and did not pose an immediate health risk.



Grocery store to close in Colonial Village

The Valu Land grocery store at 1609 W. Mt. Hope Ave. will close June 25 with plans to reopen as a market for non-perishable items, said Mayor Andy Schor. He labeled the announcement "very upsetting" but emphasized that Kroger will continue to operate nearby.



This month's Eye Candy is the Graduate Hotel at the corner of Grand River and Evergreen avenues in East Lansing. The mere existence of a new building at the western entrance to downtown East Lansing and Michigan State's campus would be an improvement upon the decades-long dilapidated buildings previously on the site. However, the new hotel — opened just last week — is quite lovely in its own right. It is 10 stories of beige brick and black-framed windows that includes floor-to-ceiling plate-glass windows on both the ground-floor and the second-story, providing exceptional views of campus. The dense canopy of trees at the edge of West Circle in the historic part of campus are visible from the upper levels inside the hotel. Further away, one can see the lights and bleachers at Spartan Stadium. The Graduate East Lansing is the chain's 30th property. All are located in college towns or in close proximity to a college campus, and draw upon the local community for its interior décor. This is true in East Lansing, too. There are obvious references to famous Spartan alums, most notably the oversized mural of Magic Johnson behind the front desk. That piece of art was inspired by his 1978 Sports Illustrated cover and is made, interestingly, of shoe-laces. A more obscure Michigan reference is the Gus Macker trophy-inspired lamps on the reception desk.

— CARRIE SAMPSON

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

The trauma — and community — of the 1980s and ‘90s

By TIM RETZLOFF

A pair of Lansing State Journal headlines capture the paper’s evolving coverage of Lansing-area queer folk in the 1980s and ‘90s.

“42 Named in Sex-Count Warrants” from March 19, 1986, was a report on an undercover police sting of homosexual activity at the U.S. 123 rest area in Holt. The crackdown added to the weight of trauma in the midst of harassment and hate, pestilence and loss experienced by people we now include under an LGBTQ+ umbrella.

As it had in 1955, the paper printed the names and addresses of those arrested. Among them was David Kimball, executive assistant to Michigan State University President John DiBaggio. Kimball was forced to resigned.

“Rally Asks for Dignity for Gays” from June 25, 1989, led the front-page coverage of the first statewide gay march on the Capitol since the early 1970s,

Greater Lansing’s LGBTQ+ Past

This is Part III 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.

when the Michigan Organization for Human Rights moved its annual Pride celebration to town. The event helped mark a new era of LGBTQ+ community growth.

With the 1989 march, Lucile “Porty” Portwood dispensed with the discretion she demonstrated 30 years earlier when she gave her terriers suggestive gay names. “I’ve been a practicing lesbian for about 60 years and I’m glad to feel



Courtesy of Cheryl Van De Kerkhove
Cheryl Van De Kerkhove, Cindy Lehmkuhle and Joel Stempek outside Real World Emporium, 1996.

free to walk down the street today,” she told the LSJ.

Enduring trauma and building community defined much of local queer life in the Reagan, Bush I and Clinton

years.

The recurrent trauma felt by many in the local LGBTQ+ population included two fires at Lansing’s Lesbian Center. The first fire, in July 1971, gutted their rented building at 427 Spring St. and interrupted publication of the Lesbian Connection for six months.

The second blaze, in June 1990, did less damage, yet it still fueled painful emotion. An unnamed Ambitious Amazon told the Feminist Bookstore News, “It’s scary being reminded of just how fragile we all are, but this time we’ve had much less damage, and there’s no way this will stop us.”

At Michigan State, gay senior Jerry Mattiolo had his dorm room torched in May 1989. The same week, Aryc Mosher found his car doused with gasoline. A straight former MSU football player assaulted Gary Dennis at an area nightclub in 1994. A small group attacked Kieran O’Malley, a transgender senior, outside the Union on Halloween 1996.

Sometimes trauma turned deadly. The anti-gay murders of Lansing State Journal sportswriter Bob Gross in 1996 and remodeling contractor Alden Judge in 1999 shook the community with menacing heartache.

The suicide in November 1995 of Lansing poet, writer and activist Terri Jewell, a featured speaker at the 1989 and 1994 Pride rallies at the Capitol, left an irrevocable void. “Terri was open, she saw, she felt, and she suffered for it,” Annie Courtney said in eulogizing Jewell at her memorial.

Then there was the tsunami of loss brought on by HIV and AIDS, richly detailed in Todd Heywood’s look back at local responses to the epidemic 40 years ago in the June 2 City Pulse.

The sheer scale of loss is suggested by an affidavit written in 1991 by MSU alum Jon Nalley to explain his participation in an ACT UP protest. In the document, Nalley remembered 12 friends from college whom he had lost since graduating in 1982. “These are not numbers, but people I loved and cared about,” Nalley wrote.

Among the friends Nalley lost was local activist Rick Rapaport, who played

Capital Area Transportation Authority
Public Meeting Notice
Proposed Fixed-Route Service Changes
Effective Aug. 30, 2021

The Capital Area Transportation Authority will host a series of public meetings to present proposed fixed-route service changes effective Aug. 30, 2021. The following routes are included in the proposal:

Route 18.....Capital City Crosstown
New route, connecting South Lansing to East Lansing/MSU, by way of Grand River/Michigan, Harrison, Forest and Mt. Hope. This route will serve MSU campus, the Capital Area Multimodal Gateway, the new McLaren Hospital, Cole Academy, and all current and new bus stops along the route.

Route 20.....South Harrison – Jolly – Dunkel
Established route with a minor change in routing along Collins Road between Forest Road and Jolly Road.

Details of proposed changes will be available online after June 22 at cata.org/Fall2021updates. Representatives from CATA will be present at the open-forum public meetings listed below. There is no formal presentation planned, which will allow CATA staff to meet and interact with attendees on an individual basis, while maintaining safe distancing. Public comment is welcome. The same service information will be available at each meeting, allowing area residents to attend any session of their choosing.


Date	Municipality	Facility	Address	Time
• Mon. July 19	Lansing, East Lansing	Former Sears Building in Frandor Shopping Center	3131 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing	6 - 7:30 p.m.
• Tues. July 20	Lansing Township	Central Fire Department	5000 Okemos Road, Okemos	6 - 7:30 p.m.
• Thurs. July 22	Meridian Township	Community Services Center	2074 Aurelius Road, Holt	6 - 7:30 p.m.

All facilities are served by CATA fixed routes and Spec-Tran for the duration of each meeting. Spec-Tran rides must be reserved by 5 p.m. the evening before the session you plan to attend. If you require special accommodations, please contact CATA Customer Service at 517-394-1000 with your request. CATA will make every attempt to provide reasonable accommodations requested by Friday, July 16, 2021.

If you are unable to attend a meeting but would like to provide input, visit cata.org/Fall2021updates, email your comments to marketing@cata.org or write us as at the following address:

Fall 2021 Service Changes Feedback
Capital Area Transportation Authority
Attn: Marketing Department
4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910

You may also call our hotline at 517-999-2549 between 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. during scheduled meetings, and a CATA Representative will document your feedback. Calls will not be monitored when meetings are not in session. All comments must be received by 7:30 p.m. July 22, 2021. Follow us at facebook.com/rideCATA and twitter.com/rideCATA for the latest information.



CP#21-148

See History, Page 11

History

from page 10

a prominent role in building queer community. Particularly notable, Rapaport produced a four-part locally focused documentary, “Lesbians and Gay Men: The Eighties,” that was broadcast during Pride Week 1981 on Lansing and East Lansing cable access channels.

The Lansing Association for Human Rights stood at the forefront of much activism, making headway in 1980 under the leadership of Mary Hartshorn in challenging police harassment of Covello’s and Trammpps’ customers ticketed for jaywalking after leaving the bars.

Later in the decade, LAHR helped secure passage of a Lansing ordinance that would protect residents from discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing. Mayor Terry McKane vetoed the measure.

Twelve years after that, the City Council approved and Mayor David Hollister signed a more sweeping gay rights ordinance. This time a group calling itself Majority Opposed to Special Treatment forced the issue onto the ballot. Voters rescinded the ordinance.

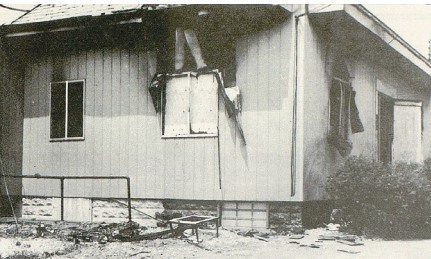
“Hate is a very difficult thing to beat,” Bob Egan, Lansing Equal Rights Task Force co-leader, told Between The Lines.

Despite some setbacks in Lansing, campus activism at MSU saw significant breakthroughs. The Board of Trustees enacted a new bylaw in July 1990 to protect students, faculty, and staff from discrimination based on sexual orientation. In September 1997, the board reversed a decision and extended benefits to the same-sex domestic partners of MSU employees.

Eight undergrads pledged Delta Lambda Phi, a new gay fraternity in fall 1991. MSU administrators hired Brent Bilodeau as assistant for Lesbian-Bi-Gay Concerns in fall 1994. And the Lesbian-Gay Council, later the Alliance of Lesbian, Bi, Gay, & Transgender Students, remained one of the strongest organizations on campus.

Back in Lansing, an eastside neighborhood attracted such a sizable concentration of lesbian residents by the mid-1990s that it became known as Dyke Heights. The late singer-songwriter Alix Dobkin even gave a shoutout to its zip code, 48912, in her 1989 song “Lesbian Code.”

Local LGBTQ bar life was changing and flourishing. At the beginning of



Courtesy of the Lesbian Connection

The Lesbian Center after a July 19, 1981, fire.

the 1990s the city targeted a block of sex businesses along Michigan Avenue and demolished Joe Covello’s and Trammpps. The site is now Jackson Field.

The night after Trammpps closed in 1992, Club Paradise opened as a new premier gay dance spot. Two additional bars joined it on Washington Square in the early ‘90s, JB’s and Steve’s Downtown, both short-lived. Beyond downtown, other bars enjoyed longer durations: Club 505 and Esquire opened in 1994, and Spiral opened in 1998.

Local gay commerce thrived in other ways as well, especially retail. Real World Emporium on Turner Street, operated by Cheryl Van De Verkhove and Cindy Lehmkuhle, provided a vital community anchor between 1994 and 1998.

Contacted via Facebook last week, Van De Kerkhove recalled that Old Town boasted more than a dozen LGBT-owned businesses during that time. “Those were truly the Gay 90’s in Lansing!” she said.

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

VOTE
Linda Keefe
for Lansing
City Council
At Large



on Tuesday
Aug. 3!

Paid for by Vote for Linda Keefe
6215 Sommerset Rd., Lansing, MI 48918
517-881-9808 • lmkeefe@outlook.com

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2021 ELECTION

To the qualified electors of the City of Lansing:
Please take notice that the City of Lansing will hold an Election on Tuesday, August 3, 2021.

For the purpose of nominating candidates to the following offices:
City: Mayor, Council Member At Large (2), Council Member Ward 2

For the purpose of voting on the following proposal:
City: Essential Services Millage Restoration Proposal

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the office of the Lansing City Clerk, 124 W. Michigan Ave., 9th Floor, Lansing, MI 48933, telephone: (517) 483-4131.

Any qualified elector who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the Lansing City Clerk, the office of their County Clerk, a Secretary of State Branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms may be obtained at www.Michigan.gov/vote and mailed to or dropped off at the office of the Lansing City Clerk. Any qualified elector that has a Michigan Driver’s License or Personal ID can also register to vote at www.Michigan.gov/vote. Voters who are already registered may update their voter registration at www.Michigan.gov/vote.

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the Lansing City Clerk’s Office is **Monday, July 19, 2021**. After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the following locations and times:

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

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

Location	Address	Additional Hours
Lansing City Clerk - City Hall	124 W Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933	Election Day August 3 7am - 8pm
Lansing City Clerk - Election Unit	2500 S Washington Ave Lansing, MI 48910	Saturday July 31 11am - 5pm Sunday August 1 11am – 5pm Election Day August 3 7am – 8pm

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

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

Monday, August 2, 2021 at 4:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot except for those who register to vote on Election Day. Ballots issued on Monday, August 2, 2021 must be requested and voted in person at the Lansing City Clerk’s Office, locations referenced in the above table.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, August 3, 2021, are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the Lansing City Clerk’s Office, locations referenced in the above table.

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

What's next for Adado Riverfront Park?

Playground? Stage? Zipline?
The sky's the limit for
Lansing's 'Central Park.'

A new playground proposed for part of Adado Riverfront Park is expected to eventually lure thousands of both locals and tourists to the western banks of the Grand River by 2022 — all part of a broad, community-driven plan to “activate” the city's downtown riverfront.

As those placemaking efforts continue, city officials and community organizers are still envisioning a grand transformation from empty green space to downtown recreation destination.

“That park is really a staple in the city. It's a great location to draw people into Lansing, and that's one of the main reasons we still have our event at Adado. It's just a great, central location in the city,” said Shirley Carter-Powell, who organizes the annual Michigan Chicken Wing Festival at the park with the nonprofit Against Our Lives. “It's like our version of Central Park.”

Beefing up placemaking amenities along the banks of the Grand River downtown have been a focal point of both the administrations of Mayor Andy Schor and former Mayor Virg Bernero. But while substantial progress has been made on the eastern shores near Rotary Park and the old City Market building, the other side of the river remains mostly a grassy plot of vacant land. And many large events — for one reason or another — have slowly moved on to other local venues.

A cannabis-themed concert is still scheduled at Adado in August. The Chicken Wing Festival will continue there in September. Other, smaller-scale music events are scheduled throughout the summer. Larger events like Common Ground and the annual Chili Cookoff, however, have moved to Jackson Field. The Pride Festival hasn't been at the park since 2018. Plans to build an amphitheater or permanent stage (and even a zipline) have been stagnant for two years.

Lansing's version of Central Park — at least for now — remains quiet, vacant and underutilized.

And with a new “universally accessible” playground proposed to be built there next year, local leaders are ready to pick up the pace.

“We have plenty of other areas for events — whether that be in Old Town or REO Town,” said Parks Director Brett Kashinske. “We have venues. With the



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

“If you put a playground in, do you close the playground during a ticketed event? I can see that creating problems. Common Ground also has had its second stage in that area. We've had vendors in that area — all revenue streams for these events.”

— **Scott Keith,**
president & CEO
Lansing
Entertainment &
Public Facilities
Authority



new playground, we're looking at how we can make the riverfront more of a daily-use park for residents and others all year long.”

That concept is familiar for the Arts Council of Greater Lansing and other local stakeholders.

A “master plan” fueled by \$40,000 in grant funding was assembled by the Arts Council in 2018. It ultimately found the park to lack a “meaningful identity” within the local community. Plans to build a permanent outdoor stage were subsequently identified as a new, iconic element that could eventually link the park to downtown and draw in far more visitors to the riverfront.

The concept would also help make the city a statewide entertainment destination. The plan reads: “High performance open spaces are linked to the rebirth of cities, as they contribute to various aspects of quality of life. This master plan envisions Adado Park as a high performance open space for the city of Lansing, improving quality of life by reducing its environmental impact, enhancing connectivity and health and strengthening the local community and culture.”

Public input sessions were organized.

Whither Adado Riverfront Park?

The plan for a “universally accessible” park on the west side of the Grand River could be just the beginning of a transformation.

just a giant empty field there. That's not necessarily engaging for people to use the space on a day-to-day basis. It can still be an event space, but also a place for people to use everyday.”

Early renderings of the playground show a colorful, 66,000-square-foot complex of see-saws, slides, swings, bright paths, a picnic deck, pavilion and universal access to the river via a large platform and new boardwalk. More than \$1.5 million in total project costs are set to be covered almost entirely by private donations collected through the nonprofit Community Foundation.

Several other locations were considered for the playground but Adado Riverfront Park was the clear favorite because it's visible to traffic on Grand Avenue yet tucked into a natural berm next to the river, and it's within biking and walking distance of several surrounding neighborhoods. Parking for guests will be available on the street or at Lansing Community College's new ramp.

The playground will also only take up about 1.5 acres of the 28-acre riverfront park space. Executive Director Laurie Baumer said the park will also fill a regional accessibility void. Designers were guided by a vision of kids with disabilities playing alongside other kids, everywhere in the playground and surrounding park. The closest universally accessible park of this scale to Lansing is now more than an hour away in Grand Rapids or Commerce Township.

Scott Keith, director of the Lansing Entertainment and Facilities Authority, said he has his doubts about whether large-scale events like Common Ground — especially those involving alcohol — will be able to return to Adado after the playground is built. With less vacant green space at the park, event organizers also have a smaller footprint available as a potential venue.

“If you put a playground in a space like that, do you close the playground during a ticketed event? I can see that creating problems,” Keith said. “Common Ground also has had its second stage in that area. We've had vendors in that area — all revenue streams for these events.”

Many others, including Schor, expect Lansing can still have the best of both worlds if Adado is developed into a regional travel destination as well as a continued site for future events. And if all else fails, developers of the Red Cedar project on Michigan Avenue near the Frandor Shopping Center said this week that they still expect to build a public amphitheater of their own.

— **KYLE KAMINSKI**

Renderings were assembled. City officials — in partnership with the Arts Council — set off to identify the would-be costs. And for the last few years, particularly amid the COVID-19 pandemic, those plans have been shelved in Lansing.

After a study was conducted in 2019, the Mayor's Arts and Culture Commission also announced that it “does not believe it is feasible” to raise the \$33million to \$55 million required to build an indoor performing arts center, but it found that “there may be interest” in a smaller \$10 million project.

Schor still doesn't have any immediate plans. A 2019 application to secure a \$1.7 million federal grant to jumpstart any would-be park transformation was rejected. In the meantime, the city plans to continue working with the Arts Council to explore potential ideas, Schor said. And he and Kashinske said they expect more events to return to Adado after the playground is built.

“The brand-new universally-accessible playground will be a fantastic addition to the city of Lansing's parks system,” Schor said. “Lansing is a diverse and welcoming city, and it's vital that we offer options for children of all abilities to enjoy. The playground will help create options for daily-use of the park, while still allowing groups to request to host events in the space.”

Arts Council Director Meghan Martin said her organization hasn't revisited plans to construct a permanent stage at Adado since the Mayor's Arts and Culture Commission started exploring plans for an indoor performing arts center. For now, those plans are treading water, she said.

“We had a changeover in mayors and a lot of opinions have been brought forward since then as far as it comes to public space and a public performing arts venue,” Martin said. “Right now, it's

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
INGHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Trust

Sarah Irene Price Revocable
Living Trust Agreement u/a/d June
22, 2017. Date of birth: July 12,
1950.
TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE
TO CREDITORS: The decedent,
Sarah Irene Price, died March 22,
2021. Creditors of the decedent
are notified that all claims against
the decedent and the trust
described below will be forever
barred unless presented to DiAnn
Turek, Successor Trustee of the
Sarah Irene Price Revocable
Living Trust Agreement dated
June 22, 2017, 4459 Greenwood
Dr., Okemos, MI 48864 within 4
months after the publication of this
notice.

Robert L. Refior II P43374
1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 5
Lansing, MI 48910 517-374-8890

DiAnn Turek
4459 Greenwood Dr.
Okemos, MI 48864 517-347-7065

CP#21-151

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF EATON
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
Case No. 21-57027-DE

Estate of Craig Allen Stott,
deceased. Date of birth: 1/26/1957.
TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE
TO CREDITORS: The decedent,
Craig Allen Stott, died May 16,
2021. Creditors of the decedent
are notified that all claims against
the estate will be forever barred
unless presented to Lauri Stott,
personal representative, or to
both the probate court at 918
Timbercreek Unit #20, Grand
Ledge, MI 48837 and the personal
representative within 4 months
after the date of publication of this
notice.

6/21/2021
Bradley Vauter P35762
11963 E. Andre Drive, Suite D
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
517-853-8015

Lauri Stott
918 Timbercreek Unit #20
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
517-331-2094

CP#21-152

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
INGHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
Case No. 21-589-DE

Court address: 313 W. Kalamazoo
St., Lansing, MI 48933. 517-483-
6300.
Estate of Sarah Irene Price. Date
of birth: July 12, 1950.
TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE
TO CREDITORS: The decedent,
Sarah Irene Price, died March 22,
2021. Creditors of the decedent
are notified that all claims against
the estate will be forever barred
unless presented to DiAnn Turek,
personal representative, or to
both the probate court at 313 W.
Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933
and the personal representative
within 4 months after the date of
publication of this notice.

June 18, 2021

Robert L. Refior II P43374
1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 5
Lansing, MI 48910 517-374-8890

DiAnn Turek
4459 Greenwood Dr.
Okemos, MI 48864 517-347-7065

CP#21-150



LOCAL EXPERTS

FINANCIAL

A Horse! A Horse! Insurance for My Horse!

In a recent article on some credible click-bait site, I found a story about a discovery of a treasure trove of unpublished and unedited Shakespearean writings. What drew me in (besides promises of authentic photos of Desdemona and Cordelia in swimsuits) were quotes that clearly had insurance implications.

In an attempt to capitalize on the success of Hamlet, Shakespeare drafted, "Hamlet 2: The Dark Night." Hamlet (aka Lawrence Olivier) was supposed to have uttered, "Get thee to an independent insurance agent." Ophelia, played by (Pre-Kiss) Jean Simmons, was to respond with, "I can save up to 15% or more." Before he became a playwright and poet, a high school vocational-ed instructor suggested that young Will become an insurance agent.

Sadly, an overzealous editor (or underwriter) deleted huge swatches of text from Romeo and Juliet turning a clever rom-com about life insurance into a hackneyed tragedy. Sigh... Finally, I challenge anyone to convince me that, "Hell is empty and all the devils are here," from, "The Tempest" was not about a den of underwriters and claims adjusters.

Any questions? Call me.



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517-664-9600 / 517-999-5541



Full Circle Financial Planning
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SCOTT HARRIS

(517) 664-9600

4112 S. Cedar St.,
Lansing, MI 48910

itsonlyinsurance.com

GIFTS

Photos don't mean much without the story behind them

Do you ever go into thrift or antique stores and see those old yellowing photographs of other people's dead relatives? I wonder if they would have let those photos go so easily if they had known about the setting and story behind those photos.

To keep this from happening to your family pieces, whether it be a full family photograph, or a piece of art picked up on a vacation, take a moment to document what you can.

Never use a pen on the back of photographs! Ink can bleed through the paper and can smear. We recommend a #2 pencil on older photos that are printed on photographic paper. On more modern prints, use an archival permanent marker, or, better yet, don't write on your photos at all! Use photo sleeves or boxes to store your memories. You can also use these methods to record not just the subjects in the photo, but the setting as well.



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CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 1500

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 6-175 OF CHAPTER 6 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Section 1.

Subsection 1006.3 of Section 6-175 of Chapter 6 of the Code of the City of East Lansing is hereby amended to add a new Paragraph 14, which reads as follows:

- (14) Statements in substantially the following form:
- (a) That the owner of the leased premises and its agents will not enter the leased premises for the purpose of showing the premises to prospective tenants until 150 days of the current lease period has commenced;
 - (b) That the owner of the lease premises and its legal agent will not enter into an agreement to rent the leased premises to another tenant for a subsequent lease period until 150 days of the current lease period has commenced.
 - (c) That subsections (a) and (b) do not apply under the following conditions:
 - (i) The entry is for the purpose of subletting;
 - (ii) The current lease period is less than 9 months in its entirety;
 - (iii) A summons and complaint to recover possession of the premises has been filed and served on the current tenant in accordance with all laws and rules applicable to summary proceedings to recover possession of premises;
 - (iv) The tenant(s), of their own will, have terminated occupancy of the leased premises and rights under the lease to possession of the premises.

Section 2.

The remainder of Subsection 1006.3 of Section 6-175 of Chapter 6 of the Code of the City of East Lansing shall be renumbered accordingly.

Section 3.

All other ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed but only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Section 4.

Any section or subsection not expressly amended by this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect. Should any portion of this Ordinance be found invalid for any reason, such holding shall not be construed as affecting the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Section 5.

This Ordinance shall take effect on August 10, 2021, conditioned on the City of Lansing and Meridian Township adopting ordinances imposing substantially similar rental requirements as those described in this Ordinance. If the City of Lansing and Meridian Township fail to adopt ordinances imposing substantially similar rental requirements on or before August 10, 2021, then this Ordinance will not take effect and will be deemed rescinded without further action by City Council.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#21-147



2021 Primary Election Coverage

*The
Primary
Election is on
Aug. 3*

Seventeen candidates are running in August. Only eight will make it to November.

By KYLE KAMINSKI

Seventeen candidates, including three incumbents, are facing off in the August primary election for a chance to lay out a renewed direction for the city of Lansing. By next year, the Capital City could find itself with a new mayor and up to four new members of the City Council.

Mayor Andy Schor is running for a second term against Council members Kathie Dunbar and Patricia Spitzley, as well as Melissa Huber, Farhan Sheikh-Omar and Larry Hutchinson Jr. Only the top two vote-getters will battle it out in the November election.

Second Ward Councilman Jeremy Garza is also running for a second term against political newcomers Oprah Revish and Nicklas Zande. Only two candidates will advance to November.

Two at-large seats on the Council are at stake, and with Council President Peter Spadafore the only incumbent seeking reelection, at least one fresh face is guaranteed to join the Council when Dunbar, the other at-large incumbent, leaves the job. Only four of the eight at-large Council candidates will face off for those two seats in the general election.

Several weeks of conversations — mostly on background — with political insiders, community activists and everyday citizens has enabled this writer to make the following election analysis: Incumbents have this primary locked down. Even among candidates, nobody expects Schor, Garza or Spadafore to be knocked out of the running before the general election in November.

Instead, this election is about the challengers and deciding which candidates will have a chance to battle it out against the incumbents later this year for a four-year term in the city of Lansing.

Here are the races to watch:

Dunbar vs. Spitzley

In recent months, Schor has accumulated scores of endorsements from labor unions, neighborhood leaders, local business owners, current and former politicians and more. His door-knocking team has been out in full force. Schor's yard signs are just about everywhere.

The mayor is also staring down a six-way race with nearly \$200,000 in the bank, having outraised (and outspent) all of his challengers by a combined



margin of about 100 to 1. The real matchup in the August primary, instead, is between Dunbar and Spitzley — the two candidates with the most name recognition, political clout and real experience driving change in Lansing.

Spitzley could make history as Lansing's first Black person and first woman elected to the office.

But for now, she is maintaining a relatively low campaign profile. Elected to Council in 2015 and again two years ago, Spitzley has helped push the city's new Advance Peace initiative to curb gun violence, voted in favor of key development projects and supported the city's booming cannabis market.

She said she played an "instrumental role" in enacting guidelines for developers that focus on local hiring preferences and work to ensure tax incentives are used only as they were intended.

Her platform also includes a "transformation" (rather than divestment) at the Police Department, additional financial oversight and more regional and neighborhood engagement — all phrases straight out of Schor's mayoral playbook for the last three years. Where she differentiates herself from the current mayor, she said, is a desire for more transparency and accountability.

What exactly that would mean, however, is yet to be seen. Spitzley has spoken out on "reckless

spending and unchecked discrimination" that has drained city resources in recent years, but she hasn't offered much of a practical blueprint for how her administration would tackle those issues.

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This year, two election guides

The primary election is still about six weeks away, but voting is upon us. Absentee ballots for Lansing's election on Aug. 3, start being mailed tomorrow (June 24). This week's paper features two looks at the candidates. One is by City Pulse, which begins on this page. The other was provided by the nonpartisan League of Women Voters, which begins on P. 29 and appears in its entirety and without advertisements. City Pulse is once again pleased to publish the League's voter guide as a public service. The photo on the cover is of members of the National League of Women Voters, on Sept. 17, 1924.

For more on how to vote by absentee ballot, please see the League guide.

For City Pulse's views on the candidates and our recommendations, please see next week's paper.

Happy voting!



2021 Primary Election Coverage

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WE ASKED...

Our question to the candidates

The candidates' ability to repair longstanding racial inequities, reform public safety and help curb the city's skyrocketing levels of gun violence are undoubtedly key issues in this year's election cycle. We asked the candidates directly: How do you plan to use your position, if elected, to drive forward some meaningful social equity and/or

public safety reforms in Lansing?

MAYOR

Incumbent:

Andy Schor
andyschor.com

Schor, 46, the 52nd mayor of Lansing, was elected to his first term in 2017 after having



Schor

served five years in the Michigan House of Representatives and a decade on the Ingham County Board of Commissioners. Schor has a bachelor's degree in political science and history from University of Michigan and has lived in the city with his wife, Erin, for more than 20 years. He also serves on executive boards for the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Capital

Area United Way, Lansing Promise, Accelerator of America and the Manufactured Housing Commission.

"As Mayor, I have done significant work on social equity and public safety reforms. I created the first city of Lansing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer who

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Leaders of the local Black Lives Matter movement have also been reluctant to back Spitzley.

"Lansing can no longer afford business as usual," Spitzley said at her sparsely attended campaign announcement in April. "People are tired of the same litany of bad decisions and empty promises that misguide us about city funds and spend our money on political paybacks that have nothing to do with our neighborhoods and the daily lives of people who live here."

Both Spitzley and Dunbar told City Pulse they're not letting Schor's war chest of political cash deter them from running "grassroots" campaigns. Still, we have yet to spot a single political mailer, door knocker or yard sign for Spitzley as absentee ballots hit mailboxes this week.

Unlike all of the other candidates, she also declined to submit a column to City Pulse to outline her platform, but she responded to a survey about racial equity and public safety reforms.

Spitzley's largest campaign events to date, instead, appear to be a series of thinly veiled anti-Dunbar rallies hosted by local newspaper publisher Rina Risper outside City Pulse's office this summer. Spitzley (and former Councilwoman Jody Washington) stood watch, at some points even cheering, while Dunbar was labeled a predator and compared to convicted rapist Larry Nassar.

Dunbar appears to be running on a more traditionally progressive and much more aggressive campaign. This reporter counted at least three Dunbar

political mailers in recent weeks. Volunteers have also reportedly been making plenty of fundraising phone calls on her behalf.

Unlike Spitzley, Dunbar has been a much more vocal critic of the Schor administration and has slammed the mayor for a lack of financial oversight and meaningful progress in bridging a racial divide. She has also been a stalwart advocate for police divestment as a City Council member.

Dunbar's left-leaning platform includes a focus on safe and affordable housing, reining in unfunded pension liabilities, reinvesting in social services and boosting small business support.

As director of the South Lansing Community Development Association, she labels herself as a "trained facilitator" in working alongside local residents to craft "collaborative solutions." And although she is serving her fourth term on the Council, she still leans heavily into the whole "I'm not a politician" schtick on her website. Her campaign signs fit a similar mantra: "She's the real deal."

"I'm known for being funny, outspoken, sometimes brash, unconventional," Dunbar — an occasional standup comic who works blue — wrote on her campaign website. "Also honest, hard-working, extremely knowledgeable and very effective."

Dunbar led the way on amending the city's human rights ordinance to protect members of the LGBTQ+ community. She worked for easier access to marijuana when the city was establishing regulations. And she fought to declare Lansing a sanctuary city — one of the clearest differences between her and Spitzley: They initially both voted for sanctuary city status, which passed, 6-0. But under pressure generated by the Trump Justice Department,

Spitzley joined a majority in reversing that decision, while Dunbar stuck to her guns. The reversal made national news.

Dunbar has repeatedly denied allegations that she sexually harassed Risper, the publisher of the New Citizens Press. She also denied claims from two women — including Risper — that she used to frequently use the N-word in conversation with her friends about 15 years ago.

"I may not remember saying something, or I may remember it differently, but my recollection doesn't matter. What matters is that 15 years ago, regardless of my intent, my words and actions landed in a way that caused harm," Dunbar said. "I take responsibility for my words and actions, not just from 15 years ago, but any time before now. In advocacy, we strive to do better than we've done, and when we know better, we do better. I'm still striving. I hope we all are."

Revish vs. Zande

Surprise: Second Ward Councilman Jeremy Garza also isn't a politician. According to his website, he's just a plumber looking for a second term representing the city of Lansing. He's also an opponent of police divestment — setting course for a polarizing matchup in November.

Oprah Revish, 34, is an LGBTQ activist who works for the Salus Center in Lansing. Her arguably radical platform includes the complete dissolution of the Police Department and a laser focus on the Second Ward, ensuring streets, sidewalks and parks are "uplifted and upgraded."

"It's hard for me to envision a future where police still exist," Revish said at a recent candidate forum. "We should invest in our communities and divest

from the police. How do you reform something that, at its root, is antagonistic to Black people? There is no way to do that."

Revish's campaign website mirrors those same few talking points — and not much else.

Zande, 19, is a community college student with a knack for local politics. He also expressed a desire to reduce policing funding and cut back on neighborhood patrols.

His campaign website also outlines the other key components of his platform: He wants to end "sister city" relationships with Chinese cities, advocates ranked choice voting in Lansing and favors converting the Lansing Board of Water & Light into the in-house "Lansing Department of Energy."

All in for At-Large

With Dunbar's At-Large term on the Council ending this year, her decision to run for mayor clears room for at least one new candidate to join the Council next year. Like Schor and Garza, Council President Spadafore is presumably already locked into the general election.

And the rest of the race is truly a tossup — though the loudest primary campaigns in the city appear to be run by Claretta Duckett-Freeman, Jeffrey Brown and Rachel Willis. Five of the candidates are people of color.

As for other races: City Clerk **Chris Swope** is running unopposed and gets a pass on the primary. Fourth Ward Councilman **Brian Jackson** will face off against his only challenger, **Elvin Caldwell**, in the November General Election. Expect more detailed coverage from a narrower field of city election candidates after the Primary Election.



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has already accomplished much by addressing implicit and explicit racial bias, assisting with the creation of a Mayor's Executive Directive on training and working with outside groups, working with the Michigan Public Health Institute and working with the Mayor's Racial Justice and Equity Alliance. Additionally, I initiated policing reforms to ensure that we provide appropriate safety and security, including the elimination of pretextual pullovers, de-escalation training and other necessary tools. I will be implementing the racial justice and equity alliance recommendations as further equity initiatives over the next weeks and months and will continue to push equity through economic mobility and financial empowerment for Lansing residents."

Kathie Dunbar
kathiedunbar.com

Dunbar, 52, is the director and founder of the South Lansing Community Development Association. Her fourth term on the City Council ends this year; Her decision to run for mayor forced her to forgo seeking reelection. Dunbar also serves as chairwoman of the Council's Committee on City Operations. Her mayoral platform includes improving customer service for residents, working with neighborhoods and small businesses and finding "collaborative solutions that address community-identified needs," according to her website.

"It's time to rethink how we conceptualize public safety. Our system is reactive, focused on punishment after crime occurs. Real solutions address root causes, and there's a mountain of evidence that shows poverty and inequity are the root causes of crime. I value public safety, and I believe reducing crime increases public safety, so I'll strategically invest in programs that reduce social and economic inequity, particu-



Dunbar

larly in historically excluded communities.

"It's also time to reconsider how we engage police and how police engage the public. Not all calls for service require an armed police response. I want to engage the community about creating a system (outside of 911) that people can choose to call for assistance from trained community responders. Officers would have more time to investigate and solve crimes. And when they do respond to calls, they'll be trained to prioritize de-escalation, understand implicit bias and use appropriate restraint."

Melissa Huber
melissaforslansing.com

Huber, 55, is a community psychologist with both a doctorate and master's degrees from Michigan State University, where she has worked for years as a research associate and project manager. She said she has been devoted to volunteer work in the city as a neighborhood leader through the Averill Woods Neighborhood Association, Rejuvenating South Lansing and the Lansing Neighborhood Council. Huber has lived in Lansing with her husband, Sam Quon, since 1993.

"We cannot make Lansing safe until everyone has access to affordable homes in neighborhoods where they feel safe from crime or being victimized by their city.

"We cannot end crime until every resident has hope for a positive future. Every child needs quality education, regardless of learning differences or career goals, and positive places to be engaged with supportive adults. Adults need jobs, child care and reliable public transportation.

"We must fight to keep teachers, doctors, and mental health and addiction specialists amidst the national shortages.

"As mayor, I will develop a community-wide collaboration, including affected residents, to simultaneously address these complex issues, with a sharp focus on racial and geographic equity.

"I will audit our federally-funded programs to determine how well they are serving our low-income residents.



Huber

"I will also move our city toward a professional city manager system where the focus is on solving problems, not getting re-elected."

Larry Hutchinson Jr.

Hutchinson, 48, describes himself as a "drum major" for reforming campaign finance laws, an army brat, an author, a defender of the U.S. Constitution and political "revolutionary." He has previously lost bids for election to the state Legislature, City Council and governor. Hutchinson is known to place handwritten and printed signs on city telephone poles — a violation of a city ordinance. He was also convicted of three felonies in the early 1990s and last year pleaded guilty to one misdemeanor charge of operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

"God brought light out of darkness, therefore I don't see any situation too dark you cannot bring light out of. No one knows how much you know, until they know how much you care.

"Mr. Hutchinson doesn't care about drugs. He believes they should be confiscated and destroyed along with any large sums of money, which the person or persons will be given a ticket and will have 30 days to prove where they acquired it.

"Mr. Hutchinson's focus is illegal firearms. Larry is here to stop the blood flow in our streets and the pain it causes everyone involved. Mr. Hutchinson would like to see our jail cells, resources, and law enforcement attention reserved for the most violent crimes and offenses."

Farhan Sheikh-Omar
farhanforslansing.com

Sheikh-Omar, 26, is a community activist focused largely on public safety reforms. A Kenyan refugee, he studied political science at Lansing Community College and taught at the Ingham Intermediate School District. In 2019, he lost an election to First Ward Councilman Brandon Betz and



Hutchinson

was defeated by State Rep. Sarah Anthony in his bid to become a lawmaker in 2018.

"The biggest challenge facing Lansing is lack of vision. Public safety is more than just policing. My number one priority is to improve all aspects of community life, including health, education, employment, housing, business development and crime prevention. I believe we need to develop thriving and livable neighborhoods with walkable streets, affordable housing and accessible transportation. The gun violence in our city is unacceptable. 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. We will invest in community-driven, evidence based interventions. We will secure more funding for community programs that protect at-risk youth. Our children need guidance, resources and opportunities. As your mayor, I will ensure equal treatment, equal justice, and equal rights for all Lansing residents."

Patricia Spitzley
patricia4lansing.com

Spitzley, 56, was elected to her second term on the Lansing City Council in 2019 and works as a deputy redevelopment manager at Racer Trust, a company which was created out of the General Motors bankruptcy to clean up and redevelop the automaker's toxic assets. Spitzley is also chairwoman of the Council's Committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion as well as the Committee on Development and Planning. Her current term on the Council expires at the end of 2023. Her successful election as mayor would enable the Council to appoint her replacement.

"Transparency. Accountability. Leadership. First, I would admit I do not have all the answers. The gun violence affects everyone in this community and requires an 'all-hands-on-deck' approach to solve it. I would reach out



Spitzley



Sheikh-Omar



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to community groups already working with our youth, listen to them, honor their work and make sure to include them and the rest of the community in addressing this tragedy. Now is not the time to work in silos. The only way we will adequately address this issue is by working together. City government, working with community groups, parents, family members, Lansing schools and the business community. We must put aside our differences, egos and agendas and focus on this one issue. Everything must be on the table: jobs, mental health, the city budget, additional public safety. Everything. All children are in crisis and we must consider everything to resolve this issue.”

CITY COUNCIL (At-Large)

Incumbent: **Peter Spadafore**
peterspadafore.com

Spadafore, 36, was elected to the City Council in 2017 and has since been unanimously elected twice by his colleagues to serve as its president, running meetings virtually for more than a year. He served as president of the Lansing school board. He is a graduate of Michigan State University, where he studied social relations and policy. He works as a director at the Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators.

“As a sitting City Council member, I have successfully led the effort to expand services to promote social equity by statutorily dedicating city resources to support outside agencies that work in the space of social justice and racial equity. The city cannot go it alone to achieve this goal meaningfully and dedicating resources will help ensure organizations doing this work have access to funds they need to be successful. Further, I have supported and will continue to support efforts that decrease our reliance on police officers for public safety and invest in social workers, emergency response from the appro-



Spadafore

priate mental and social service agencies, and access to a more community focused approach to law enforcement. If re-elected, I will continue to look for ways to invest in public safety reforms and intentional efforts toward social and racial equity.”

Linda Appling

Appling, 72, was born in Detroit, earned multiple degrees from Michigan State University and has moved from East Lansing to Lansing’s south side. She has worked for the state in its Human Resources Division and departments of Social Services, Civil Service and Commerce. Today, she bills herself as an activist — namely as an active member of the Lansing-Eaton Neighborhood Association and as vice chairwoman of the Eaton County Democratic Party.



Appling

“Bail for misdemeanor crimes should be eliminated. Qualified immunity for police officers should be rescinded. An ordinance should be passed, creating a duty for police officers to intervene when observing force being used is beyond what is objectively reasonable.

Individuals receiving assistance via Section 8 should have access to the City Attorney to place rent in escrow. CATA riders should be able to get work between 4-5 am. Students should be ticketed for violations of law. City investments designed to attract businesses should be monitored to determine the effect on minority communities. Attention should focus on whether or not money is being taken from services to pay for provisions to attract businesses.

“Open gyms for evening basketball games. Make it illegal to have open carry in the city of Lansing. Require weapons being transported to be locked in the trunk of the car.”

Grant Blood

Blood, 34, was born in Grand Rapids and raised by his autoworker father and postwoman mother in Ionia. For the last 15 years, he has lived and worked in Lansing — mostly in the physical security business, most recently at a bank in East Lansing. He

has a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Ferris State University and serves as a youth liaison with the Mid-Michigan chapter of the American Society for Industrial Security, among other groups.

“I believe that my knowledge of criminal justice and de-escalation could be invaluable as well as my knowledge as a project manager in large scale construction projects and other corporate projects I have taken a lead role in. The partnerships that I have cultivated with various community members will allow me to bring a different perspective to the table and make meaningful change one step at a time.

“I am running for the office of City Council at-Large because in the last four years, the political climate has been tumultuous, and some members of law enforcement have shown blatant disregard for life. This needs to stop and for that to happen we need new people in positions that make decisions. This is not a ‘business-as-usual’ setting in any elected position. A city cannot find success when the same people in leadership positions run on the same platforms year after year.”

Jeffrey Brown

jeffreybrownforlansingcitycouncil.com

Brown, 37, serves on the executive committee of the Ingham County Community Health Centers and the city’s Human Relations and Community Services Advisory Board. He has several college degrees — including a doctorate in Ministry Christian Leadership from Kingdom University International Bible College. Brown is also a public speaker and author, with a stated focus on vocational rehabilitation, transitional housing, residential long-term care, life skills management, community living supports, youth and self-employment and job readiness.

“I believe this question is hypocritical. This is not just an elected position solution. This is a community dialog that requires all of us to consider social equity. We must listen and hear what



Blood

people are dealing with in their daily lives, whether at work, their neighborhoods or their stores. Having those uncomfortable conversations and not judging others by our lives experience. Our experiences only mold and shape our lives, listening to others will help us reshape our thinking. Do not allow anyone to persuade you that this is someone else’s problem or responsibility. It is all of ours.”

Claretta Duckett-Freeman

clarettaforlansing.org

Duckett-Freeman, 39, has lived in Lansing for the last 16 years with her husband and five children. She has degrees in education and political science from Michigan State University and has served as a combat medic in the U.S. Army Reserves. Duckett-Freeman is a board member at the Willow Tree Family Center and the state Board of Licensed Midwifery and was the first Black certified lactation counselor in Lansing. In addition to volunteering for churches and several other neighborhood organizations, she’s also pursuing a career as a firefighter-EMT.

“Our taxes should go to improving our wellbeing, whether that means investing in community centers or parks and recreation. Investing in our people lowers crime and endears people to the city. I believe that punitive measures of controlling human behavior are outdated and inhumane.

“I work for a day where the prison system is abolished and the money spent on prisons and jails go to therapists and childcare. Our taxes should improve the lives of the citizenry because it belongs to the people. I don’t just believe in caring for the marginalized. I believe in centering them. I am running for City Council because politicians seem more afraid to offend those in power than they are afraid of harming marginalized peoples. Defunding the police is not a matter of punishing our police department but addressing a system that was created to harm the most marginalized in the first place.”



Duckett-Freeman



Brown



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Linda Keefe

Keefe, 64, has lived in Lansing almost 30 years. She has served on the Board of Commissioners in both Eaton and Ingham counties, as well as clerk in Windsor Township. Additionally, Keefe has served on boards for Michigan Works!, the Tri-County Office on Aging, Capital Area Community Services and for Clinton-Eaton-Ingham Community Mental Health.

“Imagine: Community centers — studies prove they reduce crime; Community-based mobile crisis teams responding to non-law enforcement issues; Continuity of care. Challenges throughout Lansing are opportunities to create something better. I live in South Lansing, and I will use a social equity lens to create inclusion — all groups represented and treated equitably — and will encourage my fellow Council members, if not already, to do the same.

“I want to talk to you directly, as I did at the Moores Park concert. For 26 years, a woman has faced every day that her husband’s killer has not been brought to justice. She said that LPD needs to work with the Detroit Police Commission — now — to solve the 75 cold cases dating to 1963. I recommend the Council seek grant funding to fill the cold case positions they cannot fund until the next budget is structured in 2022.”

D. Taft

votedtaft.com

Taft, 46, said he is an ordained minister with a church outside of Benton Harbor and has lived in Lansing for six years, but he remains among the most mysterious candidates in the race. He didn’t submit any biographical information and



Keefe

his website doesn’t include details, though he has been seen campaigning in the downtown traffic circle wearing eccentric clothing. Among his plans: drive new initiatives to help reduce issues with youth and gang violence in Lansing.

“Compartmentalize LPD into specialized divisions including for cold cases and homicides. Detectives will lead divisions supported by assigned officers. Divisions will have specialized task forces including social media and gangs. Task forces will proactively monitor social media for conflicts and threats to identify violence before it occurs. Task forces will include community leaders from each ward. Leaders will negotiate truces.

“Alternative dispute resolution will create events for inner city youth to compete and challenge each other without violence via monthly talent shows and open mics in each ward. The winners will perform at an annual city showcase. There will be a citywide youth sports league, including basketball and boxing teams from each ward competing toward a city championship.

“There will be a year round city flea market where local entrepreneurs and vendors buy, sell and trade goods and services.”

Rachel Willis

Willis, 33, is the vice president (and past president) of the Lansing school board. She works as the director of the East Lansing branch of Bethany Christian Services. According to her LinkedIn profile, Willis also recently took a job as the director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services’ Division of Child Welfare Licensing.

“Collaboration is the key to developing and sustaining any level of reform. In order to truly achieve and maintain meaningful changes, individuals of power and individuals directly impacted by the issues at hand have to take part in the conversation to create accountability and change. For too long, systems of injustice and oppression have created and perpetuated



Willis

inequities and disparities, leading to generations of discord that cannot be fixed overnight with one policy change or swipe of a pen. In order to bridge the gap and truly create social equity, you have to start with inclusion, the inclusion of key stakeholders i.e. those impacted by the injustices, at the decision making table. From there, the decisions need to be resourced and supported. Lansing is rich with resources, knowledge and individuals willing to support long-term change. If elected, I would push for community engagement and empowerment to be involved with decision making.”

CITY COUNCIL (2nd Ward)

Incumbent: **Jeremy Garza**

votejeremygarza.com

Garza, 45, was elected to represent the city’s southern Second Ward in 2017. Born and raised in Lansing, Garza identifies himself as a plumber rather than a politician and has since accumulated a mountain of support from local labor unions. He said his job is to give a voice in city government to “everyday working families” who are far too often overlooked in local politics.

“I was born and raised in Lansing and am raising my family here as well. What makes this community so great is the diversity we have running throughout our city we call home.

“As a member of a historically marginalized community, I know all too well the discrimination faced by people of color, women and members of the LGBTQ community — particularly those with lower incomes. I am committed to fighting bias and discrimination and creating equal opportunities for all of our Lansing residents.”

Oprah Revish

voteoprah4ward2.com

Revish, 34, has worked in education since 2009. She serves LGBTQ students at Michigan State University and Lansing’s LGBTQ community as one of the co-directors for the



Garza

Salus Center, a gathering space, information hub and advocacy space for LGBTQ culture.

“I will work with my colleagues on the City Council to establish our shared values. True social equity means we need to have a change in priorities and raise our empathy toward each other. The question I often consider is, ‘If it is not a problem for you, does that mean it is not a problem?’ My answer is always no.

“We need to expand our definition of public safety beyond policing. Lansing can move public safety from being reactive to proactive by providing Lansing schools with a strong curriculum that centers mental health practices. We can provide direct support to folks experiencing homelessness and folks in need of mental health resources. As City Council for Ward 2, I will work with Lansing’s non-profit organizations serving our marginalized citizens so they can help inform policy toward equity. Lansing deserves a better future and I am prepared to work for it.”

Nicklas Zande

nwzande.wixsite.com/picknickforsouthside

Zande, 19, is a recent graduate of Everett High School and a student at Lansing Community College. He has interned for City Clerk Chris Swope, worked as an election inspector and has served as a delegate for the Ingham County Democratic Party.

“I want to make this very clear. The police don’t prevent crime, violent or not. They respond to it. So, saying that we need to increase the police budget, which we have already been doing under recent mayors, is unfounded in reality and won’t really solve anything. We must instead cut the police budget by 45% and use it for other things such as housing, social programs and ways we can prevent gun violence from happening without relying on the police for every single petty crime in the city. That’s what I believe in and that’s the issue I want to bring forth to the Council.”



Zande



Taft



Revish



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Aug. 3

Primary election turnout is historically low—but growing

If historically low voter turnout trends stay constant, the August primary election in Lansing is likely to be decided by a relative handful of residents.

Election records show that no more than about 15.5% of registered voters have participated in the off-year primary elections for the last 10 years, when no county or statewide elections are on the ballot. That high was reached in 2017, which featured a mayoral race between state Rep. Andy Schor and Lansing City Councilwoman Judi Brown Clarke in the wake of incumbent Virg Bernero’s decision not to run for a fourth term.

On the other end, just 8.71% of voters turned out in 2013, another mayoral election year when Bernero was easily elected in the face of token opposition.

In absolute numbers, an average of about 12,193 Lansing voters have turned out in off-year elections, when half the Council seats are up each time

and when races for mayor and city clerk are on the ballot every four years. In 2013 and 2017 with mayoral and clerk races on the ballot, an average of 13,398 voters turned out. In 2011, 2015 and 2019, when only Council seats were up, turnout dropped to about 7,965 on average.

This year, with a race among Schor and City Councilwomen Kathie Dunbar and Patricia Spitzley, turnout is more likely to be on the high end. And the increasing use of absentee voting may push it upward even more. While he is optimistic those mail-in votes will fuel a continued turnout spike after last year’s record high — which featured a presidential election as well as congressional and legislative races — all signs point to this election



Swope

Lansing Off-Year Voter Turnout (2011-2019)

Election Date	Total Turnout	% of Turnout
Aug. 2011	7,731	9.41%
Nov. 2011	15,845	19.31%
Aug. 2013	7,226	8.71%
Nov. 2013	14,374	17.32%
Aug. 2015	6,980	8.77%
Nov. 2015	10,556	13.15%
Aug. 2017	12,422	15.49%
Nov. 2017	17,380	21.66%
Aug. 2019	9,235	11.24%
Nov. 2019	13,189	15.89%

Source: Lansing City Clerk’s Office

being decided by only a few thousand residents.

“I can tell you that we will possibly see a higher turnout,” Swope added. “We did a broad mailing because of

the pandemic, and over the years, the absentee voter list has really grown. Even without that broad mailing, I think we should expect to see similar increases in turnout this year.”

Three proposals head to voters on August primary ballot

Lansing lines up millage restoration for cops, firefighters, roads

In addition to selecting top candidates running for office in the city Lansing, voters in Ingham County will have a chance to decide on two ballot proposals at the primary election on Aug. 3. Voters in Eaton County will also consider a bonding proposal for Potterville Public Schools.

Here are the details:

City of Lansing

A proposal on the August ballot aims to maintain tax revenues for the Lansing Police and Fire departments and fund local road and sidewalk maintenance. And if it doesn’t pass, the city could lose out on about \$1.4 million annually, said City Council President Peter Spadafore.

If the proposal passes, the city will be authorized to maintain a 20-mill levy (\$20 per \$1,000 in taxable prop-



erty value) that would otherwise roll back to about 19 mills at the end of the year, in accordance with the state constitution’s

H e a d l e e

Amendment. The proposal would maintain the current rate at 19.44 mills, using the cash to pay staff and help cover day-to-day operations.

Finance officials said the funds have already been accounted for in Mayor Andy Schor’s latest budget proposal. Its passage would help prevent layoffs and keep road repairs on schedule.

Potterville Public Schools

This Eaton County school district wants voter approval to borrow about \$28 million for building and site improvements, including for new

high-efficiency energy systems in district classrooms. If approved, the millage rates would climb by 2.45 mills but the district would also decrease the sinking fund rate by 2.45 mills — meaning the total tax rate for property owners would stay flat.

The district’s plans include demolition of the existing childcare building and construction of an early childhood center, which would add early childhood programs at the elementary level. The financing would also cover playground improvements, upgraded classroom furniture and various building repairs at all school buildings. The middle and high school would also see a new gymnasium for fine arts and athletics, a remodeled athletic entrance and the addition of a “Viking Hall of Fame.” Parking lots and driveways would also be redone if the proposal passes.

Voter-approved bond funds can be spent on new construction, additions, remodeling, athletic facilities, playgrounds, buses, furnishings and equip-

ment but cannot be used on operational expenses like employee salaries and benefits, school supplies and textbooks for students.

A community forum about the bond proposal is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday (June 24).

Leslie Public Schools

This proposal aims to ensure the school district can continue receiving its full per-pupil funding allocation from the state government, enabling the continued collection of a statutory 18 mills on all non-homestead properties like vacation homes, businesses, land and other rental properties within the school district through 2030. That funding, unlike specific bonding proposals, can be rolled directly into daily district operations and provides more than 15% of the annual budget.

If approved and levied in full, the district will collect about \$1.5 million in tax revenue this year.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

Who deserves your vote?

Tune in to the FOX 47 News-City Pulse Lansing Mayoral Debate

7 P.M. Thursday, June 24

The candidates:



Lansing City Councilwoman
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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Absentee ballots go out soon for the Aug. 3 primary election, when you'll decide which two candidates will advance to the General Election.

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ARTS & CULTURE

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Local filmmaker opens film studio at former Lansing Mall Cinema

Amaru and his ambitious vision for Greenwood District Studios

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Greenwood District Studios, founded by a Lansing-based comedian and filmmaker known only by his stage name Amaru, is a Black-owned independent film studio that has made a home in the former building that housed the Lansing Mall Cinema, located across the street from the Lansing Mall.

Named in remembrance of the 1921 Tulsa Massacre, Amaru's vision for Greenwood District Studios includes a community space for independent filmmakers and creatives, a site to screen locally produced films and even a comedy club.

Amaru said that both of his careers, including his work as a touring stand-up comedian, were completely dismantled by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The chaotic year also saw Amaru become heavily invested in the nationwide social justice movement inspired by the police murder of George

Floyd.

"It was either move out West or listen to what was being said in these marches. That we needed to build our own economic development. I asked how I could do my part," Amaru said.

When Amaru learned of the vacancy at the former site of the Lansing Mall Cinema, he decided to act. Inspired by the practices of Motown Records, which saw several local Detroit community members getting involved in the production of hit records, Amaru wants Greenwood District Studios to be an all-inclusive creative nerve center. He envisions a harmonious community production process.

"Motown was on the right track. They bought the block and dedicated each house to the music business. We've got one building. We're Motown in this thing, on the film tip. Television, music and other things," Amaru said. "That's the idea and we're executing it."

Amaru is working on two film productions, "Marcus and Jeremy" and



Amaru



it is a Greenwood District Studios production and will come to fruition once "Marcus and Jeremy" wraps.

Aside from producing independent films with help from local community members, Amaru wants the Greenwood District Studios building to grow into a positive and creative community space. He is working on getting the proper approval to host drive-in films and is working on converting part of the building in order to hopefully open a comedy club, something Lansing lacks altogether. Amaru expects the drive-in to be ready by late August. There are also plans to open an editing suite sponsored by film equipment manufacturing company Black Magic Design.

"The youth are losing hope. Can you imagine having a movie studio in your hometown? If this was in my neighborhood and I came up missing, this is where I'd be at," Amaru said. "If we give the youth hope, we can change the whole city. If that's what the city wants, we can do that."

Amaru emphasized that though Greenwood District Studios is Black-owned, that doesn't mean it isn't inclusive to members of any race. He wants the studio to be open to anybody and everybody.

"Black-owned is not Black-only," Amaru said.

Charlotte Bluegrass Festival returns to Eaton County Fairground

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Charlotte Bluegrass Festival, which has been hosted annually for nearly five decades, is returning Thursday through Saturday (June 24-26) after being interrupted last year by the coronavirus pandemic.

The bluegrass festival brings renowned acts to the Eaton County Fairgrounds in Charlotte for a long weekend of camping, live music, open jams and

a variety of interactive workshops.

Headliner Doyle Lawson, who has performed on the national bluegrass circuit for the vast majority of his life with his band Quicksilver, is retiring at the end of 2022.

"He always has a phenomenal band and is at the top of the game.



Lawson

He is truly a legend in bluegrass and a wonderful gentleman. This may very well be his last appearance in Michigan and we're excited it's at the Charlotte Bluegrass Festival," said concert organizer Terri Grannis.

While the festival has a strong emphasis on regional talent, it regularly attracts touring acts from not only the Midwest, but the entire United States. Noteworthy acts coming in from out of state this year include Georgia's Edgar Loudermilk Band and Audi Blaylock & Redline from Indiana.

Most of the musicians are still shaking off the rust from a year of practically no live music and cer-

tainly no major concert events and festivals. The return of the Charlotte Bluegrass Festival is just one component of a summer that is shaping up to feature a wide range of events that are coming back from the dead. After all, 2020 was the year of the cancellation.

"People are anxious to get back to the bluegrass festival and live music in general. They haven't even been around concerts in more than a year," Grannis said. "We're ecstatic to have a full crowd. And people can exercise safety — wear a mask and socially distance as much as you want. We encourage people to get vaccinated."

Charlotte Bluegrass Festival

June 24-26
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single day ticket, \$30
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Charlotte
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Charlottebluegrassfestival.com

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Local nonprofit launches Black, LGBTQ pride celebration

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

Willow Tree, a nonprofit organization that offers family services, has created a special pride event in order to give people an opportunity to celebrate both LGBTQ pride and Black culture. The event will have free LGBTQ-themed books for the first 30 families to arrive, literature with history about Black pride and free barbecued food, including vegetarian options, for all.

“I was in a Facebook group for Black people in Lansing. Someone asked if there were any Black pride events,” said Claretta Duckett-Freeman, the director of equity and inclusion at Willow Tree. “Someone kept pointing her to general pride events instead of just admitting that there are no Black pride events around here.”

She felt as though Black people have been ignored by mainstream pride events. It was difficult, too, to be forced to choose between celebrating Juneteenth or celebrating pride. She just knew that there had to be a way to honor both occasions.

Duckett-Freeman reached out to the woman posting in that Facebook group and proposed that they work together to create their own Black pride event. Both of them are young mothers with children around the same age, so they wanted to make sure the event was a place that they could bring their kids to.

“People have different ideas of what’s considered family friendly, so I wouldn’t call it that. I would say that it’s family-centered,” said Duckett-Freeman. “Because kids need to know that they should celebrate who they are. They need to see it’s normal. Sometimes you don’t even know if your kid is gay.”

With a lack of non-heterosexual role models in children’s television shows and movies, oftentimes the responsibility of normalizing LGBTQ love falls on the parents’ shoulders. Duckett-Freeman wanted to help create a space in which children can learn about all kinds of love in a gentle, supportive manner.

For that reason, the books offered at the event are aimed at children, picture books about the origins of pride and the origins of Juneteenth.

Duckett-Freeman said educating



Duckett-Freeman



to submit a suggestion, please email
skyler@lansingcitypulse.com

Lansing Black Pride Liberation Fest
Saturday, July 3, 6 p.m.
Willow Tree Family Center
1141 N. Pine St., Lansing
(586) 806-9832
willowtreefamily.com

children is particularly important, because people may ignore the actual reasons that people celebrate pride.

This is an occasional feature highlighting events and milestones at local nonprofits. If you would like

Many people forget that it started as a riot, not simply a colorful parade with rainbow flags a-waving.

“I didn’t even know that it was all about the Stonewall Riots until probably five years ago,” explained Duckett-Freeman. “That’s the history we should talk about. When I found out it was started by Black transgender women, Puerto Rican women, I was like, ‘Why is no one talking about this?’”

The first time she had heard of pride was through an episode of the ’90s sitcom “Seinfeld”. So, she only viewed pride as a joyous parade. After learning about Stonewall, she started researching and grew fascinated by the efforts of gay rights pioneers, the risks they took and the kindness that



Willow Tree
Family Center

they displayed to one another.

“I wanted to learn more about these women. I was like, ‘Damn, that’s so cool!’ They did so much great stuff. They started youth centers for local runaways. It’s incredible,” said Duckett-Freeman.





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Sunny Wilkinson Quartet	7:30 p.m.
Diego Rivera Quartet	9 p.m.
Grupo Ayé	10:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 26

Juan Cortes Quartet	12 p.m.
Ciara Connolly Quartet	1:30 p.m.
Jordyn Davis and Compoetheway	3 p.m.
Sam Corey	4:30 p.m.
Roger Jones and Higher Calling	6 p.m.
Gayelynn McKinney and McKinney Zone	7:30 p.m.
Andrew Speight	9 p.m.
Orquesta Ritmo	10:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 27

Heartland Klezmerim	12 p.m.
Kammy Yedor Quartet	1:30 p.m.
Noah Jackson and Full Circle	3 p.m.
Randy Napoleon	4:30 p.m.
Naima Shamborguer Quartet	6 p.m.
Rodney Whitaker Group	7:30 p.m.

PRESENTED BY:



High in Lansing? Check out these five stoner stops

Smoke weed.
Explore Greater Lansing.
Enjoy summer.

By KYLE KAMINSKI

It appears the pandemic may be nearing its final chapters as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted across Michigan this week. In a strange way, I think I'm going to miss the government forcing me to have lazy afternoons at home with a bong. I'm still not quite ready to start shaking hands.

But as Greater Lansing begins to come back to life this summer, there are plenty of new reasons to leave the house, get real high and do some post-pandemic stoner sightseeing.

As yet another valuable public service to our readers, I've assembled a list of the best places to be blazed in Greater Lansing this summer. Now, I can't advise actually smoking pot at any of these places; that would be illegal. Just figure that part out for yourself and get there safely.

Preuss Pets

I've been going to Preuss Pets since I was a young child — though then in Okemos — and remember always being enamored by the elaborate reef tank systems inside. I even convinced my dad to buy a porcupine pufferfish. It lived at my childhood home for more than a decade.

The magic of Preuss Pets hasn't been lost on me as an adult, even more so when I'm baked. The koi pond and reptile room are among my favorite curiosities. And either I was more stoned than I thought, or some of the birds can actually talk. I got into an argument with one last week.



Courtesy

Scott Sunken Gardens in REO Town.

Scott Sunken Gardens

Greater Lansing is filled with scenic outdoor adventures: Hawk Island Park; the entirety of the Lansing River Trail; the Fenner Nature Center; Beal Botanical Garden at Michigan State University. It can be hard to pick just one single spot for a warm-weather stoner adventure.

But after years of meticulous planning and careful attention to detail, the Scott Sunken Garden has truly become a beautiful new spot to kick back, relax and unwind after a long day at work. The place is usually empty too, making a great place to be alone with your thoughts in peace.

Not only were plants from the original gardens moved west, but the stonework surrounding the site was also disassembled, carefully catalogued and then put back together brick-by-brick in 2019. It's a stunning project with gorgeous landscaping and some historical significance to boot.

Horrocks Farm Market

If you can stand being stoned in front of large crowds of people, then Horrocks Farm Market is one of the best places to be. Grab a cup of gelato,



Lansterdam in Review: Summer tour guide

a caramel apple, some fresh Groovy Donuts or a slice of pizza and meander the garden section. Get lost in the beer aisle. Pick up some carryout from a food truck or grab some fresh produce and try out a new recipe at home.

I've been to Horrocks at least two dozen times, usually while high, and still find myself discovering an array of new products every time I walk in the door. Be prepared to get caught up in traffic jams in the parking lot and in their narrow aisles. Also be prepared to spend a few hours — and maybe a \$100 or so — finding so many things that you never knew you needed.

Asian Buffet

There's something really special about the ability to eat as much as your stomach can handle. And there's no better place in Greater Lansing to push your limits than Asian Buffet in Okemos. My personal record — of course amplified by the munchies — is five separate trips up to the buffet, which probably included a dozen crab Rangoons and a literal mountain of deep-fried sushi. The sweet, tangy and savory combinations are endless. The prices are affordable.

The language barrier with the staff also conveniently makes for a relatively limited social interaction, which I've really come to appreciate over the last year. Less small talk. More eating.

Mega Mall

This pothead hotspot — billed as

"Michigan's most unique shopping experience" — is just a short drive north of Lansing in Dewitt Township. And with over 40,000 square feet of antiques and collectibles, you can easily spend a full afternoon there and still not see everything inside.

I prefer slow rolling my way through each aisle after smoking some potent indica products. I found that some of the jazzier sativa blends can make the whole experience a bit overwhelming.

The best part? You can find a wide array of vintage ashtrays there for some unique stoner gifts.

Special Mention: Potter Park Zoo

Nobody likes to be totally ripped around families with small children. It puts parents in the awkward situation of explaining why that guy's eyes are so red and why he smells like a skunk. Thankfully, some of the odors at the zoo help to mask the odor, but it's still a dicey experience.

The Potter Park Zoo simply has too many people and too many children to be comfortably high.

I know what you're thinking: But wouldn't it be fun to watch all the different animals? No. Seeing such natural beauty trapped in a cage, often alone, is actually a really depressing experience — emotions that are only heightened after a joint or two. I tried it. It sucked. I won't be going back.

Kyle Kaminski is City Pulse' 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.

Favorite Things

Jaime Bozack and her Conan O'Brien mug

Jaime Bozack is a Michigan State University graduate who travels between Los Angeles and Michigan as a producer and writer. In 2017, she interned with Conan O'Brien's talk show on TBS, "Conan." Her favorite thing is a coffee mug O'Brien left to her as a memento for her time on the show.

It was my dream to get the Conan O'Brien internship. I was super nervous, it was the classic L.A. story — two suitcases and a dream. I had zero money saved up, I didn't really have a plan on how I was going to make it. I just went out there and worked super hard at "Conan" to stand out.

I was some girl from Michigan that they weren't going to notice. So everyday I would try to socialize with the writers and producers and go out of my way to get whatever they needed. I'd volunteer to get coffee; try to come up with jokes for the show — I was pretty all over the place. I had a close bond with them, I think even they were surprised that they bonded with an intern. I see a lot of them when I go out there now, and they



saw, "Hey, you're the only one I still talk to!" And that's amazing.

This item was given to me during my last week. The stage handler came up to me and handed me the

mug, it was wrapped in a newspaper. He said, "This is from all of us. This is from Conan." At that point, I had talked to Conan a few times, so I believed him. It's something I have on my desk and I hold it very dear to who I am. I treat it as an accomplishment of what I've done.

I didn't think I would ever talk to Conan. I was very nervous, because he's so funny. I wondered, "What if I say something, and he just thinks I'm the worst person ever?"

There was a big Christmas party and he invited all of the interns. I chatted with him throughout the night, but it was just very basic stuff. Some very famous people showed up and it was really weird, but everybody acted like it was just a normal part of their life. But it wasn't normal for me yet.

The party was wrapping up and I

saw Conan sitting there. It was my last day as an intern, so I decided to say something to him. I had two glasses of wine, so I was feeling confident. I went up to him, put my hand on his shoulder and said, "I just want to let you know that this has been an amazing experience. I never thought I would get to where I'm at and you're my favorite person." Conan said, "I'm just a guy like everybody else." I was like, "Yeah, you know, you are." Then he said, "No I'm just kidding, you should be begging me for a job right now." I improvised, and I'm usually never this smooth, but I picked my drink back up, walked away, came back and said, "Hi, I'm Jaime. Can I please have a job?" He laughed really hard and said, "I can tell you're very funny. Maybe someday I'll be working for you."

That interaction changed my life.

Interview edited and condensed by Skyler Ashley. If you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, please email Skyler@LansingCityPulse.com



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A murder mystery that's perfect to read on the beach

By **BILL CASTANIER**

It's finally time to break out the beach towels and enjoy a good book while soaking up the summer heat.

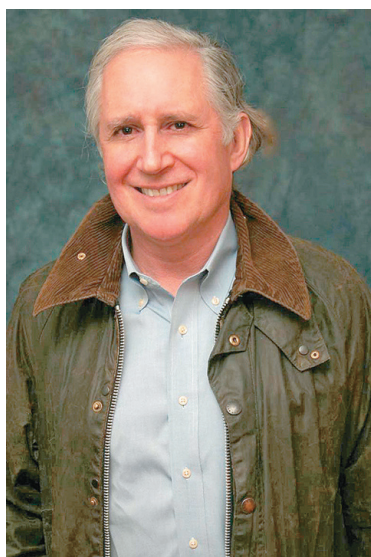
East Lansing lawyer Charles McLavry, who writes under the pen name Charles Cutter, has written "The Crooked Angel," the fourth mystery in his popular legal thriller series that follows hotshot lawyer Burr Lafayette.

Once again, we find Lafayette duck hunting when his on-again, off-again paramour Suzanne shows up at his duck blind to ask for his help in defending an accused murderer. We later discover the accused murderer is Brian, the husband of Suzanne's sister, Lisa.

Be forewarned, there are several spoiler alerts ahead. The book begins at Christmas time, but since murder cases drag on and on it is well into summer before Lafayette and his trusty crew — his partner Jacob and his legal assistant Eve — move north to Petoskey for the trial.

The book is set in the mid-'80s, so it is a prequel to Cutter's other books in the Lafayette series. The murder in question, which was ruled an accidental shooting, took place six years earlier and has been reopened by an aggressive prosecutor. The prosecutor, who is considering a run for the Michigan Senate, utilizes new technology to determine that the so-called accidental shooting was actually premeditated murder.

It will be up to Lafayette and his team to ferret out the truth and provide a defense for their client, who seems to be withholding information on the accident. The trustworthiness of Lisa and Suzanne is also questionable.



Cutter

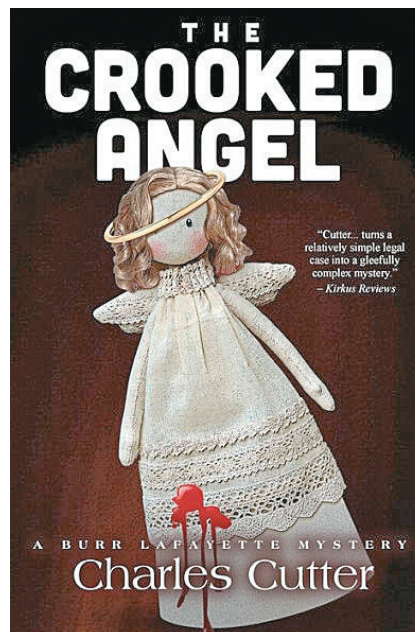
As per usual in a legal thriller, most of the action takes place in the courtroom. The presiding judge seems to be leaning toward a conviction, which presents problems for Lafayette's defense.

Along the way, Cutter leaves clues like breadcrumbs for the reader to follow as they slowly reach the dramatic courtroom conclusion.

"I want readers to follow the hints. I give them just enough, so when they get to the end they go, 'Oh yeah, I remember that,'" he said. "The trick in writing a mystery is that the hints can't be so obvious, nor can they be so obscure. Either way, the plot is ruined."

Readers will love the many legal issues that come up during the trial that Lafayette is forced to wade through.

"I always try to get a legal twist that asks, 'Why is the law this way?' In 'The



'Crooked Angel,' there is a doozy of a legal twist," he said. "I try not to tie everything up. There are some unanswered questions."

Many of the tertiary characters in "The Crooked Angel" are well developed.

"I try to show the characters Lisa and Brian as likeable, but not likeable at the book's outcome. There is a distinct darkside in the book as the plot develops."

Jacob is a pot smoking legal genius and a foil to Lafayette with his fastidious actions. He's the kind of guy that

has the crust cut off his ham and cheese sandwich. There is the local judge, who seems to enjoy making rulings that thwart Lafayette's defense. Then you have Kay, a real estate agent who would like to have Lafayette come-a-courting. And readers won't forget the local gunsmith, who takes over her father's business and becomes a critical witness for the defense.

Since the trial is held in Petoskey, readers once again get a full-blown tour of the area from both land and sea. Lafayette and his trusty dog Zeke find themselves in great peril during a couple of these trips.

Although Lafayette is a far cry from his former silk-stocking law firm, which he left to go on his own, Cutter, sounding a little like a television ad, says, "Lafayette is really smart; never gives up, is very loyal and enjoys the fight."

"On the downside he's cocky and arrogant. He doesn't know when to quit; suffers no fool and is terrible with money. That's without adding his ongoing relationship problems," Cutter added.

Cutter said the pandemic and online shopping really changed the book industry. "There were no in-person events for authors and bookstores had limited access."

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August 3, 2021

2021 Nonpartisan City of Lansing Primary Election Voter Guide

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ballot.

- The primary ballot includes the following items.
- City of Lansing Mayor
 - City of Lansing Council Member At-Large (two positions)
 - City of Lansing Second Ward Council Member
 - City of Lansing Essential Services Millage Restoration Program

The decisions our leaders make in office will influence public policy for years to come. **Each vote - YOUR vote - determines who represents us to make decisions** about our **city**: the taxes we pay, our roads and sewers, public safety issues, housing availability, local parks and economic development.

A reason people give for not voting is that they don’t have enough information.

The League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area is working tirelessly to break down that barrier with our on-line voting resource, **www.VOTE411.ORG** and printed voter guides, which provide information about candidates and ballot proposals. You can even print out your sample ballot to take to the polls. Voting is our power to shape our future as a community, as a state, and as a nation.



Thank you for reading the League of Women Voters of the Lansing Voter Guide for 2021

The League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area offers this Voter Guide that includes biographical information about the candidates and their answers to questions about current issues. In addition to candidate information, local ballot proposals are listed.

The Voter Guide: The information in this publication is printed as submitted by the candidates and edited only when the answers exceeded the character limit. The League of Women Voters does not take responsibility for the views or facts as stated by the candidates. The words “Candidate did not reply” after the candidate’s name indicate that no response was received by the deadline. The names of the candidates for each office appear in alphabetical order.

The League is a national organization, working for 100 years to encourage citizen participation. It never supports or opposes any political party or candidate but it does take a position on issues after careful study by the membership.

Donna Mullins, President, League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area
Joanne Winkelman, Director - Voter Services, League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area

Absentee Ballots

All registered voters in Michigan can now request an absentee ballot without having to give a specific reason. In 2018, voters overwhelmingly approved the constitutional amendment to allow no reason absentee voting.

It’s a safe way to vote and protect your health. The process is secure and accurate.
How do I request an absentee ballot?

- To request an absentee ballot, complete an online application at Michigan.gov/Vote or request an application from the City of Lansing clerk.
- Requests for an absent voter ballot must be received by the city clerk no later than 5 p.m. the Friday before the election. If you’re already registered at your current address, you can request an absent voter ballot in person at the clerk’s office anytime up to 4 p.m. on the day prior to the election. If you’re registering to vote or updating your address by appearing at your clerk’s office on Election Day, you can request an absent voter ballot at the same time you register. If you request your AV ballot the day before the election or on Election Day, you must vote the ballot in the clerk’s office.
- The League of Women Voters recommends requesting your absentee ballot as early as possible.

Where do I return the ballot?

- The LWV recommends mailing it in with the proper postage 10-14 days prior to the election.
- If there is a drop box located in your local jurisdiction, you may place your ballot in the box. Dropbox locations may be found at <https://lansing.maps.arcgis.com>.
- Your completed absentee ballot must be received by the City of Lansing clerk by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Did my ballot arrive?

All registered voters can track their ballot by looking up their information at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index>.

2021 Nonpartisan City of Lansing Primary Election Voter Guide

CITY OF LANSING ESSENTIAL SERVICES MILLAGE RESTORATION PROPOSAL

Vote YES or NO

Shall the authorized charter millage for the City of Lansing, established at 20 mills (\$20.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and reduced to 18.8658 (\$18.8658 per \$1,000 of taxable value) by the millage rollbacks required under the Michigan Constitution, be restored to 20 mills (\$20.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value), which is an increase of 1.1342 mills (\$1.1342 per \$1,000 of taxable value) over the reduced millage, for the next five (5) years (from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2026 inclusive), for the purpose of funding essential services, including police protection, fire protection, and local road and sidewalk maintenance?

If approved and levied, this restored and increased millage would generate approximately \$2,770,894 in its first year.

CANDIDATES FOR CITY OF LANSING MAYOR

MAYOR • Non-partisan • Term - 4 years • Vote for 1

Lansing citizens adopted a City Charter that established a strong mayor form of government. The mayor is directly elected and does not serve as a member of the council. The mayor appoints and removes key administrative officials, has veto power, receives a salary and is expected to devote full time to the role.

	What special qualifications would you bring to the office of Lansing City Mayor?	What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as Mayor?	What would you see as priority recommendations for how the city utilizes federal stimulus funds?
<p>Kathie Dunbar</p> <p>Occupation: Lansing City Councilwoman</p> <p>Email: kathie4mayor@gmail.com</p> <p>Website: kathiedunbar.com</p> <p>Education: BA in History and Philosophy of Law, Michigan State University.</p>	<p>Sixteen years I've served on the Lansing City Council, and still, no one mistakes me for a "typical politician." I'm known for being funny, outspoken, sometimes brash, and unconventional, also honest, hard-working, extremely knowledgeable, and very effective. As both a nonprofit director and a councilwoman, I have successfully advocated for resident-driven community and economic development, social equity and human rights initiatives, green infrastructure, and fiscal responsibility. I dig deep and get things done. Most recently, I helped restructure the Lansing Lugnuts contract renewal, saving taxpayers \$2M in the process. During the day, I'm privileged to work with our most vulnerable residents, helping them navigate systems that weren't designed for them. As a councilmember, I'm well-acquainted with city staff, city operations, and the budget process. I'm the only candidate who brings this unique combination of municipal experience and grassroots perspective to the Mayor's Office.</p>	<p>I gave up my council seat to run for mayor because Lansing deserves a leader with vision and purpose. We need a mayor willing to explore bold initiatives to address the challenges facing our city. We need a different approach to governance, led by a mayor who demonstrates compassion and empathy and doesn't shy away from accountability. Under my administration, the organizational culture of City Hall - including our relationships with employees, retirees and the community - will be centered on collaboration, transparency and trust. I will lead by example, empower our employees to innovate, and involve stakeholders in decisions that impact their lives. My priorities are a) post-pandemic economic recovery, b) healthy communities with safe and affordable housing, c) reducing epidemic levels of gun violence and refocusing our priorities for public safety, and d) using integrated technology to improve efficiencies, facilitate information sharing, and foster systems and service innovation.</p>	<p>ARP funds should be used to provide immediate economic relief for residents and small business owners AND to make strategic investments in city operations and community services that pave the way for transformative and equitable economic growth. I wouldn't presume to dictate where and how \$51M is allocated without input and collaboration from city staff, the business community, nonprofit partners, and our residents. Throughout this process, though, we should all be mindful that not everyone fared equally under prior stimulus initiatives. The pandemic exacerbated existing inequities; the same barriers that impede minority businesses owners' access to resources and capital also hindered their access to stimulus funds. Less than one half of 1% of Black businesses received pandemic benefits, compared to 9% of non-Black businesses. It's not enough to make funds available; we have a moral obligation to disburse them equitably.</p>

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	What special qualifications would you bring to the office of Lansing City Mayor?	What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as Mayor?	What would you see as priority recommendations for how the city utilizes federal stimulus funds?
<p>Melissa Huber</p> <p>Occupation: Community Psychologist; Community, Youth, and Economic Deveopment specialist</p> <p>Email: MelissaForLansing@gmail.com</p> <p>Website: melissaforlansing.com</p> <p>Education: PhD and MA in Community Psychology from Michigan State University BA Psychology, Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana</p>	<p>We need an entirely different kind of leader to solve the range of social, financial, and ethical problems our community faces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I have professional expertise collaboratively building better communities across Michigan as a 25-year Community Psychologist working in community, youth, and economic development.• I have grassroots expertise bringing positive change for Lansing as a 15-year neighborhood and community leader working with many partners.• I have management and business experience running a non-profit, research project teams and budgets, and participating in a family business.• I have access to a vast local network and nationwide experts to support to support my team.• I emphasize listening to and engaging residents, including vulnerable and marginalized groups. <p>My collaborations are extensive and include departments in the City of Lansing, Lansing Township, Eaton County, Ingham County; many non-profit and faith-based groups; CATA; BWL; Lansing School District; MSU. Change the culture of city hall.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Change the culture of city hall.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Focus on Serviceb. Address neglected areas of diversity, equity and inclusion in policies, practice, and fundingc. End ethical violations and ordinances that put too much power in the hands of the city attorney to ignore complaints of residents and city employeesd. End influence of special interest moneye. Bring people together instead of promoting division2. Reprioritize Funding<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Focus on neighborhoods and quality of lifeb. Limit subsidies that do not directly impact quality of lifec. Be wise stewards and maintain what we have before building new3. Build City, County, and statewide collaborations<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. To improve education, health, and well-beingb. To address systemic social issuesc. To impact state and national policy impacting our city4. End our system of strongmayor leadership and encourage our residents to move to a City Manager system	<p>I would suggest these guiding principles for funding decisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How does the funding support long-term changes, rather than just short-term fixes?2. How does the funding directly impact those most vulnerable, rather than contributing to budgets of organizations serving people?3. How is the funding distributed across the most vulnerable groups and neighborhoods? <p>For specific recommendations we would need a full community engagement process. However, based on my professional opinions, I would suggest using funds to create sustainable and renewable resources for low- and moderate income residents. These are some examples:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Purchase of community land trusts to ensure a continual supply of affordable housing.2. Develop Individual Development Accounts that match savings 2:1 for residents saving up to buy a home, repair a home, pay for education, etc.3. Development of business incubators and start-up funds to encourage development of local entrepreneurs and expand small businesses.
<p>Larry James Hutchinson Jr.</p> <p>Occupation: Candidate for Mayor of Lansing, Michigan 2021.</p> <p>Email: hutchforcouncil@mail.com</p> <p>Education: Anthropology Major</p>	<p>As it relates to any “special qualifications,” I’d have to say I don’t possess any other than any other candidate for office. I am a registered voter, a resident of Lansing, Michigan, a citizen of the United States of America and the world, ..., and if that is not enough I’m a human being, an artist, an author, a father, a son, a brother, cousin and friend, candidate for Mayor of the most beautiful place in the world to live and raise a family, Lansing, Michigan USA. What Mr. Hutchinson brings to Lansing is his “God-givin-gifts.” According to the Holy Bible, “Your gifts will make way for you.” The special qualification Mr. Hutchinson has is that he had to scratch and claw to be in contention among such a fine group of candidates. I never dreamed in a million years that I’d be a world wide public figure were people could google my name and see little old me on Wikipedia. Larry brings to this race, a love for his City, his State, his Country, our World.</p>	<p>Mr. Hutchinson has pledged not to seek re-election if elected. Mr. Hutchinson distaste for incumbents has been widely expressed. Mr. Hutchinson believes that the reason for the gridlock..., not only at the local levels of government, but all the way up the trough through to the state and federal halls of justice. Too much time is spent on seeking re-election after re-election, after re-election..., no wonder nothing gets done? No wonder there is always a 50/50 vote on this and that bill of major importance. The house sends the bill to the senate, and the senate sends it back to the house with all types of red marks and pet projects and “pork barrel spending.” An arduous and obfuscatory task indeed. I suggest we band “dark money,” not only here in Lansing, Michigan..., but all over this great country of ours. If elected, Mr. Hutchinson will go about the people’s business making voting easier and not harder. Mr. Hutchinson believes in “publiclyfunded-elections.” We need reform.</p>	<p>I’d love to see any federal funds going towards, not only making, the State of Michigan and the rest of America..., see Lansing, Michigan as I do., as the most beautiful place in the World to live and raise a family. 70% will go towards eradicating poverty in our city and seeing to it that, there is a “chicken in every pot.” We want to put residents of Lansing first. First in hiring. First in all that Lansing, Michigan has to offer. We want people to feel home, and wanted, and loved. We want all our citizens to be able to walk with dignity and pride to live here. The remainder will go into a “rainy-day-fund.” I’d love to see any federal funds going towards, not only making, the State of Michigan and the rest of America..., see Lansing, Michigan as I do., as the most beautiful place in the World to live and raise a family. 70% will go towards eradicating poverty in our city and seeing to it that, there is a “chicken in every pot.” We want to put residents of Lansing first.</p>

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	What special qualifications would you bring to the office of Lansing City Mayor?	What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as Mayor?	What would you see as priority recommendations for how the city utilizes federal stimulus funds?
Andy Schor Occupation: Mayor of Lansing Email: andy@andyschor.com Website: andyschor.com Education: BA in Political Science & History from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	<p>I am currently serving as the 52nd Mayor of Lansing. Under my leadership, Lansing has grown significantly. Lansing was named the number one affordable city to live in the US, as well as one of the top cities to live in after the COVID-19 pandemic. We have approximately \$2 billion in projects both completed and in progress, including the Capital City Market, the downtown hotel, new parks, and housing for all incomes. We also provided significant relief for small businesses and families while promoting safety through COVID-19 testing and vaccine centers.</p> <p>Racial justice and equity continue to remain a focus. I added the first social worker to a police department in Michigan, and have proposed three more. I also prohibited police pullovers for pretextual offenses such as broken tail-lights. I created racial bias training in our local government and increased transparency within LPD. My Racial Justice and Equity Alliance is a leading effort to ensure equity for all in Lansing.</p>	<p>I invite folks to view my plan (andyschor.com) for Lansing, which focuses on neighborhood revitalization, community and economic development, infrastructure and city services, equity, and regionalism. My administration will continue to create safe, walkable neighborhoods, ensure properties are safe for homeowners and renters, provide neighborhood grants, and more. We'll address legacy costs while fixing roads, sidewalks, and bridges, filling potholes, separating sewer and water pipes, and updating infrastructure. Lansing continues to attract development opportunities, helping our city grow with new businesses, restaurants, art, and facade improvement. Equity will continue to play a critical role in how we grow Lansing in housing, policing, social services, financial empowerment, and other areas. And I will further strengthen relationships with the Lansing School District, higher education, the State of Michigan, local governments, nonprofits, and others for the Greater Lansing Region.</p>	<p>The American Rescue Plan federal stimulus will allow Lansing to regain its financial footing investing in our community. The first traunch of dollars will be used to backfill the dollars that Lansing spent to help people during the pandemic. We will promote financial stability while examining partnerships with others for economic development, neighborhood work, vibrancy efforts, human services, rental and mortgage assistance, and other community needs.</p> <p>We are also working with Congresswoman Slotkin to bring in dollars for infrastructure for several of our corridors, and we will continue to use federal Emergency Service Grants for homelessness and other basic human needs. And we will use the federal economic development dollars for our Lansing CARES program, which will assist small businesses. I will continue to work on these priorities in my second term as Lansing's Mayor.</p>
Farhan Sheikh-Omar Occupation: No response Email: ofarhan27@yahoo.com Website: farhanforlansing.com Education: No response	<p>By so many measures, our city is weaker and less prosperous than it was four years ago. Our local government has been too disconnected from us for too long. Lansing needs a leader that listens to the needs of our community and stands with the people to find solutions. Farhan has always been a tireless advocate for families and communities who feel unheard and unseen. He will always protect public trust and manage from a place of integrity. Lansing desperately needs strong leadership from a mayor with vision, drive, and unquestionable personal integrity. Nine Black current and former city of Lansing employees are currently suing the city for racial discrimination and race-based retaliation. Moreover, the Hulon family has filed a lawsuit against the city for the wrongful death of Anthony Hulon. Farhan will usher in a new era in Lansing that provides bold leadership and puts the needs of Lansing residents first. He will unite and heal our community.</p>	<p>The level of crime in our city is unacceptable. We need to be creative and deploy community-led violence intervention programs to help target and disrupt gun violence. Farhan will secure more funding for community programs that protect at-risk youths. He will create a mobile crisis response unit; hire mental health counselors, social workers, and crisis deescalation professionals.</p> <p>Neighborhoods: Our community is suffering from systemic disinvestment. Lansing must develop thriving and livable neighborhoods with walkable sidewalks, affordable housing, and accessible transportation. We need sidewalks that provide pedestrians the opportunity to safely reach families, jobs, and local destinations on foot. Farhan will also address Covid-19, Lansing's unfunded pension and retiree healthcare liability, and homelessness.</p>	<p>We will use the federal stimulus funds to support vulnerable residents, public health, local services, social programs, and infrastructure.</p>

“We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.”

— Thomas Jefferson

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	What special qualifications would you bring to the office of Lansing City Mayor?	What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as Mayor?	What would you see as priority recommendations for how the city utilizes federal stimulus funds?
Patricia Spitzley Occupation: Director of Government Relations - RACER Trust Email: patriciaspitzley4lansing@gmail.com Website: patricia4lansing.com Education: BS CMU, JD MSU College of Law	I bring the experience of being a City Council At Large member for 6 years. I have served on various committees including Ways and Means, Public Safety, Development & Planning, and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. I bring to the table the experience of working both i the public and private sector. I have balanced budgets and supervised staff. My career has focused on identifying the issues, working together with diverse groups to develop recommend-ed solutions and then implementing those solutions. My current career requires travel to a number of local communities similar to Lansing so I am uniquely qualified to assess challenges and bring forth solutions.	1. Transforming how we implement public safety - transformation of the way the police department interacts with the citizens of Lansing. 2. Re-investing in neighborhoods 3.Providing support to neighborhood organizations and community groups currently working the the youth of the City to make sure they are able to continue their important work 4. Bringing back confidence in City govern-ment - practicing transparency and account-ability in all aspects of city government 5. Addressing long-term deficiencies in the City finances. Addressing material deficien-cies in the City's annual audit so we have a clear accounting of resources 6. Continue to investigate ways to pay down the legacy costs for retirement and health-care	1. Addressing the loss income tax revenue 2. Addressing critical infrastructure deficien-cies such as local roads 3. Replace reserve “rainy day” funding depleted as a result of the pandemic 4. Providing assistance to Lansing residents by way of rental assistance, food assistance, utility assistance 5. Upgrading City offices to make sure they are safely opened.

LANSING CITY COUNCIL - AT LARGE • Non-partisan • Term - 4 years • Vote for 2

The eight-member Lansing City Council is the legislative and policy-making body for city government. Elections are held in odd-numbered years and four members are elected at-large and four represent wards. They serve staggered four-year terms. The Lansing City Council sets policies, approves budgets, determines tax rates and adopts ordinances and resolutions to gov-ern the city. The council also confirms citizen volunteers to a number of boards and advisory posts.

	What special qualifications do you bring to the role as a member of the Lansing City Council?	What issues do you want to address, if you are elected to the Council?	What do you see as the priorities for how Lansing utilizes the federal stimulus funds?
Linda D. Appling Occupation: Retired Email: drwho721@yahoo.com Website: No response Education: No response	Up on graduating from Michigan State University, I choose to make Lansing my home. I have lived here for 40 years and been active in a number of areas. I am President of The Lansing Eaton Neighborhood organization. I am a member of the Citizens Climate Lobby. I previously served on the Cities Memorable Review board. I also served on the Board of what is now called the Eaton County Health and Rehabilitation Services. As a Council Person I will serve as a trusted steward of the public's financial,environmental,social,and physical resources.My goal will be to pro-vide affordable, high-quality city services, responsive accessible local government and ensure all persons have the opportunity to enjoy being a part of the Lansing communi-ty.	A key component to people working is being able to get to the job. Public trans- portation needs to address this issue. Education needs to recognize that college is not the only way to advance. Greater emphasis should be given to skilled trades. Issues involving public safety need to be addressed. Public safety involves police and their actions under stress. Police must be held accountable for their behavior. The increased episodes of violence by individu-als should be addressed. The public should feel safe walking down their street, stand- ing in front of their house, and having their child outside. New affordable housing stock needs to be developed. Homelessness should be addressed.	Funds should be used to address the impact of Covid -19 relief to residents. Enhanced broadband services should be provided. Gyms should be open for evening basket- ball. Students should be provided with tutor- ing to help overcome problems associated with Covid-19. Money should be allotted for new housing stock. City monetary reserves should be increased.

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	What special qualifications do you bring to the role as a member of the Lansing City Council?	What issues do you want to address, if you are elected to the Council?	What do you see as the priorities for how Lansing utilizes the federal stimulus funds?
Grant M Blood II Occupation: Safety & Security Professional Email: votegblood@gmail.com Website: No response Education: No response	I have worked as a Safety & Security Professional in the Lansing area for almost 14 years, 10 with Peckham Inc. and 2 with MSUFCU. In my career at both organizations, I have specialized in security design, CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design), De-Escalation tactics and active violence response training. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree from Ferris State University in Criminal Justice and multiple safety and security professional certifications. I am the current young professionals' liaison with the ASIS (American Society for Industrial Security) Mid-Michigan Chapter and an active member in numerous other security groups. I believe that my knowledge of criminal justice and de-escalation could be invaluable as well as my knowledge as a project manager in large scale construction projects and other corporate projects I have taken a lead role in.	The lack of trust between the public and law enforcement is a top issue. There is an outcry by the Lansing citizens for extreme change to the criminal justice system and law enforcement. If we work together as a community to find alternatives to defunding and look more at reallocation or reorganization of law enforcement we could have a very positive outcome. I plan to work with our County leaders on the development of a Metropolitan law enforcement agency that would absorb all agencies within the county of Ingham and thus creating an agency that is run by an elected position (Sherriff). This extreme measure would force officers at the agencies that are absorbed to reapply for positions within this newly formed department, and this would free money up for the city of Lansing for more social service programs with the wages that were used on Police.	Lansing should be using all Federal Stimulus money on what is needed most by the community. There are different issues that could be addressed, but it will be my job as a city council person to listen to those constituents and allocate where it is needed most.
Jeffrey Brown Occupation: Business Owner Email: vote@jeffreybrown-forlansingcitycouncil.com Website: No response Education: No response	I bring a listening ear, problemsolving mentality, a desire to work collaboratively, and most importantly, a love for our community. I want nothing more than to see our city grow and prosper in the years to come. Being a business owner, I understand the importance of seeing the big picture and identifying serious and wide-reaching problems, however, I also know that helping to solve what some may consider as smaller and less significant issues can have a tremendous impact on people.	Addressing our unfunded legacy costs and increasing revenues are critical to many of the needs in our city. Many have been working on reducing legacy costs, but this is a challenge that remains and deserves our full attention and effort. Increasing revenues by creating new jobs, encouraging businesses to open and stay in our city, attracting and retaining residents, and making Lansing the strongest and most dynamic Lansing it can be is paramount. These revenues translate to helping solve problems in neighborhoods and enhancing our commercial corridors and districts. Neighborhoods, their sustainability, and attractive and diverse corridors and districts are what make Lansing unique. Whether we are working to improve the housing stock, fixing streets and sidewalks, maintaining neighborhood parks, or improving the corridors that are entrances into our neighborhoods, we must be relentless as we work collaboratively to address these aspects of our community.	I wish I, as a private citizen or as a Council Member, had the ability to determine how to spend the federal stimulus funds. Unfortunately, I don not. The U.S. Treasury Department is determining how these funds can be spent. They cannot be used to pay down legacy costs, nor should we use them to hire more employees, which is a long-term cost, without revenue to sustain the positions. These funds are one-time stimulus dollars and must be used by 2024. Infrastructure is an allowable expenditure and we should look to improving our roads and sewer system. It is my understanding that the City is reviewing these options now. As for the State stimulus dollars of approximately \$6 million, I believe the City should consider a onetime payment into the Retiree Health Care fund that would help to decrease legacy costs and ensure that those who gave so much to this city are taken care of well into their senior years.
Claretta Duckett-Freeman Occupation: Firefighter-EMT Email: clarettaforlansing@gmail.com	I am a member of the working poor. I do not volunteer for my people but with my people. I have suffered shut offs and foreclosures, food insecurity and discrimination. I've worked low paying jobs. I'm a veteran, a mother of 5 children in Lansing Public School District and a college graduate of Michigan State University. I've had many experiences that help me connect to different types of people. I've listened to those	I would like to address discrimination and sexual harassment being allowed in places of employment. I would like to address eroding rights of workers in the city of Lansing. I would like to address gentrification. I would like to address the defunding of the city police and funding community needs. I would like to address creating space for citizens to make direct decisions and have	The small local businesses in Lansing that suffered losses should get relief using the federal stimulus funds.
See next page			

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	What special qualifications do you bring to the role as a member of the Lansing City Council?	What issues do you want to address, if you are elected to the Council?	What do you see as the priorities for how Lansing utilizes the federal stimulus funds?
Claretta Duckett-Freeman, continued Website: No response Education: No response	who suffer things I don't and I believe people should be allowed to speak for themselves. I'm not middle class and I'm not afraid of losing what I have to stand up for what is right. I've served on the Michigan Board of Licensed Midwifery and Willow Tree Family Center but I'm most at home being amongst my people. I look forward to the day we can all enjoy liberation from oppression.	direct control of funding. I would like to address the police focusing on solving murders and no longer overpatrolling our streets. I would like to address corporations investing into the southside and westside of Lansing. I would like to address legacy costs and valuing our city workers.	
Linda Keefe Occupation: Substitute Teacher Email: keefeeight@gmail.com Website: No response Education: No response	Serving as a county commissioner in Ingham and Eaton counties, as well as extensive experience in nonprofits, gives me the edge in making Lansing a more equitable, prosperous and sustainable city. When the Lansing Public Library was set to close, I enlisted fellow commissioners and the city of Lansing, and we created the Capital Area District Library (CADL). Our county's housing commission applied for HUD's Section 8 housing vouchers after I informed them of the opportunity. When Eaton County's only Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site was set to close, I opened and ran the site. As executive director for Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems, Michigan Alcohol Policy honored me with their Advocate of the Year award in 2012 for my work opposing the deregulation of Michigan's Liquor Control Board.	Ending systemic racism by meeting with, and following the guidance of, those most affected by racism is a top priority. I want to create an environment of inclusion in which all groups are represented and treated equitably. I support restructuring the police budget by taking some of the money, and some of the responsibilities, away from the police and giving it to people who are uniquely qualified and have the tools to deal with non-law enforcement issues. Addressing issues that impact the most vulnerable is top priority. Families should not suffer an electricity shutoff, as do about 17,000 Lansing residents each year. I am advocating for a Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) where low-income families pay about 5% of their monthly income on their electric and 5% on their heat. Lansing's most cash strapped citizens could benefit from this program that has been successful in eight other states. I intend to address all issues in an inclusive, equitable and sustainable way.	Rebuilding a stronger, more equitable economy while addressing the systemic public health and economic challenges of low-income communities and people of color in Lansing is a primary goal. Constituents should be engaged in developing these plans to assist households, businesses, and non-profits that have been most disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Assistance to households may include food, rent or mortgage assistance, and utility assistance. Loans or grants may be given to small businesses and nonprofits to mitigate the revenue losses suffered during the pandemic.
Peter Spadafore Occupation: City Council Member At-Large and Deputy Executive Director, Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators Email: peter@peter spadafore.com Website: No response Education: No response	I have a long track record of making a difference in the city of Lansing. As President of the Lansing School Board, I led the district to a successful school bond issue in 2016 – taxpayers voted for hundreds of millions of dollars to be invested in our local schools under my leadership. I have put the same passion to work for our city during my first term on the Lansing City Council, working toward better governance and inclusive growth for all residents. I have been recognized as a leader and consensus builder by my colleagues on City Council, having been elected Vice President my second year and serving two terms as President, navigating Council through the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual meetings, and unprecedented financial challenges. I believe my leadership skills, my ability to listen and build consensus, and my experience in my first term qualify me for a second term on the City Council.	I believe we must continue to work toward better governance and collaboration, particularly in the context of recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. While mask mandates and gathering restrictions will soon be behind us, the impact of the virus will continue to be felt by our residents and our region. We need to work together to build a better recovery and that collaboration begins on Council. I also want to focus on shared economic opportunity. While hotels, grocery stores and breweries are a part of our economic development strategy, they are not the only part. We need to ensure economic opportunity reaches every neighborhood in our city, benefits all residents, and supports small businesses.	The major priority for Lansing's federal stimulus funds must be the continuation of essential city services. As a city that hosts so many visitors during the work day, we have been uniquely challenged by work from home orders. From parking revenue to income tax revenue, the City has taken a major hit. The federal stimulus dollars that have been sent to Lansing to plug those holes will go a long way to stabilizing the bottom line and ensuring that residents are well served. We are constrained by federal law on how these dollars may be used, but as more clarity comes from Washington, we can look to expand how those funds are used.

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	What special qualifications do you bring to the role as a member of the Lansing City Council?	What issues do you want to address, if you are elected to the Council?	What do you see as the priorities for how Lansing utilizes the federal stimulus funds?
D. Taft Occupation: Founder of Mitttown Made Email: dtaft@votedtaft.com Website: No response Education: No response	Lansing City Council would benefit from my role as a member because I think open-minded which allows me to honestly explore all sides of issues. I'm a true independent that likes to consider all perspectives and truly believes that we; including my opponents want what is best for the City of Lansing and it's residents but have different ideals to accomplish this. I've been on both sides of the tracks and have worked and lived around rich and poor, black and white and those in between. This experience has revealed to me that we as human beings share more in common than we often realize. I will find common ground as much as possible and agree to disagree when it's not.	Public Safety is the main issue because crimes are effecting all of our residents by creating fear and panic that impact our physical, mental and financial health. I want all residential streets to have working LED lighting at night. I will call on the community to take responsibility by implementing operation, "Tell the Truth" which will counter the Stop Snitching culture that plaques our community. I will compartmentalize the Police Department creating specialized units and task forces that will focus on gangs and social media activity. I will implement operation, "Peace before War" that will work towards creating truce(s) thru alternative dispute resolution. I will implement operation, "Clean Streets" that will work with our shelters and homeless residents to stop the panhandling and littering on our city streets.	The federal stimulus funds should be utilized from the bottom up to create a flea market and swap meet where local residents and vendors can buy, sell and trade goods and services.
Rachel R. Willis Occupation: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director of Division of Child Welfare Licensing Email: friendsofrachellewis@gmail.com Website: No response Education: No response	I am running for Lansing City Council because Lansing is my hometown. I believe that Lansing is a city where anyone can succeed. I have dedicated the past 9 years to serving on the Lansing School District Board of Education because I am passionately driven to act as a positive influence for the students of the Lansing School District. I am who I am because of the opportunities afforded to me in this community, and I see that glimmer of hope and optimism slipping away from folks in the community. 2020 was a rough year for everyone, I am running for city council because I see this as an opportunity to use my skills, knowledge and passion to build cohesion, collaboration and success for the city and its citizens •Master of Art, Social Work, May 2015 •Bachelor of Science: Family Community Services, August 2010 •Bachelor of Art: Psychology, August 2010 Community Involvement: •Lansing School District Board of Education- 2012- Present •Capital Region Community Foundation 2014-2020	My top priorities are- in no particular order: • Economic Development- this includes supporting/sustaining existing business and bringing in more diverse economic drivers, this lead to goal of financial stability • Community cohesion and collaboration- this includes addressing the divide between the community and police, support of local public schools, health, welfare and community wellbeing through quality services. o I would include placemaking in this goal • People over politics- the wellbeing of people and the community should take precedence over any individual political motivations- we need to hear from the community and govern in a way that makes people feel valued and heard If successful in my campaign, I plan to attain my top priorities by working with my colleagues on the council to assess the programs that we already have in place and determine what is working and what may needs to change. I welcome the voice of the business community into each step of my process.	As difficult as it is, the City needs to comb back through some legacy cost/encumbered expenses that were designed to be sustained with a tax base that no longer existthere are two options to close the gap, eliminate the expenses or earn the revenue to cover the expenses. We need to take a deep look at real, tangible revenue options that do not include increases taxes. The use of federal stimulus funds could be used to allow the city to fund immediate tangible needs for the city that address support the employment opportunities for citizens. Stable employment and income opportunities leads to stable health and wellbeing, which leads to stable education, which leads to stable long-term success. Supporting employment opportunities could mean a lot things from grants, infrastructure investments, stipends and other incentives to employee individuals.

League of Women Voters Mission, Vision, and Value

Mission: Empowering voters. Defending democracy.

Vision: We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

Value: We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

*Join the League of Women Voters of the Lansing area by visiting
<https://www.lwvlansing.org/join-lwv>*

2021 Nonpartisan City of Lansing Primary Election Voter Guide

LANSING CITY COUNCIL - 2ND WARD • Non-partisan • Term - 4 years • Vote for 2

The eight-member Lansing City Council is the legislative and policy-making body for city government. Elections are held in odd-numbered years and four members are elected at-large and four represent wards. They serve staggered four-year terms. The Lansing City Council sets policies, approves budgets, determines tax rates and adopts ordinances and resolutions to govern the city. The council also confirms citizen volunteers to a number of boards and advisory posts.

<p>Jeremy A. Garza</p> <p>Occupation: Union plumber</p> <p>Email: garzaforcouncil@gmail.com</p> <p>Website: votejeremygarza.com</p> <p>Education: Sexton High school graduate; five-year LCC Plumber/ Pipefitter apprenticeship program graduate; five-year UA Instructors Training Program at Washtenaw Community College</p>	<p>I'm not a typical politician. I'm a union plumber with a young family, and I'm committed to improving the quality of life for South Lansing families, seniors and children. I've represented 2nd Ward residents on the Lansing City Council since 2018. I'm running for re-election to continue serving as a strong voice for working families, who far too often are overlooked by politicians and special interests. I was born and raised in Lansing, the son of a UAW General Motors worker. My wife, Alicia, is a registered nurse at McLaren Greater Lansing, and we've lived in the 2nd Ward for nearly 20 years.</p>	<p>I'm a strong advocate for getting back to basics and spending taxpayer dollars wisely on infrastructure improvements that improve the quality of life for everyone. We must invest in South Lansing's priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">—Fixing our roads—Improving public safety—Maintaining our parks—Cleaning up our neighborhoods. <p>I'm also working hard to create good-paying jobs for local residents. For example, wealthy developers receiving city tax incentives should be required to give local workers the first shot at any jobs that their own tax dollars help create — and those jobs must provide workers a living wage and dignity at work.</p>	<p>I'm looking forward to moving past the pandemic and putting people back to work. Over the course of the pandemic, Lansing has lost many small businesses, which are the backbone of our local economy. Helping save our small businesses and helping them rebuild will be our biggest challenge on the City Council. The federal government has appropriated a lot of money, both to cities directly and to programs that support small businesses. I'm committed to making sure that those funds are spent wisely, and that our small business owners and local workers get access to any and all types of relief that are available to them.</p>
<p>Oprah Revish</p> <p>Occupation: LGBTQA+ Inclusion Educator</p> <p>Email: info@voteoprah4ward2.com</p> <p>Website: voteoprah4ward2.com</p> <p>Education: University of Arizona- Bachelor's Degree Major: Creative Writing Minor: Linguistics; University of Kansas- Master's Degree Degree: Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration</p>	<p>I have been working in higher education for 16 years. As an educator, I believe in each person's ability to change and grow. This requires patience and persistence and the belief that we can do better. I am qualified to educate my colleagues on the City Council and Lansing citizens about inequity and to uplift the voices of folks experiencing homelessness, our elderly, refugee populations, LGBTQIA+ communities, and people marginalized by their racial identity. I am ready to have hard conversations and to be solution oriented.</p>	<p>Once I am elected, I plan to meet regularly with Ward 2 citizens so that I can speak knowledgeably about their concerns. I want to reimagine Ward 2 with the people who call it home like I do. I will ensure Ward 2 streets and parks are upgraded and maintained regularly. We need to divest from the police and invest in our communities. I plan to work using research and working with community members to be proactive in our public safety. Divesting from the police means we can put money into our schools to ensure students have access to technology and experiences that grow their minds.</p>	<p>I would love to see Lansing utilize the federal stimulus funds to change the lives of our most marginalized citizens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Free Childcare-Will allow parents and guardians to work without having the majority of their income go to childcare.-Housing People-We could easily renovate vacant buildings into shelter and give people the opportunity to change their lives.-Free Healthcare Clinic (Carefree Clinic)- If someone gets sick or feels pain, they should not have to decide between paying their rent and seeking medical care.-More Robust Community Mental Health Programs-Upgrades to CATA stations and bus stops

2021 Nonpartisan City of Lansing Primary Election Voter Guide

<p>Nicklas Zande</p> <p>Occupation: Election Inspector</p> <p>Email: nwzande@gmail.com</p> <p>Website: nwzande.wixsite.com/picknickforsouthside</p> <p>Education: Wexford Montessori Academy Everett High School Lansing Community College</p>	<p>I have spent my upperclassman years in YMCA's Youth in Government, I have written bills to varying success. I have also served as a delegate for the Ingham County Democratic Party, and have fought for progressive policy ideas. I've also served in the Lansing City Clerk's Office as both a volunteer and an Election Inspector all throughout my high school years, and have voted in every single election I was eligible to vote in.</p>	<p>First and foremost, I want to address the city's ever-increasing police budget, and how it's negatively affecting our city. It currently takes up more than 1/4 of our city budget. Housing, which is way more important than public safety, as it gives people a place to live, takes up only 1% of the budget. So, therefore, the police budget needs to be cut by 45%, and that money must be distributed evenly to other departments, including the DNCE. I also want to change the city charter, making it legal for the City Council to kick out Councilmembers who have rendered themselves obnoxious.</p>	<p>I think increasing spending for the DNCE is a first priority, since it takes up the lowest share of the City Budget, at just 1%. I also think it's important to spend more money on infrastructure, and on social programs. Because they have been cut significantly thanks to the city's ever-increasing police budget. Using federal money for other departments will officially cancel it out, and will make us rely less and less on policing over the years, to the point it becomes irrelevant. If the city decides to use it entirely for policing, then the problem will be so much worse, and we'll be in a fascistic state. And.....</p>
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How can I vote?

In Person:

- Election Day is Tuesday, August 3, 2021
 - Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. local time.
- You have the right to vote if you are in line by 8 p.m.

Absentee Ballot:

- Directions are inside and at www.VOTE411.org



*Who is eligible to vote?

- A United States citizen
- A Michigan resident (at the time you register)
and a resident of your city or township for at least 30 days (when you vote)
- At least 18 years of age (when you vote)
- Not currently serving a sentence in jail or prison

*To ensure accuracy, voting information has been copied with only minimal editing from the Michigan Secretary of State's website

2021 The Williamston Area Beautification Fund Presents...

Free **CONCERTS** *at the Shell*

JULY **THURSDAYS • 7- 9 pm**

- 1 Betty B. & the RopeWalkers**
Swing, Jazz, Early R&B SPONSOR: A Friend of the Concerts
- 8 Meridian Community Band**
Traditional, Patriotic SPONSOR: American Legion Post 296
- 15 Big Riggs Band**
Country Western SPONSORS: Dart Bank, Friends of the Concerts
- 22 Chelsea House Orchestra**
Celtic SPONSORS: Ray & Ann Lemmen
- 29 Roadside Attraction**
Pop/Rock Classic SPONSORS: CADL, C. Estalba

AUGUST **THURSDAYS • 7- 9 pm**

- 5 GREG JAQUA**
Neil Diamond/Elvis Tribute *Jubilee Week 50 Year Anniversary*
SPONSORS: Crosaires, Williamston Senior Center
- 12 Don Warren Tribute**
Local Talent/Oldies *Honoring Don's musical legacy by those who learned from him or played beside him.*
SPONSORS: WABF, J. Simpson, Friends of the Concerts
- 19 LCB BIG BAND**
Big Band Classics SPONSOR: Bappert Automotive



American Legion Bandshell
McCormick Park • 300 N. Putnam • Williamston



Summer Patron: Williamston Sunrise Rotary • Look for Williamston Summer Concert Series on Facebook and in the Lansing City Pulse

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Just Ir-ish"--oh, whatever.
by Matt Jones

Across
1 Concession stand drinks
6 Tugs
11 Shot in the arm
14 Authoritative decree
15 "You're ___ and don't even know it"
16 Need to square up with
17 Compliant "Transformers" director?
19 Milliner's product
20 Printer refill
21 Coast-to-coast vacation, maybe
22 "(You're) Having My Baby" singer Paul
23 Sheepish sounds
24 Orchestra woodwinds
25 Beach atmosphere
28 Sapphire novel on which the film "Precious" was based
29 T, e.g.
30 Allowed past the door
35 "Lara Croft: ___ Raider"
36 Showing little emotion
37 Roman emperor after Claudius
38 Mixed vegetables ingredient, maybe
40 Laundry day target
41 Distant lead-in
42 Car accessory
43 ___ pastry (eclair basis)

45 Five-iron nickname
48 Architect Ludwig Mies van der ___
49 Casino customer
50 Bearded zoo animal
53 Intent
54 Pop soloist familiar with the Egyptian underworld?
56 "Don't text and drive," e.g.
57 Optimal
58 Come together
59 RR stop
60 Teacher's summons
61 Printer refill

Down
1 Big rig
2 Mythological deity with two ravens
3 Nickname for Nixon
4 German grumble
5 Illuminated, as at night
6 "Big Three" conference site of 1945
7 "To reach ___, we must sail ..." (FDR quote)
8 "Dona ___ pacem" (Mass phrase)
9 Hold onto
10 Mess of a spot
11 Unfortunate tractor inventor?
12 Up
13 Software versions still being tested
18 At any point
22 Kind of ballot
23 Potato chip flavor
24 In circulation
25 They haven't flown for 18 years
26 Self-help Internet site
27 Disappointing "Save Me" singer-songwriter?
28 File on a phone
30 "What am ___ do?"
31 Mail motto word
32 "F9" actor/producer

Diesel
33 Reggae Sunsplash adjective
34 Taboo
36 Biol. or ecol.
39 Prom piece
40 Foments
42 Pest greeting
43 Vegas game with rolls
44 Raise, as a flag
45 Battle royale
46 George Peppard TV series, with "The"
47 Mode of fashion
49 "I'll ___ my time"
50 Hang on tight?
51 "Last ___" (The Strokes song)
52 Tablet owner
54 Prefix with information
55 ___ nutshell

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Answers on page 43

SUDOKU

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

Beginner

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 43

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezсны

June 23-29, 2021

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Author Albert Camus advised everyone to "steal some time and give it freely and exclusively to your own self." That's excellent advice for you to heed in the coming days. The cosmos has authorized you to put yourself first and grab "all" the renewal you need. So please don't scrimp as you shower blessings on yourself. One possible way to accomplish this goal is to go on a long stroll or two. Camus says, "It doesn't have to be a walk during which you'll have multiple life epiphanies and discover meanings no other brain ever managed to encounter." But I think you are indeed likely to be visited by major epiphanies and fantastic new meanings.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Robert Mugabe was Zimbabwe's leader for 37 years. In the eyes of some, he was a revolutionary hero. To others he was an oppressive dictator. He was also the chancellor of the University of Zimbabwe, where his wife Grace received her PhD just two months after she started classes. I suspect that you, too, will have an expansive capacity to advance your education in the coming weeks—although maybe not quite as much as Grace seems to have had. You're entering a phase of super-learning.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "We were clever enough to turn a laundry list into poetry," wrote author Umberto Eco. Judging from astrological omens, I suspect you're now capable of accomplishing comparable feats in your own sphere. Converting a chance encounter into a useful new business connection? Repurposing a seeming liability into an asset? Capitalizing on a minor blessing or breakthrough to transform it into a substantial blessing or breakthrough? All these and more are possible.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "I was so flooded with yearning I thought it would drown me," wrote Cancerian author Denis Johnson. I don't expect that will be a problem for you anytime soon. You're not in danger of getting swept away by a tsunami of insatiable desire. However, you may get caught in a current of sweet, hot passion. You could be carried for a while by waves of aroused fascination. You might find yourself rushing along in a fast-moving stream of riled-up craving. But none of that will be a problem as long as you don't think you have something better to do. In fact, your time in the cascading flow may prove to be quite intriguing—and ultimately useful.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In my opinion, psychology innovator Carl Jung, born under the sign of Leo, was one of the 20th century's greatest intellects. His original ideas about human nature are central to my philosophy. One of my favorite things about him is his appreciation for feelings. He wrote, "We should not pretend to understand the world only by the intellect; we apprehend it just as much by feeling. Therefore, the judgment of the intellect is, at best, only half of the truth, and must, if it be honest, also come to an understanding of its inadequacy." I bring this to your attention, Leo, because the coming weeks will be a favorable time to upgrade your own appreciation for the power of your feelings to help you understand the world.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): For the indigenous Ojibway people, the word "Adizokan" means both "story" and "spirit." In fact, story and spirit are the same thing. Everything has a spirit and everything has a story, including people, animals, trees, lakes, rivers, and rocks. Inspired by these thoughts, and in accordance with cosmic omens, I invite you to meditate on how your life stories are central elements of your spirit. I further encourage you to spend some tender, luxurious time telling yourself the stories from your past that you love best. For extra delightful bonus fun, dream up two prospective stories about your future that you would like to create. (Info about "Adizokan" comes from Ann and John Mahan at SweetWaterVisions.com.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Author Asli ErdoĐan writes, "It had been explained to me from my earliest childhood that I would know love—or that thing called 'love'—as long as I was smart and academically brilliant. But no one ever taught me how to get that knowledge." I'm sorry to say that what was true for her has been true for most of us: No one ever showed us how to find and create and cultivate love. We may have received haphazard clues now and then from our parents and books and movies. But we never got a single day of formal instruction in school about the subject that is at the heart of our quest to live meaningful lives. That's the bad news, Libra. The good news is that the rest of 2021 will be one of the best times ever for you to learn important truths about love.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Before he journeyed in a spaceship to the moon in 1971, Scorpio astronaut Alan Shepard didn't think he'd get carried away with a momentous thrill once he arrive at his destination. He was a manly man not given to outward displays of emotion. But when he landed on the lunar surface and gazed upon the majestic sight of his home planet hanging in the sky, he broke into tears. I'm thinking you may have similar experiences in the coming weeks. Mind-opening, heart-awakening experiences may arrive. Your views of the Very Big Picture could bring healing upheavals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Sagittarian author Clarice Lispector observed, "In a state of grace, one sometimes perceives the deep beauty, hitherto unattainable, of another person." I suspect that this state of grace will visit you soon, Sagittarius—and probably more than once. I hope you will capitalize on it! Take your time as you tune in to the luminescent souls of the people you value. Become more deeply attuned to their uniquely gorgeous genius.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Trailblazing Capricorn psychoanalyst Ernest Jones (1879-1958) said, "There is no sense of contradiction within the unconscious; opposite ideas exist happily side by side." In other words, it's normal and natural to harbor paradoxical attitudes; it's healthy and sane to be awash in seemingly incongruous blends. I hope you will use this astrologically propitious time to celebrate your own inner dichotomies, dear Capricorn. If you welcome them as a robust aspect of your deepest, truest nature, they will serve you well. They'll make you extra curious, expansive, and non-dogmatic. (PS: Here's an example, courtesy of psychologically savvy author Stephen Levine: "For as long as I can remember the alternate antics of the wounded child and the investigations of the ageless Universal played through me.")

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Aquarian guitarist Django Reinhardt was a celebrated jazz musician in occupied France during World War II. Amazingly, he was able to earn good money by performing frequently—even though he fit descriptions that the rampaging Germans regarded as abhorrent. Nazis persecuted the Romani people, of which he was one. They didn't ban jazz music, but they severely disapproved of it. And the Nazis hated Jews and Blacks, with whom Reinhardt loved to hang out. The obstacles you're facing aren't anywhere near as great as his, but I propose we make him your role model for the next four weeks. May he inspire you to persist and even thrive in the face of challenges!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Piscean author Richard Matheson believed we've become too tame and mild. "We've forgotten," he wrote, about "how to rise to dizzy heights." He mourned that we're too eager to live inside narrow boundaries. "The full gamut of life is a shadowy continuum," he continued, "that runs from gray to more gray. The rainbow is bleached." If any sign of the zodiac has the power to escape blandness and averageness, it's you Pisceans—especially in the coming weeks. I invite you to restore the rainbow to its full vivid swath: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. Maybe even add a few colors.

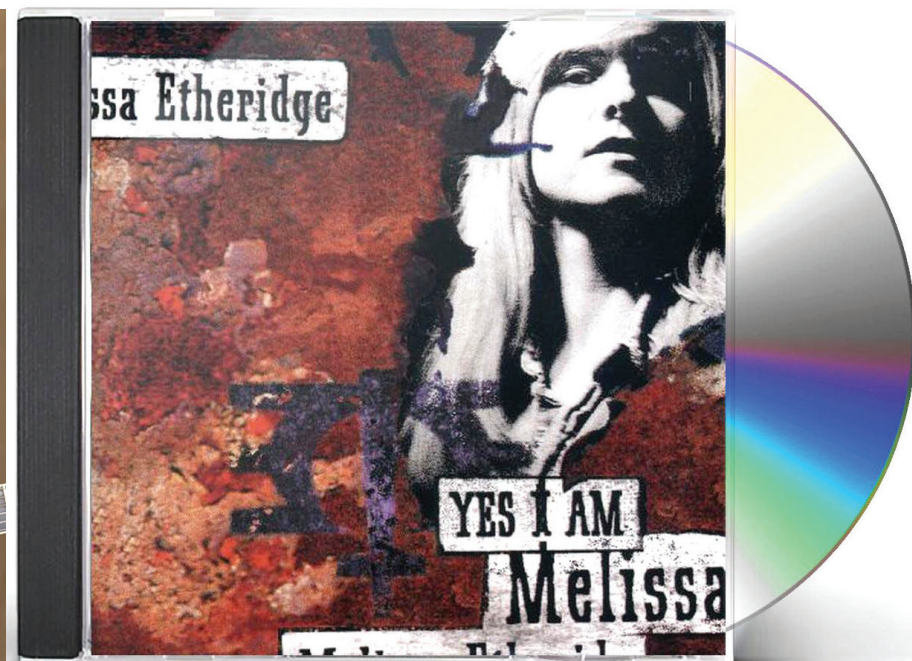
Go to [RealAstrology.com](#) to check out Rob Brezсны's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

LOOKING BACK AT MELISSA ETHERIDGE'S WHIRLWIND YEAR



Melissa Etheridge has a new LP, "One Way Out," coming soon. (courtesy photos)

Prior to her 2011 Common Ground set, Etheridge spoke about coming out in 1993

Over the years, as a music journalist, I've had the opportunity to talk with dozens of creatives with amazing, sometimes heroically brave backstories. One of my most memorable conversations was with Grammy and Academy Award winner Melissa Etheridge.

Prior to her 2011 performance at the Common Ground Music Festival, the acclaimed singer-songwriter spoke candidly about her recent divorce, her

battle with cancer and when she came out in 1993. By that time, she was a full-on celebrity, so headlines popped up across the world.

Early on in her career, Melissa Etheridge let her music do the talking. While rumors swirled about her sexuality and personal life, she decided to rock rather than talk, churning out acclaimed records that steadily burned further up the charts. That abruptly changed in January 1993, when she came out at the Triangle Ball, a gay and lesbian event celebrating President Bill Clinton.

That same year, with her milestone "Yes I Am" album, she achieved massive commercial success. Constant radio and MTV play turned then-32-year-old into an A-list celebrity. The groundbreaking album was a nod to her coming out and also spawned several now-classic singles — including "I'm the Only One" and Grammy winner "Come to My Window." Etheridge looks back fondly on the whirlwind success.

"That album bought my house," she told me with a chuckle. "I loved that it was my fourth album that was my biggest, it wasn't my first, and since then I've been trying to make up for it."

As for why she chose this time as the moment to come out publicly, Etheridge said it felt natural and was perhaps a bit overdue, thanks to the press misquoting her.

"It sort of presented itself," she explained. "It's where everything was leading me. It was coming to a point where my choice to be gender neutral and just say (in interviews) 'my partner' or 'my lover' wasn't working. I'd be very evasive and not put a gender in there, but I found sometimes writers would just say things. This one magazine article quoted me as saying 'my boyfriend' this and 'my boyfriend' that. I was like, 'Ahh! I did not say that!' It was horrible."

Etheridge said prior to her coming out to the press, her friends and devoted fans already knew she was gay, and she didn't want to disappoint them by not addressing it openly.

"I didn't want anyone to think I was lying. Enough people knew. I played gay bars — that's where I was discovered," she recalled. "I said, 'This is ridiculous.' If people are going to stop listening to me because I'm gay, I don't want them listening to me. They aren't listening to me for the right reasons."

Since then, beyond the gay rights

movement, Etheridge often lends her time and name to environmental and social issues, too.

"It's funny, the activist stuff just happens very naturally," she said. "I don't seek it out. I find the most activist work I do is just to live my life in a truthful manner and speak truthfully about it. That becomes activism in its own way. When asked by organizations that do the activism, I will lend my name."

Her bout with and recovery from breast cancer encouraged her to champion another worthwhile cause she's intimately familiar with: medical marijuana. She is actively involved in getting medicinal marijuana laws passed in states. Recreationally speaking, her entrepreneurial spirit also motivated her to open Etheridge Farms, which received Santa Cruz County's first non-retail cannabis license. Of course, she is also busy musically, as well. Her next LP, "One Way Out," is set for a Sept. 17, 2021, release date. Fans can grab the new album on orange vinyl and also catch her live in New Buffalo, Mich. on Oct. 8 at Four Winds Casino.

For more information, visit: melissa-etheridge.com

ART BY NEVIN

As Seen On the Cover of CityPulse

Illustrations • Murals • Graphic Design
Signs • Banners • T-Shirts • Logos

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OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, June 23

- 15th Annual Golf Fore Giving At A Distance!** - 8:30 a.m. Wheatfield Valley Golf Course, 1600 Linn Rd, Williamston. cristoreycommunity.org.
- 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. 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.
- Live Music with Mike Eyia** - 5-10 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St. Old Town, Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.
- Mid-Michigan Art Guild 12x12 Show** - 10 a.m.-7 p.m. through June 30. Framer's Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave, Okemos.
- Wednesday Workdays at CCBS** - 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Capital City Bird Sanctuary, 6001 Delta River Dr. Lansing. michiganaudubon.org.
- Wheel of the Year: Litha** - Join us on Zoom for a discussion of Ostara on the Wheel of the Year, as well as preparation for Saturday's ritual. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Weavers of the Web. weaversoftheweb.org.
- ## Thursday, June 24
- Animal BINGO** - Animal stories, bingo and more! Register at eradl.org. No library card needed. 1-2 p.m. Playground Of Dreams, 100 Howe Dr., Eaton Rapids.
- Bath Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St, Bath. shopbfm.org.
- Dimondale Farmers' Market** - 3-7 p.m. 136 N Bridge St, Dimondale. 517-230-0520. villageofdimondale.org.
- Hernia Screening** - McLaren is hosting a free hernia screening at MMP, 1540 Lake Lansing Rd., Lansing. Appointment required. mclaren.org
- Live Music with Charlie Richardson** - 5-10 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St. Old Town, Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.
- 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.

- Weekly Hiring Fair** - 12-4 p.m. Community Mental Health of Clinton-Eaton-Ingham Counties (CMHA-CEI), 812 E Jolly Road, Lansing. ceicmh.org
- ## Friday, June 25
- 5th Annual Rollie Dart Golf Outing** - 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Eldorado Golf Course, 3750 W. Howell Road, Mason. business.masonchamber.org.
- Coding Program** - It's time for a dance party! 2-3 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main, Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.
- Dinosaur Stomp!** - 4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.
- East Lansing Summer Solstice Jazz Festival** - June 25-27. 410 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. eljazzfest.com
- Kathy Ford Band** 255 E McClintock Park, Laingsburg Amphitheater Stage. 7-9 p.m.
- LEGO Robotics** - 4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.
- Natural Disasters** - 4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.
- Summer Take-Home Crafts @ GLADL** - Craft kits available at checkout. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. gladl.org
- Sustainable Energy** - 4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.
- TGIF Weekly Friday Dance** - Everyone welcome! 7 p.m.-midnight. Hawk Hollow Golf Banquet Center, 15101 Chandler Rd., Bath. 734-604-5095. tgifdance.com.
- ## Saturday, June 26
- East Lansing Summer Solstice Jazz Festival** - June 25-27. 410 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. eljazzfest.com
- Max's Race to Benefit The Davies Project** - 16th annual 5k run/walk on the beautiful campus of Michigan State University. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. runsignup.com.
- ## Sunday, June 27
- East Lansing Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.
- East Lansing Summer Solstice Jazz Festival** - June 25-27. 410 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. eljazzfest.com
- Monte Pride** - Live at Woldumar Nature Center. 7-8:30 p.m. 5739 Old Lansing Rd, Lansing. 517-449-6897.
- ## Monday, June 28
- Chemistry Craze** - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.
- Comedy Night** - every Monday night starting at 9 p.m. For stage time inquiries email crunchyscomedy@gmail.com. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.
- 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. eradl.org.
- Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 6-7 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing. refugerecovery.org

FAST FORWARD



UPCOMING EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS COMING TO LANSING

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Compose & Color

Saturday, June 26, 6:30 p.m.
REACH Studio Art Center
1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
[Facebook.com/TheConsciousStreamers](https://www.facebook.com/TheConsciousStreamers)



The Conscious Streamers is hosting an event called Compose and Color, which is a collaborative and interactive visual art performance that features both local and out of town talent. Refreshments will be served.

Summer Fun at the Park

Friday, June 25, 1 to 6 p.m.
Hawk Island Park
1601 E. Cavanaugh Road, Lansing
Parks.ingham.org/parks/hawk_island.php
Ingham School District and Capital Area Community Services Head Start are hosting a fun activity filled day at Hawk Island Park for young children and their parents that doubles as an opportunity to learn more about how to enroll your kids into the right preschool.



Salsa Parlor Front Yard Comedy Show

Saturday, June 26, 9 p.m.
1101 Burcham Dr., East Lansing
[Facebook.com/SalsaParlor](https://www.facebook.com/SalsaParlor)



A local group of comedians is hosting a stand-up comedy gig from their house, a DIY venue known as the Salsa Parlor, in East Lansing. Guests will enjoy the sets from the front lawn. Food and refreshments will be served.

Science of Art

9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Video Game Science

9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Woven Wonders

8 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Tuesday, June 29

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

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Tastes like chicken

By ARI LeVAUX

It's rare to find an omnivore who doesn't appreciate chicken. America's most popular meat is poised to oust pork as the world's favorite animal protein. When that preference is combined with the fact that human beings also love our foods breaded and crispy, we can begin to understand why chicken nuggets have become so wildly popular.

Even vegetarians and vegans love chicken nuggets, which explains the recent explosion of fake chicken nuggets onto the food scene. Chicken behemoth Tyson Foods is now selling Raised and Rooted chicken-free nuggets. Several other startups, including Nuggs, Daring Foods and Rebellyous, each has its own crispy breaded chicken-style product. Kentucky Fried Chicken, meanwhile, is tweaking its Beyond Fried Chicken nuggets.

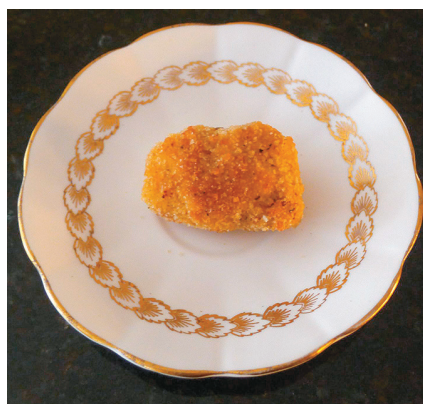
Industrial chicken processors love chicken nuggets too, as they offer a way to use parts of the animal that we don't normally associate with food. A study published in the American Journal of Medicine tested chicken nuggets from two American fast food chains and found neither one contained more than 50 percent chicken meat, while a Singapore study found the nuggets there can contain as little as 15 percent



meat. These quasi-meatless nuggets also contain nerve tissue, bones and lots of fat, and are augmented by soy proteins that are similar to some the ingredients in plant-based nuggets.

Because it's gross to think about the true identity of a chicken nugget, many people simply avoid doing so. They taste good, especially when dipped in some tangy, spicy or creamy sauce, so we eat them. But there are signs that the ability to overlook what is in an industrial chicken might be waning. Chicken nugget sales have been falling in recent years, and nobody is quite sure why. Perhaps chicken lovers, as well as meat eaters, are growing wary of mystery meat. Without the mouthfeel to back it up, maybe tasting like chicken isn't enough. For some, anyway.

The first time I served homemade chicken nuggets to my kids, they informed me that my crispy little cre-



ations were not, in fact, McNuggets. "I didn't say they were McNuggets," I explained. "Just chicken nuggets." They remained unimpressed.

In fairness, my first stab at chicken-nugget making was a flop. They were potato-shaped, bland in the middle and on the verge of falling apart. But there was no way that I was going to be outdone by Ronald McDonald. So I decided to try to come up with a homemade version that could hold its own against a Happy Meal, without abandoning my principles.

It turns out that making chicken nuggets without bones, cartilage, fat or nerve tissue is not impossible. I read several recipes online and made a few more attempts. Things finally came together when I had the thought — so obvious in hindsight — to add mayo to the mix. The flavor improved and the nuggets held together. My kids agreed.

My nuggets taste like real chicken, and they have the texture of chicken. And for what it's worth, they are, in fact, chicken.

A More Perfect Nugget

This recipe is a hybrid of several nugget recipes I tried. Mayo is the not-so-secret ingredient that distinguishes mine from the others.

1 lb skinless, boneless chicken breast (or chicken tenders)

2 tablespoons mayo

1 teaspoon salt

1 cup flour

2 eggs

1 cup breadcrumbs

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup grated parmesan

1 teaspoon paprika

1 teaspoon dried thyme

1 teaspoon dried oregano

1 tablespoon olive oil

2 servings

Mince the chicken as finely as possible, and mix with it with the mayo and salt. Set up a three-bowl dipping setup, as if making fried fish. In the first bowl: plain flour. In the second: the eggs, beaten. In the third bowl combine the bread crumbs, parmesan and seasonings.

Use your hands to shape the chicken mixture into nuggets. One by one, pass each nugget through all three stations. First, roll it through the flour so the egg will stick. Then roll it through the egg so the breadcrumbs will stick.

When all of the nuggets have been coated, preheat the oven to 450 degrees, add the olive oil to a baking sheet and spread evenly to coat. Place the nuggets on the sheet, spaced so that no two nuggets are touching. Bake for 12 minutes and then flip them. When turned, the undersides that now face up should be nicely browned. Bake 12-15 minutes on the other side, depending on how brown the bottoms got after the first 12 minutes.

When browned on all sides, remove the nuggets from the oven and allow them to cool. This step is very important, because some people cannot control themselves around a plate of hot, golden chicken nuggets. Serve with your favorite condiment.

(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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New brewpub coming to Ionia Street

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Salt Rock Brewing Co., a new brewpub restaurant coming to Lansing later this summer, is a longterm dream finally come true for couple and business partners Donna Williams and Steve Kelly.

Kelly and Williams have a long shared history in the brewing and restaurant industries. Kelly spent significant time working as a personal chef in Costa Rica. Williams worked for more than a decade as a waitress, bartender and manager before becoming a nurse. "I like to say that we're a power couple," joked Williams.

The initial inspiration for finally

purchasing a space and opening their own restaurant came from a chance moment on Williams' old apartment balcony on Walnut Street, which overlooked much of downtown Lansing. The two noticed the large vacant building on Ionia Street — the longtime former home of Lucille Belen's flower shop — that is now the home of Salt Rock Brewing Co. After securing the necessary funding and paperwork to purchase the building, Kelly and Williams decided on opening a brewpub and spent an entire summer gathering all of the necessary equipment from various sources across the country. Kelly has managed his own

companies before, but this is Williams' first venture as a business owner.

Kelly said the direction Salt Rock Brewing Co. will take as a brewpub is inspired by some of their favorite restaurants and breweries they have visited during their travels both national and international. Guests at Salt Rock Brewing Co. will be able to enjoy a menu that has a wide range of surf and turf meals, as well as sip on an incredibly diverse menu of beer, wine and spirits that a full brewery is able to provide. Vegan and vegetarian options will be an emphasis for the menu too.

"We want to give Lansing something that they haven't seen before," Williams said.

The look of Salt Rock Brewing Co. is



Salt Rock Brewing Co.

519 W. Ionia St. Lansing
Expected opening:
Late summer/early fall
facebook.com/
SaltRockBrewingCo

inspired by the tough industrial nature of the Midwest, Kelly said. Visual cues include steel and natural Himalayan salt blocks, as the brewpub's name implies. The building is still undergoing some renovations as it prepares for its grand opening, including the construction of an elaborate logo adorning the main wall. Kelly and Williams expect Salt Rock Brewing Co. to be open to the public in the later summer or early fall.

"We want everybody, all walks of life, to feel comfortable checking us out," Williams said.



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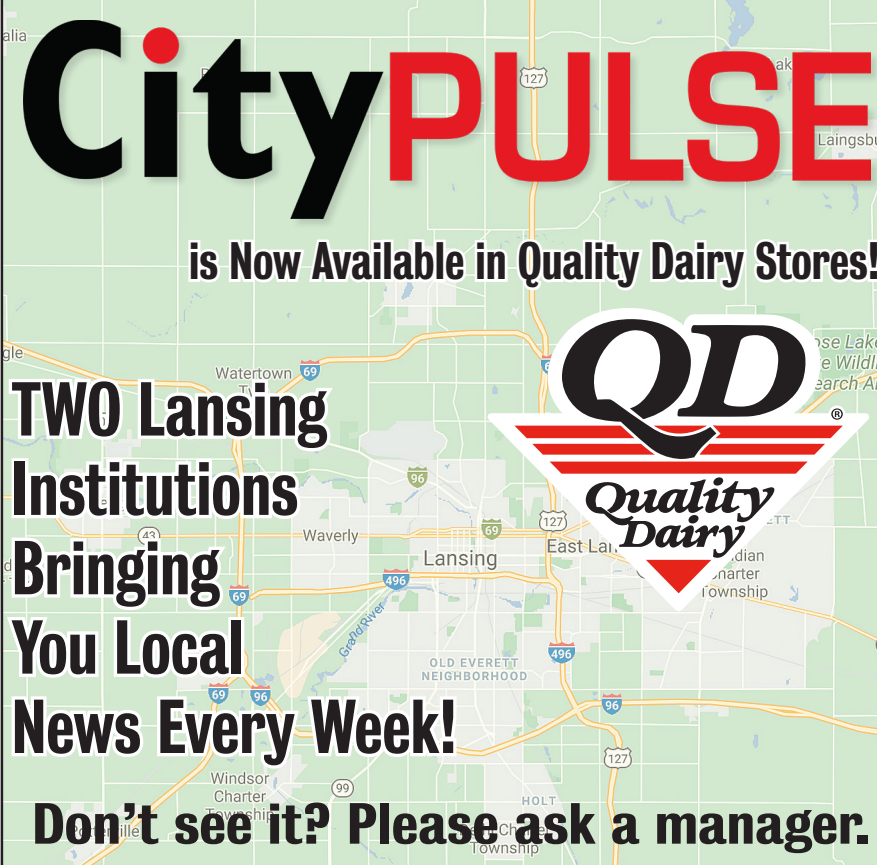
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