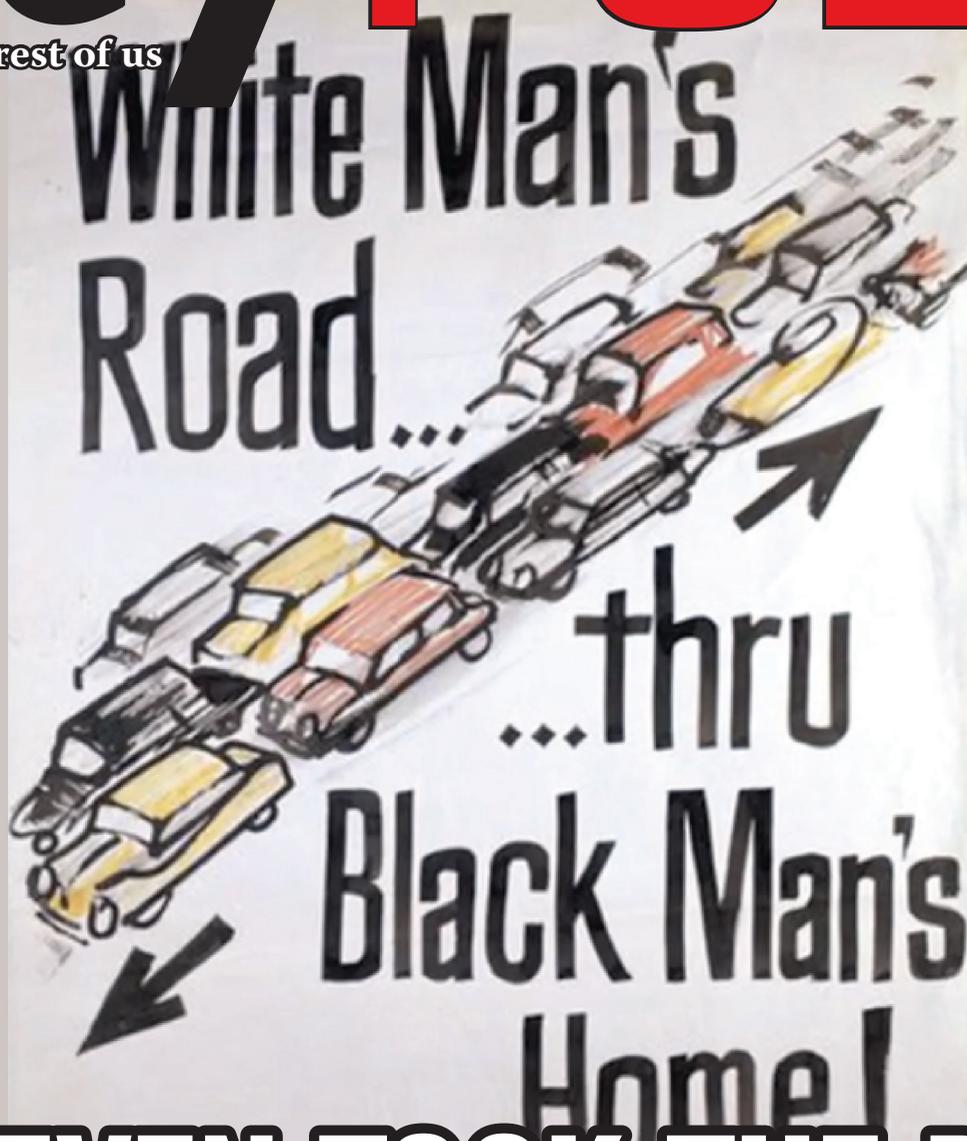


# CityPULSE

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## 'THEY EVEN TOOK THE DIRT'

Documentary recalls what I-496 destroyed

See Page 14

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# ARTS NIGHT OUT



**July 14th**  
5:00-8:00PM

## 2023 Venues

- Arts Council of Greater Lansing
- Bradly's Home & Garden
- Curvaceous Lingerie
- Cravings Gourmet Popcorn
- Elderly Instruments
- Great Lakes Art & Gifts
- Katalyst Gallery
- Metro Melik 517
- MICA Gallery
- Mother & Earth: Toys + Baby
- Odd Nodd Art Supply
- Old Town Commercial Association
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**ARTS COUNCIL**  
greater lansing

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS:



Affirmative Action only existed because people discriminated at will. We have now given them permission to do so again. And they will. Ignorance has a stranglehold in the highest court, and we have witnessed it turning progress into payback. They are hell bent on restoring America to the good ol' boys' way of doing business. This reversal of leveling the playing field is violent, and here's why: We have a history in this country that has always favored privilege, and privilege leads to policy, as well as public sentiment. When the public views policy as the norm for generations, people become complacent to unjust and systemic issues. And those without privilege will become invisible, and resistance is then often looked at as radical. The ignorance of the privileged creates hostility and distorted reality. I fear that in that bubble — and we've seen it happen already — people justify their hate and bigotry with rhetoric and rancor. The fact is that these people aren't at all interested in educating themselves about inequities and how they have been metastasizing over time; their view is simplistic in nature, and it's rooted in the fact that someone else's discomfort is of no concern to them, as long as it doesn't come to their door.

We are at a crossroads, and the Supreme Court is testing us. Laws are made by people. Justice is what I make it, it's what you make it, and if we are honorable, this is not the time for silence. This is an affront to everyone who has fought for progress in the face of racism and xenophobia. We have receipts, the evidence is irrefutable, and we cannot rest on our laurels of any progress because the system is still rigged and infested with ignorance and hate.

People are caught in the proverbial crossfire, and if it weren't so perilous for so many, it would be comical because we know these issues are critical to the pursuit of happiness, yet they are suffocating the life out of someone today. The hypocrisy is monumental — like, you'd think you couldn't make this stuff up, but they do it in plain sight and laugh at your suffering. The conspiracy theories are boundless,

from Gender Conformity, to Women's Autonomy, and Critical Race Theory. Justices are attacking the very liberty that they claim to protect.

I'm fighting for the America I want, not the one they've claimed. They've hijacked the flag, the term patriot, and it has worked for them because they play to the sensibilities and heartstrings that made America different from other parts of the world. But they never want to talk about the ugly parts, they never want to connect the dots of our past to our present. Ending Affirmative Action is the textbook example of how to prove that you don't have the intellectual capacity to understand the concept of structural and institutional racism, how it happened, how to fix it, and history repeating itself. We've just officially declared that people can freely discriminate, but make no mistake, it's not like they didn't already, they just had to be careful about it. Now, they'll do it right to your face.

The courts are going to be busier than ever. They've only got themselves to blame. We should've addressed these issues long ago. But White Supremacy is a helluva drug. When I was a kid, I used to think of a Nazi with a shaved head as a White Supremacist. Now, I see they wear suits and ties, floral dresses, or robes. They also attend school board meetings, drive fire trucks, and carry badges. They come in all races too. It boils down to privilege: If you have it, it won't make it to the courts. If you have it, you'll do anything to keep it. I'm all out of fucks to give.

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# CityPULSE

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Gear up for Dab Day



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An easy and refreshing summer salad

**HANGING WORKERS OUT TO DRY**

IN TEXAS, THE STATE GOVERNMENT IS OVERRIDING CITIES' MANDATORY WATER BREAKS FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS.

THESE LAWS ARE SO BURDENSOME THAT OUR BUSINESSES WILL KEEL OVER AND DIE!

**THIS IS HAPPENING AS GLOBAL TEMPERATURES SET NEW RECORDS.**

WHY SHOULD THE LABOR UNITS REQUIRE WATER INPUT INTERVALS?

PASS ME THAT PITCHER!

**IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT EXECUTIVES SHOULD ALSO HAVE TO WORK IN EXTREME HEAT.**

MUST... BUST... UNIONS...

BOARD MEETING

SORENSEN

**SEEMS LIKE THIS PLAN COULD BACKFIRE.**

SIR, ALL OF OUR WORKERS HAVE DIED OF HEAT STROKE.

DAMMIT! THERE GO OUR PRODUCTIVITY NUMBERS!

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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

**THIS WEEK: ANOTHER LOOK AT THE VIEW FROM THE MAGAVERSE!**

YOU MAY THINK THAT TRUMP IS AN OBVIOUS CRIMINAL WHO OPENLY ADMITS TO HIS CRIMES--

HEY ARE YOU RECORDING THIS? GREAT! NOW LET ME SHOW YOU SOME MORE EVIDENCE OF ALL THE TOTALLY ILLEGAL STUFF I DID!

--BUT IN THE MAGAVERSE, THEY SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY!

HE IS AN INNOCENT MAN BEING UNFAIRLY PERSECUTED BY THE DEEP STATE! ANY SO-CALLED "EVIDENCE" TO THE CONTRARY IS FAKE NEWS!

IF THEY CAN INDICT HIM FOR STEALING TOP SECRET DOCUMENTS AND STORING THEM IN A BATHROOM-- WHO AMONG US IS SAFE?

AND WHILE YOU MAY THINK THAT RFK JR. IS A CONSPIRACY THEORIST BEING PROMOTED BY STEVE BANNON AND ROGER STONE TO SOW CHAOS IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY--

THE EARTH IS FLAT AND IF YOU SAIL TOO CLOSE TO THE EDGE YOU WILL FALL OFF!

DEBATE ME, YOU COWARDS!

--IN THE MAGAVERSE--WELL, THAT'S PRETTY MUCH WHAT THEY THINK AS WELL...THEY JUST THINK IT'S A GOOD THING.

LOOK, WE SIMPLY BELIEVE IN THE FAIR AND OPEN EXCHANGE OF IDEAS, AT LEAST WHEN IT WILL RATFUCK THE DEMOCRATS!

HEH HEH! WHY ARE THEY SO AFRAID OF AN OPPOSING VIEWPOINT?

AND OF COURSE, YOU MAY THINK THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF NEWS LATELY BECAUSE SOMETIMES THAT'S JUST HOW THINGS WORK--

COMING UP: MORE ON THE FAILED COUP ATTEMPT IN RUSSIA!

RIGHT AFTER THE LATEST ON THE DOOMED SUBMER-SIBLE!

BUT FIRST-- SOME OTHER DAMN THING THAT JUST HAPPENED!

--BUT IN THE MAGAVERSE, THEY SEE A VAST, INTERCONNECTED WEB OF MANIPULATION!

JOE BIDEN ORCHESTRATED EVENTS IN RUSSIA--TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM HUNTER'S PLEA DEAL!

NOT TO MENTION THAT CONVENIENT SUB DISASTER! THE BIDEN CRIME FAMILY WILL STOP AT NOTHING!

THIS ALL MAKES PERFECT SENSE TO ME!

Tom Tomorrow © 2023-07-03 ... JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: [thismodernworld.com/subscription](http://thismodernworld.com/subscription)

# PULSE NEWS & OPINION

## Changes in store for Lansing City Council as ballots go out

### Incumbents' retirements mean both at-large seats will have new occupants

Absentee ballots are already in the mail in Lansing for the Aug. 8 primary election, when voters will decide the nominees who will face each other in November's general election to determine half of the eight-member City Council.

Two at-large incumbents, Carol Wood and Patricia Spitzley, are stepping down at the end of the year. Wood will end a 24-year career on the Council. Spitzley has served two terms after first being elected in 2016.

In the other two races, First Ward incumbent Ryan Kost and Third Ward incumbent Adam Hussain are seeking reelection.

Absentee ballots started going out from Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope's office last week for the nonpartisan election.

In the at-large race, eight names will appear on the ballot. However, Olivia Vaden has announced she will not campaign, effectively withdrawing. She made the decision after it was too late to remove her name from the ballot.

The seven other candidates have a variety of backgrounds: a bank manager, two state employees, two educational employees and a former community college student and neighborhood activist. The top four finishers in the primary election will move on to the Nov. 7 general election. The top two vote-getters will win four-year terms.

The candidates for at-large, in the order in which they filed their paperwork with the City Clerk's Office, are: Nicklas W. Zande, 21; Jody Washington, 66; Keshawn Mitchell-Roland; Farhan Sheikh-Omar, 28; Tamera Carter, 40; Missy Lilje, 47; and Trini Lopez Pehlivanoglu, 43.

In the First Ward, Ryan Kost won a narrow victory in a special election in November. He beat incumbent Brian Daniels, who was appointed in February 2022 to replace Brandon Betz, who had resigned with a little under two years



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A photo illustration of Lansing City Hall. Voters will decide Aug. 8 on their choices to compete in November for four-year terms for half the seats on the eight-member City Council.

left on his term. Kost is facing a fight to earn a four-year term.

He has two opponents. One is D. Taft, 48, a perennial candidate who is suing the city for racial discrimination, among other claims. The other is newcomer Michael John VandeGuchte, 29, a team leader at Meijer who has lived in Lansing for 10 years. The top two vote-getters will advance to the November election.

In the Third Ward, which is southwest Lansing, incumbent Hussain, 41, has drawn just one opponent, 22-year-old King Robertson. Both men will automatically advance to the general election in November.

City Pulse sent questionnaires to all the candidates by email on June 23. The questionnaire had five questions. The full survey responses will be at

lansingcitypulse.com.

Zande and Mitchell-Roland did not respond to the inquiries.

As the questions were being put together, polling found public safety was a top concern for voters. After approving a \$175 million bond proposal to build a public safety complex as well as a frustrating couple of years of shootings and other violence, it's no wonder. How to address public safety at a time when the core practices of law enforcement are being challenged, evaluated and changed to fit into a more progressive frame is something that Council members will face.

In the First Ward, Taft is proposing the Lansing Police Department invest in a fleet of drones to monitor the city and "provide situational awareness to law enforcement by allowing them to

promptly identify a threat and improve response times." He believes that investment would lead to faster resolution of criminal activity and a reduction in crime overall. He didn't identify how he would pay for the technology and software necessary, nor the staffing to operate the drones.

Deploying drones may also violate privacy rights in Michigan. The state Supreme Court is set to hear a case next session challenging the constitutionality of the use of drones for zoning and ordinance compliance in northern Michigan. Lower courts have ruled that drone use to monitor a dump was not an illegal search, but the state's top court could decide differently.

# Bios of the primary election candidates for Lansing City Council

(City Pulse asked all 11 candidates for the Lansing City Council who are on the Aug. 8 primary election ballot to write brief bios. Information has been edited for style.)

## AT-LARGE RACE



### Tamera Carter

Age: 40

**Education:** Bachelor of arts in social science (law & society), Michigan State University; Master of arts in organizational leadership,

Cornerstone University

**Employment:** Bank Manager, Lake Trust Credit Union

"Tamera Carter, a 2005 Michigan State University graduate, has been a Lansing resident for nearly two decades, drawn to its strong sense of community. Tamera holds a master's degree in organizational leadership and has extensive experience in financial oversight, management and community engagement. Tamera's leadership qualities have been recognized through the 2017 Leadership of Lansing Cohort and the 2018 Ten Over the Next Ten recognition. She serves on the Impression 5 board of directors and is involved in various community organizations such as Downtown Lansing Inc. (board member) and volunteering with LMTS Community Outreach and Greater Lansing Food Bank."



### Trini Lopez Pehlivanoglu

Age: 43

**Education:** Bachelor of business administration, Cleary University

**Employment:** Process improvement consultant, MI Dept. of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

"Trini Lopez Pehlivanoglu was raised on Lansing's southwest side, where she and her husband John are now raising their own family. Trini is a proud graduate of Lansing Everett High School.

In 2018, she returned to college, and she earned her bachelor of business administration degree in 2020 from Cleary University.

During her 17-year career as legal support staff in county and state government, Trini sharpened her ability to address citizens' concerns while working within the parameters of those offices. Today, Trini works in continuous improvement, with a specialty in tackling complex issues and finding collaborative solutions with staff and stakeholders."

### Keshawn Mitchell-Roland

Did not respond to survey or previous inquiries

### Olivia Vaden:

Not actively campaigning



### D. Taft

Age: 48

**Education:** Columbia College Chicago

**Employment:** Entertainment management

"I'm a passionate American African street minister and historic church owner who was born the first male in my family after the Civil Rights Act of 1964. I was raised with my great-grandmother, the daughter of a former slave. My father, a legendary blues singer, inspired me to obtain a career in entertainment. I've worked with and for several major recording companies and artists doing marketing, management and promotions. I'm the founder of MitTown Made, a Michigan lifestyle brand. I married my high school sweetheart 30 years ago, and we have two young-adult children together."

## FIRST WARD



### Missy Lilje

Age: 47

**Education:** Bachelor of fine arts, University of Michigan; Master of fine arts, Arizona State University

**Employment:** Paraprofessional, Ingham Intermediate School District; Adjunct professor, Michigan State University

"As a mom, special education paraprofessional, adjunct professor and school board member, Missy has years of experience working to improve the lives of Lansing residents. After being elected twice to the Lansing Board of Education, and in her current role as treasurer, Missy has been proud to oversee the improvement of education for the city's students and passing balanced budgets. Missy is committed to fostering a governance process that is kind and respectful. She knows how to work across the aisle to tackle important issues and continues to build relationships to better understand the needs of Lansing's residents."



### Jody Washington

Age: 66

**Education:** Lansing Eastern High School and some college

**Employment:** Departmental specialist in the legal office of the Michigan Department of Corrections

"I am a lifelong resident of Lansing and have been involved in community service for decades. In 2012, I was elected to the First Ward, where I served for eight years. I continue to serve the community by the following: Chair - Endeavor House Ministries, Secretary - Ingham Community Health Centers, Secretary - Human Resources and Community Services Board, Member - Friends of Bancroft and Southwest Action Group, mentorship and advocacy for the homeless.

I have the knowledge, experience and a real plan to elevate Lansing for everyone that chooses to live here. I will hit the ground running."



### Ryan Kost

Age: 35

**Education:** DeWitt High School

**Employment:** State of Michigan and First Ward Council member

"I live on Lansing's east side and am a fourth-generation Kost to live in Lansing, we really do mean it when we say we love Lansing! I work for the State of Michigan and have been awarded for my teamwork and representing the people of the First Ward.

I am a member of the men's auxiliary of the VFW 701 and the North Lansing Moose Lodge. In my free time, you can find me working on my home, cleaning up a part of town and helping my dad in the garage. I have three dogs, Madison, Manhattan and Peche."

## THIRD WARD



### Adam Hussain

Age: 41

**Education:** Bachelor's in education, Michigan State University; Master's in educational administration, Central

Michigan University

**Employment:** Social studies instructor, Waverly Community Schools

"I absolutely love Lansing and our people. My wife and I are raising our three daughters in southwest Lansing. I'm a proud graduate of Lansing Public Schools. I teach our youngest citizens as a public school teacher. I have served our community as a Neighborhood Watch coordinator, board member for Colonial Cooperative, Parks Board member, Southwest Action Group board member and as the Third Ward Councilmember. The team we have assembled in southwest Lansing is working diligently to improve the quality of life for our citizens, and I am ecstatic to continue that work."



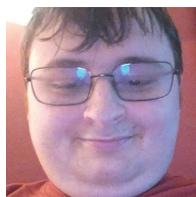
### Farhan Sheikh-Omar

Age: 28

**Education:** LCC

**Employment:** Lansing School District

"The son of immigrants, Farhan was born into the Dadaab Refugee Camp in Kenya. Violence first pushed his family out of Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia. Farhan currently works for the Lansing School District. He enjoys the constant exposure to different learners, ages and backgrounds. Working in schools has taught him how to do more with less while being adaptable and flexible to inevitable changes."



### Nicklas W. Zande

Age: 21

**Education:** Lansing Community College student

**Employment:** None

"I am not currently married, as I currently still live with my parents, Joseph Lee August Zande and Jennifer Ann Smith-Zande. I was a student at Wexford Montessori in the late 2000s and the early 2010s. I would later attend Everett High School in the late 2010s, and I am currently a student at Lansing Community College, but I'm locked out due to debt issues." (Note: Mr. Zande declined to answer the City Pulse survey. This information is from a previous request.)



### Michael John VandeGuchte

Age: 29

**Education:** Bachelor of science in fisheries and wildlife with a minor in conservation enforcement, Michigan State University

**Employment:** Team leader at Meijer

"I have lived in Lansing for the past 10 years with my fiance, six of which have been in Ward I. My experiences in this city are unique, as are everybody else's. I want to be able to hear the people of the ward and city and be the leader they are asking for. I am driven, I hold myself to the highest degree of integrity, and I practice what I preach. Overall, I want to see Lansing become a safer city and be seen as the pinnacle of mid-Michigan."



### King Robertson

Age: 22

**Education:** In school pursuing pre-med

**Employment:** Med tech

"King is a sophomore in college on a mission to transform the community he calls home. Born and raised in his neighborhood, he is determined to create positive change for all its residents. King's passion for service fuels his desire to improve community. King's unwavering commitment as a med tech, coupled with his deep understanding of the community's unique challenges, positions him as a catalyst for progress."

# Primary

from page 5

The other two candidates in the First Ward differed from Taft's ideas. Incumbent Kost noted public safety issues stem from a depleted police force and difficulty in recruiting and retaining officers. He noted that the most recent budget included sign-on bonuses for new hires at Lansing's Police and Fire departments.

VandeGuchte said he wants to bring back an old-school community policing model through foot patrols.

At-Large candidate Sheikh-Omar is aligned with a contingent of voters who believe public safety is much broader than crime intervention. He wants to see more innovation to reduce the underlying causes of crimes, from poverty to substance abuse.

"It requires listening to residents and addressing policing strategies and areas of concern," he said.

Candidates Washington, Carter, Lopez Pehlivanoglu and Lilje had similar responses, calling for strategies and funding to address the systemic issues underlying crime.

In the Third Ward race, incumbent Hussain pointed to the work conducted with neighborhood organizations and community groups to address crime in

an area once symbolizing violence in Lansing. That work has informed the creation of ordinances, the deployment of the City Attorney's Office to crack down on nuisance properties and "data-driven policing." His opponent, Robertson, said he'd focus on community engagement and community policing activities.

Any response to public safety concerns in the city will also have to address funding initiatives. The city is facing a structural deficit that it barely skipped over this year by backfilling the budget with unspent dollars from funded but not filled positions in the city. Spitzley called it "smoke and mirrors" budgeting.

Carter, who is a banker, wants "to establish a multi-year budget forecast and continue to bolster the rainy day fund." She also called for the elimination of redundancies in the city. Washington, who served two terms as the First Ward Council member before losing to Betz in 2019, said all the city's assets, excluding the Lansing Board of Water & Light, should "be on the table" in looking to reduce budget issues. Lopez Pehlivanoglu said she would ask that departments identify what can be cut, aside from employees, to reduce the budgets of the city's 12 departments. In the longer term, she would advocate for more revenue sharing from the state — money that was reduced in the 2000s to stave

off an economic crisis that fell into the Great Recession. Those cuts resulted in drastic reductions in city operations and staffing under former Mayor Virg Bernero's leadership.

Lilje, who has served on the Lansing Board of Education for nearly six years, said she, too, would look at cost-cutting measures.

"We need to increase accountability among departments to ensure operations are funded as necessary while also finding ways to cut costs," she wrote. But she also said the city can't cut its way to prosperity. Rather, it will require increased economic development. Washington said economic development would be a key goal of hers if she's elected.

First Ward candidate VandeGuchte said he would like to see the elimination of overtime and unnecessary hours for employees, cost-saving measures like deferring upkeep of facilities and "Miscellaneous Budget-Balancing Tactics (Splitting payments, reducing paper budget by utilizing e-services, hiring collection agencies to pursue the outstanding debt, limiting employee travel)." Taft said he would hold town halls and have polls conducted to work with the Mayor's Office to find cost savings. Kost called himself a "penny pincher" in his private life, something he would apply to his budget work.

"I am proud of the budget we came up with, and everyone, including Council and the Mayor's Office, took a significant cut, but we will have to cut more," he said. "We will have to go line by line, as I did for the '24 budget, and see what can be slimmed."

With a shortage of affordable, safe housing in Lansing, the candidates were also asked how they would address the red-tagged housing crisis in the city. It's a crisis brought to the forefront by Kost earlier this year.

Most of the candidates had some variation on the idea of holding landlords accountable when it comes to the red-tagged crisis. But the candidates also noted that there are multiple facets to the crisis, including a lack of housing availability and affordability that will require encouraging developers and landlords to invest in the city.

"We are marketing the little bit of contiguous, undeveloped land left in the city and exploring incentives and other tools to help with rehabilitation, renovation, and repurposing of older, blighted properties," wrote Hussain. "We are working with state partners to secure more financial resources to support additional housing. These are, of course, but a few of the things we are doing/must continue to do into the future."

— TODD HEYWOOD

**CITY OF LANSING  
SUMMARY OF  
ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1315**

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, re-adopting the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lansing.

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  
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CP#23-153

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**KOST**

**1ST WARD CITY COUNCIL**

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for Lansing City Council At-Large

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- Financial Empowerment for Lansing Residents

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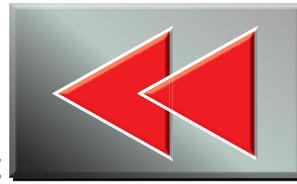
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# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

BY BERL SCHWARTZ



**An FBI search is underway for a 2-year-old Lansing girl that authorities believe was kidnapped after her abductor stabbed the child's mother.** A suspect was arrested, but Wynter Cole Smith was still missing Tuesday. Police said she had braided, shoulder-length hair and wore a white T-shirt with rainbows at the time of the abduction.

**Look for former state Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. of East Lansing to announce soon that he is seeking the Democratic nomination for Congress to replace Rep. Elissa Slotkin.** Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's office announced Friday that he was leaving his post as legislative director, which restricted him from personal political activities. No other Democrats have put their names forward for a run in the 2024 primary to represent the 7th District, which includes all of Ingham and Clinton counties and portions of Eaton. Former Republican state Sen. Tom Barrett of Charlotte is also expected to announce that he will make a second try for the job after Slotkin defeated him last year. Slotkin, a Democrat, is stepping down in a run to replace Debbie Stabenow in the U.S. Senate.



breaking ground to do that." The city has raised \$18 million for a complex that will feature a performance hall, administrative offices and a partially enclosed third-floor bar and restaurant at the corner of Washington Avenue and Lenawee Street. The hall will seat 1,400 or 2,100 standees. Spring 2025 is the targeted completion date.

**Lansing was a big winner in the record \$82 billion state budget for the next fiscal year.**

By one count, it received more than \$65 million. It included \$40 million for the Lansing Housing Commission to improve five residential complexes;

\$9.4 million for airport-area road improvements; \$6.2 million to restore the historic Moores Park Pool, which has been closed since 2019; \$5 million in infrastructure improvements at the Lansing Center; and \$1.7 million to create an amphitheater at the Brenke Fish Ladder in Old Town. Lansing Mayor Andy Schor praised the mid-Michigan delegation for its efforts, led by Sen. Sarah Anthony and Rep. Angela Witwer, who chair the Appropriation committees in their respective chambers.



**Smoke from Canadian forest fires once again threatened health in mid-Michigan, where air quality measured 244, perhaps the worst in the state, which in turn was among the worst nationally.** The state also issued an ozone alert for southwest and western Michigan, adding to the woes. By Monday, air quality in the Lansing area returned to "moderate" as the smoke moved eastward.



**City of Lansing officials broke ground on the Ovation downtown performing arts center and announced a \$1 million, five-year partnership with Michigan State University Federal Credit Union for naming rights.** "We need a place with national acts coming," Mayor Andy Schor said. "Now we are

## Affirmative action ban already in Michigan

### Bridge Michigan

The U.S. Supreme Court banned affirmative action at U.S. colleges and universities last week, but public universities in Michigan were already barred from using race-conscious admissions because of a voter-approved constitutional amendment in 2006.

That prohibition also made its way to the Supreme Court, but the court upheld the ban as constitutional.

It had a significant impact. Black students made up 6% of the University of Michigan's incoming (non-international) freshman class at its Ann Arbor campus in 2006. By 2021, 4.5% of U-M freshmen were Black.

Over that same period, the percentage of students of Asian descent in the U-M freshman class rose from 11.5 to 19.4%.

Evan Caminker, a U-M law professor and former dean who helped represent the university in previous affirmative ac-

tion cases, said there has already been a lot to learn about what happens to campus populations when states like California and Michigan banned affirmative action.

Caminker said selective schools in California and Michigan, where affirmative action has been banned for years, already have experience attempting to diversify their student bodies using race-neutral criteria. Now, schools across the country will face the same challenge.

"I think it's easily predictable that fewer students of color will get into the most selective universities," Caminker told Bridge. "That's part of the defense that Harvard was giving to its policy and obviously was not listened to in this context."

The University of Michigan submitted a friend-of-the-court brief to the Supreme Court in the Harvard and University of North Carolina cases, explain-

ing its own experience with race-neutral admissions as both an "experiment" and a "cautionary tale."

In the brief, the university noted its many efforts to build a diverse class, including scholarship programs and changes to recruitment efforts. But the university said many of its schools and colleges have nevertheless experienced a "substantial drop" in racial and ethnic diversity since state voters passed the 2006 ban.

"There will be a lot of people saying, 'OK, now we have to move on, and everybody just has to work harder,'" Caminker said. "And I think that does a disservice to the experience of schools like Michigan and in California, where universities have worked harder and harder and still have not been able to reproduce the level of racial diversity that we had before the ban on affirmative action."

**PUBLIC**  
**Art**  
**OF THE WEEK**



Nothing goes together quite like a flower garden and outdoor sculptures. A small floral garden in Delta Township mixes well-placed shrubs and flowers with several sculptures, including a new acquisition of a sculpture by Lansing artist Chance Liscomb. The whimsical chrome lightning bolt rises from the earth about 5 feet. Liscomb is a house painter and a metal sculptor who lives on Lansing's west side, surrounded by vegetable gardens and chickens. A relative newcomer to Lansing, Chance's work has begun appearing in yards and galleries across the city. He has entered two pieces for Scrapfest in Old Town on July 15. His work also graces the front of the new gallery Struk, which opens in late July at a repurposed storefront on North Turner Street. He has an additional piece on ArtPath near Cedar Street and the Kwik Car Wash. He's transitioning from house painting to a full-time artist and is accepting commissions.

You can see numerous examples of garden art at Lansing Community College, including in the Japanese Garden, which is being rebuilt this summer. It's also worth a trip to the spectacular Michigan State University Radiological Healing Garden, just off Service Drive near Hagadorn Road.

— **BILL CASTANIER**

Public Art of the Week is a new feature that rotates with Eyesore of the Week. If you have an idea for either, please email [eye@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call (517) 999-6704.

After his somewhat surprising election to an at-large seat in 2021, Lansing City Council newcomer Jeffrey Brown is now taking heat for alleged ethical lapses during his first 18 months in office. In early June, the city's Ethics Board unveiled a complaint against Brown, signed by Mayor Andy Schor and five Council members, claiming that Brown overstepped his authority in approaching U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin for federal grant funding and that he improperly asked a local developer and an official of the Lansing Housing Commission for certain favors in exchange for his support on various matters that would come before the Council.

An independent investigation by a Southfield attorney concluded there was insufficient evidence to support two of the complaints against Brown but that he likely broke ethics rules by seeking federal funding from Slotkin's office without the authority to do so. Despite denials from Brown and key witnesses, the investigative report also "substantiated" that Brown sought to barter his vote for financial favors for a third party. The matter is now on the docket of the Council's Committee of the Whole for consideration of what action, if any, Council members should take to discipline their colleague for his alleged misdeeds.

We think it's helpful here to distinguish ordinary political horse trading, a perennial pastime in local, state and federal legislatures, from more nefarious acts where a vote is promised in exchange for cash or other valuable considerations from which the elected official personally benefits. It would be naive to suggest that such direct quid pro quos are uncommon: Deals are made on the regular at the State Capitol and in the nation's capital in which an influential lobbyist delivers cash or other favors in exchange for a vote.

Brown's alleged conduct falls in a murkier zone, where he's asking for financial help not for his personal benefit, but for someone else. We don't know his relationship to the third parties in question, other than his assertion that they are his constituents, but asking for financial favors on anyone's behalf in exchange for a vote carries a strong whiff of impropriety and should be avoided by our elected officials.

We're a bit surprised that the mayor and Council members signed the ethics complaint at all, given that few of them had any direct knowledge of the alleged incidents. Unsubstantiated rumors may be worth further investigation, but they don't on their own form the basis of a viable ethics complaint. In this regard, we think the mayor and his co-signers overplayed their hand.

# Of ethics and enigmas

## The CP Edit Opinion

One elected official told City Pulse on background that he was acting on advice from City Attorney Jim Smiertka, who reportedly told the official he is mandated to report any violation of the Ethics Code. We're not lawyers, but it seems a stretch to suggest that a reporting mandate would include filing a complaint based on whatever rumors happen to be flying around City Hall.

Nearly two years after being elected, Brown remains an enigma. We have no idea what he actually does for a living, other than his vague claims of being a business consultant. We do know this: He was chosen by Lansing voters without the benefit of full knowledge of his background and financial track record. We'll take our share of the blame here at City Pulse for failing to ferret out the facts and share them with voters prior to Election Day. Had voters known in advance about his spotty track record as a businessman, including his 2015 bankruptcy, perhaps they would have opted for a different candidate.

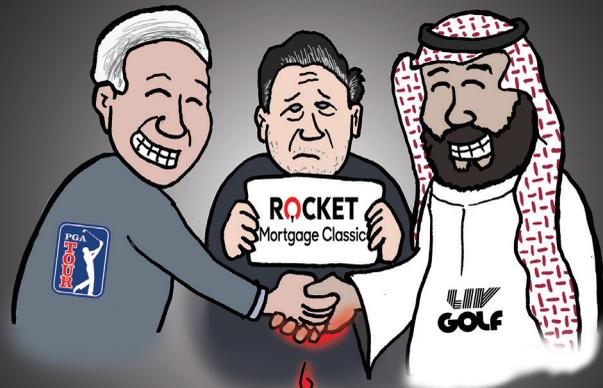
And we've always been suspicious of Brown's political affiliations. His close association with well-known Republican operatives suggests he may not be the progressive he purports to be. After being seen at a Trump event with local Republican Party stalwart Linda Lee Tarver, and enlisting the assistance of a Lansing lawyer with clear ties to the Trump camp to fight the ethics charges, we think Brown may well be a closeted conservative who knew his only chance to be elected to the Council was posing as a left-leaning Democrat. We wouldn't be surprised if this is one of the reasons Schor and his allies want him gone.

Last week, Brown delivered an impassioned "mea culpa" to his colleagues in a bid to save his Council seat. With five near-certain votes to put him out, the Council member no doubt figured his best and perhaps only shot at political survival was to fall on his sword and beg his colleagues for mercy. Without admitting any specific wrongdoing, Brown asked forgiveness for any and all sins he may have committed and vowed to take whatever punishment his colleagues see fit to dispense.

In the world of ethical breaches, Brown's alleged offenses seem relatively minor and mostly explainable by his lack of experience in an elected position. We are troubled, though, by his seeming tendency to view politics as a series of transactions, in which votes are promised in exchange for favors, personal or otherwise.

While we continue to harbor suspicions about Brown's political allegiances and concerns about his conduct, his missteps as a rookie elected official don't appear to rise to a level that would warrant his removal from office by anyone other than the citizens who elected him. As much as the mayor and his allies may want to put him on the next bus out of City Hall, a vote to admonish Brown for overstepping his authority and a requirement that he receive additional ethics training appear to be all that is needed to dispense with this kerfuffle and move on to more pressing matters facing the city.

**THAT FEELING WHEN YOUR COMPANY FOSTERS A REPUTATION AS A RESPONSIBLE CORPORATE PARTNER**



**BUT THEN THE PGA MERGES WITH LIV GOLF AND NOW YOU'RE SPORTSWASHING WITH THE SAUDIS**

**Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages?**

**Now you have two ways to sound off:**

**1 Write a letter to the editor.**

- E-mail: [letters@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:letters@lansingcitypulse.com)
- Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
- At [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com)

**2 Write a guest column.**

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: [publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto: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.)

# Working together to strengthen our local food system

By JOAN NELSON

*(This is the first of a two-part look at what makes up our local food system.)*

Are you noticing the growing number of news reports about horrific food shortages the world over? The reasons are myriad: drought and other disasters brought about by climate change, poverty, inequity, conflict, short-sighted agricultural policies and poor health infrastructure. The heartbreaking stories that are part of the global food crisis are relentless and, at the moment, it looks as if things will only become more dire over the next many months. When I am feeling most overwhelmed at the breadth and depth of the problem, I'm guided by the maxim, "Think globally and act locally." A local and even a neighborhood-scale lens suggests that there are things we can do.

For more than 25 years, people in

Greater Lansing have been crafting strategies and developing projects that address food insecurity and hunger. Moving beyond providing emergency food relief, many local food activists see systematic strengthening of our local food system as essential to ensuring a nutritious and plentiful food supply for our citizens over the long term. Here are a few things happening locally and suggestions for how you might be a part of this:

## Pantries

A short-term but essential and immediate response to hunger is led by the Greater Lansing Food Bank and its well-developed network of 140 pantries serving seven counties in mid-Michigan. We are fortunate to have this 42-year-old, highly efficient organization to respond to ever-increasing numbers of food-insecure people. Its leader, Michelle Lantz, notes that a comparison of each month this year to the corresponding month

in 2022 shows a consistent "21-25% increase in households accessing food banks."

Twenty-three years ago, Allen Neighborhood Center joined that network and still administers the weekly Breadbasket Pantry for eastside Lansing residents. There are several other pantries on the east side as well as in neighborhoods throughout the city, most of them dependent on volunteers. Interested in helping out? For information on location and hours of the 140 emergency food partners, log on to [greaterlansingfoodbank.org](http://greaterlansingfoodbank.org).

## Growing food

While providing emergency food is critical, many pantry sponsors have added programs over the years that have longer-term impacts. The first to recognize that community gardens could be a significant resource for food-insecure neighbors was the Greater Lansing Food Bank, which back in 1982 (!) established the Garden Project. As noted on its website, "The Garden Project supports a network of 95 community gardens and over 500 home gardens, helping to feed more than 8,000 people across mid-Michigan." It does this by providing interested people with plots in one of its network of community gardens, educational workshops, free seeds, plants and other resources for home gardens, and tool lending. Garden project manager Julie Lehman reports that the number of people accessing their Foster Park-based Resource Center to create a home garden has "skyrocketed" this season. She suggests that "rising food prices and economic uncertainty are contributing factors." While the number of backyard gardens appears to be increasing, the number of smaller community gardens fell away during the pandemic. However, total acreage tilled in the larger community gardens has actually increased — as soon as plots come available, they are snatched up by newcomers interested in growing food in the company of neighbors.

A resource that combines free food and gardening space is the Edible Garden at Hunter Park, off Kalamazoo Street on the east side. The Allen Neighborhood Center manages the project as well as the park's year-round greenhouse. Staff, youth and volunteers grow herbs and veggies there in the area outside the fence, to which neighbors and others are invited to help themselves at any time. The center also offers the Urban Gardener Certificate Course, a six-week-long intensive class for folks who want to step up their



Photo by Hannahmaria/Shutterstock

gardening skills in order to grow more of their own food. If you are interested in learning more about this popular annual class, call (517) 367-2468 and speak to GardenHouse manager Egypt Krohn.

## From gardening to farming

Over the past 15 years, we have seen the emergence of over a dozen urban farmers, particularly in the eastside's Urdandale neighborhood, on the south side near the Hill Center, and on Nollwood Avenue off Willow Street. The Lansing Urban Farm Project, the Ingham County Land Bank, the Garden Project, the Hunter Park GardenHouse and the South Lansing Community Development Association have all played a role in incubating farmers, providing land (often non-contiguous parcels), loaning tools and generally assisting in the launch of these small, uber-local farming operations. Probably no one has provided more practical support than John Krohn, the garden program coordinator for the Ingham County Land Bank, who has linked people to land, cleared shrubs, rocks and concrete, plowed and roto-tilled. Krohn reports that "urban farming in Lansing is stronger than it's ever been. We've added significant infrastructure such as hoop houses, hydrants and soil improvements. We've developed institutional knowledge — we know how to grow things. It will be interesting to see where this movement goes next." One possible direction may involve more collaboration among urban farmers as reflected in the creation of "Lansing Grown," a brand for products grown within City limits.

In my August column, we'll pick up the discussion with a focus on current and emerging (and exciting) markets for locally grown food products. In the meantime, thank you for your interest and participation in building resilience into our local food system — one change of habit at a time.

*(Joan Nelson, who was the founding executive director of the Allen Neighborhood Center, writes her column in the first issue of each month.)*

## Opinion

led by the Greater Lansing Food Bank and its well-developed network of 140 pantries serving seven counties in mid-Michigan. We are fortunate to have this 42-year-old, highly efficient organization to respond to ever-increasing numbers of food-insecure people. Its leader, Michelle Lantz, notes that a comparison of each month this year to the corresponding month

## ORDINANCE # 2630

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN, PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN AND FOR THE REVISION OF THE DISTRICT MAPS ADOPTED BY SECTION 1246.02 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

The City of Lansing ordains:

Section 1. That the district maps adopted by and incorporated as Section 1246.02 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing, Michigan be amended to provide as follows:

To change the zoning classification of the property described as follows:

Case Number: Z-5-2023

Parcel Number's: 33-01-05-10-226-140 & 33-01-05-10-226-151

Addresses: 1906 E. Miller Road and the vacant parcel at the southwest corner of E. Miller Road and Aurelius Road

Legal Descriptions: 1906 E. Miller Road: Commencing 627 feet West of the Northeast Corner of Section 10, thence South 825 feet, East 100 feet, North 825 feet, West 100 feet to the point of beginning; Vacant parcel: North 825 feet of the East 527 feet of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 10, T3N, R2W, except the North 147 feet of the West 83.5 feet of the East 459.5 feet thereof, from "R-3" Suburban Detached Residential to "R-MX" Residential Mix.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance was duly adopted by the Lansing City Council on June 26, 2023, and a copy is available in the office of the Lansing City Clerk, 9th Floor, City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect on the 30th day after enactment.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MiPMC  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)  
[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

CP#23-152

# GOP's party apparatus 'disintegrating into dysfunction' under erratic Karamo

The Michigan Republican Party is catastrophically collapsing harder and faster than even its skeptics imagined.

We're talking about the state "Michigan Republican Party" here, the entity that abandoned its own downtown Lansing building for rented space at 101 S. Washington Square and a P.O. box at a Walker UPS store.

In 2024, Michigan candidates will run as Republicans. Undoubtedly, many will enjoy success. But the state-level apparatus charged with raising money and organizing supporters for candidates is disintegrating into dysfunction.

We all suspected it. Last week, we got a behind-the-curtain peek at how bad it is.

MRP Chair Kristina Karamo removed the party's budget committee chair, Matthew Johnson, because he apparently kicked her chief of staff out of committee meetings and failed at his job.

That alienated one of Johnson's close political confidants, Karamo's own co-chair, Malinda Pego, who had her access to the party's financial accounts stripped.

Karamo claimed Johnson wasn't keeping her administration informed about the money coming in and out.

In response, Johnson said it was Karamo who wasn't keeping the committee informed. From what he can tell, there's a lot going out in salaries — and what's coming in is "extremely meager."

He claims he was removed from his post because he tried to scale back staff salaries, including Karamo's, in order to right-size the ship. Apparently, the MRP is "on the path to bankruptcy," Johnson claimed.

Last weekend, the MRP had its credit card declined when officials attempted to buy a couple of tables at former President Donald Trump's fundraising speech for the Oakland County Republican Party. The party did settle up, but it took some time.

At the event itself, Trump mispronounced Karamo's name not once, but twice. He called her "Ka-ra-no," a play on her last name that political opponents used against her during this year's state party chair race.

Remember, Trump didn't endorse Karamo for chair. He supported Matt

DePerno, who lost the competitive election. He also didn't invest in Karamo's 2022 secretary of state race.

MRP delegates claim they didn't want an "establishment" person running the state party. To them, even being in the Trump universe was too "establishment" for them.

They wanted a "grassroots candidate." They wanted someone who embraced the election conspiracy theories of Trump but wasn't Trump. They wanted an articulate, charismatic leader who would use the party to filter out RINOs, "Republicans In Name Only," and those who didn't give full-throated support to 100% of the GOP platform.

That's exactly what they got.

They got an inexperienced ideologue who surrounded herself with other true believers while having little experience running anything collaboratively.

Instead of growing the party, Karamo is alienating her own former allies. Her circle of support is shrinking as more Republican entities — like the Michigan House Republican Campaign Committee — look to people like former Gov. Rick Snyder to raise money for them.

Also, the Republicans' biennial conference on Mackinac Island, which has been held since the Eisenhower administration, is on the ropes. We're three months from the event, and the MRP has announced zero speakers. That's inexcusable. At least 14 presidential candidates would love access to the Michigan Republicans who will decide which delegates go to the national convention.

Karamo never buried the hatchet with DePerno. Instead, she let him pick it up and chop her with it every chance he can. He's trying to get Karamo deposed in the Kalamazoo and Hillsdale county lawsuits he's leading so he can get her to say God only knows what under oath.

The MRP is resembling the fractured Michigan Libertarian Party. It's spending time beating out its brains over ideological purity tests and silly turf wars. Third parties are third parties because they don't expand their tent to connect with people on issues of common agreement.

Instead, the leadership encourages battle royales over who's more loyal to whom. It's a guaranteed way to lose support and elections.

The question is how much long Michigan Republicans will put up with it.

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



KYLE MELINN

Opinion

POLITICS

## PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF EAST LANSING PROPOSED PY 2023/2024 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

The PY 2023/2024 Annual Action Plan represents the third year of the City's current Consolidated Plan. The proposed projects and activities would be funded with federal government Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program funds awarded to the City by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The City's anticipated PY 2023/2024 CDBG Entitlement Grant is \$462,406. The proposed budget was unanimously approved by City Council as part of the City's Fiscal Year 2024 budget on May 23, 2023.

This is to provide notice that the comment period on the proposed Annual Action Plan commences on Wednesday, July 5, 2023, and will conclude on Friday, August 4, 2023. During this period, copies of the Annual Action Plan may be reviewed at the City of East Lansing's Department of Planning, Building, and Development (410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823) or online at <https://cityofeastlansing.com/2329/Active-Public-Notices>.

The proposed PY 2023/2024 CDBG Program Budget is as follows:

1. Capital Area Housing Partnership, Homeownership Opportunity Assistance Program: \$3,750.00
2. Capital Area Housing Partnership, Homeowner Rehabilitation Program: \$88,510.00
3. City of East Lansing Department of Parks, Recreation, and Arts, Emerson Park Improvement Project Phase II: \$124,825
4. City of East Lansing Department of Parks, Recreation, and Arts, Youth Scholarship Program: \$4,290.00
5. City of East Lansing Department of Public Works, Sidewalk Improvement Project: \$86,720.00
6. End Violent Encounters (EVE) Inc, Domestic violence shelter and advocacy: \$9,530.00
7. Haven House, Emergency shelter and homeless assistance: \$29,150.00
8. MSU Safe Place, Domestic violence shelter and advocacy: \$3,340.00
9. Tri-County Office on Aging, Meals on Wheels program: \$8,580.00
10. MSU Migrant Students Services, Support Services for Low Income Migrant Students: \$8,580.00
11. East Lansing Public Library, Deerpath Summer Outreach Program: \$1,600.00
12. Grit, Glam, and Guts, Personal, social academic, and career development program for low-to moderate-income young women: \$4,290.00
13. Program Planning and Administration: \$89,240.00

Anticipated Program Income During PY 2023/2024: Program income from the repayment of second mortgages through the Homeownership Opportunity Assistance Program or Homeowner Rehabilitation Program is estimated at \$20,000.

Proposed Use of Program Income: Program income typically returns to the program which generated the income, i.e., recapture of second mortgage proceeds, through the Homeownership Opportunity Assistance Program (HOAP) and Homeowner Rehabilitation program, will be budgeted for additional homebuyer or homeowner assistance subsidy.

Beneficiaries: Activities under Projects 3 and 5 each serve an area benefit to East Lansing's low-to moderate-income Bailey Neighborhood. Projects 1 and 2 each serve a housing benefit to low-to moderate-income households. Projects 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 serve limited clientele benefits, meaning that households and individuals assisted with these activities must meet the low-to moderate-income guidelines established by HUD or be considered by HUD to be members of a clientele generally presumed to be low-to moderate-income. Project 13 is for planning and/or administrative activities.

Displacement: As required by HUD regulations, the City will follow the Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Properties Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended and all applicable minimized to the greatest extent possible.

Range of Activities Eligible for CDBG Funding: Activities which may be undertaken with CDBG funds include, but are not limited to: acquisition, disposition, public facilities and improvements, clearance, public services, homeownership assistance, housing rehabilitation and preservation, renovation of closed buildings, lead-based paint hazard evaluation and reduction, special economic development activities, microenterprise development, technical assistance, and planning and administration. For additional information on eligible activities, refer to 24 CFR 570, Subpart C.

Further Information and Comments: If you wish to obtain further information regarding anything contained in this public notice, please contact East Lansing's Department of Planning, Building, and Development at 517-319-6930 between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM, Monday through Friday. Comments may be submitted to the East Lansing Department of Planning, Building, and Development at City Hall, C/O Matt Apostle, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 or emailed to [grants@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:grants@cityofeastlansing.com).

Dated July 5, 2023  
Marie Wicks, Interim City Clerk  
City of East Lansing  
Ingham and Clinton Counties

# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## Summer theater just a short road trip away

By **TODD HEYWOOD**

The Lansing area offers an extraordinary amount of talented theater companies. So much so that during the fall, winter and spring, theatergoers find themselves choosing between multiple productions nearly every weekend. But there is also extraordinary theater being produced just a few hours away, and it may warrant a road trip for theater lovers, especially now that most Lansing-area companies have finished their seasons.

### “Be Here Now”

**July 13-Aug. 20**  
**8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday**  
**3 p.m. Saturday (beginning July 22)**  
**2 p.m. Sunday**  
**Williamston Theatre**  
**122 S. Putnam St., Williamston**  
**517-655-7469**  
**williamstontheatre.org**

Before we move out of the Lansing area, note that the Williamston Theatre begins its production of “Be Here Now” with preview performances July 13 through 16. The theater’s final show of the season runs through August 20 and is touted as “a comedic look at what we’re willing to do for love, happiness and to create meaning in our lives.” If this past season’s offerings are any indication, this play is going to be worth the short drive to Williamston.

### “Macbeth,” “Pericles, Prince of Tyre” and “A Flea in Her Ear”

**July 18-Aug. 20**  
**Village Theater at Cherry Hill**  
**50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton**  
**517-998-3673**  
**For a list of performance dates and times, visit michiganshakespearefestival.com**

For the Shakespeare buffs among us, check out the Michigan Shakespeare Festival at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton. The company of professional actors is producing three different shows, cycling through different days of the week for each throughout the five-week run. The first two are Shakespeare’s “Macbeth” and “Pericles, Prince of Tyre,” and the third is Georges Feydau’s 1907 farce “A Flea in Her Ear.”

As a side note, Michigan Shakespeare Festival artistic director Jan Blixt and her husband, David Blixt, have been involved



Courtesy of David Hou

The Stratford Festival in Stratford, Ontario, North America’s largest classical repertory theater company, is performing Shakespeare’s “Richard II” throughout July, August and September. The company is also producing three other Shakespeare plays and a host of modern shows this summer.

in the company for years. David was part of the 1996 season, back when the company was called the Jackson Shakespeare Festival. The couple lives in the Chicago area, and they often recruit a recurring cast of actors from that tight-knit professional theater scene, showing off extraordinary talent from right here in the Midwest. The shows, under Jan Blixt’s direction, have won multiple awards throughout the years. David Blixt has a side gig writing historical fiction, which is also doing quite well.

### “Anything Goes,” “Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery,” “The Wizard of Oz” and “Escape to Margaritaville”

**July 5-16, July 18-30, Aug. 1-13, Aug. 15-27**  
**8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday**  
**5 p.m. Sunday**  
**Barn Theatre**  
**13351 M-96, Augusta**  
**269-731-4121**  
**barntheatreschool.org**

The Barn Theatre School for Advanced Theatre Training in Augusta, Michigan, is a professional equity theater that offers instruction, training and practical experience to apprentice theater performers and staff. Its second production of the summer, the beloved musical “Anything Goes,” runs Wednesday (July 5) through July 16, and its production of “Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery” runs

July 18 through 30. Following those shows are “The Wizard of Oz” Aug. 1 through 13 and Jimmy Buffett’s “Escape to Margaritaville” Aug. 15 through 27. If you haven’t visited the school before, it’s worth the trip. Plan on spending some time after the show watching the interns and actors singing and playing in the bar located on the property.

### “That’s Entertainment! A Musical Revue,” “The 39 Steps” and “Honky Tonk Angels”

**7:30 p.m. July 7, 8, 14-15**  
**2 p.m. July 15-16**  
**The Playhouse at White Lake**  
**304 S. Mears Ave., Whitehall**  
**231-894-0119**  
**theplayhouseatwhitelake.org**

Over on the west side of the state in Whitehall is The Playhouse at White Lake. This weekend, the historic theater is playing host to performances by Central Michigan University’s Department of Theatre. Friday (July 7), the students will offer up “That’s Entertainment: A Musical Revue,” a journey through some of Broadway’s most beloved songs and scenes. Saturday (July 8), they’ll perform “39 Steps,” a spy thriller based on the 1935 film by Alfred Hitchcock and the 1915 novel by John Buchan. The theater itself is producing “Honky Tonk Angels,”

about three women who move to Nashville, Tennessee, to pursue their dreams of being musicians, July 14 through 16.

### “Space Quest”

**July 6-9**  
**7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday**  
**1:30 p.m. Sunday**  
**Riverside Arts Center**  
**76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti**  
**734-480-2787**  
**riversidearts.org**

Down in Ypsilanti, adventurers can fly to a galaxy “not too far away” as members of the first audiences to witness the new musical “Space Quest,” running at the Riverside Arts Center Thursday (July 6) through Sunday (July 9). In the show, “An ordinary couple is thrust into the middle of the galactic conflict when their ship is stolen by a pair of smugglers and a wizard’s apprentice. The five of them must journey across the cosmos to save the galaxy.” To find out more and purchase tickets, visit [riversidearts.org](http://riversidearts.org).

### Stratford Festival

**Multiple venues in Stratford, Ontario**  
**800-567-1600**  
**For a list of performance dates, times and locations, visit [stratfordfestival.ca](http://stratfordfestival.ca)**

For a bit more of a weekend trip, theatergoers might consider driving over the border to spend some time checking out the Stratford Festival in Stratford, Ontario. North America’s largest classical repertory theater company is producing the Shakespeare plays “Richard II” Wednesday (July 5) through Sept. 28, “King Lear” Wednesday through Oct. 29, “Much Ado About Nothing” Thursday (July 6) through Oct. 27 and “Love’s Labour’s Lost” Aug. 23 through Oct. 1.

But wait, there’s more! The company is also producing Monty Python’s “Spamalot” Wednesday through Oct. 28 and “Rent” Wednesday through Oct. 28, plus six other modern shows: “A Wrinkle in Time” Wednesday through Oct. 29, “Wedding Band” Wednesday through Oct. 1, “Grand Magic” Thursday through Sept. 29, “Women of the Fur Trade” Saturday (July 8) through July 30, “Frankenstein Revived” Aug. 6 through Oct. 28 and “Les Belles-Soeurs” Aug. 8 through Oct. 28. With all these options, the Stratford Festival a weekend getaway likely to satisfy even the most finicky theatergoer.

### BEHIND THE CURTAIN



# TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

## ELDEN KELLY EXIT INTERVIEW: PART TWO



Courtesy of Jeff Dunn Photography

Lansing guitarist Elden Kelly is relocating to Memphis, Tennessee. This is the final part of a two-part farewell Q&A.

### Guitar virtuoso discusses roots prior to farewell show at Turner-Dodge House

Last issue, City Pulse caught up with guitarist Elden Kelly, who's moving to Memphis, Tennessee, later this month after living in Greater Lansing since 2008. In the second part of the interview, Kelly discusses how jazzy music found him as a child living in Vermont and ultimately became his life. If you've ever

wondered how his modified, fully hollow-body nylon-string guitar sounds so majestic, read on.

**What initially led you to the jazz world instead of rock 'n' roll?**

**Elden Kelly:** My family introduced me to many genres, like classical and prog rock. Especially my dad, who is an avid

record collector, muso and appreciator of the avant-garde and wild in music. He introduced me to a deep array of jazz and world music.

**Has your style changed much since you first started?**

It has evolved enormously. It's certainly transformed and developed, but in some ways, it's still in line with what I started out doing as a teenager. I was singing and playing lead guitar with my stepdad, Lee, at coffeehouses for the first couple of years. But I was also taking classical and jazz piano lessons at this time.

**When did you get into jazz guitar?**

At 10, I got my first guitar. I was into The Beatles, and I played bluesy rock stuff. People are alarmed when I tell them I play blues. Of course, I started there. It's the root of traditional jazz — I just didn't stay there. I pivoted hard and got serious about jazz around maybe 14 or 15. All I did was listen to Charlie Parker, Thelonious Monk and John Coltrane, Bill Evans, Keith Jarrett and Art Tatum. At maybe 17, I got into nylon-string guitar and took flamenco guitar lessons with a local teacher. I even went to Spain and studied for a couple of weeks one summer in high school.

**I imagine much practicing going on**

Back in Vermont, I just stayed in my room and practiced for hours upon hours. Keep in mind that I was the very last generation

growing up before YouTube. Ultimate Guitar (guitar tab website) didn't exist. So, I had to learn everything by ear, off vinyl and tapes sometimes in addition to CDs, because there was no streaming, so not everything was on CD. It's hilarious to think about now. But these conditions developed and nurtured my natural musical ear so that I can pick up almost anything.

**Is learning by ear declining in popularity with new players?**

It's a skill that I see a lot of younger musicians lacking because they learn just by sight and don't develop the ear to pick things out all the time. This skill of musical ear training, which I later polished in music school in Boston, has enabled me to pick up new styles, approaches and genres easily and be a chameleon, able to fit into any situation. Many people are mystified by it, but it's totally natural for me.

**Are you going to continue teaching music after the move to Memphis?**

My teaching is all online. I never returned to in-person lessons after the pandemic, so now I can teach anyone anywhere. I love the flexibility. It has many advantages beyond the geographical. People can assess their own performances more easily, which catapults progress; they can record lessons; and it's more flexible. I'll also keep up my online livestream performances when I can, which is a great way to stay in touch with people no matter where you are.

**Elden Kelly – farewell concert and live album release**

Sunday, July 9

2 p.m.

Turner-Dodge House

100 E. North St., Lansing

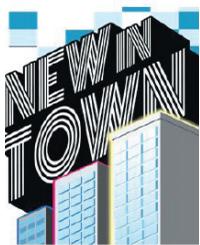
\$20-\$35

eldenkelly.com

## A look inside Ellison Brewery and Spirits' REO Town location

By LUCAS HENKEL

After conquering pandemic-related construction delays and the lengthy process of getting state approval and permits,



### Ellison Brewery and Event Space

1314 S. Washington Ave., Lansing  
7 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday  
7 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday  
517-657-3896  
ellisonbrewing.com/  
reo-town-event-space

bar, kitchen and a private event space that can hold up to 200 people.

"Based on occupancy, we are the largest brewery in Lansing," said Aaron Hanson, Ellison's owner and head brewer.

"We have something for literally anyone, and we have the space to create some really cool things."

Hanson describes the vibe of the new location as an "ultra-casual environment" that's welcome to everyone, whether you're stopping by for a tasty brew and a bite to eat at the bar or want to hang out and drink coffee at a table.

From 7 to 11 a.m. Tuesday through Sunday, the space transforms into the Speed Wagon Cafe, a brunch spot with a food-hall feel that offers fresh-roasted coffee from Ellivate Coffee, Ellison's in-house coffee brand. The menu features an array of items, like the QD Donut Sandwich, a salty and sweet sausage, cheese and fried-egg sandwich served on a warm glazed donut from Quality Dairy. Members of the Lansing Foodies Facebook group have also been discussing the cafe's chicken and waffles, which many are saying is the best in town.

During the afternoon and evening, customers can grab one of the brewery's signature pizzas, like the Brewer's Special, which consists of buffalo sauce, bacon, pepperoni, sausage, jalapeno and provolone, or the Chicken in a Pickle, which is topped with white sauce,

smoked chicken, red onion, dill pickle slices, a blend of mozzarella and smoked provolone and fresh dill.

Fans of spice are encouraged to try the fresh chicken wings with one of the company's homemade dry rubs, seasonings or sauces. The dry rubs are available in six spice levels, ranging from 0 to 2.4 million Scoville heat units. For reference, the average habanero pepper tests between 150,000 to 325,000 Scoville heat units — 16 times less spicy than Ellison's hottest dry rub, Dragon's Breath.

Also on the first floor is Ellison's taproom, which generates around 1,000 gallons of beer per day. The REO Town location offers more than 10 of the brewery's beers on tap. Hanson enjoys them all, but his favorite is the company's Amber Ale, a toasty and malty American amber red ale that smells of fruit and freshly baked biscuits. Customers can also purchase six-packs of their favorite Ellison brews to take home.

The building's second floor is available to rent for private parties and events, including wedding receptions, corporate parties, open houses and meetings. The space features a bar, an elevated stage and private bathrooms. Guests can even



Courtesy of Ellison Brewery and Event Space

Whether you're stopping by for a beer and a bite to eat at the bar, a cocktail on the patio or a party in the second-floor event space, Ellison Brewery and Event Space in REO Town is welcome to everyone.

view Washington Avenue and the Capitol from the windows.

In the future, Hanson plans to utilize the rest of the space for parking lot parties, tailgates and outdoor concerts, to name a few ideas. For updates, follow Ellison Brewery and Event Space on Facebook at facebook.com/ellisonbrewingreo or Ellison Brewery and Spirits on Instagram at instagram.com/ellisonbrewery.



Courtesy photo

St. Joseph and Main streets were “ground zero” in the I-496 construction project. The state Capitol dome is visible at left. Construction lasted from 1963 until December 1970.

# ‘They even took the dirt’

## New film evokes Black neighborhood lost to I-496

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

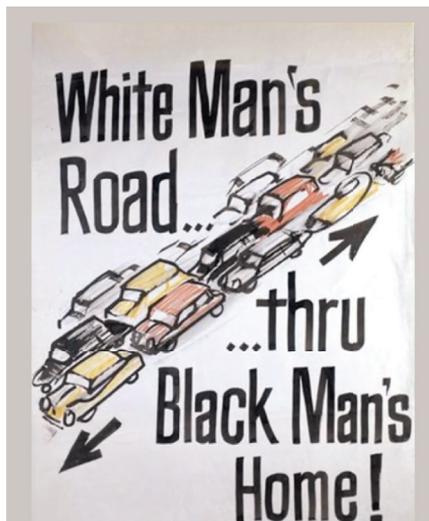
It took over five years, including a pandemic pause, to bring one of Lansing’s least known but important and wrenching stories to the screen, and now it’s here.

Almost.

“I’m still finessing it, but it’ll be ready,” filmmaker Craig Derek Jones promised.

“They Even Took the Dirt,” an hour-long documentary premiering at Lansing’s Public Media Center Sunday (July 9), brings to life the vibrant Black neighborhood wiped out by Interstate 496 in the late 1960s.

The film draws upon over 130 interviews with people who lived in the neighborhood along St. Joseph and Main streets (now Malcolm X Street) and vividly recall its close-knit, vibrant community life. It’s a deeply moving mix of warm reminiscences, thoughtful reflection and straight-up tragedy, told in kitchens and offices of people who appear to have moved on, by necessity, but haven’t



A poster by opponents to interstate construction through an African-American neighborhood in Washington, D.C.

forgotten.

The film is also a potent antidote to a poisonous and persistent lie. Notices in the local press hyped the demolition of the near westside neighborhood as a rare “opportunity” to break up “ghetto” patterns of city life.

That image bears zero resemblance to the bustling, closely knit community brought to life in the film. Today’s urban planners would kill to create such a “15-minute city,” where everyone knows everyone else and every need is within a few blocks’ walk, as thriving and vibrant as this.

The ladies who paraded down Main Street and West St. Joe in their finest every Sunday, the kids who stopped at Wright’s Grocery on West St. Joe for a Polish dog after school, the music lovers who bought Ray Charles tickets at Johnny’s Record Store — the auto workers, doctors, city employees, bar owners, dry cleaners, barbers, students at Lincoln School, the neighbors and friends and sports

See Film, Page 15

## Film

from page 14

teams and so many others who lived here — never got the chance to call bullshit on that “ghetto” lie in front all the world — until now.

### It started at Harry's

The Olds Freeway, or I-496, makes a gash 11.9 miles long through the middle of Lansing, from west to east, from Delta Township to MSU, including the 3.4-mile “Pine Tree Connector” from Kalamazoo Street near East Lansing to Interstate 96.

Between 1963 and 1970, about 800 houses and businesses between Main and St. Joseph streets, just south and southwest of downtown, were wiped out by I-496. About 35 streets that once wove the neighborhood together were bisected and dead-ended.

Kenneth Turner's boyhood house at 1131 W. Lenawee St. was demolished in 1971, shortly after the freeway was built, as part of a reconfiguration of nearby streets. Turner had just graduated from high school. He lived in the house since he was 2 years old.

“I knew hundreds of people in that neighborhood,” he said. “I used to deliver papers there.”

About once every month, he finds himself rambling over to the empty spot.

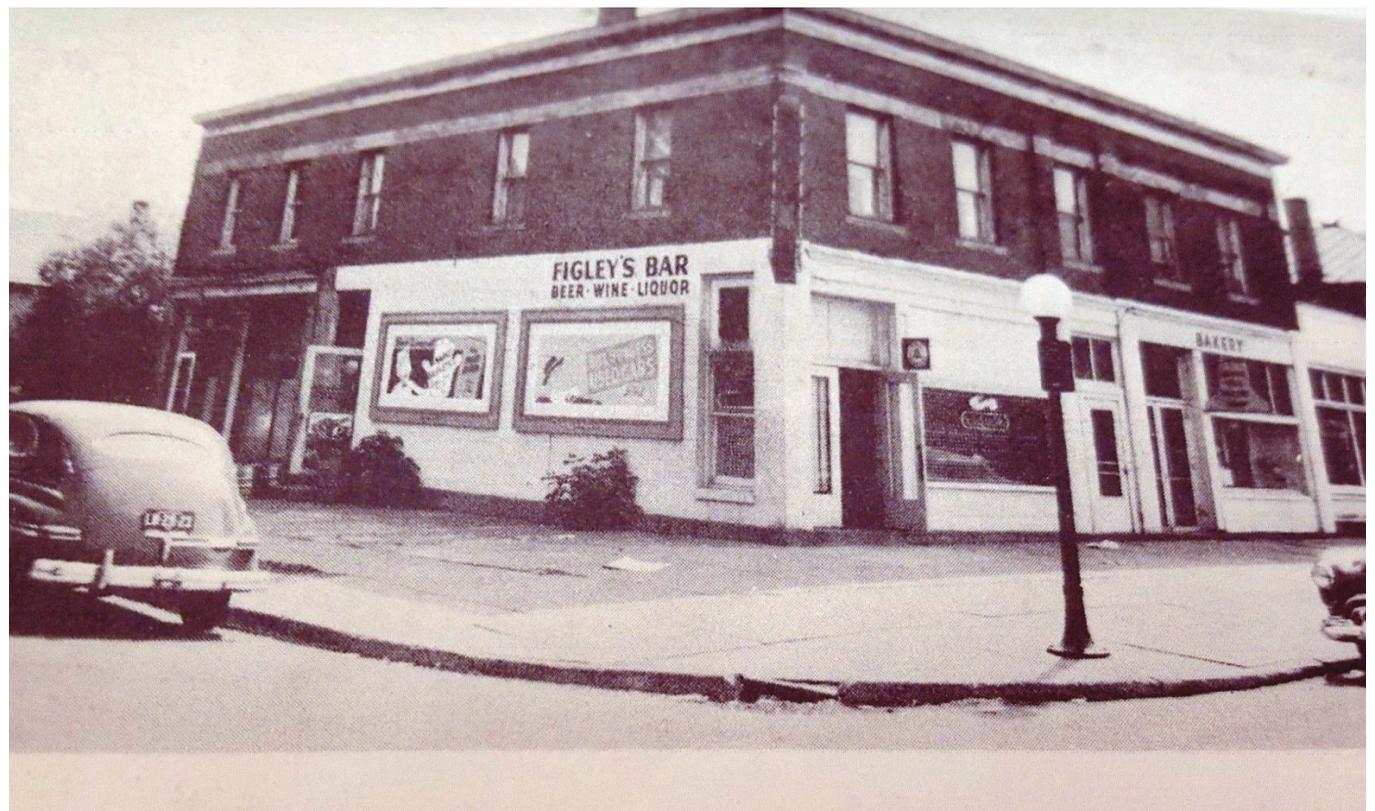
“I just sit in the place where my house sat, and reminisce a bit,” he said.

In spring 2018, Turner got a call from Bill Castanier, the president of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing (and a regular contributor to City Pulse). The group had just received a grant for \$39,400 from the National Parks Service to research local history. Castanier had an idea on how to use the grant and was assembling a group of co-conspirators.

Nationwide, urban historians were belatedly scrutinizing the clear pattern of targeted devastation wrought by crosstown expressways. In Tennessee, Interstate 40 was routed through Nashville's flourishing Jefferson Street corridor, home to about 80 percent of the city's Black-owned businesses. Miami, Kansas City, New Orleans — the list is long, and Lansing's case is straight from the textbook.

Anthony Foxx, former U.S. secretary of transportation, called such neighborhoods “communities of least resistance.”

“We now know, overwhelmingly,



Courtesy photo

These stores stood on the southwest corner of Butler Boulevard and St. Joseph Street before I-496 was built.

that our urban freeways were routed through low-income and minority communities,” Foxx declares in the film. “So, instead of connecting us to each other, in some ways, our highways have represented a separation.”

In March 2018, the nascent Pave the Way team met at Harry's Bar, not far from Sexton High School, where Turner spent many hours in the library, researching potential inductees for the school's Hall of Fame. Turner was not only valuable as a researcher. He had a video camera and the skills to use it.

Also in attendance at the Harry's Bar summit was a retired state employee, Adolph Burton, who lived in the neighborhood wiped out by I-496 as a youngster.

“You know what's so ironic about this whole thing?” Burton quipped. “I'm a retired draftsman in bridge design for the Department of Transportation.”

Burton's father, Frederick Richardson, was a photographer for General Motors. When Richardson died in 2017, he left behind a trove of 35,000 pictures documenting African-American life in Lansing — houses, stores, restaurants, parties, businesses and their owners, weddings, proms, you name it.

The photos became the nucleus of a critical visual record of the Black neigh-



Courtesy photo

Pop Warner football games were wildly popular in the neighborhood. Party store owner Frank Spagnuolo (center, back row) was threatened with arson for sponsoring an all-Black team. Developer and former MSU Trustee Joel Ferguson (far left) coached the team.

hood wiped out by I-496.

A mutual friend, former Lansing Councilman and current Ingham County Register of Deeds Derrick Quinney, suggested that Burton and Castanier get together.

“And we've been in love ever since,” Burton quipped.

### Self-sufficient

The initial grant for the Pave the Way research project called for 25 interviews and a brief film, but it soon became clear that there was a much

bigger story to tell.

Burton and Turner had hundreds of connections to the members of the Black community who lived in the demolished neighborhood. They made a list and got to work.

For the project to succeed, it would be essential to earn the trust of the Black community. Many people wanted their stories told, but were wary of exposing themselves to manipulation or ridicule.

See Film, Page 16

### 'They Even Took the Dirt'

#### World Premiere

2:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Sunday, July 9  
Lansing Public Media Center

2500 S. Washington Ave., Lansing  
Free but ticketed

To reserve seats, contact:  
<https://forms.gle/Kn7oXa9WErfcQt9f8>  
or call  
(517) 449-8771

## Film

from page 15

Turner and Burton made it a priority to reassure them their intentions were true.

Burton, who conducted the interviews while Turner operated the camera, had plenty of skin in the game. As a young man, he lived in the heart of the demolished neighborhood, next door to Spag's party store and the offices of Dr. Clinton Canady, Lansing's second Black dentist. His grandmother lived a block away. Lincoln School, also demolished to make way for the freeway, was two blocks away.

"Now I got my school, my grandmother and my dentist, all within two blocks," he said. "Two more blocks away was the doctor who delivered me." (That was William Harrison, Lansing's first Black doctor.)

"So you see what I lost."

One resident after another describes the neighborhood as a tight community and a safe and friendly place.

"It was self-sufficient," Turner said. "You could walk six to eight blocks in any direction and get what you needed."

That's using the broadest definition of "basic needs."

There were more than 20 beauty shops and barbershops in the neighborhood, with exotic names like Fashionette and the Bird Cage. Wright's Grocery, between Sexton High School and West Junior High, had a Polish dog, a bag of potato chips and a Tahitian Treat pop for 35 cents. Fred and Bill's specialized in broasted chicken. Silver Bells Bakery was the place for pastries.

Matthew's was known for foot-long hot dogs.

Among the grocery stores were Sav-Way, Schmidt's, Goodrich's and Farhat.

Fashionable African-American women went to Lett's Fashions, on St. Joseph, for wedding dresses, cotillion gowns and clothes for working in state offices.

Johnny's Record Shop on Logan Street was unique, not only for new album releases and concert tickets, but also for tinted nylons, hair treatments, hats, shirts and other products for Black customers.

It didn't matter if you didn't know the name of the record you wanted.

"You could go in there and hum a few bars, 'doo doo doo, doo doo doo — that's the Temptations,'" Burton said.

Black residents had four dry-cleaners in the neighborhood. (Many



Courtesy photo

About 800 homes and businesses, most of them owned by Black residents, were wiped out by the freeway.



**RAY CHARLES**

**Concert & Dance**

**FRI., OCTOBER 13**

**CIVIC CENTER AUD.**

Featuring

**RAY CHARLES**

& His 16-Piece Orchestra

with the

**RaeLets Singers**

Tickets on Sale

Campus Music Shop

Johnny's Record Shop

Paramount News

Civic Center Aud.

on Mon., Oct. 9, 3:30-6:30

Courtesy photo

Visitors to Johnny's Record Shop on Logan Street (now Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.) could pick up CDs, clothing, African-American beauty accessories and tickets to concerts at the Lansing Civic Center.

white-owned dry cleaners did not accept business from Black customers.)

The freeway forced more than 10 churches to move and regroup, including Friendship Baptist Church.

"Our front door was open all summer long," Lansing resident Albert Kelly says in the film.

Lansing artist James "Jet" Davis recalls picking fruit from peach trees and cherry trees on the way to Lincoln School. Other residents remember plum trees, pear trees, apple trees and grape vines.

### Enter the wizard

As Burton and Turner painstakingly gathered their growing cache

## To The Residents Of Greater Lansing

The relocation of families due to the construction of Highway I-496 offers all of us of Greater Lansing a rare opportunity to help break up a pattern of segregation inherited from the past. It is time for all forces of the community to join hands and take advantage of this unique opportunity to do what we know is right.

Over 600 families, Negro and white, will soon be looking for homes in Greater Lansing. Such a chance — to break up "ghetto" living and eradicate sub-standard housing in a major metropolitan area — may not come again for many years. We of the Lansing Area can show the nation how concerned citizens can act voluntarily and with good will to eliminate injustice in housing.

As individual citizens of East Lansing, Meridan Township, and the Haslett and Okemos School Districts, we would like it known that we will assist in whatever way we can all persons who may wish to make their new homes in our communities.

Ms. Katherine Brauner  
Ron W. Brown  
and Mrs. Robert E. Brown

Milton Rokeach  
A. L. Schaffer  
Dr. Carole A. Schaffer

Courtesy photo

Citizens of communities around Lansing issued a notice that they would welcome "all persons" who were displaced by the freeway, but the reference to the razed Black neighborhood as part of a "ghetto pattern" raised the lasting ire of many residents.

of interviews, they knew the clock of mortality was ticking. "They Even Took the Dirt" has a memorable clip featuring Frank Spagnuolo, owner of Spag's party store, one of several white-owned businesses in the Black neighborhood lost to I-496. Spagnuolo, who died in December 2022, sponsored the first Pop Warner tackle football team in the neighborhood. Hundreds of fans came to see the Sunday games.

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## Film

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In the film, Spagnuolo recalls taking a phone call in his store while talking with Canady, who stopped by regularly on his way to the office. As Canady stood there watching, the lady on the phone threatened to burn Spagnuolo's store and his house down for sponsoring an all-Black football team.

"I will never forget his words," Spagnuolo says in the film, quoting Canady's reaction: "See, Frank? That's what we put up with all the time."

The historic photos, interview footage, artifacts and documents gathered by the Pave the Way group have already been used in several exhibits, including a window exhibit at the Knapp's Centre and a large-scale exhibit on automobile culture at the MSU Broad Museum in 2021.

However, the group's most cherished goal has always been to make a finished film good enough to be shown at festivals, broadcast, streamed and used in educational programs.

Unfortunately, the abyss of unfinished, never-will-be-finished and finished-but-unwatchable documentaries is vast beyond reckoning.

Knowing this, the Pave the Way group approached Dominic Cochran, director of the Lansing Public Media Center and the Capital City Film Festival, for help. Cochran knew just who to tap.

Craig Derek Jones, a digital media specialist based at Lansing Community College, has filmed everything from sports events, music festivals, ballets and operas to (fictional) flesh-eating zombies.

Jones writes, films, edits, does voice-overs and even appears on camera in a pinch. In short, he is a wizard — just what was needed to bringing the project to the finish line.

Over the past two years, Jones donated countless hours and several of his many talents to whip hundreds of rough hours of video interviews into shape.

"They had a great idea for a project, but they're not filmmakers," Jones said. "They didn't have any money and they needed to finish the project."

Jones did the editing and the voice-over work and focused and polished the script.

"What I like most about the movie is the authenticity, how these people tell their stories," Jones said. "They're strong, and they came through it, but it still disrupted their lives, and you can tell it's still a part of who we are."



Play (k)

Courtesy photo

More than 10 churches, including Friendship Baptist, were forced to relocate.

Although Jones left the Public Media Center six months ago to pursue his own work, he kept working on the project in his spare time, for free.

"After a while, they just trusted me," he said. "I said, 'Just let me do what I do.' It's been a great partnership."

As time passed, and some of the people interviewed in the project died, he felt more strongly compelled to see it through.

"I felt like I really owed it to those people that passed away to have their story told," he said. "I don't know who else would have taken this story on."

It's been a long slog — Jones has been working on the final edit for two years — but he doesn't measure his

pay in dollars.

Jones was deeply moved by much of the footage gathered by Burton and Turner. He singled out a moment when Lansing artist James "Jet" Davis describes returning to the block where he used to live and looking into a hole so deep he couldn't even orient himself.

"They even took the dirt away," Davis said, giving the film its title.

"All of these anecdotes hurt me," Jones said. "I went through 100 hours of footage and listened to everything they had to say. They went through it, and it changed them, and they kind of changed me."

From Castanier, Turner and Burton to Jones, the power of the story

sweeps the volunteer flame along. Burton, a lifelong musician, plays the drums on the film's jazzy soundtrack, performed by local musician Natalie Riddle and her band, Riddle Me That.

Jones tapped Ryan Holmes, a local artist and teacher known locally for his cosplay ghostbusters charity work, to add some sketches and drawings to enhance the film.

Holmes saw a rough cut, got excited about the project and agreed to help.

"We all know we're not going to get paid," Jones said. "We're all doing it for the love of the survivors of a horrible thing that happened, and want the story to be told, and want to do our part."



The Oldsmobile Expressway, or I-496, opened officially on Dec. 18, 1970.

# Brian Whitfield: Painting faces in empty spaces

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Under the constant hum of traffic on Lansing's crosstown Interstate 496 freeway stretches a vast, temple-like arena of light and shadow. Dozens of concrete columns give this strangely empty space, only a few blocks from the state Capitol, the feel of an ancient Roman forum, or the tomb of an Egyptian pharaoh.

For now, this is the open-air studio of Lansing artist Brian Whitfield.

"There's a weird peacefulness to this area," Whitfield said. "You have all this traffic noise overhead, and people walking across the river, but there's a solitude over here."

Whitfield is working with the "Pave the Way" history project and the 2023 Lansing ArtPath to adorn the columns with the faces of people who lived in the once-thriving Black neighborhood wiped out by the freeway over 50 years ago.

He wishes he had a hydraulic lift. Ladders are not quite up to the task. The surface is uneven in places, and there is debris waiting to trip the unwary foot.

"It's a challenge," he said. "I walked up to the columns the first day and thought, 'Whoa, these are much taller than I expected.'"

Whitfield has been involved with "Pave the Way" from its beginnings more than two years ago. He designed the project's logo and hoped to be involved in the production of the resulting film, "They Even Took the Dirt," to be released Sunday (July 9), but his many mural projects around town, and day job at the state Department of Transportation, kept him too busy.

This year, he jumped at the chance to create something lasting, in the haunting, open space where people lived before the freeway came through town.

"Now we have the film, and people are talking about this, and that's significant," he said. "But there's nothing physical for future generations to say, 'Hey, this highway was built over a neighborhood.' This pillar's site is perfect for that."

Whitfield's family moved to a house on Washtenaw Avenue near Logan Street in Lansing, not far from I-496, in 1963, when the future artist was a baby and the freeway was in the late planning stages.

"I don't really have a memory of it, but thinking about what was here and what's gone — there's nothing to memorialize that."



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Working from old photographs, he came up with composite images rather than portraits of specific people.

His original idea, as described in the grant proposal, was to render the faces in black and white, but after painting a trial portrait, he decided that the faces would be too ghostly and stark in the shadowy spaces framed by the freeway columns. Passersby on the River Trail across the river might not see them at all.

Besides, bold colors are a Whitfield specialty, from the vividly hued avocados and tomatoes on the back of Capitol City Market downtown to the splashy jazz parties, street scenes and factory vignettes that light up the I-127 embankment over Michigan Avenue.

"When it came down to it, I wanted a pop of color," he admitted.

Whitfield's work has elevated many new and old buildings around Lansing, including the Allen Place project on the east side (featured in a recent story on urban development in



Courtesy Brian Whitfield

Artist Brian Whitfield intends to paint as many of the columns under the I-496 overpass over the Grand River as time and grant money will allow.

The New York Times) and a brand new mural at the Rathbun Insurance offices on the west side.

But the I-496 project's emotional impact, unique setting and historical significance have him hooked. He's hoping to paint as many of the columns as he can, even if it takes another year and another grant application. Never mind the hydraulic lift. What this man needs is a jet pack.

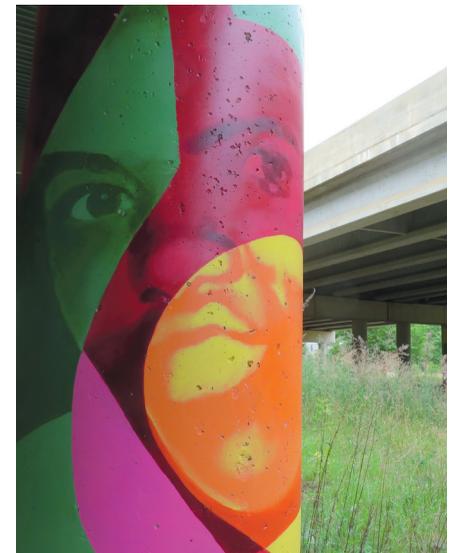
"I'd love to do those columns, but that's a whole 'nother level," he said, pointing to even bigger and taller pillars in the middle of the river, that only kayakers and waterfowl can reach.

It takes some doing to get to this one-of-a-kind work site. One day, Whitfield inadvertently scared off a would-be graffiti artist, but his most frequent companions are ducks.

"A guy who lives around here came by and brought me a Coke," he said. "We talked for a while and it was really nice."

He spends most of his time getting the faces right, soaking up the strange duality of the hushed space — a vast, open-air altar dedicated to the automobile age, and a memorial to a lost neighborhood sacrificed on that altar.

While working, he sometimes med-



Courtesy Lansing ArtPath

Whitfield created composite images from photographs of residents of the Black neighborhood wiped out by I-496.

itates on the meaning of it all.

"You think about what the cars and the exhaust is doing, killing the Earth," he said. "But that's progress. People were living their lives, doing what they were doing. Now we're progressing all the way to the end! But we're not going to give it up. We love this life."

# A thriller more than 30 years in the making

By **BILL CASTANIER**

If you're looking for a summer read that will get your pulse racing, Chris G. Thelen's new book, "Islands of Deception," is a safe bet.

There are car, boat and plane chases; two secret staircases; and corrupt public officials, dogged detectives and a billionaire tech guru, all acting with enough deception and political scheming to meet the definition of a thriller.

As an added bonus, the book is set in Michigan, beginning with a secret meeting in the dome of the Capitol and extending to Beaver Island and Detroit.

The plot revolves around a low-level drug dealer who comes into possession of information that could bring down a crime syndicate with wide-ranging influence — possibly even influence in the highest halls of power in the state government. To stay alive, Cally, one of the book's protagonists, enlists the help of his brother, Daniel, an FBI agent; Fallon McElliot, a state police detective working for the governor; and a Homeland Security agent.

Thelen said his favorite character is McElliot, who isn't flashy and has a lot of quirks, including driving a basic Dodge Dart.

The author spoke with City Pulse from his retirement home in Frankfort, Michigan. He said he wrote a first draft of the book more than 30 years ago, but it ended up sitting on the shelf until he retired from Consumers Energy three years ago.

He said the idea for the book came from camping on Beaver Island with his spouse and taking the ferry to the island from Charlevoix.

"After retiring, I connected with an editor who told me it needed lots of



Courtesy of Chris G. Thelen

Author Chris G. Thelen wrote the first draft of his new novel, "Islands of Deception," more than 30 years ago, but it sat on the shelf until his retirement three years ago, when he finally had time to make the necessary rewrites.

work, but it had legs," Thelen said.

The book also needed to reflect modern technology. Thelen added the tech guru character, whose business model would have only been emerging in the '90s, and tech gimmicks like drones. Both play an integral part in the novel's plot and exciting denouement.

When he pulled his draft off the shelf — along with rejection letters from publishers — it contained about 120,000 words.

"My editor told me it needed to be tightened, and 40,000 words had to go," he said. "It was an interesting process and challenging to go through rewrites and re-rewrites.

The most fun part, for me, was writing dialogue. It allows you to get inside the

head of the character."

If you look at Thelen's background, you wouldn't guess that he would be writing a thriller. He grew up in rural Fowler on a dairy farm and held a series of white-collar jobs in advertising and communications until his retirement.

"I don't read thrillers. I really don't. My spouse reads crime thrillers, and she's my first reader. She's quick to say, 'No, that wouldn't work,'" Thelen said.

After graduating from Michigan State University with a degree in journalism in 1983, Thelen worked at advertising agencies for part of his career.

"You really learned to write concisely and were forced to consolidate and

make the word count," he said. "Creating advertising was a hotbed where you floated ideas and worked with high energy."

With his advertising expertise, he has been tirelessly promoting his book at readings and signings.

"I enjoy meeting readers and bookstore owners," he said.

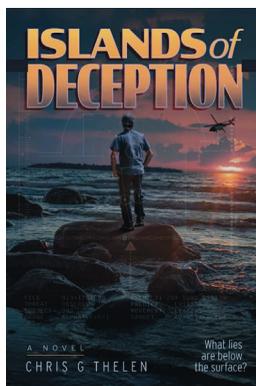
At the conclusion of the novel, after a dramatic escape from prison, Cally races to a hideaway at Beaver Island where he thinks it will be difficult to track him. After several close escapes, the thrilling final scene takes place on the ferry to the mainland.

The book's ending is ambiguous and leaves you wondering if the good guys really won. With the outcome unclear, readers will have to wait for the obvious sequel.

"The sequel is about half-written," Thelen said.

The next book will also be set primarily in northern Michigan, where Thelen enjoys hiking, kayaking and cross-country skiing.

With all its beauty, northern Michigan has become a popular setting for thrillers and mysteries, such as two of Karen Dionne's novels, "The Marsh King's Daughter" and "The Wicked Sister," which are both set in the Upper Peninsula, as well as Charles Cutter's amateur detective series — especially his most recent release, "Under the Ashes: Murder and Morels," set on the Leelanau Peninsula. Pack up all three, along with Thelen's "Islands of Deception," for a thrilling vacation Up North this summer.



**ART BY NEVIN**

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# Concentrates 101: tips for celebrating Dab Day

By LUCAS HENKEL

While 420 may have come and gone, another popular stoner holiday is just around the corner. Monday (July 10), cannabis enthusiasts across the world will celebrate 710, otherwise known as Dab Day. The story of how Dab Day first began is hazy, but the meaning behind 710 is clear. When you turn 710 upside down, it looks like OIL — the perfect number to represent cannabis oil and other cannabis concentrates.

“Dabbing” is a term used for the consumption of cannabis concentrates like resin, shatter and wax. Regardless of the consumption method, the goal is the same. Once heated, the “dab” of concentrate turns into a vapor that the consumer inhales.

In my experience as a budtender, one of the main reasons folks are hesitant to try cannabis concentrates is they’re intimidated by the product itself. The high concentrations of terpenes, THC and other cannabinoids found in dabs can cause the consumer to feel the effects of the cannabis much faster than other consumption methods. Concentrates are also available in a wide array of textures and consistencies, which can add an extra layer of confusion.

We’ll start this lesson with the basics: What’s the difference between cured resin and live resin?

Cured resin is created by extracting THC and other cannabinoids from flower that has been trimmed, dried and cured. The curing stage is kind of like aging whiskey or fine wine. Over time, the plant develops more flavor and potency.

Live resin, on the other hand, skips the curing stage and utilizes cannabis flower that’s flash frozen once it’s har-



Courtesy of MJ Arsenal

One of the most popular ways to consume concentrates is with a dab rig. While the style of dab rigs can differ, the basic setup generally stays the same.

vested. Flash freezing helps preserve freshness and terpene profiles. In my opinion, live resin is incredibly tasty and tends to have a lower THC level than cured resin, so it’s a great option for the rookie concentrate consumer.

One of the most popular ways to consume concentrates is with a dab rig, which I would describe as the cousin of a bong. While the style of dab rigs can differ, the basic setup generally stays the same.

The most important piece of this puzzle, aside from the rig itself, is the nail. Sometimes referred to as a banger, this attachment is used to vaporize the concentrate, and it looks very similar to the bowl of a bong.

Using a torch, heat the banger until it glows bright orange. Once the banger has

been heated to the proper temperature, turn off the torch, place your mouth on the mouthpiece, grab a dab tool with a scoop of concentrate on it and rub the concentrate on the inside of the nail as you inhale. After that, sit back and enjoy your high.

I love dab rigs, but as a stoner on the go, I would be nothing without my trusty nectar collector. A nectar collector is a portable dab rig that functions similarly to a straw. Torch-heating nectar collectors, as the name implies, require the consumer to use a torch to heat the tip before dipping the hot tip in the concentrate as they inhale. Electric-heating nectar collectors and dab rigs allow consumers to simply click a button to start the heating process.

If you’re looking to get a head start on your 710 festivities, here are a few products in the Lansing area that are guaranteed to get you into the holiday spirit.

**Double Bear Grapefruit Durban cured resin | \$25/g at Bazonzoes**

Grapefruit Durban is a sativa-dominant strain created by crossing Durban Poison and Grapefruit. It offers a powerful cere-



bral buzz that will have you up and ready to go faster than a cup of espresso. The wax itself looks like golden amber and has a texture that reminds me of sugar that has dried after previously being wet.

**LightSky Farms Handlebar live resin | \$15/g at Herbana**

Get ready to cruise with this indica-dominant hybrid strain from Burton-based LightSky Farms. Created by crossing Biker Kush and Hashbar OG, Handlebar is earthy and floral with a punch of sweet citrus. The result is a euphoric high that makes you feel like you can take on the world.

**Packwoods Apple Mintz infused blunt | \$40/2.5g at Pure Canna**

Apple Mintz has many possible parent strains, including Sour Diesel and Pure Kush, Blue Sherbet and Zkittlez or Apple Fritter and Kush Mints. With Packwoods’ formulation, the result is a floral hybrid strain that makes you super chatty. It’s a great option for parties, cookouts and other events that plague the socially awkward. Each blunt contains 2 grams of flower, which is infused with concentrate before being dusted in kief and rolled in a tobacco-free wrap with a glass filter.

*Lucas Henkel (he/him) is a columnist and advertising assistant for City Pulse. He is a cannabis enthusiast and advocate that has worked in the cannabis industry since 2019. When he’s not reviewing weed from across the state of Michigan (and beyond), he lives in Lansing with his wife and three cats. Have a suggestion for a cannabis product or brand to review? Want to shout out your favorite budtender? Email lucas@lansingcitypulse.com.*

State of Michigan. Ingham County Probate Court. Publication of Notice. File No. 18-000348-GA. In the matter of Sandra Henry. To All Interested Persons: Ruth Davis (sister of Sandra Henry) whose addresses are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: Take Notice\*: Mid-Michigan Guardianship Services Inc. has been appointed the guardian of Sandra Henry. Mid-Michigan Guardianship Services Inc. intends to file one or more Annual Report of Guardian on Condition of Legally Incapacitated Individuals with the Ingham County Probate Court located at 313 W. Kalamazoo St. Lansing, MI 48933. 6/26/2023 Mid-Michigan Guardianship Services, Inc. 600 W. Maple St. Suite C Lansing, MI 48906 517.372.9853.

CP#23-155

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING NOTICE OF POSTED MEETING MINUTES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all meeting minutes for the Charter Township of Lansing are posted to and available on the Township’s website at [www.lansingtowship.org](http://www.lansingtowship.org). Meeting minutes may also be obtained by emailing [dptyclerk@lansingtowship.org](mailto:dptyclerk@lansingtowship.org).

Meeting minutes are also posted in, and available for inspection at, the office of the Township Clerk (located at 3209 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan) during normal business hours.

Maggie Sanders, Supervisor  
Cortney Lighthart, Clerk

CP#22-276

## CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1316

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Lansing codified ordinances by amending Chapter 1060, Section 1060.08 and Section 1060.99 to clarify abatement and enforcement penalties.

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](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)  
[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

CP#23-154

# Jonesin' Crossword

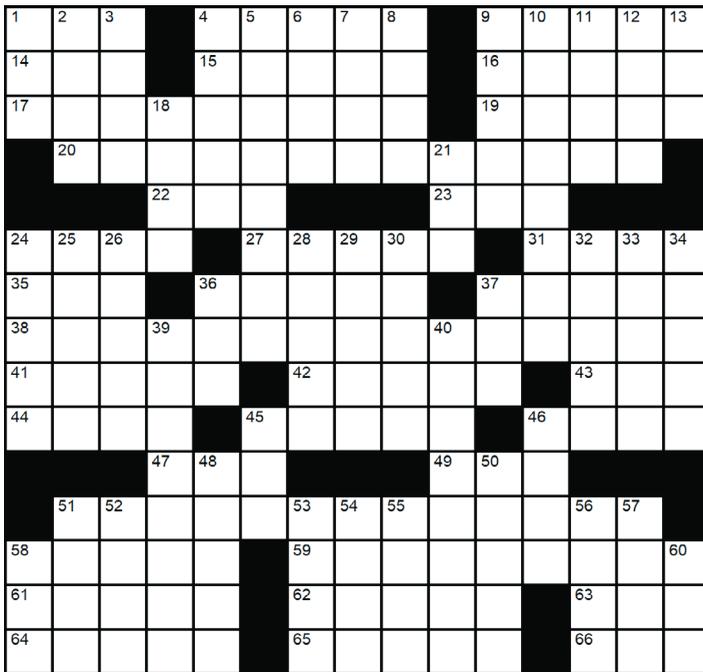
By Matt Jones

"Get the Hook"--another letter, please.

by Matt Jones  
© 2023 Matt Jones

**ACROSS**

- 1. Brooks who turned 97 this year
- 4. Planktonic crustaceans
- 9. Political Pelosi
- 14. Egggy start
- 15. Capital of Vietnam
- 16. "\_\_\_ a couple seconds ..."
- 17. Source of coincidental thoughts
- 19. Manicurist's expertise
- 20. Driver's permit that's only for the First Lady?
- 22. Have a sample of
- 23. Faux \_\_\_ (misstep)
- 24. Copy mistake
- 27. Amounts owed
- 31. New Jersey players
- 35. Regatta racer's implement
- 36. Le \_\_\_ (French seaport)
- 37. Decked out
- 38. "That sound! Is it a giant keyring?"
- 41. From \_\_\_ (effective immediately)
- 42. Baryshnikov's company, once
- 43. Suffix for Nepal
- 44. Mumford's backup?
- 45. Mombasa's country
- 46. "Bullet Train" star Pitt
- 47. "Shameless" network, for short
- 49. Actress Vardalos
- 51. Either of my kids,



- 2. compared to me?
  - 58. Insults, when thrown
  - 59. Obvious sticking point?
  - 61. Monty Python member Michael
  - 62. "Buenos Aires" musical
  - 63. Matchbox Twenty's Thomas
  - 64. Concert venue
  - 65. Spouts off without reason
  - 66. Old-school icons, slangily
- DOWN**
- 7. Big deposit
  - 8. Rolling Stone article, often
  - 9. Stealthy sort
  - 10. "Henry and June" diarist
  - 11. Part of NdGT
  - 12. Biology class unit
  - 13. Gridiron stat
  - 18. Hi-C \_\_\_ Cooler ("Ghostbusters"-inspired drink)
  - 21. "Call of Duty: Black \_\_\_"
  - 24. Commuter train stops
  - 25. Owner of Tumblr (until 2018)
  - 26. Jumbo shrimp
  - 28. Bring up memories of
  - 29. Boston hockey player
  - 30. Discworld creator Pratchett
  - 32. Lawn tool
  - 33. Second-largest city in Oklahoma
  - 34. Go too fast
  - 36. QVC rival (and corporate sibling)
  - 37. "Captain Underpants" creator Pilkey
  - 39. Included
  - 40. "I Love Rock 'n Roll" singer
  - 45. "Kitchy-kitchy-\_\_\_!"
  - 46. \_\_\_ mi (sandwich on French bread)
  - 48. "Laughing" animal
  - 50. Small amounts
  - 51. "\_\_\_ she blows!"
  - 52. Hearty partner
  - 53. Laptop owner
  - 54. Suddenly bright star
  - 55. Sheepish look, sometimes
  - 56. Italian money
  - 57. Pollution in big cities
  - 58. Resort to retreat to
  - 60. Little pellets

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky July 5-11, 2023

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Many astrologers enjoy meditating on the heavenly body Chiron. With an orbit between Saturn and Uranus, it is an anomalous object that has the qualities of both a comet and a minor planet. Its name is derived from a character in ancient Greek myth, the wisest teacher and healer of all the centaurs. Chiron is now in the sign of Aries and will be there for a while. Let's invoke its symbolic power to inspire two quests in the coming months: 1. Seek a teacher who excites your love of life. 2. Seek a healer who alleviates any hurts that interfere with your love of life.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** It's high time for some high culture! You are in a phase to get rich benefits from reading Shakespeare, listening to Beethoven and enjoying paintings by Matisse and Picasso. You'd also benefit lavishly from communing with the work of virtuosos like Mozart, Michelangelo and novelist Haruki Murakami. However, I think you would garner even greater emotional treasures from reading Virginia Woolf, listening to Janelle Monáe's music and enjoying Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings. For extra credit, get cozy with the books of Simone Weil, listen to Patti Smith's music and see Frida Kahlo's art. If you read between the lines here, you understand I'm telling you that the most excellent thing to do for your mental and spiritual health is to commune with brilliant women artists, writers and musicians.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** The French phrase j'ajoute (translated as "I adjust") is a chess term used when a player is about to adjust their pieces but does not yet intend to make a move. J'ajoute might be an apt motto for you to invoke in the coming days. You are not ready to make major shifts in the way you play the games you're involved in. But it's an excellent time to meditate on that prospect. You will gain clarity and refine your perspective if you tinker with and rearrange the overall look and feel of things.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** "The Simpsons" has been on TV for 34 seasons. 10-year-old Bart Simpson is one of the stars. He is a mischievous rascal who's ingenious in defying authority. Sometimes teachers catch him in his rebellious acts and punish him by making him write apologetic affirmations on the classroom blackboard. For example: "I will not strut around like I own the place. I will not obey the voices in my head. I will not express my feelings through chaos. I will not trade pants with others. I will not instigate revolution. I am not deliciously saucy. I cannot absolve sins. Hot dogs are not bookmarks." In accordance with your unruly astrological omens, Cancerian, I authorize you to do things Bart said he wouldn't do. You have a license to be deliciously saucy.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Early in her career, Leo actor Lisa Kudrow endured disappointments. She auditioned for the TV show "Saturday Night Live" but wasn't chosen. She was cast as a main character in the TV show "Frasier" but was replaced during the filming of the pilot episode. A few months later, though, she landed a key role in the new TV show "Friends." In retrospect, she was glad she got fired from "Frasier" so she could be available for "Friends." "Frasier" was popular, but "Friends" was a super hit. Kudrow won numerous awards for her work on the show and rode her fame to a successful film career. Will there be a "Frasier" moment for you in the coming months, dear Leo? That's what I suspect. So, keep the faith.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** The coming weeks will be a good time to seek helpful clues and guidance from your nightly dreams. Take steps to remember them — maybe keep a pen and notebook next to your bed. Here are a few possible dream scenes and their meanings. 1. A dream of planting a tree means you're primed to begin a project that will grow for years. 2. A dream of riding in a spaceship suggests you yearn

to make your future come more alive in your life. 3. A dream of taking a long trip or standing on a mountaintop may signify you're ready to come to new conclusions about your life story. (PS: Even if you don't have these specific dreams, the interpretations I offered are still apt.)

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** In reviewing the life work of neurologist and author Oliver Sacks, critic Patricia Holt said he marveled at how "average people not only adapt to injury and disease but also create something transcendent out of a condition others call disability." Sacks specialized in collaborating with neurological patients who used their seeming debilitations "to uncover otherwise unknown resources and create lives of originality and innovation." I bring this up, Libra, because I suspect that in the coming months, you will have extra power to turn your apparent weaknesses or liabilities into assets.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** It's a mistake to believe we must ration our love as if we only have so much to offer. The fact is, the more love we give, the more we have available to give. As we tap into our deepest source of generosity, we discover we have greater reserves of it than we imagined. What I've just said is always true, but it's especially apropos for you right now. You are in a phase when you can dramatically expand your understanding of how many blessings you have to dole out.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Home computers didn't become common until the 1980s. During the previous decade, small startup companies with adventurous experimenters did the grunt work that made the digital revolution possible. Many early adapters worked out of garages in the Silicon Valley area of Northern California. They preferred to devote their modest resources to the actual work rather than to fancy labs. I suspect the coming months will invite you to do something similar, Sagittarius: to be discerning about how you allocate your resources as you plan and implement your vigorous transformations.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** I'm tempted to call this upcoming chapter of your life story "The Partial Conquest of Loneliness." Other good titles might be "Restoration of Degraded Treasure" or "Turning a Confusing Triumph into a Gratifying One" or "Replacing a Mediocre Kind of Strength with the Right Kind." Can you guess that I foresee an exciting and productive time for you in the coming weeks? To best prepare, drop as many expectations and assumptions as you can so you will be fully available for the novel and sometimes surprising opportunities. Life will offer you fresh perspectives.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** By 1582, the inexact old Julian calendar used by the Western world for 13 centuries was out of whack because it had no leap years. The spring equinox was occurring too early, on March 10. Pope Gregory commissioned scientists who devised a more accurate way to account for the passage of time. The problem was that the new calendar needed a modification that required the day after October 4 to be October 15. Eleven days went missing — permanently. People were resentful and resistant, though eventually all of Europe made the conversion. In that spirit, Aquarius, I ask you to consider an adjustment that requires a shift in habits. It may be inconvenient at first, but it will ultimately be good for you.

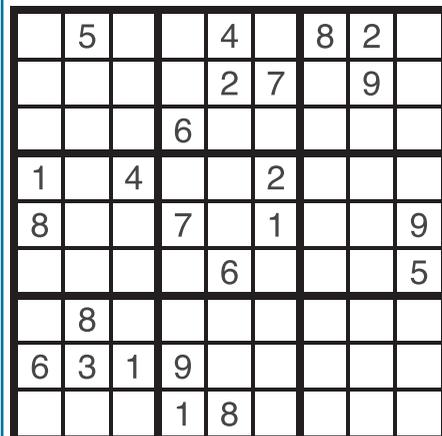
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Piscean novelist Peter De Vries wrote, "Sometimes I write drunk and revise sober, and sometimes I write sober and revise drunk. But you have to have both elements in creation — the Apollonian and the Dionysian, or spontaneity and restraint, emotion and discipline." In the coming weeks, you Pisces folks will be skilled at weaving these modes as you practice what you love to do. You'll be a master of cultivating dynamic balance; a wizard of blending creativity and organization; a productive change-maker who fosters both structure and morale.

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Answers on page 24

# SUDOKU

# Advanced



## Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

**Here's How It Works:** Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

# 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 4 p.m. Wednesday for the upcoming Wednesday edition. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Nicole at (517) 999-5066.

### Wednesday, July 5

**Allen Farmers Market** - 3-6:30 p.m. 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3911. [allenneighborhoodcenter.org/market](http://allenneighborhoodcenter.org/market).

**"Blind Spot," "DIGEST," "Shouldn't You Be Working? 100 Years of Working from Home"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Broadway Jazz Dance** - Bust a move with the signature style of artistic director and Broadway veteran Mark Ruhala! All skill levels welcome. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park Pavilion. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

**Improv Acting Class** - Perform characters and learn how to make them funnier and more dramatic! Play theater games and learn why "yes, and" is the basic rule of improv. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Karaoke at Mac's Bar** - 9 p.m. 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-484-6795. [macsbar.com](http://macsbar.com).

**Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle** - Sing your favorite tunes or bring a group and listen while enjoying drinks and food. 7-10 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. [lansingshuffle.com](http://lansingshuffle.com).

**Kindness Rocks** - Share messages of kindness and create art on rocks to keep or share! Registration req. 2 and 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Lainey Kay** - 7-10 p.m. Williamston Roadhouse, 3700 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 517-388-6133. [williamstonroadhouse.com](http://williamstonroadhouse.com).

**LBCA Meeting** - 7:30 a.m. Pine Hills Golf Course, 6603 Woodbury Road, Laingsburg.

**"LET THE PAINTINGS TALK"** - ART/5 is a group of five local artists. They enjoy rendering the beauty of Michigan as well as flowers, birds and still life. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-347-2021. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos](http://cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos).

**Matthew Shannon at Graduate Rock Bar** - 7 p.m. Graduate Hotel, 133 Evergreen Ave., East Lansing. 517-348-0900. [graduatehotels.com/east-lansing](http://graduatehotels.com/east-lansing).

**MSU Mueller Summer Carillon Concert Series: Dina Verheyden and Richard de Waardt** - 6 p.m. Beaumont Tower, 375 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. [music.msu.edu](http://music.msu.edu).

**St. Johns "Concert in the Park" series featuring Miranda and the M80s** - Bring a lawn chair or blanket. 7 p.m. St. Johns City Park, 801 W. Park St., St. Johns. [clintoncountyarts.org/experience-the-arts/concert-in-the-park](http://clintoncountyarts.org/experience-the-arts/concert-in-the-park).

**"Troop Beverly Hills" Movie Night** - Popcorn and refreshments will be provided. 5:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. [charlottelibrary.org](http://charlottelibrary.org).

**Weaving the Web: Fire** - Join us online or in person for discussions, rituals, meditations and more! 6 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**Wednesday Night Free Concerts** - Meridian Community Band - 6-8:30 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-853-4000. [meridian.mi.us/calendar](http://meridian.mi.us/calendar).

### Thursday, July 6

**Acting Technique Class** - Learn the fundamentals of acting: diction, projection, stage presence, stage directions, working off a partner, basic script work and improvisation. 7:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Bath Farmers Market** - 3-6:30 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St., Bath. 517-641-6728. [shopbfm.org](http://shopbfm.org).

**"Blind Spot," "DIGEST," "Shouldn't You Be Working? 100 Years of Working from Home"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Concerts at the Shell - Cedar Creek (blue-grass)** - 7 p.m. McCormick Park, 300 N. Putnam St., Williamston. [facebook.com/williamstonconcerts](http://facebook.com/williamstonconcerts).

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

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**Laingsburg Farmers Market** - 5-8 p.m. First Congregational Church of Laingsburg, 401 E. Grand River Road, Laingsburg. 517-295-8128. [laingsburg-business.org/farmers-market-1](http://laingsburg-business.org/farmers-market-1).

**LBCA's FREE Summer Concert Series - Universe Band** - 7 p.m. McClintock Park Amphitheater, 255 McClintock St., Laingsburg. [laingsburgbusiness.org/music-in-the-park](http://laingsburgbusiness.org/music-in-the-park).

**LEGO Day** - Use your imagination to build whatever your heart desires with our LEGO collection! 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. [eradl.org](http://eradl.org).

### Dam Jam Music Festival

6-11 p.m. Friday, July 7  
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday, July 8  
Brenke Fish Ladder  
216 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing

The Dam Jam Music Festival, presented by Lansing 5:01, is back for a fifth year, featuring local vendors, food stalls and live music by bands and artists from around the state.

Friday evening features performances by Pretoria, the Last Gasp Collective and Ozay Moore. Saturday features performances by Matt Gabriel, 5 AM Da Morning, Jonez, School of Rock East Lansing's House Band, Ada LeAnn, Juice, The Player Music, The Further Adventures of Fat-Boy & Jive Turkey, Cross Eyed Strangers, Taylor Taylor, Sarena Rae, The Immaculate Beings, Two-Faced Wilson, J.Santino, the Max Lockwood Band and Pretty Jane & the Magazines. There will be two stages on Saturday, so attendees can enjoy back-to-back sets all day long.

In the Fish Ladder's adjacent parking lot, attendees can shop at booths from Lansing-area vendors as well as local restaurants and food trucks like Tantay and Lansing Brewing Co.

The festival also offers opportunities for attendees to make jewelry, canvas paintings and other crafts.

The entire event is free, and the first 500 attendees will receive a free Lansing 5:01 tee shirt. For more information, visit [facebook.com/damjamfest](http://facebook.com/damjamfest).



**"LET THE PAINTINGS TALK"** - ART/5 is a group of five local artists. They enjoy rendering the beauty of Michigan as well as flowers, birds and still life. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-347-2021. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos](http://cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos).

**Make Egg Rolls with Chef Ming** - All ages (with parental assistance). See [mingthemagician.com/about-us](http://mingthemagician.com/about-us) for ingredient list. Registration req. 2 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Modern Dance Class** - Push your body in a creative way while engaging artistically with emotional honesty. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Music in the Garden - The New Rule** - 7 p.m. Veterans Memorial Gardens Amphitheater, 2074 N. Aurelius Road, Holt. 517-694-2135. [delhitownshipmi.gov](http://delhitownshipmi.gov).

**Music in the Park - The Usual Suspects, opener Brian Bristol** - Bring friends and a lawn chair or blanket. Food concessions available onsite. 7 p.m. Jaycee Park, 525 E. River St., Grand Ledge. [grandledgechamber.com/music\\_in\\_the\\_park.php](http://grandledgechamber.com/music_in_the_park.php).

**Ripple Effect: Artists' Insights from the River Trail - Trevor Grabill** - The Riverfront Dock overlooks the Grand River and Adado Riverfront Park. 6 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org).

**Summer Concerts on the Square - Frog & the Beeftones** - 6:30 p.m. Courthouse Square, 100 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. 517-543-0400. [micharlotte.org](http://micharlotte.org).

**Switch Gaming: Super Smash Brothers Tournament** - Feel free to bring your Switch to play between turns. All skill levels welcome. 6 p.m. Grand

Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Wacousta Picnic Playdate Family Storytime** - Stories, songs, activities and a snack. Bug spray recommended. Event will be canceled if it rains or storms. 11 a.m. Wacousta Community United Methodist Church, 9180 Herbison Road, Eagle. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

### Friday, July 7

**"Blind Spot," "DIGEST," "Shouldn't You Be Working? 100 Years of Working from Home"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Cruise to Holt** - Bring your classic, modern or project cars and bikes — if it has wheels, bring it, or just come take a look! 5-8 p.m. Holt Farmers Market parking lot, 2150 Cedar St., Holt. 517-694-2135. [delhitownshipmi.gov](http://delhitownshipmi.gov).

**East Lansing Summer Concert Series - Cross Eyed Strangers** - Bring a lawn chair or blanket. 6-8 p.m. Ann Street Plaza, corner of Albert and M.A.C. avenues, East Lansing. 517-319-6888. [cityofeastlansing.com/455/summer-concert-series](http://cityofeastlansing.com/455/summer-concert-series).

**"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park Pavilion. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

**Friday Night Concert Series - Roadside Attraction** - Kids can enjoy big wheel tricycles at the tricycle track, a bounce house and a giant inflatable slide. 7 p.m. Lake Lansing Park South Bandshell, 1621 Pike St., Haslett. 517-676-2233. [pk.ingham.org](http://pk.ingham.org).

**Live & Local CityPULSE**  
**Red Cedar Spirits**  
2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing  
**Sunday Jazz**  
Cliff Monear, Paul Keller and Randy Napoleon  
Sun., July 9, 6-9 p.m.



# Events

from page 22

**Great Pages Circus** - Ready for a showstopping, heart-pounding family adventure? 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Suite 800, Okemos. 517-721-1790. highcaliberkarting.com.

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**Karaoke at High Caliber Karting** - No drink minimum, no cover charge, all ages welcome. 7-11 p.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Suite 800, Okemos. 517-721-1790. highcaliberkarting.com.

**"LET THE PAINTINGS TALK"** - ART/5 is a group of five local artists. They enjoy rendering the beauty of Michigan as well as flowers, birds and still life. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-347-2021. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

**Live Music on the patio with The Mel V Collective** - 8-11 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

**Take-Home Crafts** - Make Woven bowls. Take-home kits come with supplies and instructions. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladi.org.

## Saturday, July 8

**"Blind Spot," "DIGEST," "Shouldn't You Be Working? 100 Years of Working from Home"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**Environmental Stewardship Work Day** - Restore East Lansing's park biotic communities by removing problematic invasive plant species and replacing them with native species. 9-11 a.m. 517-319-6804. cityofeastlansing.com.

**Great Pages Circus** - Ready for a showstopping, heart-pounding family adventure? 3 and 6 p.m. Fowlerville Family Fairgrounds, 8800 W. Grand River Ave., Fowlerville. pagescircus.com.

**Inebriated Insights** - A night of intoxicated witchcraft! Variety of Tarot, oracle cards, bone readings, astrology, runes, Reiki and more. 5 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

**Lansing Common FC vs. Tulip City United** - Drinks from Strange Matter Coffee and food from Stacks BBQ and La India Mexicana Cocina food trucks, plus regular concessions. 6 p.m. Eastern Stadium, 400 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. lansingcommonfc.com.

**"LET THE PAINTINGS TALK"** - ART/5 is a group of five local artists. They enjoy rendering the beauty of Michigan as well as flowers, birds and still life. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-347-2021. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

**Live Music with Mix Pack at LBC** - 7 p.m. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. 517-371-2600. lansingbrewingcompany.com.

**Meridian Township Farmers' Market** - Ready-to-eat foods, produce, meat, cheese, eggs, baked goods, bread, crafts and so much more! 8 a.m.-2

p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-712-2395. meridian.mi.us/farmersmarket.

**Parted Waters** - 7-11 p.m. Williamston Roadhouse, 3700 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 517-388-6133. williamstonroadhouse.com.

**Wild About Our Rivers: Potter Park Zoo River Clean-Up** - Clean up along the Lansing River Trail in front of the park. Supplies provided. 9 a.m.-noon. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

## Sunday, July 9

**"Blind Spot," "DIGEST," "Shouldn't You Be Working? 100 Years of Working from Home"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**East Lansing Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com/farmersmarket.

**Eastern Ingham Farmers Market** - Locally grown produce, baked goods, prepared food, handmade artisan goods, live music, kids' crafts and so much more. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. McCormick Park, 123 High St., Williamston. 517-618-1630. easterninghamfarmersmarket.org.

**Great Pages Circus** - Ready for a showstopping, heart-pounding family adventure? 2 p.m. Fowlerville Family Fairgrounds, 8800 W. Grand River Ave., Fowlerville. pagescircus.com.

**JUGGLERS AND WOULD-BE JUGGLERS** - Jugglers meet at the Orchard Street Pump House at 2 p.m. Sundays. 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. mikemarmarhanka@gmail.com.

**Laingsburg Outdoor Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Roosevelt Row, Laingsburg. 517-295-8128. laingsburgbusiness.org/farmers-market-1.

**"LET THE PAINTINGS TALK"** - ART/5 is a group of five local artists. They enjoy rendering the beauty of Michigan as well as flowers, birds and still life. Noon-6 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-347-2021. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

**Live music on the patio with Midday Sun** - Noon-3 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

**Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp** - Eight-week boot camp consists of introductory, intermediate and advanced skill-level training. 5-7 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. 517-802-7974. lansingrollerderby.com.

**Willow Stick Ceremonies & Healing Arts: Intro to Shamanism with Teresa Wojtowicz** - 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

See Events, Page 25

# THE PULSIFIEDS

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **East Lansing Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

Request from E & G Connection, LLC for a modified site plan and a special use permit approval for 115 Albert Avenue. The proposed application would alter the existing seating configuration, reduce the overall occupancy, modify the building façade, and add an additional outdoor dining area. The 11,588 square foot space is zoned B-3 (City Center Commercial District).

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

Tim Dempsey, Director of Planning, Building, and Development  
410 Abbot Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
517.319.6887 or tdempsey@cityofeastlansing.com  
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

A staff report (Agenda Item Report) for each public hearing will be published on the City's website the Friday before the meeting. To locate staff reports, please visit the City's public meeting portal at <https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/> and select the meeting date.

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

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

Marie E. Wicks  
City Clerk

CP#23-157

Edward W. Sparrow Hospital Association seeks a Pulmonary and Critical Care Physician. Doctor of Medicine, or foreign equivalent, 72 months training in Internal Medicine/Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine, Michigan Physician License, ABIM Internal Medicine Board Certification, ABIM Pulmonary Disease Certification, and accepted or eligible to be accepted by all major insurances required. Multiple openings. Email resume to [Barbara.Hilborn@sparrow.org](mailto:Barbara.Hilborn@sparrow.org).

**Engineering/Physicist Accelerator III**  
The Michigan State University Facility for Rare Isotope Beams seeks qualified candidates for the following full-time position:

**Engineering/Physicist Accelerator III** (East Lansing, MI). Design, develop, implement, maintain, improve EPICS based control system, support construction, commissioning, operation of diagnostic systems for large-scale physics facilities. Develop architecture for integrated environment for FRIB beam diagnostics systems. Qualified candidates will possess Bachelor's Degree in Physics or closely related field + 5 years' exp as Electronics Technician or any related position in physics engineering. Must have 5 years' exp in instrumentation motion design, development, deployment. Will accept exp obtained prior to degree completion. To apply for this posting, please go to [www.careers.msu.edu](http://www.careers.msu.edu) and search for posting number 867655. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through cultural diversity. The university actively encourages applications and/or nominations from women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities. MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.

# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### Delicious decisions at Sparty's Kabob

By LIZY FERGUSON

I'm apparently very rusty when it comes to any sort of food-related situation where I have to make numerous choices while the person preparing my meal is standing before me. Recalling my former ordering proficiency at restaurants like Qdoba and Jersey Giant Subs, I figure the pandemic-induced popularity of online ordering must have atrophied the part of my brain that can make such choices while being watched. The plethora of options available at Sparty's Kabob, an Iraqi restaurant in East Lansing's Trowbridge Plaza, made it a great place to reawaken this terribly vital muscle.

I was completing a number of errands, ending with grocery shopping

at the Sparty's-adjacent Fresh Thyme Market. In the classic fashion, I decided that even though I'd just bought groceries, I bought them so well — with such consumer smarts — that I deserved to take the night off from cooking. Exhausted as I was, I blurted out the first menu item that seemed reasonable: the standard-sounding Sparty's Plate. Thus began the gauntlet of choice. The plate comes with your pick of three varieties of rice or bulgur, five varieties of salad and five varieties of meat, plus beans or okra stew, hummus and pita.

With the help of the patient employee behind the counter, I made my way through these difficult choic-

es and decided on cinnamon rice, which I think is a vegetarian version of kabsa, as well as Iraqi salad, eggplant salad, chicken shawarma and okra stew. I also added garlic sauce, pickled turnips and a mix of pickled carrots and standard cucumbers. On the side was a terrine of tahini-forward hummus and three whole loaves of pita. An abundance of leftovers was clearly guaranteed.

The highlights of this Styrofoam-straining feast were the eggplant salad, composed of fried eggplant and peppers; the somewhat sweet and earthy okra-and-tomato stew; and the rice, which was spiced with cardamom and clove, a mix of flavors I find so delectable in Middle Eastern cuisine. The shawarma was also well seasoned, and I assembled numerous delicious wraps out of all



Lizy Ferguson/City Pulse

The Sparty's Plate at Sparty's Kabob in East Lansing allows the customer to sample a variety of Iraqi dishes, but don't expect to be able to eat everything in one sitting.

of the above until I literally couldn't take another bite, finally stuffed to the gills and quite pleased with each of my many decisions.



**Sparty's Plate**  
\$13.99

Sparty's Kabob  
930 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing  
11 a.m.-9 p.m. daily  
517-993-5150  
spartyskabob.com

**TOP 5 DINING GUIDE**  
THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED BY CITY PULSE READERS

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2022 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!

TOP 5 HIBACHI

**1. Ukai Hibachi Grill & Sushi Bar – both locations**

Warmly decorated Japanese restaurant with hibachi tables and a sushi bar. See iloveukai.com for locations, hours and phone numbers.

**2. Maru Sushi & Grill**

Japanese-fusion restaurant serving unique sushi rolls, hibachi meals and cocktails. 1500 W. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. 517-337-1500. marusushi.com. 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday. 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday.

Coming Sept. 13: Top of the Town 2023

**3. Ohana Sushi and Bar**

Family-owned and operated Japanese restaurant offering all-you-can-eat sushi and hibachi, plus a-la-carte dishes. 707 Brookside Drive, Lansing. 517-993-9988. ohanasushibar.com. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday. Noon-11 p.m. Saturday. Noon-10 p.m. Sunday.

**4. Sushi Moto**

Japanese restaurant serving a wide variety of sushi rolls, bento boxes, noodles and teriyaki dishes. 436 Elmwood Road, Lansing. 517-580-4321. sushimoto.us. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Noon-9 p.m. Sunday.

**5. Ichiban Japanese Steakhouse Jackson**

Japanese steakhouse offering hibachi tables, specialty sushi rolls and a full bar. 915 N. Wisner St., Jackson. 517-315-4970. ichibanrestaurants.com. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday. Noon-10 p.m. Saturday. Noon-9 p.m. Sunday.

### Appetizers

WANT YOUR RESTAURANT LISTED? CALL 517-999-5064



**El Oasis**  
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**TRY THE CROWN JEWEL OF LANSING'S FOOD TRUCKS.** Serving the Lansing community for 13 years, we extend an invitation to all those to give us a try to find out why we were voted the best food truck in Lansing's 2019 Top of The Town Contest.



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### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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

# Let the watermelon do the work

By ARI LEVAUX

I tried my first watermelon salad at The Covington Restaurant in Edgartown, Massachusetts. The dish consisted of watermelon cubes that were tossed into a pile of salad greens alongside turnip shavings, pickled scapes, feta cheese and balsamic vinegar. The juicy red chunks served a purpose normally reserved for tomatoes, and they availed themselves beautifully. Their sweet acids bent the salad around them, transforming a leafy salad with watermelon into a watermelon salad with leaves. Refreshing and sweet, the more of the salad I ate, the hungrier I seemed to be.

A few minutes later, in the hotel lobby, I gushed about the joys of watermelon salad to whoever would listen. A receptionist named Shania was not impressed, saying, “We put that stuff in salad all the time.” She was from the hills of Jamaica, a land of year-round gardens and daily salads. She spoke with authority on vegetables but didn’t dwell on specifics. “If it can grow in the backyard, it’s going in,” she said when I asked her what else goes into a Jamaican watermelon salad. The only ingredient she named as unfit for watermelon salad was tomatoes. They can be too bossy and take over the flavor, she explained.

As for the watermelon, the only guidance she offered was to cut the chunks small.

“If the pieces are too big, people will pick them out and eat them,” she said.

The one aspect Shania was very specific about was the dressing. It was nothing more than a simple mix of brown sugar and cheap white vinegar. I was baffled that the dressing, and the salad as a whole, contained neither salt nor oil. Most chefs and food processors would agree that salt and fat are of paramount importance to creating flavor.

But she insisted.

“In Jamaica, people can’t afford oil,” she said. And if you do have oil, she added, you should save it in case you have to fry a fish.

The problem with trying to make this dressing in the U.S., she said, is that “the brown sugar here isn’t right. It clumps together.” I explained that American brown



Courtesy of Ari LeVaux

You don’t need to get fancy with watermelon salad. A simple dressing of white vinegar and brown sugar allows the ingredients to speak for themselves.



sugar is simply white sugar with added molasses. I found some chunks of evaporated cane juice from a local specialty store and submitted them. She approved.

So, I mixed a few chunks of sugar into some cheap white vinegar and used it to dress a salad of lettuce, onion and watermelon.

Invigorating, thirst-quenching and light, this salad was satisfying on every level. The watermelon washed the leaves, helping them go down effortlessly.

## Watermelon salad

In essence, the core of this recipe is to add watermelon to salad with Shania’s vinegar-and-sugar dressing. Feel free to adjust by adding anything that grows in the backyard — except tomatoes.

1/2 cup white vinegar  
3 tablespoons proper brown sugar  
4 cups salad greens  
1 clove garlic, minced  
1/2 cup minced red onion  
2 cups watermelon, cut into 1/2-inch cubes

Sir the sugar into the vinegar.

Wash, dry and trim the greens. Add the onion and garlic and toss. Add the watermelon chunks and dressing. Toss again and serve.

I realized my original watermelon salad at The Covington similarly did not contain oil or salt, although the crumbled feta provided both salt and fat. But the addition of cheese, as well as turnip shavings and pickled scapes, did not elevate the salad above the simple version inspired by backyard salads from the hills of Jamaica. You don’t need to get fancy with watermelon salad. Just stay out of the way and let the ingredients speak for themselves.

## Events

from page 23

### Monday, July 10

**Broadway Dance Camp** - Learn classic choreography while dancing to the best Broadway music! Ages 5-13. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Broadway Jazz Dance** - All skill levels welcome. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Build & Destroy** - Weeklong camp for ages 6-7. Engineer amazing structures, then switch to demolition mode to figure out the most efficient way to knock them down! 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

**Curious Chemists** - Weeklong camp for 5-year-olds. Explore chemistry through fizzy, sticky and squishy experiments. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

**“Fitness Over 50” Senior Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park Pavilion. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**Improv Acting Class** - 7:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Jump Into Reading** - Join Ms. Emma at the Playground of Dreams for stories, songs, activities and therapy dogs. Intended for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. 11 a.m. 100 Howe Drive, Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

**“LET THE PAINTINGS TALK”** - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-347-2021. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

**Marimba Mania with “Marimbaman” David Hall** - Don’t miss this high-energy musical world tour filled with audience participation and amazing instruments! 2 p.m. Island Park, 206 W. River St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

See Events, Page 26

### CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, July 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Lansing Codified Ordinances by amending Chapter 1460.01(m), and the International Property Maintenance Code, adopted by reference, to clarify the parties responsible for prohibiting the occupancy and maintaining the vacancy of placarded equipment and structures.

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

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

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

CP#23-151

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Saturday 11AM-10:30PM  
Sunday 11AM-9PM

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LANSING, MI 48912 • 517.203.0096

# Events

from page 25

**Natural Disasters** - Weeklong camp for ages 10-12. Learn the science behind predicting, observing and adapting to overwhelming forces of nature. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

**Reiki for Kids & Teens** - Fun, engaging, hands-on activities will teach students about Reiki energy and its history. 5 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Superpowered Science** - Weeklong camp for ages 8-9. Jump into the multiverse and explore the science behind your favorite superheroes. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

## Tuesday, July 11

**Acting Technique Class** - 7:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Ballet Class** - 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Big Kid Bingo at High Caliber with WITL** - 6-8 p.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Suite 800, Okemos. 517-721-1790. highcaliberkarting.com.

**Charlotte Cruisers Presents: Cruise-In at the Big Boy** - Live music, raffle, 10% off restaurant coupons for registered participants. 5:30-8 p.m. Big Boy, 530 Lansing St., Charlotte. oldcarclub.com/events.

**Downtown Lansing Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. Reutter Park, 400 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. downtownlansing.org/downtown-farmers-market.

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**LAGE Game Night East** - Bring your own or play games other people bring. All skill levels welcome. 6:30-11 p.m. The Junction, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. meetup.com/lansing/events.

**LAGE Game Night West** - 6:30-11 p.m. Frank's Press Box, 7216 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. meetup.com/lansing/events.

**"LET THE PAINTINGS TALK"** - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-347-2021. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

**Minecraft Mania!** - An evening of fun and friendly competition. We'll have our Minecraft server set up and laptops ready to go! 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

**Picnic Playdate: A Family Storytime** - Follow the little red wagon to the Trinity Episcopal Church playground for a summery family storytime with songs, activities and a snack! 11 a.m.-noon. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

**Stop Motion Studio** - Make your own short movie using Stop Motion Studio on our tablets! Intended for grades 4-6. 3 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eraadl.org.

**Summer in the Park: Craft at the Park** - Special weekly storytime with presenters. 11 a.m. Oak Park, 230 S. Clinton St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

**Trivia at Lansing Shuffleboard & Social Club with DJ Trivia** - 7:30-9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

**Zoo Days 2023** - Enjoy admission to Potter Park Zoo for only \$2! Giveaways and take-home activities. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

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