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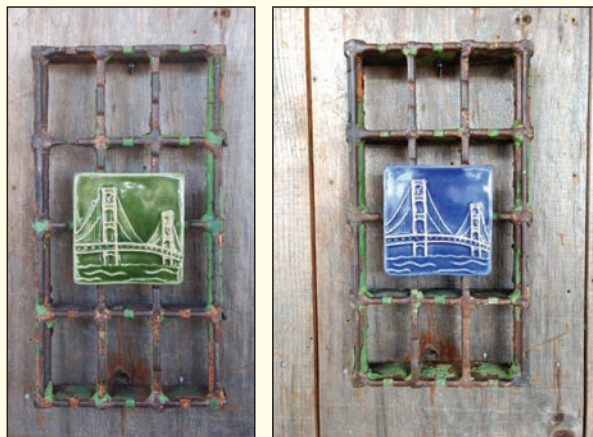
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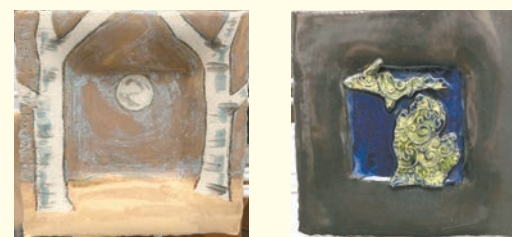
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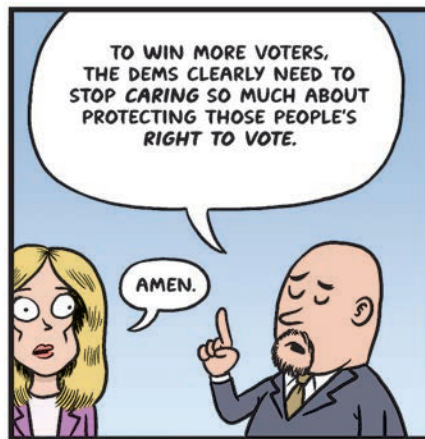
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**Cover
Art**

Illustration by Nevin Speerbrecker

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by TOM TOMORROW



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

What can Lansing expect from four more years with Andy Schor?

Schor prioritizes ‘stopping crime and fixing roads’

As the dust settles on a tumultuous election season in Lansing, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor is already charting out ambitious plans for his second term — including ideas on how to relocate City Hall, build a performing arts center downtown and spend \$50 million in federal funding.

Schor sat down with managing editor Kyle Kaminski to look back at his landslide victory and outline his top priorities. Those include plans to curb rising levels of gun violence and to help steer the city through the end of the pandemic.

... **You were elected by a landslide, garnering about 64% of the vote. Any particular issues that you think helped secure that landside margin? Police funding?**

Our residents want the police to act right. They expect de-escalation. They expect us to make sure that they've got training. But they want the police. Our citizens want to feel safe in their homes. They may be concerned about the police pulling people over for certain things or patrolling in certain areas, but they expect police to be there. We need to have resources for those who have mental health problems, as well as resources for substance abuse and homelessness. They also expect officers to act right. If there's an issue of racism, then they expect us to take care of it. They also expect those in need to be helped and not put in jail. When the efforts to defund the police first came up, the first thing I said was: "We're going to talk to the community." We've had that conversation, and people want to police officers on the street.

In an interview last month, you said that “nothing changes” — either after Election Day or after your second term begins in January. Is that the takeaway? Four more years of the same?

It's not like I'm going to make some sudden changes. I'm going to do what I said I was going to do and, for the most part, it's going to be continuing to build on those last four years. I think we'll certainly look at a few different things. We might have a little bit of staff turnover with some new ideas — but not a lot. We were pretty bold in the first term, with many successes.

Any administrative restructuring or major cabinet changes?

I'd like to get arts and culture into one of our departments. We don't really have that designated to a



Photo by McShane Photography

Future Lansing Mayor Andy Schor being interviewed by City Pulse editor & publisher Berl Schwartz after Schor won his first term in 2017.

department. I also want to see how we can make the most of federal dollars for public safety, roads and bridges and for controlling climate emissions. In my next budget, I expect more grant writing.

You're particularly proud of the Capital City Market development. What's the next big thing?

We've got a lot of different things on the table. A lot of people waited for the election to see: "Is he going to be there to pull it through?" Now, we're going to pursue a few big projects.

We're going to have a lot of things. Now that the election is done, there's more stability to make plans. There's some cool stuff happening over by the Frandor Shopping Center, and I think that Sears building is

being repurposed, but that's not my announcement to make. We have some ideas of some things there. And on the south side, I think you'll see some other announcements.

On the night of the election, you talked a lot about regionalism. How do you plan to leverage the broader power of the Greater Lansing region in a way that benefits the city?

We've done a lot with regionalism, and I plan to do more of that — like 425 agreements with other communities where we can do a tax share. Maybe there will be developments outside of the city where

Schor

from page 5

we provide some of the utilities and we receive more money because of that.

I'm very close with Ron Bacon, who just got elected to the East Lansing City Council. We've talked about how our two cities can form partnerships. We're also looking at things we can do with Delhi Township. I can't get into those details, but you'll know when it happens. We're also doing a lot with the Lansing Economic Area Partnership and the county to help administer grants for small businesses and offer rental or mortgage assistance. I believe in taking care of Lansing first and foremost. But I also believe that when we work together, it's good for citizens.

You also spoke about a more equitable future for Lansing in your post-election speech. What does that mean for you and what sorts of deliberate steps can you take to help there?

It means everybody has the equal opportunity to get ahead, and those who haven't have extra ability. Southwest Lansing has not seen the investments that other areas of the city have, so we're going to do more work there, as well as in Northwest Lansing. We'll also work a lot with our groups that represent people of color. We've got grant funding for equity work. It's about looking at everything through an equity lens and making sure that everybody can succeed — especially those who haven't in the past. That will be really important.

What's at the top of your priority list?

Stopping crime and fixing roads. But that doesn't mean that I'm not working to strengthen neighborhoods, our parks, river trails, corridor improvements, and economic development. We certainly want to do more to address the issues of necessity, which is crime — everything from speeding to homicide. Then, it's physical infrastructure. It's paving potholes and fixing the roads.

It's another record-setting year for homicides. What's the plan to save the next life?

It's really about stopping those who would get involved in gun violence from even going down the wrong path to begin with. We need to have all of our community centers open. We're giving money to nonprofit groups working at the front end to prevent violence before it begins.

It's also about getting illegal guns



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

Schor makes his victory speech last Tuesday at his election party at the Lansing Brewing Co.

off the street. I don't have a problem with legal guns, but getting illegal guns off the street is the single best way to prevent gun violence. We also have to offer alternatives for youth. I'd also love more patrols and more community policing.

The Police Department had 20 vacancies last August. How is the hiring process going?

We brought on five or six officers since then, and I think we have another six or seven that are coming through the academy. We're working on staffing. I hope the end of the election also means it's the end of this police divestment conversation. That can scare potential officers.

We're getting close to full capacity, but then we're also going to have more retirements. I want to keep the staff flowing in, and we're getting close, but those retirements will put us behind again. Part of this is about streamlining the hiring and part of this is balancing experienced officers with rookies. You don't want one third of your force being rookies, because then you lack experience.

The city is still committed to providing at least \$240,000 to the Advance Peace program for next year. Anything else on your gun violence prevention agenda in Lansing?

Our gun violence task force is working on setting up a meeting with judges and the prosecutor. There are a lot of questions about personal recognition bonds and how quickly people can end up back on the street after they're arrested. We want to bring in outside parties. Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin's office has also been involved alongside some state legislators because

there are some people who truly believe we need changes to our gun laws.

We've given money to outside organizations to try and reduce gun violence. We have put money into more police positions that we're trying to fill. Now we have to figure out: How do we make sure that somebody who has guns, who has been violent, isn't immediately put back on the street? That's why there are some discussions about bonds and judges getting involved.

You criticized Ingham County Prosecutor Carol Siemon for enacting a policy that prevents companion felony firearm charges except for in "extreme" circumstances. Do you still think that policy is standing in the way of justice being served in Lansing? Is it a big roadblock for cops?

I still have concerns about the policy because of the victims. I don't know. I know our officers are very concerned about people knowing that they're not going to face consequences specifically for that gun-related charge. There are concerns about lessening the consequences.

How quickly do you expect to have a new police chief hired?

By the end of the year. I want the best possible person to help navigate many issues — including gun violence, ensuring officers have proper training and understanding that we expect our officers to act in a certain way. I want someone who will focus on community policing. I want someone to understand that officers are expected to act the right way, and when they're not, that they will face the appropriate discipline.

How does the city budget look right now? I know there's plenty of federal cash to go around.

We're stable. We were able to get our reserves back up. We were able to backfill the budget with the first \$25 million. Our income tax revenue was way down. Parking revenues were non-existent. Some of that also went to economic development. There's about another \$25 million left that's still coming, and we won't get that other half until next August or September.

What's the plan for that \$25 million?

We're also going to use some of that money to backfill expected losses. We'll know what our income taxes look like by the end of the year, and we expect to have an estimate before that.

There are also a lot of folks who have asked for money. A lot of people think we can use it for whatever we want, but we can't do that. Next month, we're going to have a public I'm inviting all the groups that have asked for money

to come and explain why it should go to them.

The other caveat is that we have until 2024 to spend this money. I want to keep an eye on the following year too before we put that money on the streets.

You hired a sustainability manager within the last year. How's that work going?

We will continue to work on things with sustainable energy that reduce carbon emissions. We've got our climate action plan. So, we're working toward those goals. Our vehicle fleet is important. And we've got a few Chevy Bolts now, so we're trying to convert our fleet to renewable energy. Getting out of this aging City Hall building and then getting into a more energy efficient building will be hugely important. We're working to assess our energy efficiencies, so we'll be doing a lot of work there and saving a lot of money in the process.

Do you have a plan to find a new building?

I've had a lot of people randomly bring me different ideas. We're going to go back out and ask again and see what's really out there. I've got at least three people who think they can make a plan work — including with the 54-A District Court and the Police Department lockup.

I'm willing to look at maybe a daytime lockup. And because of the future of remote work, we're also looking at whether we need the same physical footprint for office space. We'll always need people in the office for some things, but maybe we don't need a conference room in every department. Maybe we can have shared workspaces? Do we need 130,000 square feet?

I really want a customer service center — one easy place for people to go for city services. If we can figure out a way to do that, then show me how this can work and we'll move it forward.

The next state budget includes \$2 million in funding for a future performance hall in Lansing — bringing the total to about \$10 million to get this project going. Is it going to happen?

It's going to happen. We just have to determine the location now. We've had a lot of people pitch different locations. I want it downtown, so I've given people a month or two months.

We're giving people some time to crunch the numbers and then we'll move forward with a plan. We've got \$10 million. It's going to happen. I'd like to make an announcement before January.

Ballot initiative could boost election costs, shutter polling locations

At least 25 percent of Ingham County polling locations could be impacted

Progress Michigan, a liberal advocacy organization, is accusing advocates behind the Secure MI Vote ballot initiative of pushing a plan that would increase costs for elections and shutter polling locations — including churches that have been used for generations of local voters.

According to the advocacy group, the initiative could lead to one in five of polling locations statewide being shuttered because they are in churches. Progress Michigan points to a provision in the initiative's language that prohibits clerks from receiving any in-kind or cash donations to support an election, which would include the donation or discounted rental of spaces used for polling locations, Secure MI Vote officials have told Bridge Magazine.

"This is the tip of the iceberg of the broad impact this proposal will have," said Sam Inglot, deputy director of Progress Michigan. "This proposal will make it more difficult to vote and administer elections."

Secure MI Vote is circulating petitions to amend Michigan's election law. The ballot group has largely focused its marketing messages on the stricter voter ID requirements that the proposal would enact, while ignoring the impact of the proposed prohibition on dona-



Swope

tions.

Officials for Secure MI Vote did not return a call for comment, although it has conceded in a report by Bridge Magazine that these polling location concerns are legitimate and accurate.

Progress Michigan, a liberal advocacy group, released a report this week that identified that 20% of polling locations in the state are located in churches. Those church locations would be prohibited under the ballot initiative unless the clerk rents the space at a market rate.

Data from the report shows that 22 of the 87 polling locations in Ingham County are located in a church — about 25% of the polling locations in the



Inglot

county. Eaton County clocks in with 39 total polling locations, 12 of which are in churches — nearly 31% of the polling places in the county.

Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope said that the proposal's broad language would impact more than the use of churches in Lansing. In his estimation,

the proposal would limit Lansing to just five locations — all city-owned properties — where he can run elections from without having to negotiate rental fees at current locations such as schools and churches.

While it is unclear if it would be legal for a church or school to charge discounted rental rates, at least one group, Commercial Cafe, has estimated the average rental rate for office and retail space in Lansing in 2020 at \$20.21 per square foot. Swope said many polling locations — like schools — could also charge an hourly rate, which could ramp up those costs even higher.

He argued that the clear language of the proposal excludes schools from in-kind donations.

Polling locations must meet certain requirements, including being handicap accessible. In addition, each polling location can only legally accommodate one precinct of no more than 2,999 voters. Combined precinct voting locations can have no more than 5,000 total vot-

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SEAN BRADLEY/CITY PULSE

Voters stand in line early morning on Election Day 2020 at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Delta Township.



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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING
SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES**

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES LOCATED AT 3209 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Sanders, Treasurer McKenzie
Trustees: Harris, Ruiz, Brewer
MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Broughton
ALSO PRESENT: Mike Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:
Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.
Approved entering into Executive Session for pending litigation – Eastwood LLC v Charter Township of Lansing, Case # 21-0624-CB.
Approved returning to Regular session.
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor
Maggie Sanders, Clerk

CP#21-248

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING
SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES**

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES LOCATED AT 3209 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Sanders, Treasurer McKenzie
Trustees: Harris, Broughton, Ruiz, Brewer
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
ALSO PRESENT: Mike Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:
Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.
Approved minutes of meetings held on September 28, 2021 as presented.
Agenda approved as presented.
Public hearing held on Police and Fire Protection Special Assessment.
Adopted Resolution 21-21: Resolution to Approve the 2021 Police and Fire Protection Special Assessment District.
Adopted Resolution 21-22: Resolution to Set the Second Public Hearing for the 2021 Police and Fire Protection Proposed Special Assessment Roll.
Approved budget amendments.
Approved entering into Executive Session for pending litigation – Eastwood LLC v Charter Township of Lansing, Case # 21-0624-CB.
Approved returning to Regular session.
Approved claims as presented.
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor
Maggie Sanders, Clerk

CP#21-247

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING
SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES**

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES LOCATED AT 3209 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Sanders, Treasurer McKenzie
Trustees: Harris, Brewer
MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustees: Broughton, Ruiz
ALSO PRESENT: Mike Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:
Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.
Public Hearing held for Police and Fire Protection Proposed Special Assessment Role.
Tabled Resolution to Approve the Police and Fire Protection Special Assessment Role.
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor
Maggie Sanders, Clerk

CP#21-250

**LEGAL NOTICE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP of LANSING**

The 2022 General Fund Budget and Special Fund Budgets were adopted by the Board of Trustees at a regular meeting on October 26, 2021 and are available for review in the office of the Clerk during regular office hours.

Maggie Sanders, Clerk
Charter Township of Lansing

CP#21-251

Polls

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ers in the precinct. In theory, this was designed to allow voters easy access to their polling locations.

Paying market rate rental costs will dramatically increase the costs of elections, Inglot said.

Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum also said that the proposed increase would come at a time when municipal clerks are already struggling to fund the often steep costs of local elections.

The proposal that is circulating among voters grew out of the “Big Lie” perpetrated by former President Donald Trump and his allies — the lie being

that the 2020 election was fraught with fraud and errors. Those claims have been rejected by hundreds of audits in Michigan, rulings in the Supreme Court and in reports from the Republican-controlled Senate Oversight Committee.

The proposal’s language was approved by state election officials in late September. The group immediately began collecting signatures, including a push in Livingston County, MLive reports. The group’s Facebook page showed three different signing events in October. Organizers need to collect signatures from at least 340,047 registered voters.

If the group collects enough valid signatures, the petition will then go to the state Legislature, which can adopt it or allow it on the ballot. If the legislature does adopt the measure, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer will be unable to veto the proposal because the GOP-led legislature has already sent similar legislation to her desk for approval.

Inglot said the proposal is “slapped” together with parts of more than 100 other bills that have been introduced to address election security concerns since last November, most of which never got a vote in either chamber. Those that have passed were hit with Whitmer’s veto pen.

Swope warned that voters may be unintentionally misled by circulators.

“They’re going to tell you this will go in front of the voters,” Swope said. “But the plan is to have the legislature adopt it, not put it on the ballot. You will not have a vote on it later.”

Swope, Byrum and Inglot also said the proposal is a deliberate attempt to undermine voters.

“There is no doubt the goal of this proposal is to harm democracy,” Byrum said. “It is designed to put obstacles and hurdles between voters and the ballot box.”

“This proposal will change Michigan elections in a big way,” said Inglot. “And not in a good way.”

Swope went a step further: “It’s an intent to suppress low incomes, minority and young voters.”

— TODD HEYWOOD

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CP#21-246

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By KYLE KAMINSKI

'The Queen' is dead at 79

Christine Timmon, an eccentric gadfly and former regular at Lansing City Council meetings — a litigious political agitator perhaps known for her rambling public access television show and wild appearance, has died at age 79. Timmon left Michigan for Florida about a decade ago and returned last year for an unsuccessful run for the state House to represent the 18th District, in Eastpointe, near Detroit. More information is available from butler-funeralhome.com.



Ingham County begins jabs for kids

Ingham County Health Department clinics have started vaccinating kids ages 5-11 following the recent authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Call 517-887-4517 to schedule an appointment at one of the county's Community Health Centers. The Health Department will also host clinics every Tuesday and Friday. Visit hd.ingham.org/coronavirus/r_1013.aspx or call 517-887-4623 for more information.



Wendy Martin, 6, of Lansing, got her COVID-19 shot last week.

Lansing pastors unite against gun violence

Thirty-three religious leaders have formed the Assembly of Lansing Pastors and asked Mayor Andy Schor to do more to bridge the gap between city government and "the real needs of the community socially, economically and developmentally," reports the Lansing State Journal. The group also wants a charter amendment to create a citizen oversight committee for the police department and more grant funding for BIPOC community groups.

Lansing loses two pizza joints

Detroit Frankie's Pizza & Deli closed its half of a shared location with Good Truckin' Diner on Pennsylvania Avenue, citing concerns about a lack of profitability in the second restaurant. DeLuca's Restaurant also closed permanently Saturday after the sale of the longtime family business fell through.



Students protest at Holt High School

Dozens of students walked out of class Wednesday citing concerns about unchecked bullying in school buildings, reports FOX 47 News. Students said the demonstration was organized, in part, because a student was caught bringing a gun to school last month. Among their demands: An "open line of communication" with district staff for collaborative solutions.

Skating rink opens at Lansing City Hall

A synthetic skating rink funded by the Capital Region Community Foundation has returned for a second year at the City Hall plaza. Visitors must bring their own skates and leave by 10 p.m.

Fatal fire on McPherson Avenue

An unidentified middle-aged man died in a house fire at 451 McPherson Ave. Friday. Crews arrived to find the large ranch style house fully engulfed in flames, made entry and discovered the man inside had already died. No smoke detectors were located in the house after the scene was cleared. An investigation continues.

Nurses picket at Sparrow Hospital

Several hundred members of the Professional Employee Council staged an "informational picket" at the Michigan Avenue hospital amid negotiations for a new union contract.



Nurses have voiced complaints over short staffing at the hospital, as well as a lack of consistent wage increases for employees. Both sides were set to head back to the bargaining table.

Cops ID two killed in East Lansing

Authorities said that Jamie Antcliff, 44, of Owosso and William Antcliff, 45, of East Lansing, were found dead of suspected gunshot wounds at a home in the 3900 block of Halter Lane in East Lansing at about 8 p.m. Oct. 30. Police said the situation was investigated as a murder-suicide and that no suspects are being sought.

Last chance for Fido

Northern Tail Dog Park in East Lansing will close for the winter Nov. 29 with plans to reopen again on April 4, 2022 — giving local dogs only a few more weeks of playdates in the park.

East Lansing seeks 'Emerging Leaders'

Those interested in honing leadership and public service skills have been invited to apply for a year-long \$55 course in civic engagement designed to support the city's "emerging leaders." Applications are due back at cityofeastlansing.com/emergingleaders by Dec. 6.



The new Michigan Realtors Association building at 720 N. Washington Avenue in Lansing is this month's Eye Candy. It was selected because of its striking shape and modern materials. From Saginaw Street, it is an eye-catching new build, impressive in its scale. From Washington Avenue, the new building serves as both a terminus and a welcome, metaphorically bridging the downtown area and Old Town parts of the City. Because when one travels north on Washington from the new building, one encounters a lively mix of architectural eras. There are the elegant older homes of the Victorian period such as the Farhat & Story law firm at 1003 N. Washington and the nearby midcentury modern, flat-roofed Michigan Press Association building at 827 N. Washington Ave — each deserving its own entry into the catalog of Eye Candy in our region. Each represents an important time in history and Lansing's development. The new Michigan Realtors Association now becomes part of Lansing's history, representing the era that we are now all living through.

"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.

After Eric Schertzing

We were as surprised as anyone by last week's announcement that long-time Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing plans to step down next June from the elected position he has held for the last two decades. With three years remaining on his four-year term, Schertzing says he is relocating to Washington, D.C., where his wife, Nancy, has plans to advance her career.

Schertzing leaves a long and commendable legacy of sound fiscal management as county treasurer and deserves oceans of accolades for his pioneering work as the founder and driving force behind only the second county land bank in Michigan. Under Schertzing's tutelage, the Ingham County Land Bank has played a major role in rejuvenating Lansing's aging housing stock, strengthening access to local food, and even helping some key economic development projects across the finish line. His relentless and effective work on foreclosure prevention, helping thousands of people in danger of losing their homes, also has been a stabilizing influence on city neighborhoods.

Because the county treasurer is an elected position with good pay — more than \$100,000 annually — and no term limits, the job opening will likely attract a swarm of politicians looking for a new gig. The three-person panel of county elected officials responsible for appointing Schertzing's replacement will undoubtedly be lobbied by numerous people who aspire to be the next treasurer and by special interest groups looking to snag the seat for one of their own.

Too often, local government vacancies are filled through a behind-the-scenes, patronage-based process that rewards party loyalty and longevity over bonafide qualifications and competence. We would hate to see Schertzing's portfolio handed over to whichever Democratic party hack is thought by insiders to be next in line for the job.

We suggest the panel avoid the political jockeying altogether and appoint Schertzing's chief deputy, Alan Fox, as his successor. We have no idea if Fox is interested in running for the permanent job in next November's general election, but in the meantime we like the idea of maintaining as much continuity as

CityPULSE



The CP Edit

Opinion

possible to ensure that the Land Bank's work moves forward in Schertzing's absence.

Over the long term, the qualities and experience we want to see in the county's next treasurer are based largely on the mold Schertzing himself cast for the role. We're looking for someone with strong financial management skills, real estate savvy, the ability to work collegially and collaboratively with municipalities and constituent groups across the county, passion for urban neighborhood revitalization, and a deep commitment to transparency and accountability.

Following in Schertzing's footsteps will be a tall order. We hope a strong slate of well-qualified candidates emerge so voters will have the opportunity to elect an exceptional successor to build on his important and impactful work.

Don't recall Betz

We don't write this with any particular urgency or passion, but we generally oppose the effort to recall First Ward Lansing City Councilman Brandon Betz. Betz has had a bumpy ride during his first term in office, but he hasn't done anything so egregious as to warrant being recalled, which we think should be used to remove elected officials who commit serious misconduct or malfeasance in office.

We certainly don't condone Betz's multiple missteps since he was elected to the office in 2019, especially his profane and unprofessional rant against a Lansing Black Lives Matter activist, which earned him a stern rebuke from his Council colleagues, the loss of his committee assignments, and cost him his day job. We continue to be disappointed that he can't seem to keep his foot out of his mouth, most recently when he described BLM as a niche organization that doesn't represent the community.

For better or worse, Betz hasn't followed the path anyone expected. His sudden switch from hard line socialist and anti-Schor agitator to newly moderate, back-slapping pal of the mayor infuriated his most ardent supporters, who worked hard to get him elected based on his far-left, antiestablishment agenda. Yet we don't think Betz's ideological meanderings or his verbal diarrhea are sufficient to justify a recall.

We're also suspicious of the organizers of the effort, who aren't the disgruntled East Side lefties who believe Betz betrayed them, but rather a coven of Trump Republicans who apparently see an opportunity to oust Betz and presumably replace him with a right wing operative. If we didn't know any better, we might even think Councilwoman Carol Wood is involved as part of her efforts to assemble a conservative working majority on Council.

In any case, we favor allowing Betz to serve the remaining two years on his term, where he can still be a productive member of Council, and allowing his First Ward constituents the opportunity to determine his fate at the next regular city election.

Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages? Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor: E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com or mail: City Pulse 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912

Fax: (517) 371-5800 • lansingcitypulse.com

2.) Write a guest column: Contact Berl Schwartz for more information publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061.

(Please include your name, address and telephone number so we can reach you. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.)

Whitmer Stresses ‘Putting Michigan First’ After Dems Lose Virginia

A week after Democrats took a bath in Virginia and nearly lost the governorship in reliably blue New Jersey, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer put all of her public emphasis on her home state.

The Democratic governor and her reelection team sees the writing on the wall. Focusing on former President Donald Trump and national issues failed for Virginia governor candidate Terry McAuliffe. It isn't going to work for Whitmer either.

For the foreseeable future, Whitmer is keeping President Joe Biden and his dismal job approval ratings at arm's length while she does her own thing.

During her first press conference after the Virginia race was called, Whitmer stood behind a podium featuring a new slogan: "Putting Michigan First."

Yeah, it sounds a little Trumpian, but that's probably the point. The phrase didn't escape political consultant Dennis Lennox's attention.

"From bribing voters with no-fault refunds to copying her foe's American First slogan as the red wave swept Virginia and New Jersey, she is clearly very nervous about her re-election prospects," he said.

The subject of Whitmer's press conference? Signing legislation that eliminates the sales tax on tampons and other feminine hygiene products. That's a few extra bucks a month for roughly half of the state's population, something she's not going to get much pushback from.

When asked about Virginia -- where Democrats went from winning the state for Joe Biden by 10 points in 2020 to losing the governor's race by near 2 points -- Whitmer said:

"I'm not a pundit. I can tell you Virginia is Virginia. California is California. Michigan is Michigan. I get around the state of Michigan. I talk to Michiganders and I know that they want solutions from when it comes to everything to fixing the roads to making a fairer tax code to ensuring that those who are overpaying into the Catastrophic Claims fund get a refund.

"These are the things that I'm going to stay focused on. Michiganders are going to make future decisions in elections based on what's going on in their lives and what is a reflection of their



values."

"Michigan or Michiganders was used in some form five times in those 100 words, in case you didn't notice. Whitmer added that she's going to "stay tethered to the fundamentals," making the center of her energy going forward making sure everyone feels the benefits of the "great strides" made under her leadership.

She used the same phraseology later in the day as the Democratic Governors Association (DGA) sent out a press release on the "financial boon" Michigan drivers will feel when they receive a refund check from the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association, something she got out in front of last week.

"As we continue to put Michiganders first, I am always working to find ways to lower costs and use every resource we have to help Michiganders thrive," she said.

The communications director of the National Governors Association, Sam Newton, stressed that Whitmer's "bold solutions to the state's largest challenges" is "getting the job done."

Meanwhile, the Michigan Republican Party is doing the opposite. They're digging under the deck for any rope they can find to tie Whitmer with Biden and his "sinking ship."

"The results seen across our country show the Biden-Whitmer agenda being rejected by wide margins," said MRP Communications Director Gustavo Portela. "It's further evidence that Joe Biden and Gretchen Whitmer continue to be out of touch with the American people."

Democrats nationally understand the drag they're causing and stepped up their act last weekend. Passing the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure plan -- which will mean another \$10 billion for Michigan -- helps erase the perception that the majority party in Washington is spinning its tires.

Whether they can pull the Build Back Better over the finish line is the next step.

Either way, Whitmer will gladly spend whatever money Michigan gets from Uncle Joe to help Michiganders here in Michigan.

That's only three Michigan references in 19 words.

I'd try for a few more, but you get the point.

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

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES LOCATED AT 3209 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Sanders, Treasurer McKenzie
Trustees: Harris, Brewer, Ruiz
MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Broughton
ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:
Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.
Minutes of the regular meeting held on October 12, 2021 and the special meeting held on October 18, 2021 approved.
Agenda approved as amended.
Public hearing held on 2021 Street Lighting Special Assessment Roll.
Adopted Resolution 21-23: Resolution to Confirm 2021 Street Lighting Special Assessment Roll.
Annual public hearing held on 2022 General Fund and Special Fund Budgets.
2021 Special Fund Budget Amendments approved.
Adopted Resolution 21-24: To Adopt the 2022 General Fund Budget.
Approved Resolution to Adopt the 2022 Lansing Charter Township Street Light Special Assessments and Certify the Millage for the 2021 Tax Rolls.
Approved 2022 Special Fund Budgets.
Approved adoption of 2022 Rental Fund Budget.
Approved adoption of 2022 ARPA Special Fund Budget.
Approved adoption of West Side Water Budget.
Approved 2021 Agreement for Local Road Improvement.
Tabled Resolution 21-25: Resolution Authorizing Sale of Vacant Lot at 524 S. Charles St.
Approved entering into Executive Session for pending litigation -- Eastwood LLC v Charter Township of Lansing, Case # 21-0624-CB.
Approved returning to Regular session.
Claims approved.
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor
Maggie Sanders, Clerk

CP#21-249

THANK YOU FOR SPONSORING ROCKIN' FOR ALZ



Dr. Shafer, the Alzheimer's Association and Dr. Fab and the Off the Couch Band thank the following community partners for making Rockin' For Alz a huge success and supporting the Alzheimer's Association's vision of a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia.



The Care Team | Burcham Hills | Hospice of Lansing
Chalgian and Tripp Law Offices | Sparrow Hospital | Sinas Dramis Law Firm
Safe Haven Assisted Living/Haven Is Your Home Health Care
Marek & Associates | TheraManager | Dr. Matthew Yeomans | Oasis
Grand Haven Living Center | Advance Pain Solutions
The Willows of East Lansing & Okemos | Delta Dental | Erica Sheets Realtor
Cypress Home Care | Cognitive Consultants | Andy & Tracy Riddle DO
Ambrose Consulting | Neuropsych Partners | Genesis Campus | Coverys
Neurobehavioral Health & Wellness | Kristin Bredin | Encore Reis
Grand Pointe Marina | Waggoner Financial | Robinwood Landing
Evergreen Dentistry | Hagen Rodriguez Periodontists | Dr. Aggarwal
Home Instead | Centria Health Care | Bay Area Family Care | Nick Norris
Charlotte Family Dentistry | Miotech | Shelton Rehabilitation Consulting
Wellspring Case Management | Independence Village Grand Ledge
Dr. Gary Ferencheck | Huntington Bank | Jill Clouser | Kate Hodgkins
Kathy Mrozinski | Jordan Stoddard | Ashley Crosser
Thompson Photography | D and M Silkscreening | Pat and Sally Leblanc
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Ingham County prosecutor's felony firearm policies misguided

OPINION

(This is a joint op-ed from the board of directors at Crimestoppers of Mid-Michigan, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization organized in 1989 with a goal to make Ingham, Eaton, Clinton, Jackson and Shiawassee counties a safer place to live and work.)

The city of Lansing reported its 21st murder of the year in mid-September, and in many of these incidents, a firearm was the weapon used. Sadly, these violent crimes are happening across the counties that Crimestoppers of Mid-Michigan represents, as well as the state and nation.

The Crimestoppers of Mid-Michigan board of directors is alarmed when any prosecutor decides that the Legislature was misguided in establishing statutes used in virtually every other Michigan county, specifically the Michigan motor vehicle code and the felony firearms statute, and institutes policies in direct conflict with established laws.

We encourage the Ingham County prosecutor to reevaluate these policies and begin to enforce all current laws on the books to make Ingham County and neighboring communities safer places to live and work.

Crimestoppers believes that our law enforcement agencies should be able to access and utilize every tool made available to them by the Legislature as well as the financial resources made available at all levels of government.

The Crimestoppers board of directors believes that: the Ingham County

prosecutor's adoption of the policies described below is misguided and leads to an increase in crime in Ingham County and neighboring communities as well as elevating the danger to the law enforcement community. The policies at issue, adopted by the Ingham County Prosecutor, include:

- No longer issuing charges for contraband legally discovered during routine traffic stops, if the traffic stop was made for only faulty equipment or other non-public safety reasons.
- No longer issuing felony firearms charges when the suspect or suspects are armed with a firearm, whether actually used in the commission of that felony, only issued under the most extreme circumstances.

These policies are opposed by many in our community, including a wide spectrum of the law enforcement community as well as many surviving victims of gun violence. Many of these crimes have occurred in the city of Lansing, and Mayor Andy Schor has asked the prosecutor to reconsider these policies.

Crimestoppers of Mid-Michigan operates outside the arms of any of the law enforcement agencies it serves, solicits anonymous tips from the public and provides rewards to citizens when their calls lead to the arrests of individuals sought. These policy decisions by the Ingham County prosecutor are counter to the mission of Crimestoppers of Mid-Michigan.

LETTERS to the editor

Keep Medicare Advantage strong

Having served in the Michigan State House, I am very familiar with the needs of my community. Now in my retirement, issues that I once advocated for as an ally on the House floor have become highly personal. One such concern is health care coverage for seniors.

When I retired, through my advocacy for senior health, I knew I wanted to enroll in Medicare Advantage. Medicare Advantage is the only program that provides full-service coverage at a manageable price, bringing peace of mind to the nearly 1 million Michigan seniors who are currently enrolled. four years after

enrolling myself, I couldn't be happier with my coverage.

From accessing prescription drug coverage and delivery services to wellness programs and vision, hearing and dental benefits, Medicare Advantage responds to each and every senior health need. And not only does Medicare Advantage address the services we want, but those services are provided at a price we can afford. With premiums set to decrease an additional 10% this year, Medicare Advantage continues to help seniors lead healthier lives without causing financial stress.

It is critical that Representative Slotkin continue to support Medicare Advantage to ensure seniors are connected with essential, affordable care. Protecting this program is critical to addressing senior health needs.

**Tom Cochran
Mason**



Thank you, Lansing!

We're so excited to have been voted Top of the Town! We inside the firm know about the great things we're doing (and working towards), but we'd be lying if we said we didn't crave the external validation too. So thank you!

And be sure to keep your eyes peeled for what we've got coming next. We love being top of the town, but we're aspiring to be top of the entire state as we work towards shaping a better justice system for every Michigander.

-Coontz Law



ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Spiral Dance Bar to reopen under new ownership — and with a new name

City Council approves liquor license transfer ahead of nightclub reopening plans

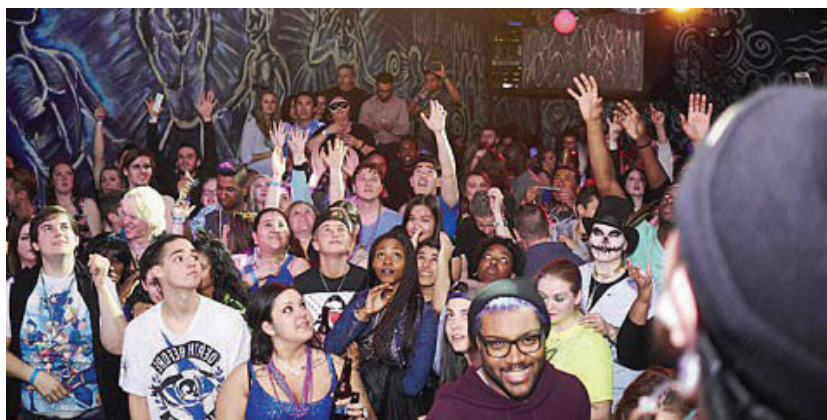
By KYLE KAMINSKI

An acclaimed gay bar in Old Town that closed at the beginning of the pandemic is one step closer to reopening its doors. And although the new prospective owner plans to ditch the Spiral Dance Bar name, he wants to maintain its inclusive theme as a haven for the LGBTQ+ community.

The Lansing City Council approved a liquor license transfer on Monday at the old Spiral building to Lorenzo's LLC — a company owned by Adam Brewer, a local landlord and Okemos resident who has been negotiating a purchase agreement since the summer. Now, the transfer just needs approval from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission before the sale is finalized.

"We were thinking we could open in October but now we're not totally sure," Brewer explained. "It depends on the liquor license. It could take a couple weeks or it could take a couple months. We do have a new name, and we could open as soon as four weeks after we get the license."

Brewer said he won't disclose the



Courtesy

Spiral Dance Bar has changed ownership and will reopen under a different name.

club's new name until the \$800,000 sale with current owner Tom Donall is finalized. But he emphasized that very little about the place will change: It will still be marketed as a gay bar. There will still be drag shows. There will still be live entertainment.

Brewer's attorney, Amanda Dernovshek, said the club — whenever it reopens — will continue operating "in a similar fashion" on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays with dancing and music. She labeled the plans as a "continuation" of the old Spiral, with a new owner and a new name.

The purchase agreement between Donall and Brewer hinges on the

transfer of its liquor license and calls for \$60,000 to be paid at closing and four additional lump sum payments of \$20,000. The remaining \$460,000 balance — which includes the liquor license — will be paid monthly.

"Spiral closed at the onset of the endemic and new ownership is looking to reopen this with some minor changes in store," explained Council Vice President Adam Hussain. "The license types are historically what Spiral already had. They just want to continue the same operations."

Spiral closed last March because of the pandemic and never reopened. Brewer, who is originally from Leslie, said he made a nonrefundable deposit on the property in September. He is planning a few renovations, but he said patrons can still expect an LGBTQ+ focused entertainment destination, with plenty of music, dancing and live shows. The latest city license transfer still calls for "topless" dancers — namely for half-naked men in banana hammocks.

Donall, who initially put Spiral on the market in April 2019, said that maintaining the central theme of the old nightclub and dance bar was a critically important aspect of the potential sale. The only other specifically designated LGBTQ+ bar in Greater Lansing is Esquire Bar, a block away in Old Town. However, that club does not allow anyone under age 21 to

enter. And while it has a small dance floor, it's mostly just a neighborhood bar designed for socializing.

In a world where the LGBTQ+ community is gaining more and more acceptance and defined sexual identities are becoming less and less rigid, Donall recognized that just about every bar could now be considered a gay bar. Still, he thinks it's important to carve out a specific space.

"I think a lot of people like coming to gay clubs — and not just gay people," Donall said. "The music and the people are fun. People like to hang out with the gay community. I also think that with all the crazy stuff happening in the world, it's important to keep our community together."

Spiral opened in 2000 as part of an influx of new investment in Old Town. It was also a time of dislocation for the city's gay bars, which had been ousted from Michigan Avenue to make way for the baseball stadium. Its establishment helped anchor Old Town as an LGBTQ+ stronghold.

Donall also owns and operates The Palace, a prominent gay bar in Miami Beach. He told City Pulse that he decided to sell Spiral to focus his attention on his other business endeavors.

"I'm not in Lansing anymore and it's just difficult to run the business there. The whole time I've been hoping that someone would take it over and keep it going as a gay bar," Donall said. Brewer said he owns several other properties in Old Town. He owned Brewer Iron and Metal, a local recycling business focused on recycling and selling used cars. He sold the business to Padnos and now tows vehicles to them for recycling with his tow company, Gigi's. He also owns rental properties under various companies: Old Town LLC; Drew LLC and Brewer Housing LLC.

More than 100 people shared a Facebook post that noted he was seeking employees for the new club.



Courtesy

New owner Adam Brewer says he is planning to keep the former dance club LGBTQ+-focused.

See Spiral, Page 16

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Spiral

from page 14

Brewer told City Pulse this week that hiring was going “well” ahead of the launch.

Rodger Geissman, also known as DJ Lipgloss, has also been hired as entertainment manager and show director for the new gay club. Geissman has a long history in Michigan’s LGBTQ+ community of developing and promoting drag shows from Lansing to Grand Rapids.

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Favorite Things

Anais Stauffer and her haunted book

Anais Stauffer is an artist that produces ambient and harsh noise music. She stumbled upon her favorite thing after venturing into the attic of her old home in Saginaw.

My favorite thing is a haunted book. It is a copy of a book called “A Hospital Story,” by Sara Bonnett Stein. It is a parent/children reader from the ’70s about a girl who has to have her tonsils taken out and has surgery for the first time.

In 2008, I was a rat-ty teenage stoner kid living in a bad neighborhood in Saginaw by a liquor store. One day, my friends and I decided we wanted to get into the attic of our house. We got some chairs and scrambled up into the attic of this old house that was built in the ’50s.

We got up in there and it was a filthy mess. Nobody had been up there in decades. There was an old baby’s crib and tons of rat-chewed, decomposing dolls and stuffed animals. On one of the walls of the attic, there was a big opening. The opening led to a chute that went down to in between the walls of the house.

We decided we had to get down there. We backed out and went to a friend’s house to get a length of rope, so we can rappel down the chute. We tied the rope to the chimney and rappelled down the chute. At the bottom of the chute there was this room between the walls of the house, big enough to stand up in. There was a mattress down there and old children’s school notebooks — different kids



and different names.

Down there also was the copy of “A Hospital Story.” We explored more, and it was like a spiral. There were different crawl space sized rooms that got smaller and smaller until they eventually ended.

I pulled the book out of that room down there and it’s been in my possession ever since. It’s one of my most treasured items. I think that house was haunted and I think this object carries the energy from that house. It’s something I love to show people and tell them the story about it. I don’t know what happened in that house, but I had cats that would act real weird in that house. It was torn down a few years ago, so whatever mysteries were there — it’s all gone now.

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

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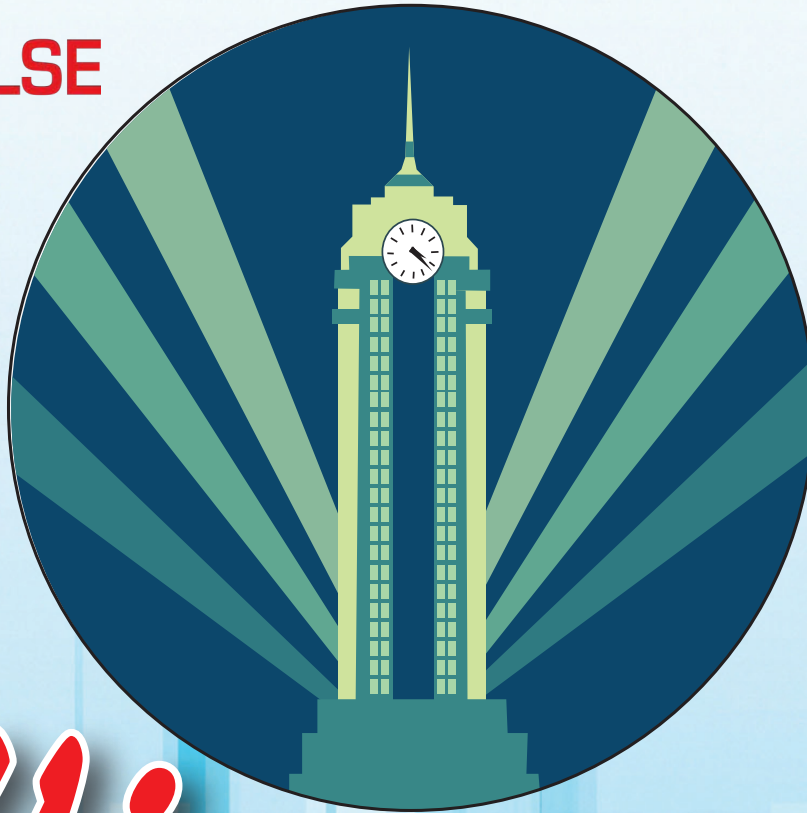
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Congratulations to all

2021 TOP OF THE TOWN

CityPULSE



Winners!

After 32,000 nominations and almost 84,000 votes by 9,339 voters, the 14th annual Top of the Town contest is behind us. This contest serves as a reminder every single year of the great things we have here in Lansing — whether it's the brand new stuff we've yet to try out, or our old reliable favorites we've been enjoying seemingly forever.

We've broken up each of the winners and runners-up by the 9 main categories and highlighted some of the interesting results we've gathered from the contest's conclusion. Every individual person, place and thing listed in the following pages experienced a hard-fought battle in the digital trenches of the Lansingcitypulse.com voting portal, and they all rightfully earned their spot.

If you casted even a single nomination or vote, we salute you for helping grow Top of the Town into what it is today — none of this is possible without you. And without further ado, here is the best of the best Lansing has to offer:

TOP OF THE TOWN 2021

Winners

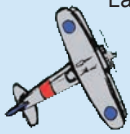
Presented by CityPULSE and FOX 47 NEWS

BARS



The results of this year's Top of the Town contest also serve as the ultimate guidebook for a great night out in Greater Lansing. Perhaps you could start out with dinner at El Azteco West, which voters decided serves up the best margaritas in the region. From there, you could keep on drinking Lansing's best cocktails at Lansing's best distillery, American Fifth Spirits, or venture east to dance the night away at the best jam night and best dance bar, Green Door Bar & Grill.

The smokey barbecue flavors at MEAT Southern BBQ best bar food, a close race with the Art's Pub on E. Kalamazoo Street. One of the oldest watering holes in Lansing, Stober's Bar, also took home the title of a new award: the region's best dive bar. In East Lansing, Crunchy's also took gold for best karaoke and place to watch MSU play sports.



The boozy tour of Greater Lansing could also include a stop at Zoobie's Tavern in Old Town, which voters decided is the best tavern with the best happy hour specials for a discount buzz. And we know our readers will have a fabulous time at The Avenue, which not only won out for best mic night but took the title for the most LGBTQ-friendly bar in the Lansing region.

Other winners included Lansing Brewing Co., Harry's Place and One North Kitchen & Bar.

COCKTAILS

American Fifth Spirits Winner
Avenue Cafe Second Place
Dagwood's Tavern & Grill Runner Up

DANCE BAR

Green Door Bar & Grill Winner
Avenue Cafe Second Place
Exchange Runner Up

DIVE BAR

Stober's Bar Winner
Dagwood's Tavern & Grill Second Place
Avenue Runner Up

FOOD

MEAT Southern BBQ and Carnivore Cuisine Winner
Art's Pub Second Place
Dagwood's Tavern & Grill Runner Up

HAPPY HOUR

Avenue Cafe Winner
Esquire Bar Second Place
Reo Town Pub Runner Up

JAM NIGHT

Green Door Bar & Grill Winner
Avenue Cafe Second Place
Moriarty's Pub Runner Up

KARAOKE

Crunchy's East Lansing Winner
Avenue Cafe Second Place
LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill Runner Up

LANSING AREA BREWERY

Lansing Brewing Co. Winner
Ozone's Brewhouse Second Place
BAD Brewing Co. Runner Up

LANSING AREA DISTILLERY

American Fifth Spirits Winner
Sanctuary - Distillery, Brewery & Winery Second Place
Michigrain Distillery Runner Up

LGBTQ-FRIENDLY BAR

Avenue Cafe Winner
Esquire Bar Second Place
Reo Town Pub Runner Up

MARGARITA

El Azteco - West Winner
Barrio East Lansing Second Place
Cancun Mexican Grill Runner Up

NEIGHBORHOOD BAR

Harry's Place Winner
Avenue Cafe Second Place
Dagwood's Tavern & Grill Runner Up

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Avenue Café Winner
Crunchy's East Lansing Second Place
Moriarty's Pub Runner Up

PUB/TAVERN

Zoobie's Old Town Tavern Winner
Dagwood's Tavern and Grill Second Place

Moriarty's

SPARTAN SPORTS HANGOUT

Crunchy's East Lansing Winner
Dagwood's Tavern & Grill Second Place
Reno's East Runner Up

SPORTS BAR

One North Kitchen & Bar Winner
Nuthouse Sports Grill Second Place
Art's Pub Runner Up

CANNABIS



We made cannabis a separate category in 2020 as Greater Lansing's budding recreational marijuana industry was just planting its roots. And this year, it's in full bloom with more than two dozen pot shops (and even more growing operations) within an hour's drive of the Capital City.

And voters decided the trip to Laingsburg was well worth the extra gas money, selecting Local Roots Cannabis Co. by landslide margins this year as the top provisioning center in the region. Ronda Liskey and her son Roy opened the shop in April and have made a name for themselves with some of the most potent and affordable weed available on the Greater Lansing market. More than 200 votes went to Local Roots; Second place was decided by only 60 votes.



Pure Options' newest pot shop near the Frandor Shopping Center took home Best CBD Store/Boutique. The 10,000-square-foot store opened in August. It's easily the largest shop in the area.

Top quality customer service from Jen Shallman at Pure Options makes her this year's favorite for best budtender, narrowly beating out Kira Dagostino at Skymint. Skymint was also neck-and-neck with Pure Options across many categories, but it swept best growing brand, best concentrates and best edibles.

This year's most popular strains — two from Skymint and one from Pure Options — are detailed in this week's Lansterdam in Review column by managing editor Kyle Kaminski. See page 38.

BUDTENDER

Jen Shallman - Pure Options Winner
Kira Dagostino - Skymint East Lansing Second Place

Spencer Donley - Pincanna Runner Up

CANNABIS FLOWER - HYBRID

Gelato 33-Skymint Winner
Moonbow 112 - Pure Options/Pro Gro Second Place

Pink cookies - Franklin Fields Runner Up

CANNABIS FLOWER - INDICA

Garlic Breath - Pure Options Winner
Platinum OG Kush - Skymint Second Place
Deathwalker OG - Radicle Genetics Runner Up

CANNABIS FLOWER - SATIVA

Clementine - SkymintxDNA Genetics Winner

Citrus Farmer - Pure Options Second Place
Tangie Diesel - Radicle Genetics Runner Up

CANNABIS GROWING BRAND

Skymint Winner
Pure Options (Pure Flower Co.) Second Place

Pincanna Runner Up

CANNABIS - CONCENTRATE

Skymint Winner
Full Spectrum Extracts Second Place

North Coast Extracts Runner Up

CANNABIS - EDIBLE

Skymint Winner
Pure Options Second Place

Pincanna Runner Up

CBD STORE/BOUTIQUE

Pure Options - Frandor Winner
Sweetheart Essentials Second Place

Pincanna - East Lansing Runner Up

INDOOR GROW SHOP

Skymint Brands Winner
Pure Options - ProGrow Second Place

Pincanna Runner Up

MARIJUANA PROVISIONING CENTER

Local Roots Winner
Skymint Lansing - Saginaw St Second Place

Botanical Co. - Lansing Runner Up

MARIJUANA PROVISIONING CENTER - EAST LANSING

Pincanna - East Lansing Winner
Pleasantrees Second Place

Skymint Runner Up

See more winners on page 19



THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOTES

voted

#1

Top of the Town

2021

CityPULSE
FOX 47 NEWS

• Karaoke
• Spartan Sports Hangout

• Burger
• Ranch
• Trivia
• Comedy Night
• Open Mic Night
• Best Hangout for Students

voted

TOP 3

Top of the Town

2021



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EAST LANSING, MI



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NUTHOUSE
SPORTS GRILL

voted

TOP 3

Top of the Town

2021

BEST SPORTS
BAR!

Thanks for your votes, Lansing!

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TOP OF THE TOWN 2021

From page 19

KIDS EAT FREE RESTAURANT	
Cosmos/Zoobies Tavern	Winner
Texas Roadhouse	Second Place
Buddies Grill	Runner Up
LATE NIGHT FOOD	
Fleetwood Diner	Winner
Pizza House	Second Place
Conrad's Grill	Runner Up
MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT	
Zaytoon Mediterranean	Winner
Woody's Oasis	Second Place
Aladdin's	Runner Up

MEXICAN RESTAURANT - CHAIN	
Cancun Mexican Grill	Winner
Fiesta Charra - East Lansing	Second Place
Fiesta Charra Mexican Restaurant - DeWitt	Runner Up
MEXICAN RESTAURANT - NON CHAIN	
Pablo's Old Town	Winner
El Oasis	Second Place
El Azteco - West	Runner Up
NACHOS	
MEAT Southern BBQ	Winner
El Azteco	Second Place
Lansing Brewing Co.	Runner Up
NEW RESTAURANT	
One North Kitchen & Bar	Winner
Good Truckin Food	Second Place
Babe's Corner	Runner Up
OLIVE BURGER	
Kewpee Sandwich Shop	Winner
Olympic Broil	Second Place
Dagwood's Tavern & Grill	Runner Up

PANCAKES	
Sophia's House of Pancakes	Winner
People's Kitchen	Second Place
Blondie's Barn	Runner Up
PHO	
Nola Bistro	Winner
Capital City BBQ	Second Place
Asia's Finest	Runner Up
PIZZA	
Klavyon's Pizzeria & Pub	Winner
Art's Pub	Second Place
Buddy's Pizza	Runner Up
PRIME RIB	
Airport Tavern	Winner
Capital Prime	Second Place
Texas Roadhouse	Runner Up
RAMEN	
Ruckus Ramen	Winner
Sapporo Ramen	Second Place
Bento Kitchen Cravings	Runner Up
RANCH DRESSING	
DeLuca's Restaurant	Winner
Crunchy's	Second Place

RESTAURANT BEER LIST	
Cugino's	Runner Up
HopCat	Winner
Lansing Brewing Co.	Second Place
Zoobie's Old Town Tavern	Runner Up
RESTAURANT FOR SENIORS	
Coral Gables	Winner
Spud's Family Restaurant	Second Place
Flap Jack Shack	Runner Up
RESTAURANT WINE LIST	
Dusty's Cellar	Winner
Soup Spoon Café	Second Place
Bridge Street Social	Runner Up
REUBEN	
Mr. Corned Beef	Winner
Stateside Deli & Restaurant	Second Place
Soup Spoon Cafe	Runner Up
SALAD/SALAD BAR	
Horrocks Farm Market	Winner
Leaf Salad Bar	Second Place
El Azteco	Runner Up

See more winners on page 21

Thank you for your Support!

#1 Insurance Agency

voted
#1
Top of the Town
2021
CityPULSE
FOX 47 NEWS



Congratulations to Ben Rathbun
#1 Insurance Agent!



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rathbunagency.com

TOP OF THE TOWN 2021

From page 20

SEAFOOD	
Sansu Sushi and Cocktails	Winner
Tangy Crab - Cajun Seafood and Bar	Second Place
Mitchell's Fish Market	Runner Up
SIGNATURE DISH	
Fleetwood Diner - Hippy Hash	Winner
Zaytoon Mediterranean - Chicken Shawarma	Second Place
MEAT Southern BBQ - Meat Mountain	Runner Up

SLIDERS	
Green Dot Stables	Winner
Dagwood's Tavern & Grill	Second Place
Art's Pub	Runner Up
SOUP	
Soup Spoon Cafe	Winner
Horrocks Farm Market Zoup!	Second Place
	Runner Up
STEAK	
Bowdie's Chophouse	Winner
Capital Prime	Second Place
Texas Roadhouse - E. Edgewood	Runner Up
SUB SANDWICH	
Jersey Giant - E. Saginaw	Winner
Mancino's	Second Place
Babe's Corner	Runner Up
SUSHI	
Maru Sushi & Grill	Winner
Sansu Sushi	Second Place
Sushi Moto	Runner Up
TACOS	
El Oasis	Winner
Pablo's Old Town	Second Place
Pancho's Taqueria	Runner Up

THAI	
Niang Myanmar Family Restaurant	Winner
Taste of Thai	Second Place
Bangkok House	Runner Up
UPSCALE DINING	
English Inn	Winner
Bowdie's Chophouse	Second Place
Red Haven Farm to Table Restaurant	Runner Up
VEGETARIAN/VEGAN/GLUTEN FREE RESTAURANT	
Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine	Winner
VEG-N	Second Place
Soup Spoon Cafe	Runner Up
WINGS	
MEAT Southern BBQ & Carnivore Cuisine	Winner
Eastside Fish Fry	Second Place
Art's Pub	Runner Up



See more winners on page 22

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2021
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TOP OF THE TOWN 2021

Winners

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WE WON!

BEST BOWLING ALLEY

Thanks to all who voted for us!

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Top of the Town
2021

CityPULSE

voted
TOP 3
Top of the Town
2021

Our Escape Room is Top Rated, too!

ESCAPOLOGY

The live escape game

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voted
TOP 3
Top of the Town
2021

Thank you for your support!
We are happy to serve you

HANGOUTS




Looking for something more than a bar or a restaurant? Voters decided there are plenty of other entertaining hangouts — something for all ages — across the Greater Lansing region this year.

Constellation Cat Café seems to have universal appeal this year — and not just for cat lovers. It won top honors as best coffee shop, best hangout for seniors and students and best trivia night.

And if you can manage to avoid a traffic jam in the produce section, Horrocks Farm Market won as the best place for a date night outside of a bar or restaurant, as well as the best solo hangout. It also won first place this year for the best patio hangout space in Greater Lansing.

While getting lost in the grocery store, perhaps you'll also want to consider hiring a babysitter to take the kids over to the Fenner Nature Center or the Impression 5 Science Center, which were named as the best nature center and the best local attraction for kids in this year's contest. Hawk Island Park was another local favorite, earning two titles for best park and best sled hill.

The best Biggby was on Saginaw Street. The best local library was in downtown Lansing. And gamers needn't look farther than Pinball Pete's in East Lansing for best-in-class pinball machines and other video games. The Avenue also won this year's title for best pool tables.



Other coveted hangouts included NCG Cinema, Riverview Church and Su Casa Smoke Shop. And don't forget to take Bailey, Mitzi or Mimi for a run at Soldan Dog Park, which won best dog park this year.

From page 21

BIGGBY		
2002 W. Saginaw	Winner	
2546 E Jolly	Second Place	
1602 Haslett Road, Haslett	Runner Up	
BOWLING ALLEY		
Spare Time Entertainment Center	Winner	
Royal Scot	Second Place	
City Limits - Mason	Runner Up	
CAPITAL AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY BRANCH		
CADL - Downtown Lansing	Winner	
CADL - Holt-Delhi Library	Second Place	
CADL - South Lansing Library	Runner Up	
COFFEE SHOP (NON-BIGGBY)		
Constellation Cat Cafe	Winner	
Strange Matter	Second Place	
Blue Owl Coffee	Runner Up	
COMEDY NIGHT		
BAD Brewing Co.	Winner	
Crunchy's East Lansing	Second Place (tie)	
Robin Theatre	Second Place (tie)	
CORN MAZE		
Uncle John's Cider Mill	Winner	
Best Maze	Second Place	
Shawhaven Farm	Runner Up	
DOG PARK		
Hawk Island - Soldan Dog Park	Winner	
Valhalla Park	Second Place	
Meridian Township Large Dog Park	Runner Up	
ESCAPE ROOM VENUE		
Breakout Escape Rooms	Winner	
Challenges East Lansing Escape Room	Second Place	
Escapology Escape Rooms	Runner Up	
GOLF COURSE		
Hawk Hollow Golf Course	Winner	
Groesbeck Golf Course	Second Place	
Eagle Eye Golf Course	Runner Up	
HANGOUT FOR SENIORS		
Constellation Cat Cafe	Winner	
Coral Gables	Second Place	
Spud's Family Restaurant	Runner Up	
HANGOUT FOR STUDENTS		
Constellation Cat Cafe	Winner	
Crunchy's East Lansing	Second Place	
Demented Mitten Tours, LLC	Runner Up	
HANGOUT SOLO		
Horrocks Farm Market	Winner	
Constellation Cat Cafe	Second Place	
Deadtime Stories: True Crime and Other Books	Runner Up	
HAUNTED ATTRACTION		
Demented Mitten Tour	Winner	
Jackson's Underworld	Second Place	
Shawhaven Farm	Runner Up	
LOCAL ATTRACTION FOR KIDS		
Impression 5 Science Center	Winner	
Constellation Cat Cafe	Second Place	
Potter Park Zoo	Runner Up	

See more winners on page 23

Su Casa

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MON-SAT 11-6 CLOSED SUNDAY
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Thanks for voting us
**Best Smoke Shop/
Hookah Lounge**



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FREE WATCH BATTERY
with mention of this ad



TOP OF THE TOWN 2021

From page 22

MOVIE THEATRE		
NCG Cinema	Winner	
Celebration Cinema	Second Place	
Studio C!	Runner Up	
MUSIC VENUE		
Green Door	Winner	
Avenue Cafe	Second Place	
Robin Theatre	Runner Up	
NATURE CENTER		
Fenner Nature Center	Winner	
Woldumar Nature Center	Second Place	
MSU Horticulture Gardens	Runner Up	

NON-BAR OR RESTAURANT DATE		
Horrocks Farm Market	Winner	
Old Town Lansing	Second Place	
Constellation Cat Cafe	Runner Up	
PATIO		
Horrocks Beer Garden	Winner	
One North Kitchen & Bar	Second Place	
Lansing Brewing Co.	Runner Up	
PLACE OF WORSHIP		
Riverview Church	Winner	
St. Gerard Catholic Church	Second Place	
Peoples Church	Runner Up	
PLACE TO PLAY PINBALL		
Pinball Pete's	Winner	
Avenue Cafe	Second Place (tie)	
Grid Arcade & Bar	Second Place (tie)	
PLACE TO PLAY VIDEO GAMES		
Pinball Pete's	Winner	
Grid Arcade & Bar	Second Place	
Avenue Cafe	Runner Up	
PLACE TO SHOOT POOL		
Avenue Cafe	Winner	
LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill	Second Place	

Pinball Pete's	Runner Up
PLACE TO SLED	
Hawk Island Park	Winner
Fitzgerald Park	Second Place
John Taylor Memorial Park (formerly Dead Man's Hill)	Runner Up
PUBLIC PARK	
Hawk Island Park	Winner
Fitzgerald Park	Second Place
MSU Horticulture Gardens	Runner Up
SMOKE SHOP/HOOKAH LOUNGE	
Su Casa	Winner
Wild Bill's	Second Place
Campbell's Smoke Shop	Runner Up
TABLETOP GAMING	
Grid Arcade & Bar	Winner
Summit Comics & Games	Second Place
Avenue Cafe	Runner Up
TRIVIA NIGHT	
Constellation Cat Cafe	Winner
Avenue	Second Place
Crunchy's	Runner Up



See more winners on page 24

Thank You!

for voting us

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LOCAL ARTS

Lansing is a hotbed of creativity that doesn't receive the recognition it deserves. Hopefully when you read through these winners, you find a new favorite band, artist or author. Seriously, give your local creatives a shot — you just might discover a beautiful diamond in the rough. Besides, do you how cool you sound at parties when you tell people you knew a big star before they were famous?

Starfarm received the Best Cover Band honors, thanks to their high energy performances of hit songs from the '80s. We had a tie for the Best Punk/Metal Band category — a two-way split between Rodeo Boys and Let it Rot. Maybe we should split that category up, considering that Rodeo Boys are distinctly punk and Let it Rot is metal. There's always next year!

Root Doctor, a Lansing stalwart that is retiring after this year, received the Best Jazz Musician/Group award, a well deserved sendoff for one of our city's longtime favorites. Meanwhile, Best Hip-Hop went to Ozay Moore, a highly creative, soulful M.C. and youth educator.

So, do yourself a favor and check out any of these above winners. You're bound to find something you can dig on.



TOP OF THE TOWN 2021

From page 23

ARTIST

Stephanie Hogan	Winner
Autumn Hopkins	Second Place
Ryan Holmes	Runner Up

CHORAL GROUP

Sistrum Lansing Women's Chorus	Winner
Lansing Children's Choir	Second Place
Steiner Chorale	Runner Up

CLASSICAL MUSICIAN

Gretchen Morse	Winner
Darin Lerner Jr.	Second Place
Sarah Wallace	Runner Up

CLUB DJ

DJ Ruckus - Steve Swart	Winner
DJ Mary X	Second Place
DJ Fudgie	Runner Up

COUNTRY ARTIST/BAND

Shelby & Jake	Winner
Whiskey Charmers	Second Place
Rachel Curtis	Runner Up
Swift Brothers	Runner Up

COVER BAND

Starfarm	Winner
Darin Lerner Band	Second Place
Global Village	Runner Up

EXPERIMENTAL MUSICAL ACT

Atomic Boogaloo	Winner
Mr. Denton on Doomsday	Second Place
Cavalcade	Runner Up

See more winners on page 25



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Cheers to 5 years!

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-The Sweets*



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TOP OF THE TOWN 2021

From page 24

FOLK ARTIST/BAND	
Sally Potter	Winner
Jen Sygit	Second Place
Creature of One	Runner Up
HIP-HOP ARTIST/GROUP	
Ozay Moore	Winner
Mikey Austin	Second Place
James Gardin	Runner Up
JAZZ MUSICIAN/GROUP	
Root Doctor	Winner
MSU Professors of Jazz	Second Place
Sunny Wilkinson	Runner Up

LOCAL THEATER GROUP	
Riverwalk Theatre	Winner
Artist's Umbrella	Second Place
Peppermint Creek	Runner Up
POTTERY STUDIO	
Wheel House Pottery	Winner
Greater Lansing Pottery Guild	Second Place
Playing Picasso	Runner Up
PUBLIC ART/SCULPTURE	
ART Path	Winner
Old Town mural by Nanibah Chacon	Second Place
Sparty	Runner Up
PUNK/METAL GROUP	
Let It Rot	Winner (tie)
Rodeo Boys	Winner (tie)
She/Her/Hers	Runner Up
ROCK ARTIST/BAND	
Starfarm	Winner
Frog & The Beeftones	Second Place
Rodeo Boys	Runner Up

See more winners on page 26

voted

TOP 3

Top of the Town 2021

Thanks for voting us in the Top 3 Auto Repair Shops!



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PINCANNA

voted

#1

Top of the Town 2021

CityPULSE

THANK YOU!
THE RESULTS ARE IN & YOU'VE VOTED US
BEST PROVISIONING CENTER
EAST LANSING

VOTED TOP 3
Cannabis Growing Brand
Edible
Indoor Grow Shop
Indica Flower (Radicle Genetics Deathwalker)
CBD Store Boutique in East Lansing



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FLOWER

SMALLZ
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\$99
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PEOPLE

This contest isn't just a time for the best local businesses to shine. It's also a nod to some of the key movers and shakers who are making it all happen. And from dedicated bus drivers and savvy politicians to world-class hair stylists and all-star educators — Lansing truly has 'em all.

Progressive politics took the cake this year. State Rep. Sarah Anthony was a clear favorite for the best local politician; Gov. Gretchen Whitmer won as best state politician and best advocate. Local activists Jerry Norris and Mike Karl were nearly tied for a second-place finish.

Former President Donald Trump was named the worst national politician for a second year. And despite being reelected in a landslide victory this month, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor managed to tie with State Sen. Mike Shirkey for the title of worst local politician.

Everett High School teacher Ben Billings won this year's title for best high school coach, ranking in this year among other top local educators like best high school teacher Stacie Forbes at Holt High School, top college instructor Jeana-Dee Allen at MSU, Grand Ledge dance instructor Sierra Erskine, personal trainer Abdullah Muhamad and yoga instructor Belinda Thurston.

New to this year's contest was the best handyman category, which went to Larry Feldpausch. Other top professionals included attorney Andrew Abood, Ozone's Brewhouse bartender KaLyn Wilder, Lansing Brewing Co. brewer Brian Wilson, CATA driver Ron DeLeon, MEAT BBQ chef Sean Johnson, cosmetic surgeon Dr. Rick Smith, cosmetologist Holly Roth at Pure Skincare, Ulta Beauty hair stylist Seth Ortega, insurance agent Ben Rathbun and real estate agent Kristen Clisch.

In the media world, Melik Brown at Stacks 92.1 won as the best local DJ and WLNS' Sheri Jones won best TV news personality. Lansing also picked a favorite comedian: Nicole Melnyk.

And Lansing's favorite cop is a dog. K9 Aiko at the Bath Township Police Department won first place in that category by more than 150 votes. Woof.



Anthony

FOOD DELIVERY PERSON
Khailea Pond- Shopping with Khai Winner
Jeremy Hurt-Red Bike Delivery Second Place
April Horton - Shipt Runner Up

HAIR STYLIST
Seth Ortega - The Salon at Ulta Beauty Winner
Ellie Wong - Holiday Lansing Parlor Second Place
Erika Lowe - Eastside Barbershop Runner Up

HANDYMAN
Larry Feldpausch - Grossbeck Painting & Handyman Service Winner
Gary Mugnolo, Honey-Do Handyman Service, LLC Second Place
Shawn Lettau- Chip off the Block Construction Runner Up

HIGH SCHOOL COACH
Ben Billings - Everett High School Winner
Jaleel Canty - Everett High School Second Place

Chris Tyler - Waverly High School Runner Up
HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER
Stacie Forbes - Holt High School Winner
Danelle Hovenkamp - Everett High School Second Place

Ben Billings - Everett High School Runner Up
INSURANCE AGENT
Ben Rathbun - Rathbun Insurance Winner
Tom DeVries-State Farm Second Place
Pam Lambropoulos Great Lakes State Agency Runner Up

LOCAL TV NEWS PERSONALITY
Sheri Jones - WLNS Winner
David Young - WLNS Second Place
Ann Emmerich - WILX Runner Up

MASSAGE THERAPIST
Anna Faye, Creative Wellness Winner
Amanda Tollstam - Holistic Therapy Massage & Bodywork Second Place
Flor De Maria - Holistic Health & Massage Runner Up

PERSONAL TRAINER
Abdullah Muhammad - AFitnessApp Winner
Ronica Rodriguez - Redemption Fitness Second Place
Brian Daniels - EmPOwer Lansing Runner Up

PIERCER
Aaron Wood (Malibu) REO Town Tattoo Co. Winner
Alix Mercer - Ink Therapy Lansing Second Place

Renee McKeith - Splash of Color Runner Up
POLICE OFFICER
Aiko - K9 - Bath Twp. Winner
Anthony Rodriguez - Lansing Police Dept. Second Place

Kara Freeman, Lansing Police Dept Runner Up
RADIO DJ
Melik Brown - Stacks 92.1 Winner
Monica Harris - 99.1 WFMK Second Place
Terry Stevens - Q106 WJXQ Runner Up

REALTOR
Kristen Clisch - Keller Williams Winner
Dani Fairman - Community Real Estate Second Place
Brecken Terry, Coldwell Banker Hubbell Briarwood Runner Up

RESTAURANT WAITSTAFF
Alisa "Cheese" Kowalski - Mitchell's Fish Market Winner
Steve Parmalee - Harry's Place Second Place
Angie Miller - Art's Pub Runner Up

TATTOO ARTIST
Shawn Farr, Ink Therapy Winner
Alex Martinez, Ink Therapy Second Place
Shaun Friday, Ministry Ink Runner Up

YOGA INSTRUCTOR
Belinda Thurston - Just B Yoga Winner
Deb Hart - Hilltop Yoga Second Place
Toni Thomas - Salt Yoga Runner Up

BEST LOCAL POLITICIAN
Sarah Anthony Winner
Chris Swope Second Place
Curtis Hertel Jr. Runner Up

WORST LOCAL POLITICIAN
Andy Schor Winner (tie)
Mike Shirkey Winner (tie)
Brandon Betz Second Place

BEST STATE/NATIONAL POLITICIAN
Gretchen Whitmer Winner
Elissa Slotkin Second Place
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) Runner Up
WORST STATE/NATIONAL POLITICIAN
Donald Trump Winner
Gretchen Whitmer Second Place
Mitch McConnell Runner Up

SERVICES

This category might wind up doing you a real solid. After all, sometimes you need deep insider knowledge to find the best deals on services such as oil and tire changes, or where to get a great haircut. When it comes to these things, the locals always know best. Luckily for anybody not in the know, our Top of the Town voters are supplying some valuable cheat codes. These winners represent a handy guide to the most reliable services here in Lansing.

In these stressful times, we could all use a relaxing time at the spa. If you're so inclined, Skin Studio 211 was deemed the Best Day Spa. Or maybe you need to hit the gym? Your best bet according to our voters is The Barre Code Gym. And if you want to follow all of that up with a nice massage, you might want to direct yourself to Creative

Wellness. If you're looking for help with home improvement, Top of the Town has you covered there too. Our voters recommend you hit up Guy with a Mullet Landscaping, recipient of Best Landscaping Company, to handle your dirty work. And can we just say, that's a wonderful name for a business?

In need of a root canal? McNiel Family Dentistry, declared this year's Best Dentist Office, has the fix. Looking to fulfill your dreams as the beautiful dancer you were meant to be? Perhaps you should begin your journey at Hive Dance Studio, winner of Best Dance Studio.

Whatever it is you might need or desire, it's more than likely that these winners have the solution you've been after.

ACCOUNTANT/CPA
Simplified Tax Service Winner
Maner Costerisan Second Place
McQuaid & Associates PC Runner Up

APARTMENTS
Motor Wheel Lofts Winner
REO Town Apartments Second Place
Quarry Apartments of DeWitt Runner Up

AUDIOLOGIST/HEARING FIRM
Mid-Michigan Ear Nose & Throat Winner
Hearing Health Center Second Place
Fluke Hearing Instruments Runner Up

AUTO BODY REPAIR SHOP
Jim's Auto Body Winner
Liskeys Auto Truck Service Second Place
Tripps Collision Second Place

AUTO REPAIR SHOP
Two Sons Automotive Winner
Shaheen Chevrolet Second Place
Randall Automotive Runner Up

BANK
Dart Bank Winner
PNC Bank Second Place
Independent Bank Runner Up

BARBER SHOP
East Side Barbershop Winner
Jerry's Hairport Second Place
Frador Barbershop Runner Up

BICYCLE SHOP
Spin Bicycle Shop Winner
Riverfront Cycle Second Place
Denny's Central Park Bikes Runner Up

TOP OF THE TOWN 2021

From page 25

ADVOCATE/ACTIVIST
Gretchen Whitmer Winner
Jerry Norris Second Place
Mike Karl Runner Up

ATTORNEY
Andrew Abood Winner
Jamie White Second Place
Dustyn Coontz Runner Up

BARTENDER
KaLyn Wilder - Ozone's Brewhouse Winner (tie)
Ralphie - The Avenue Cafe Winner (tie)
Sam Hutting - Watershed Tavern & Grill Second Place
Kyrie Higgins - Front 43 Runner Up

BREWER
Brian Wilson - Lansing Brewing Co. Winner

Dan Buonodono - EagleMonk Pub and Brewery Second Place
Dan Malone - Ozone's Brewhouse Runner Up
CATA BUS DRIVER

Ron DeLeon Winner
Karen Williams Second Place
Aaron Aikman Runner Up

CHEF
Sean Johnson - MEAT BBQ Winner
Steve Swart - Ruckus Ramen Second Place
Colin Davidoski - One North Kitchen & Bar Runner Up

COLLEGE INSTRUCTOR
Jeana-Dee Allen - MSU Winner
Mark Stevens - LCC Second Place
Ava Ordman - MSU College of Music Runner Up

COMEDIAN
Nicole Melnyk Winner
Dwayne Gill Second Place
Pat Sievert Runner Up

COSMETIC SURGEON
Dr. Rick Smith Winner
Dr. George Poletes Second Place
Dr. Andrew Zwyzghuizen Runner Up

DANCE INSTRUCTOR
Sierra Erskine - The Hive Grand Ledge Winner
Clara Martinez - Everett High School Second Place

Chloe Gonzales - Happendence Runner Up
DEVELOPER

Capital Area Housing Partnership Winner
Gillespie Group Second Place
Joe Gentilozzi Runner Up

ESTHETICIAN
Holly Roth- Pure Skincare and Acne Spa Winner
Lorin Cumberbatch Second Place
Bea Taylor - Gemini Waxing Co Runner Up

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TOP OF THE TOWN 2021

From page 26

BUILDING DEVELOPMENT	
The Hive	Winner
600 Block Michigan Avenue	Second Place
Cottage Lane - Leslie Street, Lansing	Runner Up
CAR WASH/DETAILING SERVICE	
Kwik Car Wash	Winner
Fast Eddie's Oil Change & Car Wash	Second Place
Mister Car Wash	Runner Up
CATERER/CATERING SERVICE	
Saddleback BBQ	Winner
MEAT Southern BBQ	Second Place

Smoke N' Pig	Runner Up
CEMETERY	
Mt. Hope Cemetery	Winner
Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens	Second Place
St. Joseph Cemetery	Runner Up
CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE	
Creative Wellness	Winner
Rassel-Daigneault Holistic Health Center	Second Place
Craft Chiropractic Creating Wellness Centers in Lansing	Runner Up
CLEANING SERVICE	
Domestic Divas	Winner
Len's Carpet Cleaning	Second Place
Molly Maid	Runner Up
CREDIT UNION	
MSU Federal Credit Union	Winner
Lake Trust Credit Union	Second Place
CASE Credit Union	Runner Up
COVID - CURBSIDE PICKUP	
Naing Myanmar Family Restaurant	Winner
Odd Nodd Art Supply	Second Place
Curvaceous Lingerie	Runner Up

COVID - ONLINE ORDERING	
Sleepwalker	Winner
Bad Annie	Second Place
Curvaceous Lingerie	Runner Up
DANCE STUDIO	
Hive Dance Studio	Winner
Happendance	Second Place
Everett Dance Program	Runner Up
DAY SPA	
Skin Studio 211	Winner
Creative Wellness	Second Place
Douglas J Salon	Runner Up
DENTIST OFFICE	
McNiell Family Dentistry	Winner
Scott T. Stevenson, DDS	Second Place
Dr. Susan S. Maples, DDS	Runner Up
DRY CLEANERS	
Baryames Cleaners	Winner
Maurer's	Second Place
S & Sue Cleaners & Tailors	Runner Up
FINANCIAL PLANNER/COMPANY	
Financial Strategies Group	Winner
Morrison Nordmann Wealth Management	Second Place

Maner Costerisan	Runner Up
FUNERAL HOME	
Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes	Winner
Estes-Leadley Funeral Homes	Second Place
Palmer Bush & Jensen Funeral Home	Runner Up
GYM/FITNESS STUDIO	
Barre Code - East Lansing	Winner
Westside Community YMCA	Second Place
Tri Fitness	Runner Up
HEATING/COOLING/PLUMBING CO.	
Hedlund Plumbing	Winner (tie)
North Winds Heating & Cooling Inc	Winner (tie)
Allstar Mechanical	Runner Up
HOME HEALTH CARE CO.	
Hospice of Lansing	Winner
Sparrow Home Care	Second Place
Mid-Michigan Home Care & Hospice	Runner Up
INSURANCE AGENCY	
Rathbun Agency Inc	Winner
Bye Insurance	Second Place

See more winners on page 28



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TOP OF THE TOWN 2021

From page 27

David Chapman Agency Runner Up
LANDSCAPING COMPANY
 Guy With a Mullet Landscaping Winner
 Hammond Farms Landscape Supply Second Place
 Stiles Lawn, Landscaping & Snow Removal Runner Up
LASER HAIR REMOVAL
 Skin Boss Med Spa Winner
 MSU Aesthetic & Laser Treatment Center Second Place
 Milan Laser Hair Removal Runner Up

LAW FIRM

Coontz Law Winner
 Willingham & Cote PC Second Place
 Kronzek Firm Runner Up

MASSAGE STUDIO

Creative Wellness Winner
 Patient Relaxation, LLC Second Place
 Bee Queener Massage Therapy Runner Up

MOST TRUSTWORTHY BUSINESS

Constellation Cat Cafe Winner
 Deadtime Stories: True Crime and Other Books Second Place
 Playmakers Runner Up

MUSIC LESSONS

Elderly Instruments Winner
 School of Rock Second Place
 Okemos Music Academy Runner Up

NAIL SALON

Lynny Nails - Grand Ledge Winner
 Polished Nail Salon Second Place
 Jenny Nails Runner Up

NEWS SOURCE

City Pulse Winner
 Lansing Facts Second Place
 WILX Runner Up

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION (local)

Elle's Place Winner
 Capital Area Humane Society Second Place
 Salus Center Runner Up

OIL CHANGE SHOP

Fast Eddie's Car Wash & Oil Winner
 Valvoline Instant Oil Change - East Lansing Second Place
 Big Rays Express Lube - Holmes Road Runner Up

OPTOMETRIST

L.O. Eyecare Winner
 Holt Eye Care Second Place
 Rule Eye Care Runner Up

PEST CONTROL COMPANY

Bug Man Inc. Winner
 Rose Pest Control Second Place
 Orkin Pest & Termite Control Runner Up

PET GROOMING

Kelly's Pet Boutique Winner
 Amanda's Grooming Second Place
 Old Town Tails Runner Up

PHARMACY (locally owned)

Central Pharmacy Winner
 Ware's Pharmacy Second Place
 MSU Health Care Pharmacy Runner Up

PHOTOGRAPHY

Erica Jo Photography Winner
 Natasha D Photography Second Place
 Lost Girl Vision Runner Up

POST OFFICE

Grand Ledge Winner
 East Lansing Second Place
 Delta Township Runner Up

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CO.

Gillespie Group Winner
 Lansing Housing LLC Second Place
 DTN Management Co. Runner Up

See more winners on page 29



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TOP OF THE TOWN 2021

From page 28

PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM	
Martin Waymire	Winner
Redhead Design Studio	Second Place
M3 Group	Runner Up
RADIO STATION	
92.1 Stacks	Winner
90.5 WKAR	Second Place
100.7 WITL	Runner Up
RESIDENTIAL REMODELING CO.	
Odd Fellows Contracting, Inc.	Winner
JJE Builder	Second Place
Exteriors of Lansing	Runner Up

SALON	
Holiday Lansing Parlor	Winner
Bliss Salon Spa Boutique	Second Place
Hair and Company	Runner Up
SENIOR LIVING	
The Willows at East Lansing	Winner
Burcham Hills	Second Place
Independence Village Grand Ledge	Second Place
TAILOR/SEAMSTRESS COMPANY	
Nu the Tailor	Winner
Silver Thread	Second Place
Liz's Alteration's & Gifts	Runner Ups
TANNING	
Uptown Sun Company	Winner
J2 Tanning	Second Place
Planet Fitness	Runner Up
TATTOO PARLOR	
Fish Ladder Tattoo Co.	Winner
Splash of Color	Second Place
Ink Therapy	Runner Up

THERAPY/THERAPIST SERVICE	
Orthopaedic Rehab Specialists	Winner
Creative Wellness	Second Place
Spring Forest Counseling	Runner Up
TOWING COMPANY	
Northside Towing	Winner
PJ's Towing	Second Place
Okemos Marathon	Runner Up
VETERINARIAN	
Waverly Animal Hospital Boarding & Grooming	Winner
Patterson Veterinary Hospital - Mason	Second Place
Haslett Animal Hospital	Runner Up
WEDDING SERVICES	
HotBeats Entertainment	Winner
Capitol City DJs	Second Place
Beckers Bridal	Runner Up
WIFI/INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER	
MetroNet East Lansing	Winner
Xfinity lansing mi	Second Place
AT&T Store	Runner Up

YOGA STUDIO	
Just B Yoga	Winner
Firefly Hot Yoga Bar	Second Place
Hilltop Yoga	Runner Up

See more winners on page 30



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SHOPPING



Where can you find awesome antiques? Original art? Books? Or perhaps some kitschy knick-knacks? If you want the best of the best shopping spots, why look no further than the hallowed halls of our Top of the Town winners. If you're looking for some new places to shake up your routine on your next outing for some much-needed retail therapy, you're in the right place.

Lansing has a handful of great locally owned book shops and they duked it out hard, but Schuler Books & Music rose victorious against a fierce newcomer and an old local favorite. Summit Comic & Games underwent a massive renovation this year, doubling in size, so it's fitting it fetched the Best Comic Shop award. Thrift Witch, which recently moved to Old Town from REO Town, continues to make a splash with its Best Consignment Shop victory.

The skirmish for Best Farmers Market is almost always neck and neck, and this year was no different. In a tight contest, Meridian Farmers Market ran away with the top prize. Meanwhile, Horrocks swept up several shopping awards, including Best Grocery Store (Local) and Best Cheese Department. Yes, the Best Cheese Department award is very necessary. We love our cheese, and we need to recognize who supplies the cream of the crop.

Best New Business went to Clean Refillery, a service that allows you to recycle your liquid products such as laundry detergent and dish soap. You can never go wrong by pitching in to become more environmentally friendly.

TOP OF THE TOWN 2021

From page 29

ANTIQUE SHOP		
Vintage Junkies	Winner	
Thrift Witch	Second Place	
St Vincent de Paul Society and Thrift Store	Runner Up	
ART GALLERY		
Lansing Art Gallery	Winner	
Absolute Gallery	Second Place	
REO Town Marketplace	Runner Up	
ASIAN MARKET		
Fresh International Market	Winner	
Oriental Mart	Second Place	
LLB Asian Market	Runner Up	
BEER SELECTION IN RETAIL STORE		
Horrocks Farm Market	Winner	
Mega Bev	Second Place	
Oades Big Ten	Runner Up	
BOOKSTORE (locally owned)		
Schuler Books	Winner	
Deadtime Stories: True Crime and Other Books	Second Place	
Curious Book Shop	Runner Up	
BUTCHER		
Monticello's Market & Butcher Block	Winner	
Merindorf Meats	Second Place	
Mert's Meats	Runner Up	
CANDY STORE		
Fabianos Candies	Winner	
Peanut Shop	Second Place	
Kean's	Runner Up	
CHEESE DEPARTMENT		
Horrocks Farm Market	Winner	
MSU Dairy Store	Second Place	
Monticello's Market & Butcher Shop	Runner Up	
CLOTHING STORE (locally owned)		
Sweetlee's Boutique	Winner	
Curvaceous Lingerie	Second Place	
Metro Retro	Runner Up	
COMIC SHOP		
Summit Comics & Games	Winner	
Cards in the Corner	Second Place	
Creating Heroes Stephens Way	Runner Up	
CONSIGNMENT SHOP		
Thrift Witch	Winner	
Metro Retro	Second Place	
Kellie's Consignments	Runner Up	
FARMERS MARKET		
Meridian Farmers Market	Winner	
Allen Farmers Market	Second Place	
Holt Farmers Market	Runner Up	

FLORIST		
Van Atta's Greenhouse & Flower Shop	Winner	
Where the Wild Things Bloom	Second Place	
Horrocks Farm Market	Runner Up	
FURNITURE STORE		
Michigan Barn Wood & Salvage LLC	Winner	
Vintage Junkies	Second Place	
Pilgrim House Furniture	Runner Up	
GARDENING CENTER		
Horrocks Farm Market	Winner	
VanAtta's Greenhouse & Flower Shop	Second Place	
Lansing Gardens	Runner Up	
GAS STATION		
Speedway (all locations)	Winner	
Costco	Second Place	
Sam's Club	Runner Up	
GIFT SHOP		
Old Town General Store	Winner	
Kean's	Second Place	
Bad Annie's Sweary Goods	Runner Up	
GROCERY STORE (locally owned)		
Horrocks Farm Market	Winner	
Westlund's Apple Market	Second Place	
Monticello's Market & Butcher Block	Runner Up	
HARDWARE STORE		
Vet's Ace Hardware	Winner	
Great Lakes Ace Hardware - Frandor	Second Place	
Menards - South Lansing	Runner Up	
HOT TUB/POOL/SAUNA STORE		
Heat & Sweep	Winner	
Cannonball Pools	Second Place	
Classic Pool & Spa Inc.	Runner Up	
JEWELRY STORE		
Sweet Custom Jewelry	Winner	
Wheat Jewelers	Second Place	
Becky Beauchine Kulka Diamonds & Fine Jewelry	Runner Up	
LIQUOR STORE		
Mega Bev	Winner	
(Oades) Big Ten Party Store West	Second Place	
ABC Liquor	Runner Up	
MUSICAL INSTRUMENT STORE		
Elderly Instruments	Winner	
Marshall Music	Second Place	
Music Instrument Swap	Runner Up	
NEW BUSINESS		
Clean Refillery	Winner	
Chrysalis Reflexology Hypnosis & Enrichment Center LLC	Second Place	
Hive Hair Studio	Runner Up	
ORGANIC/NATURAL MARKET		
Horrocks Farm Market	Winner	
Allen Farmers Market	Second Place	
Fresh Thyme	Runner Up	
OUTDOOR/CAMPING STORE		
Moosejaw	Winner	
Cabela's - Lansing	Second Place	
Sportsman's Warehouse	Runner Up	
PET STORE		
Preuss Pets	Winner	
Soldan's Pet Supplies	Second Place	
PetSmart	Runner Up	
PLACE TO BUY MUMS		
Horrock's Farmers Market	Winner	
Van Atta's Greenhouse & Flower Shop	Second Place	
Hyacinth House	Runner Up	
QUALITY DAIRY		
2233 Cedar Street, Holt	Winner	
2400 E Michigan Avenue	Second Place	
1412 W Mt Hope Ave, Lansing	Runner Up	
RECORD/CD STORE		
Flat, Black & Circular	Winner	
Record Lounge	Second Place	
Schuler Books	Runner Up	
SECONDHAND SHOP		
Metro Retro	Winner	
Thrift Witch	Second Place	
Vintage Junkies	Runner Up	
SEX SHOP		
Cirilla's	Winner	
Deja Vu Love Boutique	Second Place	
Lion's Den	Runner Up	
THRIFT STORE		
St. Vincent De Paul	Winner	
Thrift Witch	Second Place	
Metro Retro	Runner Up	
TIRE STORE		
Discount Tire	Winner	
Belle Tire	Second Place	
Discount Store - W. Saginaw	Runner Up	
USED CAR DEALERSHIP		
Shaheen Chevrolet	Winner	
Feldman Chevrolet	Second Place	
Sundance Chevrolet	Runner Up	
VAPE SHOP		
Wild Bills' Tobacco	Winner	
Haven Smoke Shop	Second Place	
Mr. Vapor	Runner Up	
VIDEO GAME STORE		
Disc Traders	Winner	
Replay Entertainment Exchange	Second Place	
Swap Meet	Runner Up	

WINE SHOP		
Horrocks Farm Market	Winner	
Dusty's Cellar	Second Place	
Burgdorf's Winery	Runner Up	

WHATEVER



The Best Whatever category is always solid gold. This is where all the out of order stuff that we couldn't fit anywhere else belongs. Best Whatever is always a good opportunity for Lansing to deliver a healthy dose of snark. Right off the bat, we'd like to draw your attention to the Worst Eyesore Award, which was given to the garish house on the corner of Michigan Avenue and Lathrop Street that is draped in tacky Donald Trump memorabilia. Another dirty award is Worst pothole. The damn near sinkhole that took that prize can be found on Kalamazoo Avenue in front of Eastside Fish Fry.

But it's not all bad. We honored the Best Urban Farm – this year our readers declared it to be the Hunter Park Gardenhouse. Best Podcast, a new award for Top of the Town, went to “So Dead,” a true crime podcast ran by local author, paranormal tour guide and bookstore owner Jenn Carpenter. Best Twitter Account went to Lansing Facts, the sardonic satire factory that lampoons the absurdity of living in Lansing. Though that account has given us a fair number of hard jabs to our proverbial ribcage, we can't help loving it.

On a more serious note, we cannot forget to mention another one of our new categories, In Memoriam: Business we Lost to COVID. Top of the Town voters used this category to give a loving tribute to Roma Bakery, a beloved local eatery that has unfortunately closed its doors. You must always remember to love what you've got while it's there. No matter how hard you try, you can't put your arms around a memory.

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BUSINESS WITH A PET		
Winnie - Clean Refillery	Winner	
Deadtime Stories: True Crime and Other Books - Karen & Georgia	Second Place	
Preuss Pets - Fred & Ginger	Runner Up	
CASINO		
Firekeepers Casino	Winner	
Soaring Eagle Casino	Second Place	
Gun Lake Casino	Runner Up	
CATEGORY WE DIDN'T THINK OF		
Best Sober Hangout	Winner	
Best customer service worker	Second Place	
Best Drag Queen!	Runner Up	
CLEANEST PUBLIC RESTROOM		
BAD Brewing	Winner	
Horrocks Farm Market	Second Place	
Macs Bar	Runner Up	
DAY TRIP		
Anywhere on Lake Michigan	Winner	
Frankenmuth	Second Place	
Grand Rapids	Runner Up	
EYE CANDY BUILDING		
Preuss Pets	Winner	
Turner-Dodge House	Second Place	
Deadtime Stories	Runner Up	
FACEBOOK GROUP (LOCAL)		
Lansing Facts	Winner	
Lansing Foodies	Second Place	
Not Your Mother's Networking Group	Runner Up	
HIGH SCHOOL		
Grand Ledge High School	Winner	
Everett High School	Second Place	
Holt High School	Runner Up	
HISTORICAL PLACE		
Moore's Park Swimming Pool	Winner	
The Ledges	Second Place	
Michigan State Capitol	Runner Up	

See more winners on page 31

TOP OF THE TOWN 2021

From page 30

INSTAGRAM (LOCAL)

Constellation Cat Cafe Winner
Lansing Facts Second Place
Make Lansing Classy Again Runner Up

LOCAL ART FESTIVAL

East Lansing Art Festival Winner
Festival of Oddities Second Place
ScrapFest Runner Up

LOCAL EVENT/FESTIVAL

Festival of Oddities Winner
Be A Tourist in Your Own Town Second Place
East Lansing Art Festival Runner Up

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Ledges Trail at Fitzgerald Park Winner
Potter Park Zoo Second Place
Dimondale Canoe & Kayak Runner Up

PLACE TO WORK

Constellation Cat Cafe Winner
Michigan State University Second Place
MSU Federal Credit Union Runner Up

PODCAST (LOCAL)

So Dead Podcast Winner
Every Damn Day, the Fledge, Jerry Norris Second Place
Juxtaposed Journeys Runner Up

IN MEMORIAM: BUSINESSES LOST DURING COVID

Roma Bakery Winner
Claddagh Irish Pub -
Eastwood Towne Center
Second Place
Macs Bar Runner Up

"Gone but never forgotten"



See more winners on page 32



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TOP OF THE TOWN 2021

From page 31

SCIENCE EVENT

Girls Math and Science Day with MSU/GWIS Winner
MSU Science Festival Second Place
Astronomy on Tap Runner Up

TWITTER (LOCAL)

Lansing Facts Winner
How Intensive (Mitch on the web) Second Place
Mr. Taco watcher Runner Up

URBAN FARM

Hunter Park Gardenhouse Winner
Ham Sweet Farm Second Place
Half Barn Farm Runner Up

WIFI SPOT

Blue Owl Coffee Winner
Biggby - all locations Second Place
Avenue Cafe Runner Up

WORST EYESORE

Trump House - corner Michigan/Lathrop Winner
Any Garro properties Second Place
SkyVue Apartments Runner Up

WORST POTHOLE

Kalamazoo in front of Eastside Fish Fry Winner
North on Capitol between Saginaw and Cesar Chavez Second Place
500 block of Regent St. Runner Up



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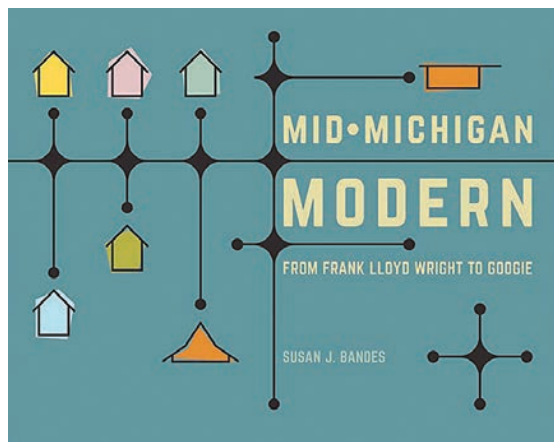
By **BILL CASTANIER**

If all the world's a stage, then author Susan J. Bandes' new book, "Mid-Michigan Modern," is the curtain call. In 2016, MSU Press published the first edition of "Mid-Michigan Modern," which is the definitive guide to modernism architecture in Greater Lansing. It was meant to be the all-inclusive guide and has since sold out.

The new book is an expanded edition and includes a new chapter, expanded figures, photographs and is in paperback, so the price is not so hefty for the telephone book-sized publication of more than 330 pages, 50 more pages than the original with 16 more color plates of homes.

"I started receiving suggestions for things I left out as soon as the first edition was published. I started doing deep dives on the computer," Bandes said.

Bandes said she was buoyed by



COVID and a recent retirement from MSU.

"I had a lot of time on my hands," she said.

And she would need it. The expanded edition includes a new chapter on structures on the Grand River and Red Cedar River, a new epilogue and an expanded appendix. In addition, Bandes sought out landscape architects and women architects for the book.

Bandes said her research discovered two female architects.

"Unfortunately, I was unable to locate any structures associated with them," she said.

Since the publication of the original book, Bandes said two iconic modernist structures have been torn down. She pointed to the former Arby's, then Biggby on Grand River, which was torn down the past year along with the Glencairn Elementary School.

The new edition also includes two homes on Lantern Hill in East Lansing that were designed at the same time.

"They relate to each other. For example, the driveways are at the far end of the lots, which provide lots of green space," Bandes said.

Bandes said she knows that there are still a lot of modernist homes still out there and not in the book.

"I could do a whole chapter on the homes in Indian Hills Estates," she said.

Bandes said the hey day for modernism occurred after World War II.

"There was income, optimism, the surge of automobiles and the growth of suburbs, which led to the expansion of modernism," she said. "We were looking at a less rigorous and informal life style, and there was an openness to floor plans and rooms became less about being used for one purpose."

For those who are not familiar with the original book, it details some of the most significant modernist homes and structures in the area. These include Lansing City Hall, Capital Area District Library Central, the Michigan Medical Society, designed by Minoru Yamasaki, the architect of the World Trade Center, the "Airplane House," built for Talbert

Abrams, one of the inventors of aerial photography, and the Liebermann's building in downtown Lansing, which was designed by George Nelson and has been restored recently as space for a gallery and offices.

Although a little unwieldy for walking and biking, the new edition serves as an incredible field guide for touring Lansing-area modernist structures, which mostly can be seen from the roadside. Some are hidden down long private driveways. In East Lansing alone there are more than 130 structures that can be viewed from the street. Bandes has compiled a bike tour of East Lansing modernist sites that can be accessed on the State Historic Preservation Office Michigan Modern website.

Like elsewhere across the country, modernism in Lansing still has a buzz going for it. A few years ago, the Historical Society of Greater Lansing hosted a home tour of the area's Frank Lloyd Wright homes in the Okemos area, which attracted 1,200 visitors from across the country.

Many readers will be pleasantly surprised that homes detailed in the book are just down the block from where you live or are on your drive to work. That is the case for me. Just four houses down from me, the Paul and Rosamunde Hammond House overlooks the Tecumseh River Pond, which can be viewed from the expansive wall of windows. A few blocks from that are two homes built on adjacent lots that ooze modernism. Both homes were built by architects for their families.

As an added plus in her epilogue, Bandes has compiled an interesting history of women's urinals, which she calls an indelicate history and a product of the modernist era.

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Greater Lansing crowns three strains as ‘Top of the Town’

Voters: Skymint, Pure Options sell the best marijuana in Lansing

The three marijuana strains featured in this week’s Lansterdam in Review were directly decided by the results of the 2021 Top of the Town contest, where our readers determined there were three clear favorites this year for the most delectably dank marijuana strains in Greater Lansing — one jazzy, energetic sativa; one sleepy, relaxing indica; and one middle-of-the-road hybrid.

I sampled all three varieties over the weekend and as an experienced toker



Lansterdam in Review:
Top of the Town

who has already tried several dozen of the strains available locally, I have to say: Y’all have some *great* taste.

Skymint X DNA Genetics Clementine (Sativa)

Price — \$50/3.5g

THC — 16.4%

This is at least the third time that Clementine has been featured in the pages of City Pulse — most recently as one of my personal favorite strains of 2020. This jazzy crossbreed (between Tangie and Lemon Skunk) is the



result of a cultivation collaboration between Skymint and Amsterdam-

based DNA Genetics. It won out at the High Times’ Cannabis Cup in 2015 for its balanced and citrusy flavors and its euphoric, uplifting and energizing effects.

Lansing clearly loves the stuff too.

With a pungent citrus smell that tingles the nose and carries straight through into an almost tart yet still ultra-smooth and balanced flavor profile, this is by far one of the tastiest strains on the market. For fun, I held up the jar to a freshly peeled clementine. They smelled nearly identical.

A clear-cut sativa, this strain also packs a whole new level of stoner energy — both physically and mentally. I spent way too much time overthinking about everything while playing fetch with my dogs for more than an hour on Saturday evening. A second joint kept me awake until 2 a.m. Smokers with anxiety, tread lightly: This is definitely the most energizing weed I’ve ever smoked.



With 46 votes, second place for the best sativa was awarded to Pure Options’ Citrus Farmer. Radicle Genetics — an in-house brand of Pincanna — was a runner-up with its Tangie Diesel.

Pure Options Garlic Breath (Indica)

Price — \$30/3.5g

THC — 32%

Don’t be deterred by the name: This strain won’t give you bad breath. It will, however, send you into a deep state of relaxation that walks the line between blissful couchlock and total sedation. Known for its ability to treat insomnia, stress and depression, this insanely powerful strain tests at a massive 32% THC and — by a wide margin — was named as Lansing’s best indica strain.

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See Winning weed, Page 37

The naked truth about LCC's 'Intimate Apparel'

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

For about two hours, I was engaged with and emotionally attached to people I didn't know. I traveled through time and across great distances. I laughed, was saddened and felt gut-wrenching heartache.

Review

Opening night of Lansing Community College Performing Arts' "Intimate Apparel" was a reminder what good theater is all about. Along with fewer than 50 other masked patrons spread out inside Dart Auditorium, we experienced a mesmerizing production of Lynn Nottage's acclaimed 2003 play.

The return to live theater — and to a multi-faceted production — was a treat. To witness "Intimate Apparel's" strong cast act on a multi-level stage with detailed props, realistic sound effects and striking lighting felt almost euphoric.

Anna Hill, Ny'Kieria Blocker, Mary Wardell, Lewis C. Elson, Jamerra Kates and Dillon Smith create distinct voices and personalities for their diverse roles. Their skillful performances offer a clear window into the struggles each character faces.

Ranae Selmeier designed a raised, interconnected stage with personal spaces for the characters. Anna Sazbo

adorned the platforms with props that suited an early 1900s' setting — including an antique Singer treadle sewing machine.

Sounds of sewing and recordings of ragtime piano playing by Kallie Marrison were some of the ear-catching sound embellishments manipulated by Heath Sartorius. Dramatic lighting by Bob Fernholz set perfect moods for the moody play.

With a title like "Intimate Apparel" — and a story of a strong but struggling Black seamstress — costumes are indeed a focus of the play. In fact, projections of various fabric names appear above each scene. Chelle Peterson — who is also the hair stylist — rises to the undertaking by designing an impressive, ever-changing wardrobe.

Detailed corsets, a silk smoking jacket and a satin wedding dress are sights to behold. And no costumes include any modern shortcuts like snaps, zippers or Velcro.

Director May Job keeps "Intimate Apparel" moving so there is never a dull spot or prolonged transition between scenes. She keeps us focused on "Intimate Apparel's" powerful reminders of how women — and women of color in particular — are dominated by men.



Courtesy

Anna Hill (left) and Ny'kieria Blocker in LCC's "Intimate Apparel."

It is a play about a variety of constraints and different kinds of intimacy. What love is, how religion can stifle love, physical love and love between those of the same gender are all touched on. The themes of "Intimate Apparel" are certainly — and regrettably — still relevant.

LCC's production has it all. "Intimate

Apparel" is emotionally and sensually appealing. Each cast member delivers a potent performance. The set, special effects, and costumes are exceptional. The script is well crafted.

The only thing missing on opening night was a well-deserved, larger audience.

Winning weed

from page 36

The buds were sizable and dense, and their bright orange pistils were completely coated in a frosty white layer of trichomes. This stuff is also one of the spiciest smelling strains on the market, with aromas reminiscent of pepper and diced garlic — and a flavor profile to match.

A wave of complete mental and physical relaxation crept up on me about 20 minutes after smoking — making this the perfect choice for after a long day at work or just before bedtime.

Second place in this category went to Skymint's Platinum OG Kush, which was a neck-and-neck race with runner-up Deathwalker OG from Radicle Genetics, a Pincanna brand in East Lansing.



**Skymint —
Gelato 33 (Hybrid)**
Price — \$45/3.5g
THC — 23.2%

Gelato 33 (which has also been nicknamed "Larry Bird") is a cross between Sunset Sherbert and Thin Mint GSC, often known for its entirely purple buds. Like you might expect from the name, it has a very sweet, fruit-like

Heads up: Green Wednesday (the day before Thanksgiving) is quickly approaching. In 2020, it was the single most lucrative day of the year for Michigan's dispensaries, presumably because so many smokers were re-upping their stashes to try to tolerate yet another family gathering. There's no better time than now to stock up on these strains before the shelves run dry.

aroma that also translates to a sugary, complex flavor profile — think grapes, strawberries, maybe a touch of lime. It almost reminded me of Fruit Stripe gum.

A soothing body buzz gives way to a euphoric head high that also didn't get in the way of accomplishing my normal daily activities — making this a perfectly balanced daily driver for just about all occasions. I smoked it before walking the dogs. I smoked it before grocery shopping. I smoked it before watching Netflix. Hell, I even smoked a couple puffs while writing this column.

It's energetic, uplifting, relaxing,

blissful; it's a little bit of everything, all rolled into one dank joint.

Second place in the hybrid strain category was awarded to Pure Options' Moonbow 112. Pink Cookies from Franklin Fields — the cultivation arm of The Botanical Co. — was the runner-up.

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

Ixion's 'Skeleton Crew' runs on soul

By **MARY CUSACK**

Detroit native Dominique Morisseau's "Skeleton Crew" will hit very close to home with Lansing audiences. Set in a stamping plant in Detroit in 2008, the story focuses on a small crew of line workers and their immediate supervisor as they face rumors of an impending plant closure.

"Skeleton Crew"

Ixion Theatre Ensemble
5660 W. Saginaw Hwy Lansing
8:00 PM Friday, Nov. 12 –
Saturday, Nov. 13
\$15 general admission
(517) 775-4246
our.show/ixionskeletoncrew

Faye (Rose Jangmi Cooper) is approaching 30 years on the job and has set that tar-

get for retiring. Her best friend's son, Reggie (Markitwia Jackson), has risen through the ranks to become a supervisor at the plant. Dez (Daniel Bonner) is the flippant dreamer who thinks he can work this job until he makes enough money to open his own business. Shanita (Regina Hurd) is a skilled worker with a promising career and a baby on the way.

Reggie and Faye, who is a union steward, conspire to keep quiet the truth about the plant closing until Reggie has ensured that his employees will be taken care of. Against this backdrop, trust erodes and tensions mount. In the tradition of this type of intimate storytelling, truths are told and souls



are bared in due time.

The only weakness among the performances is Hurd's portrayal of Shanita. Her flat affect makes it difficult to connect with Shanita when contrasted with the intensity of emotion shared by other characters. We feel their pain much

more as each exposes their frustrations and fears.

Cooper's performance is award-worthy. Faye is the mother of the group, doling out advice and support, providing reassurance to her flock that everything will be fine. As her story unfolds, it is clear that the job and the relationships with her colleagues are the only things keeping Faye centered.

Although Morisseau develops all of the characters and gives them a chance to share their essences, it is clear that Faye's arc is the soul of the story. So much so that when Faye cries out, "I'm running on soul now, Reggie. Only thing that still got fuel in it," it's hard to maintain a dry eye. After almost two years of loss and uncertainty caused by the pandemic, many people will relate to Faye's exhaustion.

In this key scene with Reggie, Faye also describes her downward spiral in a heart wrenching "There but before the grace of God go I" moment. Morisseau is such a skilled writer that Faye's explanation will hit home with those who have ever relied on the temporary relief of a vice to distract one from dealing with their problems.

Although it is a shame that most theater productions were canceled or delayed because of the pandemic, it may be a blessing in disguise for Ixion Theatre Ensemble. Director Jeff Croff's selection of "Skeleton Crew" is more relevant now than ever, reminding us of the power of love and sacrifice in surviving any crisis.

Maybe if we had introduced Critical Race Theory in our children's schools in 1975, post that time y'all want to MAGA after, you know, when many of your parents and grandparents grew up thinking that lynching was just because of "the times," then maybe we wouldn't have seen Colin take a knee, George Zimmerman wouldn't have been hailed as some hero, and Ahmaud Arbery could've gone home and showered when he completed his run. But let's just keep doing what America has done with reparations, let's keep kicking the can down the road.

That seems to have worked well, eh?

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She's real, all right

Violinist Lucia Micarelli brings star power to LSO concert

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Google Lucia Micarelli, the Lansing Symphony's guest soloist this week, and the "People Also Ask" section opens with the question "Is Lucia Micarelli a

real violinist?"

Lansing Symphony Orchestra

Lucia Micarelli, violin
7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12
Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall
\$20-55
(517) 487-5001

This Friday, Micarelli is tackling one of the

biggest concertos in the repertoire, the vast and craggy Sibelius violin concerto.

Come on, how real do you want it?

People who only know Micarelli from her role as New Orleans street violinist Annie in HBO's acclaimed "Treme" series (or from heart-warming turn in the Hallmark movie "The Christmas Bow") can be forgiven for asking.

No matter what you call "real," Micarelli probably has you covered. On her regular touring show, she flips from bluegrass to Led Zeppelin to Ravel to Tom Waits without batting an eye.

"My brain doesn't separate genres of music," she said in a phone interview last week. "I've had such a weird musi-



Courtesy

Lucia Micarelli

cal education."

Her life was front-loaded with classical training from the likes of Pinchas Zukerman, Itzhak Perlman and even from Perlman's teacher, the legendary Dorothy DeLay. It's not that she got it out of her system early. She still loves to play the classics. Her system just needed more high-octane fuel.

Barely 20 years old, straight out of Juilliard and the Manhattan School of Music, she got the itch to stretch out and started moonlighting with local jazz and rock bands. Before long, she was sawing away with the vein-bursting Trans-Siberian Orchestra and touring with crossover stars like Josh Groban, Barbra Streisand and Ian Anderson's flutey, meta-medieval rock band, Jethro Tull.

"I've had this great privilege of being exposed to so many different kinds of music, and learning about them from greats in those fields," she said. "I don't feel like I'm switching hats. I think of it all as music that I love."

Throughout October, she was diving into the Sibelius to get ready for her Lansing gig, while doing her own poly-stylistic shows in Berkeley, Sacramento and the Festival Mozaic in San Luis Obispo.

"I might be leaning on different things in my toolbox, but in my mind, in how I feel emotionally, my approach is the same," she said. "I'm trying to express emotionally a story, or what I feel, musically, and that process is the same no matter what I'm playing."

Before talking with Micarelli, I couldn't shake the feeling that her name rang another, non-HBO, non-Sibelius bell for me. A hasty search through a box of dusty cassette tapes confirmed that Ian Anderson mentioned her in an interview for City Pulse when Jethro Tull came to the Wharton Center 15 years ago.

"We are so honored to have her as she graces the stage with her 21 years and her bare feet," Anderson told me back then. Micarelli still plays barefoot.

For proof of her seamless, committed approach to all kinds of music, check out a YouTube clip from her 2018 PBS

special, "An Evening with Lucia Micarelli," and watch her sky-dive from serene, seagull-high swoops of Sibelius straight into the Cyclopean stomping of Led Zeppelin's epic "Kashmir" without so much as a change of snood.

LSO music director Timothy Muffitt was floored by the "Kashmir" clip, but it left him unsatisfied.

"I wanted to hear her do the rest of the Sibelius," he said, diplomatically withholding the implied "Duh."

Actually, Micarelli has already worked with Muffitt, while they were both touring with pop trumpeter-composer Chris Botti.

"I adore him," Micarelli said. "I'm really excited that we're going to have this adventure together."

The Sibelius adventure won't take us to "Kashmir" Friday, but the concerto is one of the most compelling ever written, a brooding idyll of windswept Nordic moods.

"I learned it a million years ago, when I was young, and it's always been one of my favorite concertos, because it's so epic," Micarelli said. "Even without the solo violin part, it's already this incredible symphony. The orchestration is really, really special, and it's quite involved, rhythmically. Things come back but they're slightly rhythmically different. There's many, many things happening at once, a lot of interplay with the musicians."

Friday's concert will open with the work of a living composer, Jessie Montgomery's lyrical "Strum" for string orchestra, and close with Robert Schumann's Symphony No. 4, a close match with the Sibelius concerto when it comes to epic sweep and roiling emotions.

Perhaps because she performs in so many different styles and settings, Micarelli is far from jaded about riding the force waves of a symphony orchestra.

"That first rehearsal, the first time it's really loud, it feels like a blast of wind. It's really amazing," she said. "An orchestral performance is so visceral and exciting, not only to watch and listen to, but also to be a part of. It's a pretty unusual thing to be in collaboration with 60, 80 people at once, all together and live, creating something."

She stepped back further, taking an even longer view of her chosen life.

"Isn't it wild that music exists? It's so amazing that music, somehow, came into the world."

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TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

LIFE CHANGING ALBUMS: JENNIFER TOMS

TALKS UP DEBUT BIKINI KILL EP



Jennifer Toms holds her prized EP. (courtesy photo)



Bikini Kill's 1992 debut on Kill Rock Stars. (courtesy image)



A Rueful Noise live at The Avenue. (photo by Abigail Mogg)

Toms tells how the 1992 riot grrrl classic inspired her Lansing-based bands

Jennifer Toms is perhaps best known as the bassist and vocalist for Scary Women, a recently defunct Lansing-based punk outfit. Now, Toms fronts A Rueful Noise, a new local outfit. In this week's "Life Changing Albums" edition of Turn it Down, she tells how a six-song EP shaped her musical path. Here's what she had to say:

In 2018, I wrote a song of which I was immensely proud: It was angry, it was loud, it was feminist. When I played it in the band Scary Women, it went over well live and it made it onto our album.

It was also "Double Dare Ya," by Bikini Kill. Like, note for note, just at a different tempo.

I realized this a year after the album came out and was appropriately mortified. I was certain I would be exposed as a punk rock fraud desperate to emulate her hero, Kathleen Hanna, Bikini Kill's singer, to whom I owe much of my musical inspiration for the last decade.

Now that I've put this shameful episode in print and hopefully behind me, I can explain why Bikini Kill's 1992 EP is the album that most changed my life.

It began where so many feminist punk narratives do, at Michigan State University's Department of English. I

was unabashedly enamored of one of my professors: She was cool and hip and wickedly smart. She was what young(ish) Jenny wanted to be when she grew up. A friend at the time casually mentioned that she was in a band once. "They were kinda like Bikini Kill." I immediately filed this away with this "Bikini" whatever under "must research."

Then, in my mid-30s, it happened. I don't know when, I don't know how, but I discovered the Riot Grrrl triumvirate: Heavens to Betsy with Sleater-Kinney's Corin Tucker, Bratmobile and the indomitable Bikini Kill for whom I fell hard. I won't ever forget finding Bratmobile's "Potty Mouth" on gleaming pink vinyl and feeling that I had arrived at something very personal and important and impactful.

For I was angry. I was an impassioned feminist with nowhere to scream my displeasure. Until, that is, I got in the car and belted in my most ragged voice "Hey girlfriend! I got a proposition goes something like this: / Dare you to what you want. / Dare you to be who you will. / Dare you to cry right out loud. / You get so emotional, baby", the opening lines to Bikini Kill's EP. I would yell with abandon, and at a stoplight one day I realized it was time

I learned how to scream. And that I needed a band.

It's Kathleen Hanna's voice that was so shocking when I first played their record. It was ugly and powerful and she could throw it a dozen ways to impersonate the characters of her songs. And, she took ownership over vocal styles that were usually the territory of male artists: the grunting, the screaming, the growling. But she did it in such a fashion that it mocked the apparent misogyny of her punk scene.

By the time I hit the third track, I was positively manic. The title "Suck My Left One" might provoke a giggle at first, but not after you watch Hanna grab at her breast while dismantling the notion of a woman's body as anything other than her own. Bikini Kill's politics are so evident in that their songs helped form the foundations of Riot Grrrl, a feminist movement of the early 1990s that began in Olympia, Washington, and soon spread nationwide. They blasted their rallying cry, "Girls to the Front!", through zines, performances and music.

The call for a feminist space was in response to a largely male punk scene that had literally and figuratively pushed women to the margins. Hanna, in response to attempts to

shunt women off stage, sang "Suck My Left One" in a bra with "SLUT" written across her belly. I was mesmerized as I watched the video, and wholly and completely inspired.

In years following, I got ahold of every Bikini Kill album I could find. I kept them in a record case with roses on it separate from the other vinyl in the house, lest they be sullied by something uncool. I was unmistakably under the influence of Bikini Kill when writing songs and lyrics. I listened to them every spare moment. And I learned how to scream.

Bikini Kill's first EP changed the course of my life not just musically, but personally. With their inspiration, I found a way to translate my feminism from something I studied in graduate school into activism as a musician. This album made me a more confident woman.

Several years ago, Scary Women were playing a house show in Kalamazoo. We were covering Bikini Kill's "Rebel Girl" at the time. We were received very warmly by the young people crowding the basement, so we busted into it for the encore. Suddenly, I hear "Girls to the Front!" and there is a young woman beaming at me from the front of the stage. I nearly cried.

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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.

LIVE + LOCAL

Green Door
2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Atomic Annie
Friday, Nov. 12, 8:30 p.m.
Sloan & The Filthy Animal Boys
Saturday, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Avenue Café
2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Dasterds, Cutlass Supreme and Justin Moyar
Friday, Nov. 12, 9 p.m.
Dagon, Portal of Pazuzu and From Blue to Gray
Saturday, Nov. 13, 9 p.m.

Urban Beat
1213 Turner St., Lansing
Jackalope
Thursday, Nov. 11, 6 p.m.
Tell Yo Mama
Saturday, Nov. 13, 8 p.m.

Robin Theatre
1104 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Dixon's Violin
Wednesday, Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Hiroya Tsukamoto
Friday, Nov. 12, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, November 10
Allen Farmers Market - 3-6 p.m. 2100 E Michigan Avenue, Lansing.
Dixon's Violin at The Robin - 7:30 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S Washington Ave, Lansing.
Intentional Living Course - 6-8 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N Foster Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4290. IntendedBeing.com.
Isolation and Confinement: The Case for Abolishment, a Panel Discussion. 7-8:30 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.
PJ Storytime - 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. gladl.org
Threads of Wisdom: Join us in-person or on Zoom. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., #7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.
Thursday, November 11
Clayworks Fall Sale -5-8 p.m. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood, Lansing. 517-626-1160.
High School Book Club - 4-5 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main, Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.
Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club - 9:30-11:30 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. ladiessilverblades.org.
Michigan Made | Holiday Art Exhibition - 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N. Washington Sq., Lansing. 917-833-9963. lansingartgallery.org.

Impression 5 Holiday STEM Market

Friday, Nov. 12, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Impression 5 • 200 Museum Dr., Lansing
(517) 485-8116 • Impression5.org

Impression 5 is kicking off the holiday season with its favorite annual event exploring hands-on, STEM-focused gifts. This winter science shopping extravaganza includes all sorts of special toys, books, kits and

more. You can test products for yourself with hands-on demos and track down the most perfect gift for the curious, tinkering kid in your life. Kids at heart also qualify.

The event will also feature festive

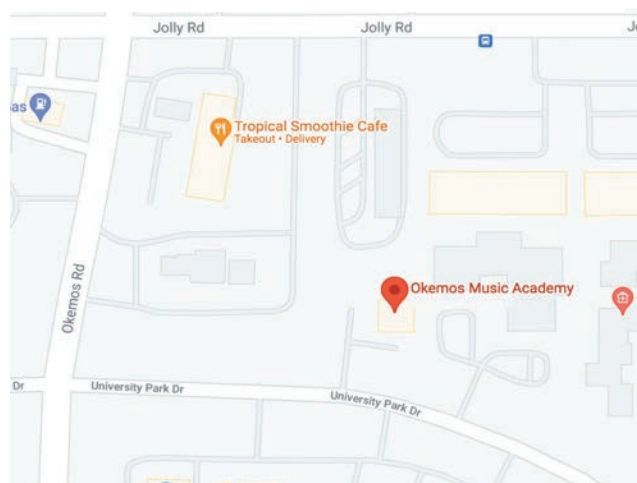
libations, live music and complimentary gift wrapping. All the proceeds will support Impression 5 as a mission-based, nonprofit organization. Masks are required indoors for this special event.

833-9963. lansingartgallery.org.
Reach Virtual Meet-up: 4-5 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.
Reception: Michigan Made | Holiday Art Exhibition - 5-8 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N. Washington Sq., Lansing.
Sara/Eli @ Reach - 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.
Ships Lost! 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. gladl.org
Stitch 'N Bitch - 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540.
Friday, November 12
Art Voice, Youth and Expressiveness - 3-4:30 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.
Clayworks Fall Sale - 10 a.m.-8 p.m. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood, Lansing. 517-626-1160.
Lucia Micarelli Plays Sibelius - 7:30 p.m. Info/tickets: lansingsymphony.org.
Michigan Made | Holiday Art Exhibition - 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N. Washington Sq., Lansing. 917-833-9963. lansingartgallery.org.
Richie and Rosie - 7:30-10 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.
Science of Disney - 9:45 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.
Shop Hop: Old Town Lansing - 2 p.m. 1232 Turner St, Lansing.
Spartan Upcycle Fridays: 12-6 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.
TGIF Weekly Friday Dance - Doors open at 7 p.m. Hawk Hollow Golf Banquet Center, 15101 Chandler Rd., Bath. 734-604-5095. tgifdance.com.
Saturday, November 13
Clayworks Fall Sale - 10 a.m.-3 p.m. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood, Lansing. 517-626-1160.
Environmental Stewardship Work Day - 9-11 a.m. Abbot Woods Park, 2801 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.
Get Down in Oldtown w/ Tell Yo Mama - 8-11 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St. Old Town, Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.
Intentional Living Course - 2-4 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster, Lansing. 517-483-4290. Intendedbeing.com.
Kitchen Science - AM - 9 a.m., PM 1 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.
Michigan Made | Holiday Art Exhibition - 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N. Washington Sq., Lansing. 917-833-9963. lansingartgallery.org.
Singers on the Grand "Yesterday: The 60s In Song" - 7-9 p.m. Wilson Center Aud., 101 Cass St., St. Johns 517-285-5722.
Women in the Arts Festival - 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn, East Lansing. 517-449-8767. witafestival.com.

Sunday, November 14
Curator Tour: Per(Sister) in Song - 2-4 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.
Lansing Train Show and Sale - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Michigan State University Pavilion, 4301 Farm Ln, Lansing. 517-432-5566. lmrc.org.
"Music" for Martians: 1 p.m. Zoom link at frib.msu.edu.
Print Club! - 2-6 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.
With Knitting: Hand-Knit Scarf - 1 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.
Monday, November 15
Comedy Night - 9-11:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.
Jump Into Reading - 11-11:30 a.m. 100 Howe Dr., Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.
Tuesday, November 16
Board Game Meet Up - Ages 18 & up. 6:30 - 10:30 p.m. Spare Time Bowling Alley, 3101 E Grand River, Lansing.
Preschool Family Storytime - for 1-6 year olds. 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St.
Sporcle Live! Trivia - 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Squashed

By ARI LeVAUX

I would have been OK with it if they were stealing our squash to feed their families, but it wasn't the case. One of the thieves had a buttercup squash and the other what looked like a sunshine, both \$4 sized. With no time to hide the squash as we drove up, they scurried away sheepishly while we checked the cash box, which was empty, at which point they turned tails and ran.

We strolled after them in leisurely pursuit, comparing notes on what had just gone down in front of our eyes in broad daylight. My son, who nodded to the thieves as they walked by with the little squashes we did not yet know were stolen, knows who they are and where they live. At first, I thought the kid with the long underwear under his shorts had a little sunshine squash, which kind of broke my heart as it's my favorite kind. About halfway to their house we found broken pieces of red kuri squash on the sidewalk. I was relieved it wasn't a sunshine after all. At that point, we returned home to prepare for other matters. Like a fine pumpkin pie, revenge is excellent served cold.

It was about that time that I received an email with an attached photo of a very sad pancake. "I am so bored with breakfast!" my friend wrote, interspersed with words I can't print. "What should I do?"

I am not usually a breakfast eater, but some people are just going to eat some breakfast, and I have to respect that. I got to work perfecting two squash-based breakfast recipes, one sweet and one savory. I practiced the sweet recipe on my kids, who enjoy foods with syrup. I practiced the savory version on myself, but in the afternoon, when it isn't really breakfast anymore.

The sweet breakfast is almost too easy. I scoop a few spoonfuls of soft, cooked squash into a little bowl and mash it until it's completely smooth. Then I add it to my favorite French toast recipe. The squash adds a thick, rich orange coating to the French toast, keeping it moist and soft. The squash flies completely under radar. The kids loved it but could not guess the secret ingredient.

When I do eat breakfast, I typically prefer savory, as I would rather add



hot sauce than sweet syrup. My savory breakfast squash is fried in bacon grease. Everything, including seeds, skin and egg fritters with squash. If you don't do bacon, follow along with your favorite oil.

We can't squash every beef in life, but at least we can squash our breakfast. On most days, that's enough.

Squash for Breakfast

One winter squash. I like sunshine or kabocha squash.

Cut the squash in half along the axis of your choice and place the halves cut sides down on a baking pan, seeds and all, and bake at 350 for about 40 minutes, until soft enough to push in from the outside. Remove from the oven and allow to cool to room temperature. Then scrape out the seeds and strings in the middle and set aside. Scrape the skin clean of squash flesh. Put the flesh in bowl and mash until smooth. Set aside the skin.

Squash Toast

For two slices

1 egg

splash of cream

splash of vanilla

1 tablespoon squash

pinches of cinnamon, nutmeg and salt

2 slices bread

1/2 tablespoon butter

Beat together the wet ingredients until smoothly mixed. Dredge the bread. If the bread is extra hard and crusty soak it for up to an hour. Sauté the slices in butter, like you do with French toast.

Squash Fritters

1-4 slices of bacon, depending on how fatty it is. Enough to add about two tablespoons of oil to the pan

squash seeds, somewhat cleaned but not meticulously spit-shined

squash skin

2 eggs, beaten

2 tablespoons cooked squash

1 tablespoon bread crumbs

1 tablespoon grated hard cheese like Romano

1 clove garlic, grated

pinches of salt and pepper

More oil as necessary



Ari LeVaux

A squash and bacon breakfast prepared by Ari LeVaux.

Fry the bacon until nicely browned. Remove the bacon and fry the seeds, spreading them out so no two are touching. Find room in the grease for some pieces of cleaned squash skin and set them down with exterior sides in the grease. Turn the heat down to low/medium and slowly fry the seeds and skin, turning when browned on one side.

Whilst the seeds and skins bubble in the oil, beat the eggs with the squash, bread crumbs, cheese, garlic, salt and pepper. Remove the browned seeds and skins. If the pan is close to dry, add more oil. Turn the heat to above medium. When the oil starts to sizzle at the

slightest provocation, pour 1/4 cup or so of the batter at a time into the oil, in dollops far enough apart from one another that they won't touch. There should be enough oil in the pan that the dollops float atop a thin layer. After about 10 minutes, flip them. When the other sides are brown, remove them from the pan and drain them on paper towels. Serve with hot sauce.

(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.)

Appetizers

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SPONSORED CONTENT

Hawaiian cuisine comes to East Lansing

By SKYLER ASHLEY

If you've been craving something radically different from the usual routine of pizzas and burgers, there's a new restaurant in downtown East Lansing with a diverse menu that might satisfy your urge.

Aloha Cookin', 350 Albert St., is serving classic Hawaiian-style dishes, as well as staples of Korean cuisine. Traditional Hawaiian fare on the menu includes loco moco, a dish consisting of fried rice topped with burger meat and a fried egg, shoyu chicken, which is chicken glazed with a sweet and salty sauce, meat jun, a meal of sliced fried beef, and saimin, a noodle dish popular in Hawaii.

Other signature dishes offered by Aloha Cookin' include poke bowls, which is a combination of various cuts of sashimi, such as tuna, salmon and octopus, served on top of rice with various veggies and fruits like avocado, onion and pineapple. Each poke bowl is then topped with your choice of roasted sesame sauce,



Loco moco from Aloha Cookin'.



Aloha Cookin'
350 Albert St.,
East Lansing
Tuesday-Friday,
Noon to 2:30 p.m.,
4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday,
Noon to 9 p.m.
(517) 657-7963
Alohacookin.square.site

tangy gochujang, spicy mayonnaise or lemon ginger sauce.

Aloha Cookin' was founded by Chris Hong, who moved to East Lansing from Honolulu. He opened the restaurant with the ambition of sharing his

love of Hawaiian and Korean cuisine and food. Aloha Cookin' has several menu items that were inspired by the plate lunches that were originally eaten by the travelers that migrated to Hawaii to work on the island's bustling sugar cane and pineapple plantations. A dish that was commonly eaten and can be ordered at Aloha Cookin' is kalua pig, the Hawaiian take on pulled pork.

THE PULSIFIEDS

BACKPAGE CLASSIFIEDS

Mini Bazaar/Holiday Sale and Pastie Sale!

Saturday, November 13, 10am-3pm.
Lansing First United Methodist Church
3827 Delta River Drive, Lansing

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City Pulse is looking for a **Newspaper Delivery Driver** for Wednesday morning deliveries. Pay is per stop and mileage and you are paid same day. Must have reliable vehicle, current driver's license, good driving record and proof of insurance. To apply or get more info, call Suzi Smith at 517-999-6704 or email: suzi@lansingcitypulse.com.

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 41

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 41

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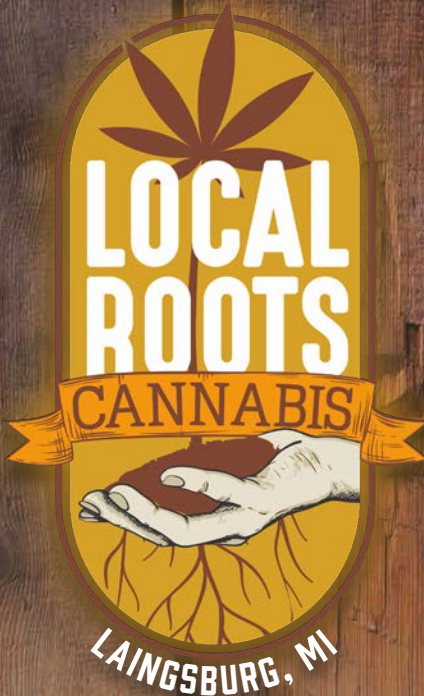
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