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See page 15

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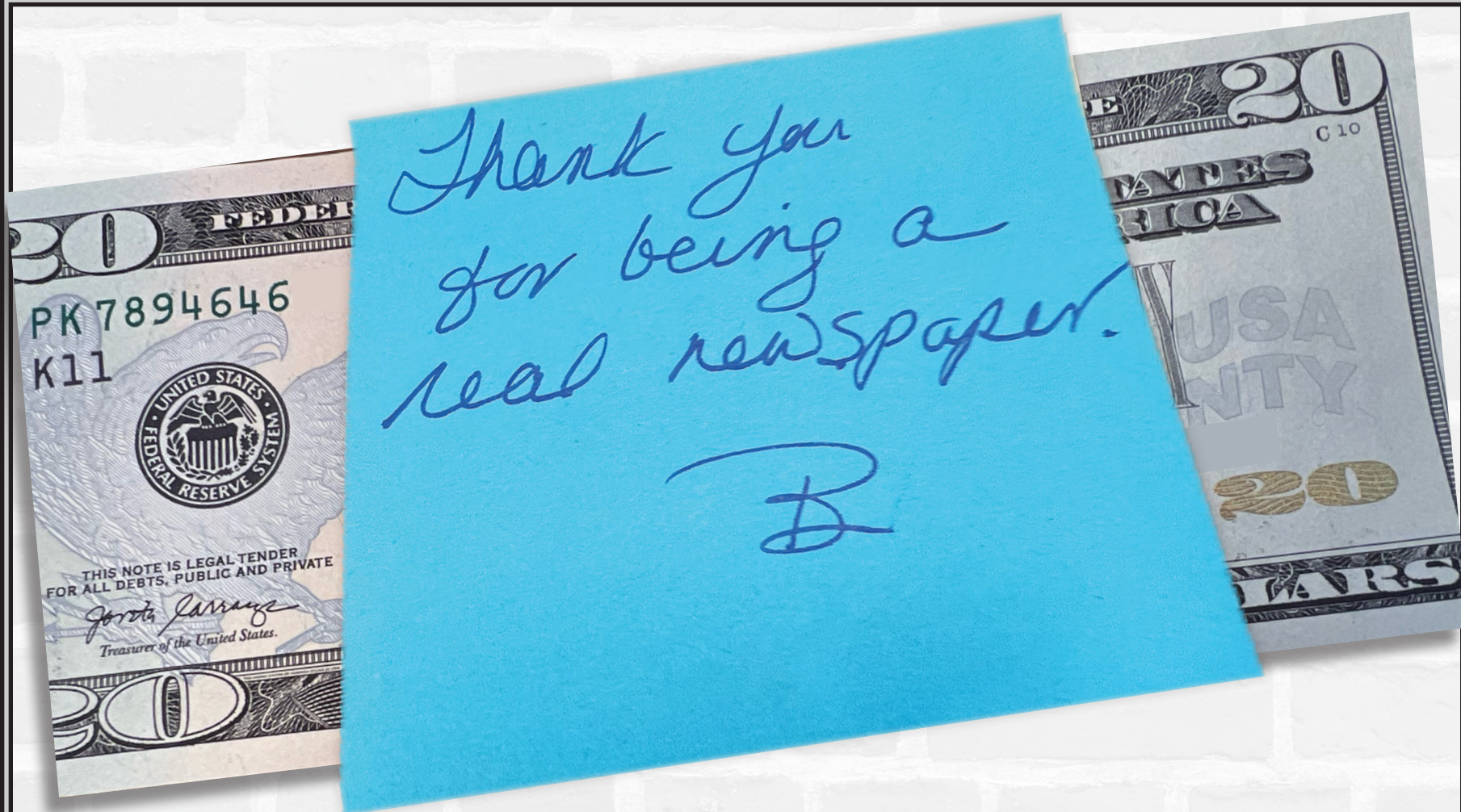
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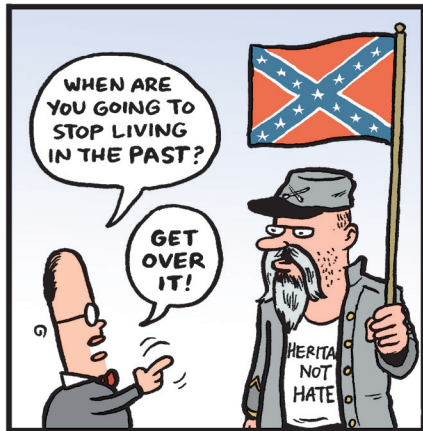
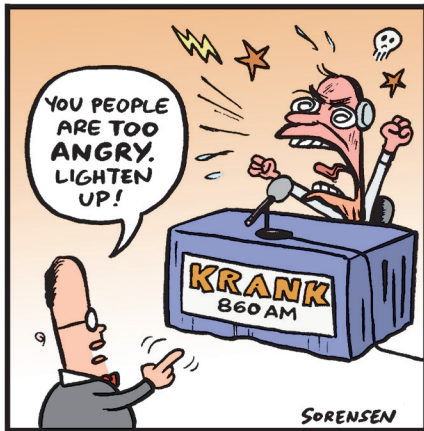
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Lansing, MI 48912 •

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Questions? Please call Suzi Smith at (517) 999-6704.



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CityPULSE

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The CP Edit: Our worries and wishes for this holiday season

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Photo by Raymond Holt

**Cover
Art**

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THIS MODERN WORLD

NEXT YEAR: A STARTLING VIDEO EMERGES.

GREETINGS, CO-CONSPIRATORS! IT'S ME, PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP, AND I NEED YOUR HELP TO STEAL THIS ELECTION THAT I CLEARLY LOST!

EMAILING THIS INCRIMINATING VIDEO IS THE **MOST SECURE** WAY TO COMMUNICATE, ACCORDING TO MY CYBER-EXPERT, RUDY!

FOX NEWS IGNORES THE STORY.

STAY TUNED FOR MY HOUR-LONG INVESTIGATIVE REPORT, **THE ATTACK ON THE FOX NEWS CHRISTMAS TREE!** WAS THE WHITE HOUSE INVOLVED? I AM JUST ASKING THE **QUESTION!**

THAT'S ALL THE NEWS FOR TODAY. THERE IS **NO OTHER NEWS** WORTH MENTIONING!

Also, FURTHER TEXT MESSAGES.

Hello Mark Meadows! It's me, Donald TRUMP! How's our Plot to overthrow the incoming government of the United States coming along?

Sir, we shouldn't do this over text.

FINE, stop by my office to give me a Full Progress Report on all the **CRIMES** we are definitely committing.

Right away, sir. 🙄

CONSPIRACY THEORIES ABOUND.

THE BODY DOUBLE THEY USED TO MAKE THAT FAKE VIDEO HAS ORANGE SKIN AND A WEIRD COMBOVER! HE DOESN'T LOOK **ANYTHING** LIKE DONALD TRUMP!

AND HOW DO WE KNOW WHO **REALLY** SENT THOSE SUPPOSEDLY INCRIMINATING TEXTS? MAYBE JOE BIDEN **STOLE HIS PHONE!**

CLEARLY, THESE ARE THE MOST **PLAUSIBLE** EXPLANATIONS!

by TOM TOMORROW

ESTABLISHMENT PUNDITS LOOK AT BOTH SIDES OF THE ISSUE.

SENATOR HAWLEY, DO YOU THINK THE DEMOCRATS' OBSESSION WITH THE LONG-AGO EVENTS OF JANUARY 6 BORDERS ON THE IRRATIONAL?

ABSOLUTELY, CHUCK! LET BY-GONES BE BY-GONES! WHO AMONG US CAN TRULY REMEMBER WHAT THEY DID THAT DAY, OR WHO THEY MIGHT HAVE PLOTTED AN INSURRECTION WITH?

AND THEN: TRUMP ADMITS EVERYTHING LIVE ON THE AIR.

I'M GUILTY AS SIN! I DID ALL OF IT! AND I HAVE STACKS OF EVIDENCE TO PROVE IT!

HA HA! WHAT A KIDDER! WELP, TIME FOR A COM-MERCIAL, IF YOU ASK ME!

WAIT! I'M NOT JOKING!

WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

What's that noise from behind Sparrow Hospital?

City promises to investigate neighbors' complaints of Headache-inducing 'whooshing'

Skyin Yin and her neighbors are getting frustrated with noise at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing.

Over the last five years, she said, a loud droning sound emanating from near the back of the hospital, along Jerome Street, has caused her — and dozens of other eastside residents — to lose sleep and have trouble focusing while working from home. It poses a general annoyance to the Eastfield Neighborhood, which buttresses the northeastern border of the hospital complex along Michigan Avenue, she said.

"We appreciate the value of having a lifesaving organization like Sparrow. However, it should not come at the cost of the neighboring community," Yin told the Lansing City Council last week. "The noise pollution has been a constant battle with them and is impacting our neighbors' mental health and even physical health. In the past summer, the noise level has reached an unhealthy level. Many of our neighbors, including myself, have lost sleep, not been able to work or focus while working at home and even felt physically ill, really affecting our quality of life."



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Eastside residents are concerned about noise pollution that appears to be coming from a large chilling tower that was constructed behind Sparrow Hospital sometime within the last 10 years.

Several other eastside residents approached the podium at City Council last Monday after Yin, each of them mentioning the same general concern: A headache-inducing whooshing sound has been hissing from some type of mechanical building — perhaps a chiller — off Jerome Street behind Sparrow Hospital since at least 2016, and it has only gotten worse in recent years.

And after repeatedly trying (and failing) to reach a solution with Sparrow Health System officials, local residents are after the Council to intervene and force the hospital to quiet things down.

"We have had many conversations with Sparrow regarding the noise pollution," added Margaret Tassero, a Lansing eastsider. "Those conversations have not proven to be very fruitful, and the noise only continues to persist. It's also been quite a frustrating experience trying to work with them and trying to have them hear our concerns and respond to them."

Tassero also told the Council: "At this point, we really haven't seen much action from them."

Like local residents, City Pulse didn't have any luck reaching officials at Sparrow Hospital over the last week to explain exact-

ly what's producing the noise or whether they have plans to address neighborhood concerns. Several messages left with officials there were ignored.

Planning Director Brian McGrain also isn't totally sure what's responsible for the noise or why it seems to have gotten louder over the last two or three years, but he thinks it's coming from

a cooling tower that was constructed behind the hospital within the last decade. And regardless of the source, he said city officials plan to investigate and find some solutions.

"We're taking it upon ourselves to independently investigate this," McGrain said. "We're treating this as a spot where an independent arbiter — the city — does need to come in and evaluate the situation. We're launching a noise study this week to get an independent reading, and then meeting with Sparrow to sit down and talk about some options for them."

City ordinance prohibits the operation of air conditioning units or other compressors that cause a continuous sound level in excess of 55 decibels measured at any property line in residential areas. And while some neighbors have claimed to have recorded noise from Sparrow Hospital that exceeds that threshold, McGrain wants to use a decibel reader for a more scientific reading.

"It could be loud enough. Maybe it is, maybe it isn't," McGrain said. "We'll be out there at a variety of times this week in different areas. We also have an open door with Sparrow, so we'll be meeting with them within the next few days to try to sort this all out. We want to have this independent reading, and if it's loud and persistent, then we'll want to see that noise reduced."

McGrain said that noise complaints typically revolve around house parties,

fireworks and music festivals and that they're usually resolved with a quick visit from the Police Department. In this case, the issue will be investigated by the Department of Planning and Economic Development.

"We're in a bit of a legally different spot if they're under the decibel limit, but I expect we can work together to reach a solution," McGrain added. "Sparrow has been there for 100 years. That neighborhood has been there for 100 years. We're all going to have to work together."

Complaints over the noise were initially brought to the city's attention when neighbors voiced concerns this month to the city's Planning Board, which was considering a resolution to allow Sparrow to take over two strips of public roadways surrounding the hospital — including a stretch of Jerome Street between the hospital and the old Eastern High School and the corner cut-through portion of North Holmes Street that spits out on Michigan Avenue.

Sparrow officials haven't explained exactly why they want to take over those roadways, only noting in applications that they own all properties on both sides of the street and that the 'street vacation' would help to enable future development plans at the downtown hospital.

The Planning Board initially tried to add a clause that would have ordered the health system to mitigate noise pollution before it could assume control over the streets. That language, however, was removed by the City Council last week following some last-minute advice from City Attorney Jim Smiertka, who said the two issues could not be legally tied together.

Instead, the Council unanimously approved the plan, and decided to take up the noise issue separately with a nonbinding resolution that called for a meeting between Sparrow Hospital officials and local neighborhood representatives in the next 60 days.

McGrain said he plans to report back to the Council on whatever solutions are reached.

— KYLE KAMINSKI



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Eastfield Neighborhood Association President Skyin Yin voiced complaints to the Lansing City Council on Monday over a mechanical whooshing sound coming from behind Sparrow Hospital.

CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

611 N. Butler Blvd.
SLU-1-2021, Special Land Use Permit – Parking Lot

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, 10th Floor, Lansing, Michigan to consider SLU-1-2021. This is a request by A.L. Williams Consulting, LLC for a special land use permit to construct a parking lot at 611 N. Butler Boulevard which is the vacant parcel of land located directly north of 609 N. Butler Boulevard (parcel #: 33-01-01-17-226-182). Parking lots are permitted in the "R-6B" Urban Detached Residential district, which is the zoning designation of the subject property, if a Special Land Use permit is approved by the Lansing City Council.

For more information, please call Lansing City Council at 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, January 10, 2022 at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#21-270

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, DECEMBER 7, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

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

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:
Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.
Minutes of the regular meeting held on November 23, 2021 approved.
Agenda approved as amended.
Approved 2022 DDA Budget.
Approved 2021 4th Quarter General Fund Budget Amendments.
Approved counter offer on sale of 408 N. Catherine St.
Approved entering into Executive Session for discussion regarding negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement.
Approved returning to Regular session.
Approved the POLC Supervisory Contract.
Claims approved.
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor
Maggie Sanders, Clerk

CP#21-267

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, NOVEMBER 23, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

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

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:
Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.
Minutes of the regular meeting held on November 9, 2021 approved.
Agenda approved as presented.
2022 Meeting Dates approved as amended.
Approved Supervisor making counter offer for 408 N. Catherine St.
Adopted Resolution 21-31: Resolution Authorizing Sale of Vacant Lot at 524 S. Charles St. as amended.
Approved entering into new contract with Applied Imaging.
Adopted Resolution 21-30: Amending Resolution for 2021 Refunding Bonds.
Claims approved.
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor
Maggie Sanders, Clerk

CP#21-268

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**, at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held to consider a request from Alan & Rebecca Ross to establish a fraternity in two existing apartment buildings at 312 N. Harrison Road and 710 Oak Street. The dwellings are proposed to be the new home of the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity. Both properties are zoned RM-32 (City Center Multiple Family).

The public may attend and participate at all meetings in person. Additionally, members of the public may participate electronically in all meetings. Please contact the City Clerk or visit the City's public meeting portal for electronic access information:

Jennifer Shuster – City Clerk
410 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
jshuster@cityofeastlansing.com
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City's website located at www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to City Council, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to council@cityofeastlansing.com

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6920 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at nmostel@cityofeastlansing.com.

This notice is posted in compliance with P.A. 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and published in compliance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, 2006 P.A. 110.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#21-277

At Coontz Law, we believe the justice system can do better. We believe in holding the Government accountable. We believe in empathetic representation of the accused. We believe Black Lives Matter. We believe we can—and will—change the world, starting right here in our backyard.

We were voted Top of the Town for a reason. It's because we have a vision for a better and more just society. And it starts with the work we're doing right now.

Is Lansing's gun problem a gang problem?

Mothers of murdered teenagers tie homicides to 'gang' activity

In September, Lansing City Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar met with several mothers of teenagers shot and killed amid a wave of gun violence that has left at least 45 people dead and 170 people injured over the last two years.

Each expressed frustration with Mayor Andy Schor and the Lansing Police Department over what they perceived to be a lack of urgency to find meaningful solutions.

They also said that they had identified one of the contributing problems: gangs.

In the months that have followed, Schor launched a gun violence task force, rolled out new grant-funding opportunities to create more after-school activities for kids, formed partnerships with school district officials, opened up community centers and pledged more than \$250,000 toward a gun violence intervention program set to launch early next year.

At a press conference last week, neither Schor nor law enforcement officials connected the city's record-breaking gun violence to gang activity. Local leaders talked about how the community must work together to curb illegal guns. Gangs were never mentioned.

Four more people were shot and killed between that press conference and Dunbar's meeting.

"We have seen people shooting at or killing each other over the most seemingly ridiculous issues. I think the idea of what a gang is needs to be redefined. In my experience too many children and young adults are fighting, literally and figuratively, for the most basic of human needs. I'm talking about food, shelter, clothing, love, affection, purpose and self-worth."



— Lansing Township Police Chief John Joseph

Sheriff's Department — as well as Schor — declined to comment on whether they suspected gang activity was playing a role in the increased gun violence.

Lansing Township Supervisor Dion'Trae Hayes said she was unaware of any gang activity.

While some family members of victims are quick to blame organized groups of young criminals, the word "gang" doesn't exactly have a clear definition — making some local officials hesitant to even use it.

"Lansing does not see the traditional organized gangs that have structure and carry out crimes," said Police Chief Ellery Sosebee. "What Lansing has is small groups of young adults and juveniles from the same neighborhoods and schools. Members of these groups are loosely put together and have no true organization, no true rank structure. The Police Department is aware of the existence of different groups, as well as tracks individuals who are involved."

He also noted that his department has seized an all-time-high of 1,200 illegal guns since 2019: "Lansing doesn't have a violence problem. It has a gun problem."

The FBI's National Gang Intelligence Center monitors some 33,000 violent gangs that it cited as "criminally active" in the U.S. this year. Many are reportedly sophisticated and well organized, using violence to control neighborhoods and boost their illegal money-making enterprises, which include robbery, drug and gun trafficking, prostitution, human trafficking and fraud. The FBI also operates several "Safe Streets" gang task forces statewide — including one for Mid-Michigan — that investigate violent gang activity, racketeering, drug conspiracy and firearms violations.

And while the FBI won't declare whether gang activity exists in Lansing, authorities said it's important to recog-

nize the difference between the stereotypical, cinema-style version of gangs and what's actually playing out today.

"The gang issue is complicated when you compare what is going on now with the gang culture of the mid- to late '80s through the '90s. Most violent acts committed by gang members were associated with well-defined gangs like the Crips, the Bloods, BGDs, Latin Kings — who sold drugs and killed adversaries to 'get rich or die tryin,'" said Lansing Township Police Chief John Joseph. "I am not aware of gang-related crime, per se, but that does not mean that it is not occurring. Sometimes there are other factors involved that are not readily apparent."

Ingham County Prosecutor Carol Siemon said that gangs were clearly active in Lansing in the 1980s and '90s — with a peak in gun violence in 1991. Over the last 10 years, a couple of "gang-like organizations" have formed but they were dismantled by police investigations. And in the last two or three years, Siemon has seen another increase in "loosely organized groups."

"While concerning, and they receive close monitoring, these are nothing like the organized gangs based on national affiliations in the 1980s and '90s," Siemon said. "There are no official titles or rank structure, and many of these informal groups fracture off and reconfigure to create other groups based on disputes with others or social relationships."

The last time the FBI publicly identified any gang-related activity in Lansing was in 2016 after Kenton Maurice Taylor, 46, was sentenced to prison for his role in running a heroin operation that began in Lansing in 2012. Prosecutors named him as the highest-ranking Michigan member of the Chicago-based Black P Stone Nation gang.

The Lansing State Journal also

covered a few criminal cases in 2015 that involved a conflict between two rival Lansing-area gangs — the Block Burners and 269 Deuce Head. Sources familiar with recent gun violence told City Pulse that the Block Burners may still be operating here but 269 Deuce Head is reportedly no longer an organized group. Shelton Coats, whom prosecutors reportedly identified as the so-called leader of the Block Burners, could be released from prison as early as March, according to inmate records.

State Rep. Sarah Anthony also pointed to "two rivaling factions of individuals who are going at each other in very deadly and violent ways." But she hesitated to use the word "gang."

"I do think there's power in naming the thing, but at the same time I don't know what value it actually adds to finding a solution," Anthony said. "If the goal is to solve the issue, then solving the issue just needs to be the priority instead of putting a label on anything. I think the people involved, regardless of whether you want to call it a gang, know what's going on. People in this city know what's happening. They know which groups are doing this. They know their names."

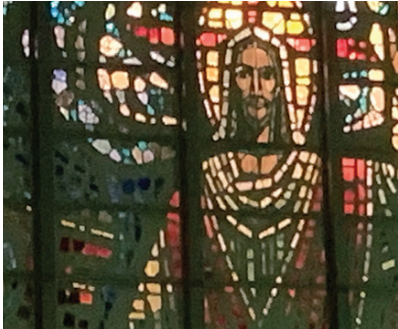
Joseph also pointed to a few non-fatal shootings recently involving at least two distinct groups of people who "obviously had issues" with each other, but he didn't identify those groups by name. And he said the issues that have led to recent shootings aren't always reflective of "traditional" elements for which gang members have been known to kill rival gang members.

"We have seen people shooting at or killing each other over the most seemingly ridiculous issues," Joseph said. "I think the idea of what a gang is needs to be redefined. In my experience too many children and young adults are fighting, literally and figuratively, for the most basic of human needs. I'm talking about food, shelter, clothing, love, affection, purpose and self-worth."

He added: "All of this desperation, anxiety and dysfunction creates people who are more likely to be willing to join or create a gang and perpetuate this cycle of violence, so it would not be surprising to me to see more and more of these disassociated children and young adults form their own, loosely defined, gangs in order to secure what they were never given by the people who were supposed to love them the most."

— KYLE KAMINSKI

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
INGHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
CASE NO. 21-881-DE**
Estate of Beverly J. Bell. Date of birth: 11/13/1948.
**TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:**
The decedent, Beverly J. Bell, died 07/02/2021. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Kevin D. Bell, personal representative or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
December 17, 2021
Kimberly L. Savage P68267
1483 Haslett Rd.
Haslett, MI 48840
517-515-5000
Kevin D. Bell
1438 N. Hagadorn Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48823
517-449-2757 **CP#21-276**



Old Town resident Andrea Lea was the first person to correctly identify the image (see below) in the last Eye for Design. That detail includes part of the fence post along the bridge on Cesar E. Chavez Avenue, just outside the October Moon Boutique in Old Town. The wrought iron design of the fence feels modern with its simple lines and staggered orbs. It is a cool design, which feels appropriate for a community that revitalized itself by welcoming artists and other creative types. And it is a bit of beauty in the oft-overlooked mundane of everyday life.

This week's Eye for Design (see above) can be found in East Lansing. If you know where, send an email to carriesampson@micourthistory.org and you could win an Eye for Design mug!

— **CARRIE SAMPSON**



"Eye for Design" is our look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eye candy of the Week and Eyesore of the Week.

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

By **KYLE KAMINSKI**



Lansing waits for GM's move

The Lansing City Council approved a final set of tax incentives that could help entice General Motors to build a \$2.5 billion battery cell manufacturing plant next year in Delta Township. All told, the proposed tax incentive package for the project could amount to decades of significantly reduced taxes — including no paying no income or property taxes for 18 years — and cheaper electricity costs. GM is expected to decide whether to build the plant within the next few weeks.



Lansing teenager faces murder charge

Lemmie Edward Jones, 17, of Lansing, could face up to life in prison if he's convicted on recent felony charges of open murder, assault with intent to murder and other gun-related charges that were levied against him in 54-A District Court. Authorities said Jones repeatedly shot at a car near the corner of S. Cedar Street and Miller Road about 4 a.m. Dec. 10, injuring two other teenagers and a 10-week-old baby and killing Arianna Christina Delacruz, 17, of Lansing.

Walter French scores state tax credits

Another 52 low-income apartments are set to be added to the apartment building on the corner of Mount Hope Avenue and Cedar Street in Lansing following \$1.5 million in low income housing tax credits recently awarded toward the project by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. A total of \$13 million in tax credits were announced statewide.

Judge pushes assault charge to trial

Former Ingham County Chief Circuit Judge William Collette faces a jury trial for assault and battery in July after he was accused of pulling the hair of a server at Dusty's Cellar in Okemos. Collette has denied any criminal intent. A visiting judge from Jackson County will preside.

Omicron variant spotted at MSU

The first case of the omicron coronavirus variant in Ingham County was detected by health officials at Michigan State University — a relatively expected development after the variant took on Delta to now become the most common strain of the virus nationwide, health officials said. In response, MSU has required booster shots for all students and staff next semester.

Schor announces homelessness 'solutions'

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor announced a new partnership between the city, the Lansing Housing Commission, the Capital Area Housing Partnership and the Capital Region Housing Collaborative that promises a "great solution" to providing "critical services" to people experiencing homelessness this winter. The Mayor's Office didn't respond to questions about how the new partnership actually works or how services have been changed.

Slotkin pushes gun safety legislation

U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin, who represents Ingham County, has proposed a new federal law to require firearms to be safely stored and kept away from children, imposing a penalty of up to five years in prison for any gun owner who fails to safely secure a weapon that later ends up in the hands of a child who injures himself or herself or uses it in the commission of a crime. Similar legislation has failed. Constitutional questions have also reportedly been raised about the legitimacy of gun storage requirements under the Second Amendment. Michigan also has no state law requiring firearms to be secured, even from children.

Lawyer sues over Betz recall

Attorney Elizabeth Abdnour appealed a decision from the Ingham County Election Commission that denied her proposed recall petition language against Lansing City Councilman Brandon Betz. Circuit Court Judge Clinton Canady III invited both sides to submit their legal arguments in writing this month. He plans to make a formal decision next month on whether Abdnour can begin circulating a recall petition against Betz for a special election as early as next summer.

Downtown businesses land state grants

The Lansing Art Gallery and Strange Matter Coffee each received a \$25,000 grant through the Michigan Economic Development Corp.'s "Match on Main" grant program. The cash can be used for technical assistance, interior renovations, new outdoor spaces and other working capital needs like marketing and inventory expenses. Forty-one small businesses in 28 communities across Michigan shared in the \$1 million state grant program for small businesses and downtown areas.

Cops identify victims in fatal crash

Kimberly Higgins, 20, of Leslie, and Charlotte Secord, 88, of Onondaga, were killed in a two-car crash about 10 a.m. Wednesday (Dec. 18) in the 4000 block of Bellevue Road in Onondaga Township. Police said Higgins drove west on Bellevue Road, crossed the centerline in snowy conditions and crashed into oncoming traffic, later dying at a hospital. Secord died on scene. Three others were injured.

McLaren breaks ground on medical building

The health system's 60,200-square-foot medical services building is at its new campus near Michigan State University. That portion of the project is expected to employ up to 150 construction workers over the next 16 months before it opens in summer 2023. The facility is set to include an imaging center with diagnostic technology that allows for faster MRIs.

Judge tosses Nassar-related conviction

The Michigan Court of Appeals threw out former Michigan State University gymnastics coach Kathie Klages' conviction of lying to police, reversing her conviction and noting that her statement that she did not remember being told of former sports doctor Larry Nassar's abuse of two young gymnasts did not have a material impact on the Attorney General's Office's investigation into the sexual abuse of young girls, the Lansing State Journal reported.

Lansing State Journal drops holiday papers

The LSJ will not print newspapers on Dec. 24 and 25 this year. Instead, all news will appear online and the Dec. 23 edition will serve as the "weekend edition."

**PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS
FY2022, 7/1/2022 – 6/30/23
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Lansing Planning Board will hold a public hearing to solicit public input on the proposed funding allocations for the City of Lansing's FY 2022 Annual Action Plan which covers the time period July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.

TO: ALL LANSING CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS

FROM: LANSING PLANNING BOARD

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

PLACE: Virtual - The meeting will be conducted remotely via
Microsoft Teams via this hyperlink
Zoom via this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87617498101>

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

DATE: Tuesday, January 4, 2022

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE CITIZENS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE AND COMMENT ON PROPOSED OBJECTIVES, GOALS AND PROJECTED USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT, HOME AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAMS, TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CITY'S ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUBMISSION FOR FY 2022 (7/1/2022-6/30/2023)

For additional information, please contact Doris M. Witherspoon, Senior Planner at doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov (517) 483-4063.

PLEASE NOTE – Entitlement Grant Awards for FY 2022 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023) have not been announced by HUD as of the date of this publication. Amounts proposed herein for FY 2022 CDBG, HOME and ESG activities are based on prior year entitlement awards. If the grant amounts HUD actually awards to the City of Lansing for CDBG, HOME and ESG are different from the amounts shown above, pro-rata adjustments will be made to the budget amounts proposed for each activity

**PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2022 (7/1/22– 6/30/23)
CITY OF LANSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES**

The primary objective of Lansing's Housing and Community Development Program is the development of a viable community which will provide standard housing in a suitable living environment, principally to benefit low and moderate income persons, preserve and expand existing businesses and industries, and create an atmosphere conducive to stability in neighborhoods.

- a. Provide standard housing in a suitable living environment through rehabilitation, new construction and improvement of the housing stock primarily in CDBG eligible neighborhoods and in specifically designated housing target areas.
- b. Provide housing counseling and assistance that will benefit low and moderate-income households.
- c. Promote home ownership for low and moderate-income households and promote deconcentration of poverty.
- d. Maintain at current levels the number of public and assisted housing units available to low and moderate-income households.
- e. Provide homeless prevention assistance, emergency shelter, street outreach and supportive human services for people with special needs, people who are homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.
- f. Provide assistance for permanent supportive housing and human services for low and moderate income households with a history of chronic homelessness, including those with special needs.
- g. Promote economic opportunity for low and moderate-income individuals by facilitating economic development, providing employment opportunity, sponsoring job training, supporting business development, micro-enterprise lending and business or financial educational programs and initiatives.
- h. Promote economic development to provide jobs, business services and shopping opportunities for residents located in CDBG eligible areas.
- i. Provide community and neighborhood services, recreational opportunities and public facilities and promote neighborhood social cohesion to improve the quality of life in CDBG eligible neighborhoods.
- j. Increase security and safety in neighborhoods by supporting public safety and crime prevention initiatives, public educational programs and citizens' awareness in CDBG eligible

- areas.
- k. Improve the city's transportation, public facilities and infrastructure systems in CDBG eligible areas.
 - l. Protect and improve the city's physical environment, including preventing or eliminating blight, removing lead or other safety hazards, preserving historic resources, mitigating flood hazards, promoting healthy housing and improving energy fitness in housing occupied by low and moderate-income households.
 - m. Promote fair housing objectives.
 - n. Provide affordable housing and economic development that benefits low and moderate income people in the context of mixed use development along transit corridors.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

CDBG Single-family, Owner-Occupied Rehab Program/Public Improvements
Includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing units through city sponsored programs, and in conjunction with affordable housing efforts sponsored by nonprofit housing corporations, public and private developers, and other state and federal agencies. Includes funds to meet lead hazard reduction regulations in rehabilitated structures, funds to assist in emergency housing rehabilitation, market analysis activities and technical assistance to nonprofit housing corporations, contractors, and low- and moderate-income households. Includes loans and grants for owner-occupied single-family units through city sponsored programs, loans to rehabilitate historic homes in conjunction with rehabilitation of the unit, and loans or grants for ramps, hazard remediation or weatherization. Includes staff, office space, technical assistance, training and other direct project costs associated with delivery of Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Emergency Solutions Grant and other State and Federal Programs.

General street, sidewalk, water/sewer improvements, including assistance to income eligible owner-occupants or those in CDBG-eligible areas for special assessments related to new improvements. Includes improvements to neighborhood parks, recreational facilities; public neighborhood, medical and community facilities in CDBG priority areas.

Proposed funding amount: \$1,084,714

CDBG Rental Rehab Program
Includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of rental housing units through city sponsored programs. Includes funds to meet healthy housing standards and/or lead hazard reduction regulations in rehabilitated structures.

Proposed funding amount: \$257,185

Clearance
Includes acquisition, maintenance and security of properties acquired through programs, and activities related to acquisition, disposition, relocation and clearance of dilapidated and blighted structures. Funds may also be used to acquire and clear properties in the flood plain. Includes staff time associated with this activity.

Proposed funding amount: \$100,000

Public Services (limited to 15%)
Includes services for low- and moderate-income individuals such as: homeownership counseling, education, neighborhood counseling, youth and senior programs, neighborhood clean-ups, community gardens, home repair classes. Services are for low- and moderate-income individuals and/or those in CDBG-eligible areas located within the Lansing city limits.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 313,131 (15% of CDBG)

Economic Development
Loans, technical assistance and training to low- and moderate-income owners of and persons developing micro-enterprises within or planning to locate within the Lansing city limits. Technical assistance to individuals and for-profit businesses including workshops, technology assistance, and façade improvement loans/grants. Creation of jobs to benefit low and moderate-income city of Lansing residents.

Technical assistance to individuals and for-profit businesses including workshops, technology assistance, façade improvement loans/grants, market analysis, business promotion, referrals for the attraction of new business and expansion of existing business within CDBG-eligible areas of Lansing.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 30,000

CDBG General Administration (limited to 20%)
Includes staff and other costs associated with preparation of required Consolidated Planning documents, environmental clearances, fair housing activities and citizen participation activities associated with the delivery of CDBG, HOME and other state and federal programs. Includes planning and general administration costs associated with delivery of CDBG and other state and federal programs. Includes indirect administrative costs and building rent paid to the city.

Proposed funding amount: \$417,507

TOTAL CDBG = \$2,087,537 + PI \$75,000 + Prv Yr \$40,000 = \$2,202,537

CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City of Lansing Council Chambers, Tenth Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, City Assessor, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District (the "District"), pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act, Public Act 146 of 2000, for property located at 224 South Washington Square, Lansing, Michigan, legally described as:

Lots 25 and 26, Board of State Auditor's Subdivision of the East one-half of Block 115, Original Plat, City of Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, Page 26, Ingham County Records.
Parcel Number: 33-01-01-16-328-062

Approval of this District will allow the owners of real property within the District to apply for an abatement of certain property taxes for the improvements to their property located within the District. Further information regarding this issue may be obtained from Kris Klein, Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP), 1000 S. Washington Ave., Suite 201, Lansing, MI 48910, 517-702-3387.

For more information, please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be ccepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#21-271

CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., at Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue 10th Floor, Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, City Assessor, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District (the "District"), pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Act, Public Act 146 of 2000, for property located at 1102 South Washington Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, but more particularly described as follows:

N 1/2 LOT 1 & E 46 FT OF N 1/2 LOT 2 BLOCK 195 ORIG PLAT CITY OF LANSING, COUNTY OF INGHAM; PARCEL NUMBER: 33-01-01-21-178-040

Approval of this District will allow the owners of real property within the District to apply for an abatement of certain property taxes for the improvements to their property located within the District. Further information regarding this issue may be obtained from Kris Klein, Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP), 1000 S. Washington Ave., Suite 201, Lansing, MI 48910, 517-702-3387.

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation to fully participate in these meetings should contact the City Council Office at 517-483-4177 (TDD (517) 483-4479) 24 hour notice may be needed for certain accommodations. An attempt will be made to grant all reasonable accommodation requests.

For more information, please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

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Continued from page 9

HOME

Down Payment Assistance
Funds provided to homebuyers for down payment and closing costs for purchase of a single-family home located within the Lansing city limits. Up to \$10,000 will be available as a 0% interest second mortgage for homebuyers with income at or below 80% of median income. Assistance limited to first-time homebuyers. May include staff time and/or homeownership counseling fees associated with this activity.

Proposed funding amount: \$100,000

New Construction/HOME Rehab/Development Program
Includes funds for loans and grants for housing construction and rehabilitation with non-profit and for-profit developers, including CHDOs.

HOME funds allocated for housing developed in partnership with the city, including Supportive Housing Program (SHP) and Acquisition, Development and Resale (ADR) activities. Projects may include new construction and rehabilitation activities with non-profit and for-profit developers, including CHDOs. Funds may be used for staff time associated with these activities.

Proposed funding amount: \$560,853

CHDO Set-aside (15% minimum required)
Reserved for housing developed, sponsored or owned by CHDOs in partnership with the City.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 115,254

Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Operating (limited to 5%)
Funds reserved at option of the City to provide operating funds to CHDO's utilizing the City's HOME funds to produce affordable housing in the community.

Proposed funding amount: \$38,418

HOME General Administration (limited to 10%)
Includes staff and general administration costs to deliver the HOME program.

Proposed funding amount: \$76,836

TOTAL HOME = \$768,361 + PI \$85,000 + Prv Yrs \$38,000 = \$891,361

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG)

Street Outreach
Street Outreach activities.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 5,233

Homeless Prevention
Homeless Prevention activities.

Proposed funding amount: \$71,692

Administrative Activities (limited to 7.5%)
Funds provided to offset the cost of administering emergency solutions program.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 12,211

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
Funds will be provided for HMIS and comparable database costs.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 5,233

Shelter Operation
Funds provided to shelter providers to cover cost of maintenance, operations, insurance, utilities and furnishings in shelter facilities.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 80,070

TOTAL ESG: \$174,439

SUMMARY
Forty –Eighth Year Community Development Resources

Program	Annual Action Plan
CDBG Entitlement Grant:	\$2,087,537
Program Income (est.)	\$75,000
Previous yr funds (est.)	\$40,000
HOME Program Funds	\$768,361
Program Income (est.)	\$85,000
Previous yr funds (est.)	\$38,000
ESG Program Funds:	\$174,439
TOTAL	\$3,268,337

Administrative, management and operation costs for the above programs include the administration, management and operations of the eligible activities, as well as other federal and state community development programs in which the city is now or may be participating.

CP#21-274

Holiday worries and wishes

The spirit of the holiday season seems a bit harder to come by this year. Maybe it's because we're exhausted. And worried. You, too?

We're hopeful that some time away from the daily grind, combined with the joy and comfort that comes from spending time with loved ones, will lift us up and grant us the temporary luxury of setting aside our worries just long enough to refill our hearts with compassion, empathy and understanding for our fellow humans, with gratitude for the good fortune to have survived the insanity of the past two years, and with a fervent hope that the future will be more a blessing than a curse.

Still, we worry. We worry about our community's children. Trauma after trauma has left them deeply unsettled, exacerbated for many by a grinding poverty that makes life a torturous daily struggle the rest of us simply cannot fathom. Our wish for them is to be wrapped tightly in the arms of a loving and caring family and community, to be heard and supported in expressing their fears, and to once again experience the unbridled, unburdened joys of youth.

We worry about the easy availability of firearms and the intransigence of those who consider the death of innocent children as mere collateral damage in their senseless war to preserve the dangerous notion that all we need to be safe is even more guns. We wish our elected leaders would for once disregard the protestations of the paranoid fringe and embrace their solemn obligation to create a safer society where children can go to school without the gnawing fear that they will be the next victims of an armed madman.

We worry about our healthcare system as it buckles yet again under the strain of a resurgent pandemic, thanks to the mindless intransigence of far too many of our fellow citizens who seem neither to understand the implications nor care about the consequences of their selfish decision to remain unvaccinated. We wish for them the gift of enlightenment, that they might finally comprehend the reality of our circumstances and do what is necessary to protect the health of their family, friends and community. We wish, too, for a reprieve from the relentless stress and exhaustion that weighs so heavily on our frontline healthcare workers, who continue to selflessly tend to the needs of those whose very actions



be part of the solution is driving us off a cliff like a proverbial herd of lemmings throwing themselves into a churning sea.

We worry about our governor, whose brave and bold leadership through most of the pandemic has all but vanished, perhaps due to the relentless criticism of her critics, but more likely, it seems, due to a self-focused desire to retain power despite the heavy cost that continued inaction will visit upon those who remain vulnerable to illness and death. We wish for her and her advisers a renewed sense of their obligation as leaders to put public health and safety ahead of the crass calculations that make the rest of us expendable pawns in a winner-take-all partisan chess game.

The CP Edit

Opinion

have placed their own health in jeopardy.

We worry about our nation's increasingly toxic politics and the deep divisions that keep driving us apart and away from any sense of our mutual interests and shared destiny. We wish for a renewed commitment from all quarters to find the common ground that unites us as Americans, that allows us the grace to try and understand each other even when we disagree, and that will lead us together down a path where hate and intolerance are replaced by kindness and mutual respect.

We worry about climate change and our tendency as a society to gallop headlong down the path toward certain disaster, recognizing the peril of our circumstances only after it is far too late. We wish for an epiphany among those who think it's not a real problem and whose continued refusal to embrace their personal responsibility to

We worry about the rising income inequality that is leaving so many behind while filling the bank accounts of those who already have far more than they will ever need. We wish for policymakers to adopt a system of fair taxation that provides for the well-being of the nation and supports the dreams and aspirations of families who just want to live free from the relentless burdens of financial stress. And, we wish for those with the means and the conscience to give generously and often to help provide for the basic needs of the least among us. Every act of kindness really does make a difference.

Our encyclopedia of worries notwithstanding, we hope that City Pulse readers and their families will find their way to a joyous holiday season filled with enough love and light to carry them into the new year with a renewed sense of optimism, with the belief that this, too, shall pass, and with the resolve to each do our part to make the world around us a better place.

Happy holidays to all.

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

1.) Write a letter to the editor.

• E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com • Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912 • Fax: (517) 371-5800 • At lansingcitypulse.com

2.) Write a guest column. Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061. (Please include your name, address and telephone number so we can reach you. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.)

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 10, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider an Ordinance to amend the Lansing Codified Ordinances by amending Chapter 1218 Sections 1218.01 through 1218.99 to conform to the requirements of MCL 324.9101, et seq, the "Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control" Act, and applicable state regulations.

For more information, please call Lansing City Council at 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#21-272

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 10, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to Amend Chapter 890 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances by amending Section 890.01, to reform guidelines for poverty exemptions for real property and to include income and assets of all owners as criteria for eligibility and modify the percentage of relief granted during each year of exemption, consistent with state law.

For more information, please call Lansing City Council at 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk
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CP#21-273

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

1. Request from 310 LLC to rezone two parcels (total of 0.72 acre) located at 218 and 224 West Lake Lansing Road from B-4 (Restricted Office Business District) to B-5 (Community Retail Sales Business District).
2. Request for consideration of a site plan and special use permit from Josie Lewis to use the Class B multiple-family dwelling at 404 E. Michigan Avenue for a fraternity. The property is zoned RM-54 (University Oriented Multiple-Family Residential District).

The public may attend and participate at all meetings in person. Members of the public may participate electronically in all meetings. Please contact the Planning and Zoning Administrator or visit the City's public meeting portal for electronic meeting access information:

Peter Menser – Planning and Zoning Administrator
410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823
517.319.6861 or pmenser@cityofeastlansing.com
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

For more information on the request please contact Planning and Zoning Administrator Peter Menser at the contact info above. Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City's website located at www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Planning Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to coelplanningcommission@cityofeastlansing.com.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6920 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at nmostel@cityofeastlansing.com.

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and published in compliance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, 2006 P.A. 110.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#21-275

Sign of times: Gov. Whitmer signs fewest bills into law since 1960

Here's a piece of news that tells you a lot about the Democratic governor and the Republican leadership of the state House and Senate in Lansing.



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

By the time we celebrate 2022, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer will have signed fewer bills into law for a single calendar year than any year since 1960, prior to the 1963 state Constitution that set up a full-time Legislature.

As of Friday (Dec. 17), the governor had signed 131 bills in law this year. She has signed a few more since then and will sign a few more after that, but not a lot.

We needed to go back to 1960 and the last year of G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams' governorship to find the previous low of 167. Obviously, it's possible we break that low.

The statistic speaks to where we are in government — the partisanship, the distrust, looking at short-term victories, going it alone.

We'll start with the most obvious reason first. Whitmer and Republican legislative leaders spent most of 2021 not speaking much to one another.

They weren't on the same page on how to deal with COVID-19. They still aren't, but they've recently learned how to get past that a little bit.

This past Monday in Detroit was the first public event with Whitmer, Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey and Rep. Jason Wentworth as the speaker of the Michigan House. It took nearly a year for them to make a joint appearance.

Republicans spent the better part of 2021 attempting to speed up the rollback of COVID-inspired government restrictions. Once the restrictions were over, the two sides fought about vaccines and masks and government fines on businesses.

In the background, former President Donald Trump was hollering that widespread fraud was the cause of the 2020 defeat in Michigan. To their credit, the Republican leadership didn't bite on that, but they did roll out more than 50 election-related measures that made Democrats recoil.

The governor, not willing to cater to the Republicans' pacification of their Trump base, signed very few of the bills if she signed any at all.

For much of 2021, the Legislature and the governor worked concurrent of one another, like two straight, parallel lines that don't intersect.

All the while, Whitmer didn't ask the Legislature for much. Typically, in their State of the State messages, governors lay out legislative agendas for the coming calendar year.

This year, the governor didn't even give the State of the State in the state House chambers, as is customary, out of COVID concerns. She gave it to a TV camera. But even then, her requests were monetary. More money for workforce training programs, direct care workers or struggling school districts. She didn't offer up a lot of policy changes.

The Republicans didn't either.

Shirkey has been very public in saying that he believes that 50% of the Legislature's work is oversight of the executive branch. He's not interested in passing large number of public acts.

Likewise, Wentworth does not gauge success or failure by a high number of public acts. Instead, he's gone his own way in looking for reforms.

In years past, lawmakers facilitated long discussions with lobbyists from both sides of an issue before hammering out something both sides were generally OK with. This year, Wentworth's Republican House crafted a prescription drug package, for example, that came from his members. Not special interest groups, as is typically done.

Once it moved to the Senate, the traditional health care groups have basically smothered it for now.

In the Senate, Shirkey has an idea on how to reform the state's Medicaid services for Michigan's poor mental health patients. Rep. Mary Whiteford has one, too. Maybe at some point they'll get together on something with the Governor's Office.

Based on what we've seen in 2021, it's more likely they won't.

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

Retirees (and others): City Pulse needs delivery drivers

By **BERL SCHWARTZ**

One effect of the pandemic has been an increase in retirements across age groups 55 and above.

But if you're like me, retirement looks better in the abstract. For many of us of a certain age, inactivity and isolation concern us more than having additional free time. We want to keep busy and in touch with people. Not too busy. Not too in touch, maybe. Just enough to keep us sane.

If you're looking for something more to do in retirement, how about considering being a driver for City Pulse? It means committing to several hours on Wednesdays and having a decent vehicle.

You'd be a very important behind-the-scenes part of our organization. You've no doubt read about the decline of print newspaper readership. Well, not our problem. Well, not our problem — in fact, the reverse: We cannot keep up with reader demand for the print edition. A big part of the challenge is finding reliable drivers just to keep us in our existing 300-plus locations. And with more drivers, we can grow that list. (Drivers are important spotters of new locations, by the way. So the more drivers we have, the more likely we will increase our pickup spots.)

As for pay, we offer 35 cents a mile and 70 cents a stop — but with a bonus pay check every three months for new drivers we sign up between now and Jan. 15.

You'd join our longtime driver Dave Fisher, who is still going strong at 80. Talk about a retiree on steroids: Following a career at Oldsmobile, Dave joined us as a driver; since then, he's added a

thriving lawn care and snow removal business.

Of course, not being retired is fine, too, if you want to drive for us.

Retired or not, if you're interested, please contact Suzi Smith at suzi@lansingcitypulse.com and (517) 999-6704. Suzi is the one who worries every Wednesday morning whether the paper will get delivered, so rest assured she — and all of us at City Pulse — will be happy to hear from you.

Happy Holidays!
(Berl Schwartz, the editor & publisher of City Pulse, has delivered a few routes in his time. He hopes to never do it again, so please help.)



BERL SCHWARTZ



Dave Fisher

City Pulse cannot meet reader demand for our print edition — a nice problem to have. If you know of a location where you think at least 20 papers a week would be likely to get picked up, we'd like to know about it. It can even be outdoors. If you have some control over the location, even better. Please contact Suzi Smith at suzi@lansingcitypulse.com and (517) 999-6704 with your suggestions. If you suggest a place and it catches on, we will offer you your choice of a City Pulse T-shirt or coffee mug as a thank you.

Gun violence in Lansing is a problem. People who resort to criminal behavior need to be held accountable, for the victim's sake, but also for their own sake. Another dead child, or parent is too much, but we need to look at the reasons people resort to crime and violence. It isn't always cut and dry. Our society has neglected to get to the root of the problem, which is to stop neglecting communities, and start investing in them, which will create an environment of positivity. This isn't new, and it isn't unique, it was designed this way as a class structure. We can do better, we have the means, we just can't allow the narrative that everything is fixed by law enforcement. It has never worked, and it never will.

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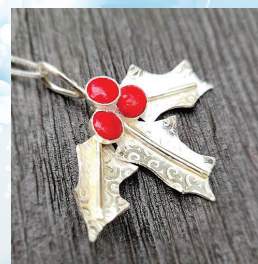


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92
NINETY SECOND
ANNUAL SEASON



The Veterans Memorial Gardens is a 5.5-acre park between Cedar Street and Aurelius Road in Holt. Each year, the gardens are decorated for the Christmas season by Delhi Township Parks and Recreation staff.



Photos by Raymond Holt

Bright lights, shooting stars and neon

Area poets share their inner light in dark times

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

A light in the darkness is as strong a signal — and symbol — of humanity as you can find.

Things were dark at about this time last year. Just before Christmas, we invited local poets to shine their light on a troubled time. They responded with a generous bouquet of luminous, heartfelt poems.

Little did we know that we’d all be in pretty much the same situation at the close of 2021.

So now it’s officially a tradition.

I hope these poems, juxtaposed with photographs of holiday lights around Lansing, offer you a respite, a pause, a measure of comfort and, best of all, the gift of intimate communion with some of the more thoughtful souls in our midst.

It’s not all comfort and joy. While poet Ruelaine Stokes decorates her tree, she thinks of the horrific stories her friend, a nurse, is telling her about dying COVID patients, and hopes that our holiday rituals “lighten the weight of a dark season.”

“We too can shine,” she concludes.

Mary Fox also writes about the lights that “spark to strike against the darkness rising,” from Christmas trees and menorahs to the neon lights of a mission,

the fluorescent lights of a classroom and the sudden blaze of a shooting star.

I came away from this year’s poetry amazed, and a little scared, of poets and their skills. There’s something uncanny about the way they combine raw intimacy with a mysterious, priestly distance.

In the poet’s private jewel box, pearls grow from granular, keenly observed, life-defining details.

Laura Apol, the Lansing area’s poet laureate from 2019 to 2021, watches a doe cross a river in the winter dusk, quietly and fatefully. She longs to greet the doe at the far side, “warm-nuzzle her forehead” and, most of all, to “know what she knows” about crossing a river — “what to take and what to leave behind.”

Cruz Villarreal basks in a memory of his loving mother rolling out a soft, pliable, warm tortilla.

Cheryl Caesar helps us find a “a transcendent signpost on our lives’ journey” — a sacrament — in the commonplace miracle of oxygen. (The phrase “mito-

For our second annual Christmas poetry issue, City Pulse arranged with retired photographer Raymond Holt to capture the best holiday lights our community has to offer. Holt spent a couple of weeks scouting Mid-Michigan for light shows, from residential and rural areas to downtown. The result was about 40 photos, which we’ve edited down to about a dozen to present with new work by local poets.

chondrial hymn of praise” took my breath away.)

In a scenario suited to pandemic times, Jay Artemis Hull sketches a vignette of board games, cigarette smoke and kisses — “isolation gone to fruit” — in a moonlit lighthouse. Anita Skeen plumbs the twisted time tunnel of the COVID months, when “clocks and calendars were meaningless.” Her poem even starts with a lower case “c,” as if it had no beginning.

Zoë Johnson dreams of growing roots out of her fingertips and reaching down into the earth, where the stones share stories beyond words.

Rosalie Petrouske drifts through a memory of a Christmas Eve when she was 4. Santa Claus, smelling of wood smoke and her father’s cologne, gives her a candy cane. Later that night, she spots him again, lugging buckets of water, thawing and priming the water pump outside, “so it wouldn’t freeze in the night.”

As for Dennis Hinrichsen, Lansing’s poet laureate from 2017 to 2019 — I’m in over my head when I read his contribution, but I have a feeling the phrase “the poem is simply lure” might provide a key. Read it and see what you come up with.

“It’s a poem about gifting someone in need, and ends on a positive communal note that is celebratory,” Hinrichsen helpfully wrote in an email.

My subconscious is surely working on it. That’s part of the fun.



Potter Park Zoo's 27th annual Wonderland of Lights continues through Dec. 26.



Jackson National Life driveway.

Stasis Engine (light house/lighthouse)

It’s dusk at the light house, clearing the low living room table just enough
to put a Go board down. A “quick game” while N is in the shower.
rhythmic click, click, click, interrupted
by trash talk when someone doesn’t put down fast enough.
Surrounded by cat toys, alchemical dictionaries, beer bottles,
what a silly way we modern mystics spend our days
and our nights slipping out under incandescent skies
feeling the bubble of isolation not sought but cherished
as my love, so graciously, presses
the lit tip of a cigarette between my leading knuckles.
Holds it there so I can feel the pulse
of the universe in the insects and the pain.
The shared smirk. We know what this pact means.
A kiss on still-hot skin for luck, for when it comes to playful blows.
Here in the lighthouse, fae-like in our intensity—
isolation gone to fruit— to hide in a night of sharp sensation.
Can’t you see the moon tonight? Can’t you tell this
dream-filled sigh is how we reflect its shine?

Jay Artemis Hull

Jay Artemis Hull is an occult experience consisting mostly of love, longing and library facts.

Thinking About Normal

As Christmas arrives once more,
I look out my window thinking about normal –
about what it is and what it has been,
compared to other years.
I have strung lights on my tree,
unwrapped favorite ornaments,
remembered the fragile glass balls
I once helped grandmother place
carefully on each fragrant branch.

Did those gleaming baubles break,
or were they given or thrown away
after she died?
Would they still be beautiful now,
intact and bright as I recall them?
Glitter, stripes, and spheres
hung with strands of ribbon, sparkling stars
that twinkled in lamplight, bright as the ones
I could see outside in the night sky.

The Christmas Eve when I was four,
my mother and I heard pounding
on the wooden door.
It was Santa Claus
with his white beard, a stocking cap,
and long woolen coat.
At first, I didn’t know
that deep voice,
asking me if I’d been
a good girl.
He picked me up
and I trembled in his arms,
knew I had not been good,
smelled woodsmoke on his collar,
and my father’s shaving lotion.
Wet snow from his cap’s tassel
brushed my chin.
Santa left me with a candy cane,
told me he had to gather his reindeer
– “they’re getting
restless,” he said.
Another thump overhead startled me.

All that clatter and scraping
like hooves against shingles,
but when I ran to the window
I only saw swirling snow,
pushed up the sticky pane
and let in gusts of frozen air,
heard a faint jingle of bells
from far away.
It was white, the yard, snow
drifting down.
White and normal, like nothing
magic had ever happened at all,
broken only by the yip of coyotes
somewhere beyond the hill.

Then I saw my father stooped over,
carrying two pails of water
from the outside pump
where he said he had been

thawing and priming,
so it wouldn’t
freeze in the night.

Rosalie Sanara Petrouske

Rosalie Sanara Petrouske is a professor of writing at Lansing Community College in Lansing.
She has written three chapbooks of poetry, including the most recent, “What We Keep” (2016). In 2021 she was a finalist for the distinction of U.P. poet laureate.



Home of Mike and Candy Giovanni at 501 N. Putnam St., in Williamston.

During the Covid Year

Billy Pilgrim has come unstuck in time.
—Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse Five*

clocks and calendars were meaningless. One hour became another without appointments or assignments, one day became another without family coming for Sunday dinner or papers to be handed back Friday. An hour was a book, or a nap, or a zoom with people across the country where for some it was 8:00 am, for others 11:00. Some ate breakfast, others considered lunch. A day might start at noon. Darkness never left. There was nothing to save time for. No place to go. No one to meet. No time like the present. All time was present. Now, we thought, might be forever, with no forever in the future. On a sliding scale, where was early? Where was late? Autumn was a decade long, Christmas only a day. Light streaking the sky, thin gold threads, the fluff of blood red, the blue below. Is it fading? Is it sunrise, or sunset? Someday, we all said, having no idea what that meant. 7/28/21

Anita Skeen

Anita Skeen is professor emerita in the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities at Michigan State University, where she is series editor for the Wheelbarrow Books Poetry Competition. She is the author of six volumes of poetry.

[mosaic] [With Bashō in It and a Reef or Two]

Parkinson’s 2021 / Brooklyn 2008

I wish haiku were circuit breaker so I could set Bashō in that gap in the brain where dopamine dies // the poem with deer hair it—they’re hollow they float // the hair I mean—the poem is simply lure—so eyes are on—and my friend can dive reefs again as if he were laying ocean cable—human voltage—little fish big in the mask—cobalt and screaming yellow // like that steampunk time in Brooklyn when I stood before the Telectroscope and saw a street in London—many people—it was late—looking back // and nothing happened for awhile // we were hands in pockets shuffling // but then something moved—a shimmy and swipe // it seemed like dance // and then another—more slowly—and then another—and then a child—dressed for chill—leaned in—blew a kiss // a flesh fin riding broadband // riding this reef—this living reef—throwing kisses—many kisses—as if startled by sunlight

Dennis Hinrichsen

Dennis Hinrichsen is the author of “schema geometrica.” From 2017-2019, he served as the inaugural poet laureate of the Greater Lansing area.

Bawaajigan

I dreamt, once, that I took a breath
and inside of me
seedlings
began to grow

In this dream, I reached up
and a Milky Way of light
arced
along the curves
of my expanding and contracting ribs
In this dream, I reached up
and an algae film of borealis licked
along the webbing between my fingers
when I dipped my hands
into the marsh waters
of the sky

In this dream, I reached down
and roots
grew
from fingertips I pressed
below pine needles and
decomposing leaves
In this dream, I reached down
and long-buried stones
told me stories
about flood water and muskrat gifts
and how beings might go about
growing the world
anew

Before I woke, I heard the sound
of someone
speaking in my voice

I dreamt that I took a breath
and tiny things seeking
medicine pouches
in which to be carried
prayed I might have insides
of cattail down,
of sphagnum moss,
and that I may also be as
a chickadee in winter,
even so

Zoë Johnson

Zoë Johnson, a queer nonbinary writer and enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa, graduated in 2020 with their MFA from the Institute of American Indian Arts. Their fiction and poetry have been published in Plentitude Magazine, Pulp Literature, bilingually in The Polyglot, Eastern Iowa Review and more.



Fourteen years ago, Brian Shedd and Todd Owen , of 2100 Moores River Drive, in Lansing, moved into a neighborhood noted for its Christmas decorations. They started with a pair of nutcrackers and slowly added items each year. Decorating for the season is something they enjoy doing together.

A tree glitters in the dark

Yesterday, April told me about her friend, the ICU nurse, who spends her days intubating COVID patients and watching them die.

“That’s all I do,” April’s friend said. “Now almost everyone intubated dies. If by some miracle, someone recovers, the nurses cry.”

I am wrapping Christmas presents, hanging cards on the mantel, planning to make cookies and granola, walk the block and gift the neighbors.

I will wear my mask. I won’t go inside their houses. I will not feel sorry for myself. I will be cheerful. I will sing I Wish You a Merry Christmas.

Sorry is for the dead, for the broken-hearted ones who loved the dead and are now picking up the pieces, for the nurses, doctors, medical staff, EMTs, ambulance drivers, dentists, teachers, firemen, policemen, for all those who serve of the front lines of the War Against the Virus.

“No one thinks about what this is doing to me,” April’s friend said, “day after day, I am intubating people and watching them die.”

As we slog toward the end of the 2nd Year of the Pandemic, we have forgotten how to care for the army. The army is exhausted. The army is calling for help.

My Christmas tree glitters in the dark, a pyramid of white light and glittering red bulbs, erected to lighten the weight of the dark season.

And yes, the season is dark. But we too can shine. We can manufacture the love that all of us are starving for.

Ruelaine Stokes

Ruelaine Stokes is a poet, spoken word performer and teacher. For decades, she has been working to nurture a growing poetry community in Greater Lansing Area.



Each year, Jim Harvey, of 517 E. Sycamore St., in Mason, puts up all the Christmas lights and does it for his wife, Patricia, because she loves it, and has for the past 47 years. He says that sometimes it’s a battle between taking care of the leaves or the lights, but he always finds a way.

Against a darkness rising

She was born to light.
Sun woke her to morning,
and other starlight guided her through night.
She chased the edges of darkness—
pressed them to dust—
swept them away from her life
and that of those she loved.

A Neon strobe drew her to waiting mission doors:
Inside, spotlights might beam down on her
or footlights defined her stage,
or sometimes, a chalkboard reflected
her classrooms’ florescent glow—
circled an arena in which to teach.
Yet, whether she occupied the platform
or an audience seat, whether alone or observed,
light emanated from her and focused her task.

And now under December moon’s last cycle,
the lights of Christmas trees and menorahs beckon her—
where family and strangers might warm her
or warn her heart of pain they seek to share.
As this year’s light wanes
then slowly amplifies
toward the new year rising,
she once more steps toward luminosity
and does what she might to ignite tomorrow’s candles.

One day death might finally bring her home
to its sweet sleeping silence
where she may hear falling snow
drift earthbound to cradle her.
Or creature of fire, she may blaze
one last time across a sky,
a star shooting its heavenly light.
But for now, there are still paths to illuminate,
and sparks to strike
against the darkness rising.

Mary Fox

Mary Fox, a Detroit-born poet, resides in Portland. She has published two poetry chapbooks and her work may also be found in other poetry journals and anthologies and on her author page. She enjoys reading poetry for audiences and works with several area groups to help other writers find their voices.



(Above and below) The pandemic was the catalyst for Gene and Dottie Tracy, of 215 E. Maple St., in Mason to start doing something extra special when decorating their 1898 home for the holidays. “We’re going to do it,” said Gene. “Let people just get out and enjoy driving by.”

Tortillas de Harina

The stir and sound of rattling pans.
Mother is up,
and soon she’ll tell the rooster, it’s time to wake.

Even when paychecks were lean
and few in between,
when a roof over our heads
ruled the day,
‘cause hunger fares better, in-from the rain.

But if there was flour,
tortillas de harina, would answer
the cry for
food in the belly
and all would be good, for the day.

A pinch of salt, a dab of lard
a splash of water,
and let there be masa.

Soon neatly formed pillows of dough
would line the table,
counted out
like soldiers in formation.

Her rolling pin ready
to round them thin to perfection.

Up and down, up and down, side to side
all around,
the rolling pin ever in bounds,
the rhythm commands to flatten and round.

One by one
she drapes the soft pieces across her kind hands
and lays them to rest, on the heat of the comal,
they brown and rise!
a skillful flip, they brown and rise!
are born a new creation!
Tortillas de harina
warm, pliable and soft.

The smell of freshness
causes our blankets to fly, and we rise!
to be fed by her love, su cariño, su ternura.
¡Tortillas de harina, no pido más!

Cruz Villarreal

Cruz Villarreal is a local published poet with a creative writing degree from Lansing Community College.



Helene and Carlas Quinney have lived at 819 Britten Ave., in Lansing, since 1983. Decorating their house for Christmas is not as much a tradition as it is a tribute to their century-old home’s heritage. Helene says Carlas is happy to put up the decorations for her “as long as it’s during pre-game or half-time.”

Winter Crossing

I cannot capture in a photo
the doe crossing the river
at dusk—

one step,
another,

another,

dark water touching her underside;
slender legs,

delicate hoofs
finding the rocks and mud below.

No, I cannot capture the doe,
so instead I want to be
on the far side of the river
when she reaches it—

to stroke her soaked fur, the silk

of her ears, her exquisite
neck. I want

to warm-nuzzle her forehead,
my face

to her face,

to know what she knows

about river
about winter

and dusk—

what to take over, crossing;
what to leave behind.

Laura Apol

Laura Apol is a poet and professor at Michigan State University. An award-winning author of five full-length collections of poetry (most recently, “A Fine Yellow Dust,” published by the MSU Press in 2021), she served as the Lansing-area poet laureate from 2019 to 2021.

Ritual of the Hearth

My calves against the warm
hearthstone give thanks
for the pressure, as my back
is grateful to the fire.

My mate on the sofa, mouth moving,
body at rest. Our old cat curled
like a warm china teapot, purring
a murmured prayer. I rejoice. The ritual
emerges. A moment, transcendent,
a signpost on our lives’
journey, shared and blessed.
Life sprouted, they say,

from liquid, where molecules meld,
and so we made water and wine
our sacraments. But solids too, if we let
the wafer melt in our tongues’
juice, always patient, never biting.

If we are attentive, we can find
the sacrament in air. Now I hear
a mitochondrial hymn of praise
to oxygen, a trillion strong.

If we are attentive
and quick, we can find it in fire:
how it dances like a spirit over the log
body. How it flickers up
in a star, a hearth, a spark from calico fur.

Cheryl Caesar

Cheryl Caesar is a writer, teacher of writing and visual artist living in Lansing. She and Ruelaine Stokes are compiling an anthology of memories of the Lansing poetry scene in the 1970s and 1980s, a time recalled by many as a collaborative bliss. If you have memories to share, please email Cheryl at caesar@c@msu.edu.

ARTS & CULTURE

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Transforming billboards into roadside art exhibits

Art in the Sky launches its 13th year

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Look, up in the sky! It's a bird, it's a plane! It's art from six highly creative Greater Lansing artists!

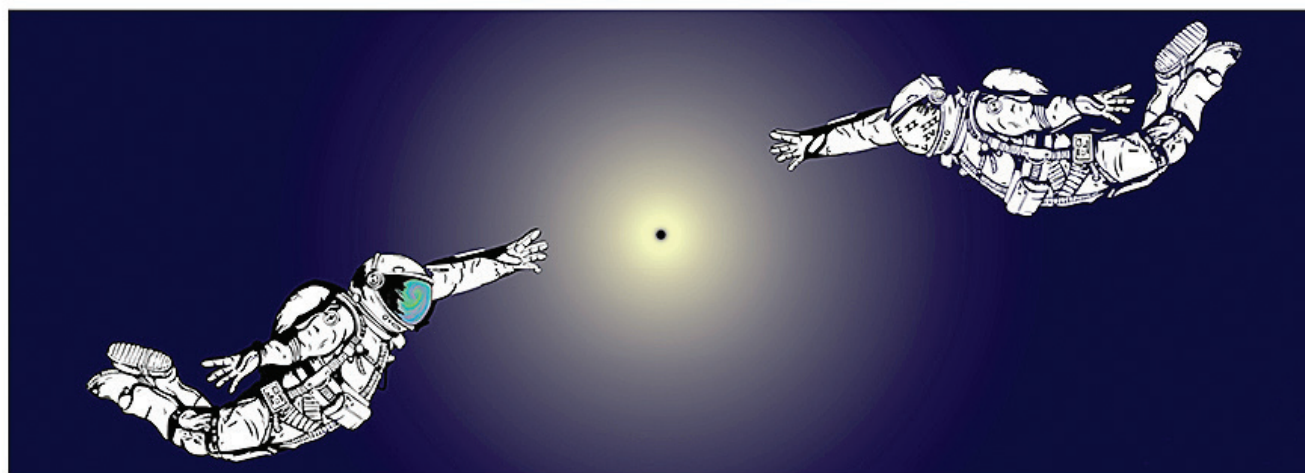
Back for its 13th year is the annual Art in the Sky billboard contest, an annual submission-based public art project put together by the Arts Council of Greater Lansing and Adams Outdoor Advertising that takes the artwork of local artists and blows it up on full-size billboards for the entire city to enjoy.

"The project was designed to create an opportunity for the arts to be accessible to everyone for free, and to highlight our community members and make their art available," said Dawn Gorman, the council's communications specialist.

Art in the Sky, which debuted in 2011, was proposed in the council's 2009 "cultural economic development plan."

The plan detailed several strategies to collaborate with local entities like Adams and help foster creativity in public spheres by implementing work from regional artists into placemaking initiatives. Another key part of the plan was to attract and retain talent in Lansing by highlighting output from the local arts and culture scene. Adams has been noteworthy for engaging in other experimental advertising campaigns, such as its other current run of billboards that solely feature close-up photographs of wide-eyed staring faces.

As is the standard mantra of most public art projects, the goal for Art in the Sky specifically was to help beautify local spaces and raise awareness about talented artists residing in the



Chelsie Boodoo's art is being displayed on multiple digital billboards in the Greater Lansing area this month and next. She is one of six artists whose works are displayed for two months each.

Greater Lansing region. It also had the benefit of transforming vacant billboards, commonly considered to be eyesores, into temporary art pieces. Artists whose work is chosen are required to pay a \$100 fee. If the artist cannot afford the fee, Gorman said the Arts Council is flexible with other options.

Members of the Arts Council do not actually make the final choice of which six artists go up on the billboards. Instead that responsibility is deferred to a selection panel that is organized by the council. The panel consists of a cadre of local arts and cultural figures, and the primary question asked in the decision-making process is how well each piece would take to being displayed on a billboard.

"The main thing is whether the art is readable when you're driving in your car at 40 miles per hour. They're looking at whether it translates well and the overall creativity in the design," Gorman said. "We want to

make sure that it's clear when people drive by that they're seeing art from a local artist."

The Art in the Sky project remains visible throughout the entire year, with each selected artist in the cycle getting a two-month share.

In 2020, Adams and the Arts Council began using billboards with digital screens, which allow for an unlimited cycle of images. In previous years, Adams was responsible for taking the pieces that were selected for Art in the Sky and printing each one onto a massive 672-square-foot vinyl sheet that would then go up on billboards across the city.

"The great thing about going digital is that the artists don't just have their work on just one billboard on Cedar Street. Now, their artwork is all over the place at the same time. Their art might be running on Michigan Avenue, at Frandor or over near the airport — wherever Adams has space," Gorman said.

Each year a wide variety of art styles are represented in the Art in the Sky billboard contest. The different art forms that have wound up on one of the billboards include photography, sculpting, woodblock printing, water-

color painting — just about anything is on the table.

"I still get excited when I'm riding around in my car with my daughter, I'll say, 'Look there's one of our billboards!' It's really great to see the art work larger-than-life like that and it's a great experience for the artists too, they get very excited," Gorman said.

With more than a decade of history behind it, Art in the Sky is one of the older public art initiatives that has become a yearly local tradition. It's an early example of the ongoing trend of accessible artistic exhibitions that are growing in popularity in Lansing, such as the Below the Stacks Mural Festival or the outdoor Art Path gallery located alongside the Lansing River Trail.

"There's been such a huge burst of public in Greater Lansing in recent years. We're seeing so many murals going up, sculptures being created regularly. The impact for Greater Lansing is overall is that city is more vibrant and creative. It makes our city livelier and more beautiful, and shows that we are open to creativity," Gorman said. "It's about creating the opportunity to see art in unexpected places."

To check out the Art in the Sky billboards, visit: lansingarts.org/programs/billboard-project

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Lansterdam

from page 25

4. Transplant them.

Check the roots of the clone to see if visible roots have formed, pop them into a larger pot and get ready for the fun to begin. Be sure to take care to completely submerge the original root ball inside the new container, keeping the clone centered and standing upright to promote uniform growth as it gets bigger. It's also important for the first watering to fully saturate the pot.

Balancing moisture in your soil is an important component to outward root growth. Weight is a good indicator of soil saturation. Routinely lift the pot as it dries to know when it needs water.

5. Watch them grow.

Expect a few more columns over the next few months while my home-growing operation gets up and running, but this should be enough to get you started. As the staff at Pure Options rightly points out, there are a million different ways to grow, but it's best to keep it simple when you start.

Pure Options recommends picking up a nutrient line with as few bottles as possible — like General Hydroponics' Flora Series, a three-part nutrient system consisting of FloraGro, FloraBloom and FloraMicro to keep plants fed through every stage of their growth cycle.

You'll also need a light or two, with a timer, to artificially guide your indoor plants through the vegetation and flowering stages. More on that to come later, but Pure Options recommends picking up LED bulbs, which generate less heat and can be more cost efficient in the long run.

State officials have warned that growing 12 plants at home can nearly triple your electricity bill.

And depending on how seriously you want to take your new hobby, local grow stores — like GrowGeneration — also sell small grow tents that are regulated by portable air conditioners and even include a built-in light source, making it much easier to control the growing environment.

Kyle Kaminski is City Pulse's managing editor and a cannabis enthusiast who has been smoking marijuana just about every day for the last decade. Editor & Publisher Magazine has also labeled him as "arguably, the state's authority on everything you need to know about cannabis." Have a suggestion for a cannabis product? Email kyle@lansingcitypulse.com.

Favorite Things Crystal Mioner and her cast iron pan

Crystal Mioner is a DJ who performs as ETTA and helps promote other artists' creative endeavors with her organization The Mioner Agency. Her favorite thing is a family heirloom, a cast iron pan she received from her late mother.

My favorite thing is my cast iron pan. I got it from my mom, who got it from her mom. It's been in our family for 30 years. It saw a lot of food. It fed us really well during my childhood.

It's one of those items I couldn't imagine cooking without just because it's so versatile. I remember when I was kid, I got in a lot of trouble, because my mom misplaced it. For some reason, she thought I had misplaced it. I remember being 11 years old and being told, "Crystal, I know you took the pan." And I was just thinking, "I literally have no idea where this pan is." I did end up finding it, because just the week before we had got a new oven. She mostly stored her pans in the oven, and she had never taken the pan out of the old oven. Luckily, it was still in our backyard area. That was quite a moment in our family.

I use it every day, if not every other day. I use it for my breakfast. I roasted chicken with it last night. My mom passed away about six years ago, and it's one of the few things I have left from her possessions. There was a bit of a mishap when I was cleaning out her house. There was a lot of stuff I got rid of that I was supposed to keep, but I made sure I kept the cast iron pan in a safe place.

She was Midwestern and a big proponent of fried food. My favorite meal she would cook for me was her fried pork chops. She would usually serve it with corn and white bread. I



could eat that meal every day. Even though my better-self says, "Hey, that's probably not super great for you." I would still eat it every day.

I definitely feel like there is a lineage within the item. It was hard for me to conceptualize what my favorite thing is. I don't assign too much value to most material possessions. I DJ, so I thought, "Should I say my record player, or a record?" I thought about what I actually use in my everyday life; what has utility to me. I ended up choosing the pan, possibly because I don't think about it at all, because it's always there and present. That's also kind of true about family, we can take it for granted. We can forget about how their presence impacts us and how much we rely on it, until it's not there anymore. I recalled the history of the pan — my mom got it from her mom right before I was born. I've always had it and it's really special to me.

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

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Dr. Livingston, I Pre-Zoo?"--it's the same outcome.

by Matt Jones

Across

1 One of 11 for RuPaul

5 100-meter race

9 Telegram break

13 Rowed vessel

14 "It is not ___ am crazy ... it is ___ am mad!" ("Ren and Stimpy" quote)

15 Believer in spiritual unity

16 What happened when the wedding party gained an extra foot?

18 Elicit

19 TV series divs.

20 "Try the ___" (comedian's clich )

21 Signs of snoring

22 Hallowed place to learn to count in French?

27 Without assistance

28 ___ squared (formula for the area of a circle)

29 2014 U.S. Open champ Michelle

30 Pinafore designation

33 Done at the table

35 Words from a ghost clock?

37 Perform really well at freestyle rap

39 Belarus, in prev. days

40 . follower

41 Bit of duplicity

42 "Who ___ thinks that's a good idea?"

46 Chef's complaint about a lack of sauce base?

52 Oldman's villain role in "The Fifth Element"

53 "Up in the Air" Oscar nominee Farmiga

54 "Live in Front of a Studio Audience" airer

55 Elevator selection

57 Allows just a pair?

59 Full of dryer fluff

60 Blue-gray shark

61 "Now, more ___ ever ..."

62 Beehive State athletes

63 Part of MS-DOS

64 Janitor's ringful

Down

1 Field formerly home to the Brooklyn Dodgers

2 Vivid blue butterfly type

3 "The Marvelous Mrs. ___"

4 "Jan. 1 to now" column

5 Honey Smacks frog mascot introduced in 1972

6 "That's ___!" (director's shout)

7 Beach souvenir

8 "___ goes it?"

9 Hit Ctrl-S

10 First words of some proverbs

11 Furniture wood

12 Pecan, for one

15 Smoker contents, maybe

17 "All About ___" (Bette Davis movie)

21 Shaggy's catchphrase

23 "I'm going ___ the hay ..."

24 Huge retelling

25 180-degree turn, slangily

26 Signed very simply

31 Fast food dessert inspiring the search question "Is the spoon a straw?"

32 Downhill event

33 Quaint cry of disgust

34 More bent out of shape?

35 Mountain, for example

36 Early Palm smartphone

37 Ecol. or econ.

38 PBS documentary film series since 1988

43 Want no part of

44 Franchise with recent legal questions about its tuna

45 They've been out for a while

47 1976 literary bestseller

48 Bit of light that's harmful to the skin

49 Durable woods

50 "Believe It ___"

51 Queen's "___ Bottomed Girls"

55 Reason for a fall shot

56 Burning

57 Ball club VIPs

58 Wall St. cert.

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Answers on page 29

SUDOKU

				3				8
	8				6	4		
	9	3						
	3	6		8				
	4	5		9				1
			4		5		6	
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		1					8	
				8				

Advanced

TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 29

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

December 22-28, 2021

ARIES (March 21–April 19): You may become a more audacious storyteller in 2022. You could ripen your ability to express the core truths about your life with entertaining narratives. Bonus: The experiences that come your way will provide raw material for you to become even more interesting than you already are. Now study these words by storyteller Ruth Sawyer: "To be a good storyteller, one must be gloriously alive. It is not possible to kindle fresh fires from burned-out embers. The best of the traditional storytellers are those who live close to the heart of things—to the earth, sea, wind, and weather. They have known solitude, silence. They have been given unbroken time in which to feel deeply, to reach constantly for understanding."

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): Taurus author May Sarton wrote a poem celebrating her maturation into the person she had always dreamed she would be. "Now I become myself," she exulted. "It's taken time, many years and places; I have been dissolved and shaken, have worn other people's faces." But at last, she said, "All fuses together now, falls into place from wish to action, word to silence. My work, my love, my time, my face: gathered into one intense gesture of growing like a plant." I invite you to adopt Sarton's poem as a primary source of inspiration in 2022. Make it your guide as you, too, become fully and richly yourself.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): In 2012, the writer Gore Vidal died the day after Gemini writer Maeve Binchy passed away. They were both famous, though Bincy sold more books than Vidal. Vidal was interesting but problematic for me. He was fond of saying that it wasn't enough for him to succeed; he wanted others to fail. The misery of his fellow humans intensified his satisfaction about his own accomplishments. On the other hand, Binchy had a generous wish that everyone would be a success. She felt her magnificence was magnified by others' magnificence. In 2022, it will be vital for your physical and mental health to cultivate Binchy's perspective, not Vidal's. To the degree that you celebrate and enhance the fortunes of others, your own fortunes will thrive.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): Cancerian political leader Nelson Mandela was wrongly incarcerated for 27 years. After his release, he became President of South Africa and won the Nobel Peace Prize. About leaving jail in 1990, he wrote, "As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison." Although you haven't suffered deprivation anywhere close to what Mandela did, I'm happy to report that 2022 will bring you liberations from limiting situations. Please adopt Mandela's approach as you make creative use of your new freedom.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): French poet Andr  Breton wrote, "Je vous souhaite d' tre follement aim e." In English, those words can be rendered as "My wish is that you may be loved to the point of madness" or "I wish you to be loved madly." That's got a romantic ring to it, but it's actually a curse. Why would we want to be loved to the point of madness? A person who "loved" you like that might be fun for a while, but would ultimately become a terrible inconvenience and ongoing disruption. So, dear Leo, I won't wish that you will be loved to the point of madness in 2022—even though I think the coming months will be an interesting and educational time for amour. Instead, I will wish you something more manageable and enjoyable: that you will be loved with respect, sensitivity, care, and intelligence.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): Many people in our culture are smart intellectually, but not very smart emotionally. The wisdom of feelings is undervalued. I protest! One of my great crusades is to champion this neglected source of insight. I am counting on you to be my ally in 2022. Why? Because according to my reading of the astrological omens, you have the potential to ripen your emotional intelligence in the coming months. Do you have ideas about how

to take full advantage of this lucky opportunity? Here's a tip: Whenever you have a decision to make, tune in to what your body and heart tell you as well as to what your mind advises.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl said that a sense of meaning is crucial. It's the key gratification that sustains people through the years: the feeling that their life has a meaning and that particular experiences have meaning. I suggest you make this your theme for 2022. The question "Are you happy?" will be a subset of the more inclusive question, "Are you pursuing a destiny that feels meaningful to you?" Here's the other big question: "If what you're doing doesn't feel meaningful, what are you going to do about it?"

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): Scorpio guitarist Rowland S. Howard spoke of "the grand occasions when love really does turn into something far greater than you had ever dreamed of, something auto-luminescent." Judging from the astrological configurations in 2022, I have strong hopes and expectations that you will experience prolonged periods when love will fit that description. For best results, resolve to become more generous and ingenious in expressing love than you have ever been.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): "I've been trying to go home my whole life," writes poet Chelsea Dingman. I know some of you Sagittarians resist the urge to do that. It's possible you avoid seeking a true and complete home. You may think of the whole world as your home, or you may regard a lot of different places as your homes. And you'd prefer not to narrow down the feeling and concept of "home" to one location or building or community. Whether or not you are one of those kinds of Centaurs, I suspect that 2022 will bring you unexpected new understandings of home—and maybe even give you the sense that you have finally arrived in your ultimate sanctuary.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): To ensure that 2022 will bring you the most interesting and useful kind of progress, take good care of your key friendships and alliances, even as you seek out excellent new friendships and alliances. For best results, heed these thoughts from author Hanya Yanagihara: "Find people who are better than you are—not smarter, not cooler, but kinder, and more generous, and more forgiving—and then appreciate them for what they can teach you, and listen to them when they tell you something about yourself, no matter how bad—or good—it might be."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): Sometime during the Northern Song Dynasty that ruled China from 960 to 1127, an artisan made a white ceramic bowl five inches in diameter. About a thousand years later, a family in New York bought it at a garage sale for \$3. It sat on a mantel in their home for a few years until they got a hunch to have it evaluated by an art collector. A short time later, the bowl was sold at an auction for \$2.2 million. I'm not saying that 2022 will bring a financial event as dramatic as that one. But I do expect that your luck with money will be at a peak.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): In the Quechuan language spoken in parts of Peru, the word "takanakuy" means "when the blood is boiling." Every year at this time, the community of Chumbivilcas stages a holiday called "takanakuy". People gather at the town center to fight each other, settling their differences so they can forget about them and start over fresh. If my friend and I have had a personal conflict during the previous year, we would punch and kick each other—but not too hard—until we had purged our spite and resentment. The slate between us would be clean. Is there some humorous version of this ritual you could enact that wouldn't involve even mild punching and kicking? I recommend you dream one up!

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

TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

LIFE CHANGING ALBUMS: JAXON KOLHOFF TALKS 'FAT ELVIS' LP BY THE BIG BOYS



Jaxon Kolhoff, of Crawl Spaces, talks up "Fat Elvis" by The Big Boys, a 1993 compilation LP that compiles the later-era Big Boys releases, including "Fun, Fun, Fun," "Lullabies," and "No Matter" on one disc.

Member of Lansing's own Crawl Spaces gushes over Texas-made skatepunk

"Bored of Being Kind," the new album from Crawl Spaces, is a murky, moody blast of electronic punk. It's a twisted, avant-garde trip that blends a handful of genres into an ethereal dose of outsider music. The group is a collab between Bilal Baeza and Jaxon Kolhoff. In this week's edition of "Life Changing Albums," where locals talk about seminal records in their collections, Kolhoff talks up a vital influence to his diverse collection — a 1993 compilation LP of provocative, Texas-made skatepunk.

What album comes to mind when you think "life changing"?

Jaxon Kolhoff: The album that helped shape me, and partially my music style, is "Fat Elvis," by the Big Boys. I discovered this album via YouTube suggestions. It happened vicariously through my growing interest in The Minute Men. This was circa 2013, when I was about 14. I discovered this album on YouTube via the suggestion tab. When the song "Fun Fun Fun" came on, my

dad walked into my room and said, "That's the Big Boys." He then took me to his record collection and showed me his original copy of their album "Fun, Fun, Fun."

How would you describe "Fat Elvis" to someone who hasn't heard it yet?

I'd describe it as a punk rock, skateboard-powered coming-of-age anarchy story written by gay men from Austin, Texas, who were built like linebackers.

Were you a diehard fan from day one, or was this a grower record?

This album had a pretty immediate effect on me. The heavy fast riffs, the kick-your-ass drums, and just the overall fun, eccentric lyrics had me fixed. Later, when I listened more closely to the lyrics — which jumped from stories about stealing from frat boys to covers of Hollywood swinging by Kool and The Gang — I had become totally infatuated.

But really, the part of the album that touches me the most is just the

overall song crafting that went into it, along with the story behind the band. The mostly-gay skater boys from Texas who loved punk rock was something that was really relatable to me at this point in my life — I was just discovering the most important parts of myself. The dedication was also very inspiring to me. Apparently, the band spent two weeks straight in the studio while Randy "Biscuit" Turner, the lead singer, was fighting a lung infection.

Do you think the album has impacted your own music?

This album has directly affected my music style by helping me understand that a big part of great songwriting is making a temporary door with your music. One that helps people enter your life, even for just a brief period of time. I love this album because it makes me feel like I'm skating empty pools in the desert with my friends. It takes me to The Big Boys' life and I get to hang out with them for the couple minutes

their song lasts.

When it comes to my music, my band Crawl Spaces just released our first full-length album, "Bored of Being Kind." Our album release show was back in October at The Robin Theater. Currently though, we are working on a video game, which we are fully making and producing ourselves. I'm doing the script writing, voice acting and in-game music, while my band mate Bilal is designing the game and coding it. We're hoping to throw, and play more, shows eventually once COVID has calmed down.

Jaxon Kolhoff's Honorable Mention Albums:

Ol' Dirty Bastard "Return to the 36 chambers"

Leon Russell "Carney"

The Meatmen "We're the Meatmen...and You Suck!!"

Follow Crawl Spaces at [facebook.com/crawlspaceband](https://www.facebook.com/crawlspaceband) and listen on Spotify.

OUTontheTOWN

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

B&I Bar
5247 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing
Keith Minaya
Thursday, Dec. 23, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

The Green Door
2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Festivus Mix Pack Party
Thursday, Dec. 23

Wednesday, December 22

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

Light and Shadow - Michigan Landscapes by Brandt MacLean. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saper Galleries and Custom Framing, 433 Albert Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-0815.

Switch Gaming - Join us for an evening of fun and friendly Switch Gaming! Grab your Nintendo Switch, or play ours! 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org

Threads of Wisdom: Divination - Join us in-person or Zoom for a discussion. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St, Ste 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org

Thursday, December 23

Jazz at the Blue Owl - Elden Kelly and Gregg Hil. 6-8 p.m. The Blue Owl in ReoTown, 1149 S. Washington, Lansing. 517-999-4695.

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

Michigan Made | Holiday Art Exhibition - through Dec. 23. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N. Washington Sq., Lansing. 917-833-9963. lansingartgallery.org.

Stitch 'N Bitch - Bring your yarn or thread for a casual evening of fiber arts and chit-chat. 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center Street, Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540.



Photo by Raymond Holt

Potter Park Zoo's Wonderland of Lights continues a longstanding tradition of inviting the city to explore the zoo after dark using the illumination from thousands of twinkling lights. The process of transforming the zoo into an interactive light show takes

Potter Park staff several months, and preparation for the yearly winter event begins as early as August. While the majority of animals are tucked away inside to avoid the cold, the eagles are always present and the river otters, which do well in chilly

temperatures, are occasionally playing outside. Guests may also enjoy the reptile house and the feline exhibit, which includes a snow leopard and a pair of lions.

Potter Park Zoo's Wonderland of Lights

Through Dec. 26
\$9 general admission, \$5 for children (3-12), seniors and military
Free for kids under 3
1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing
Potterparkzoo.org

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service - Join us for a beautiful Christmas Eve candlelight service. 6-7 p.m. Christ Community Church, 227 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

Saturday, December 25

Happy Holidays from City Pulse!

Sunday, December 26

Kids Day - 1-4 p.m. Absolute Gallery, 307 E Grand River Ave, Lansing. 517-482-8845. absolutegallery.net.

Monday, December 27

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

Comedy Night - 9-11:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.

Tuesday, December 28

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

Faith In Action - Concert and personal testimonies for CEF to promote Christian Youth In Action 1 p.m. South Church, 5250 Cornerstone Dr, Lansing. bandsintown.com.

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

Sow What? - 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing.

517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Sporcle Live! Trivia - Are you a trivia buff? We will have two games starting at 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.



CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 27

E	M	M	Y		D	A	S	H		S	T	O	P
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 27

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

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Rocky Mountain Lily Broth

By ARI LeVAUX

French onion soup is the world's most elegant dish. Not the kind of elegance you'd find on a white tablecloth with extra silverware, but elegant in the sense that scientists use the word. Like when a simple equation can express the relationship between matter and energy with as few ingredients as a pot of French onion soup.

Onion, wine and butter are some of the most flavorful materials in the universe. Add energy in the form of heat from your stovetop, and plenty of time, which some people call the 4th dimension, and thyme from the garden, where that tough little herb stays green deep into winter.

Those three primary ingredients, plus herbs and salt, play off each other to become something greater than the sum of its parts. The acidity of the wine cuts through the fat, while the onion infuses that harmonious balance with pungently sweet and richly caramelized flavors. Perfection is the only plausible outcome.

Thanks to that unimpeachable protocol, the hardest part of French onion soup is keeping it secret while you're baking the onions. Because if the word gets out, those juicy, layered slabs of flavor will go missing. And how can one keep it secret when the aroma of even



a pedestrian version of this delicacy can pass through walls?

Meanwhile, I have a proprietary version that includes garlic, which amps the flavor up to eleven.

Both garlic and onion are members of the allium, or lily family, which explains why garlic fits in with the other ingredients of my version of this soup, which I call Rocky Mountain Lily Broth.

I strain out the remains of the onions, garlic and herbs, leaving a thin, featureless broth that I use as much as an ingredient as dish. Sure, you can serve it with a crostini and melted cheese. It's a fun thing to do with lily soup. But that's just the beginning. Like any broth or stock, this liquid is useful in countless ways.

I recently cooked a piece of tough meat on the bone in a pot of lily broth. It was the perfect medium, impregnating the meat with its juicy flavor. And then again, as a chaser, using it to wash a mouthful of food, like a sip of wine that invigorates me rather than puts



Rocky Mountain lily broth prepared by Ari LeVaux.

Ari LeVaux

me to sleep. I've used my lily broth to make plov, a Central Asian precursor to rice pilaf. And from time to time, I even use it to make an extra-flavorful French Onion Soup Au Gratin.

Rocky Mountain Lily Broth

This luxurious liquid is a broth that can double easily as a soup. A stock, by contrast, has no salt or fat. Either way, it's useful, versatile, delicious and nutritious.

Five large yellow onions

Five heads of garlic

2 sticks butter

2 cups olive oil

A bottle of white wine, preferably from the south of France

Thyme, preferably fresh

2 tablespoons beef bouillon paste

For Au Gratin, a crusty slice of white bread, and grated melty cheese.

Preheat the oven to 300. Cut the onions from end to end into quarters, removing the dry skins. Cut the bottom scabs off the garlic cloves but leave the skins on, so they hold the cloves together down the road.

Separate the garlic heads into cloves. Cut off the scabs at the bottoms and put the trimmed cloves into a small baking dish, along with a half stick of butter, a cup of olive oil, a cup of wine and a sprig of thyme, and bake for about an hour. Add the onions to a large baking dish or sheet pan, with a cut side on the pan, along with a cup of oil, a cup of wine, a stick and a half of butter and a few sprigs of thyme. Bake for three hours.

Remove the garlic cloves ahead of the onions because they can get bitter when overcooked. They should still be bright white when you take them out. Onions can also overcook to a bitter place, but it takes a lot longer, and might be impossible if they are immersed in butter and wine, all of which will be completely absorbed by the onion eventually.

When the onions are done baking, they will have brand new dried peels and insides full of luscious juices. And like those onions, those roasted garlic cloves are also a flight risk, especially when they figure out you can smear it on toast.

When all of the alliums have thus been cooked to absolute perfection, prepare a pot of beef or veggie stock or broth and bouillon — the only meaningful difference being how much salt and oil they contain. That's why we haven't added any thus far. We'll add it before serving as needed.

Add the baked onions and garlic, along with all of their juices, and the rest of the wine, to the pot of stock. I use a pasta basket insert for this, which allows me to easily pull out and remove the solid parts of the broth, including all of the garlic and onions, instantly leaving behind a thin, versatile broth.

If you want to serve it the way normal people serve French onion soup, with bread and melted cheese, then ladle up a serving of soup into a bakeable bowl and turn the oven to broil. Smear a clove or two of garlic onto a slice of bread and place it atop the soup. Sprinkle the bread and soup with a quarter cup of grated cheese per bowl, and broil for about 7 minutes, or until the cheese has fully melted and started to brown, with the bread that isn't covered by cheese starting to toast. Set aside to cool, so nobody burns their mouths, which they would do, because they would be insatiable with that aroma in their faces. When it's cool enough that your guests can dive in with lustful abandon, serve it.

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

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Pizza delivered from Gopuff

By SKYLER ASHLEY

If you're unfamiliar with Gopuff, the first thing to note about it is that it has absolutely nothing to do with marijuana. Like seemingly every single one of my friends, I too had that misconception. Disappointing, I know. It's actually a delivery service that specializes in products that you would find at your garden-variety convenience store — snacks like potato chips and bottles of soda.

New to this delivery service is Gopuff's very own pizza. When I first discovered this, I was skeptical. How good could a delivery service app be at cooking its own pizza? Why not just order pizza from anywhere else? Well, there are two main perks: it's very cheap and it's delivered very fast. There's the old adage that something is either cheap, good or fast — but it can never be all three. Somehow, Gopuff pizza manages to prove that usually infallible saying wrong.

The crust is nice and fluffy, while the cheese is hot and gooey with a nice consistency. And if you order more toppings instead of just going with a plain cheese pizza, you'll find that

Order from Gopuff.com

those are nicely prepared as well. For under \$10, this is definitely a total steal. I won't say you should expect something that's out of this world incredible, but it's certainly a step above frozen pizza and is absolutely at least as good as Little Caesars. If you're looking for something inexpensive and satisfying to be brought straight to your doorstep, give it a shot.



Pizza from Gopuff.com

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