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March 23 - 29, 2022.

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See Page 15

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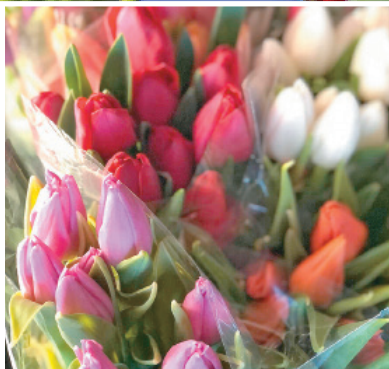


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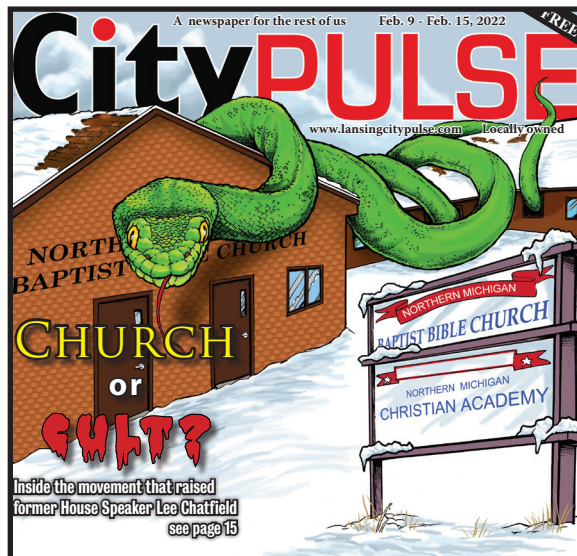
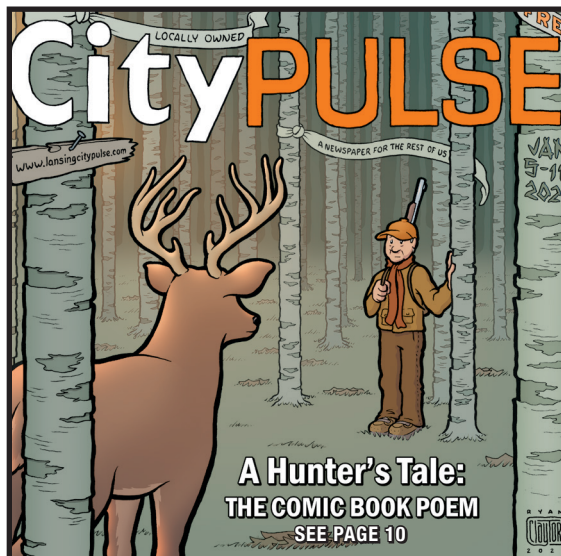
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You can give two different ways:

- Directly to City Pulse. That helps us with general expenses, including salaries for our dedicated staff, printing costs (and we have had seven increases in the cost of paper — our biggest expense after payroll — since the beginning of 2021), distribution, the rent and everything else it takes to keep the doors open.
- To the City Pulse Fund for Community Journalism, a 501(c)3, for those of you who itemize your taxes and will benefit from a tax deduction.

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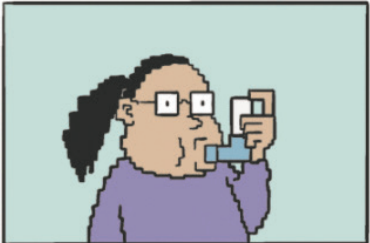
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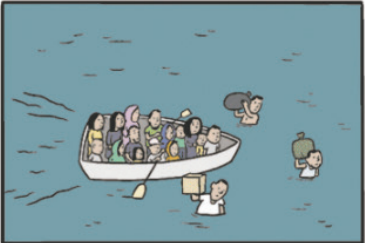
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# CityPULSE

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

**EDITOR AND PUBLISHER** • Berl Schwartz  
[publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:publisher@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5061  
**MANAGING EDITOR** • Kyle Kaminski

[kyle@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:kyle@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-6710  
**ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR** • Chloe Alverson  
[chloe@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:chloe@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5068

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

**PRODUCTION** • Skyler Ashley  
[skyler@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:skyler@lansingcitypulse.com)  
(517) 999-5066

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

**SALES EXECUTIVE**  
**Lee Purdy** • [lee@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:lee@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5064  
**SALES ASSISTANT**

**Caleb Woloszyn-Duffy**  
[caleb@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:caleb@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-6707

**CONTRIBUTING EDITOR**  
**Todd Heywood**  
[heywood.reporter@gmail.com](mailto:heywood.reporter@gmail.com) • (517) 899-6182

**Contributors:** Andy Balaskovitz, Capital News Service, Bill Castanier, Ryan Claytor, Mary C. Cusack, Tom Helma, Dedria Humphries Barker, Ari LeVaux, Gabrielle Lawrence, Kyle Melinn, Tom Perkins, Dennis Preston, Carrie Sampson, Jen Sorensen, Nevin Speerbrecker, Tom Tomorrow, Rich Tupica, David Winkelstern, Paul Wozniak

**Delivery drivers:** Dave Fisher, Michael Gross, Garrett Clinard, Melodee Mabbitt, Curtis Lauck



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McLaren, Lansing Art Gallery partner at new hospital.



**PAGE 14**

New stores open in downtown market.



**PAGE 30**

How to blend lemon and chicken.



**Cover Art**

Illustration by Nevin Speerbrecker

**THIS MODERN WORLD**

by TOM TOMORROW



HURRAY! COVID IS FINALLY OVER! WE CAN GET BACK TO NORMAL!

WE'LL NEVER NEED MASKS OR BOOSTERS AGAIN!

AND THEN--

OH NO! THERE'S ANOTHER NEW VARIANT TEARING THROUGH THE POPULATION!

SERIOUSLY, THERE IS NO WAY WE COULD HAVE EVER SEEN THIS COMING!

ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND WE GO

HURRAY! COVID IS DEFINITELY OVER THIS TIME!

WE MIGHT AS WELL DEFUND OUR ENTIRE PANDEMIC RESPONSE!

BUT THEN--

UH OH! THERE'S A NEW VARIANT MAKING PEOPLE SICK!

WHO COULD HAVE POSSIBLY FORESEEN THIS?

A FEW MONTHS LATER--

TOM TOMORROW © 2022

## PULSE

## NEWS &amp; OPINION

## MAGA Mixer to feature Trump choices — and election conspiracies

## GOP operative tied to white nationalist organizes local rally

Lansing area law enforcement agencies are on alert rolling into this weekend.

A rally on the steps of the State Capitol is planned for Saturday (March 26) by supporters of former President Donald Trump and those who claim the 2020 election was “stolen.” The rally, set to last about three hours on Saturday afternoon, will then give way to a “MAGA Mixer.” City officials said authorities are keeping an eye on the rally.

The event is being sponsored by two out-of-state organizations: Republicans for National Renewal and Grand Opportunity USA. Shane Trejo, grassroots director for Republicans for National Renewal, co-hosted a podcast titled “Blood, Soil and Liberty” for two years with white nationalist Alex Witoslawski. And while the audio of those shows has since been deleted from the internet, the podcast still remained listed this week on several popular podcast sites.

The Anti-Defamation League’s extremism archives indicates the phrase Blood and Soil — “blut und boden” — was a Nazi phrase referring to keeping oneself racially pure. It was chanted at the Charlotteville “Unite the Right” protest in 2017.

In 2019, Witoslawski was recorded by activists from Unicorn Riot providing messaging training for the white supremacy group Identity Evropa. That group later dissolved and attempted to rebrand itself as the extremist American Identity Movement before again falling apart in 2020.

Trejo did not respond to an email inquiry about his involvement with Republicans for National Renewal or his ties to Witoslawski. But John Paul Moran, the executive director for the other organization sponsoring the mixer, Grand Opportunity USA, said that he had spoken to Trejo over the weekend about Witkowski and his reported ties to white nationalism. Moran reported that Trejo had rejected the claim that he was tied to white nationalism in any sense. Moran said anyone who wants to support white nationalism is unwelcome at the MAGA Mixer.

“That’s not what we’re about, at all,” he said. “We’re for opportunity for everyone.”

After a rally at the Capitol, Trump supporters will head to a MAGA Mixer at Royal Scot.



The event was originally set to happen at Lansing Brewing Co., but Moran, a Boston area resident, said the brewery canceled the mixer after it garnered negative publicity. It’s set to continue at Royal Scot, a bowling alley and golf course in Clinton County, just past the Ingham County line on Grand River Avenue by the Capital Region International Airport.

Royal Scot had its liquor license and food license suspended by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission and the Department of Agriculture in 2020 for violating COVID-19 rules. City Pulse recorded people violating Michigan’s health rules there at the time. Afterward, the former health officer for Clinton County said the activities at Royal Scot were leading to the spread of COVID.

Moran declined to discuss the violations and license suspensions at Royal Scot, calling the entire COVID-19 response “mixed messaging.” Royal Scot accepted its suspensions last year.

Moran proudly touts being an openly gay man who ran as a Republican for Congress in Massachusetts’ 6th Congressional District two years ago. Incumbent Democrat Seth Moulton easily defeated him in 2020 by a margin of 65.4% to 34.4%, The New York Times reported.

But Moran, 55, was not deterred. He launched Grand Opportunity USA with a plan to create a new rating system for

candidates up and down every ballot in the country — with a particular focus on federal races. In his weekly “Opportunity Report” Facebook videos, Moran claims the rating systems are a novel concept, but in an interview with City Pulse, he recognized that political groups have had rating systems for decades that gauge candidates on issues.

Unlike those, however, Moran said his system will measure political stances on 39 issues that he claimed to be supported by 80% of voters. Those issues boil down to five categories: social, personal, economic, education and national opportunity. They run the gamut from traditionally right-wing beliefs like school voucher systems to traditionally left leaning ideological constructs such as supporting civil rights based on “race, age, religion, orientations, lifestyles and political” perspectives. Moran’s group also opposes identity-driven “politics,” including what it calls “Critical Race Theory, LatCrit and Critical Gender Theory.”

With a maximum of five points possible, former President Bill Clinton received a rating of +1 under Moran’s rating system. JFK received a rating of +4. Ronald Reagan received a +4.4. George W. Bush received a +2. Barack Obama’s rating dipped into the negatives at -2.4.

Moran has also claimed that public education has been teaching children as

young as kindergarten about sexual activity, as well as promoting gender identity for students.

The “gender agenda,” as he called it, is rooted in sexist and homophobic beliefs. He also claimed that fewer women come out as lesbian because of access to transgender identities.

“I am all about protect adult transgender persons,” he said. “But not for kids. With puberty blockers and all that. That’s just insane.”

Leading medical experts, however, feel differently.

Last April, the American Medical Association wrote to the National Governor’s Association demanding an end to legislation that interferes with the care of transgender children and adults.

Moran said he supports the rights of transgender adults to receive care — “just not the kids.” He also said that the medical interventions used on children who identify as transgender can create significant health issues down the road. In addition, those who early on in life identify as transgender ultimately always come out as lesbian, gay or bisexual, he contended.

The former congressional candidate is also suing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, alleging that election officials and lawmakers superseded the state Constitution by expanding mail-in, no-reason absentee voting. He added: “They violated the Constitution. It’s that simple.”

After being told that Michigan has had over 250 election audits, legislative reports and an Inspector General report finding no fraud in the 2020 election, Moran still insisted there was evidence of election fraud in Michigan, claiming there was video of ballots being dumped late in the night, as well as challengers booted while ballots were counted at the TCF Center in Detroit. Both of those claims were promoted by Trejo, who in addition to serving as a director at Republicans for National Revival also chairs the 11th Congressional District Republicans. Trejo published those allegations on a right-wing website called Big League Politics. In November 2020, Attorney General Dana Nessel sent Trejo and Big League Politics a cease-and-desist order that claimed material on the website had constituted “misinformation.”

— TODD HEYWOOD

# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

By KYLE KAMINSKI



### Let the golden nectar flow

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer proclaimed Monday (March 21) as Oberon Day — a new holiday that marks the state’s “unofficial” start to spring and the 30th anniversary of Oberon Ale from Bell’s Brewery. Whitmer, of course, has long been a fan of the tasty beverage and has been repeatedly portrayed on “Saturday Night Live” holding a bottle of the famous Michigan craft brew. Fun fact: Last year, Michigan residents guzzled down more than 14 million pints of Oberon Ale.

### Federal cash flows to Michigan Avenue

The city of Lansing is set to receive \$1 million in federal funding to make “major improvements” to Michigan Avenue, including to help modernize traffic signals and establish a framework to support autonomous vehicles. The cash will also allow for the possibility of new bike lanes.

### Audit spots racism at Lansing schools

An equity audit released last week found that Black and multi-racial students who attend the Lansing School District are more than twice as likely to be suspended than their white peers, according to reports in the Lansing State Journal. In addition to inequitable discipline, the audit also flagged the district for racial disparities in student achievement and access to AP courses.



### Whitmer appoints Lansing judge

Cooley Law School Professor Tony Flores was appointed to fill a partial term on the 54A District Court following the retirement of Judge Louise Alderson in January. Flores, who has taught at Cooley since 2005, served as an assistant prosecutor in Mecosta County. His partial term expires in January, meaning he’ll have to run for election in November for a full six-year term.

### Fire chief finalists named in Lansing

Three of 19 applicants have been identified as finalists to serve as the next chief of the Lansing Fire Department: Interim Chief Michael Tobin; Sterling Heights Assistant Chief Edwin Miller and Battle Creek Chief Brian Sturdivant. A search committee is set to narrow the field to two candidates today (March 23). The Fire Board of Commissioners will meet the next day and forward a recommendation to Mayor Andy Schor, who makes the final decision.

### Schor catches COVID-19

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor tested positive for the coronavirus Sunday (March 20). Schor said he tested negative on Friday (March 18) but decided to embark on a precautionary self-quarantine over the weekend after experiencing mild cold-like symptoms. A subsequent test on Sunday revealed he was positive. Schor — who is double-vaxxed and boosted — said he notified the “very few” people with whom he was in contact last weekend and will continue to work from home “as long as necessary.”

### Commission to replace Schertzing

A three-person commission, comprising Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum, Prosecutor Carol Siemon and Chief Probate Judge Shauna Dunning, will meet next month to establish a process to replace outgoing County Treasurer Eric Schertzing, who is set to retire at the end of the month. The appointed replacement will serve through November, at which point whoever is elected to the position is expected to take over the job. The election filing deadline is 4 p.m. April 19.



### House Dems demands Chatfield probe

Democrats have demanded an investigation into the “ethical failings and misconduct in office” of former House Speaker Lee Chatfield, including allegations that he misused staff resources and other benefits, as well as on the lack of financial reporting requirements that enabled the alleged misdeeds to occur. Meanwhile, Chatfield is still under criminal investigation for allegedly sexually assaulting his sister-in-law starting when she was a teenager at Chatfield’s school.

### ‘Dirt School’ to launch at Burchfield Park



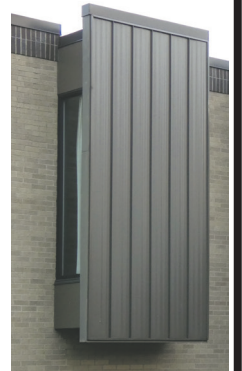
Plans are in motion to build a \$150,000 mountain bike skills park called “Dirt School” at Burchfield Park in Ingham County before the end of the year, reports the Lansing State Journal. The 540-acre park is already home to more than 10 miles of mountain bike trails. The new “bike playground” will reportedly feature tunnel tubes, giant slalom traffic cones, ramps and bridges.

### Lansing man sentenced for child porn

Michael McShan, 28, of Lansing, was sentenced in a federal courtroom to 25 years in prison after he was convicted through a five-day trial last year on five criminal charges related to the production and attempted production of child pornography, according to federal prosecutors. After he gets out, McShan will be on “supervised release for the rest of his life,” authorities said.

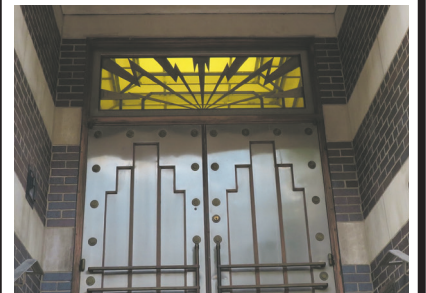


Allison Kelly of Lansing was the first to correctly guess last month’s Eye for Design, the lightning zaps that converge over the north portal of the 1938 Ottawa



Street Power Station (below), now the headquarters of the insurance giant AF Group at 200 N. Grand Ave. The brass “transom zaps” are the crowning touch on a lavish set of inner and outer lobby doors that boldly proclaimed the building’s original function — to bring coal-fired electric power into the heart of the city. Like the nearby John Dye Water Conditioning Plant at 148 S. Cedar, built in 1939, the Ottawa Street Power Plant is a superb example of the civilized public works projects that fused function with form to civilize and energize urban America in the New Deal years.

This month’s Eye for Design (above) clue is from a building in Old Town. Be the first to send the correct answer to [knarianj@mail.lcc.edu](mailto:knarianj@mail.lcc.edu) and win an Eye for Design mug.



— JAMES KNARIAN & LAWRENCE COSENTINO

“Eye for Design” is a monthly contest that features distinctive fine points of architecture in Greater Lansing. It rotates with Eyesore and Eye Candy.

### Correction

Because of a reporting error, the Eye Candy of the Week last week wrongly stated the construction date of the Salvation Army building on Pennsylvania Avenue in Lansing. It was erected in 1932, according to history specialists at the Capital Area District Libraries. The original owner was the Shaarey Zedek Community Center.

# Magic mushrooms for Michigan?

If you've never heard of Timothy Leary, let us fill you in. Leary was a Harvard psychology professor and countercultural icon of the 1960s who advocated for the widespread acceptance and use of psychedelic drugs. His drug of choice was LSD, a powerful synthetic substance known for inducing vivid hallucinations, but also for taking its users on a deep and illuminating dive into their own consciousness. His famous call to action — "Turn on, tune in, drop out" — became a rallying cry for the hedonistic freedom of that era.

Leary's campaign to normalize the use of psychedelic drugs earned him the enmity of none other than President Richard Nixon, who called him "the most dangerous man in America" while declaring a "war on drugs" that would persist for the next half-century.

Congress dropped the hammer in 1970, criminalizing LSD and other hallucinogens by adding them to federal Schedule I, the controlled substance designation reserved for drugs with the highest potential for abuse and no redeeming medical value. Marijuana was added the next year, sharply curtailing research into the potential therapeutic benefits of both cannabis and substances like LSD and psilocybin, the latter being the psychoactive ingredient in "magic mushrooms."

In the decades that followed, our nation's attitude toward drugs lurched even farther to the right, highlighted by Nancy Reagan's "Just Say No" propaganda campaign and an aggressive law enforcement crackdown that slapped scores of Americans with draconian, mandatory minimum sentences for relatively minor drug offenses. Tragically, the impact of the drug war fell disproportionately on communities of color.

We've come a long way since those repressive times, but there's still work to be done.

In a welcome step toward ending the tiresome and counterproductive war on drugs once and for all, advocates in Michigan are pushing for the decriminalization of plant-based psychedelic substances, including psilocybin. Having secured approval of their petition language from the State Board of Canvassers, organizers of the Michigan Initiative for Community Healing will soon start collecting signatures to place their measure on the statewide ballot, giving Michigan voters the chance to weigh in on the proposal.

We wouldn't be the first state to do so.

Three years ago, state voters approved a ballot measure that made Oregon the first in the nation to decriminalize psilocybin and legalize it for therapeutic use. Momentum for reform continues to build as local governments across the country, including here in Michigan, take steps to decriminalize plant-based psychedelics.

In just the last two years, the governing bodies of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County and Detroit have all passed measures declaring that laws against using psilocybin and similar natural substances are the city's lowest law enforcement priority. Michigan lawmakers also have joined the fight: State Sens. Jeff Irwin, D-Ann Arbor, and Adam Hollier, D-Detroit, late last year introduced legislation to allow personal and communal use, possession, cultivation, transportation and delivery of psilocybin and mescaline, another natural hallucinogen.

Much like cannabis, a growing body of evidence supports the idea that psilocybin and other psychedelic substances have legitimate medicinal uses. After gaining federal regulatory approval to conduct experiments with psychedelic drugs on healthy volunteer subjects, research is underway at Johns Hopkins University to confirm studies that suggested hallucinogens may provide therapeutic benefits for a range of conditions, from tobacco addiction and Alzheimer's disease to major depression disorder and anorexia nervosa. Psychedelics are also thought to have a palliative effect on the fear and stress that terminal patients experience as they near death.

Despite the many merits of the ballot initiative, we're concerned its sponsors may end up derailing their own train by shifting the debate away from the likely therapeutic benefits of these drugs. The drive to legalize cannabis in Michigan began by persuasively making the case for medicinal use. It makes sense to follow a similar path with psychedelics, but that's not how the ballot sponsors see it. One of the lead organizers recent-

ly said the campaign will focus on the "spiritual and ancestral applications of these plants." That's fine, but it's probably not a winning argument.

Even though we strongly support decriminalizing drugs, it also may not be the best idea to include provisions in the ballot language that dramatically reduce criminal penalties for drug-related offenses, sharply reducing fines and slashing minimum sentences for the most serious drug offenses. We're concerned that broadening the ballot measure may end up dooming the whole enterprise by making

it an easier target for critics.

Provided the organizers manage to collect signatures from 340,000+

registered Michigan voters by June 1 — no small task on its own — we surmise that the ballot proposal will fail to garner the support of Michigan voters simply because it goes too far. We know that Michiganders are overwhelmingly in favor of legalized recreational cannabis, but vastly more people smoke weed than use psychedelics. It will take more time, more evidence and more persuasion to convince voters that decriminalizing plant-based hallucinogens is the right move for Michigan.

Taking the long view, a loss at the ballot would be but a temporary setback, a teachable moment that advances public understanding of the issue and adds another useful chapter to a burgeoning movement that eventually will bring an end to criminal consequences for the possession and use of most drugs. Prohibition not only hasn't worked, it has victimized millions of Americans over the past 50 years. With continued advocacy, it's only a matter of time before a more enlightened approach takes hold.

When that day comes, we'll be here to welcome it with open arms.



## The CP Edit

### Opinion

## What's the return?

### Dear editor:

As a 78-year-old lifelong resident of the City of Lansing, I read with special interest the article written by the president of the Lansing School District Board of Education appearing in your March 9 edition. In it she stated: "If you live within the boundaries of the Lansing School District, the most important thing you can do is go to the polls and vote YES on the (school) millage on May 3." Just as important is the board's wise use of the revenue generated by the millage.

Is the decision to "completely tear down and replace four schools: Mt. Hope, Lewton, Willow, and Sheridan Road," as the article states, the wisest use of those funds? The use of past millage funds by the present and past boards raises that concern.

For example:

1. Renovating Walter French Junior High at a cost of over \$1 million and selling it a few years later for approx-

imately \$900,000. Miscalculation of future enrollment/need?

2. Building Harry Hill High School at a cost of several million dollars and closing it 8 years later. Miscalculation of enrollment/need?

3. Renovating/building an addition to Pattengill Middle School and moving Eastern High School there and then building a football stadium at the former site of Eastern. Why spend the money when Eastern had played at Sexton's stadium 60+ years without problems? This is especially interesting since it appears fewer and fewer students are playing football. Miscalculation of need?

The headline of the article reads: THERE IS NO BETTER INVESTMENT THAN IN OUR KIDS. How true. But an investment expects a return. Will constructing/replacing four schools be a good long-term investment in "OUR KIDS"?

**Charles F. Filice, Lansing**  
(The writer is a retired 54A District Court judge.)

## Have something to say?

**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  
SUMMARY OF  
ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1299

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Lansing Codified Ordinances by amending Chapter 696, Section 696.07, to provide requirements for owners of firearms to report the theft thereof and provide penalties for failure to make a report.

Effective date: Upon publication

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

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

CP#22-068

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED STATE AND FEDERAL APPLICATIONS FOR  
OPERATING, CAPITAL ASSISTANCE AND PUBLIC HEARING

All citizens are advised that CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY ("CATA") has prepared an application for State of Michigan ("State") financial assistance for fiscal year 2023 as required under Act 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as amended, and for federal assistance as required under the federal transit laws, as amended, as follows:

State Operating Assistance	\$ 16,278,628
FTA/State Urban Capital Program (Section 5307)	\$ 9,540,638
State Specialized Services	\$ 40,000
FTA Rural Operating Assistance (Section 5311)	\$ 813,791
FTA/State Bus and Bus Facilities (Section 5339)	\$ 1,020,804
FTA/State Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality	\$ 125,000
FTA/State Enhanced Mobility (Section 5310)	\$ 485,697
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 28,304,558</b>

Operating and capital funds listed above include both urban and rural funds. Capital projects to be funded include the purchase of large and small buses, paratransit vehicles for transporting customers and support vehicles; preventive maintenance, technology systems, planning, maintenance equipment, bus replacement parts, safety and security system, customer enhancements and facility improvements. This notice meets the Federal Transit Administration 5307 public notification requirement. If there are not substantive changes or comments as a result of publishing the above draft program, then the draft program will constitute the final program.

CATA ensures that the level and quality of transportation service is provided without regard to race, color or national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information regarding our Title VI obligations or to file a complaint, please contact CATA's Deputy CEO/Civil Rights Officer at 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910 or via email to titlevi@cata.org.

The proposed application is on file at CATA, 4615 Tranter St., Lansing, MI, and may be reviewed during a 30-day period (March 13, 2022 – April 12, 2022), Monday – Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Written comments regarding the application and/or written requests for a public hearing to review the application must be received by 5 p.m. April 12, 2022. If a hearing is requested, notice of the scheduled date, time and location will be provided at least 10 days in advance.

Submittals should be sent to CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, FY 2023 Grant Application, Attn: Planning and Development Department, 4615 Tranter St., Lansing, MI 48910, or via email to marketing@cata.org.

CP#22-062

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, MARCH 15, 2022 AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Clerk Sanders, Deputy Supervisor Overton  
Trustees: Harris, Brewer, Ruiz  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustees: Broughton  
ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:  
Meeting called to order by Deputy Supervisor Overton.  
Authorized DeeAnn Overton, Deputy Supervisor, to act as Chairperson for the meeting.  
Minutes of the regular meeting held on March 1, 2022 approved.  
Agenda approved as amended.  
Adopted Resolution 22-08: Westside Water Advisory Committee.  
Approved appointment of Kathy Rodgers as Lansing Township Treasurer.  
Approved acceptance of the Supervisor's resignation effective March 11, 2022.  
Authorized Township Attorney and Township Assessor to settle Tax Tribunal case, MTT Docket #21-001124, as described in Assessor's memo.  
Claims approved.  
Meeting adjourned.

Maggie Sanders, Clerk.

CP#22-070

Vote YES on Lansing school bonds  
on May 3 for a better tomorrow

By PETER SPADAFORE

(The writer is an at-large Lansing City Councilman and former president of the Lansing School District Board of Education. He also serves as the executive director of the Middle Cities Education Association, a nonprofit association in Lansing.)



Spadafore

Supporting the Lansing School District bond proposal on May 3 means supporting a better future for Lansing's children and our city as a whole. Whether you have students in the district or not, voting yes on the May 3 bond should be an easy decision for every Lansing resident.

The school bond proposal will not increase taxes even a penny, yet it will benefit current Lansing students and generations to come, while also creating jobs and enthusiasm around our schools.

Voting yes allows the school district to continue an existing millage while investing nearly \$130 million in our community. The district will be able to build four new elementary schools, which are sorely needed to replace crumbling, unsafe buildings. These new schools — Mt. Hope STEAM Magnet School, Willow Elementary, Lewton School, and Sheridan Road STEM Magnet School — will provide our children and their educators with the safer, engaging and modern learning environments they deserve.

The May 3 bond builds on the transformational work started with the Pathway Promise in 2016, when Eastern and Everett high schools received significant upgrades. Now it's Sexton's turn.

This bond provides desperately needed improvements to J. W. Sexton High School. Voting yes will upgrade Sexton's auditorium, provide new ceilings and window coverings, provide athletic improvements, as well as refresh the learning environment throughout the historic westside school. Voting yes sends a strong message that Sexton is here to stay.

While buildings don't educate our children, good school facilities show our children they are valued. Clean, modernized buildings keep kids and families engaged with their school community. Good schools and modern school buildings also help attract new families.

This is an exciting time in Lansing's history. This bond will make record investments that will result in an influx of new workers and families. As we compete with other

communities for students, we must show our region that Lansing cares about its children. Voting yes supports future generations of children who can learn and graduate from Lansing schools.

In addition to the great teaching and learning that takes place in our buildings, schools are integral to our community. We've all attended special programs, events and celebrations at schools across Lansing. Those buildings are neighborhood anchors that contribute to the fabric of the community.

The world is changing rapidly. Our agrarian calendar is coming into question. When I served as president of the Lansing school board, we began the discussion about adding options for families who want year round or a more balanced calendar to better serve the needs of students and prepare them to be opportunity ready in the 21st century. In order to make that shift, we must ensure our students and educators have comfortable environments for teaching in learning. Resources generated by the May 3 bond will put air conditioning in all our schools — allowing the district to offer more flexible calendar options for students and families.

Alongside energy efficient air conditioning, new air filtration systems are also needed to protect kids, teachers, and staff from airborne illness.

As a member of the Lansing City Council, I know how important good schools are to our community. All of our efforts at City Hall will be wasted if we don't also support our students. This bond presents an enormous opportunity to support our children, strengthen our property values and build our community. It's not often it costs so little to do so much, for so many.

Vote yes on May 3 and help create a brighter future for Lansing children and families.

# Patients and care providers caught in prolonged stare down over insurance

By now, you may have seen or heard by now the heart-wrenching story of Kelley Miller.

**Opinion** She's the quadruple-gic who is among the 18,000 catastrophically injured patients forced to adjust to the new law that puts serious cost controls on a system that —until recently — had few to none.

Her nurse, now apparently unable to afford to take care of Miller, watched her patient get moved from her home, where she lived with her husband and some animals for the last several years, to Sparrow Hospital, where she will receive the 24/7 care she needs to live.

The story is relevant now that House Speaker Jason Wentworth has decided that he will not consider any further changes to how care providers will be compensated for treating those people, like Miller, whose serious car wreck injuries require constant care.

The 45% cut to providers — created by the 2019 reforms — will stand. The medical fee schedules on attendant care will stand.

To the casual observer, the move seems heartless. How could a government official tear suffering individuals out of their homes and their long-term care providers? Surely, there's something that could be done.

Folks like Miller are covered by the unlimited lifetime care insurance policies we all bought up until a couple years ago, right?

The answer to all this requires some explaining. And in the public relations world, the moment you're explaining, you're losing, which may be why Wentworth and other legislative Republicans aren't engaging in the topic.

What's happening is a continuation of a drawn-out back-and-forth between legislators (and by extension auto insurers) and those who take care of catastrophically injured patients (and by extension patients).

You may remember that for years, rehabilitation clinics and care providers created were able to charge essentially whatever they wanted to their services for auto wreck patients.

This isn't like medical insurance. This isn't the haggling your physician and Blue Cross or PHP go through in figuring how big of a bill you're getting for your medical procedure.

This was: Bill sent. Bill paid. This meant the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association, which all drivers used to pay into, saw rapid increases that hit \$220 per year at one point. After the cost controls went into effect and payments were limited to 55% to 78% of prior charges plus 5.39% (the rate of inflation), fees were down to \$86 a year. That \$400 check we're supposed to be getting from our auto insurance company? That's directly related to the new cost controls on folks like Miller. There's so much money in the fund that you're getting a refund.

If you don't like it, you can donate your \$400 refund check to the Brain Injury Association to help care for the injured. Or you can spend it however you please.

Rep. Phil Green, R-Mayville, and other legislators have suggested that a different fee schedule be used to control costs. What about paying what workers compensation pays or veterans affairs pay?

Neither of these fee schedules takes into account the costs to provide 24/7 care, which many of these 18,000 patients need. To stretch out the same reimbursement levels that workers comp pays out to these catastrophically injured patients would be a hefty bill, which could have us all going back to paying \$220 a year.

Wentworth and other Republican lawmakers are now playing poker with these providers, who they believe have been overcharging Michigan drivers for years. They see the providers as using their patients as public relations props to get back what they had.

If the 68 companies that claim they are on the verge of going out of business are truly going under, they can open their books to state insurance regulators. The state has \$25 million to give providers so they don't close their doors.

The condition, however, is that providers need to show the regulators their books. What did they charge in 2018 before this law went into effect? What are they charging now?

Are these providers getting what they need to operate? Or are they not getting what they want?

The great shakeout in this market hasn't happened, yet. Until it does, folks like Miller will be staying at Sparrow until she finds someone willing to work for less. *(Email Kyle Melinn of the Capitol news service MIRS at melinnky@gmail.com.)*



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

## CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2022 SPECIAL ELECTION

To the qualified electors of the City of Lansing, City of East Lansing, Delhi Charter Township, Delta Charter Township, DeWitt Charter Township, and Watertown Charter Township:

Please take notice that the Lansing School District will hold a Special Election on May 3, 2022. For the purpose of voting on the following ballot proposal:

Lansing School District  
Bonding Proposal

Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the administrative offices of Lansing School District, 519 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, MI 48933-2080, telephone: (517) 755-1000.

Any qualified elector who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of their local clerk, the office of their county clerk, a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms may be obtained at [www.Michigan.gov/vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/vote) and mailed to or dropped off at the office of the local clerk. Any qualified elector that has a Michigan Driver's License or Personal ID can also register to vote at [www.Michigan.gov/vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/vote). Voters who are already registered may update their voter registration at [www.Michigan.gov/vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/vote).

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is **Monday, April 18, 2022**. After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at their local clerk's office at the following locations and times:

Jurisdiction	Address	Phone	Email	Regular Business Hours
Lansing City Clerk – City Hall	124 W Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48933	(517) 483-4131	city.clerk@lansingmi.gov	Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm
Lansing City Clerk -Election Unit	2500 S Washington Ave Lansing, MI 48911	(517) 483-4485	city.clerk@lansingmi.gov	Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm Wednesday 8am - 7pm
East Lansing City Clerk	410 Abbot Rd East Lansing, MI 48823	(517) 319-6914	cityclerk@cityofeastlansing.com	Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm
Delhi Township Clerk	2074 Aurelius Rd. Holt, MI 48842	(517) 694-2135	evan.hope@delhitownship.com	Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm
Delta Township Clerk	7710 W Saginaw Hwy Lansing, MI 48917	(517) 323-8500	clerk@deltami.gov	Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm
DeWitt Township Clerk	1401 W Herbison Rd DeWitt, MI 48820	(517) 668-0270	acramton@dewittwp.org	Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm
Watertown Township Clerk	12803 S Wacousta Rd Grand Ledge, MI 48837	(517) 626-6593	cbrokob@watertownmi.gov	Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm

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

Jurisdiction	Address	Additional Hours
Lansing City Clerk -Election Unit	2500 S Washington Ave Lansing, MI 48911	Saturday, April 30 10am - 4pm Sunday, May 1 12pm - 4pm
East Lansing City Clerk	410 Abbot Rd East Lansing, MI 48823	Saturday, April 30 8am - 4pm
Delhi Township Clerk	2074 Aurelius Rd., Holt, MI 48842	Saturday, April 30 8am - 4pm
Delta Township Clerk	7710 W Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917	Saturday, April 30 7am - 3pm
DeWitt Township Clerk	1401 W Herbison Rd DeWitt, MI 48820	Saturday, April 30 8am - 4pm
Watertown Township Clerk	12803 S Wacousta Rd Grand Ledge, MI 48837	Saturday, April 30 8am - 4pm

Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the local clerk's office.

### ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS

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

The local clerk must have an application to issue an absent voter ballot. Applications are available at the locations referenced in the above tables or by visiting [www.Michigan.gov/vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/vote).

Monday, May 2, 2022 at 4:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot except for those who register to vote on Election Day. Ballots issued on Monday, May 2, 2022 must be requested and voted in person at the local clerk's office, locations referenced in the above table.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, May 3, 2022, are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the local clerk's office, locations referenced in the above table.

**Chris Swope, MMC/MiPMC**  
**Lansing City Clerk**  
**Phone: 517-483-4131**  
**Email: [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov)**  
**Website: [www.lansingvotes.com](http://www.lansingvotes.com)**  
**[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)**

CP#22-071

# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## New McLaren Greater Lansing Hospital bridges health and art

By CHLOE ALVERSON

An unforeseen partnership brought art to the new McLaren Hospital.

The Lansing Art Gallery and Education Center curated three permanent art installations for the hospital, with two sculptures and one canvas. The works were purchased by the McLaren Greater Lansing Foundation for the hospital that opened on Collins Road on March 6.

Barb Whitney, the art gallery's executive director, said talks of a partnership between the two organizations began before the pandemic hit. Whitney turned to Katrina Daniels, the exhibition and gallery sales director, to curate the collection.

"We wanted to make sure that, through the art selection, we were helping to facilitate the goals of McLaren, their mission and the goals of the designer," Daniels said. "McLaren wanted work that would be beautiful, aesthetically pleasing and would also be something that would add to a healing space."

Daniels said much of the hospital's design revolves around natural light, clean lines and lots of blue tones. The pieces she selected had to fit into that aesthetic, as well as fit the large scale of the open spaces the hospital had in mind — the lobby, cafeteria and courtyard.

She pulled together a presentation of various artists who she thought may be good for the project. The presentation was then submitted to McLaren.

Walking into the spacious main lobby, under the staircase, visitors from outside and inside the hospital can see Brighton resident Kelly O'Neill's "Peace." The custom-made sculpture is made from powder-coated steel and glass. Daniels said the colors in the glass match the cool tones of McLaren's company.

"I knew that she had both the interest and the ability to create a custom piece," Daniels said of O'Neill. "She works in mixed media, where she is a welder and a sculptor and brings in glass and other items into her work."

Once O'Neill was accepted as an artist for the project, she and Daniels did a site visit. They met with the designers in person to talk through the vision for



courtesy

Mark Chatterley's "Flyers" was already made, but now it lives in the hospital's courtyard.

O'Neill's piece. The sculpture is under the main staircase and also behind a window, so O'Neill took into consideration the many perspectives her piece would have.

"Sunset Over the Big Lake," located in the cafeteria, was painted by Mark Mehaffey. An Empire resident, much of his art reflects life Up North. For this space, Daniels said she wanted something "beautiful and comforting" for cafeteria-goers to appreciate while grabbing a bite or taking a moment for themselves. Daniels felt Mehaffey's acrylic canvas piece does just that.

"He has the most beautiful way of capturing sunsets and landscapes of Northern Michigan, specifically, which I think a lot of us in this area have very fond memories of," Daniels said.

The third curated piece is a sculpture in the hospital's courtyard, titled "Flyers." Williamston resident Mark

Chatterley had already made the ceramic sculpture, but Daniels felt that it would be a perfect fit for the courtyard. Chatterley's sculpture was the first one selected by the McLaren foundation. The sculpture features three human-like figures flying in the same direction.

"We have droves of research that helps people understand data around the value of art in people's lives," Whitney said. "It has the opportunity to offer patients a moment of respite, to lift their spirits and literally help them heal. We're honored to have the opportunity to bring Michigan art into that space."

Whitney added that

the partnership between the McLaren foundation and art gallery was something that allowed Michigan artists to share their passion, while also contributing to a "beautiful change for healing and wellness" for hospital patients and visitors.

Lynn Griffor's two roles came together during the process of collecting artwork for the hospital. She is the chief experience officer for the hospital, and she serves as the foundation's vice president.

"The entire design of this facility is meant to bring some calm and peace to people in, typically, pretty stressful situations," Griffor said. "You walk in here and there's a level of stress to begin with. We wanted the physical space to bring some peace and comfort to people that are here."

Griffor said she felt good about the hospital leadership's commitment to the art. With the foundation, which she described as the hospital's philanthropic arm, Griffor raised the funds that went toward purchasing the art from the gallery. She said the foundation provided \$10 million for the new hospital campus.

Aside from what the art gallery curated, the foundation independently selected additional art pieces for the hospital. Two pieces by DeWitt artist Jason Keusch can be found in the main lobby

See MCLAREN, Page 11



courtesy

Mark Mehaffey's "Sunset Over the Big Lake" is located in the hospital's cafeteria space.

# MCLAREN

from page 10

— one in the elevator lobby appropriately titled “This Way to the Elevator.” Two acrylic pieces by Pam Harden, an East Lansing resident, are in the Outpatient Care Center.

Griffor said that nature is a common theme for a lot of the other art throughout the hospital, especially the living green wall in the cancer center atrium. The wall spans a few floors tall and is made up of different grasses and mosses.

“We wanted to bring the outside in,” Griffor said. “While people are here within these walls, they don’t want to feel that they’re in a clinical, sterile setting.”

Daniels expressed a similar sentiment, adding that hospitals are “inherently sterile.” She said McLaren has done a great job of making the space “calming and warm.”

“Incorporating art and nature in a way that they have has really offered opportunities for people to reflect and have moments of calm, and maybe even moments of enjoyment,” Daniels said.



Kelly O’Neill’s sculpture, titled “Peace,” is under the stairs in the main lobby.

courtesy

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.



**ABSOLUTE Music Chamber Series**

**Thursday, March 31, 7:30 p.m.**  
UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner, Lansing, MI  
**Joan Witter Memorial Concert**  
**An Evening of French Piano Repertoire \*\***  
*Ralph Votapek, Piano*

**8 Nocturnes** Francis Poulenc  
**Valses nobles et sentimentales** Maurice Ravel  
**Thirteenth Nocturne in B Minor Op. 119** Gabriel Fauré  
**From “Vingt Regards sur l’enfant Jésus”** Olivier Messiaen  
**Masques** Claude Debussy

*Made possible by the generosity of FAM members & concert sponsors:*  
The James D. Noble Charitable Trust ♦ Blüthner USA  
Reeder Pianos ♦ MSU Federal Credit Union Desk Drawer Fund

**\*\*See our website [absolutemusiclansing.org](https://absolutemusiclansing.org) for playlist, tickets, and our safety plan. Concert will be live and live-streamed. Seating limited to 70 and masks required.**

# 'Hit the Wall' hits the mark

By MARY C. CUSACK

The Stonewall riots in New York City in 1969 were a critical part of the gay rights movement. Police frequently raided the gay clubs in Greenwich Village, and patrons got used to the rigmarole of lining up and producing their identification.

Those who didn't conform to gender norms were physically inspected and faced arrest if they weren't wearing clothes that matched their gender assigned at birth. One hot night in June, the patrons of the Stonewall Inn, and a growing crowd of their peers, decided enough was enough and the streets exploded.

This is the setting for Ike Holter's play "Hit the Wall," MSU College of Arts and Letters' Department of Theatre's latest production. Holter's script is a fictionalized version of the first night of the riots, because — as the audience is frequently reminded by the narrators — "the reports of what happened next are not exactly clear." The characters are not actual people from the historical event, but represent various archetypes from the era. Standouts include radical lesbian Roberta (Kamryn Sarratt), elegant drag

queen Carson (Ural Grant) and naïve gay virgin Newbie (Jameson Patrona).

The snappiest dialogue is delivered by the bitchy "Beavis and Butthead" of the block, Tano and Mika (Oscar Quiroz and Justin Harmon). This slacker duo of day drinkers sit in languid judgement of all who pass their way, their biting remarks striking target after target until Carson struts into the scene. She and Tano engage in a sharp exchange akin to a contemporary rap battle. Quiroz and Grant's performances are flawless and funny.

The strange but sweet relationship between Carson and hippie draft-dodger Cliff (Bennett Barber) is a weak element in the script. It seems that Holter was keen on including as many archetypes as possible — and this relationship is a bit of a stretch.

The play is 90-minutes long, and the pace at first as slow as the clock on a blistering summer day, building to the frenzy of an exuberant dance that celebrates the joy of being one's authentic self, if only for a few moments.

## "Hit the Wall"

Through March 27  
7:30 p.m. Tuesday - Thursday  
8 p.m. Friday & Saturday  
2 p.m. Saturday & Sunday  
Arena Theatre  
Tickets start at \$20 and can be purchased online or in person  
1.800.WHARTON  
whartoncenter.com



Courtesy

The cast of "Hit the Wall," the MSU Department of Theatre's latest production.



Courtesy

"Hit the Wall" tells the story of the Stonewall Riots, with fictitious characters.

Of course, this is short-lived, as the Stonewall Inn is raided, led by vicious cop Alex (Christopher Eastland). In his plainclothes during the day, Eastland's Alex is a cobra, mesmerizing his victims with calm menace before striking. In uniform, he is the embodiment of a true racist, homophobic pig.

At first meek, desperate and alone, Peg (QueenMakeeda Taylor) emerges as the most important character in the play. She is tested again and again, but no matter how much easier life would be if she simply conformed, she is resolute in maintaining her identity. Holter incorporates one theory as to what sparked the riot — the abuse of a particular lesbian by police, as Peg fights her arrest and screams for support.

The scene that hits hardest occurs between Peg and her sister Madeline

(Mona Eldashoury). Peg is estranged from her family. The well-meaning Madeline offers her an olive branch: help with medical care, a place to live and a relationship with her niece. Peg need only dress like a woman and behave like a heterosexual to earn this security. Madeline obviously cares about Peg, but lacks the empathy to understand Peg's sexuality. Madeline implores "can't you just hold it in?" This line is particularly crushing and frighteningly prescient in light of the Florida legislature's recent passing of the "Don't Say Gay" bill.

"Hit the Wall" is a relevant and important work of art. The characters frequently state "I was there," and while audiences can't go back in time to be at Stonewall, this experience is the next best thing to being there.

# LCC Theatre Department bends the format of 'Gee's Bend'

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Gee! The stage is filled with music stands, but they're not mainly for sheet music. Gee! The cast is forced to narrate instead of act. Gee! Quilts, a focus of the play, are merely background decorations.

Lansing Community College's "Gee's Bend" bends how the original play was staged. Without props or significant movement, four characters mostly sit and read scripts placed on music stands. Stage directions, such as, "He gives her a key," are read aloud, but never acted out. LCC's "Gee's Bend" is the "Reading Rainbow" version of Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder's moving play.

And despite that, I'm glad I saw it, and I would encourage you to do the same.

Because of a risk of cancellation due

to losing actors, Director and Performing Arts Coordinator Paige Tufford, along with a dedicated cast, revived the production by switching the format to script reading. The power of the dialogue, charm of the readers and added singing make LCC's "Gee's Bend" a moving and worthwhile experience.

The production traces the lives of a real Black family living in the Alabama town famous for their quilts that were eventually displayed in national museums. Sometimes brutal glimpses of their lives from 1939, 1965 and 2001 reveal connections to historical events, including when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. led a

## "Gee's Bend"

Black Box Theatre  
8 p.m. March 25 & 26  
\$10 tickets at lcc.edu  
or at the doors



Courtesy

Twyla Birdsong, Annesia Dillard and Ny'Keria Blocker in "Gee's Bend."

peaceful protest in Selma.

"Gee's Bend" is a reminder of the documented horrors of Southern racism and the strength of Black women who, nevertheless, stood tall.

Annesia Dillard, Twyla Birdsong, and Ny'Keria Blocker bring to life female characters limited by society who managed to display unlimited abilities. Jason Schmitz plays Macon — a Black man to be admired and despised. Even as narrators, the all-Black quartet adds distinct and compelling personalities to their roles.

Rose Jangmi Cooper and Karrington Kelsey begin the 80-minute show with breathtaking renditions of gospel songs. The duo's occasional harmonies sprinkled in are a highlight of the mostly stark production.

The singing of Birdsong, an acclaimed blues vocalist, and Blocker, who earned a Pulsar for imitating Nina Simone in

"Sunset Baby," deserve more attention.

The entire cast's talents are muted. Their facial expressions and occasional gestures suggest genuine acting abilities that were restricted by a focus on reading a script. Surely, they are capable of performing more than turning pages.

As it is, LCC's "Gee's Bend" is gripping and enlightening entertainment. But, gee, even with realistic sound effects and authentic costumes, I wish it could have been more.

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T Mobile

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# The many minds of downtown's Middle Village Micro Market

By CHLOE ALVERSON

Soaps, clothes and art — oh my! Several new shops selling such goods were set up inside Middle Village Micro Market last week. City Pulse had the chance to speak with the owners. Here's what visitors can expect to see — and whom they can expect to meet — next time they stop in.

## Poor Sport

"Basically, I had this idea about two weeks ago," said Erin von Kronenberger, the owner of Poor Sport.

Poor Sport, she said, is an arena for up-and-coming artists and designers to showcase their work. She recently found out about Middle Village and decided to start the company in the space. Von Kronenberger said visitors can expect to see items like knit hats, jewelry, handmade apparel, ceramics and other artwork in Poor Sport.

Many artists she's contacted to sell in her shop don't believe their work is worth selling. With Middle Village, von Kronenberger hopes to change their minds.

"In the right setting, people see the value," she said. "You'd be surprised at what people are interested in. I definitely want people to see that value in their works. It helps to have a curated space with objects to show that off."

## Coco Bella Fashion Boutique

When visitors wander over to the area of the market occupied by Coco Bella Fashion Boutique, they will see racks of trendy, celebrity-inspired women's clothing. And they will be greeted with a warm welcome from owner Shebeeka Monique Hughes.

"I don't want my customers to feel like customers when they come in here," Hughes said. "I want them to feel like we're the best girlfriends ever, whether they buy something or not."

She added that customers will have "the best girlfriend experience" when they stop by Coco Bella, because "who doesn't want to shop with their girlfriends?"

Coco Bella has been a dream of Hughes' for over 20 years, and she felt that Middle Village was the perfect opportunity to turn that dream into reality. Hughes also prides herself on her ability



## Middle Village Micro Market

112 S. Washington Square, Lansing  
11 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Tuesday – Saturday



Chloe Alverson/City Pulse

Middle Village Micro Market boosts daytime retail shopping in downtown Lansing with seven shops.



Chloe Alverson/City Pulse

Mayor Andy Schor welcomes five new businesses to downtown during the March 15 opening ceremony.

to style women for any occasion. To Hughes, Coco Bella is more than selling clothes. It's about empowering women to feel confident and sexy.

"If they're real, they'll say the best thing about her is her confidence," Hughes said. "If she wants something, she'll go get it. That's what Coco Bella is about."

## Nature's 92

Have you ever eaten sea moss? Deandra Westfall, owner of Nature's 92, has been taking sea moss for years after a spiritual awakening caused her to cleanse herself. The superfood grows in warmer climate oceans and takes minerals from rocks, which is how it gets its healing properties.

"I believe in taking care of immunities in my community," Westfall said. "I offer my superfood products, moss products and supplements. I offer any holistic item that will help maintain health."

She hydrates the sea moss and makes a gel out of it to use in various products like soaps and face masks.

At the start of the pandemic, Westfall made a facemask for a friend and her friend's husband noticed a difference in her skin. Westfall jokes that was the moment she knew she had made a good product.

Westfall said she's in the process of licensing her products.

## Sylvia's Sudsery

The teal clawfoot tub near the center of the market belongs to Sylvia's Sudsery, which belongs to Danielle Hastings' third year in business, an endeavor that she named after her grandmother.

"She believed in bringing out the best in people, so that's what we at Sylvia's Sudsery do, is bring out the best in your self-care experience through our artisan, vegan-friendly soaps and other bath goodies," Hastings said.

The shop carries an array of homemade bath products like bath bombs and shower steamers. Hastings said she gets the inspiration for her products from food, which is apparent in soap bars with names like hot cocoa. All the products at Sylvia's Sudsery are made with an environmental impact in mind. Hastings has plans to add filling stations.

"We strive to be as eco-friendly as possible while still having fun," Hastings said.

## The Gold Mine

Brandon Navin founded the Artist's Umbrella in 2019. The Gold Mine, Navin's shop in Middle Village, features work from the Artist's Umbrella and 10 other Lansing artists.

"We wanted to create a store where artists sold that's accessible and available to not just the well-to-do, but something that was available to the public and was accessible for more people," Navin said.

The Artist's Umbrella has worked closely with Downtown Lansing Inc. on a number of projects and events, which is how Navin found a spot within Middle Village.

"For us, it makes sense, because we can get our feet wet before making any large commitments," Navin said.

At the Gold Mine, visitors can browse from an array of painting, jewelry, clothing and books, all made by local artists.

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City Pulse/Kyle Kaminski

Next month’s bond proposal aims to generate up to \$130 million for the Lansing School District, about \$100 million of which earmarked to demolish and reconstruct four of the district’s oldest elementary schools: (clockwise from top left) Elementary School; Sheridan Road STEM Magnet School; Mt. Hope STEAM School; and Lewton Spanish Immersion and Global Studies Magnet School.

# Voters decide: Do Lansing’s schools need another \$130 million investment?

Proposal aims to rebuild, renovate five schools — and keep every classroom chill

By KYLE KAMINSKI

State Rep. Sarah Anthony is tired of seeing Lansing families take a pass on Lansing schools.

Every year, the parents of thousands of children who live within the Lansing School District — for one reason or another — decide their kids are better off attending classes outside of the city and away from its public schools, according to Ingham Intermediate School District records.

As an Everett High School student in the late ‘90s, Anthony, a Lansing Democrat, think much about why some of her neighbors were deciding to attend other districts. But after graduating college and getting into politics, the declining reputation of her hometown district started to strike a personal chord.

“I really came back with different eyes after college,” Anthony said. “I started to see

how people perceived our school district and how for so many people, Lansing schools just weren’t even an option for them. I saw how the buildings were just falling apart. And to



City Pulse/Kyle Kaminski

State Rep. Sarah Anthony and Kellie Dean, president and owner of Dean Transportation, spoke last month to the Lansing City Council about the benefits of the \$130 million school bond proposal. Anthony is an Everett High School graduate; Dean is a former teacher for the district.

be honest, it all really ticked me off because it sent out a clear message that we didn’t care about our kids.”

Last fall, the LSD recorded about 2,900 Lansing area students who opted not to attend the city’s public schools despite living within the district boundaries — instead picking a neighboring district or another nearby private or charter school. Only about 400 students opted in last fall.

Anthony said the reasons for the ongoing exodus are numerous: For some parents, it’s more convenient to drop off their kids elsewhere on the way out to work; some families pick the schools with the highest test scores, the best sports teams or the most extracurricular offerings.

But for others, the reasons for leaving Lansing are a bit more obvious, Anthony explained. Nineteen of the district’s 25 school

# SCHOOLS

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buildings were built before 1970. And nine were rated in “poor” condition in a recent facility assessment. Put simply: The schools have seen better days.

“The condition of some of these buildings was plainly telling these families and these students that they weren’t worth the investment — that the community didn’t care about them,” Anthony said. “So, when I saw another opportunity to invest in our schools, of course, I’m here for that.”

Last month, Anthony and Dean Transportation President Kellie Dean stepped up to serve as the volunteer campaign co-chairs of a bond proposal that aims to infuse another \$130 million in tax revenue into the school district’s coffers to help rebuild four elementary schools, renovate Sexton High School and ensure that every classroom in the district has working air conditioning.

The proposal will be on the ballot on May 3 for voters in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties who live within the district boundaries. Absentee ballots are set to be sent out this week — giving voters the task of deciding whether the district is worthy of more taxpayer cash.

“Any opportunity I have to be a cheerleader for Lansing schools, I’m absolutely going to do it,” Anthony said. “This one is a hands-down, no-brainer. It’s about investing in new schools, improving student comfort and refreshing Sexton High School — and everyone will benefit.”

### What’s on the ballot?

For the third time since 2016, the Lansing School District is turning to local voters to help drive the district into the 21st century — even if it’s now more than two decades behind schedule.

The proposal would enable the district to borrow \$129.7 million, pay off and refinance old debt and reissue bonds, all without increasing local tax rates, for three primary purposes: Demolish and rebuild four elementary schools; equip every classroom in the district with air conditioning and make some significant renovations (including a new auditorium) at Sexton High School.



Ben Shuldiner

“That’s really it. That’s the cool thing about this bond,” said Superintendent Ben Shuldiner. “A lot of times, school districts will try to throw in a little bit here or a little bit there. With this proposal, it’s so easy to understand what we’re asking for: It’s four buildings, air conditioning and some love for Sexton — nothing else. It’s really all about creating a better learning environment.”

If the measure is approved next month, homeowners within the district



Courtesy

The interior lighting, ceiling and paint at Mt. Hope STEAM School has seen far better days.



Courtesy

The stone facade chips away from the front entrance of J.W. Sexton High School.

would continue to be taxed 0.58 mills — or \$0.58 on each \$1,000 of taxable value — for a cumulative annual millage rate of 1.88 mills. If it fails, residents would see their tax rates decreased by the same amount.

“No new taxes. That’s one of the biggest selling points,” Anthony added. “It won’t increase the debt millage, yet it’ll lead to a massive investment for local schools. And everything in our community is connected to education. It’s economic development. It’s arts and entertainment. Schools attract people into the community. That creates new businesses. That builds jobs. It’s not just tax giveaways and incentive packages that make mid-Michigan attractive. It’s schools.”

### Which schools will be rebuilt?

Four of the district’s oldest elementary schools will be demolished and rebuilt (though likely in reverse order) by 2030 if the proposal passes next month, Shuldiner explained. The first project — and the top priority — will be rebuilding Mt. Hope STEAM School, the district’s oldest operational elementary school,

which houses about 250 fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students.

Afterward, and in no particular order, the district plans to use the bond cash to build “21st Century” replacements for Willow Elementary School, Lewton Spanish Immersion and Global Studies Magnet School and the Sheridan Road STEM Magnet School. Shuldiner said each of the schools would be rebuilt just a few hundred yards away from the existing buildings, which would then be torn down after the new buildings are ready to fill classrooms with students.

Each project is estimated to take 18 to 24 months, with some overlap, over the next six to eight years. The total reconstruction costs are set to tally to almost exactly \$100 million — about \$22.1 million each for Mt. Hope and Willow; \$24.3 million for Sheridan and another \$31 million for Lewton.

Mt. Hope — the oldest of the bunch — was built in 1948, back when President Harry S. Truman was still in office. Willow was constructed in 1952. Sheridan and Lewton were built in 1954 and 1957, respectively. Combined, the



City Pulse/Kyle Kaminski

The four elementary schools identified for reconstruction — Willow Elementary School; Lewton Spanish Immersion and Global Studies Magnet School; Sheridan Road STEM Magnet School; and Mt. Hope STEAM School — are each located in different quadrants of the city of Lansing.

schools tracked a total enrollment of 877 students last fall.

An assessment outlined in district records pegged those four buildings as having some of the poorest conditions of any in the district — all scoring below 60%, which is usually low enough to warrant an “F” in the standardized testing world. Those same assessments found that renovations at the “end-of-life” elementary schools would be more costly than a total rebuild.

All of them would be replaced with “brand new, 21st Century” schools that will be “purpose-built” with “age-appropriate spaces,” modern technology, new furniture and an overall more inviting atmosphere — with plenty of natural sunlight, Shuldiner said. The idea: Keep the facilities updated to match more effective instructional models and keep students comfortable in class.

See Schools, Page 17

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF VEHICLE AUCTION**  
**March 29, 2022 - 9 a.m.**  
'06 Chevy Impala - 2G1WT58K969155271  
**Swift Towing, 2347 N. Cedar, Holt**  
NO PHONE CALLS

CP#22-073

# SCHOOLS

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“Every morning, thousands of students who live in Lansing leave Lansing to go to school in other places. One of the main reasons they do that is because of the school environment and the school buildings in other districts are in great shape,” Shuldiner said. “I think we owe it to the students of Lansing to bring them into a better environment and make them more comfortable.”


With state funding for public school districts set at \$8,700 per student, the families who chose to send their kids outside of the Lansing School District last fall also effectively took with them about \$21.5 million that would have otherwise been rolled into the district’s budget this year.



It’s not the primary objective, but building new schools can help lure them back, Shuldiner said. “I get the argument,” added School Board President Gabrielle Lawrence. “You want your child to have the best. I also want my kids to have the best. I want them to attend schools with updated facilities and cutting edge technology. That’s exactly what we’re trying to do here in Lansing.”

**What about the other \$30 million?** Studies have long shown that indoor air quality is directly linked to health outcomes and student academic performance. It can also play a crucial role in mitigating against the spread of viruses — a lesson that was repeatedly learned over the last two pandemic-filled years in Lansing.

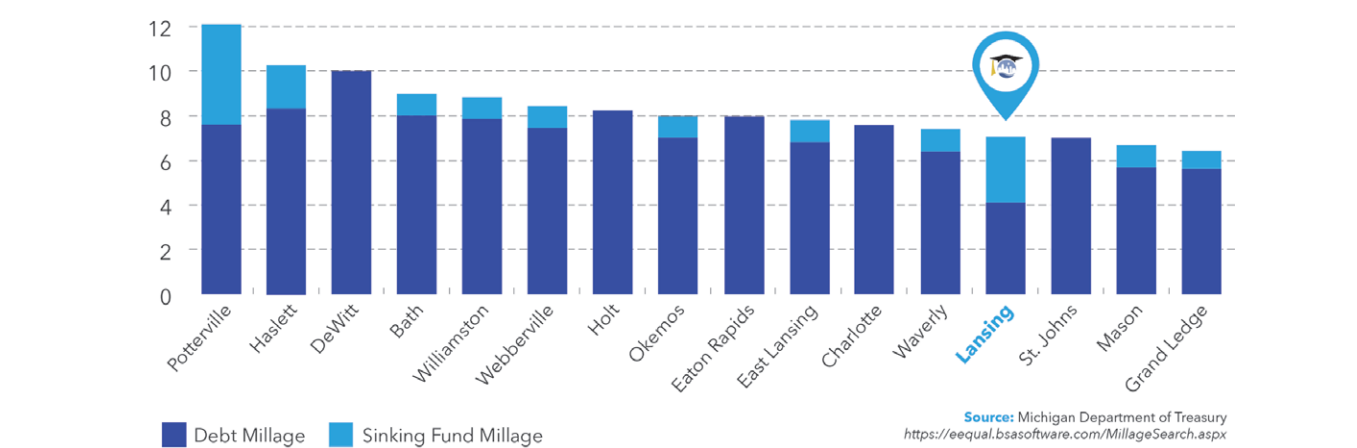
Still, district officials estimate that less than one-third of classrooms across the district currently have functional air conditioning — which can also make for some sweaty and uncomfortable learning environments for students, particularly as the spring semester drags on into late May.



City Council President Adam Hussain — who also teaches social studies at Waverly Middle School — said the physical learning environment is a critical component to his students’ ability to succeed. Cleaner air and cooler temperatures can simultaneously help to increase attendance rates, boost test scores and lead to more student engagement in the classroom.

So, about \$19.1 million of the bond proposal cash will be earmarked for the installation of new air conditioning systems to cover every classroom in Lansing, according to district literature. If the bond proposal passes, Shuldiner hopes to have the work finished within the next three to five years.

“A lot of that centers on things that people don’t necessarily think about,” Hussain said. “The air quality, for ex-



The current capital improvement millage rate for the Lansing School District is 7 mills — making it the fourth-lowest rate among neighboring districts in Greater Lansing. District officials are also quick to point out that the school district has the lowest overall debt millage across the region.

Market Value	Taxable Value	Millage Increase
\$75,000	\$37,5000	0
\$100,000	\$50,000	0
\$125,000	\$62,500	0
\$150,000	\$75,000	0

A home with a market value of about \$100,000 carries an average taxable value of about \$50,000. If the proposal passes next month, the current millage rate would not be increased.

ample, is so important. Temperature is important. I know this not only from reading the studies, but from working with my own students. This is a chance to invest in schools, ensure the physical environment makes sense and create that learning opportunity.”

Lawrence said the districtwide air conditioning overhaul may also help open the door to more summer learning opportunities, which are currently unbearable in the warmer months. That includes the possibility of moving to a year-round “balanced” calendar, she told City Pulse.

“Maybe in the future we can look at it, or maybe that’s just wishful thinking,” Lawrence added. “But as a parent of a 4-year-old boy who is starting school in the fall, I know next summer is going to be challenging and this could create an opportunity to consider something different.”

Building on recent renovations at the city’s two other high schools from the last bond proposal in 2016, district officials have also targeted J.W. Sexton High School for about \$10.9 million in renovations — including about \$5.8 million in air conditioning upgrades, \$2.1 million for a new auditorium and another \$2.6 million for new ceilings, paint, window shades and other fixes.

If the bond proposal passes, Shuldiner hopes to have those renovations done within five years.

**Déjà vu?** In May 2016, Lansing voters approved a \$25.2 bond proposal for the school district by a margin of about 61%, as well as a slightly less-popular sinking fund proposal in May 2019 — a three-mill property tax increase for 10 years that’s estimated to draw in another \$73 million.

Since then, more than \$120 million has been spent on various improvements at several school buildings — including renovations at Everett High

School, new furniture and updated technology in every building, and a newly rebuilt Eastern High School and athletic complex. The latest sinking fund proposal has also helped pay for upgrades like new roofs and utility systems, security upgrades for front entrances and more as part of the “Securing the Pathways” plan.

This year’s bond proposal has been billed by district officials as a “continuation” of those improvements — a necessary move that will enable the district to spread infrastructural love across the city. And without increasing the local millage rate, it would also still keep the school district’s capital improvement millage rates set among the lowest in the Greater Lansing region.

Lansing Councilman Peter Spadafore, former president of the district’s



Spadafore

Board of Education, said the deteriorating state of the district’s buildings is the result of years of neglected maintenance, which was only compounded by a dwindling stream of tax revenue — at least

before 2016. “The voters are always generous to the school district when asked. We just didn’t do a very good job of asking them on a regular basis,” Spadafore said. “That kept our taxes lower compared to other districts in the region, but the physical environment really suffered.”

“When you look at brand new ele-

See Schools, Page 18

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS  
EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**, at the **East Lansing Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

- A public hearing will be held to consider a request from Hagan Realty Construction LLC for the property at 427 Grove Street to modify the parapet wall on the west side of the building and install gutters.
- A public hearing will be held to consider a request from Katherine Cantu for the property at 229 Linden Street to install a glass block basement window.

For more information on the request please contact Darcy Schmitt at (517) 319-6941 or [dschmitt@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:dschmitt@cityofeastlansing.com). 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](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications). Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Historic District Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to [coelhistoriddistricts@cityof-eastlansing.com](mailto:coelhistoriddistricts@cityof-eastlansing.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](mailto: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#22-072

# SCHOOLS

from page 17

mentary schools going up in neighboring districts, you have to wonder whether sometimes parents make decisions based on infrastructure,” Spadafore added. “It might not be the primary factor, but it certainly wouldn’t hurt to remove that from the equation.”

Added Anthony: “I don’t think it’s out of the realm of possibility that students in Grand Ledge or Mason or Holt or East Lansing will see these improvements and think differently about Lansing.”

Spadafore, Hussain and Lansing Mayor Andy Schor have all voiced support for the proposal — billing it as a crucial step in ensuring the district is prepared for another century of learning.

“Our children need facilities that reflect the quality of their education in schools,” Schor said. “Updating the infrastructure of our schools is important for our children’s education and benefits our community, and this millage proposal allows our city to do this without a millage increase.”

And even for voters who don’t have children, the peripheral benefits of creating higher quality schools is expected to pay broader economic dividends for the region, Shuldiner contended.

Decades of economic research shows a proven connection between the perception of high-quality schools and a region’s ability to attract business investment — which in turn could trickle down to create more jobs, raise property values and create a greater “quality of life.”



Schor

ating budget dollar we divert from the classroom to pay for capital needs has a trickle effect in terms of what future Lansing graduates know and are able to

“Most important of all is the impact Lansing’s schools have on our overall economy,” he explained last week. “We produce much of the talent that keeps our employers thriving, and every oper-

do in their work.”

If the ballot proposal fails, district officials have published warnings about a potential need to reconsider their “financial picture” and draw down instructional resources to cover maintenance.

It’s a path that hasn’t been mapped, and one that Shuldiner hopes he won’t have to navigate.

“The school district will always do everything in its capacity to bring the best education possible to our students,” Shuldiner said. “However, if the bond doesn’t pass, it will make it that much harder.”

## How do I vote?

The Lansing School District includes properties in Lansing and certain parts of East Lansing, as well as DeWitt, Lansing, Delta, Windsor and Delhi townships. To vote at home, register to vote absentee online or by mail by April 18 and then return a completed ballot by May 3. Voters can also register and vote in person on Election Day. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Absentee ballots returned within two weeks of Election Day should be hand delivered to avoid potential delays. Visit [lansing-votes.com](http://lansing-votes.com) or [michigan.gov/vote](http://michigan.gov/vote) for more detailed information.



**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
INGHAM COUNTY  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate**  
**Case No. 22-000278-DE-P33**  
Estate of Grover Joseph Meyers. Date of birth: December 13, 1932.  
**TO ALL CREDITORS:  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:**  
The decedent, Grover Joseph Meyers, died January 12, 2022. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Janice M. Young, 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.  
Date: 3/23/2022  
Timothy Sawyer Knowlton  
P30000  
404 S. Jenison Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48915  
(517) 484-1434  
  
Janice M. Young  
1105 Schavey Rd.  
DeWitt, MI 48820  
(517) 648-4566 **CP#22-069**

Revenues generated from bond issues at the Lansing School District have helped lead to some significant renovations — and newly modernized learning spaces, like those pictured here at Pattengill Biotechnical Magnet School (bottom) and the Dwight Rich School for the Arts (top).

Courtesy



# 2022 Virtual Annual Event

**LOG IN TUESDAY, MARCH 29th  
FROM 8:30AM to 11:30AM FOR THE  
2022 VIRTUAL ANNUAL EVENT**

Presenting the CMHA-CEI  
2021 Report to the Community

**WATCH THE TELEVISED EVENT ON  
SUNDAY, MAY 15th, 2022 FROM  
11:00AM to 12:00PM ON WILX**

Register by visiting:  
<https://bit.ly/AnnualEvent2022>

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. BRENDA JONES-HARDEN

*Children and Families Expert*



Dr. Brenda Jones-Harden is the Alison Richman Professor for Children and Families, at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. She directs the Prevention and Early Adversity Research Laboratory, where she and her research team examine the developmental and mental health needs of young children who have experienced early adversity and toxic stress, particularly those who have been maltreated, are in foster care, or have experienced other forms of trauma. A particular focus is preventing maladaptive outcomes in these populations through early childhood programs. She has conducted numerous evaluations of such programs, including early care and education, home visiting services, parenting interventions, and infant mental health programs. Dr. Jones-Harden is a scientist-practitioner who uses research to improve the quality and effectiveness of child and family services and to inform child and family policy, especially in the area of child welfare. She is currently the Vice President of the Board at Zero to Three, and serves on various federal, state, and local advisory boards. She received a PhD in developmental and clinical psychology from Yale University and a Master's in Social Work from New York University.

## ***Favorite Things***

### **Sam Makula and his 1996 Mazda Miata**



*Sam Makula, 38, works as a leasing agent in Haslett and performs in the Lansing rock group Luxury Flux. Nothing helps him forget about his troubles more than his favorite thing, a 1996 Mazda Miata.*

I got this 1996 Mazda Miata during the summer of 2019. I only paid \$2,500 for it. I bought it from a guy who fixed it up for his kid. The kid didn't really drive it, so I got a good deal on it.

The first day I got it, I noticed that it had crappy old winter tires on it. It didn't drive the greatest. I drove it back home and put new tires on it.

It's so much fun to drive, it's like taking an old go-kart anytime you go anywhere. This one is my third Miata. I've got two now, one of them is way nicer, and I've got one that's set up to drive crazy. If this one gets messed up, I won't feel bad, which just adds to the fun.

You're out there in the open air and the Miata handles amazingly. It's not very fast, but it feels like it is. It kind of handles more like a boat than a car.

Just the other day, I drove to Hell, Michigan, and back. I was with my friend Lindsay, another Luxury Flux member. We went to Hell, had some drinks, drove to Ann Arbor and then we went to Chelsea. We were just cruising around with the top down and enjoying the sun.

The road to Hell is one of my favorite drives to go on, but I love

anywhere that has lots of curves. The car isn't too fast when you're driving it in a perfectly straight line. But you don't really have to slow down to turn, it just does it. So, curves make it a lot more fun. I'm hoping to get it on GingerMan Raceway in South Haven to get some track time.

I've always liked cars, and Miatas in particular. Being poor, a Miata is the most affordable decent little convertible you can buy. That's what drew me to them in the first place. Any car I drive must be a stick, that's the number one thing. As far as cars I'll never actually be able to get, Porsches and Ferraris and stuff are awesome.

I love listening to music when I drive. Most recently, I've been listening to The Clash and Dwight Yoakam. I'm not entirely sure why, they just seemed like the right things to play.

Driving in my car is kind of like a mini vacation that's available anytime you want. If I get off work, and it's sunny out, I can drive around with the top down for an hour. It's an instant vacation sitting there waiting for you. That's the best way I can describe it. There's always troubles to forget about, and it's a brief little distraction from everything.

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

# **Sally Potter: Second billed, but on top of her game**

**By DAVID  
WINKELSTERN**

"This is pretty special," Sally Potter said.

Potter's "Summer's Child" CD is being celebrated, along with Ruelaine Stokes' poetry book, at the "Voices from the Heartland" event Saturday (March 26) and Sunday (March 27). The CD is Potter's first solo recording.

Between 1989 and 2001, Potter made four CDs with the folk trio Second Opinion. In 2005, she recorded a CD with Pat Madden, a fellow Second Opinion member.

"Second Opinion always held local CD release shows," Potter said. "It's different when the music is just you."

Potter's "Summer's Child" has 12 of her favorite songs. Most feature her old-

style, claw hammer banjo style.

"No picks," Potter said. "It's more melodic than bluegrass."

Potter has a 1910 Vega Whyte Laydie banjo pot with a neck made by East Lansing's Bart Reiter.

"The other is a Wildwood I found in a store in Minneapolis," she said. "I'll use them both in the shows, tuned differently. The open-back banjo is really a percussion instrument with a few strings. It's easy to sing along with."

Ten of "Summer's Child" cuts are folk tunes that suit sing-alongs. Folk messengers like Pete Seeger,



Sally Potter



The cover of Sally Potter's CD, titled "Summer's Child."

See POTTER, Page 21

# POTTER

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Earl Robinson and Woody Guthrie are included.

“These tried-and-true labor songs remind us that the fight for wages and safe working conditions are not new,” Potter said.

Two “Summer’s Child” songs were composed with Kerrin Hoban.

“I handed her a recording of a melody and she came up with the lyrics,” Potter said.

“I have melodies in my head all day long. I am not a lyricist.”

So why not collaborate with Stokes, who Potter says creates “spoken word magic”?

“I don’t have a good answer,” Potter said. “We work on countless projects together — like these two shows — but not music. I have played banjo behind her when she reads a poem, but we have never created a piece together.”

Dylan Rogers recorded Potter’s album in the summer of 2020.

“Recording this at the height if the pandemic was pretty wild,” Potter said. “I was on the stage at the Robin Theatre surrounded by curtains and wool blankets to block off street noise.”

Her singing on “Summer’s Child” is a cappella or accompanied by only one instrument.

“At the time, it was hard to get together with anyone,” Potter said.

Her voice is velvety and powerful — partly because Potter’s classes at Waverly High School were taught online from March to June 2020.

“Because I wasn’t in class all day, every day, I think my voice was stronger,” she said.

Potter is also known for booking Ten Pound Fiddle concerts.

“It’s a little strange,” she said. “I’m usually on the other side.”

On promotional materials for “Voices from the Heartland,” Stokes appears first on the bill —though get equal billing in real life: They are married.

“Ruelaine wrote an entire book of stunning poetry,” Potter said. “I walked over to the Robin Theatre, recorded 12 songs and put together a 24-page CD booklet. That’s it. She gets top billing.”

**Voices from the Heartland**

7:30 p.m. March 26  
& 3 p.m. March 27  
Tickets start at \$10  
Masks required

# FREE FRIES

## W/PURCHASE OF SANDWICH OR BURGER

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The Michigan Melt

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# Hot filaments of music

Lansing Symphony tightens up for all-classical concert

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Would you care for a Suite Française, sir? The sweet and tart dessert came before the main courses at last week's Lansing Symphony Orchestra concert. A subunit of wind and brass players formed a semicircle at the front of the stage, with a harpsichord and drums in the middle, and floated through a witty, piquant suite that fused glassy modern harmonies with bumpy medieval rusticity, setting the stage for a remarkable night of masterworks from the classical era.

It was not a corker, a rouser or a tear-jerker of a concert. The evening's two major works by Haydn and Mozart call for unrelenting attention to detail, exquisite balance, and a watchmaker's precision, just to reach the level of "OK but boring." To fly over the top, and transport the audience to a place of pure, floating, satisfaction, the mu-



Courtesy

Pianist and composer Conrad Tao is unique in the distinguished annals of Lansing Symphony soloists. At 27, he's played all over the world.

sicians had to summon up a clenched intensity, a scalding flow of magma held barely under the surface, and they did just that, from first note to last. (Note: this review is based on Friday night's final dress rehearsal, owing to the reviewer's continuing COVID caution.)

When a lot of orchestras and chamber groups have a "classical" night, they find it irresistible to stampede straight to the Mozart. Lansing is fortunate that maestro Timothy Muffitt, an avowed Franz Joseph Haydn fanatic, is so keen to share the musical innovations and endlessly satisfying felicities of the classical era's foundational mind. Maybe the problem is that Haydn is often played in a boring way, but Muffitt loves him almost to the point of indecency, and infuses every second of his music with an infectious joy.

After the usual orchestral throat clearings and stentorian calls to order, the orchestra took a series of deep collective breaths and lightly bounced into Haydn's Symphony No. 90. Melodies scampered up and down and back up again with a supple exuberance and athleticism that permeated the whole performance.

The second movement was a sublime study in discipline and decorum, settling into a long, steady stride that kept perfect balance without dragging. The dominance of the strings gave the sound a leathery, dark texture perfectly suited to show off finely wrought loops of em-

broidery from the woodwinds.

With a grandiose swell, the waltzing third movement promised an interval of pompous bombast, but Haydn is a man of surprises. The blasts functioned more like dynamite in a strip mine, revealing broad, criss-crossing strata of melodies and counter-melodies. The finale was an insane steeplechase, played at breakneck pace, but it held onto its thin veneer of civilization, like a grand duchess on a runaway post chaise.

When the Mozart did come, it muscled in with a vengeance. Pianist and composer Conrad Tao is unique in the distinguished annals of Lansing Symphony soloists. At 27, he's played all over the world, with the greatest orchestras, and composed a growing body of passionate, vital new music, often for top orchestras like the New York Philharmonic. In person, he is a hot filament of music. Not only did Tao give a passionate, crystalline performance on the keyboard, he conducted the orchestra at the same time.

A moist atmosphere of delicious doom permeated the opening bars. Tao was all springy energy as he conducted the orchestral opening and half-sat down to play his opening gambit on the keyboard, giving his all to the piano part when needed, deploying his left arm to conduct if the right was otherwise engaged.

Tao is an artist of such prodigious capacity, emotional expression and tech-

nical mastery you got the feeling he might have been doing nine other concerts, with his mind alone, while he was performing in Lansing.

Not that he ever seemed detached. Tao's energy pulls every invisible string around him taut as piano wire, including the strings to your mind and ears, until pianist, musicians and listeners are bound up in an invisible web of mutual experience.

His improvised solo cadenza Friday night pulled Mozart by the scruff of his wig into one particular night in spring 2022, boiling every major element of the first movement into a spontaneous microcosm — first pent-up fury, then desolate longing, and, finally, a headlong dive back into the fray.

The second movement pivoted from murk to simplicity, centering on a hymn-like melody that glowed like a candle in Tao's hands. The third movement introduced a new peril: perfection paralysis. Every phrase, every nuance, was so exquisitely wrought it was difficult to take it all in. Fortunately, Tao understood, as Mozart did, that contrast is the salt of life and art. By now, he and the orchestra were one, like a dragon is one with its tongue, showing its iridescent scales one moment, rolling over to expose its grumbling, ominous underbelly the next. The musicians clearly relished working with a soloist, conductor and musical mind of Tao's caliber, and matched him note for note in precision and exuberance.



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# Fish poop helps cut costs for eco-friendly pot farmers

Thumb Genetics plans aquaponic grow expansion in southwest Lansing

By KYLE KAMINSKI

By now, just about every stoner has heard of hydroponics: the remarkable dirtless growing system that uses nutrients infused directly into water to replace the need for traditional soils.

As indoor marijuana cultivation took off in the '80s, hydroponics became the go-to method for pot farmers who wanted more control over the nutrients that flowed to their precious bud gardens — which allowed for more consistency from harvest to harvest and, of course, much danker weed.

Lesser known in the cannabis space, however, is the ancient agricultural technique of aquaponics. In fact, there's believed to be only one weed growing operation that's using the system in Michigan — and it's right here in southwest Lansing: Thumb Genetics.

After getting an early start in the industry as medical marijuana caregivers, Lloyd Owens and his son Jack Owens



(along with a few other friends and family members) started the company in 2017 with the goal of finding a cheaper, environmentally friendly way to grow weed. And only about a year after their first harvest, they've already declared their mission accomplished.

"We've built a system that can produce a gram of marijuana at about 50% less than the national average cost," Lloyd Owens said. "We cut electricity costs. We cut labor costs. We've almost completely eliminated costs for fertilizers and nutrients. The goal was to take the costs out of production. That's what we wanted, and that's what we've done. We've proven this system."

The grow operation is housed inside a hulking 43,000-square-foot industrial building just south of REO Town on S. Washington Avenue, tucked behind the Quality Dairy headquarters.

Like hydroponics, aquaponics also doesn't involve the use of soil. Hundreds of plants at Thumb Genetics, accordingly, are planted in pots filled with plastic beads with roots dangling in water. But instead of dumping jugs of fertilizers and blowing through hundreds of gallons of water for every crop, the Owens and their 10-person pot farming team are using another nutrient source.

It's fish poop.

Alongside rows and rows (and more rows) of marijuana, several large tanks filled with hundreds of Nile Tilapia are

bubbling away inside the building — and their excrement is all that's needed to keep essential nutrients feeding the water supply. From there, tanks of microbes — some of which are filled with snails, nematodes and earthworms — help convert the ammonia from the fish feces into nitrates, which then flows directly to the marijuana roots for essential nitrogen.

The water then recycles its way back around to the fish and the ecosphere keeps on spinning indefinitely. The same 10,000 gallons of water has been recirculating there now for two years.

Sustainability is a key aspect of the operation — and it helps shave down costs too. With the state's pot prices plummeting to all-time lows, that'll be important for survival, Owens explained.

Thousands of dollars in synthetic chemicals and artificial nutrients typically required of more traditional agricultural techniques, instead, have been replaced with \$80 a month in fish food.

"It saves costs, but we did this because we wanted a more environmentally sound production, too," Lloyd Owens said. "If I flow all these chemicals through my plants like a regular grow, the water is just thrown away. Our sanitary systems are not designed to handle those chemicals."

With their first harvest last February, still only a fraction of their leased space was actually being used for cultivation with three flowering rooms last week. The Owens are looking for investors to help fund their buildout plans — an additional 10 flowering rooms — before the end of the year.

Even then, however, the hardest workers at the company may still be the tilapia — a breed picked for its hardness and ability to live up to a decade. With age, they'll stop pooping so much and need to be replaced. At that point, they'll all be donated to a food bank for local families.

"It's the gift that keeps on giving," Jack Owens joked during a tour of the building last week.

The FDA doesn't hand out certified organic labels for marijuana products, but the in-house ecosystem over at Thumb Genetics may be about as close as it gets



City Pulse/Kyle Kaminski

Jack Owens is particularly proud of the high terpene content of Thumb Genetics' strains.



City Pulse/Kyle Kaminski

Lloyd Owens shows off the impressive growth rate of his one-week-old marijuana plants.

to being all-natural. And it all makes for some pretty dank bud. Thumb Genetics products aren't widely available in Greater Lansing, though I managed to find a \$45 eighth of Kush Mints at Edgewood Wellness last week.

It was a tad dry, yet smooth, pleasantly minty and made for a wonderfully uplifting sort of high.

Watch those shelves — the Owens said they plan to have two dozen other strains available locally soon, including Acai Runtz, Blueberry Headband, Lemon Skunk and Superglue.

Check out more pictures of Thumb Genetics on Instagram at [instagram.com/thumbgenetics](https://www.instagram.com/thumbgenetics).

Kyle Kaminski is City Pulse's managing editor and a cannabis enthusiast who has been smoking marijuana just about daily 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."

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS. THE BIGGEST STONER HOLIDAY OF THE YEAR IS QUICKLY APPROACHING.

City Pulse's annual 420 edition (which will actually publish on April 20 this year) is set to include an extensive gift guide of exciting new cannabis products available in Greater Lansing. I also plan to include a little something for smokers of all experience levels — even the lightweight.

Have a suggestion for a cannabis product? Shoot me an email at [kyle@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:kyle@lansingcitypulse.com).

# Poet Ruelaine Stokes brings out her 'Jar of Plenty'

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

It may seem incredible to anyone who has followed the poetry scene in greater Lansing since the 1970s to learn that one of the community's leading literary voices, Ruelaine Stokes, is only now releasing her first full-length collection of poems.

Like the first crocus of spring, the long wait makes the gift even sweeter.

"Jar of Plenty" is a gladdening, saddening, thought-provoking bouquet of life experience and verbal virtuosity.

Stokes packs a lifetime into this deceptively slim volume, from her rocky childhood to her long struggle to find a voice as a poet and a woman. But amid the setbacks and struggles, a wild and tender embrace of life is at the heart of her art.

"I tried to find ways to approach the great mysteries in life — love, death, sex, the strange mystery of being alive in the world," Stokes said in a phone interview last week.

The title poem, "Jar of Plenty," finds the poet standing on the porch, leaning into the spring sunshine. "Green is jumping out of the ground/trillium shivering under the locust tree." She joins her voice to the spring chorus by singing her own name, "sweet and strange/on the tongue."

In another poem, she bends down to scrutinize a daffodil, "a small, light-eating engine, trembling in the wind." In a sexually charged vision of a garden at night, "the split-centered rose is thick with dew."

Almost anything can spark a poem, from a wisp of smoke in a coffee shop (remember smoking in coffee shops?) to an old photograph.

"Think about how much is packed into our lives," Stokes said. "It's a universe, a treasure house of experience. It's really quite remarkable to be a human being."

The bouquet has taken a long time to harvest. For decades, Stokes has been busy at the root of things, teaching English, mentoring and advising countless other poets. She has given much of her life to seeding, watering and enriching the burgeoning mid-Michigan garden of poetry and spoken word performance.

All the while, she has patiently pruned and nurtured her own body of work, but until now, it has only been accessible in scattered print anthologies and ephemeral spoken readings.

The pandemic encouraged Stokes to fight her perfectionist tendencies and finally put out a collection that spans her life.

She credits her life partner, Sally Potter, with holding her feet to the fire.

"She sort of gave me a deadline," Stokes

said, laughing. This spring, Potter, a brilliant singer-songwriter and driving force in the mid-Michigan folk scene, is also celebrating a first — her first solo CD, "Summer's Child."

They will join forces March 26 and 27 at University United Methodist Church for a concert and spoken word performance, "Voices from the Heartland," with poet Marzieh Ghiasi and music by Joel Mabus.

"That way, we could have a big launch and bring it all out to the world," Stokes said.

At first, Stokes worried about including too many autobiographical poems in "Jar of Plenty."

"I didn't want it to be just 'me, me, me,'" she said.

The central thread of the collection — her halting but inexorable struggle to find her own voice — is a deeply personal quest anyone can relate to.

Growing up in a small town in Montana, she escaped the fallout from her mother's turbulent second marriage by diving into books. Her impressive vocabulary and raw writing skills earned her a scholarship to Stanford University, but she hit a wall there. It crushed her when she got her first 'C'.

Up to then, she was content to be an "instinctive writer," but teaching English as a second language helped her go back



Courtesy

"Jar of Plenty" is Ruelaine Stokes' first full-length collection of poems.

to basics and attend to the "architecture of writing."

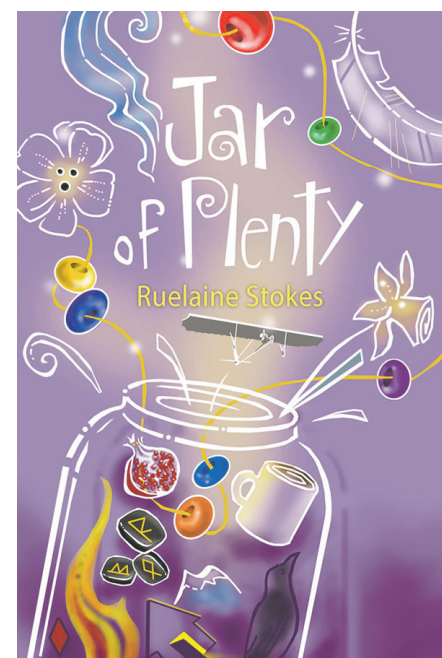
"A big problem for me as a writer was that I wanted it to be good, and I wanted it to be good right away," she said. "Because I knew how difficult it could be for students to write, I'm a much better writer and teacher."

Stokes learned the art of patience, drawing on mentors and workshops, and gradually realized she had plenty to say.

"Writing because you want to prove to yourself that your writing is good, and therefore, you're an OK person, is totally different from trying to explain something to somebody," Stokes said. "Once you have something you want to explain, you can find the words you need."

"Jar of Plenty" is dedicated to three remarkable women who played significant roles in Stokes' life: her mother, her grandmother and her sister.

"My mother was such an enormously talented, brilliant and beautiful woman who was both fascinating and scary to me," she said. "She struggled with mental illness and mental stability by the time I



was 8, she was a tough mother to have, but at the same time, she was also amazing."

Another poem bursts with love and admiration for her vivacious and witty sister, Mary, who also struggled with mental illness.

"When we think of success, we think of people who are famous, have a lot of money — artists, actors, athletes, writers," Stokes said. "Ordinary people can have a level of heroism in their lives, even when their lives are particularly difficult."

In the overwhelming profusion and confusion of life, Stokes uses poetry to celebrate one troubled life, or one trembling flower.

"Often, I find I don't know what I think until I write it down," Stokes said. "Writing is a way to try to see more clearly your own experience and your own little role in the world."

## Voices from the Heartland

7:30 p.m. March 26 &  
3 p.m. March 27  
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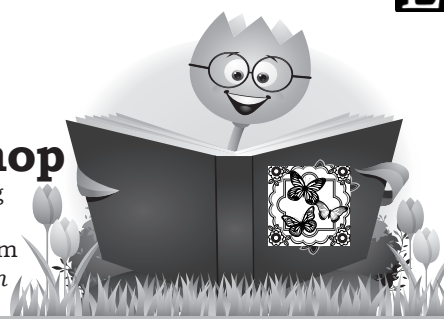
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"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold, when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade."  
— Charles Dickens

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### Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“PR Stunts”—it sounds almost the same.

by Matt Jones

© 2022 Matt Jones

**Across**

1. Venus’s sister

7. Have a copy of

10. Adult ed. course, often

13. 1950 Isaac Asimov novel

14. Hanoi bowlful

15. Pad kee mao cuisine

17. Melon liqueur

18. Heavily promote the top of the house?

20. Inhabitants of a necklace fastener?

22. Had food

23. Soothing plants

24. “\_\_\_ Beso”

25. 1055, to ... someone who knows Roman numerals

27. Campus in Troy, NY

28. Top-left square

29. Smoke detector chirp, after getting fixed?

35. Verizon’s onetime in-flight calling system

36. Trademarked Intel chip

40. Transportation for when you have to jump to avoid burning your burger?

42. \_\_\_ Moines, Iowa

44. 1991 Naughty by Nature hit

45. 2.0 GPA

46. It’s often served with rice

47. \_\_\_ New Guinea

50. Pose questions

52. Users who post about a group of Boy Scouts, then upvoted it?

56. Delicacy in the cookbook “Fried Food

for Felines”?

57. Pablo Picasso’s designer daughter

59. Musical Myra

60. “Fight of the Century” contender

61. “Baba \_\_\_” (The Who classic)

62. Prefix with -phyte or -lithic

63. “\_\_\_-haw!”

64. Edges (along)

**Down**

1. Kind of card in a smartphone

2. Actor Bana

3. Tennis’s Australian “Rocket”

4. German torpedo craft of WWII

5. Ancient Scandinavians

6. “Let me give you \_\_\_”

7. Daughter of Polonius in “Hamlet”

8. “\_\_\_ serious?” (“The Dark Knight” quote)

9. Three Little Kittens’ punishment (I mean, that sounds pretty dire if you really wanted it!)

10. Raison d’ \_\_\_

11. “\_\_\_ Jump” (manga magazine since 1968)

12. “Tao Te Ching” philosopher

16. “Based on that ...”

19. Rolling Stone staffers, for short

21. Wu Tang member, e.g.

25. CEO’s degree, possibly

26. Fragrant garland

27. “General Hospital” Emmy winner Sofer

28. It forms part of the Poland-Germany border

30. Cpl.’s inferiors

31. “Ruh-\_\_\_!”

32. Gel pack kin

33. Take a sickle to

34. ‘70s prog rock supergroup, for short

37. Prank that’s never gonna give you up?

38. Honorary poem

39. “Born,” in some notices

41. It stands out against a standard dress shirt

42. English illusionist/mentalists Brown

43. Plaza Hotel girl of fiction

46. Do art on glass

47. Barely audible, in music notation

48. Assortment

49. “Positive thinking” advocate Norman Vincent \_\_\_

50. Pong maker

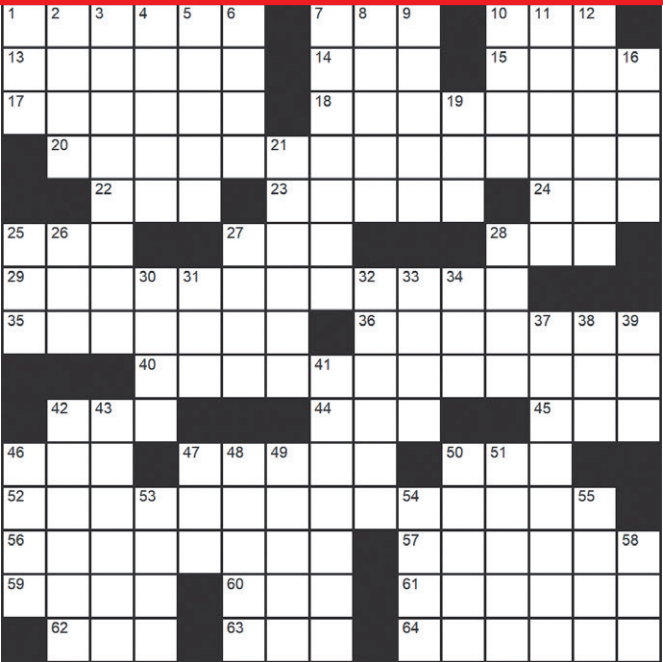
51. Tried-and-true

53. \_\_\_ buco (Italian dish)

54. NASDAQ debuts

55. “Hook” sidekick

58. Cries heard in Tejano music



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Answers on page 28

### SUDOKU

Intermediate

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

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 28

### Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsný

March 23-29, 2022

**ARIES (March 21–April 19):** The Carib people from Surinam quote their mysterious Snake Spirit as follows: “I am the force of the spirit of the lightning eel, the thunder ax, the stone. I am the force of the firefly; thunder and lightning have I created.” I realize that what I’m about to say may sound far-fetched, but I suspect you will have access to powers that are comparable to the Snake Spirit’s in the coming weeks. In fact, your state of being reminds me of how Aries poet Marge Piercy expressed her quests for inspiration: “When I work, I am pure as an angel tiger, and clear is my eye and hot my brain and silent all the whining grunting piglets of the appetites.”

**TAURUS (April 20–May 20):** “It’s always too early to quit,” wrote cheerful author Norman Vincent Peale, who first popularized the idea of “positive thinking.” I’m an optimistic person myself, but I think his advice is excessively optimistic. On some occasions, it’s wise to withdraw your energy from a project or relationship you’ve been working on. Struggling to find relevance and redemption may reach a limit. Pushing ever onward might be fruitless and even harmful. However, I don’t think that now is one of those times for you, Taurus. According to my reading of the astrological omens, it is too early for you to quit.

**GEMINI (May 21–June 20):** “You can be as earnest and ridiculous as you need to be, if you don’t attempt it in isolation.” So says author Barbara Kingsolver. She adds, “The ridiculously earnest are known to travel in groups. And they are known to change the world.” In my view, this is perfect advice for you right now. If you and the members of your crew focus on coordinating your efforts, you could accomplish blazing amazements in the coming weeks. You may solve riddles that none of you has been able to decipher alone. You can synergize your efforts in such a way that everyone’s individual fate will be lifted up.

**CANCER (June 21–July 22):** About 200 years ago, poet William Wordsworth wrote, “Every great and original writer must himself create the taste by which he is to be relished.” Now I’ve come up with a variation on that wisdom: “Every great and original soul must herself create the taste by which she is to be understood and appreciated.” That’s what I hope you will work on in the coming weeks, Cancerian: fostering an ambiance in which you can be even better understood and appreciated. You now have extra power to teach people how to value you and get the best out of you.

**LEO (July 23–Aug. 22):** “I hate housework!” complained comedian Joan Rivers. “You make the beds, you do the dishes, and six months later you have to start all over again.” I wish I could give you a six-month reprieve from having to attend to those chores, Leo. In fact, I’d love it if I could permanently authorize you to avoid all activities that distract you from thinking big thoughts and feeling rich emotions and pursuing expansive adventures. But I’m afraid I can only exempt you from the nagging small stuff for just the next three weeks or so—four, tops. After that, you’ll have to do the dishes and make the beds again. But for the foreseeable future: Focus your energy on thinking big thoughts and feeling rich emotions and pursuing expansive adventures!

**VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22):** A British plumber named Kev Crane worked for weeks to install a new bathroom at a private home. As he toiled, he passed the time by singing his favorite songs. He didn’t know that the homeowner, Paul Conneally, was the owner of a music label. So he was surprised and delighted when Conneally offered him a deal to record an album in the label’s studio. There may be a comparable development in your life during the coming weeks, Virgo. You could be noticed in new ways for what you do well. Your secret or unknown talents may be discovered or revealed. You might get invitations to show more of who you really are. Be alert for such opportunities.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22):** It’s the start of the Listening Season for you Libras. I propose a full-on celebration of listening: a three-week Holiday of Paying Close Attention to Important and Interesting Words Being Said in Your Vicinity. Make yourself a magnet for useful revelations. Be alert for the rich information that becomes available as you show the world you would love to know more of its secrets. For inspiration, read these quotes. 1. You cannot truly listen to anyone and do anything else at the same time. —M. Scott Peck. 2. Learn to listen. Opportunity sometimes knocks very softly. —my friend Jenna. 3. Listening is being able to be changed by the other person. —Alan Alda. 4. If you want to be listened to, you should put in time listening. —Marge Piercy. 5. Listening is a magnetic and strange thing, a creative force. When we are listened to, it creates us, makes us unfold. —Karl A. Menninger.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21):** “Worry doesn’t count as preparation,” writes author Lily Akerman. That sounds wise, but I don’t think it’s true in all cases. At its best, worrying may serve as a meditation that helps us analyze potential problems. It prompts us to imagine constructive actions we might take to forestall potential disruptions—and maybe even prevent them from erupting into actual disruptions. I bring these thoughts to your attention, Scorpio, because now is an excellent time to engage in this kind of pondering. I declare the next three weeks to be your Season of Productive Worrying.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21):** If I had my way, you’d be a connoisseur of kisses in the coming weeks. You’d make it your intention to expand your repertoire of kissing styles and ask willing partners to do the same. You would give and receive unwieldy kisses, brave kisses, and mysterious kisses. You would explore foolish, sublime kisses and sincere but inscrutable kisses and awakening kisses that change the meaning of kisses altogether. Are you interested in pursuing this challenge? It will be best accomplished through unhurried, playful, luxurious efforts. There’s no goal except to have experimental fun.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19):** “Anybody who has survived his childhood has enough information about life to last him the rest of his days,” wrote author Flannery O’Connor. Her observation may be a bit of an exaggeration, but not much. And I’m offering it to you now, as you begin a phase when you can glean many new teachings about your childhood—insights that could prove handy for a long time to come. I encourage you to enjoy a deep dive into your memories of your young years. They have superb secrets to divulge.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18):** “Creativity is the power to connect the seemingly unconnected,” said author William Plomer. I agree with that. And I’m pleased to let you know that in the coming weeks, you will have more of this power to connect than you’ve had in a long time. I hope you will use it to link your fortunes to influences that inspire you. I hope you will wield it to build bridges between parts of your world that have been separate or alienated until now. And I hope you will deploy your enhanced capacity for blending and joining as you weave at least one magnificent new creation.

**PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20):** “I use my intelligence to discover more ways of appreciating you,” author Piscean Anaïs Nin told her lover Henry Miller. In the coming weeks, I recommend you activate a similar ambition. Now is a time when you can enhance your close relationships with important allies by deepening your insight into them. What magic is at play within them that you haven’t fully recognized before? How could you better see and understand their mysteries? PS: You may be pleased when your deepening vision of them prompts them to extend the same favor toward you.

Go to [RealAstrology.com](http://RealAstrology.com) to check out Rob Brezsný’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

SPRINGTIME MIX: THE BEATLES, SIMON & GARFUNKEL  
AND THE ROYAL JOKERS USHER IN WARMER DAYS



Spring is here, and Lansing will be steadily warming up over the coming weeks. Here are just a few tracks to add to your springtime playlist

## A few seasonal songs to get your spring playlist started

Weather in the Greater Lansing area is often dicey, especially this time of year. One day is unseasonably warm, while a hellacious ice storm rolls in the next. But, since it’s now officially springtime, Michigan will soon return to its mild temps and picture-perfect settings for outdoor adventures.

With that said, there are all sorts of songs to add to a spring playlist. Here are just a few to get your own list started.

**The Beatles “Here Comes the Sun” (1969)**

Here is a true Captain Obvious pick, but one that can’t be skipped. Written in early 1969 by George Harrison (a.k.a. “the quiet Beatle”), the song not only lyrically reflects the changing of the seasons, but also sonically captures that imagery. The tones are bright, jangly and uplifting. Sparkly guitars and harmonious vocals are adorned by a mood-setting nine-piece string section.

“It was a bit like ‘If I Needed Someone,’ you know, the basic riff going through it, you know all those ‘Bells of Rhymney,’ Byrds type things,” Harrison later recalled. “So, that’s how I see it, anyway. It’s quite vintage.”

Written and recorded during the final, tumultuous days of The Beatles’ existence, this would be the last song Harrison would present to his bandmates. “Here Comes the Sun” and “Some-

thing” (Harrison’s other contribution to “Abbey Road”) would later be hailed as two of standout songs on the swan-song LP. While in a blue funk about the rapidly dissolving Beatles, Harrison churned out “Here Comes the Sun” in the garden at Eric Clapton’s Hurtwood Edge estate in Ewhurst, Surrey.

In his autobiography, “I, Me, Mine,” Harrison dished on the now iconic springtime single. “‘Here Comes the Sun’ was written at the time when Apple (The Beatles’ label and headquarters) was getting like school, where we had to go and be businessmen: ‘Sign this’ and ‘sign that,’” he recalled. “It seems as if winter in England goes on forever, by the time spring comes you really deserve it. So, one day I decided I was going to slag off Apple and I went over to Eric Clapton’s house. The relief of not having to go see all those dopey accountants was wonderful, and I walked around the garden with one of Eric’s acoustic guitars and wrote ‘Here Comes the Sun.’”

**The Royal Jokers “Spring” (1958)**

There’s a jubilant saxophone, some breezy-yet-gritty vocals — the perfect mixture for a classic Detroit-made R&B track. “Spring,” a festive 1958 B-side cut by the Royal Jokers, is one of the dozens of unforgettable 45s pressed up by the Fortune Records imprint.

Released on the label’s Hi-Q Records subsidiary, today the 7-inch single sells for nearly \$300, but at the time failed to gain much traction outside of the Motor City. From the opening line, “I’m so glad that spring is here,” written by the group’s leader, Noah Howell, the scene is set. Flowers are blooming, birds and bees are singing and love is in the air. While the group lasted from the 1950s through the 1970s, the vocal group saw its high point in the mid-’50s, during its ATCO Records stint. Today, the Royal Jokers are mostly lost in the sands of time, but 65-plus years ago, they were performing at all-star doo-wop shows held at The Fox Theater on Woodward in Detroit. While the Jokers’ mainstream success fizzled before reaching its full potential, the outfit left behind a stack of stellar 45s, on a string of labels, like Metro (MGM), Big Top and Venus — all are equally as impressive as “Spring.” Throw on the Royal Jokers’ “You Tickle Me Baby” single, a 1955 R&B monster, and then tell me Michigan isn’t responsible for the rawest sounds ever created.

**Simon and Garfunkel “April Come She Will” (1966)**

It’s can’t all be flowers and rainbows, even with springtime anthems. Leave it to Simon and Garfunkel to find the melancholy in snow melting away. In “April

Come She Will,” a track included on the pair’s 1966 “Sounds of Silence” LP, you’ll hear the signature combination of delicate fingerpicking and faultless vocal harmonizing the duo is known for — but also the gradual, poetic narrative showing how a relationship can change, for better or for worse, like the seasons.

It opens with Art Garfunkel singing: “April, come she will/When streams are ripe and swelled with rain/May, she will stay/Resting in my arms again.”

From there, in June she “will change her tune” and by the time July comes around, she will “fly ... and give no warning to her flight.” For only lasting 1:51, this short but sweet tune covers a lot of ground — and emotional baggage.

Of course, the last verse, penned by chief songwriter Paul Simon, gets epically emo. Garfunkel somberly croons: “August, die she must/The autumn winds blow chilly and cold/September, I’ll remember/A love once new has now grown old.”

Moods will change. Feelings change. Seasons change. So, let’s all enjoy the approaching Michigan weather, and enjoy it while it lasts. And don’t forget to play some good music while you’re at it.



# OUT on the TOWN

## Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com). Deadline is 9 a.m. Monday 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

#### Joe Wright

Fri., March 25, 8-11 p.m.

#### Flipside

Sat., March 26, 8-11 p.m.

#### Blue Owl

1149 S Washington, Lansing

#### Elden Kelly and Gregg Hill

Thurs., March 24, 6-8 p.m.

#### Classic Pub & Grill

16219 N. US 27, Lansing

#### Miranda & The M-80s

Fri., March 25, 8:30 p.m.

#### Parted Waters

Sat., March 26, 8:30 p.m.

#### Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids

#### Cat Story

Fri., March 25, 7-10 p.m.

#### Justin Holcomb

Sat., March 26, 7-10 p.m.

#### The Exchange

314 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

#### Off The Ledge

Fri.-Sat., March 25-26, 5 p.m.-close

#### Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

#### Sloan

Fri., March 25

#### Fatboy & Jive Turkey

Sat., March 26, 8:30 p.m.

#### Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing

#### The Swift Brothers

Fri., March 25, 8-10 p.m.

#### The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing

#### Kanola Band

Wed., March 23, 7:30 p.m.

#### Urban Beat

1213 N. Turner St., Lansing

#### Russ Kendrick Martin

Thurs., March 24, 7-9 p.m.



### An evening with Renée Elise Goldsberry

8 p.m. Saturday, March 26

Cobb Great Hall

750 E. Shaw Ln., East Lansing

1-800-WHARTON

Renée Elise Goldsberry will have her first appearance at Wharton Center this weekend. Best known for her role as Angelica Schuyler in Lin-Manuel Miranda's "Hamilton," the Broadway and TV star won the Tony Award and a Grammy Award for her portrayal of Angelica. Other Broadway productions Goldsberry starred in include "The Lion King" and "Rent." She was raised in Houston and Detroit, graduating from Cranbrook Kingswood School in Bloomfield Hills. Goldsberry's performance will consist of Broadway and classic standards. Tickets start at \$32 and can be purchased at [whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.com). Student tickets are \$19. Michigan State University no longer has required COVID-19 protocols for guests.

### Wednesday, March 23

**18th Anniversary Celebration** - East Lansing Public Art Gallery will be celebrating their 18th anniversary during March with special exhibits! 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Public Art Gallery, Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd, East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com](http://cityofeastlansing.com).

**Albert Herring, by Benjamin Britten** - If you like Downton Abbey with a bit of The Vicar of Dibley thrown in, you'll love this tale of a shy young lad elected May King. 8 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Rd, East Lansing. 517-355-1855. [msu.edu](http://msu.edu).

**Allen Farmers Market** - 3-6 p.m. Allen Market Place, 1611 E Kalamazoo, Lansing.

**"Best Books" Tiny Art Show** - Pick up your Tiny Art Kit 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

**March is Reading Month** - Daily events at GLADL. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

**Science, Politics, and COVID-19: Will Truth Prevail?** - Scott Atlas, M.D., will be speaking. 7-8:30 p.m. MSU Wells Hall Room B117, 619 Red Cedar Rd, East Lansing.

**Studio Squad** - Calling all creative kids ages 9-12! 4:30-5:30 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu)

### Thursday, March 24

**America at Crossroads** - Discover how to enjoy better health and maintain vitality at Crossroads Conference. 6:30-8 p.m. Lansing Church Auditorium, 5400 W. St. Joseph Hwy, Lansing. [crossroads.to](http://crossroads.to).

**Chipmunk Story Time** - Story time comes alive at the Harris Nature Center as children interact with puppets Chicory Chipmunk and his animal friends. 10-11 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos. 517-349-3866. [meridian.mi.us](http://meridian.mi.us).

**MSU Wind Symphony: March Forth!** - 8:30 p.m. Info and tickets at [msu.edu](http://msu.edu).

**River Walk** - Start off Spring with a walk along the river! 5:30-6:30 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. [eradl.org](http://eradl.org).

**Science of Grief: Poetry Workshop and Reading** - Natasha T. Miller. 6-8 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800.

**Print & Stitch** - 6-8 p.m. REACH Art Studio, 1804 S. Washington, Lansing. [reachstudioart.org](http://reachstudioart.org) for information and cost.

**Some Avail** - Art Exhibition by Andrew

Reider, through March 26. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N. Washington Sq., Lansing.

**Stitch 'n Bitch** - Come hang out with some fellow stitching witches! 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center Street, Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

### Friday, March 25

**Albert Herring, by Benjamin Britten** - 8 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Rd, East Lansing. 517-355-1855. [msu.edu](http://msu.edu).

**Disability & Art: Panel Discussion** - a conversation about the relationship between health and art. 6-8 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu)

**Edgar Loudermilk Band Live at Elderly Instruments** - Join us in our showroom  
See Events, Page 29

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 26

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### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 26

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6	7	4	2	9	3	5	8	1

Events

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for an intimate concert. 7:30-9 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-372-7880.elderly.com.

**Fish Fry Friday’s** - Lent Fish Fry Fridays @ VFW Post 701 through April 15. 5:30-7:30 p.m. VFW Post 701, 123 N. Rosemary St., Lansing.

**Gee’s Bend** - a staged reading. 8-9:30 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Gannon Building - Room 1422. 517-483-1122. lcc.edu

**Make & Take Pop Up: DIY Recipe Book** - Looking for ways to diversify your diet? 1-4 p.m. Main Library, East Lansing. msu.edu.

**Spring Break Activity** - Virtual Escape Room - 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

**Spring Break TGIF Dinner & Dance Party** - 7-11:30 p.m. Eagle Eye Center, 15101 Chandler Rd., Bath. tgifdance.com

**Symphony Orchestra: Honors Concert** - 9 p.m. events.msu.edu.

Saturday, March 26

**America at Crossroads** - Discover how to enjoy better health and maintain vitality at Crossroads Conference. 6:30-8 p.m. Lansing Church Auditorium, 5400 W. St. Joseph Hwy, Lansing. crossroads.to.

**Celebrating Women Artisan Market** - A celebration of the artistic and entrepreneurial spirit of women in Michigan. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. REO Town Marketplace, 1027 S Washington Ave. reotownmarketplace.com

**Drum Circle** - Bring your drums and rattles, instruments or even dancing feet for some rhythmic fun! Open to all styles and traditions, free to the public. 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center Street, Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

**Gee’s Bend** - a staged reading. 8-9:30 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Gannon - Room 1422, Lansing. lcc.edu

**Holt Farmers' Market** - 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 2150 Cedar St., Holt.

**Meridian Twp. Farmers' Market** - Noon-2 p.m. 1995 Central Park Dr.

**Mindfulness 101 Class** - 1-2:30 p.m. Better Health Market, 305 N. Clippert, Lansing. betterhealthmarket.com

**STEAM Saturdays** - Youth Event (grades K-3) - hands-on activities that feature science, technology. 2-3 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

**Tacos & Tie-Dye Day at the Fledge!** - Free for Kids. 2-5 p.m. 1300 Eureka, Lansing.

**Tower Guard Shamrock 5K Run, Walk, Roll** - annual event to raise funds for the MSU Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities. 11-12:59 a.m. MSU Auditorium, East Lansing. msu.edu.

Sunday, March 27

**Drum Circle at the Fledge** - 2-4 p.m. 1300 Eureka, Lansing.

**Ecstatic Dance Lansing** - Come Dance! 12 -2 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka, Lansing. ecstaticdancelansing.com

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

**Pet Adoption Event** - Meet the wonderful adoptable animals of the Animal Placement Bureau at Soldans, 5016 S. MLK, Lansing, 1-4 p.m.

Monday, March 28

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

**Jump Into Reading** - Join Ms. Anna for stories, songs, and activities. 11-11:30 a.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S Main St., Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

**Spring Break Activity** - Minute to Win It Kits available on a first-come, first-served basis starting March 28th. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

Tuesday, March 29

**Aldo Abreu and Friends: Music Masterpieces from Italian Baroque** - 8:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Rd, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

**America at Crossroads** - Discover how to enjoy better health and maintain vitality at Crossroads Conference. 6:30-8 p.m. Lansing Church Auditorium, 5400 W. St. Joseph Hwy, Lansing. crossroads.to.

**Artist Feature** - Join artist Beverly Fishman as she discusses her new work and exhibition, Recovery. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu

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

**CMH-CEI 2022 Virtual Annual Community Event** – Keynote Speaker: Brenda Jones Harden. 8:30-11:30 a.m. Must pre-register at ceicmh.org

**Leslie Friends of the Library Book Sale** - 7 March 29-30-31 from 2-6 p.m. Woodworth Elementary School Cafeteria, 212 Pennsylvania St., Leslie cadl.org.

**Preschool Family Storytime** - 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St. gladl.org.

**Sporcle Live! Trivia** - 7:30 & 8:30 p.m. Crunchy’s, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. crunchyseastlansing.com

**Spring Break Activity** - Pipecleaner Rings - Kits will be available starting March 29th. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

**Toastmasters Meeting** - Improve your speaking skills. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Zoom capitalcitytoastmasters.toastmastersclubs.org.

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RESERVATIONS

# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### Blended lemon chicken

By **ARI LeVAUX**

Using a lemon for only its juice is a big waste. The whole thing is edible, including the nutritious pith and the pulp, rich in fiber. Lemon zest is worth its weight in gold, and when I think about how much zest gets tossed it makes me sad. How many meals could have been brightened? How many cookies pushed over the edge to greatness? I wouldn't fault anyone for straining out the seeds, or cutting off the tip of the stem or blossom ends. But I've been putting everything else in the blender. The result is a foamy, lemon emulsion that is the solu-

tion to culinary problems that I didn't even know I had.

Blended lemon is like an enhanced form of lemon juice. Thicker, and with a broader spectrum of lemon flavor. Like lemon juice, this lemon foam is equally at home in savory or sweet contexts. As a condiment to rich, lusty dishes like a leg of lamb, or a light salad. Mixed with enough sugar, the bitter notes are sedated and the sour notes are activated and the zest is elevated. I've written previously about using lemon foam to make a baked custard. Lately I've been messing around with no-bake lemony treats,



like a lemon foamed whipped cream that seems to disappear as fast as I can make it.

Did you know that you can make whipped cream in a mason jar? I fill a pint jar quarter full with heavy cream, and shake it for about three minutes

until it's whipped, stiff peaks and all. Then I add a teaspoon of lemon foam — already sweetened to the point where I can't stop eating it — and shake some more. It will get even thicker, while the bitter, sour, zesty and sweet flavors are softly embraced and absorbed by the cream, making for a thick treat straight off the spoon.

One of the highest uses of blended lemon foam that I have yet discovered is in a marinade for proteins. The lemon oil seems to penetrate and flavor deeply, making any meat, even a lusty elk steak, taste curiously white. So its no surprise that chicken, the whitest of white meats, excels the most in my citrus emulsion. I like to marinate chunks of chicken in lemon foam overnight, along with gar-

lic, olive oil and seasonings. The next day, I fry the chicken on high heat with parsley and onion.

I chose my chicken seasonings based on the contents of a jar of spicy preserved lemons that was gifted to me by my friend Nifer. Those lemons, like my foam, are whole, including all the guts and skin of the fruit that are normally tossed. You can taste that whole lemon flavor in the preserved lemons, underneath Nifer's array of spices. I tried to copy those spices for my chicken marinade. I came up with coriander, cinnamon and sesame seeds. I don't know if this is the mixture that is in that unmarked jar of lemons, but it's a good mix nonetheless.

This chicken will inspire expletives of joy, as the glorious cubes of chicken explode nonviolently in your mouth. The kid-praise for blended lemon chicken is through the roof. It has inspired enthusiastic displays



Blended lemon chicken prepared by Ari LeVaux.

Ari LeVaux.

See Chicken, Page 31

# Chicken

from page 30

of interpretive dance, and is officially better than hot dogs or mac and cheese — with more fruits and vegetables.

## Blended Lemon Chicken

You need a lightweight omelet pan with a long handle and a tight-fitting lid. If you don't have one you should get one anyway. Don't be afraid to add lots of parsley. It will probably all get eaten.

- 1 lb chicken breast (about two breasts)
- 3 lemons
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, grated, mashed or pressed
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 2 teaspoons whole coriander seed
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon sesame seeds
- 1 bunch parsley, chopped
- 1 medium onion, chopped

Wash the lemons. Remove the brown nubs at the stem ends, and slice them into quarters. Squeeze the slices through a strainer to remove seeds, and add the juice to a blender along with the squeezed lemon slices. Add up to a cup of water if necessary to get the blender to properly vortex. Congratulations on your blended lemon foam.

Cut the chicken into cubes, about an inch on a side and add them to a bowl with a tablespoon or two of blended lemon, along with half of the olive oil, garlic, salt, pepper, sugar, coriander, cinnamon and sesame seeds. Marinate for a few hours or overnight.

Add the remaining oil to an omelet pan, with the heat on medium-high. When the oil is hot enough to sputter, add the chicken cubes, one by one, spaced out so they aren't touching each other. Put the lid on to contain the splatter. If you have a kitchen hood, turn it onto high.

Let it cook like that for two or so minutes, allowing some moisture to weep out and steam the chicken from above while it sizzles below. You should not smell burning. If you do, proceed immediately to the next step.

With hands on the lid and handle, shake the chicken around. Pause. Add the parsley. Cook and shake again. Finally, add the onion, which will immediately release moisture. Cover and shake, and cook for another minute. Turn off the heat while the onions still have some body. Serve with all of the tasty bits from the pan.

# Roll up to Ohana Sushi with a big appetite

By CHLOE ALVERSON

Ohana Sushi, which opened its doors early last December, won't leave you hungry — that's for sure. When you dine-in, you can enjoy all-you-can-eat sushi for a set price — which differs between lunch and dinner hours. The lunch price is \$16.95 and the dinner price is \$29.95. Did I mention it's all-you-can-eat?

Customers are given dry erase markers with the menus, so you can check off what you want. After the server rings in the first round of food, they bring the menus back for you to pick your next dish. Customers can start with an appetizer, like a cup of miso soup or avocado salad, and choose from a wide variety of sushi dishes.

I'm still getting into the sushi scene, so

I opted for the veggie choices. For my first round of rolls, I ordered the veggie dragon — sweet potato tempura, avocado, topped with tofu skin and eel sauce. These specialty rolls come in groups of six to eight, which my waitress warned me of. I, of course, did not listen. Spoiler alert: I got full. I still ordered another round of rolls, but went with basic avocado, asparagus and cucumber rolls. It was all delicious, but I will definitely listen to my server next time and come hungry.



Chloe Alverson/City Pulse

The Veggie Dragon specialty rolls from Ohana Sushi.



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**LANSGING EAST**  
1900 E. Kalamazoo St.  
Lansing, MI 48912

**MUSKEGON**  
1965 Holton Rd.  
Muskegon, MI 49445

**MT. PLEASANT**  
2157 S. Mission St.  
Mt Pleasant, MI 48858

FOR USE BY INDIVIDUALS 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER ONLY.  
Keep out of reach of children. It is illegal to drive a motor  
vehicle while under the influence of marijuana.  
National Poison Control Center  
1-800-222-1222.