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August 30 - September 5, 2023

# CityPULSE

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## BEHIND THE VISION:

The Gentilozzis and the future of downtown

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To provide a journal of news and opinion on civic, social, and political issues as well as arts and entertainment in Greater Lansing.



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# CityPULSE

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Capital Afrofest returns bigger and better than before

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Satiate your sweet tooth at the Meridian Mall

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With garlic salad, the simpler the better

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Cover photo by Roxanne Frith

**HAVE YOU NOTICED THERE ARE LOTS OF TV SHOWS FOR BOSSES AND INVESTORS BUT NOT WORKERS?**

SHARES OF SCUZZCO ARE CLIMBING ON NEWS THAT 20,000 EMPLOYEES WILL BE REPLACED WITH AI!

WOOHOO!

EVIL ▲ 3.45 BS ▲ 2.73  
SNITCOIN ▼ 119.52

**POWER LUNCH**

**WHAT IF THERE WAS ALSO A LABOR CHANNEL?**

HUGE LOSSES FOR SCUZZCO TODAY ON THE WORKER SATISFACTION INDEX.

WAGE THEFT REPORTED AT E

**BROWN BAG LUNCH**

**CO-OP TANK**

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WORKER-OWNED WIDGETS

**MAD BARGAINING**

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THIS WEEK: TAKING ON STARBUCKS!

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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

**AND THEY'RE OFF!\***

LOOK AT MY PRESIDENTIAL BEARING! I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN IN THE OVAL OFFICE! WITH THAT GUY I STOPPED FROM OVERTURNING THE ELECTION! WHO I WOULD STILL TOTALLY SUPPORT AS OUR NOMINEE!

IT'S CALLED LEADERSHIP!

\*IN SO VERY, VERY MANY WAYS.

CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, I ASSURE YOU I AM NOT A MAL-FUNCTIONING AUDIO-ANIMATRONIC ROBOT! I AM OPERATING WITHIN PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE PARAMETERS!

NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT CHINA! AND HUNTER BIDEN! AND ABORTION! CLICK! ABORTION! CLICK! ABORTION!

FOR GOD'S SAKE, CAN WE PLEASE DODGE THE ABORTION QUESTION WITH VAGUE GENERALITIES, LIKE SENSIBLE REPUBLICANS ALWAYS USED TO DO? DO YOU EVEN LOOK AT HOW THAT ISSUE IS POLLING? GAH! WHAT IS EVEN WRONG WITH YOU PEOPLE?

LOOK, I'M UP HERE BECAUSE I'M THE STRAIGHT-TALKING CANDIDATE FOR THE ANTI-TRUMP REPUBLICANS OUT THERE--ALL SEVEN OF YOU!

I DUNNO, MAYBE I CAN GET A CABLE NEWS GIG WHEN THIS SHIT-SHOW IS OVER.

HAHAHAH I AM THE YOUNG CANDIDATE! THESE FOSSILS DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST MY WINNING "TIMESHARE SALESMAN ON STIMULANTS" PERSONA! AND I LOVE DONALD TRUMP! WHICH IS WHY I AM RUNNING AGAINST HIM!

DON'T OVERTHINK IT! HA HAHHA!

OH, AND ALSO HELLOooo! WE ARE TOTALLY VIABLE CANDIDATES TOO!

I GREW UP POOR!

I'M GOVERNOR SOMEWHERE!

MEANWHILE MANY PEOPLE ARE SAYING, TRUMP WON THE DEBATE-- BY NOT ATTENDING!

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME TUCKER, I'VE GOT AN APPOINTMENT WITH A VERY EXCLUSIVE PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHER!

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# PULSE

# NEWS & OPINION

## What a climatologist makes of what we just went through

Just after 9:40 p.m. Thursday (Aug. 24), an EF-2 tornado with a maximum wind speed of 125 miles per hour struck Greater Lansing, resulting in two confirmed deaths in Ingham County being tallied among the five statewide casualties that were reported over the weekend.

One Lansing resident, Vernita Payne, 84, died after a tree fell through the roof of her home in the 1600 block of Martin Street in Lansing. She was rescued around 10:30 p.m. but pronounced dead at the hospital. A 40-year-old Grand Rapids man also died near Williamston off Interstate 96, where the most severe damages were observed.

Along I-96, the violent storm uprooted hundreds of trees, flipped vehicles, toppled billboards and devastated properties and farming operations in Williamston and Webberville before making its way toward the Livingston County line near West Branch Red Cedar River.

Jeffrey A. Andresen, a state climatologist for Michigan and professor of geography, environment, and spatial sciences at Michigan State University, said that the timing, location and underlying weather conditions that bolstered the tornado combined to create a particularly dangerous situation for anyone driving along I-96 that night.

“The really chilling part about this is it occurred after dark, so people couldn’t see. There was also wind-wrapped, wind-driven rain and so forth to block out visibility. It’s just a very, very unfortunate set of circumstances if you’re on the highway and don’t know about it, and can’t see it,” Andresen said.

The National Weather Service reported a total of seven tornadoes that touched down in Michigan last week, with six of those occurring in the state’s southeast and the Williamston-Webberville area’s EF-2 being by far the most threatening of all.

“I think the events that we hear of Thursday night are a reminder that it does happen. It’s also important to note that we’ve had violent tornadoes in Michigan as well that have been



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

More than a dozen power lines off Old Lansing Road were brought down by last Thursday’s storms. Crews were still working on repairing several of them Tuesday afternoon (Aug. 29).

caused much, much greater devastation and loss of life,” Andresen said.

He specifically referenced the Flint-Beecher Tornado, an F5-rated twister that took 116 lives and injured 844 on June 8, 1953. It remains the last F5 in the United States to have claimed over 100 lives.

Flint-Beecher “was actually one of the worst single-killer tornadoes in the U.S., let alone Michigan,” Andresen said. “Fortunately, those tornadoes that are this significant and violent are very rare — not just here, but anywhere. It takes a special combination of circumstances that come together to create them.

Speaking of Michigan, he added, “We do have a lot of these natural-disaster, weather-related events, but there’s just fewer of them, and many times, they’re of lesser magnitude than they are in other parts of the U.S. or other parts of the world.”

With that said, while Lansing’s most recent brush with a deadly twister was still out of the ordinary to some extent, Andresen’s takeaway

is that those events should serve as a powerful reminder going forward.

“I think that is the major message from last Thursday. They can happen, and we have to be on our guard. And just as importantly, we have to take the warnings seriously,” he said.

How might Michiganders better prepare themselves for tornadoes in the future?

“The common theme is to find some type of an interior room. Typically, it’s lower level if possible. Of course, if you’ve got a basement, that’s even better. It ideally needs to be an internal room, preferably without windows, that has some type of reinforcing support in the wall, something like plumbing, which will help protect you from flying debris,” Andresen said.

It seems as though greater levels of preparedness could have prevented at least two more deaths in the area. On Tuesday (Aug. 29), the Lansing Police Department announced that an investigation was underway after two residents were found dead of



Courtesy photo

Climatologist Jeffrey A. Andresen

probable carbon monoxide poisoning at a house in the 4000 block of Woodbridge Drive on Saturday (Aug. 26).

The victims — a 51-year-old man and a 42-year-old woman — had a generator running in the house when the area lost power, a setup that can produce deadly levels of the odorless gas in minutes while activated indoors.

Roughly 500,000 Michigan residents lost power in southern Michigan at the storm’s peak. The Lansing Board of Water & Light’s initial report listed 33,000 customers without service.

In addition to understanding how to best protect oneself in the event of a dangerous storm event, it’s also helpful to know when tornadoes are most likely to form.

In Michigan, most tornadoes occur in the late afternoon and through the evening, Andresen explained. The storms also follow annual cycles, with June being the most frequent month, followed by May, July and August.

While a greater number of Michigan tornadoes typically surface in those months, Andresen also pointed out another trend that makes last week’s storms all the more peculiar.

“If you do some research and look into the tornadoes that really cause problems — that are violent and

# Climatologist

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cause more damage, injuries and fatalities — they tend to be earlier into the spring. So, the month of April, even March and May, you'll see larger numbers there," Andreson said.

A tornado requires a few important factors to take shape.

"First, you need to have a severe thunderstorm. In that thunderstorm, you need to have extreme instability with rapidly rising updrafts, and that's actually what causes the thunderstorm — even the garden variety thunderstorms," Andreson said. The result is an unstable mix of weather conditions that boil over to create damaging winds.

"It has to do with how warm it is and how much humidity there is now at the surface," Andreson said. "When these and other factors are there, it can lead the circulation" that's part of the severe thunderstorm "to reach down towards the ground, and that's essentially what the tornado is."

One looming question remains. Is the recent tornado in Ingham County a possible sign that global warming is — like with the recent wildfires



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

A large tree that was completely uprooted in the neighborhood just south of Willow Highway during last week's tornado is one of many throughout the city that remains unmoved as recently Tuesday (Aug. 29).

on Maui and the more numerous occurrences in places like California — somehow related to the sinister, steady advance of climate change?

"It's really an intriguing question, and the answer is that we really don't know because it's very, very difficult

to say for sure," Andreson said. "It really is almost impossible to attribute a single one of these events to some kind of a change in climate because our climate in Michigan is becoming warmer and wetter with time. That's the trajectory that we're on right now."

Warmer and wetter over time? That does sound a lot like global warming, no?

"As the atmosphere warms up, and we have more humidity like we did last week, at least the potential for stronger thunderstorms is there, and, of course, that could be related. So, what we may be looking at over time — and this is true of other types of extreme weather events like heat waves as well — is that, statistically, the probability or the odds of seeing one of these events is probably increasing," Andreson said.

On the other hand, the human race simply hasn't been around long

enough to have collected the massive amounts of data needed to confirm any suspicions that more violent storms are on their way.

"It's important to remember — and I really emphasize this with students — that the storm is just nature's way of taking an energy imbalance in one place and minimizing that. These are events that that are responding to very short-term conditions. And, of course, climate change and warming are something that goes on over a much longer period," Andreson said.

So, while it remains to be proven and the jury is still out, it's important that we take this recent series of Michigan tornadoes seriously.

"That's one of the concerns for the future: that extreme events may become more frequent. The issue is that as the atmosphere warms and has more humidity, there's more energy there," Andreson said.

— TYLER SCHNEIDER

### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER) July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

TO: Citizens of the City of Lansing

PURPOSE: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THE CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER) July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

The City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning (EDP) is preparing its Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 pursuant to Federal Community Development Program rules and regulations. Prior to submitting its Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for approval, the city must, after appropriate public notice, make the report available to the public for examination and comment for a period of 15 days. The comment period is August 31, 2023 – September 15, 2023. The EDP Office must receive any comments regarding the CAPER for this time period in writing no later than 5: 00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. A summary of public comments received as a result of the public participation process will be submitted to HUD as part of the CAPER. Notice is hereby given that the CAPER for the time noted above for the City of Lansing is on file and available for review at the city's website at [www.lansingmi.gov/development](http://www.lansingmi.gov/development). Information regarding the CAPER may be obtained by contacting Doris M. Witherspoon at (517) 483-4063

or at [doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov](mailto:doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov).

CP#23-223

### Auction to be held 9/8/23 @12pm at 1425 Rensen St Lansing MI 48910 NO PHONE CALLS

- 2017 Chev Cruze 205610
- 2017 Chry 300 655446
- 1996 GMC 3500 500613
- 2007 Chevy Tahoe 205082
- 2019 Chevy Spark 819219
- 2012 Chry 300 265599
- 2003 Chevy 1500 272691
- 1972 Olds Cutlass 112007
- Dutchman Camper 608448
- 2004 Ford F150 C18206
- 2004 Chevy Tahoe 123241
- Wolf Moped 136773
- 2004 Ford Escape B39994
- 2008 Chevy Equinox 077488

CP#23-224

# Slotkin approaches the U.S. Senate race from the center

The race to select a Democrat to run for Debbie Stabenow's seat in the U.S. Senate is shaping up, in part, as progressive vs. moderate. The moderate is Elissa Slotkin, who is in her third term in the U.S. House representing Greater Lansing. At least two of her opponents, Hill Harper and Pamela Pugh, are making a point of running to her left. The Democratic primary is still almost a year away, but the race is very much in motion.

Slotkin's reputation as a moderate took on new political meaning Tuesday with the news that former Republican Congressman Mike Rogers is going to announce soon that he will seek the GOP nomination for the Senate, the Associated Press reported based on three sources. Rogers is a conservative with strong security credentials who represented Lansing in Congress from 2001 to 2015. If he is the nominee, Democrats will need to ask themselves who is better positioned to take him on: a middle-of-the-roader like Slotkin or a candidate to the left of both of them?

I caught up with Slotkin last Friday in her district office in the Federal Building, a 91-year-old limestone mausoleum best known for housing the downtown post office. She moved there for better security for her staff, which she said had received threats, after first occupying space in a commercial building at the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Saginaw Street. As one of Slotkin's staff members escorted me from the elevator, I saw just one other person in the second-floor hallway as we wound our way to a modestly decorated office where the congresswoman awaited me.

I started by asking her about a vote she cast last month that intrigued me and provided ammunition for progressives who oppose her. Slotkin was one of just two Democrats to vote with Republicans in passing a ban on flying anything other than the American flag and military flags over military facilities. The timing of the legislation was clearly influenced by the appearance of the Pride flag over the White House and in tweets sent by two branches of the military as a salute to Pride Month in June. Where will it appear next, Republicans argued, the Pentagon?

The measure was an amendment to the Defense Department budget bill. Slotkin knows the Pentagon well, having served as an acting assis-



Photo by Roxanne Frith

U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin in her District office in downtown Lansing's Federal Building.

tant secretary of defense. She serves on the House Armed Services Committee, where she voted for the DOD budget bill. She is pro military. But she changed her position to a "no" vote on the House floor "because of all the really horrible stuff that they larded into the defense bill" — including amendments to ban military funding for abortion and transgender surgery.

Slotkin said her decision to vote for the flag amendment — which would have passed without her support — came down to her personal engagement on this issue. "In the Trump administration, we started to see Proud Boys flags, Three Percenter flags, and especially the Confederate flag showing up in front of base housing on U.S. military bases in the United States," she explained. "We heard about it; I saw pictures firsthand sent from my stepdaughter. We

could see it growing." She added that she and others "pressured" Trump's secretary of defense to the point that the DOD banned all non-American and non-military flags. "So, you couldn't have a Confederate flag, you couldn't have a Pride flag, you couldn't have a Three Percenter flag, you couldn't have a pro-police flag, you couldn't have an American flag with the blue line or the red line. You couldn't have a trans flag. You couldn't have any flag other than the American flag and the unit flag." It was a policy that the Biden administration kept in place.

When the Republicans decided to make that policy law, Slotkin said, "I made the decision that I thought was the best to keep a lid on some of the darker impulses that we might see on our military bases, as controversial as it was. I could have easily just decided to do what everyone else was

doing, and maybe that would be the politically expedient thing to do. But I had personally lobbied and gone over to the Defense Department to ask for the clamping down on the Confederate flag. This was the result of that. And so I made a controversial decision."

Slotkin, whose late mother was a lesbian, said she sees the Pride flag as "hopeful, positive, prideful," not at all like the Confederate flag or the others in any sense — except one: "We have this little thing called freedom of speech, and I don't know how we ask the Pentagon to start making value judgments about certain flags. In the world we live in, there would be an automatic lawsuit, which is why the Biden administration upheld the policy" of the Trump administration.

"As someone who worked alongside the military my whole life," she added, "I feel maybe better than some Democrats because I understand the culture in the military. For every Pride flag we would see at a place like Fort Bragg, you'd see 10 flags that would send a horrible message to that soldier flying the Pride flag or that child in that home who the flag is being flown on behalf of."

## 'How I'm wired'

Whether or not you agree with Slotkin on the flag vote — and even her own chief of staff told me that he would have voted differently — it would be hard to argue that she didn't think it through. As we discussed several measures on which she broke with many Democrats, she defended her decision-making process. "I don't make willy-nilly decisions. I'm a substantive, thoughtful person who reads bills, unlike most of my peers, and makes decisions based on substance, and I'm happy to answer for every one of those bills based on substance."

I mentioned to her that when I covered Congress in the 1970s, I was impressed that Richard Lugar, the late Republican senator from Indiana who was known for his thoughtfulness, would shut his office door at 2 p.m. every day to read for an hour.

Responded Slotkin, "When you walk onto the floor of the House, there's a giant electronic board with all of our names in alphabetical order so that you can vote and make sure you voted. And I can't tell you

# Slotkin

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how many of my peers on both sides of the aisle run onto the floor, look up at the board and then just vote the way Democrats or Republicans are voting on that bill. And I would rather not be a congressman than vote default like that and not actually read what I'm looking at. I just refuse to do that no matter how much Twitter drama that gets me. That is just not how I'm wired."

Does that willingness to split with her party make Slotkin the Senate's next Kyrsten Sinema, as The New Republic has labeled her? That seems unlikely. She has supported every Biden administration bill. "The difference between me and the other Democrats tends to be on amendments and on small substantive differences rather than major radical differences with the average Democrat."

Those small differences sometimes land her on the side of Republicans, and she certainly embraces being seen as a moderate, which in her first election's campaign translated into a promise not to support the reelection of Nancy Pelosi as House speaker at a time when Re-



Photo by Roxanne Frith

Slotkin on Townsend Street in front of the south side of the Capitol. As questions in a recent interview turned to politics, the interview was moved at her request from her government space in the Federal Building to the street.

publicans were casting the liberal San Francisco Democrat as Public Enemy No. 1. (Slotkin kept her word by voting present in both 2019 and 2021, the last two times Pelosi sought the leadership post Pelosi relinquished the post in 2023.)

Though a centrist, Slotkin doesn't regard left-wing Democrats — like her Michigan colleague Rashida Tlaib — and ultra-right Republicans as being at all alike. "I may not agree with everything my fellow members of 'The Squad' or of the further left believe in, but they've never tried to do an armed insurrection to bring down our democracy. And I've never had to barricade myself in my office because people are advocating for the Green New Deal. And that, to me, is a fundamental difference," she said.

Her hope, she continued, is for "balance in the system" among Democrats and Republicans, which she analogized to how wolves and moose coexist on Isle Royale in Lake Superior. "When there's too many wolves, they eat all the moose, and the moose population crashes. When there's too many moose, they eat all the plants, and the wolves can't handle all that. So we want balance. We're deeply out of balance. But for me, my belief

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY**



**LEGAL AD NOTICE: Variance Request 23-09**  
6261 E. Lake Drive  
WEDNESDAY, September 20, 2023

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**  
LEGAL NOTICE  
Variance Request 23-09  
6261 E. Lake Drive  
Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517.853.4560) to hear all persons interested in a variance request for an accessory building in the front yard. Gary & Suzette Tyler are proposing to construct a detached garage in the front yard located at 6261 E. Lake Drive. The subject site is zoned RB (Single Family, High Density) and in the Lake Lansing Residential Overlay District.

Information may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864 1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to chapman@meridian.mi.us, or at the public hearing.

Deborah Guthrie  
Township Clerk CP#23-225



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meridian.mi.us

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY**



**LEGAL AD NOTICE: Variance Request 23-08**  
6329 Milenz  
WEDNESDAY, September 20, 2023

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**  
LEGAL NOTICE  
Variance Request 23-08  
6329 Milenz Street  
Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517.853.4560) to hear all persons interested in a variance request for a wetland setback. Craig Jon Skoczylas is proposing to construct a single-family home that does not meet the required wetland setback located at 6329 Milenz Street. The subject site is zoned RB (Single Family, High Density) and in the Lake Lansing Residential Overlay District.

Information may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864 1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to chapman@meridian.mi.us, or at the public hearing.

Deborah Guthrie  
Township Clerk CP#23-226



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# Slotkin

from page 8

as a person and my belief as a congressperson is that leadership climate is set at the top. And Donald Trump came into this country and unleashed and made popular ideas that were taboo because they were destructive. And it set off a polarized time that is deeply unhealthy and that most Americans, and certainly most Michiganders, do not like.”

“We’re not healthy right now,” Slotkin continued. “We all know that. That’s not a secret to anybody. Our country is going through something right now. But can I always hold out hope for the Republican Party to rise from the ashes of whatever it is and become again a party that is concerned about the role of government in our lives and not about power and going back to a bygone era? Sure. So that is how I approach it. And because I have to work with Republicans every single day, usually at the local level, but often sometimes in Washington, I’m in the Problem Solvers Caucus,” comprising 62 House members equally divided between the two parties.

Slotkin’s reputation as a moderate bipartisan should play well overall in purplish Michigan as the Democratic candidate for the Senate. But first she must nail the nomination in next year’s non-presidential Democratic primary election next August. And that means grasping what matters to voters in the rest of the state.

“Where I have to put in more time and more effort to understand the issues are first and foremost in Detroit and secondly in Grand Rapids,” said Slotkin, who in February was the first to announce after Stabenow made her retirement decision public. “Even just running for six months, the education that I’m getting on urban issues, on historical inequality, on environmental injustice has been something that’s really affected me. And so I can’t tell you in general, I’m going to be X or I’m going to be Y, but I’m a thinking human being. I will learn from anyone and absorb and then make as practical decisions as I can. And I would say the things that will change for me will be my focus on our biggest city and on urban inequality.”

## ‘Show up, show up, show up’

Slotkin is well aware, too, that for

the first time Michigan has no Democratic African-American member of Congress, something that has not happened in seven decades. Moreover, Michigan has never elected a Black senator. Three Democrats are hoping to make history: Harper, an actor, author and Detroit businessman; Pugh, a public health expert and president of the state Board of Education; and Leslie Love, a former state representative and the first African American to serve on the Michigan Natural Resources Commission.

Thus, winning the nomination means doing well in Detroit, a Democratic stronghold where nearly 40% of Michigan’s Black population lives. It means denying as many votes as possible to two Detroit candidates: Harper, a highly visible celebrity who chose to make it his home six years ago and from which he commuted to Vancouver to film his scenes in the TV series “The Good Doctor”; and Love, who was elected three times to the state House from there, beginning in 2015, until she was term-limited.

Slotkin likened what she faces in Detroit to what she faced in 2018, when she first ran for the U.S. House. “Six years ago today, I was just get-

ting into politics, so I understand what it’s like to be a new person in politics,” she said. “And it just means that I have to work really hard to earn people’s votes, particularly in Detroit. And all I can do in Detroit is what I did when I first ran for this district, which is show up and show up and show up and show up. Listen, learn and act. And at the end of the day, you never know exactly how you’re going to need your senator, right?”

“Look at today. We have storms and power outages. We have major damage. You never know what you’re going to need to call your senator for. And the question is, when you call your senator, do they answer and do they act? Will they fight on your behalf? And I feel that I have demonstrated that through my work here in this district, and I’m prepared to do the same thing in a statewide race. And as for having African-American candidates in the race, especially, there’s two women who have a real history of public service, which I of course deeply respect. All that means is I have to work twice as hard to get to know people and to earn people’s vote.”

— BERL SCHWARTZ

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# How a church photograph has put reparations in view

While I was a professor with the Lansing Community College writing program, part of my job was to help grade students' writing. Their writing was keyed to class assignments. The one I hated was the one where students were assigned to write about a photograph. The students submitted the photo with their writing, but unfortunately (in my view) did not describe the photo, assuming that the reader could look at the image for themselves. We could, and did, and do.

Images often stand alone. In a sight-dominated world, photographs capture attention. They create first impressions and can

elicit gut-wrenching reactions. Optics represent snapshots of mountaintop moments.

Consider the group photo appearing here with my column: The shot was taken at a church on August 20, 2023, a Sunday morning, the so-called most segregated hour in America. The smiling Black and white people represent the Justice League of Greater Lansing, and All Saints Episcopal Church of East Lansing. It shows the type of moment most Americans wish to be in on: getting a big check. The check for \$130,470.62 is to atone for injustices done to African Americans by the church. It goes into the Justice League of Lansing's reparations endowment fund.

The Justice League of Greater Lansing seeks to repair the breach caused by slavery and its aftermath by increasing wealth equity for African

Americans in the Greater Lansing area. A faith-based organization, its members are churches.

The check-passing photograph came as the result of two years of "learning" of its part in injustice, All Saints Pastor Katherine Carlson said. This study also included making known the acts the church participated in to secure its privilege. One example was in the early 1950s, when Michigan State University faculty member Dave Dickson wanted to buy a house in East Lansing. All Saints did not support him in fear that "stepping out" for Dixon, an African American, might have hurt its campaign to build their new church.

The injustice was clear, Carlson said, when All Saints recently sold a house it owned in East Lansing for \$260K. A similar house in south Lansing is valued at about \$70K. The vast dollar gap arises from white people being able to buy a house anywhere, while Black people cannot. All Saints



**Opinion**



Justice League members with All Saints pastors. Back (L-R): Marcus Cheatham, Sallie Campbell, Mike Bryan. Front (L-R): Prince Solace, Justice League President; Willye Bryan, Justice League Founder and Vice President; Kit Carlson, All Saints Pastor; Krista Heuett, All Saints Assistant Pastor; Bessie Roper.

decided to give the Justice League half of its house sale proceeds. The money will help fund scholarships, businesses and home ownership in Lansing's Af-

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS  
EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL**

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.**, at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing MI, 48823.

The City of East Lansing received written notification on June 7, 2023, regarding a proposed plan to expand parking facilities near a 0.71 acre wetland. Both the wetland and parking area are located at 2680 East Lansing Drive and both are owned by the applicant, Merit Laboratories, Inc. A public hearing will be held to consider the regulatory status of the wetland.

Under authority of Chapter 49, Wetland Protection, of the East Lansing City Code, the City Council determines if wetlands under two acres in size are essential to the preservation of the natural resources of the City based on criteria set forth in Section 49-14, subsection (1). If determined to be essential, the wetland will be considered regulated and protected by the City of East Lansing, and regulated activity within the wetland area will be subject to a Wetland Use Permit application, review and approval determination.

All persons wishing to make comments shall furnish their written comments to Cliff Walls, Environmental Specialist, City of East Lansing, 1800 E State Road, East Lansing MI, 48823, [cwalls@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:cwalls@cityofeastlansing.com).

Copies of the recommendation of the City's wetland consultant, as well as comments made by the Commission on the Environment, may be obtained at the City of East Lansing Department of Public Works, 1800 E. State Road, during normal business hours.

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.

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 Department of Public Works, 1800 E. State Road, East Lansing, MI 48823, (517) 337-9459 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at [cwalls@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:cwalls@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).**

Marie E. Wicks  
City Clerk CP#23-229

**CITY OF GRAND LEDGE  
NOTICE OF INTENT TO PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY**



The Grand Ledge City Council will hold a public hearing during its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, 11 September 2023, to consider and receive public input on the purchase of real property on Oakwood St. (Parcel #400-012-100-081-02) The proposed purchase is available for review on the City's website at [www.cityofgrandledge.com](http://www.cityofgrandledge.com) and at the City Clerk's office, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge, Michigan, between 8:00 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge MI 48837, in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, as amended, and will also be livestreamed via Zoom for informational purposes only. The online stream can be accessed at <https://www.zoom.us> with the Meeting ID: 833 6725 4136, or by calling +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC), +1 305 224 1968 US, +1 309 205 3325 US, +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), +1 646 876 9923 US (New York), +1 646 931 3860 US, +1 253 205 0468 US, +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma), +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston), +1 360 209 5623 US, +1 386 347 5053 US, +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose), +1 507 473 4847 US, +1 564 217 2000 US, +1 669 444 9171 US, +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose), +1 689 278 1000 US, +1 719 359 4580 US with Meeting ID: 833 6725 4136.

The City Council invites anyone interested to attend in person and offer comments at the public hearing. Written comments can be mailed or delivered to Elected or Appointed Officials at 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge, MI 48837, placed in the drop box in front of City Hall, or emailed to [cityhall@cityofgrandledge.com](mailto:cityhall@cityofgrandledge.com). All written comments will be considered if received by 5:00 p.m. the day of the hearing. Please call (517) 627-2149 or email [cityhall@cityofgrandledge.com](mailto:cityhall@cityofgrandledge.com) for further information or to request accommodations for disabilities.

Gregory Newman, City Clerk CP#23-231

# State Republicans cling to EVs, China as uniting campaign issues

The Michigan Republican Party chair said in her newest video that the state of Michigan is “ground zero” for a globalist takedown of the United States.

In a three-minute video posted online, Kristina Karamo made the claim that in Oakland County, the United Nations is trying to implement “Agenda 2030” in an effort to end poverty, achieve gender equality and protect the planet’s natural resources.

Karamo said, “We are going to educate the citizenry on their political power.”

In the same week that Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is urging lawmakers to address prescription drug prices, paid family leave and the fact that thousands lost power for days after a storm, the Republican Party’s state leader is throwing around QAnon claims of a globalist takeover.

Somebody is addressing issues that impact regular people.

The other person is chasing wild theories birthed from cynicism, a few loosely connected pieces of twisted information and an overactive imagination.

However, Karamo referenced an issue that connects with the masses and may give Republicans their best shot at election victories next fall: Chinese companies’ receiving hundreds of millions of dollars in state money to build electric vehicles that make up only 5% of the market.

It could be the only issue that unites the grassroots and the average voter, helping GOP candidates in competitive districts. Consider:

- The Republicans lost the pro-life abortion issue in 2022 by going all in against Proposal 3.
- Liberalizing gun laws after all of the mass shootings this country has had is a loser.
- Inflation seems to be coming under control. The economy hasn’t crashed.

So, perhaps the best chance Republicans have is tapping into people’s general discomfort with the latest push for technology in the name of environmental protection.

EVs rely on battery technology manufactured by primarily Chinese-based companies.

The highly industrialized communist country was a convenient political punching bag for Democrats, who

roasted Dick DeVos in 2006 and Rick Snyder in 2010 for their respective business dealings in China. Now, Republicans see an opportunity to use it on Democrats.

Whitmer pushed for sending \$732 million in state incentives to lure Gotion to build an advanced battery plant outside of Big Rapids. Gotion, like all Chinese companies, must profess loyalty to the Chinese Communist Party in its bylaws.

The governor also wanted hundreds of millions more to make sure the Blue Oval electric vehicle battery plant in Marshall got off the ground. Ford will be working with Chinese-based CATL to make this project happen.

Then there’s China’s aggressive expansion efforts around the globe. What is China doing building roads in Argentina? Could it displace the United States as the world’s No. 1 power?

Now, with Michigan government spending around \$1 billion to buoy EV technology companies, Republicans are asking, “What’s the point?”

Why are we giving money to Chinese companies to help them make more money off Americans that they can eventually send back to their homeland?

For the conspiracy wing of the Republican Party: Gotion is only 100 miles away from Fort Custer. What if it housed a foreign national army to overrun our military?!

The argument plays on the fears of those susceptible to conspiracy theories while being relatable to those who don’t understand why the government is spending so much money on expensive, impractical EVs.

People like their gas-powered vehicles, you know?

There’s a gas station just about anywhere you need one. It takes about five minutes to pump 20 gallons.

Taking a trip Up North in an EV comes with automatic range anxiety. Where is there a recharging station? What if the battery peters out before we get to the next recharging station? You can’t grab a gas can at the nearest station to fuel up an EV.

How long will a charge take? An hour? A half-hour?

At a time when Republicans are struggling to find anything that connects with average, everyday people, plugging into the EV issue may be better in the long haul.

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



KYLE MELINN

Opinion

POLITICS

## Barker

from page 10

frican American community. Carlson said the congregation should not be proud of this moment — it was long overdue. But as an African American member of All Saints, I am proud.

Historically, Americans have refused to see their nation’s history for the mixed bag it is. Some people want a uniform image of America favoring whites. But that limits Black people, as photography did for many years. Until very recently, camera lens settings focused on a person. Anyone not near that person’s shade risked being blacked out. Persons of dark skin risked having their features wiped out. No smile, no cheekbones, no lips, just gleaming teeth and the whites of their eyes. Many dark Black people would rather not be in the photo than suffer that indignity.

But America needs the energy of those people who are hidden from view, often working behind the scenes to affect great change. Groundbreaking efforts like reparations represent a panoramic view of history. Slavery is over, but it’s not done. Its effects become clear when individuals work to achieve justice.

The history of reparations goes back to Reconstruction. Forty acres and a mule was the post-Civil War promise the U.S. government made to emancipated Black people so as to give them a new start in the newly United States. It never happened. The promise was a snapshot that faded with time, taking hope and faith with it. Black farmers are still trying to get justice from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The issue of reparations next came in front of Congress in 1989. The late U.S. Rep. John Conyers Jr., D-Detroit, introduced H.R. 40. It called

for investigating slavery and remedies for its damage. That went nowhere, except to the next session — where Conyers kept introducing the bill until his retirement from Congress in 2017. Conyers died in 2019. H.R. 40 failed during his lifetime, but now his idea is becoming a shared American vision.

No one photo captures that journey. To try is to risk caricatures such as Uncle Ben and Aunt Jemima.

Families, including mine, dealt with unpopular relatives by cutting them out of photos (yes, there would be an actual hole in the print). Or the photo would be weirdly cut down to half its size. It was a denial of reality, a rolling back of history, a creation of mystery. Titillating, yes; but violent as well, in trying to unsee the person.

As digital technology increases use of images, people can falsify history by cutting out Black Americans. We must continue to challenge their actions.

Florida and other states edit Black Americans out of history textbooks or stop offering Black History AP courses. They color our experience as one-dimensional, as in the notion that slavery benefited Black people because while enslaved, they learned skills that could be used to earn money. Slavery did not benefited Black people! Slavery benefitted those who enslaved Black people: generally, and overwhelmingly white people.

But this photograph of “superheroes” — the Justice League of Greater Lansing and All Saints Episcopal Church — shows a moment of encouragement, honesty and fairness, and a righting of a wrong. It’s the continuation of a crusade.

*(Dedria Humphries Barker is the author of “Mother of Orphans: The True and Curious Story of Irish Alice, A Colored Man’s Widow.” Her opinion column appears on the last Wednesday of each month.)*

### CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**Z-8-2023 & SLU-2-2023, 415 & 421 W. Kalamazoo Street**  
Rezoning from “DT-3” Urban Core to “R-AR” Residential Adaptive Reuse  
Special Land Use Permit - Sheltered Care Facility

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider requests by VIRIDIS Design Group on behalf of the City Rescue Mission of Lansing to rezone the properties at 415 & 421 W. Kalamazoo Street from “DT-3” Urban Core to “R-AR” Residential Adaptive Reuse and for a special land use permit to operate a sheltered care facility at these locations.

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](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov).

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#23-232

# Racing the clock on downtown growth

## With extra fuel from the state, Paul Gentilozzi puts the pedal to the metal

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

It takes a second to blink off the noonday glare of downtown Lansing and adjust to the butterscotch glow of the historic Atrium Building on Washington Square.

In that blink, Paul Gentilozzi zoomed a few laps ahead of me.

“This is the coolest building in Lansing,” he shouted, shrinking into a white dot. How does he move so fast?

Leaving a storied career in auto racing behind, Gentilozzi has settled into the real estate and development business he and his sons, John and Tony, have built over the past five decades.

No, not “settled.” At 73, he’s still a body in motion, the point man for the most ambitious project Lansing’s downtown has seen in decades.

A \$215 million package of three major projects, announced earlier this month, promises to bring 450 units of “workforce” housing (not luxury condos) to a struggling downtown, all but abandoned by the state workers that once filled the stores and restaurants before COVID.

The centerpiece of New Vision Lansing is Tower on Grand, a 25-story glass tower on Grand Avenue, just north of the Grand Tower office building. The tower would be Lansing’s tallest building, with 300 housing units and a rooftop deck with a raft of amenities.

Capital Tower, a glassy 10-story slab and smaller cousin to Tower on Grand, is planned for the corner of Capitol and Ottawa streets and would contain 70 apartments.

The third piece of New Vision Lansing is the conversion of the century-old Washington Square building at the corner of Washington Square and Michigan Avenue, the longtime home of the state Court of Appeals, to 70 housing units.

If the three-pronged plan succeeds, and similar projects follow, Lansing’s downtown could have a fighting chance to rally from the ravages of the pandemic, and even build a permanent community resistant to the boom-and-bust cycles of the past.

“You’ve got to see this,” Gentilozzi said.

See Vision, Page 13



**Tower on Grand**

“Straddling Grand Ave from the riverfront to Washington Square, Tower on Grand will raise Lansing’s skyline with record-breaking height,” says a press release for the Aug. 8 announcement of New Vision Lansing. “At more than 300,000 square feet, the 25-story building will offer 300 units of market and workforce housing and feature riverfront restaurants and retail, as well as a unique one-acre green rooftop amenity and resident-gathering deck with views extending to and beyond the MSU campus and surrounds. Rarely found urban living amenities will include pickleball courts, dog walks, an indoor-outdoor swimming pool, and outdoor grilling cabanas. Indoor parking for 500 cars, including electric car charging is planned, tripling parking availability currently in downtown Lansing. Giving a nod to Lansing’s past, the historic 1920s-built Atrium Building, now owned and managed by Gentilozzi and which fronts Washington Square, will maintain its golden-era arcade-like interior, and will play a leading role as a connecting space to the Tower on Grand.”

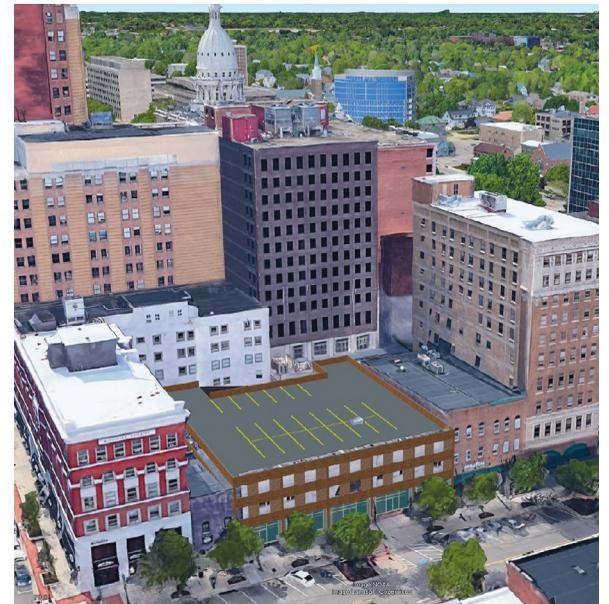


**Capitol Tower**

“With its curved and glassy face within a few steps to the State Capitol Building and state government complex centers, Capitol Tower is slated to rise at the corner of Capitol and Ottawa NW. It will offer 48,000 square feet of premium office space that has already been pre-leased. Additionally, it will harbor approximately 70 market rate and workforce apartments and feature parking for 110 vehicles, a rooftop deck and conferencing center for office tenants. Capitol Tower will support blight removal and renew the capitol building’s prime northwest corner, increasing the population density and helping to underpin adjacent neighborhoods,” the press release said.

### On the cover

Paul Gentilozzi and his son John pose in the lobby of the Atrium Building, which will be the gateway to the 25-story Tower on Grand from Washington Square. Photo by Roxanne Frith.



**Washington Square**

“Yielding a historic structure with all the modern features of modern living, Washington Square will renovate a cornerstone of Lansing’s history – a 100-year historic office building that once housed the Michigan Court of Appeals. Upon completion, the new Washington Square will add 55,000 square feet of 70 workforce housing units prominently positioned overlooking the city’s main intersection, immediately east of the Executive Office of the Governor and less than a block from Michigan’s historic Capitol Building. It will feature private and secured enclosed parking in an adjacent structure. While maintaining the historic streetscape at this part of Washington Square, the midblock structure will provide 6,000 square feet of new ground floor for five new retail bays to renew street level aesthetics.”

# Vision

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Forget the skyscraper, for now. He's excited about the project's crowning flourish.

A planned sky bridge will span Grand Avenue, linking the historic Atrium Building to the new tower — the perfect architectural metaphor for a project meant to usher downtown from its golden past to its next chapter.

The Atrium Building, at 215 S. Washington, was once the gateway to Lansing's storied Michigan Theatre — a sugary, ornate arcade of retail businesses with gorgeous skylights, lush masonry frosting and a spectacular, intricate tile façade. In the 1920s and '30s, it was the Strand Theatre, where show-goers walked through the arcade to see live acts like Harry Houdini, Bing Crosby and Marian Anderson.

Charlie Chaplin sent a congratulatory telegram when the place opened April 21, 1921.

In later decades, after the Strand became the Art Deco-themed Michigan Theatre, Gentilozzi and his dad spent many evenings watching movies here.

"The box office was here," he said, planting himself, briefly, under an airy pink and blue cupola. "You got your popcorn here."

In the arcade's next life, it will funnel Tower on Grand's tenants and visitors straight from their apartments, across the grassy sky bridge with its dog run and pickle ball courts to the heart of Lansing's downtown business district.

City leaders hope the residents will shop, eat, take in a show at the new performing arts center now under construction a few blocks away, maybe pick up a bag of cashews at the Peanut House — in short, enjoy a community.

## 'Downtown was it'

Paul Gentilozzi has lived two lives. His auto racing life took him around the world, from New Zealand to Le Mans and everywhere in between. When people asked him where he was from, he noted the blank look at the reply: "Lansing."

Little victories for his hometown meant a lot. In Gentilozzi's drag racing days, before ESPN, National Hot Rod Association races occasionally popped up on ABC's "Wide World of Sports." The names and hometowns of the racers appeared on screen.

"When it said 'Lansing,' that was a big deal for me," he said.

Gentilozzi's father, Albert, owned a ceramic tile and marble company, Detroit Tile. The family moved to Lansing from Detroit in 1959.

Paul loved downtown Detroit and spent a lot of time in masterpieces like the Penobscot Building and Cadillac Building, tagging along with his dad on construction jobs.

"I loved big buildings," he said. "They were romantic to me."

Howard Stoddard, owner of Michigan National Bank, invited Albert to Lansing to do construction work on the mid-century modern Billie S. Farnum building,

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Lawrence Cosentino City/Pulse

Paul Gentilozzi in his office at Gentilozzi Real Estate in downtown Lansing's Victor Center on Washington Square.



(Bottom) The old City Club of Lansing occupied the empty space on Grand Avenue where Tower on Grand will be built. It was razed in 2009 to make room for what was going to be the tallest building in Lansing (top), a residential high rise called Capitol Club Tower. But funding dried up during the Great Recession, and the plan never got off the ground.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Paul Gentilozzi in the parking lot of the Atrium Building, pointing across Grand Avenue to where he intends to build Tower on Grand, which at 25 stories would become Lansing's tallest building.

Television programming has attempted to portray society in modern times, and some very popular shows have been influential in public sentiment. They have rarely highlighted the systemically worst parts of society. Hollywood will fluff stories and scripts for the viewers' pleasure. While treading carefully, they've been a part of the progress we've seen because the writers attempt to touch on current events.

In a way, many of us grew up trying to emulate what we'd see in our favorite shows. We also find empathy when shows tackle topics that really hit close to home. Obviously, anyone would be a fool to believe everything you see on TV or in theaters. It is, after all, entertainment. I like to think that much of the progress we've seen is because we have the capacity through media to see things that generations past never had the opportunity to see. Information didn't travel as fast just a couple of generations ago.

The story of Emmett Till exposed the worst of America through print media. George Holliday exposed police brutality by recording the LAPD mercilessly beating Rodney King. And of course, George Floyd's death was instantaneously shown worldwide and sparked months of unrest. Real life is not scripted, but Hollywood is. With so many having access to produce material that gives a glimpse into reality, what we see on our screens can have an impact on how we move forward by highlighting issues that we may have thought to be isolated, but now see as systemic.

The world is a big place, and things happen which we'd never know about except for the fact that everyone has a cell phone with a camera. Since everything is political now, we need politicians who are able to be diplomatic, to relate to everyone in our society, to understand that we are only as strong as our weakest links, and probably most important, to know our history, accept it, and to acknowledge that there is so much work that needs to be done to realize the principles that we preach and have yet to realize. It seems that for a faction of our society, the fact that we talk about racial injustice is enough for them to think it's an attack on America itself. But James Baldwin said it best: "I love America more than any other country in this world, and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually."

We must confront the uncomfortable truths that have been ignored for so long that they have actually fostered an environment that has perpetuated the problem. Some are not willing to even listen to reason that is supported by logic and undeniable evidence. Nationalism has gotten the best of many, and it's a stumbling block that is not just hurting the people who have always been on the receiving end of injustice, but absolutely those who espouse it. The long game has been fought by conservatives and, even when they think they are winning, they are losing — because the truth does not support them, and I believe that a society is only as dignified as its poorest people.

The following is a speech from the show *Madam Secretary*. While the speech is scripted, there have been politicians who have spoken as eloquently. I long for the days of having elected leaders who take opportunities to address the issues of our days by making bold and truthful statements meant for the betterment of all people.

*"What is an even greater threat than nuclear weapons? That which makes the use of them possible: hate. Specifically, the blind hatred one group or nation can have for another. That is why I believe nationalism is the existential threat of our time."*

*"Now I want to be clear. Nationalism is not the same as patriotism. It's a perversion of patriotism. Nationalism ... promotes the idea that inclusion and diversity represent weakness, that the only way to succeed is to give blind allegiance to the supremacy of one race over all others. Nothing could be less American."*

*"Patriotism on the other hand, is about building each other up and embracing our diversity as the source of our nation's strength. 'We the people' means all of the people. America's heroes didn't die for race or region. They died for the ideals enshrined in our Constitution. Above all, freedom from tyranny, which requires our unwavering support of a free press; freedom of religion, all religions; the right to vote, and making sure nothing infringes on any of those rights, which belong to us all."*

*"Look where isolationism has gotten us in the past. Two world wars. Seventy million dead. Never again can we go back to those dark times when fear and hatred, like a contagion, infected the world ... We must never lose sight of our common humanity, our common values, and our common decency."*

*"I was reminded recently of our nation's founding motto, 'E Pluribus Unum. Out of Many One.' Thirteen disparate colonies became one country. One people. And today, we call on all Americans, and people everywhere, to reject the scourge of nationalism. Because governments can't legislate tolerance or eradicate hate. That's why each one of us has to find the beauty in our differences instead of the fear. Listen instead of reacting. Reach out instead of recoiling. It's up to us, all of us..."*

I truly miss listening to Barack Obama. He spoke eloquently, was empathetic and intellectual, had grace, and had the ability to compromise and even apologize. People hated Obama. What a time to be the first African American POTUS. He was elected during the worst major financial crisis of our time. He had several military conflicts to consider. His election also incubated Conservative Evangelical Christianity's admiration and affiliation with White Supremacy. The bigotry and racism was overt, and they laughably called him a racist for calling the police arrest of Henry Louis Gates Jr. stupid. And it was stupid. Every opportunity they had, they poured it on. Posters portraying him as a monkey, calling Michelle Obama a man, using images of bananas, etc. You name it, they did it.

## Sponsored

Those in a more public eye tend to blame Obama for the economic downturn, certainly huge issues. Siding with the wrong move, but I think rarely do they would've never praised him for wearing a tan suit without making a statement, implacable, and it had less to do with ever admit. He couldn't control the murder when he said if he had been there without them saying his son was Trayvon, that he'd be wearing a tan suit. They said Obama also couldn't control he wasn't born here, that he was united against him because he was America, and questioning his right to divide the country by making Hawaii when he had proven multiple times over Hawaii.

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The division in America is not new, it is worse than ever, though. We are many of us can't have a conversation without getting hostile. But frankly, it's no surprise, because one of the things a person to do is to admit that the silence doesn't help, and the solution is, I have to point out that in my own eyes in the hopes that their belief may snap out of it and put in front of them.

I was just watching some footage of a be-convicted Donald Trump. He gave speeches just for fun — because it's easier than crying — and I was wondering how he got elected. I gave a "no" for Trump from me on just how I thought we were too stupid for someone who showed no interest to lead. But looking back, there are the smartest country in the world consistently underperforming, and thinking we were smart enough, only can he not speak coherently. "Brandon" crowd loves to point out his speech — but aside from Trump's speech, he is a hypocrite.

## ed content

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Nearly every single person Trump had surrounding him was labeled at the beginning as the "greatest ever," but they would eventually all be called names: terrible, the worst, unqualified, stupid, liars, or some other derogatory name when they left their positions. Only Stormy Daniels was qualified for the job he hired her to do. I am no Biden apologist; he certainly has his faults. Who doesn't? But aside from the fact that he is old, and he actually has a legitimate speech impediment, at least he doesn't defame people when they turn on him, and he is far less of a hypocrite than the disgraced former president and those who still support him.

Make no mistake, we are still generally the same population that elected Trump seven years ago, so it is not impossible to think that we could find ourselves in a similar position again. My mental state during his presidency was not good at all, and I will not do well if I have to endure someone pretending like they are the leader of the "free world" while simultaneously destroying it. I admit, I have selfish reasons for not wanting to go through that again; I have other things that I want to do besides battle with these so-called leaders. Between the eight years Obama was attacked and the four years of listening to Trump — all while white Christian nationalists went all in on racism, xenophobia, bigotry, and the all-too-often dismissed patriarchy — we deserve some accountability. You don't just get to attack the Capitol, stoke the flames of racism, target the gay/queer community, and walk into the sunset.

I'm not going to sit here and tell you that the media isn't biased. The media consists of people and people are flawed. But the media is necessary, and by discrediting every news source that didn't put him in a positive light, he fractured the reality because they'd only listen to him, and everything else was fake, biased or not. They even believed he had the largest crowd ever to attend an inauguration, even though pictures clearly showed differently. The reason Trump was attacked for his entire presidency is he instigated everything that came his way by displaying an extremely poor character that most people would've shielded their daughters from if he were just some random guy on the street. He was most certainly fanning the flames of racism leading the charge on Obama's citizenship. He did the same thing decades earlier with the since-exonerated Central Park Five.

Everything has to be about truth, especially history. We have so much potential, and yet we find ourselves in a battle of wills. I believe that our biggest stumbling block is that we have put way too much emphasis on a document written by slave owners when we colonized land that was already occupied. We have never taken full accountability of that. We committed genocide of a people, and enslaved others. History gets watered down for the sake of comfort, and then some claim everything they don't like as "woke". Did you know that plantation owners were given reparations when slavery was "abolished"? Plantation owners who lost their "property" were paid for every enslaved person they owned. We reneged on reparations for previously enslaved people — 40 acres and a mule,

which would have been huge for generations that followed — but nobody wants to talk about that.

It isn't difficult to see how the lasting impacts of not taking accountability and dismantling these systems of oppression could've led to the many disparities that we see today. Discrimination doesn't go away with a few policy changes; discrimination is passed down by ordinary people in how they talk in their homes. Those attitudes end up being realized in everyday interactions, justified by years of societal constructs, and they are manifested by stereotypes that people use to justify their actions and reinforced by the "legally" criminalizing people — creating joblessness and homelessness; through redlining, gentrification; and exacerbating the racial disparity in the prison population by policing the already oppressed Black communities, making it appear as though the Black community has a higher crime rate and imprisoning Black men at such a high rate that they can claim that they are abandoning their roles as fathers.

It is all so misleading, but it is caused by manipulation of reality and the undermining of taking accountability for the reasons we are where we are today. There are far too many nuances, and I am probably not even scratching the surface of how complicated it is. But it is not as simple as pulling yourself up by the bootstraps, that is for damn sure. And that fractured reality is a large part of the reason that a guy like Trump, a career criminal, could be revered and elected POTUS.

As nuanced as humans are, we can't even agree that the planet is threatening our behavior. We are largely ignoring the signs that our exploitation is unsustainable. The planet will outlive us. Civilization may not even outlast what the planet has in store for us. I will not have to deal with the ramifications in my lifetime, but somebody's children will ultimately look back and wonder why money was so important, and that is really what is at the root of all of this. Greed was the excuse for using race as a means of free labor, and that wealth was meant to be preserved at all costs, and the only way to assure that inheritance is to preserve the lie and have zero accountability. Is it too late? It is never too late to do the right thing, even if it means that we may not be able to correct everything, or even survive it.

As the great Bill Hicks once said, "Folks, it's time to evolve. That's why we're troubled. You know why our institutions are failing us; the church, the state, everything's failing? It's because, um — they're no longer relevant. We're supposed to keep evolving. Evolution did not end with us growing opposable thumbs."

## Vision

from page 13

later the Stoddard Building, now “the Louie,” kitty-corner from the Capitol.

That sky bridge Gentilozzi plans to build over Grand Avenue reflects a long-time fascination with cool urban infrastructure.

While his dad worked 20 stories above, Gentilozzi set up his hockey goal and took shots for hours in the underground tunnel that runs under Allegan Street between the former Michigan National tower and the Stoddard Building.

He loved to take things apart and put them back together. On Saturdays, he and his buddies toiled around the Elmhurst elementary schoolyard until his friend’s go-cart broke and someone would have to push it home.

He lived in the Colonial Village neighborhood on Lansing’s southwest side and went to West Junior High, which he found “exciting” because it was close to downtown. Nearly every day, he walked or rode his bike over the Logan Street (now Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard) bridge to see movies at the Michigan Theatre and the Gladmer across the street.

“Downtown was really it for me,” he

said. “Everything happened here. There was a dignity to downtown. Not that it’s gone now, but I loved being downtown when I was young.”

He started working as a clerk at age 15 at Knapp’s Department Store in 1965. He started out stocking shelves in ladies’ wear, but soon moved to sporting goods.

He met his wife, Debbie, there. They married in 1971.

At 16, he spent a lot of time “cruising the gut” on Washington Avenue, between Michigan Avenue and Saginaw Street — Lansing’s equivalent of Detroit’s peel-out paradise, Woodward Avenue.

Before urban renewal projects closed it off and hemmed it in, the avenue was a wide-open drag stretch, home to the Lansing Hotel (now the site of Gentilozzi’s One Michigan Avenue), Paramount News and the Downtown Art, a porno theater.

The cars lined up, backed into parking spots and cruised up and down the Gut.

About the same time, he started racing his ’65 Cutlass convertible with a 442 engine at Onondaga Dragway.

One evening, after Gentilozzi won his class at Onondaga, he triumphantly cruised to the McDonald’s on South Cedar Street and parked under the neon, with the top down. His car number was written on the windshield in shoe polish and a trophy sat in the passenger seat.

“Man, I was it, absolutely it,” he said.

Around 11 p.m., he spotted his father’s light blue 1964 Oldsmobile four-door pulling into the lot. His parents, brother and sister picked that moment to stop at McDonalds on their way home from the Lansing Drive-In on Cedar near Jolly Road.

“He just looked at me,” Gentilozzi said.

He had to surrender the keys for a month.

### Turning ‘money into noise’

At this point, we have to take the off ramp from Gentilozzi’s racing career, because there is just too much to tell — 31 Trans Am wins, the most in series history by far, a dramatic team victory in the 1994 24 Hours of Daytona race and some good times racing with his friend, movie star Paul Newman.

Gentilozzi reached full speed in the real estate lane of life when he built One Michigan Avenue in 1983. It was his first real estate coup on his own, after graduating from MSU’s Eli Broad College of Business and working nine years with real estate mogul and civic leader Walter Neller.

Striking out on his own, at age 31, was a heady experience.

“That put us on the map,” he said. “It was the first new building in downtown

Lansing in 50 years. It brought IBM downtown. They leased almost 60,000 square feet at the time.”

By the 2000s, Gentilozzi built up a real estate portfolio topping \$100 million, including the 16-story Grand Tower at 225 S. Grand Ave., built in 1991.

But he was getting fed up with the politics of real estate deals. Gentilozzi and Steve Roznowski, CEO of Christman Co., made a proposal to convert City Hall into the new Senate office building, but the proposal fell through.

“I got mad at the system a few years ago,” he said.

Around the same time, Gentilozzi’s brother, Tony, died of cancer.

Life was putting a lot of creases in his forehead. In 2007, he fired a young driver, Ryan Hunter-Reay, from his Rocketsports Racing team.

Hunter-Reay, who went on to win the IndyCar series championship in 2012 and the Indianapolis 500 in 2014, sued Gentilozzi and Rocketsports for wrongful termination and “disparagement of character.”

The case dragged on for years like a broken exhaust pipe. In early 2017, a federal judge in Grand Rapids awarded Hunter-Reay \$3.2 million.

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# Vision

from page 16

According to a report in the online RACER magazine, federal marshals descended on Gentilozzi's RSR Racing shop in East Lansing to seize his assets to satisfy the judgment.

Gentilozzi said he had his own reasons for opting to settle rather than seek a new trial.

"I'd been in court 100 days," he said. "It was a doozy. It went on for 12 years."

He huddled with his family. "I told them, 'I'm going to pay this and we'll never spend another day in court,'" he told them. "Let's not have another negative day in our lives."

For a while, Gentilozzi and his sons concentrated on racing, operating from a shop in East Lansing. They also ventured into big-time entertainment promoting, once presenting Elton John in Miami.

By the time COVID lockdowns emptied downtown offices and stores, he was feeling a familiar tug.

"We're just turning money into noise," he told his sons. "Let's go back downtown."

Gentilozzi moved back into his old offices at the downtown Victor Center, 201 N. Washington, about a year ago.

He confessed that he "stole" son John from the racing world to help with the real estate business. John is still an engineer for Ed Carpenter Racing, a team that competes in the IndyCar series, including the Indy 500.

Unpacked boxes are still stacked along one wall, next to a photo of Paul Gentilozzi racing his red Ferrari at Le Mans.

"Same office, same view that I loved," he said.

But when he made the familiar two-block walk to Kewpee's Restaurant, he was shocked by the lack of buzz downtown.

"There was nobody, nobody," he said. "No one on the sidewalk. It was like a Sunday. Man, that was sad."

## 'Do we just die?'

Shocked by empty storefronts and bare sidewalks downtown, Gentilozzi consulted with Joe Kosik, a longtime business partner. Kosik is a partner at Bloomfield Hills-based JFK Investment Co., Gentilozzi's partner in the New Vision Lansing project.

"Before COVID, we talked about building more office buildings," Gentilozzi said. "Well, that's dead. We're not doing that."

They talked about the urgent need to bring people to live downtown, not just to fill empty eateries, shops and sidewalks, but also to reverse the "death spiral" of a dwindling tax base.

They looked at cities that were having success bringing new residents downtown, including Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo and Cincinnati.

The Lumen, a glassy 34-story slab anchoring Cleveland's thriving theater district, caught his attention. (Gentilozzi once owned the Cleveland Grand Prix.) Completed in 2020, the Lumen was only the second new high-rise apartment building to be built in Cleveland since the 1970s.

"The recovery in Cleveland is all based on housing," Gentilozzi said. "There are 1,000 apartments under construction right now — three 25-story high rises that will bring 2,000 people."

It made sense to plug downtown Lansing's potential to anchor new housing into the growing demand for "workforce" (also called "missing middle") housing, most frequently defined as housing affordable to households earning 80 to 120 percent of the area's median income. (U.S. Census Bureau placed the median household income in Ingham County from 2017 to 2021 at \$58,226.)



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Gentilozzi pointing out details on the exterior of the historic Atrium Building, on Washington Square. Once the home of the Strand and Michigan theaters, the movie auditorium was torn down, but in the 1980s Gentilozzi Real Estate restored much of the interior, which is primarily offices.

Gentilozzi estimated that the construction cost would be \$350 a square foot. Workforce rental rates in greater Lansing would produce about \$225 a square foot in income.

"I'm not Van Andel or DeVos," Gentilozzi said. "I can't just take the difference out of the trust and say I'm doing it for the fun of it. So do we just die and say we're not going to do it?"

A consultant told Gentilozzi they could apply for a transformational brownfield credit of about \$60 million spread over 15 years, but the timetable was uncertain. It could take two years or more to get the credits approved and assure prospective lenders that the credits were locked in.

The clock was ticking. Construction costs were rising, and many downtown businesses were hanging by a thread. (Grand Traverse Pie Co. closed last week.)

Gentilozzi drew upon his experience as director of the Michigan Strategic Fund for six years. He pressed the fund's current leaders for hard data on where economic development money was going in Michigan from 2012 to 2022.

He found that in the past 10 years, the city of Detroit got 49.5 percent of all eco-

nomics development dollars given out by the state of Michigan, at a time when the metro area represents about 25 percent of the state's population. Grand Rapids got 25 percent of state development dollars in the same period.

Lansing got 4.7 percent. "The budget process has not always been favorable to the mid-Michigan area," state Sen. Sam Singh admitted. "You can look at investments that have been made in Grand Rapids, Detroit, Oakland County and so forth."

Gentilozzi found that local politicians were "cautious about being the point person for their own city," but the arguments for intervention were hard to ignore.

"Lansing's only here because it's the capital," Gentilozzi said. "Had state government not come here, this would just be a bend in the river. I got on my pity party bike and said, 'We're only here because of you guys. The burden of helping Lansing is yours. You're not the Legislature of 110 years ago, but you're in the chair now.'"

He received positive signals from former state Sen. Curtis Hertel, then Gov.

See Vision, Page 18

**State of Michigan. Ingham County Probate Court. Notice to Creditors.** Decedent's Estate. Case No. 23-000744-P33. Davee Sherrill Franz. Date of Birth: 08/08/1949. The decedent, Davee Sherrill Franz, died 04/22/2023. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Madalaine Jo Carrick, personal representative, or to both the Ingham County Probate Court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St Lansing, MI 48933 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. 08/21/2023 Madalaine Jo Carrick 227 Denver St. Lansing, MI 48910 **CP#23-228**

**State of Michigan. Eaton County Probate Court. Publication of Notice. In the matter of Gerald LaMere, Deceased. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS** and creditors (known and unknown) whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: **TAKE NOTICE:** that Gerald LaMere died on July 10, 2023. There is no probate estate. All claims should be submitted to Rick Jones, Trustee of The Gerald B. LaMere Revocable Living Trust at 2882 East St. Joe Hwy., Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837. Claims should be submitted no later than 4 months from the date of this publication. 8/22/2023 Benjamin L. Cwayna P70266 11973 Sweetwater Drive Grand Ledge, MI 48837 Rick Jones 2882 E. St. Joe Hwy Grand Ledge, MI 48837 **CP#23-227**

### RESIDENTS OF ONEIDA CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2023 TAX YEAR MILLAGE RATE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023, AT 7PM

The Oneida Charter Township Board will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed Millage Rate for Tax Year 2023 on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 7pm at Oneida Township Hall located at 11041 Oneida Rd, Grand Ledge.

**The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the budget will be the subject of this hearing. The millage rate for tax year 2023 is 0.8796.**

Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact Oneida Charter Township Clerk's Office.

Jacqueline Kilgore  
Oneida Charter Township Clerk  
(517) 622-8078  
**CP#23-230**

## Vision

from page 17

Gretchen Whitmer's legislative liaison.

"When we started to show them the projects, everybody got infected," he said. "25 stories in Lansing!"

It was time to step on the gas.

In fall 2022, Gentilozzi huddled with Sam Singh over breakfast at the Flap Jack Shack in Frandor. Newly elected to the state Senate, Singh had yet to take office.

Singh suggested that Gentilozzi make the pitch for a legislative appropriation.

"Could we get it done now?" Gentilozzi pressed him.

With an appropriation, they could get the Washington Square housing units to market by 2024 and start work on the two towers right away.

"I don't know," Singh told him. It wasn't 2023 yet, and a lot depended on who would chair the House and Senate appropriation committees.

"Then, after you've convinced them, you have to convince the Senate majority leader and the speaker of the House," Gentilozzi said.

Whitmer also had to be convinced.

"She's the last person to interpret the budget and where the money goes," Gentilozzi said. "It was a long shot for all five of those stars to line up."

But they did. When the legislative session began, Sarah Anthony became chair of Senate Appropriations — the



Roxanne Frith for City Pulse

The ceiling in the lobby of the Atrium Building, which will be the gateway to the Tower on Grand from Washington Square.

first time a Lansing member held the post. Angela Witwer, also a member of the local delegation, was named chair of House Appropriations, and Singh was named majority leader.

With the inclusion of House Speaker Joe Tate, Gentilozzi found himself dealing with a "cabal of people who cared about downtown."

"Your Lansing cabal," he called it.

Singh said this year's budget gave "more fair representation to a community that's been impacted by decisions of the state."

"Most of the state workers have had some level of working from home, and that's had a significant impact on the city, and specifically the downtown," Singh

said. "It's a fair request from the mayor and the city to the Legislature: 'Help us make this transition during these changing demographics, post-pandemic.'"

Singh was impressed by Gentilozzi's plan.

"Look at their past developments and there's obviously a strong track record there," Singh said. "He's got a vision for how to help shape the city, and the Legislature had an opportunity to hear that, and hear from the mayor, and are supportive of the project as it's being presented."

Whitmer's \$81.7 billion budget for the new fiscal year, beginning in October, set aside \$40 million for New Vision Lansing, alongside \$40 million to create

a new City Hall, with details to be announced in the coming weeks, and \$6 million to restore 101-year-old Moores Park Pool.

"This year's state budget provided an extraordinary, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our Capital Caucus members to put Lansing first," Witwer said at the Aug. 8 project announcement. "I am proud that we came through for our city at this time." The project, she added, would help "create a downtown neighborhood, a community, a city."

The project announcement named UA Local 333 Lansing and "Michigan-based construction companies and unions" as "critical to the completion of these projects."

"Lansing is an auto workers' town," Gentilozzi said. "They built our city. How on earth would you do anything without the unions?"

Gentilozzi can't help thinking back to the days when he walked and biked from his old neighborhood to work at Knapp's, or take in a movie at the Michigan Theatre.

"I've got to build parking, because people have cars," he said. (Tower on Grand will have parking for 500 cars, tripling downtown parking availability at a stroke.)

"But the idea is to live and work and socialize in your environment."

"This is the beginning," Singh said. "I wouldn't be surprised to see other types of investments that look at a larger scale than what has been traditional for the downtown area."

You don't have to travel far to find a precedent for sudden upward growth in a downtown area.

"As the former mayor of East Lansing, if you had told me we were going to have 12- and 14-story buildings in East Lansing, I'd have told you 'no,'" he said. In a few short years, an instant city of towering housing complexes has sprung up along Grand River Avenue, bordering the venerable north campus of MSU.

"What you're seeing is playing out in a lot of places in the region, like Grand Rapids — more density, using the downtown footprint. Downtowns can't grow outwards so they have to grow upwards."

Fall classes begin Monday, September 11th!

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# ARTS & CULTURE

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## Afrofest to add fashion show and male excellence pageant in second year

By **CHELSEA LAKE ROBERTS**

Taiwo Adeleye said one thing people in Lansing get wrong about African culture is that the food isn't always spicy. I laughed, but he was completely serious.

"When I see people at the farmers market, they always say, 'Oh, no, it will be too spicy,' and they don't want to try it. But African food is not always spicy."

He encourages everyone to come out and try the free food samples at this year's Capital Afrofest, running 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday (Sept. 2) in the 200 block of South Washington Square. The tasting starts at noon and lasts until the food runs out. Michigan Avenue staple Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine will be handing out free samples, as will Adeleye's restaurant, Tatse, and a newcomer to the small-but-mighty African food scene, Thwria's Kitchen, will offer Sudanese fare.

Locals are likely already familiar with Tatse, which opened in downtown Lansing in early 2022 after starting out in the Rathbun Accelerator Kitchen at the Allen Neighborhood Center. Adeleye is originally from Nigeria, and he first lived in New York and Indiana before moving to Lansing four years ago.

As Afrofest goes into its second year, he said his goal is to improve diversity and inclusion in Lansing.

"The goal of the festival is to provide a connection between Africans and the community; to represent Africa through culture, food, fashion and music; and to celebrate the culture together," he said.

According to a 2022 report by the Michigan League for Public Policy, there are about 36,000 African immigrants in Michigan, approximately 5% of the total immigrant population. Much higher concentrations of immigrants have come to Michigan from Asia (51%), Europe (19%) and Latin America (18%).

When I asked Adeleye about spaces for the African community to gather in

Lansing, he gestured to his restaurant and said, "This is it."

After founding Tatse, he became inspired to share his culture with Greater Lansing.

"We need to take what we have out into the community, that's why we started the African festival," he said.

The all-day festival kicks off with live music and African food tastings from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will also be cultural dance performances, booths from African- and Black-owned businesses and African board games for children to try.

Rihab Musa, who helped organize this year's festival, said the emphasis is on unity.

"Us Africans, we come as immigrants to America, or some are born here, but we adapt to American culture and take it on," she said. "We're making this festival inviting so that Americans can learn about African culture. We want it to be something that anybody can attend and feel at home."

Musa's apparel and jewelry business, Nubian, will open this fall on South Washington Square, and she's premiering some of her designs at the AfroBall, a ticketed event beginning 5 p.m. Saturday at Grewal Hall at 224. The event will also offer music, poetry and comedy performances.

Musa said her creativity originally began with jewelry making after she graduated with a master's degree in counseling psychology.

"It started off as a way to just release my anxiety, and then people started to notice the jewelry and gave me compliments. When my sister invited me to one of her gala nights at her university, I just saw how much people loved it, and that's why I started doing more."

Musa's main goal for her business is to showcase the joy and happiness of African fashion.

"The colors bring out joy," she said. "That's my biggest thing, feeling joyful



Chelsea Lake Roberts for City Pulse

Rihab Musa (left) and Taiwo Adeleye, organizers of this year's Capital Afrofest.

— and feeling royal."

Also new to the festival this year is the Mister Africa International USA pageant, another element of the AfroBall. This international event started in the United Kingdom in 2012 and has been held in multiple African countries, with the winner receiving cash prizes and other gifts of up to \$2,000. But this is the first time the pageant has ever been held in the United States. Adeleye says he spoke with the organizers overseas and they agreed that a pageant should be hosted in Lansing.

Seven men of various ethnic backgrounds will participate in the competition, which is a celebration of the contributions that Black African men make within the community. Adeleye said the pageant is about acknowledging African men, and it's also open to African American men.

"It's providing a platform for the African male in Lansing to celebrate social impact, health, wellness and how they stand out," he said. "It's not all about the grand prize — it's about appreciating the men in our community."

An African Excellence Award will

also be presented at the AfroBall to honor Grand Rapids community leader Fridah Kanini. Born and raised in Kenya, Kanini has lived in the United States since 2004 and founded the West Michigan Kenyans group in 2013. She's the founder and CEO of A Glimpse of Africa, a nonprofit that works to ensure African immigrants and refugees are visible through advocacy and breaking down barriers to belonging. The organization also hosts an annual festival in West Michigan.

Following the events at Grewal Hall, the festival will continue with an afterparty at Adeleye's Alobosa Bar from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m., featuring African music and dancing.

Adeleye says he's happy that Afrofest continues to grow into a bigger festival each year, in part due to support from the city and other sponsors.

"We're just grateful that we have all these new partners noticing what we're doing — what we're bringing — not just to downtown Lansing, but to all of Lansing," he said. "This is our goal, to reach Lansing with African culture."

# Celebrating Magic Mushroom Day at the Capitol

By LUCAS HENKEL

Mark your calendars because another stoner-related holiday is quickly approaching. Sept. 20, also known as Magic Mushroom Day, is a day to celebrate and discuss the benefits of psilocybin, a naturally occurring psychoactive and hallucinogenic compound that puts the “magic” in magic mushrooms.

According to a 2020 article from Rolling Stone, Sept. 20 was chosen because it’s at the beginning of autumn, when mushrooms are most plentiful; it’s close to the equinox, signifying a time of change; and it echoes 420 and the successful movement for marijuana decriminalization and legalization.



Shutterstock

Sept. 20, also known as Magic Mushroom Day, is a day to celebrate and discuss the benefits of psilocybin, a naturally occurring psychoactive and hallucinogenic compound that puts the “magic” in magic mushrooms.

While studies have shown that psilocybin is a promising treatment for multiple mental health conditions, from anxiety and depression to addiction, the compound is classified as a Schedule I drug by the Drug Enforcement Administration. Next month, on Magic Mushroom Day, members of the Lansing Entheogens and Psychedelics Society, or LEAPS, along with other advocates, will gather at the state Capitol to help educate others about the medical benefits of psilocybin and other psychedelics.

The Lansing Entheogens and Psychedelics Society’s mission is to cultivate safe spaces for people to share their experiences, connect and gain knowledge of entheogens and psychedelics. The group was founded in 2022 to push for psilocybin decriminalization in the city.

Co-founder Nate Ford said that he and other members have been planning the upcoming rally since early spring of this year.

“It’s pretty unheard of to be able to host an event at the Capitol during the middle of the week,” he said. “However, after Brianna Garrett, one of the other founding members of LEAPS, explained what we’re doing and the importance of why we need to have this event on the actual holiday — not the weekend before or after — the city permitted us to have a two-hour rally on the east lawn of the Capitol.”

Ford says he, alongside other members of the society, hopes to inspire



and change the minds of those with misconceptions about psilocybin and other psychedelics through all the educational events that are happening Sept. 20.

Before the rally at the Capitol, the Fledge will host free workshops to help educate the public about fungi classification, cultivation and more. Cardboard and other materials will be provided for those who would like to make signs for the rally.

“Psilocybin needs to be decriminalized,” said Jerry Norris, owner of the Fledge. “The war on drugs has become the war on us. So many of us are using plant-based medicines like psilocybin to navigate a difficult world. I want to help unite the individuals who share that same goal as much as I can.”

The rally will feature a lineup of speakers, live music, food trucks and vendors from 5 to 7 p.m. on the east lawn of the Capitol. Members of LEAPS will share their experiences with psilocybin and invite others to share their experiences in an open-mic format. Ford said the event’s vibe will be upbeat and uplifting.

After the rally, attendees are encouraged to keep the celebration going by attending a special afterparty at the Fledge filled with music and camaraderie.

“We want to include as many people as possible,” Ford said. “We want everyone to come out, have a good time and learn about the positive effect psilocybin has on others.”

Ford shared that consuming psilocybin has helped him on his journey of overcoming substance abuse as well as anxiety and depression. He hopes that by learning more about plant medicine, people will be more willing to combat the negative stigma surrounding psychedelics.

To learn more about the upcoming Magic Mushroom Day events, follow LEAPS on Instagram at [instagram.com/leapsforyourmind](https://www.instagram.com/leapsforyourmind). The society meets 7 to 8:30 p.m. every third Wednesday of the month at the Fledge.

## Magic Mushroom Day rally

Sept. 20  
5-7 p.m.  
Michigan State Capitol  
east lawn  
100 N. Capitol Ave.,  
Lansing

## Magic Mushroom Day afterparty

Sept. 20  
7:15 p.m.  
The Fledge  
1300 Eureka St., Lansing  
[instagram.com/leapsforyourmind](https://www.instagram.com/leapsforyourmind)



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# Scott Duimstra bids farewell to CADL

By BILL CASTANIER

With the Aug. 22 announcement that Scott Duimstra, executive director of Capital Area District Libraries, or CADL, was named the next director of the Hennepin County Library system in Minnesota, CADL is now looking to replace him through either an in-house promotion or a search process. Duimstra will begin his new job in October.

For Duimstra, who has been the executive director of CADL since 2017, this is a major move. Hennepin County Library has 41 branches in Minneapolis and the surrounding suburbs, while CADL has only 13 branches in Lansing and rural Ingham County. Hennepin County Library has more than 600 employees, compared to CADL's 215 employees, and it has a budget of \$65 million, roughly three times that of CADL.

During his tenure at CADL, Duimstra served as senior associate director before rising to lead the organization. He is only the fourth director since the Ingham County library system was reorganized 25 years ago.

"I saw how rewarding being a librarian was when I began working as a page at the Grand Rapids Public Library while in high school," Duimstra said. He then received an undergraduate degree from Eastern Michigan University and a master's degree in library and information science from the University of Michigan



Photo by Dennis Burck

Scott Duimstra, executive director of Capital Area District Libraries, was selected to head the Hennepin County Library system in Minnesota, one of the most respected library systems in the country.

School of Information.

Among his major accomplishments at CADL, Duimstra prides himself on passing two millages, establishing the Student Success Initiative and leading the system through the COVID-19 pandemic.

"There was no guidebook for libraries on how to weather the pandemic, and everything was constantly changing," he said. "We knew it was important to not close libraries while protecting patrons and staff, and we were able to pivot quickly and stay relevant through the pandemic."

He said CADL usage is back to

pre-pandemic levels.

Duimstra said he's also proud of the work he accomplished as president of the Michigan Library Association's Board of Directors, a role he was elected to in 2022. His appointment came at the same time as a movement in numerous states and local libraries to ban books.

"MLA has been a leader in preserving the right to read and in creating an awareness of the importance of the First Amendment," he said.

Despite the size differential between the two library systems, Duimstra said CADL and Hennepin County Library have similar histories. Both emerged from a merger combining numerous smaller libraries into one system.

According to a longtime local librarian, the naming of Duimstra to lead HCL is a big deal since it's one of the most respected library systems in the country. City Pulse reached out to a CADL trustee by email to learn more about the hiring process but has not heard back.

CADL is governed by a seven-member board, appointed by Ingham County and the city of Lansing, with four residents from Lansing or Lansing Township, one from Meridian Township and two from other areas of the county.

## Another book-related news update

"At last!" That's how acclaimed Michigan author Karen Dionne began her recent Facebook post about the release of the trailer for "The Marsh King's Daughter," based on her book of the same name. The movie, set to hit theaters Oct. 6, stars Daisy Ridley as Helena, a young mother who must use her outback skills to track and kill her father, who is hell-bent on killing her family. The psycho-thriller was



Courtesy photo

The official poster for "The Marsh King's Daughter," based on the 2017 novel by Michigan author Karen Dionne. The movie is set to hit theaters Oct. 6.

which is now available on YouTube. The backdrop scenery is extraordinary, and the terror is palpable.

in filmmaker limbo for a couple of years due to COVID and the machinations of the film industry.

Dionne's novel is set in the Upper Peninsula, but the movie was shot in the Canadian wilderness. Those who attended the Michigan Notable Book Award ceremony this year were treated to an advanced screening of the trailer,

**ART BY NEVIN**

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# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Words of Longing" -- or just some long words across.  
by Matt Jones  
© 2023 Matt Jones

**ACROSS**

- 1. "There's nothing left to add"
- 16. Era that Historic Williamsburg is supposed to represent
- 17. "Come see what life is like over here"
- 18. Fed a line
- 19. Exigency
- 20. First Lady after Lady Bird
- 21. Paintball sounds
- 27. Deg. for a grad student in film studies
- 28. Option to go straight to the game
- 32. Phrase that might introduce bad news
- 34. Garden gastropod
- 35. Steamed
- 37. Like some caulk or baking sheets
- 42. It's usually only accessible by plane or boat
- 43. "Srsly" preceder, maybe
- 46. New England nine
- 47. Calgary-to-Edmonton dir.
- 48. Nighttime sound
- 50. Number associated with the musical "Six"
- 52. Where to find Merlin
- 60. Green New Deal focus
- 61. Well-crafted speech, perhaps

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16														
17														
	18										19			
20					21	22	23	24	25	26		27		
28			29	30							31			
32												33		
	34									35			36	
			37				38	39	40					41
				42										
43	44	45		46								47		
48			49							50	51			
52				53	54	55	56	57	58					59
60														
61														

**DOWN**

- 1. Heads of England?
- 2. Quick sellers, proverbially
- 3. Alaskan chain
- 4. Act like a sot
- 5. Author Blyton of "The Famous Five" series
- 6. Pulitzer winner \_\_\_-Manuel Miranda
- 7. Rested
- 8. Chess rating system
- 9. Rotating piece
- 10. Author Tan
- 11. Just out
- 12. Supplement ingredient
- 13. Fathered, on a ranch
- 14. Roman-\_\_\_ (novel genre)
- 15. When repeated, "eh, you get the idea"

- 20. Performer of a surprise 2012 hit
- 21. "Santeria" rock band
- 22. Personal and vacation days, in the office
- 23. Bud of Bud
- 24. Stuff on a wall
- 25. Antidiscrimination law of 1972
- 26. Polite Indian titles, way back when
- 29. "Why Can't I?" singer Liz
- 30. Private eye, at times
- 31. University in Quebec City
- 33. French vessel for preparing an herbal brew
- 36. "2 Broke Girls" star Kat
- 38. Chip shop option
- 39. Some NHL endings

- 40. Prefix in some music genres
- 41. Pres. from Denison, Texas
- 43. Busy place in Chicago
- 44. Gourmet mushroom
- 45. "I've \_\_\_ idea" ("Beats me")
- 49. Cavs' home court, once
- 50. Hawk
- 51. Disney CEO Bob
- 53. Cute anime-inspired emoticon
- 54. "Insecure" star Issa City
- 55. "Son of," in Arabic names
- 56. Prefix in some music genres
- 57. School gp.
- 58. Took command
- 59. Peptic start

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Answers on page 25

# SUDOKU

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

# Intermediate

## 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!

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky August 30-September 5, 2023

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Aries chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov says war is "more like a game of poker than chess. On a chess board, the pieces are face-up, but poker is essentially a game of incomplete information, a game where you have to guess and act on those guesses." I suspect that's helpful information for you these days, Aries. You may not be ensconced in an out-and-out conflict, but the complex situation you're managing has resemblances to a game of poker. For best results, practice maintaining a poker face. Try to reduce your tells to near zero. Here's the definition of "tell" as I am using the term: Reflexive or unconscious behavior that reveals information you would rather withhold.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Raised in poverty, Taurus-born Eva Peron became a charismatic politician and actress who served as first lady of Argentina for six years. The Argentine Congress ultimately gave her the title "Spiritual Leader of the Nation." How did she accomplish such a meteoric ascent? "Without fanaticism," she testified, "one cannot accomplish anything." But I don't think her strategy has to be yours in the coming months, Taurus. It will make sense for you to be highly devoted, intensely focused and strongly motivated — even a bit obsessed in a healthy way. But you won't need to be fanatical.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Gemini author Ben H. Winters has useful counsel. "Every choice forecloses on other choices," he says. "Each step forward leaves a thousand dead possible universes behind you." I don't think there are a thousand dead universes after each choice; the number's more like two or three. But the point is, you must be fully committed to leaving the past behind. Making decisions requires resolve. Second-guessing your brave actions rarely yields constructive results. So, are you ready to have fun being firm and determined, Gemini? The cosmic rhythms will be on your side if you do.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Journalist Alexandra Robbins was addressing young people when she gave the following advice, but you will benefit from it regardless of your age: "There is nothing wrong with you just because you haven't yet met people who share your interests or outlook on life. Know that you will eventually meet people who will appreciate you for being you." I offer this to you now, Cancerian, because the coming months will bring you into connection with an abundance of like-minded people who are working to create the same kind of world you are. Are you ready to enjoy the richest social life ever?

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Author Kevin Kelly is a maverick visionary who has thought a lot about how to create the best possible future. He advocates that we give up hoping for the unrealistic concept of utopia. Instead, he suggests we empower our practical efforts with the term "protopia." In this model, we "crawl toward betterment," trying to improve the world by 1% each year. You would be wise to apply a variation on this approach to your personal life in the coming months, Leo. A mere 1% enhancement is too modest a goal, though. By your birthday in 2024, a 6% upgrade is realistic, and you could reach as high as 10%.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** In honor of the Virgo birthday season, I invite you to be exceptionally distinctive and singular in the coming weeks, even idiosyncratic and downright incomparable. That's not always a comfortable state for you Virgos to inhabit, but right now it's healthy to experiment with. Here's counsel from writer Christopher Morley: "Read, every day, something no one else is reading. Think, every day, something no one else is thinking. Do, every day, something no one else would be silly enough to do. It is bad for the mind to continually be part of unanimity." Here's a bonus quote from Virgo poet Edith Sitwell: "I am not eccentric! It's just that I am more alive than most people."

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Do you sometimes wish

your life was different from what it actually is? Do you criticize yourself for not being a perfect manifestation of your ideal self? Most of us indulge in these fruitless energy drains. One of the chief causes of unhappiness is the fantasy that we are not who we are supposed to be. In accordance with cosmic rhythms, I authorize you to be totally free of these feelings for the next four weeks. As an experiment, I invite you to treasure yourself exactly as you are right now. Congratulate yourself for all the heroic work you have done to be pretty damn good. Use your ingenuity to figure out how to give yourself big doses of sweet and festive love.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Scorpio novelist Kurt Vonnegut testified, "I want to stay as close on the edge as I can without going over. Out on the edge, you see all kinds of things you can't see from the center. Big, undreamed-of things — the people on the edge see them first." I'm not definitely telling you that you should live like Vonnegut, dear Scorpio. To do so, you would have to summon extra courage and alertness. But if you are inclined to explore such a state, the coming weeks will offer you a chance to live on the edge with as much safety, reward and enjoyment as possible.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** "Where there is great love, there are always miracles," wrote Sagittarian novelist Willa Cather (1873-1947). In accordance with upcoming astrological aspects, I encourage you to prepare the way for such miracles. If you don't have as much love as you would like, be imaginative as you offer more of the best love you have to give. If there is good but not great love in your life, figure out how you can make it even better. If you are blessed with great love, see if you can transform it into being even more extraordinary. For you Sagittarians, it is the season of generating miracles through the intimate power of marvelous love.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Capricorn author Alexander Woollcott (1887-1943) could be rude and vulgar. He sometimes greeted cohorts by saying, "Hello, repulsive." After he read the refined novelist Marcel Proust, he described the experience as, "Like lying in someone else's dirty bath water." But according to Woollcott's many close and enduring friends, he was often warm, generous and humble. I bring this to your attention in the hope that you will address any discrepancies between your public persona and your authentic soul. Now is a good time to get your outer and inner selves into greater harmony.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** In 1963, Aquarian author Betty Friedan published "The Feminine Mystique," a groundbreaking book that became a bestseller crucial in launching the feminist movement. She brought to wide cultural awareness "the problem that has no name": millions of women's sense of invisibility, powerlessness and depression. In a later book, Friedan reported on those early days of the awakening: "We couldn't possibly know where it would lead, but we knew it had to be done." I encourage you to identify an equivalent quest in your personal life, Aquarius: A project that feels necessary to your future, even if you don't yet know what that future will turn out to be.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** "Among those whom I like or admire, I can find no common denominator, but among those whom I love, I can: All of them make me laugh." Piscean poet W. H. Auden said that. After analyzing the astrological omens, I conclude that laughing with those you love is an experience you should especially seek right now. It will be the medicine for anything that's bothering you. It will loosen obstructions that might be interfering with the arrival of your next valuable teachings. Use your imagination to dream up ways you can place yourself in situations where this magic will unfold.

# 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, Aug. 30

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

**Alluring Nature 2023 Art Show** - Paintings by the En Plein Air group. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-347-7400. [framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net).

**Bookend Art Gallery display by Joel Ellis** - Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett](http://cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett).

**Brian Byrnes at The Graduate Rock Bar** - 7 p.m. 133 Evergreen Ave., East Lansing. 517-348-0900. [facebook.com/graduaterockbar](https://facebook.com/graduaterockbar).

**"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).

**Harvest Power Full Moon Ritual** - 6 p.m. Moores Park, 400 Moores River Drive, Lansing. 517-657-5800. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

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

**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).

**Mindfulness Meditation in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition** - All are welcome to join our weekly practice! 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. MLK Jr. Blvd., Lansing. [lamc.info](http://lamc.info).

**Open Mic with Rick Hansel** - Open platform that welcomes singers and musicians of all ages. Doors 5 p.m., show 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. [urbanbeaters.com](http://urbanbeaters.com).

**Photography: NOW!** - Vibrant display of photography depicting an array of subject matter. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. 517-332-4663.

**St. Johns Concerts in the Park - Matt King (Elvis tribute)** - 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).

**Steph Joy Hogan Gallery Opening** - Award-winning mixed-media painter from Lansing. 6-9 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. [lansingshuffle.com](http://lansingshuffle.com).

**Wednesday Night Free Concerts - Steve Spees** - 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, Aug. 31

**Alluring Nature 2023 Art Show** - Paintings by the En Plein Air group. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-347-7400. [framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net).

**BAQ 2 BUSINESS** - Kick off the year with a back-to-school party. 10 p.m. The Junction, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. 517-574-4214. [thejunction-michigan.com](http://thejunction-michigan.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).

**Bookend Art Gallery display by Joel Ellis** - Noon-6 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett](http://cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett).

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

**Eloquent Toastmasters Weekly Meeting** - Safe and positive environment to practice public speaking and leadership skills. 6:30 p.m. Okemos Presbyterian Church, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. [eloquents.toastmastersclubs.org](http://eloquents.toastmastersclubs.org).

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

**Holt BBQ & Brew** - Local BBQ vendors, beer tent and live music. 4-8 p.m. Holt Farmers Market, 2150 Cedar St., Holt. [delhitownshipmi.gov](http://delhitownshipmi.gov).

**Karaoke Thursday** - 8 p.m.-midnight. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. [greendoorlive.com](http://greendoorlive.com).

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

**JP Peters at Old Bag of Nails Pub** - 7 p.m. 210 Cascade Blvd., Lansing. 517-826-6266. [facebook.com/oldbagofnails Lansing](http://facebook.com/oldbagofnails Lansing).

**Margarita Glass Paint Party + Mixology Class** - Learn to make margaritas from a professional mixologist, then paint a margarita glass! 7 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-220-0058. [paintyourpoison.com](http://paintyourpoison.com).

**Photography: NOW!** - Vibrant display of photography depicting an array of subject matter. 9

### Michigan Chicken Wing Festival

Saturday, Sept. 2, and Sunday, Sept. 3  
2-9 p.m.

Adado Riverfront Park  
300 N. Grand Ave., Lansing

Bring a hearty appetite to the Michigan Chicken Wing Festival, running 2 to 9 p.m. Saturday (Sept. 2) and Sunday (Sept. 3) at Adado Riverfront Park.



Food vendors will sell a variety of wings, ranging from a mild spice level to off-the-charts heat. The festival will also include a main stage with musical acts and other live entertainment, a kids' zone with inflatables, a game trailer, giveaways, a VIP beer-and-wine tent, a people's choice vendor contest where attendees can vote for the best wings of the weekend and more.

On Saturday, the main stage entertainment kicks off with an open mic, followed by professional wrestling, DJ sets and performances by Chrissii Key, LaTasha Shemwell & the No Limit Band and Al'Exist. On Sunday, the main stage entertainment begins with professional wrestling, followed by an open mic and performances by the Split Shifters, the Darin Lerner Band and Herb McGowan. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets.

There will also be wing-eating contests for ages 18 and up 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday on the main stage. The winners will receive a trophy and a cash prize. The entry fee is \$25, and space is limited to 10 contestants each day.

General admission tickets are \$5 before 4 p.m. and \$15 after 4 p.m. at the gate. Kids 14 and under can enter for free with a paying adult. Cancer survivors, military members and seniors ages 65 and older can also enter for free. Wing sampling tickets will be available for purchase.

General VIP tickets are \$45 for ages 21 and up and include tokens for 12 wing samples, two drink tokens for alcoholic beverages, five drink tickets for non-alcoholic drinks, early entry, a giveaway drawing ticket and access to the VIP tent and the VIP area near the stage. VIP beer-and-wine tickets are \$55 for ages 21 and up and include, on top of the other VIP perks, six additional drink tokens for alcoholic beverages and access to premium beverages. VIP tickets must be purchased at [michiganchickenwingfestival.com](http://michiganchickenwingfestival.com) prior to the event.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Against All Odds Foundation, which operates a free retail store in the Lansing Mall for underserved communities and supports cancer survivors with needs including groceries, prescription medication co-payments and transportation to medical appointments.

a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. 517-332-4663.

**REACH Virtual Meet-up: Arts Incubator for Young People** - Zoom meeting ID: 828 0808 9879. 4 p.m. 517-999-3643. [reachstudioart.org](http://reachstudioart.org).

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly** - Weekly weight loss support group. Weigh-in 5:30 p.m., meeting 6-7 p.m. Haslett Middle School, 1536 Franklin St., Haslett. 800-932-8677. [facebook.com/HaslettTops](https://facebook.com/HaslettTops).

**Two Rivers Sounds of Summer - Epic Fail** - Grab takeout from one of our nearby restaurants and bring your chairs, blankets, family and friends. Free. 6:30 p.m. Two Rivers Park, Dixie Highway, Portland. [miportland.org/events](http://miportland.org/events).

**Welcome Porch Board Paint Party** - All are welcome, whether you're a seasoned painter or a total beginner. BYOB and snacks. 6:30 p.m. Ledge Craft Lane, 120 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. [paintyourpoison.com](http://paintyourpoison.com).

**Wine-Book Pairing** - Sample wine and learn which genre it would best pair with and why. Registration req. 21+. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. [charlottelibrary.org](http://charlottelibrary.org).

### Friday, Sept. 1

**Brian Byrnes at The Peanut Barrel** - 8 p.m. 521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0608. [peanutbarrel.com](http://peanutbarrel.com).

**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).

**"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).

**Live & Local** CityPULSE  
**Red Cedar Spirits**  
2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing  
Sunday Jazz  
Randy Napoleon, Will Crandell, Reuben Stump  
Sun., Sept. 3, 6-9 p.m.  
Friday Night Jams  
Tony Thompson & Friends  
Fri., Sept. 8, 7-10 p.m.



# Jackson Popcorn Depot gets poppin' in Okemos

By LUCAS HENKEL

"It's kind of a funny story," Greg Vancalbergh said when I asked how he and his wife, Becky, opened the original Jackson Popcorn Depot store seven years ago. We were standing in the middle of the couple's second location, a 2,350-square-foot storefront at the Meridian Mall in Okemos. The shop celebrated its grand opening Saturday (Aug. 26) amid a sea of excited shoppers of all ages. Hundreds of bags of candy from across the globe lined the walls, and the smell of freshly popped popcorn filled the air.

When the Vancalberghs moved into their current house, Greg realized his fishing boat wouldn't fit in the garage. He later sold the boat and pocketed more cash than he was expecting. Then, while perusing Craigslist, he

saw a listing for a popcorn store that was for sale. Without hesitation, he reached out to the owner and made a deal.

"It was a little surprising, but it was worth it," Becky Vancalbergh said. At that time, the couple owned and operated Swiss Treats, an ice cream shop near Jackson. After six years of operating both businesses, the Vancalberghs closed Swiss Treats earlier this year so they could focus all of their attention on expanding their popcorn operations.

Today, the Jackson store pops nearly 200 pounds of popcorn kernels every week, offering more than 70 different flavors, from Apple Pie to Ghost Pepper.

"Our Chicago-style popcorn is a favorite among our customers," Becky Vancalbergh said. "They love the mix of sweet and salty popcorn flavors."

Other popular flavors are Tutti Frutti, which contains a mix of eight fruity flavors, and Churro, which contains a dusting of cinnamon sugar and salt.

The Vancalberghs are also serving up all sorts of sweet treats at their new location. From vintage chocolates to international delights, Jackson Popcorn Depot has something to satisfy everyone's sweet tooth. The

company is even keeping a close eye on TikTok to stay up to date on viral candy trends, like freeze-dried candy. The process of making freeze-dried candy involves freezing the candy and removing all the water and moisture, leaving only pure sugar crystals behind. The result is a crunchier version of the original candy that melts in your mouth.

"We easily go through 60 to 100 bags of freeze-dried candy every week," Greg Vancalbergh said. "We make each bag in-house and have freeze-dried just about every gummy and candy you can think of."

He gave me a sample of freeze-dried gummy sharks to try, and I had a hard time not eating the whole bag in one sitting. Their slightly sour taste reminded me of Bomb Pops, a novelty ice cream I remember devouring as a kid.

In addition to candy and popcorn, the store also offers a variety of cinnamon-roasted nuts, including almonds, cashews, pecans and peanuts. The store sells between 50 and 100 pounds of these salty-sweet morsels every week.

To learn more about Jackson Popcorn Depot and its franchising opportunities, or to purchase bags of popcorn online, head to [jacksonpopcorn.com](http://jacksonpopcorn.com).



Lucas Henkel/City Pulse

From vintage chocolates and freeze-dried candy to cinnamon-roasted nuts and more than 70 flavors of popcorn, Jackson Popcorn Depot has something to satisfy sweet and savory tooth alike.

Follow the business on social media at [facebook.com/jacksonpopcorn](https://facebook.com/jacksonpopcorn) or [instagram.com/jacksonpopcorn](https://instagram.com/jacksonpopcorn) to keep up with upcoming events, giveaways and more.

## Events

from page 23

**FUMC Rummage Sale** - Clothing and shoes, household goods, toys, books and more. Proceeds help support United Women in Faith. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 201 E. Ash St., Mason. 517-676-9449. [masonfirst.org](http://masonfirst.org).

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. Noon-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](http://highcaliberkarting.com).

**Live Music on the patio at Lansing Shuffle** - 8-11 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. [lansingshuffle.com](http://lansingshuffle.com).

**Photography: NOW!** - Vibrant display of photography depicting an array of subject matter. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. 517-332-4663.

**River Walk Trash Cleanup** - Pick up the trash on the Lansing River Trail and around our building! We'll walk for about 30 minutes. 11 a.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

**Tony Thompson at Harrison Roadhouse** - 6 p.m. 720 E. Michigan Ave., East Lansing. 517-337-0200. [harrisonroadhouse.com](http://harrisonroadhouse.com).

**"Wholly Integrated," by Zoe Beaudry** - 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org).

## Saturday, Sept. 2

**2023 United States GUTS Frisbee Open** - Do you play baseball, disc golf or hockey? Try your might in our amateur league or watch some of the fastest disc throwers in the world compete. 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Grand Woods Park, 4500 W. Willow Hwy., Lansing. [gutsplayers.com](http://gutsplayers.com).

**Awakening Higher States of Consciousness with Brian Lottman** - Learn simple practices for reaching the transcendent realms through mantra, breath and meditation. 5 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

**Family Day: BALANCE** - Stack, build and balance different materials to make a hanging sculpture. All ages welcome. Registration encouraged. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**FUMC Rummage Sale** - Clothing and shoes, household goods, toys, books and more. Proceeds help support United Women in Faith. 9 a.m.-noon. First United Methodist Church, 201 E. Ash St., Mason. 517-676-9449. [masonfirst.org](http://masonfirst.org).

**Lamafest 2023** - Llama shows, vendors, information about local farms. Llama costume contest at noon. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. 231-357-6999. [michiganllama.org](http://michiganllama.org).

**Live Music with Sam Jesh & the Bees** - 8-11 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. [lansingshuffle.com](http://lansingshuffle.com).

**Mason Farmers Market** - 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lee Austin Park, corner of Lansing and Ash streets, Lansing. [facebook.com/masonfarmersmarketmi](https://facebook.com/masonfarmersmarketmi).

**Meridian Township Farmers Market** - 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central

## Lamafest 2023

Saturday, Sept. 2, and

Sunday, Sept. 3

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

MSU Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education

4301 Farm Lane, Lansing



Visit the Michigan State University Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday (Sept. 2) and Sunday (Sept. 3) for Lamafest, one of the largest and longest-running llama shows in the country.

Watch the llamas navigate and jump over obstacles, see which ones have the fullest coats and view the crowd-favorite costume contest, where llamas and their guides will be decked out in themed apparel.

In addition, an assortment of vendors will sell items made from animal fibers, and there will be demonstrations showing how to spin, felt and weave llama fiber, plus much more.

Local farms will also be in attendance to provide information on breeding programs and other offerings.

The festival is free, and there is free parking around the pavilion. For more information, including a schedule of events, visit [michiganllama.org/lamafest](http://michiganllama.org/lamafest).

Park Drive, Okemos. 517-712-2395. [meridian.mi.us/farmersmarket](http://meridian.mi.us/farmersmarket).

**Michigan Chicken Wing Festival** - 2-9 p.m. Adado Riverfront Park, 300 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. [michiganchickenwingfestival.com](http://michiganchickenwingfestival.com).

**Queer Scouts: Camp Food** - Learn how to collect

wood, build a campfire and make water safe to drink, then cook and eat a meal. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. [saluscenter.org/programs/calendar](http://saluscenter.org/programs/calendar).

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# TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene **BY RICH TUPICA**

## LANSING-BASED ROOTS OUTFIT GETS SPACEY

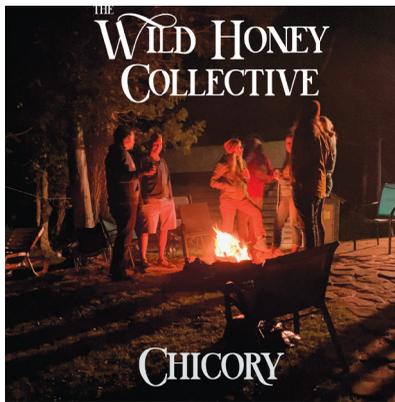


Photo by Linda Vail

The Wild Honey Collective, a Lansing-based roots outfit, releases its new EP, "Chicory," on Friday (Sept. 1).

### Wild Honey Collective explores 'psychedelic country' on new EP

Over the last few years, the Wild Honey Collective has become one of the most exciting additions to Lansing's folk and roots music scene. The band's guitarist and vocalist, Tommy McCord, who's also a member of The Plurals, chatted with City Pulse about the collective's upcoming release, "Chicory." The EP hits streaming services Friday (Sept. 1), the same day the band plays Hor-

rocks Farm Market. **How was the production process this time around for the 'Chicory' EP?** **Tommy McCord:** Wild Honey was born out of the pandemic, so to speak, so we have a comfortable process employing a series of remote recording sessions and makeshift studio environments. In addition to our usual home studios, we also had a group recording session at

a family member's lake house on Lake Michigan, which was particularly memorable — avoiding typical studio atmospheres truly helps with our creativity. I mixed it, and Rick Johnson (of Mustard Plug) mastered it.

#### Who all played on the record?

All the Wild Honey principles — myself, Danielle Gyger, Timmy Rodriguez, Dan O'Brien, Adam Aymor and Joel Kuiper — are all over these recordings, as well as contributions by the rest of The Plurals (Hattie Danby and Nicholas Richard) and Grand Rapids musicians Tony Halchak and Jason Lanning. Our recording sessions can sometimes be like a much tamer 'Exile on Main St.,' where we just grab whoever's nearby when there's inspiration, and then the rest of the band shapes it into Wild Honey. I love it.

#### What inspired the EP's title?

The plan for this release, which is a sort of mini-album to work with while we finish our 'Volume 3' LP, was to release it digitally as soon as we finished mixing/mastering and to name it after a wildflower that would be prevalent and popping up at the time of release. We had a listening session to sign off on the mixes in mid-August. As we were driving home, Danielle pointed out all of the chicory lining the roadside. There it was.

#### There are a few cover songs on here. How did you pick those?

Wild Honey works rapidly and some-

what unconventionally. We don't have a totally fixed performing lineup, and we essentially never rehearse as a group, which means that we're all individually working on material, and our live performances are exciting and open. As a result, we started drifting into a sort of psychedelic country sound that wasn't really apparent on our first two albums, so we wanted to show that side of the band with a shorter-form release. The recording sessions for 'Volume 3' yielded a surplus of material, so we settled on first releasing some covers with some original instrumental pieces. We wanted to showcase some local heroes, so there's a Calliope cover and a song by Grand Rapids musician Michael Dause of The Accidentals, plus the cult-favorite Canadian alternative-folk singer Fred Eaglesmith. To wrap it up, there's a classic from the spacey-country songbook, "Ripple," by the Grateful Dead.

#### It seems like 2023 has been quite busy for Wild Honey Collective, am I right?

We've probably done more in 2023 than some bands do in their whole run: a Midwest leg in the spring, followed by a full East Coast and New England tour. We've done festivals, including the honor of playing the Wheatland Main Stage at Traditional Arts Weekend, a tour of the Upper Peninsula and many local shows. We've also done a whole slew of recording.

### Wild Honey Collective

Friday, Sept. 1  
5-9 p.m.  
Horrocks Farm Market  
7420 W. Saginaw Hwy.,  
Lansing  
gtgrecords.net/  
thewildhoneycollective

## Events

from page 24

**"Wholly Integrated," by Zoe Beaudry** - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

### Sunday, Sept. 3

**2023 United States GUTS Frisbee Open** - Do you play baseball, disc golf or hockey? Try your might in our amateur league or watch some of the fastest disc throwers in the world compete. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Grand Woods Park, 4500 W. Willow Hwy., Lansing. gutsplayers.com.

**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** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. McCormick Park, 123 High St., Williamston. 517-618-1630. easterninghamfarmersmarket.org.

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

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

**Lamafest 2023** - Llama shows, vendors, information about local farms. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education, 4301

Farm Lane, Lansing. 231-357-6999. michiganllama.org.

**Live Music on the patio at Lansing Shuffle** - Noon-3 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

**Michigan Chicken Wing Festival** - 2-9 p.m. Adado Riverfront Park, 300 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. michiganchickenwingfestival.com.

### Monday, Sept. 4

**Finance Committee** - 6 p.m. Laingsburg City Hall, 114 Woodhull St., Laingsburg. laingsburg.us.

**"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.

**Gloss Mondays Open-Floor Drag Show** - Aspiring drag performers showcase their talent. 7-10 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

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

**Photography: NOW!** - Vibrant display of photography depicting an array of subject matter. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. 517-332-4663.

### Tuesday, Sept. 5

**Agricultural Research Panel Hosted by Farm Journal Foundation and Michigan State University** - 1-3 p.m. Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Educa-

tion, 4301 Farm Lane, Lansing. canr.msu.edu.

**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. Noon-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**Kathi Swan Author Visit** - Swan will talk about her book "Michigan the Great Migration in the 1830s Eaton County: Pioneer Stories of Eaton County." 5:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

**LAGE Game Night East** - Variety of board games, card games, dice games, cooperative games and strategy games. 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.

**Photography: NOW!** - Vibrant display of photography depicting an array of subject matter. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. 517-332-4663.

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

### Wednesday, Sept. 6

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

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

W	H	A	T	E	L	S	E	C	A	N	I	S	A	Y		
C	O	L	O	N	I	A	L	A	M	E	R	I	C	A		
S	T	E	P	I	N	T	O	M	Y	W	O	R	L	D		
C	U	E	D									N	E	E	D	
P	A	T			S	P	L	A	T	S		D	F	A		
S	K	I	P	T	U	T	O	R	I	A	L					
Y	E	A	H	A	B	O	U	T	T	H	A	T				
	S	N	A	I	L							L	I	V	I	D
		S	I	L	I	C	O	N	E	B	A	S	E	D		
			R	E	M	O	T	E	I	S	L	A	N	D		
O	M	G		R	E	D	S	O	X			N	N	E		
H	O	O	T								V	I	I	I		
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E	L	O	Q	U	E	N	T	A	D	D	R	E	S			

## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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

# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

# Late-night, deep-fried deliciousness

By NICOLE NOECHEL

It would take me multiple pages to express my love for The Avenue Cafe, a dive bar and music venue on East Michigan Avenue. I can get a 16-ounce beer for \$4, test my knowledge of various topics in weekly trivia, enjoy live performances by some of my favorite local bands — often for free — and put all my loose quarters to use at the plethora of pinball machines.

With a night of imbibing often comes a hunger for quick, greasy food. Ruckus Ramen, located within The Avenue, always delivers, and I don't even have to leave the bar. The menu offers various types of ramen, curries, rice bowls, loaded fries, tempura shrimp and even bar nuts if you just want something to munch on, but time and time again, I find myself going back to my tried-and-true favorite: the bao sandwiches.

Vegans, vegetarians and meat-eaters alike can enjoy these delicious handhelds, which are contained within soft, pillowy bao buns. Bao are steamed bread-like dumplings that originated in China, but they have become street-food staples throughout Asia and beyond. They're light and fluffy but somehow still dense enough



Nicole Noechel/City Pulse

Ruckus Ramen's Fried Tofu Bao (left) and Fried Chicken Bao are almost exactly the same: perfectly crispy deep-fried protein topped with spicy mayo, chili sauce and scallions, all contained within soft, pillowy bao buns.

to hold all the toppings one could ever want in a sandwich.

My go-to is the Fried Chicken Bao, which includes fried chicken, spicy mayo, chili sauce and scallions. The chicken is perfectly crispy on the outside and juicy on the inside, and it isn't made soggy by the sauces, which I've experienced with other fried chicken sandwiches. The mayo offers a nice balance to the salty chicken, and the chili sauce definitely brings the heat.

The scallions and chili sauce help cut the richness of the sandwich a bit, but if I could make one change, I would add a touch of acidity, like some pickled veggies or a light slaw, to make the dish feel less heavy on the palette and gut. That being said, I'm

happy to down one or two of these sandwiches with absolutely no complaints.

For vegetarians, the Fried Tofu Bao is almost exactly the same as the Fried Chicken Bao, down to the breading, but with deep-fried tofu instead of chicken. The tofu is the perfect thickness, and it's

crispy on the outside and soft on the inside, providing a satisfying texture differential.

My boyfriend often orders the Tofu Coney Bao, an Asian-inspired take on the traditional Coney dog that includes mustard, onions and deep-fried mapo tofu, which is flavored with fermented bean paste, chili oil and Sichuan peppercorns. While it's a bit too spicy for me, it has earned a big stamp of approval from a seven-year vegan.

I appreciate The Avenue for its inclusive and welcoming atmosphere, and Ruckus Ramen follows suit with its diverse offerings for every diet. I highly recommend you try it out, but if you visit during a popular event, like the monthly A Night at the Soul Lounge, you may have to order takeout while waiting for a table to open up. Or you could always join another group at one of the larger tables. Though many patrons' alternative looks may scare away unaccustomed diners, I promise they're friendly.



### Fried Chicken Bao

\$5

Ruckus Ramen

2021 E. Michigan Ave.,  
Lansing

4-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday  
517-999-7549

facebook.com/ruckusramen

# Not tonight, vampires

By ARI LEVAUX

"The first time I tried your dad's salad," my friend Terrie recalled, "my eyes popped open, my mouth was burning, and I was like, 'What the ...'"

Her experience was far from unique. And like the rest of them, she came to love my dad's salad, garlic and all.

A simple mix of lettuce, tomato and onion dressed with a vinaigrette and served with olives and feta on the side, Howard's garlic salad, as everyone called it, was widely celebrated among our family and circle of friends. Eating a bowl of it could be as cathartic as a sweat lodge. For those accustomed to raw garlic, the way it was absorbed and balanced by the other ingredients was a thing of beauty.

My cousin Sandy took that level of garlic completely in stride, but she couldn't make it happen in her own kitchen.

"I tried so hard to recreate your dad's salad," she complained the last time I saw her. "I added tons of garlic to the dressing, but it didn't taste like

his salad."

This wasn't a lot of information, but it was enough for me to diagnose the problem. You don't add the garlic to the dressing. You add it to the salad.

In salad dressing, garlic stands little chance of bonding to the leaves, where it belongs. Soaked in vinegar and lubed in oil, the garlic will slide past the leaves and collect at the bottom of the bowl, effectively impotent. And Howard's garlic was anything but that.

He would wash and dry the lettuce leaf by leaf, slipping into a deeper meditative state with each piece of

foliage. He would chop the prepped lettuce and add it to his oiled wooden salad bowl, which always smelled deeply of garlic because he didn't wash it with soap.

He would press the garlic and add the puree to the leaves, along with salt, and gently toss everything together. The garlic entered the cut ends and broken creases in the leaves, marinating and generally impregnating



See Flash, Page 27

## Appetizers

WANT YOUR RESTAURANT LISTED?  
CALL 517-999-5064



**El Oasis**  
2501 E. Michigan Ave.  
Lansing  
(517) 648-7693  
eloasisfood.com

**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.



**Meat Southern BBQ**  
1224 Turner Rd.  
Lansing  
(517) 580-4400  
meatbbq.com

**WE BELIEVE EVERYONE DESERVES GREAT BBQ.**  
Award winning BBQ. Ribs, French fry bar, chili, sides including BBQ pit baked beans, mac n' cheese. 18 rotating taps of craft, Michigan made beers. Craft cocktails. We cater, too.

# Flash

from page 26

ing them with its pungent funk. You couldn't rinse it off if you wanted to.

And while Howard's garlic technique was revolutionary, his use of salt was reliable, which is a trait that pitifully few salad makers can claim. If your salad is a pile of unwanted foliage weighed down by croutons, fried chicken and ranch dressing, this message is not for you. But if you prefer a simple salad that celebrates raw ingredients, you need a simple dressing of oil and some kind of acid. Those two alone won't cut it, though. Too many salad makers are weak on salt.

For more guidance, here's the recipe for my dad's garlic salad.

## Howard's garlic salad

This salad is meant to push you out of your comfort zone in the garlic department. It will also absorb and neutralize more than you might expect, so don't hold back. Unless you find yourself in close proximity to some pitiful soul who has not eaten Howard's salad. In that case, you might want to hold back a little.

*Serves four*

1 large head of romaine, bottom sliced off, leaves separated, washed and dried

1 head of leafy lettuce, bottom sliced off, leaves separated, washed and dried

1/2 of a sweet onion, chopped finely

1 teaspoon salt, plus more to taste

3 garlic cloves, peeled and pressed or grated

2 cups quartered fresh tomatoes

1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil

2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar

2 tablespoons white balsamic vinegar

Feta and olives to serve on the side

Holding several leaves at once, chop the lettuce crosswise into bite-size chunks and add them to a salad bowl, preferably wooden. Add the garlic and salt and toss them into the leaves. Add the tomatoes and onions atop the garlic-impregnated leaves. As soon as they hit, the smell of the salad begins to really carry.

When it's time to eat the salad, whisk the oil and vinegar together until completely blended and thickened. Immediately pour the dressing over the salad. Toss it all together and serve, preferably in wooden bowls that may smell of garlic.



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