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November 15-21, 2023

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# CityPULSE

**VOL. 23  
ISSUE 14**

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**THIS WEEK in AUTHORITARIAN NEWSPEAK:**  
"Woke"

THE WORD "WOKE" WENT MAINSTREAM AROUND 2016, LARGELY DUE TO BLACK LIVES MATTER.

"WE AREN'T BORN WOKE, SOMETHING WAKES US UP."

THE RIGHT THEN TWISTED ITS MEANING AND IT BECAME PART OF A FULL-BLOWN MORAL PANIC.

**THE WOKE MENACE IS EVERYWHERE!**

WE WILL STOP IT IN OUR SCHOOLS, IN OUR BOOKS, OUR BANKS, OUR THEME PARKS, OUR BELOVED CARTOON CHARACTERS, OUR BEER, AND OUR SAUSAGES!

BUT WHAT DOES IT EVEN REFER TO?

CIVIL RIGHTS  
GENDER EQUALITY  
LGBTQ RIGHTS  
RELIGIOUS PLURALISM  
CLIMATE SCIENCE  
ACCURATE HISTORY  
PLANT-BASED PROTEIN

ALL SOCIAL PROGRESS SINCE THE MID-20th CENTURY

**"WOKE"**

WHEN THEY SAY IT, KNOW WHAT IT REALLY MEANS.

I WILL STOP **WOKE MODERNITY!**

SORENSEN

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A look at a few cannabis companies that topped ToT

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What it's like to be Greater Lansing's top librarian

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She Ate/He Ate across the Lansing area

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Cover illustration by Dennis Preston

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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

HERE YOU GO BIBI, A FRESH SUPPLY OF BOMBS!

THANK YOU! I GO THROUGH THEM SO QUICKLY THESE DAYS.

I WAS WONDERING IF MAYBE YOU'D CONSIDER USING THEM A LITTLE MORE SPARINGLY, THOUGH?

NOPE.

ER, OKAY--BUT HOW ABOUT PAUSING EVER SO BRIEFLY, TO ALLOW FOR SOME HUMANITARIAN AID?

NAH, I DON'T THINK SO.

PERHAPS THERE'S SOME WAY I CAN PERSUADE YOU TO EASE UP ON THE HOSPITALS, AT LEAST?

SORRY, JUST NOT SEEING IT.

WELL, ALL RIGHT THEN! I'M GLAD WE HAD THIS LITTLE TALK.

EXTREMELY PRODUCTIVE! OH, AND I'LL BE NEEDING MORE OF THESE SOON.

VERY SOON.

VERY SOON.

VERY SOON.

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# The ultimate Top of the Town challenge

One of the special things about our annual City Pulse Top of the Town Contest, now 16 years running, is seeing how many folks will take the ultimate challenge of voting in every category. Not just for your favorite restaurants, stores and other businesses you patronize and easily identify with, but Every. Single. Category. You may not be familiar with all of them, but you take the challenge for fun and maybe to learn a little more about your community.

Of course, not everyone is so inspired to go that far. We were thrilled this year in our first go-round with Revfluent LLC, which hosted our contest online, to have more than 20,000 of you sign up for TOTT and cast more than 247,000 votes! Revfluent has also built for us a new Lansing Guru site that will celebrate and host the Top Five in every category all year long, so those wanting to patronize the “best of the best” in Greater Lansing will have an invaluable resource. And we had a lot of fun with our friendly-aliens-visiting-Lansing theme and the great artwork by Dennis Preston that went with it.

But we still love those who take the “every-single-category” challenge, and this year, we added some substantial motivation for voters to go the distance with us: We enlisted the support of seven diverse businesses and launched a side contest, as the second round began, where those who voted in all 338 categories would be entered in a drawing to win a \$650 package of gift certificates from Local Roots, Meat BBQ, One North Kitchen & Bar, Preuss Pets, Pure Options, Spagnuolo’s Restaurant and Sweet Custom Jewelry.

Twenty-seven individuals embraced this task and, last Friday, we drew one of their names randomly. Shortly thereafter, Quinn Redick, who happens to be marketing and communications coordinator at Capital Area District Libraries – Downtown, received an email from our office.

“I can’t believe I won! I’m so excited!” she replied minutes later. It turns out that when Redick, a 28-year-old Haslett native, has voted in TOTT multiple times in the past. She is an Eastern Michigan University grad (’17) who studied journalism and media studies. She gives off the vibe of someone who’d love to be a lifelong ambassador for the best of the best in Greater Lansing.



Illustration by Dennis Preston

“I was inspired to vote because I think it’s important to recognize the people, organizations, services and businesses that are making a difference in our region and impact our lives,” she said. “It could be your favorite place to grab a bite or drink, or your hairstylist or doctor who has provided outstanding service. They deserve to be recognized because it helps further their success and introduces new clients and customers to a business, service, etc., that they weren’t aware of. It’s a win-win for everyone.”

Redick was fired up about about checking every proverbial box when she learned of the drawing and prize package. “I thought it was a fun way to incentivize people to vote!”

She quickly recognized many of her favorite categories (and businesses) to vote in, including Best Dive Bar (her choice: Dagwood’s), Best Burger (Crunchy’s), Best Lansing-Area

Brewery (Looking Glass Brewing Co.), Best State/National Politician (“Big Gretch”), Tattoo Parlor (Splash of Color), Coffee Shop (non-Bigby) (Constellation Cat Cafe), Best sports bar (Art’s Pub or Reno’s East). And, naturally, Best Library (CADL Downtown). “Libraries are great hangouts,” she said, “I’m a huge supporter of all libraries.”

When it comes to great categories, Redick added that there were “too many to name! I will say I am a huge fan of the new ‘Best Place to Cry in Public’ category. It has to be Frandor!” (She was prescient: Frandor it is. We can relate.)

On the other hand, did Redick also discover people, businesses and categories with which she was not familiar, but which inspired her to learn more about and try?

“Absolutely! That was a great benefit of voting in the contest,” she said.



Quinn Redick

For example, “I’m definitely interested in trying out the vegan food options in the Lansing area. I wasn’t aware of them before the contest, but now I want to try them out!”

When we talked with her last week, Redick had not yet told her colleagues at CADL that she had won, but she said her co-workers were excited about their chances of winning for Best Library and Best Librarians. “I’m so happy they were recognized. Librarians do amazing work for their members and the community as a whole, so the nominations are well-deserved.”

Redick is still in a bit of a state of disbelief about being chosen and has big plans for her prize package and patronizing businesses she already loves and others she wants to try. “I couldn’t believe it when I first found out,” she said. “I’ve never won a contest like this, and I am extremely grateful. I want to give a huge thank you to City Pulse and the businesses that donated gift certificates.”

“I’m very excited to go to MEAT BBQ,” she added. “My husband has never been, so I’m looking forward to taking him there and having some of the best BBQ in the region. Then who knows, maybe we’ll venture down to Preuss Pets to get something for our cats and then visit other Lansing businesses and restaurants that were featured in the Top of the Town. We’re planning to make a whole day of it and call it our ‘Tour-De-Lansing.’”

— STEVE UNDERWOOD

**Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds [Tiered Reviews]**

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR TIERED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

**Date of Publication: November 15, 2023**

City of Lansing  
316 N Capitol Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48933  
(517) 483-4040

**On or after December 4, 2023, the City of Lansing, MI will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-383) as amended and HOME Investment Partnerships Programs under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C 12701), to undertake the following projects:**

**Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: Community Development Block Grant**

**Purpose:** The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provides funding for community revitalization purposes and activities must meet at least one of the three National Objectives: Benefit to persons of low and moderate income, elimination of slum and blight, urgent community need.

**Location:** The City of Lansing.

**Project/Program Description:**

**Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation**

Loans and grants for rehabilitation and Emergency repair of owner-occupied housing units through city sponsored programs, and rehabilitation in conjunction with affordable housing efforts sponsored by non-profit housing corporations, public and private developers, and other state and federal agencies, as well as lead hazard reduction, emergency housing rehabilitation, technical assistance to nonprofit housing corporations, ADA ramps and hazard remediation.

**Proposed funding amount: \$940,149.00**

**Rental Unit Rehabilitation**

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

**Proposed funding amount: \$449,740.00**

**Blight Removal**

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

**Proposed funding amount: \$1,000.00**

**Level of Environmental Review Citation:**

Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation - 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(3)(i)

Rental Unit Rehabilitation - 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(3)(i)

Blight Removal - 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(1)

**Tier 2 site specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the tier 1 broad review for each address under this program when addresses become known.**

**Tier 2 Site Specific Review: The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review:**

Floodplain Management  
Historic Preservation

**Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any):**

**Floodplain Management** - There are no proposed projects in the flood plain. However, floodplain information will be evaluated on a site-specific basis. All activities will be mapped on FEMA-FIRMs and each site will be compared to determine if property is in the floodplain. If so, an 8-step process will be completed to evaluate practicable mitigation measures.

**Historic Preservation** - The City refers properties that are greater than 50 years old to State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for their review in determining its historical significance and follows SHPOs recommendation. Each site-specific project will be evaluated to determine its historical significance.

**Estimated Project Cost:** The estimated cost of projects is \$1,390,889 as indicated above.

**The activity/activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(3)(i) and 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(1). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at : City of Lansing – Department of Economic Development and Planning 316 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00 A.M to 5:00 P.M. or at <https://cpd.hud.gov/cpd-public/environmental-reviews>.**

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROJECTS**

**Tier 1 Broad Review Project/Program Title: HOME Investment Partnerships.**

**Purpose:** The HOME program provides funding for down payment assistance, new construction, and housing rehabilitation.

**Location:** The City of Lansing.

**Project/Program Description:**

**Homeowner Housing Construction and Homebuyer Repairs**

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

**Proposed funding amount: \$553,377**

**CHDO Set-aside (15% minimum required)**

Reserved for housing developed, sponsored or owned by CHDOs in partnership with the city.

**Proposed funding amount: \$ 125,009**

**Tier 2 site specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not addressed in the tier 1 broad review for each address under this program when addresses become known.**

**Level of Environmental Review Citation:**

Homeowner Housing Construction and Homebuyer Repairs - 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(4)(i)/24 CFR 58.36

**CHDO Set-aside (15% minimum required)** - 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(4)(i)/ 24 CFR 58.36

**Tier 2 Site Specific Review: The site-specific reviews will cover the following laws and authorities not addressed in the Tier 1 broad review:**

Historic Preservation  
Noise Abatement and Control

**Mitigation Measures/Conditions/Permits (if any):**

**Historic Preservation** – Each proposed project will require a Section 106 National Historic Preservation Review

**Noise Abatement and Control** – Each site-specific new construction activity will be reviewed for noise.

Please note that there is no proposed new construction in the floodplain. However, if a proposed new construction is located in the floodplain, the 8-step process for floodplain properties will be completed to evaluate practical mitigation measures.

**Estimated Project Cost:** The estimated cost of projects is \$678,386 as indicated above.

**The activity/activities proposed are environmental assessments under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements per 24 CFR Part 58.35(a)(4)(i)/24 CFR 58.36. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at: City of Lansing – Department of Economic Development and Planning 316 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00 A.M to 5:00 P.M. or at <https://cpd.hud.gov/cpd-public/environmental-reviews>.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning, 316 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933, Attn: Doris Witherspoon, Senior Planner, or e-mail to [doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov](mailto:doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov). All comments received by December 1, 2023 will be considered by the City of Lansing prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION**

The City of Lansing certifies to HUD that Andy Schor, Certifying Officer, in his capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Lansing to use HUD program funds.

**OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the RE's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Lansing; (b) the City of Lansing has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development –Detroit Field Office, Keith E. Hernandez, Director, Community Planning and Development at [DETroitCPD@hud.gov](mailto:DETroitCPD@hud.gov). Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Andy Schor, Mayor, City of Lansing, MI, Certifying Officer

CP#23-302

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## Best (& Worst) Politician ... Do we have to? TOTT reveals how we feel about our choices

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is the “Best State/National Politician” and “Best Local Politician,” according to the readers of this fine publication, as voted for in the Top of the Town contest. She’s also the second “Worst Local Politician.”

Former President Donald Trump ranked third in the “Best State/National Politician” category. He’s also the “Worst State/National Politician.”

Trump apparently is worse than President Joe Biden, who finished second in this dubious category.

Polling tells us the third-most-likely person to become president is Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. He finished third for “Worst State/National Politician.”

U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin was the second-best “Best State/National Politician” and second “Best Local Politician.”

Last year, she beat former state Sen. Tom Barrett, who was the second “Worst Local Politician,” the third “Worst State/National Politician” ... and the third “Best Local Politician.”

And the winner of the “Worst Local Politician” label was Tudor Dixon who beat out, as I mentioned before, the person who beat her for governor, Gretchen Whitmer.

In summary:

Out of four categories, candidates in only three political races were selected.

Out of 12 possible places, the most popular selections were occupied by the same seven people.

What does this tell me?

A few things. We love and we hate what we know. Familiarity breeds strong feelings.

And, more disturbingly, politics has become so polarizing, numbing and off-putting that we’ll carelessly throw names on a ballot like this with little thought.

Politician? Whitmer. Trump. Slotkin. Biden. Barrett. Next.

I’ll guarantee that more thought was put into your favorite burger or local band than politician.

Who wouldn’t rather think about the best pizza in town instead? I would.

Look, you may think Trump was a great president or a terrible president, and I won’t debate you on either point. But half of all Republicans are wrapped around his finger.

Tudor Dixon? There are nine other

GOP hopefuls from 2022 who were worse than she was.

You may think Whitmer or Barrett were lousy at their jobs, too. But both have won far more races than they’ve lost.

Anybody who has convinced people to give them lots of money and lots of votes isn’t “the worst.”

That designation is for people like Larry Hutchinson, who staples hand-drawn fliers onto telephone poles, or that Taft guy who runs dangerously on busy streets in Lansing in bright clothing.

Or even Perry Johnson, who pissed away millions of his own dollars, only to never make it to the starting line on any race.

These politicians are the worst. Despite their best efforts, they are soundly rejected, over and over.

Likewise, to say Whitmer is the best local politician only makes sense in that she’s a politician and she lives locally.

She’s more likely to run for president than anything local.

Sarah Anthony, Barb Byrum, Sam Singh, Peter Spadafore, Andy Schor, Chris Swope ... all of these politicians have won multiple local races.

We all know these people, and we’d have voted for them if we gave it any thought.

But we didn’t, because we don’t want to think about politics. Not really. We actively avoid it.

In 2023, politics puts us in a bad place mentally.

It makes us combative, defensive and agitated, sometimes all at once. It causes us to de-friend people off social media or avoid talking to certain relatives.

Isn’t it telling that all three of the “Worst State/National Politicians” are the exact three people most likely to win the presidency in 2024?

We think so little of the profession that we’ve resigned ourselves to not think of who would be “the best” for a government position, but who would be less worse out of the options seemingly force-fed to us.

And does that make them the worst? Or are we the worst for letting it come to this?

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



KYLE MELINN

Opinion

POLITICS

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There is honestly so much on my mind that I really didn't come up with a single thing that I really wanted to write about. I really just don't know how we got to this point that we are really all just sick and tired of the rat race.

Most of us, including me, have been chasing a career because we needed to find something that we could do to earn a living that paid the bills. I started out in the hospitality business. I worked nights, weekends, and nearly every holiday. I enjoyed what I was doing for the most part, and it was my dream to own my own restaurant. The only thing I didn't enjoy about it was not having any weekends off consistently and working every holiday. The clientele were mostly people who treated staff kindly and understood that sometimes people make mistakes.

Of course, there were always the people who would complain about any little thing that they felt was wrong, as if somehow they were perfect and could do my job better than me; or worse, they just simply looked down on anyone doing service work and somehow they were better than me. I always felt like I was my own boss, so I managed those people like any others, and I would accommodate their egos and pleasantly finish the service to get them on their way. I suppose you'll find that in any field of work, and I was conditioned to accept that this was just part of the job.

I have not deconstructed that entirely, and I still feel the effects of that conditioning today in the work I do now. My goal in business has always been to do everything within my ability to please people, even if they are difficult. I do not know if my wages were ever a fair compensation for my work. There were times where I couldn't afford my rent, I didn't always have a car, and I ate eggs a lot because I liked them and they were cheap. The minimum wage when I started working was like \$3.35 an hour if I remember correctly, or \$2.52 an hour for wait staff, plus tips.

Eventually my time became more important to me, and I decided that I wanted to make a change. I decided to get into some sort of construction trade. I started off working for a general contractor, and loved the Monday-Friday gig, but the pay was \$7.50 an hour. We did a mix of underground infrastructure, framing, flatwork, and finish work. The working conditions were not the safest with the company I was working for, and after gaining some experience and confidence, I decided to look at other options, and that is how I ended up in the HVAC world.

Again, the hours were desirable, and the pay started at \$7.50 an hour. This was in 1999. My learning curve started out slow, but the more I learned, the faster I learned. Unfortunately, the pay didn't increase as fast as my ability. I stuck it out though, and I really loved what I was doing. At this point, I was starting a family, and we bought our first house with the help of my amazing mother and father-in-law. My wife, who I met in the hospitality industry, was working full time, mostly nights and weekends, as well as holidays, allowing us to share parenting duties, and avoid the huge costs of daycare.

We drove hand-me-down vehicles, had a budget for groceries, and scrambled for funds for a new roof (that I tried to do myself even though I had a healthy fear of heights on this steep roof on an old house), but we managed through all the stresses to hold everything together.

During those times, I struggled to imagine how we might ever get to live comfortably. I can say with certainty that my wife made much more than I did, but she was underpaid and overworked, and it took a toll on our life together. I tried to put pressure on my employer to pay me more because I felt that my abilities deserved to be compensated more. I think I got a few raises over the course of a few years. I kid you not, the raises were usually between 10 and 35 cents each time. That translated into buying a take-out pizza from time to time, or maybe a trip to Chuck E. Cheese with the kids.

I didn't complain, I just worked. I was home with the kids when I wasn't working and played with them and the dogs, and made a mess of the house, gave baths and read bedtime stories. I wasn't the best husband at all times; sometimes I resented my wife for working nights and weekends, which wasn't fair to her. She was also doing the best she could trying to build her resume and career, and she was damn good at what she did, too. We were both tired. The race never ended though, we just kept going. We celebrated whenever we could, even if it was crumbs. Those 35-cent raises were welcomed.

I read a quote on PragerU this week, and I couldn't decide if I agreed with it or not. Normally nothing from that fake university is worth noting, but this one kind of stuck out to me, even if my perception of it is different than theirs. It said "Nobody

invented capitalism. It is what free people do naturally - exchange goods and services for their benefit." While capitalism can certainly create prosperity for some, it also generates wealth disparities through the exploitation of labor. When everything is left to the "free" market, there will be a conflict between capital and labor, not to mention the effects it can have on the environment regarding pollution and waste.

I used to be friends with a guy that owned his own plumbing business. He was about my age and had started his business at the same time as I did. I met him while we were both working for someone else, and we would bump into each other on various job sites. After we both started businesses, we didn't see each other in a few years. Then sometime around 2015, we crossed paths. He noticed my Bernie Sanders bumper sticker on my truck, and he essentially attacked me and asked why I would vote for that socialist. I was kind of surprised because I figured everyone who has worked hard and been underpaid would see how capitalism unchecked has failed us. He actually said to me that he didn't believe in a minimum wage, and that if he wanted to pay someone \$5 an hour, then he should be allowed to pay whatever he wanted. It is obvious that people will accept less if they are desperate, and it is equally obvious that there are people who will never pay people a decent wage because greed is their compass.

Times have changed. With information at everyone's fingertips, people are now more informed than ever. Even though not all information is valid, working people now know what most ordinary people never knew before. We see these global companies resisting fair wages, and at the same time recording record profits. We see them buying politicians and hoarding wealth. These businesses portray an image of being innovators and job producers, and feign ignorance when it comes to the harm they create in communities through class warfare.

My wife and I were never paid a fair wage, let alone a living wage. When I started my business, I did work for next to nothing sometimes, just to get by. I did a ton of work and taxed my body working for someone who didn't value me, and I have made decisions based upon my financial status instead of what was best for me, my body, my mind, and my family. My family is going to want to see me grow old, and I want to be able to walk, or bend over when and if I have grandchildren. I pay my guys a wage that assures they want to come to work, but also to thrive while they are here. Everyone employed here makes more than I ever made, even at my highest wage, before I started this business. They will continue to increase their wages as this business continues to grow. I am not looking for ways to pay someone as little as possible for their labor which they deserve to prosper from.

I want to end with another quote that I found very telling, although it was written almost 200 years ago.

"It is odd to watch with what feverish ardor Americans pursue prosperity. Ever tormented by the shadowy suspicion, that they may not have chosen the shortest route to get it. They cleave to the things of this world, as if assured that they will never die, and yet rush to snatch any that comes within their reach, as if they expected to stop living before they had relished them. Death steps in, in the end, and stops them, before they have grown tired of this futile pursuit of that complete felicity, which always escapes them."

*Tocqueville, Democracy in America*

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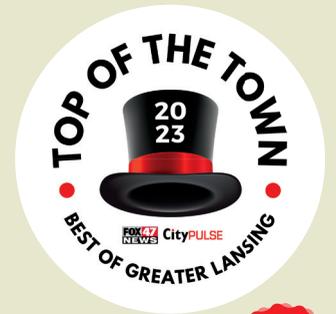
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Eric Goodnoe (left) Roy Niemi (right)

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# Lansing-area cannabis companies that set the competition ablaze

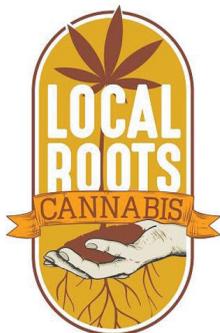
By CHRIS SILVA

In no surprise to this writer, many of the companies and retailers that continue to dominate the Top of the Town awards are Lansing locals with years of experience that predates the state-regulated industry. Our area has always been at the forefront of cannabis culture and activism, making it a natural leader as the industry has matured and grown more robust year after year.

I want to highlight a few great operators that have topped the Top of the Town list this year. We live in a time when industry awards from customers mean less and less. The relentless arms race toward higher THC dosages and lower prices has made many dubious about the validity of such awards. As a longtime industry member and avid cannabis consumer, I can say I'm truly impressed with the palate and preferences of Lansing-area cannabis users. The full list of winners includes some of the best cannabis brands and operators Michigan has to offer, and almost all of them call the capital area home.

## Local Roots

Laingsburg's Local Roots is back on the list this year, with wins in Best Marijuana Provisioning Center and Best CBD Store/Boutique categories. This marks the third year in a row that the rural retailer has won Best Marijuana Provisioning Center. The owners of this family-operated business have years of cannabis experience under their belts and a genuine passion for the plant and its surrounding culture. The store also offers some of the best customer service and curated inventory in Michigan, plus an aggressive community outreach agenda that includes a yearly turkey giveaway and sponsoring nearly every local event and community affair in the owners' lifelong hometown of Laingsburg. Local Roots is also a prolific advocate for the cannabis community and has put thousands of dollars and hundreds of labor hours into numerous expungement events and fundraisers that aim



Courtesy photo

Franklin Fields' First Class Funk strain took third place in the Best Cannabis Flower — Hybrid category in this year's Top of the Town competition.

to aid those who have been harmed by cannabis prohibition.

## Franklin Fields and The Botanical Co.

Lansing cannabis cultivator and processor Franklin Fields and its brick-and-mortar Lansing store, The Botanical Co., joined the Top of the Town list this year with a first-place finish in the Best Cannabis Flower — Sativa category for their Orange Zkittlez strain, a second-place finish in the Best Cannabis Flower — Indica category for their Superboof strain and a third-place finish in the Best Cannabis Flower — Hybrid category for their First Class Funk strain. First Class Funk is quickly picking up a following across the state as Franklin Fields strengthens its market penetration and its reputation for offering its products great prices. I was lucky enough to get a tour of its facility, which is near the Capital Region International Airport,



and I was truly blown away by the quality and efficiency of the grow. In addition, the company is made up of numerous former caregiver and legacy operators, and it invests heavily in expungement efforts across the state. I picked up some of the strains the facility produces as samples and was incredibly impressed, especially when I saw the prices the company is selling them for. It won't surprise me to see Franklin Fields on this list again next year

in many more categories as it continues to roll out more and more unique products and expands its solventless and other concentrate offerings.

## Lion Labs and Pure Options' Element

I was happy to see that Lansing-area readers clearly have refined and heady



pallets because they voted Element to the top of the list in both the Best Solvent Concentrate and Best Non-Solvent Concentrate categories. Both are collaborations with perennial Top of the Town winner Pure Options/Pro-Gro, another cannabis powerhouse with deep caregiver roots, and Lansing-based processor Lion Labs, which has some of the best top-shelf offerings in the state, spread across various concentrates, vape carts, edibles and infused joints. Lion Labs also produces a highly lauded line of live-resin infused Rick Simpson oil and other cannabis products, including tablets with various cannabinoids and delivery methods for medical patients. In addition, Lion Labs' Potdots won second place in the Best Non-Gummy Edible category. I'm thrilled to see these companies achieving commercial success while still carrying out the tradition of medical cannabis and serving patients.

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**Best Solvent Concentrate (Cannabis)**  
Element

**Best Non-Solvent Concentrate (Cannabis)**  
Element

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## Open House Music Spotlight!

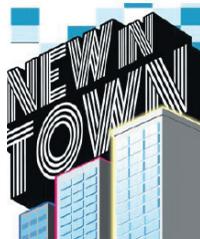
<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
12:00 Capital City Ringers 1:15 Ricky Nalett 2:15 Kathy Ford Duo	12:00 Wanda Degen Duo 1:15 Justin Holcomb 2:15 Pooh Stevenson Duo

## Open House Vendor Spotlight!

Kelly Boyle Art Prints Bookmark Alpacas Pooh Stevenson Photography Park Lake Creamery Pittery Pottery Poo	Davis Family Farm Larc Samuelson-Luxury Wooden Pens Linked Permanent Jewelry Shellie Finn Linda Lambert at LJL Creations
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# Rave reviews for rookie restaurants

By TYLER SCHNEIDER



Just a couple months shy of its one-year anniversary on Jan. 26, 2024, Lansing Shuffle took home the title of Best New Business in this year's Top of the Town contest, while also finishing second in the Best New Restaurant category.

Technically, it houses five restaurants: Yeti Kitchen, Osteria Vegana, Kin Thai, Browndog at the Shuffle and Irie Smoke Shack — with the capacity to add two more. The large food hall also features two full-service bars, a lounge and its signature riverfront patio. Five or six shuffleboard courts are in the works as well.

One voter praised the concept as a “brilliant idea of bringing various food stands together so a group can gather and everyone can get what they want.”

Another wrote, “Great atmosphere, food options (that are tasty), great view

of the river ... it's the best.”

Lansing Shuffle also finished second in the Best Jam Night category, with one voter saying, “Jam and choice work well together.”

The property was formerly home to the storied Lansing City Market. The new development was created by the same team that brought the Detroit Shipping Co. to life.

In the Best New Restaurant category, the final tally came down to just one vote as first-place finisher The Old Bag of Nails Pub topped Lansing Shuffle.

The Old Bag of Nails Pub opened within the Red Cedar Development in October 2022, the Ohio chain's first location in Michigan. In addition to its Best New Restaurant win, the pub collected three second-place finishes in Best “Kids Eat Free” Restaurant, Best Fish Fry and Best Irish restaurant.

The new eatery's most popular entries thus far include the Famous Fish & Chips, traditional British-style, hand-battered Atlantic haddock that can be blackened or pan-seared. Fish sandwiches are another easy sell here, with the traditional option as well as a Reuben-style version, made with Atlantic haddock and served on grilled rye bread with melted Swiss,

coleslaw and Thousand Island dressing. The gluten-free New England Clam Chowder also packs a punch.

One commentor said The Old Bag of Nails “fills a need vacated by Claddaugh,” referring to the Irish pub that occupied the space at 2900 Centre Blvd. in the Eastwood Towne Center from 2018 until its permanent closure in 2020. Several others also mentioned this as a factor in their votes.

Many voters mentioned the food itself. “The fried corn is one of the best things I've ever eaten,” one wrote, with another seconding that opinion. “Free kids' meal when eating with adults. Great food for adults,” said another.

Rounding out the top three in the Best New Business category were Hooked and Homebrew Tabletop Gaming Lounge. The former is a bookstore, coffee shop and wine bar that opened in the Red Cedar Development in April 2022. The latter, a gaming oasis in Grand Ledge, opened in April of this year.

Rounding out the Best New Restaurant category was third-place finisher Veg Head, a vegan eatery located on the first floor of the Ranney Building in downtown Lansing that celebrated its first anniversary in October. Owned by



Courtesy photo



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

Lansing Shuffle (top) won Best New Business in this year's Top of the Town competition, but The Old Bag of Nails Pub beat it by one vote to win Best New Restaurant.

former Michigan State University executive chef Kari Magee, Veg Head takes a creative stance on American comfort food, offering a menu that looks to reintroduce vegan options as something hardliners and casual omnivores alike can enjoy.

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# Schuler takes Top of the Town prize for Best Bookstore

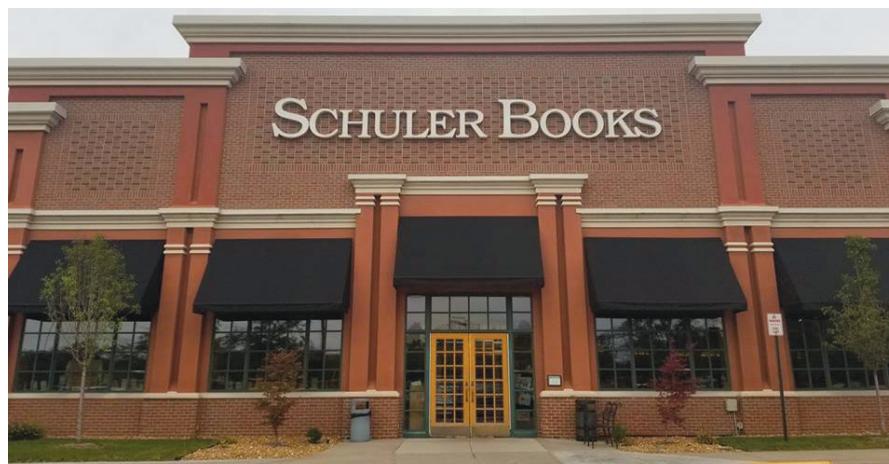
By BILL CASTANIER

Schuler Books isn't doing it by the numbers.

The store's success comes from "using our brains instead of algorithms," said Amanda Strong, who manages Schuler's store at the Meridian Mall in Okemos.

It must be working: Schuler captured first place for Best Bookstore in the annual Top of the Town contest, after finishing second a year ago. It came in third in the Best Hangout Solo category, behind Horrocks and Constellation Cat Café.

All three bookstore winners from last year repeated — just in a different order. Last year's first-place winner, Deadtime Stories: True Crime and Other Books,



Courtesy of Schuler Books

Schuler Books captured first place for Best Bookstore in the annual Top of the Town contest, after finishing second in 2022. It came in third in the Best Hangout Solo category, behind Horrocks and Constellation Cat Café.

finished second. Hooked rounded out the Top Three in both years.

Strong also attributed Schuler's success to providing a place for people to meet.

"Indie bookstores are an important resource that the community counts on," she said.

As an example, Strong said Schuler is working with the Okemos school district to help run a book fair. The district recently canceled its annual Scholastic Book Fair after Scholastic, the nation's biggest children's book publisher, sequestered controversial titles into a special category that had to be requested.

Strong sees reasons to be optimistic about the future of bookstores.

"Fifteen years ago, there were reports that all book sales would be digital and the printed book would be dead," she said. Instead, five bookstores have opened in Greater Lansing in the last

couple of years, she pointed out.

She also said people are buying.

She cited three recent "laydowns," or book releases, that illustrate the vitality of the book publishing industry: "The Woman in Me," by Britney Spears; "My Name Is Barbra," by Barbra Streisand, and a fantasy novel, "Iron Flame," by Rebecca Yarros. Strong said 100 copies of Yarros' book were sold the first day.

In other book-related ToTT categories, Jenn Carpenter, owner of Deadtime Stories in Lansing's REO Town neighborhood, came in first for Best Local Author. She has written two nonfiction works, "Haunted Lansing" and "The Cereal Killer Chronicles of Battle Creek," and is working on a third, in the true-crime genre. She also published a fiction novel, "Hardwood Floors," in 2013.

"I've always been writing. I was the editor of my high school newspaper

and worked on the LCC newspaper," Carpenter said. "I discovered one of the best ways to sell books is to open a bookstore." She added that a lot of the store's sales are driven by her true-crime podcast, "Violent Ends," formerly known as "So Dead."

What's selling best at Deadtime Stories?

"A lot of 'Girls and Their Monsters,' by Audrey Farley, based on Lansing's Morlok quads, and books by Rod Sadler, a true-crime writer from Williamston. I can't keep their books in stock," she said.

Jennifer Davis, an area poet, came in second in the Best Author category. John K. Addis, a designer and marketing professional who penned the horror novel "The Eaton," finished third.

Summit Comics and Games, 216 S. Washington Square, was selected as the Best Comic Shop, followed by Grave Danger, 1236 Turner St. in Lansing's Old Town, and Capital City Collectables, 1723 E. Michigan Ave.

In the Best Library category, the downtown branch of Capital Area District Libraries won first, followed by the Delta Township District Library and the East Lansing Public Library.

Speaking of libraries, there was another big winner — though not in the ToTT contest.

Ottawa County's Patmos Library won taxpayer support to reinstate the funding it had lost due to a free-speech issue involving LGBTQ+ books on its shelves.

It wasn't a squeaker, either, with 63% of the voters standing up against the nasty culture war precipitated by a tiny but vocal organization, Moms for Liberty, that sought to control what people read.

The group had led a successful defeat of the millage supporting the Patmos Library in 2022. Since then, the library had been limping along with donations from a GoFundMe effort and a generous donation from mega-author Nora Roberts.

Ultimately, what helped flip the vote was a compromise in which the library agreed to attach descriptions about a book's content to the inside cover. What kids read once again relies on a family's decision.

I hope Capital Area District Libraries' Board of Trustees asks the five perspective candidates for the vacant head librarian position what they would do in similar circumstances.

The interviews are 5 p.m. Thursday (Nov. 16) and 6:45 p.m. Monday (Nov. 20) in the board room on the third floor of the Downtown Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

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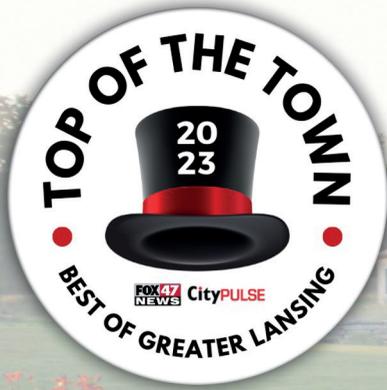
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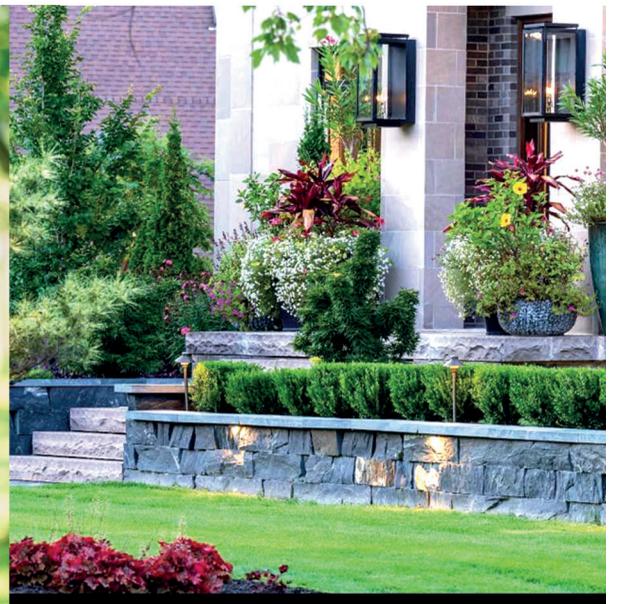
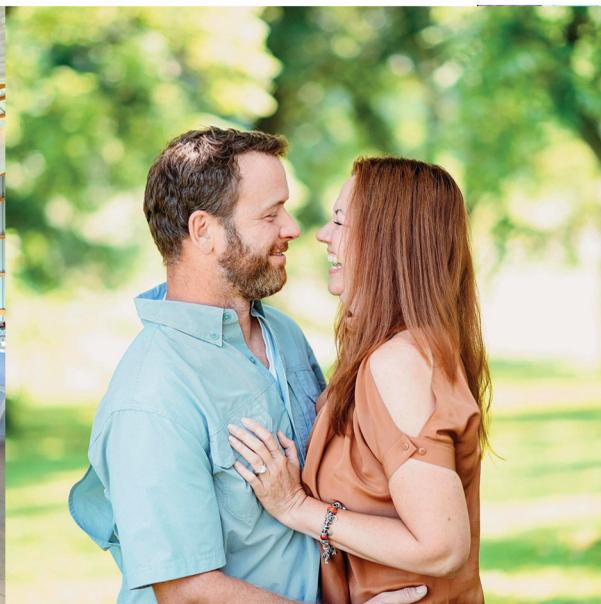
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# The great Miss Kate

## CADL Haslett youth services librarian shines during Storytime

By **CHELSEA LAKE ROBERTS**

The world of Preschool Storytime is not for the faint of heart. You have to know who you are and play to your strengths.

“There are some Storytime readers who have such a nurturing, calm vibe,” said Kate Newcombe, the Top of the Town winner in the new category of Best Librarian.

“They can read these heartfelt stories to the kids, but I know I can’t sell that,” she laughed. “The kids know me, and they know that I’m going to read them something funny.”

Although she describes herself as “a terrible singer, a terrible dancer,” Newcombe incorporates plenty of both, plus music, as she delights preschool children through her storytelling.

“I’m a total introvert everywhere except at Storytime. It’s there that” — she paused before continuing with a sly smile — “my other personality comes out.”

The other winners for Best Librarian were Jill Abood, Capital Area District Libraries’ community engagement specialist, who finished second, and Cassie Veselovsky, or “Miss Cassie,” of the Foster Library and Storm Kopitsch of the Fowlerville District Library, who tied for third.

Top of the Town voters wrote in many comments about “Miss Kate,” calling her “a hidden gem,” “the best storyteller” and “a rockstar in the world of Storytime for little kids.”

So, what’s been wowing her fans lately?

“There’s a book I’m so in love with right now, it just came out this year, and it’s called ‘Mr. S,’ by Monica Arnoldo.” In the book, a group of kindergarteners are waiting for their teacher on the first day of school, but all they can find is a sandwich on the front desk and the name “Mr. S” written on the whiteboard. “I don’t want to spoil anything, but they start to wonder if their teacher is the sandwich.”

When looking for a great children’s book, Newcombe chooses books that children will love and adults will want to read again and again. “That repetition is so important, and kids crave it. So it’s essential to pick something you want to read at least 20 times in a row.” Much of the story in “Mr. S” is



Chelsea Roberts for City Pulse

Top of the Town’s Best Librarian 2023, Kate Newcombe.

told through pictures in the classroom and parallel action taking place outside, visible through the window. “It’s one of those books that you really have read multiple times and pay attention. It’s really clever.”

But for parents who are overwhelmed with children’s book choices, she said not to sweat it. “When you’re in this profession, every book is equally valuable. If you’re reading it, that’s better than not reading at all.”

For the uninitiated, the Haslett Branch of the Capital Area District Libraries is in the old Meridian High School, right between the elementary school, middle school and high school campuses off Marsh and Haslett. When I went to interview Newcombe at 3 p.m., the place was overrun with youth.

“We don’t get a lot of high schoolers here,” she said. “They’re doing their own thing. But on an average day, we have at minimum 30 middle schoolers

hanging out after school. We’ve become sort of an infamous spot between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m.”

Newcombe has worked at the Haslett branch for 15 years and in libraries for 25 years. She grew up in Greater Lansing and said that her first really positive experience was using the downtown branch of CADL. After moving away to Vermont for college, then graduate school in Illinois, Newcombe eventually settled back in her hometown. As the youth services librarian, her focus is primarily preschool-aged children and Storytime out in the community. But she said that, like with most jobs, she does a lot of other duties as assigned. “I do everything, if I do say so myself.”

That tenure has allowed her to experience the transformative power of literacy at many levels. One project she has been proud to participate in is called Connections in Corrections. Available only to staff at CADL, the program brings librarians to the Ingham County Jail to meet with incar-

cerated parents and grandparents. “The people who are incarcerated can choose a book from the library we have created there — a big, beautiful closet filled with brand-new books — and we record the person reading this book to their child or grandchild.” The recording is then sent to the family in whatever format works best for them.

As someone who understands deeply the importance of reading to children, Newcombe described the program as “one of the most gratifying experiences I’ve ever had.”

After her first visit to the jail, she was struck by something that stays with her. “I think that people might make assumptions about someone in that situation, like if they are incarcerated, they may not care about their child’s literacy, or whatever. But so many people in that program say to me, ‘My child is a great reader. My child loves to read.’ They are so proud of that aspect of their child’s life. And that pride is universal.”

In addition to being beloved for her Storytime performances, fans of Miss Kate also describe her as deeply caring, dedicated, passionate and deserving.

“I feel super connected to the Haslett community,” she said. “When I got my job, I thought, ‘Oh, I’ll do this for a year, and then I’ll move somewhere else.’ Now it’s 15 years later, and this community is so nice and so supportive and loves its library so much that I can’t leave.”

Newcombe and I ended our conversation back on the topic of reading with preschool-aged kids.

“Sometimes I think it’s hard to talk about librarianship without sounding a little corny,” she said. “But that age is just so receptive, enthusiastic. They’re learning so much so fast. I have watched kids grow up.”

She’s not exaggerating. “I have kids who used to come to my Storytimes who now are in college. I get to meet them at that age, and then, if I’m lucky, I stay in touch with their family because this is a really close-knit community. I get to watch people grow up, and that’s a privilege.”

We paused for a moment. Then Newcombe added, “It’s also just completely and purely fun to sit up there and read silly books and jump around and dance.”



# THANK YOU

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2023

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Flora

# LSO, MSU choirs storm Wharton with Carl Orff's 'Carmina Burana'

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

How do you wrap your head around a live, full-scale performance of "Carmina Burana?" There were so many warm bodies at Friday's (Nov. 10) Lansing Symphony Orchestra concert, including a fully packed Cobb Great Hall audience and more than 300 performers on stage, that it was a relief when the air conditioning kicked in, despite the chilly mid-November weather.

The best way to get a handle on Friday's concert is to divide it into two halves: pre-swan and post-swan. About halfway through the performance, tenor David Shaler slowly walked to the center of the stage to sing the famous lament of the luckless swan roasting on a spit. In a rare touch of theatricality — for the LSO at least — Shaler came on stage with ersatz swan feathers sprouting absurdly from his shirt and trousers. As he sang, he made pitiful gestures toward the chorus and orchestra, winced at every loud note and stopped his ears, as if saying, "La-la-la, this can't be happening to me."

There were a few raised eyebrows

among the old-school crowd, but Shaler's shenanigans didn't break up the mood or cheapen the experience. On the contrary, the performance was almost too careful up to that point, and it needed something like Shaler's swan bit to goose it to the next level. Laughter broke out in the hall, and the audience seemed to relax a muscle it didn't know was clenched. Shaler's fellow soloists, baritone Babatunde Akinboboye and soprano Penelope Shumate, cracked a smile and settled in a bit more comfortably. Even the musicians and chorus seemed to play and sing with less circumspection and more abandon.

Both pre- and post-swan, the performance was so finely etched, with such meticulous attention to detail, that it felt at times like an intimate chamber music experience. LSO maestro Timothy Muffitt kept the slow interludes in sweet suspension like honey dripping from a spoon — the better to electrify the hall when the tempo suddenly accelerated to juggernaut levels.

A massive chorus combining Michigan State University's Choral Union, State Singers and University Chorale

## Review



Photo by Olivia Beebe

Tenor David Shaler as "Carmina Burana's" ill-fated roasting swan, alongside fellow soloists Penelope Shumate and Babatunde Akinboboye, at the Lansing Symphony Orchestra's Friday (Nov. 10) Masterworks concert.

did full justice to the relentless demands of Orff's score, summoning scary cyclones, summer idylls and spring zephyrs, as the occasion warranted. The male voices, usually outnumbered by the females in big concerts like this, more than held their own. The synchronization of choir and orchestra was tight as a lobster pinch — an impressive feat when you consider that some of these performers could barely see each other. In one rollicking number, the male chorus bumped along with the pianos like a giddy kid jumping on a trampoline, building up such a head of steam that it was easy to forget the split-second timing required to pull it off.

But "Carmina Burana" is not all fun and games. When the massed voices brought the hammer down on the famous beginning and opening chorus, it felt like the crack of doom, complete with blood-red magma and hellish demons, had opened underneath the comfy seats of the Cobb Great Hall. Astonishingly, the chorus' diction was crystal clear, despite its vast numbers and booming volume. It must have been hard work getting everyone on the same jot and tittle, let alone the same page, but the hard work paid off. They were hundreds, but they sang as one. Pull a few Latin-chanting monks from the 11th century into the hall and I'm sure they would have understood every word.

Of the three vocal soloists, Akinboboye had the most to chew on, and he pumped plenty of juice into his spirited, engaging performance. His voice surged like a cannonball from the musical battlefield surrounding him, sailing into the back row of the hall — and be-

yond, for all I know. He was not only in fine voice but fully in character, down to the soles of his shoes. You didn't need to brush up on your Latin to get the gist of his passionate performance.

Shumate sang with a diamond glow during a less showy part, and Shaler, the aforementioned swan, flattened his voice to a tremulous squawk as he turned agonizingly on the spit.

One of the delights of "Carmina Burana" is following the pauses and exertions of six percussionists. (Eleven, actually, if you count the pianos, timpani and harp.) With that much hardware on hand, it was only logical for the orchestra to tackle a far more recent work, "Umoja: Anthem of Unity," by composer Valerie Coleman, as a companion piece.

Percussion plays a crucial role in this richly orchestrated composition, beginning with the ultra-high-pitched, glassy sound of a violin bow being drawn across a vibraphone. In contrast to (post-swan) "Carmina Burana," the LSO kept it tightly wound, deploying a limited color palette suggesting the sunlit clarity and open spaces of the American Southwest. As a metaphorical journey toward unity and peace, "Umoja" would not have benefited from milking or overemphasis, and Muffitt knew it. Whenever the music threatened to get too wet, he was careful to wring it dry, giving every brush stroke of Coleman's sound painting the air and attention it deserved. Even the last note — usually the hit that drives the nail home — was slightly hushed, as if to remind the audience that this was only music, however hopeful, and the real struggle for peace is far from finished.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Zoning Board of Appeals on **Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**, at the East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823:

A public hearing will be held to consider an application from K Fedewa Builders on behalf of Anthony Izzo to construct a carport over the driveway in the front yard of an existing house at 717 Knoll Road. Section 50-144(2) of the Zoning Ordinance only allows accessory buildings (including carports) within the side or rear yards.

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.

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

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the Planning, Building, and Development Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6930 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at [rurdial@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:rurdial@cityofeastlansing.com).

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

Marie E. Wicks  
Interim City Clerk

CP#23-303

**B/24/064 ROLLING DOOR INSTALLATION** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing Wastewater Division. The City of Lansing will accept bids at The City of Lansing, Purchasing Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave. 3rd Floor, Lansing, Michigan 48933 or electronically submitted thru MITN Site ([www.Mitn.Info](http://www.Mitn.Info)) until 2PM local time in effect on DEC. 5, 2023. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov, or 517-482-4128 or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info). The City of Lansing encourages bids from All Vendors Including MBE/WBE Vendors and Lansing-Based Businesses.

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## BAR

### Best Bar Food

1. Art's Pub
2. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
3. Crunchy's

### Best Cocktails

1. (Tie) American Fifth Spirits & One North Kitchen & Bar
3. Zoobie's Old Town Tavern

### Best Dance Bar

1. The Green Door
2. The Avenue
3. The Junction

### Best Dive Bar

1. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
2. Stober's Bar
3. B&I Bar

### Best Happy Hour

1. The Peanut Barrel
2. One North Kitchen & Bar
3. Stober's Bar

### Best Jam Night

1. Moriarty's Pub
2. Lansing Shuffle
3. Dimes Brewhouse

### Best Karaoke

1. Crunchy's
2. The Avenue
3. The Green Door

### Best LGBTQ-Friendly Bar

1. The Avenue
2. Esquire Bar
3. The People's Kitchen

### Best Lansing-Area Brewery

1. BAD Brewing Co.
2. EagleMonk Pub and Brewery
3. Looking Glass Brewing Co.

### Best Lansing-Area Distillery

1. American Fifth Spirits
2. Sanctuary Spirits
3. Red Cedar Spirits

### Best Margarita

1. El Azteco
2. Acapulco Mexican Grill
3. Barrio East Lansing

### Best Mocktails

1. The Avenue
2. One North Kitchen & Bar
3. EnVie

### Best Neighborhood Bar

1. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
2. Harry's Place

### 3. The Avenue

### Best Open Mic Night

1. Mac's Bar
2. Blue Owl Coffee – REO Town
3. One North Kitchen & Bar

### Best Pub/Tavern

1. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
2. Art's Pub

### 3. The Peanut Barrel

### Best Spartan Sports Hangout

1. Crunchy's
2. Reno's East
3. Harrison Roadhouse

### & Skymint

### Best Cannabis Flower – Hybrid

1. Moonbow #112 (Pure Options)
2. Flo (Skymint)
3. First Class Funk (Franklin Fields)

### Best Cannabis Flower – Indica

1. Wedding Cake (Pure Options)
2. Superboof (The Botanical Co.)
3. GGB (Pincanna – East Lansing)

### Best Cannabis Flower – Sativa

1. Orange Zkittlez (The Botanical Co.)
2. Lunar Lemon (Pro Gro)
3. The Smallz (Pincanna – East Lansing)

### Options)

### Best Indoor Grow Shop

1. Pure Options
2. Pincanna – East Lansing
3. Skymint

### Best Marijuana Provisioning Center

1. Local Roots Cannabis
2. Pure Options
3. Dispo Lansing

### Best Marijuana Provisioning Center – East Lansing

1. Pincanna – East Lansing
2. Flora
3. Pleasantrees East Lansing

### Best Non-Gummy Edible (Cannabis)

1. Hot Cheese Curlys (Pincanna – East Lansing)
2. Potdots (Lion Labs)
3. Mojo Nuggy Caramel Peanut (Pure Canna)

### Best Non-Solvent Concentrate

1. Element (Pure Options x Lion Labs)
2. Clemendo (Pincanna – East Lansing x Peninsula Gardens)
3. Cherry Cookie Breath Bubble Hash (Bazonzoes)

### Best Solvent Concentrate

1. Element (Pure Options x Lion Labs)
2. Clemendo (Pincanna – East Lansing x Peninsula Gardens)
3. 710 Savant (LIV Cannabis – Lansing)

### Best Topical

1. Michigan Organic Rub (Pincanna – East Lansing)
2. Mary's Medicinals (Pure Options)
3. Rise Recovery Cannabis Cream 1:1:1 (JARS Cannabis – Lansing)

## BAD Brewing Co. – Best Lansing-Area Brewery

Downtown Mason's BAD Brewing Co., owned by Brian Rasdale, opened in summer 2012 in a 1,700-square-foot space that now serves as a destination for microbrew fans and locals alike. Named after the acronym "Brian After Dark," due to Rasdale's tendency to take up his brewing after sundown, the brewery serves a number of house-brewed elixirs, including craft beer, mead, hard cider, hard seltzer and seltzer slushies. Some of its most popular brews include its Kraken IPA, featuring "a mellow hop bitterness and malt backbone" and packing a decent punch at 7% ABV; Chocolate Covered Coffee Brown, a 6.5% ABV dark beer made from local Grumpy Monkey coffee, with hints of chocolate; and Club Sauce, a gluten-free, Arnold Palmer-inspired wildflower mead at 5% ABV. A new attraction, announced last week, is a heated outdoor seating area that accommodates up to 20 guests. BAD has also brought back greenhouse seating and private parties in the alleyway it shares with Kean's — an area the brewery secured in 2021 after the City of Mason granted it rights to continue using the space after the COVID-19 pandemic. BAD Brewing is a multiple-time TOTT winner, having also won Best Lansing-Area Brewery last year. It was third in that category in 2021 but was also the winner of Best Comedy Night.



### Best Sports Bar

1. Nuthouse Sports Grill
2. Crunchy's
3. One North Kitchen & Bar

## CANNABIS

### Best Budtender

1. Quinn Kelly (Pure Options)
2. Malissa Summerlott (Bazonzoes)
3. Roli Saghy (Dispo Lansing)

### Best CBD Store/Boutique

1. Local Roots Cannabis
2. Pincanna – East Lansing
3. (tie) JARS Cannabis – Lansing

### Best Cannabis Growing Brand

1. Pincanna — East Lansing
2. Dispo Lansing
3. Skymint

### Best Distillate Cartridge

1. Fruit & Fuel (Pincanna – East Lansing)
2. Traverse City Cherry Punch (Skymint)
3. Pro Gro Distillate Disposable Cartridge (Pure Options)

### Best Gummy Edible (Cannabis)

1. Funky Extracts (Pincanna – East Lansing)
2. True North Traverse City Cherry (True North Collective)
3. Thunder Canna Gummies (Pure

## DINING

### Best "Kids Eat Free" Restaurant

1. The Cosmos
2. Old Bag of Nails

### Best BBQ

1. Meat BBQ
2. Saddleback BBQ REO Town
3. Smoke N' Pig BBQ

### Best BBQ Sauce

1. Meat BBQ
2. Saddleback BBQ Okemos
3. Smoke N' Pig BBQ



# THE HOTTEST CHOICE

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## Top of the Town

from page 24

### Best Bagels

1. Flour Child Bakery
2. New Daily Bagel
3. Big Apple Bagels

### Best Bakery

1. Flour Child Bakery
2. Groovy Donuts
3. Bake N' Cakes

### Best Baklava

1. Woody's Oasis
2. Social Sloth
3. Aladdin's Restaurant

### Best Breakfast

1. Good Truckin' Diner
2. The People's Kitchen
3. Sophia's House of Pancakes

### Best Brunch

1. Soup Spoon Café
2. The People's Kitchen
3. Good Truckin' Diner

### Best Bubble Tea

1. Koala Bakery & Café
2. Bento Kitchen Cravings
3. Ding Tea East Lansing

### Best Buffet

1. Asian Buffet
2. Ohana Sushi and Bar
3. Hibachi Grill & Sushi Buffet

### Best Burger

1. Kewpee Sandwich Shoppe
2. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
3. Crunchy's

### Best Chicken Strips/Tenders

1. Olympic Broil
2. Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen
3. Eastside Fish Fry & Grill

### Best Chinese Food Restaurant

1. Charlie Kang's Restaurant
2. Chen's Restaurant
3. House of Hsu

### Best Cider

1. Uncle John's Cider Mill
2. Phillips Cider Bar and Market
3. Quality Dairy Co.

### Best Coney Dog

1. Sparty's Coney Island
2. Nip N Sip Drive In
3. Olympic Broil

### Best Crab Legs

1. The Tangy Crab

### 2. Mitchell's Fish Market

### 3. The Ocean Crab

### Best Cupcake

1. Flour Child Bakery
2. Gigi's Cupcakes
3. Bake N' Cakes

### Best Deli

1. Horrocks Farm Market
2. Stateside Deli
3. Babe's Corner

### Best Dessert

1. Flour Child Bakery
2. MSU Dairy Store
3. Sweetie-licious

### Best Diner

1. Good Truckin' Diner
2. Fleetwood Diner
3. (tie) Dimitri's Restaurant & Sparty's Coney Island

### Best Donuts

1. Quality Dairy Co.
2. Groovy Donuts

### Best French Fries

1. HopCat
2. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
3. Meat BBQ

### Best Greek

1. Lou and Harry's Bar & Grill
2. Olga's Kitchen
3. Niko's Taverna

### Best Hibachi

1. Ukai Hibachi Grill & Sushi Bar
2. Maru Sushi & Grill
3. Hibachi Grill & Sushi Buffet

### Best Ice Cream

1. MSU Dairy Store
2. Arctic Corner
3. Lick-ity Split

### Best Indian

1. Swagath Indian Cuisine
2. Sindhu Indian Cuisine
3. Persis Indian Grill

### Best Irish

1. Moriarty's Pub

## Pray Farms – Best Farmer, Best Local Farm

A mainstay in Windsor Township since 1838, Pray Farms drew the most votes in both the Best Farmer and Best Local Farm categories in this year's Top of the Town contest. Perhaps even more impressive was the number of comments left by voters, which, by the numbers, included 51 mentions of corn, two corn emojis, one drooling emoji and one shoutout to the farm's watermelons. Owner Henry Pray has facilitated a bit of a regional sweet corn empire since the farm began focusing on that crop more than two decades ago, but it also offers additional produce like zucchini, summer squash, blueberries, green beans, field corn, squirrel or deer corn, tomatoes, watermelon, cantaloupe and jalapeños. The late-August storm flattened many of Pray's sweet corn crops, which was devastating to a grower who already had to bear the burden of a summer drought. With that said, Pray Farms seems uniquely equipped to endure these obstacles — both because of its beloved status among customers and its time-tested longevity. The best sweet corn in mid-Michigan will certainly be back, and if the comments are any indication of quality, it's well worth the wait for next season's yields.



### 3. Strange Matter Coffee

### Best Drive-Up Location

1. Olympic Broil
2. Nip N Sip Drive In
3. Culver's

### Best Family Friendly Restaurant

1. Cugino's
2. Flour Child Bakery
3. Piazzano's

### Best Fast Food

1. Olympic Broil
2. Culver's
3. (tie) Nip N Sip Drive In & Chick-fil-A

### Best Fish Fry

1. Eastside Fish Fry & Grill
2. Old Bag of Nails
3. Harry's Place

### Best Food Truck

1. El Oasis
2. Hard Knocks Food Truck
3. Pancho's Taqueria (Food Truck)

### 2. Old Bag of Nails

### 3. Kelly's Downtown

### Best Italian

1. Cugino's
2. Spagnuolo's Restaurant
3. Falsetta's Casa Nova

### Best Lasagna

1. Tony M's Restaurant
2. Cugino's
3. Spagnuolo's Restaurant

### Best Late-Night Food

1. Fleetwood Diner
2. Pizza House
3. Crunchy's

### Best Mediterranean

1. Woody's Oasis
2. Zaytoon Mediterranean
3. ChouPli Wood-Fired Kabob

### Best Mexican (chain)

1. Pablo's Mexican Restaurant (Old Town)
2. Acapulco Mexican Grill
3. Cancun Mexican Grill

### Best Mexican (non-chain)

1. El Azteco
2. El Oasis
3. Pancho's Taqueria

### Best Nachos

1. Meat BBQ
2. Buddies Grill
3. Art's Pub

### Best New Restaurant

1. Old Bag of Nails
2. Lansing Shuffle
3. Veg Head

### Best Olive Burger

1. Kewpee Sandwich Shoppe
2. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
3. Olympic Broil

### Best Pancakes

1. Sophia's House of Pancakes
2. The People's Kitchen
3. Good Truckin' Diner

### Best Pho

1. Capital City BBQ
2. Asia's Finest
3. Pho 777 Okemos

### Best Pizza

1. Klavon's Pizzeria & Pub
2. The Cosmos
3. Cugino's

### Best Prime Rib

1. Airport Tavern
2. The English Inn
3. Capital Prime

### Best Ramen

1. Ruckus Ramen
2. Bento Kitchen Cravings
3. Sapporo Ramen & Noodle Bar

### Best Ranch Dressing

1. Jet's Pizza
2. Cugino's
3. Art's Pub

### Best Restaurant Beer List

1. HopCat
2. One North Kitchen & Bar
3. Looking Glass Brewing Co.

### Best Restaurant Wine List

1. Dusty's Cellar
2. Soup Spoon Café
3. Bridge Street Social

### Best Restaurant for Seniors

1. Soup Spoon Café
2. Coral Gables
3. Bob Evans

### Best Reuben

1. Stateside Deli
2. Soup Spoon Café
3. Harry's Place

### Best Salad

1. Horrocks Farm Market
2. Soup Spoon Café
3. Leaf Salad Bar

### Best Sandwich/Wrap

1. Jersey Giant Subs
2. Flour Child Bakery
3. Soup Spoon Café

### Best Seafood Restaurant

1. Mitchell's Fish Market
2. The Tangy Crab

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romantic gifts



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## Top of the Town

from page 26

3. (tie) Red Lobster & The Ocean Crab

### Best Signature Dish

1. Hippie Hash || Fleetwood Diner
2. Meat Mountain || Meat BBQ
3. Olive Burger || Kewpee Sandwich Shoppe

### Best Sliders

1. Sidecar Slider Bar
2. The Cosmos
3. Savvy Sliders

### Best Soup

1. Soup Spoon Café
2. Horrocks Farm Market
3. Flour Child Bakery

### Best Steak

1. Bowdie's Chophouse
2. Capital Prime
3. Texas Roadhouse

### Best Sub Sandwich

1. Jersey Giant Subs
2. Babe's Corner
3. King Subs

### Best Sushi

1. Maru Sushi & Grill
2. Sushi Moto
3. Sansu Sushi and Cocktails

### Best Tacos

1. Pablo's Mexican Restaurant (Old Town)
2. El Oasis
3. Pancho's Taqueria (Food Truck)

### Best Thai Restaurant

1. Taste of Thai
2. Naing Myanmar Family Restaurant
3. Eato Chef at Horrocks

### Best Upscale Dining

1. The English Inn
2. Bowdie's Chophouse
3. (tie) EnVie & The People's Kitchen

### Best Vegan/Gluten Free Dessert

1. Flour Child Bakery
2. Strange Matter Downtown
3. Sweet Encounter Bakery & Cafe

### Best Vegetarian/Vegan Dish

1. Veg Head
2. Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine
3. Flour Child Bakery

### Best Vegetarian/Vegan/Gluten Free Restaurant

1. Veg Head

2. Sweet Encounter Bakery & Cafe

3. Babe's Corner

### Best Wings

1. Meat BBQ
2. Eastside Fish Fry & Grill
3. Detroit Wing Co.

## HANGOUTS

### Best Beach

1. Hawk Island Park
2. Lake Lansing Park South
3. Fitzgerald Park

### Best Biggby

1. Biggby Coffee || 2546 E. Jolly Road, Lansing
2. Biggby Coffee|| 4756 Marsh Road, Okemos
3. Biggby Coffee ||13181 Schavey Road,

2. Bestmaze Corn Maze

3. Shawhaven Farm

### Best Dog Park

1. Hawk Island Park
2. Sleepy Hollow State Park
3. (tie) East Lansing Dog Park & Meridian Township Large Dog Park

### Best Escape Room Venue

1. Challenges East Lansing Adventure Escape Rooms
2. Breakout Escape Rooms Lansing
3. Escapology Escape Rooms Lansing

### Best Golf Course

1. Groesbeck Golf Course
2. Eagle Eye Golf Club
3. Hawk Hollow Golf Course

### Best Hangout Solo

1. Horrocks Farm Market
2. Constellation Cat Cafe

## Hawk Island Park – Best Public Park, Best Beach, Best Dog Park, Best Place to Sled

Ingham County Parks hit a grand slam with this former gravel pit turned community mecca, and it keeps getting better and better. It's ingeniously laid out to suit all tastes, from the wilder, woodsier north end, where owls hoot and deer roam, to the mowed lawns, picnic pavilions and children's splash pad to the south. The park hugs a good-sized, peanut-shaped lake with an intriguing island in the middle. If you kayak there, you might surprise a heron. It's almost time for winter walks on Hawk Island's winding perimeter pathway, which is regularly cleared of snow and ice in winter, and long afternoons of sledding on its fabulous sledding hill, with its cozy fire pit and cocoa for those who want to take a rest. In warmer weather, there's catch-and-release fishing, kayaking, hiking, a dog run, a playground and volleyball. The perimeter boardwalk will soon be replaced and upgraded, thanks to a recent grant from the state. Numerous benches offer panoramic views of an ever-changing scene. On a summer Saturday, the park is like a utopia — or at least Sesame Street — filled with the smells of grilling burgers, falafel, ribs and chicken and the glorious sight of diverse ethnic groups, cultures and age groups, wearing everything from long, flowing robes to bikinis, each enjoying the sunshine in their own sweet way. After hundreds of walks, bike passes, coffee breaks and even a swim or two, the only unpleasant sounds I've ever heard at Hawk Island are crying kids who don't want to leave.



### DeWitt

### Best Bowling Alley

1. Spare Time Entertainment Center
2. City Limits Mason
3. Royal Scot Golf & Bowl

### Best Café

1. Constellation Cat Cafe
2. Soup Spoon Café
3. Strange Matter Coffee

### Best Coffee Shop (non-Biggby)

1. Strange Matter Coffee
2. Constellation Cat Cafe
3. Blue Owl Coffee

### Best Comedy Club

1. The Robin Theatre

### Best Comedy Night

1. Mac's Bar
2. The Robin Theatre
3. Looking Glass Brewing Co.

### Best Corn Maze

1. Uncle John's Cider Mill

3. Schuler Books Okemos

### Best Hangout for Seniors

1. Constellation Cat Cafe
2. Deja Vu Showgirls Lansing Strip Club
3. East Lansing Hannah Community Center

### Best Hangout for Students

1. Constellation Cat Cafe
2. Hooked
3. Blue Owl Coffee East Lansing

### Best Haunted Attraction

1. Awaken Haunted Attraction
2. Terror on 27
3. Shawhaven Farm

### Best Library

1. CADL - Downtown Lansing
2. Delta Township District Library
3. East Lansing Public Library

### Best Local Attraction for Kids

1. Impression 5 Science Center

2. East Lansing Family Aquatic Center

3. All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre

### Best Movie Theatre

1. NCG Cinema - Lansing
2. Celebration Cinema Lansing & IMAX
3. Studio C! Meridian Mall

### Best Music Venue

1. The Avenue
2. The Green Door
3. Horrocks Farm Market

### Best Nature Center

1. Fenner Nature Center
2. Woldumar Nature Center
3. Harris Nature Center

### Best Non-Bar or Restaurant Date

1. Horrocks Farm Market
2. Wharton Center for Performing Arts
3. Constellation Cat Cafe

### Best Patio

1. Horrocks Farm Market
2. The Peanut Barrel
3. Lansing Shuffle

### Best Place of Worship

1. River Trail
2. Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing
3. Riverview Church – Holt Venue

### Best Place to Play Pinball

1. Pinball Pete's
2. The Avenue

### Best Place to Play Video Games

1. Pinball Pete's
2. The Avenue
3. Spare Time Entertainment Center

### Best Place to Shoot Pool

1. The Avenue
2. Pinball Pete's
3. Gravity Smokehouse Brew & Que

### Best Place to Sled

1. Hawk Island Park
2. Fitzgerald Park
3. (tie) Burchfield Park & Granger Meadows Park

### Best Public Park

1. Hawk Island Park
2. Fitzgerald Park
3. Patriarche Park

### Best Smoke Shop/Hookah Lounge

1. Wild Bill's Tobacco
2. Downtown Smoking Club
3. Wild Side Smoke Shop

### Best Sober Hangout

1. Constellation Cat Cafe
2. Hooked
3. Lansing Lugnuts

### Best Tabletop Gaming

1. Summit Comics & Games
2. Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge
3. Evolution Games

### Best Trivia Night

1. Constellation Cat Cafe
2. Crunchy's
3. The Avenue



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**CityPULSE**  
**FOX47 NEWS**

# THANK YOU for Voting Us #1! Best Sub Sandwich



## Top of the Town

from page 28

## LOCAL ARTS

### Best Artist

1. Ryan Holmes, Chalk Muralist and Illustrator
2. Dennis Preston, Illustrator
3. Michelle Detering, Watercolor Artist and Photographer

### Best Choral Group

1. MSU Chorale
2. Sistrum
3. LanSINGout

### Best Classical Musician

1. Linda Abar
2. Ralph Votapek
3. Sergei Kvitko

### Best Club DJ

1. DJ Whitney Who
2. Ganja Girl
3. Capitol City DJs

## Best Place of Worship – River Trail

There are certain people who go up and down the Lansing River Trail on various kinds of bikes and scooters all day — or at least it seems that way after you run into them for the 300th time. Hmm. Maybe I seem that way to them. Anyway, you can aspire to worse things. More than 25 miles of path-way connect Lansing's parks with the zoo, neighborhoods, downtown, Holt, Moores Park ... you get the idea. The River Trail offers countless opportunities to commune, meditate, worship, philosophize or just sit there and flubblub your lips at a duck. And there's more to come. The latest addition, a 1-mile strip that will help connect Michigan State University with Lake Lansing, practically hangs on a cliff for 100 feet as it winds its way along the Red Cedar River toward Okemos. A link from Holt to Mason is also in the works. With each year, the River Trail keeps on connecting more dots, from the stately grace of the Turner-Dodge House to the shadows of Scott Woods Park to the towering brick shoulders of the former Ottawa Street Power Station to the underappreciated oasis of Crego Park to the screaming kids bouncing around on that huge new playground downtown. It's all connected by a sweet little thread of asphalt, pieced together over the past 40 years by visionary civic leaders and newly supported by a regional millage that keeps the pavement and the bridges in fine trim.



### Best Country Artist/Band

1. Cooper Johnson
2. Shelby & Jake
3. Wild Honey Collective

### Best Cover Band

1. Starfarm
2. The Black Barn Band
3. Atomic Annie

### Best Experimental Musical Act

1. Atomic Boogaloo
2. Super Secret Cult Band
3. Cavalcade

### Best Folk Artist/Band

1. Wild Honey Collective
2. Shelby & Jake
3. Jen Sygit

### Best Hip-Hop Artist/Group

1. Sean Mic
2. MikeyAustin
3. James Gardin

### Best Jazz Musician/Group

1. The Rodney Whitaker Quartet
2. Mixed Flavors
3. (tie) Jeff Shoup Quartet & The Blue Jazz Working Group

### Best Local Theatre Organization

1. Riverwalk Theatre
2. All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre
3. Williamston Theatre

### Best Pottery Studio

1. Wheel House Studio
2. Greater Lansing Potters' Guild
3. Art Unlimited

### Best Public Art/Sculpture

1. Sparty Statue
2. ArtPath
3. Big Red Balls (Xmas Downtown)

### Best Punk/Metal Group

1. Pet Me
2. Accuser of the Brethren
3. Of Virtue

### Best Rock Artist/Band

1. Jimmy Likes Pie
2. School of Rock East Lansing
3. Rodeo Boys

## PEOPLE

### Best Academic Advisor

1. Lisa Alexander || Lansing Community College
2. Marissa King || Michigan State University
3. Dawn Hardin || Lansing Community College

### Best Advocate/Activist

1. Mike Karl || Cardboard Prophets/Capital Area Diaper Bank
2. Lysne Beckwith Tait || Helping Women Period
3. Metro Melik || Lansing Made

### Best Attorney

1. Andrew Abood || Abood Law Firm
2. Katrina Hofstetter || Cornerstone Legal, PLLC
3. Brian M. Lum || Grua, Freeman, Tupper & Young, PLC

### Best Auto Salesperson

1. DJ Kowalk || Team One Chevrolet Buick GMC
2. Lindsay Seely || Morrie's Grand Ledge Ford
3. Sam Eddy || Shaheen Chevrolet of Lansing

### Best Barber

1. Brenden Colvin || East Side Barbershop
2. Will Shipman || Grand Ledge Barbershop
3. Payton Polakowski || Grand Ledge Barbershop

### Best Barista

1. Delayne Hengesbach || Toads
2. Zoe Beers || Constellation Cat Cafe
3. Amy Chard || Tin Cup Cafe & Creamery

### Best Bartender

1. Robin Hardesty || Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
2. Thomas Peloquin || The Avenue
3. Shardae Maybin || One North Kitchen & Bar

### Best Brewer

1. Dan Buonodono || EagleMonk Pub and Brewery
2. Lee Streeter || Looking Glass Brewing Co.
3. Ed Huston || BrickHaven Brewing Co.

### Best CATA Bus Driver

1. Ron DeLeon
2. Markethia Smith
3. Aaron Aikman

### Best Chef

1. Sean Johnson || Meat BBQ
2. Sean Zellmer || Henry's Place
3. Vanessa McNair || Golden Harvest Restaurant

### Best College Instructor

1. Kelly Shaltry, Professor (Education) || Lansing Community College
2. Jon Whiting, Professor (Journalism) || Michigan State University
3. Tiffany Wahl, Professor (Advertising and Public Relations) || Michigan State University

### Best Comedian

1. Nicole Melnyk
2. Pat Sievert
3. Tim Palmer

### Best Cosmetic Surgeon

1. Rick J. Smith, MD

2. Asia Chapman || Douglas J Salon
3. Ashley Graham || Great Clips, Charlotte Walmart

### Best Farmer

1. Pray Farms
2. Shara Trierweiler || Agape Organic Farms
3. Rebecca Titus || Titus Farms

### Best Food Delivery Person

1. Jeremy Hurt || Red Bike Delivery
2. Ezra Kelly || DoorDash
3. Skye Moore || Shipt

### Best Hairstylist

1. Katie Gestring || Bridge Street Hair Co.
2. Chad A. Popour || The Artisan Company Salon
3. Timothy Walkinhood || Holiday Lansing Parlor

### Best Handyman

1. Monica Murray
2. Fernando Escobedo
3. Jordan Brickley

### Best High School Coach

1. Rob Zimmerman || DeWitt High School
2. Mike Sparks || Charlotte High School
3. Kelly Shaltry || Grand Ledge High School

### Best High School Teacher

1. Kelly Shaltry || Grand Ledge High School
2. Andrew Chapin || Mason High School

## Splash of Color – Best Tattoo Parlor

If you see someone with a Sparty tattoo, chances are it was done by the team at Splash of Color Tattoo & Piercing Studio. Founded by Dennis Baker in 1989 and owned by Kris Lachance since 1997, the tattoo and piercing parlor has been a staple in the Greater Lansing community for decades. The shop's roster is made up of tattoo artists Perry Stratton, Jason Salinaz, Mikayla Dull and Brandon Inman and piercers Renee Mckeith, Andy Knag, Stuart "Banana" Tite and CV Sanford. Together, they bring a combined 90 years' worth of professional experience to the table. Several voters praised the shop's emphasis on safety, quality and cleanliness — all factors that have led the business to flourish, despite the toll the pandemic took on the industry. One commenter cited Splash of Color's "friendly counter staff, great communication through emails and super talented artists." Another said it has "the most talented staff in Michigan."



2. Dr. Lee Colony, MD || Michigan Plastic Surgery
3. Andrew Zwyzhuizen, MD || Sparrow Health System

### Best Customer Service Worker

1. Kirbay Preuss || Preuss Pets
2. DeKeea Quinney-Davis || Ellison Brewing Co. and Event Space - REO Town
3. Ashley Medina || Bliss Hair Studio & Beauty Salon

### Best Dance Instructor

1. Sierra Erskine || The Hive Dance Studio
2. Hayley Kosloski || Studio H Dance Co.
3. Brooke Pocan || The Dance Conservatory

### Best Developer

1. Capital Area Housing Partnership
2. Gillespie Group
3. Brent Forsberg || T. A. Forsberg, Inc.

### Best Drag Artist

1. Crystal d'Light
2. (tie) Alicia Boom Boom Chablis & Trifecta

### Best Entertainer

1. Jeff The Magician
2. Alicia Boom Boom Chablis || The People's Kitchen
3. Kathy Ford

### Best Esthetician/Cosmetologist

1. Craig Holly || Douglas J Salon

3. (tie) Ben Billings || Everett High School & Tim Akers || East Lansing High School

### Best Insurance Agent

1. Ben Rathbun || The Rathbun Agency
2. Trinesha Goebel || State Farm Insurance Agent
3. Melissa Downs || Bye Insurance

### Best Librarian

1. Miss Kate || CADL - Haslett Library
2. Jill Abood || CADL - Downtown Lansing
3. (tie) Miss Cassie || CADL - Foster Library & Storm Kopitsch || Fowlerville District Library

### Best Local Author

1. Jenn Carpenter
2. Jennifer Davis
3. John K. Addis

### Best Local Farm

1. Pray Farms
2. MSU Student Organic Farm and Organic Farmer Training Program
3. Butcher Farms

### Best Local Politician

1. Gretchen Whitmer
2. Elissa Slotkin
3. Tom Barrett

### Best Local TV News Personality

1. Sheri Jones || WLNS
2. David Andrews || WILX
3. Darrin Rockcole || WILX

**Best Massage Therapist**

1. Stephanie Mireles || Lansing Therapeutic Massage
2. Amanda Tollstam, LMT
3. Brandon Post || Douglas J Salon

**Best Nail Technician**

1. Ashley Smith || Jenny Nails
2. Thoa Nguyen || Blasian Nails
3. Carla Enright || Douglas J Salon

**Best Personal Trainer**

1. Kristi Stephens || Functional Mobility and Health, LLC Massage & Bodywork
2. Walter Crockett || Mind & Body Symmetry
3. Ted Forrest || Parkwood YMCA

**Best Piercer**

1. Alexis "Alix" Mercer || Ink Therapy
2. Aaron "Malibu" Wood || Local Tattoo and Laser Co.
3. Danny Aybar || Be-You-tiful Body Piercing & Fine Jewelry

**Best Police Officer**

1. Officer Aiko || Bath Charter Township Police
2. Detective Shannon Thielen || Lansing Police Department
3. Officer Rob Antcliff || Charlotte Police Department

**Best Radio DJ**

3. Misty Belous || Peoples Yoga Studio Lansing

**Worst Local Politician**

1. Tudor Dixon
2. Gretchen Whitmer
3. Tom Barrett

**Worst State/National Politician**

1. Donald Trump
2. Joe Biden
3. Ron DeSantis

**SERVICES**

**Best Accountant/CPA**

1. Kimberle Midgley || Okemos Tax
2. Nikali Luke || Simplified Tax - Lansing
3. Tim Spicer || Riverside Accounting, Inc.

**Best Apartments**

1. The Quarry Apartments
2. The Arcadian
3. (tie) Lakewood Apartments & Runaway Bay

**Best Appliance Repair**

1. Lane's Appliance Sales & Service
2. J & J Appliance & Furniture
3. Ace Appliance Service, Inc

**Best Audiologist/Hearing Firm**

1. Mid-Michigan Ear, Nose, & Throat, PC
2. Advanced Audiology DeWitt

1. Adna Technologies

2. Dewpoint, Inc.
3. Z-Solutions

**Best Car Wash**

1. Tommy's Express Car Wash
2. Fast Eddie's Car Wash and Oil Change
3. KWIK Car Wash & Express Detailing

**Best Caterer/Catering Service**

1. Meat BBQ
2. Saddleback BBQ Okemos
3. Morton's Fine Catering

**Best Cemetery**

1. Mount Hope Cemetery
2. St. Joseph Cemetery
3. Maple Hill Cemetery

**Best Chiropractic Office**

1. Craft Chiropractic Creating Wellness Centers - Charlotte
2. (tie) Delta Chiropractic Center & Divine Spine Chiropractic Wellness

**Best Cleaning Service**

1. Domestic Divas Cleaning Services
2. Cleaning With Meaning by Alexis, LLC
3. Dazzle Cleaning Service

**Best Credit Union**

1. MSU Federal Credit Union
2. Lake Trust Credit Union
3. LAFCU

**Best Curbside Pickup**

1. Meat BBQ
2. Pure Options
3. Odd Nodd Art Supply

**Best Dance Studio**

1. The Hive Dance Studio
2. Dance Conservatory
3. Studio H Dance Company

**Best Day Spa**

1. Douglas J Salon
2. Zoe Life Spa
3. Onyx Moon

**Best Dentist Office**

1. Schaefer Dental Group
2. Portnoy And Tu, DDS, PC Family Dentistry
3. Dr. Priyanka Watwe || Downtown Dental Studio, PLLC

**Best Dry Cleaners**

1. Baryames Cleaners
2. Maurer's Sanitary Cleaners
3. Prestige Cleaners

**Best Electrical Repair**

1. Sparky's Electric, LLC
2. FD Hayes Electric Company
3. Superior Electric of Lansing

**Best Engineering Firm**

1. Great Lakes Engineering Group
2. Heart Truss & Engineering
3. HNTB Corporation

**Best Estate Sale Company**

1. Kellie's Estate Sales, Auctions & Resale
2. Tom & Jerry's Estate Service
3. Richard Hornaday Estate Sales

**Best Facial**

1. Douglas J Salon
2. NECTAR Body•face•skin
3. Massage & Wellness Store, Med Spa and Center

**Best Financial Planner/Company**

1. Grace Braatz-Opper, Modern Woodmen of America
2. Financial Strategies Group, Inc.
3. Full Circle Financial Planning

**Best Funeral Home**

1. Pray Funeral Home, Inc.
2. Palmer Bush & Jensen Family Funeral Homes, Delta Chapel
3. Vickers Leslie Funeral Home

**Best Gutter Cleaning**

1. Gutter Flow System
2. Presley Gutter Cleaning Services
3. Greater Lansing Contractors, LLC

**Best Gym/Fitness Studio**

1. Sparrow Michigan Athletic Club
2. ALIVE
3. FitStop24-Lansing

**Best Hair Salon**

1. Holiday Lansing

2. The Hive, Salon and Boutique

3. Douglas J Salon

**Best Heating/Cooling**

1. All Star Mechanical
2. Vredevoogd Heating & Cooling
3. Cousins Heating and Cooling

**Best Holistic Healing**

1. Creative Wellness
2. Functional Mobility and Health, LLC Massage & Bodywork
3. Oracle's Apothecary

**Best Home Healthcare Company**

1. Hospice of Lansing
2. Sparrow Home Care
3. Aiding Hearts

**Best Home Inspection Company**

1. Accurate Inspections, LLC
2. Eastman Home Inspections
3. McNamara Inspections

**Best Insurance Agency**

1. The Rathbun Agency
2. David Chapman Agency
3. Trinesha Goebel - State Farm Insurance Agent

**Best Irrigation Services**

1. Spartan Irrigation
2. R&D Landscape
3. Outdoor Specialties

**Best Junk Removal**

1. Junk in the Trunk, LLC
2. College Hunks Hauling Junk and Moving
3. Lansing Junk Removal

**Best Kayak Rental**

1. Dimondale Canoe and Kayak
2. River Town Adventures
3. MSU Sailing Center

See Top of the Town, Page 33

**Kelly Shaltry – Best High School Teacher, Best College Instructor**



Kelly Shaltry, a history and special education teacher at Grand Ledge High School and an education professor at Lansing Community College, was voted Best High School Teacher and Best College Instructor in this year's Top of the Town. The Williamston native and U.S. Air Force veteran has taught for 25 years altogether, with 23 years behind him at Grand Ledge and 20 at LCC. As if the double dub wasn't enough, Shaltry also snagged a third-place finish for Best High School Coach for his work with the GLHS archery team, which he founded more than a decade ago. With 21 reviews on Rate My Professors, Shaltry is sitting at a perfect five-out-of-five score. "Dude is a legend. It's comedy and a lecture, and you really learn a lot of real-life situations that pertain to what you're learning," one reviewer wrote. Shaltry said, "There are a lot of things that are great memories over a long career in teaching. The funny memories are probably the ones that stick with you the most. It's also amazing when we can see how very much the world and its people are way more similar than different, and that kids are pretty much the same the world over, except they live under different circumstances." Shaltry is a coach and district leader for the National Archery in the Schools Program, an in-school program that supports fourth- through 12th-graders who are interested in archery.

1. Metro Melik || Stacks 92.1
2. Terry Stevens || Q106
3. Stephanie McCoy || 94.1 DUKE FM

**Best Realtor/Agent**

1. Lindsay Gallegos || RE/MAX Real Estate Professionals
2. (tie) Ashley Smith || Oasis Realty & Rebekah Schwartz || DeLong & Co. Real Estate

**Best Restaurant Waitstaff**

1. Darci || Dagwood's Tavern & Grill
2. Alisa "Cheese" Kowalski || Mitchell's Fish Market
3. Cho || IHOP

**Best Retail Salesperson**

1. Lauren Palmer || Curvaceous Lingerie
2. Ted || Metro Retro
3. Sommer || Grace Boutique of Old Town

**Best State/National Politician**

1. Gretchen Whitmer
2. Elissa Slotkin
3. Donald Trump

**Best Tattoo Artist**

1. DeShaun Portee || Ink Therapy
2. Chris "Cali" Thompson || True Blue Tattoo Company
3. Moonflaws Tattoos || Ink Therapy

**Best Yoga Instructor**

1. Belinda Thurston || Just B Yoga
2. Jen Davis || ALIVE

3. MaryRose Hecksel AuD., LLC

**Best Auto Body Shop**

1. Driven Collision
2. (tie) A&D Collision & Mason Auto Body Repair, Inc.

**Best Auto Detailing Service**

1. Spot-Les
2. KWIK Car Wash & Express Detailing
3. Capitol City Auto Detailing

**Best Auto Repair Shop**

1. Frankie D's Auto & Truck Repair
2. Ryan's Auto Care
3. A&D Auto Repair

**Best Bank**

1. Dart Bank
2. Eaton Community Bank
3. PNC Bank

**Best Barber Shop**

1. East Side Barbershop
2. Grand Ledge Barbershop
3. Kozmos Hair Studio

**Best Bicycle Shop**

1. Denny's Central Park Bicycles
2. Lansing Bike Co-op
3. SPIN Bicycle Shop, Inc.

**Best Building Development**

1. Aldrich Cabinets and Millwork
2. Stadium District Apartments
3. Custom Built Design & Remodeling

**Best Business IT Support Service**

**Best Record/CD Store – Flat, Black & Circular**



The last time I was at Flat, Black & Circular, I almost had a heart attack at the rare sight of a double-vinyl set of "Godzilla" maestro Akira Ifukube's score for the 1970 Japanese kaiju flick "Space Amoeba." Did I mention that the jacket art glows in black light? The second to last time I was at Flat, Black & Circular, I found myself in line behind two college-age music lovers. One of them was hefting a gigantic box set of Abba on vinyl. "I'm not proud of the purchase I'm about to make," he confessed to his friend, "but now I have 'Lovelight.'" (It was an unreleased B-side.) I think he lied. He was proud of that purchase. Since 1977, through good times and bad, music lovers have found endless delight, surprise, joy and comfort in the copious vinyl bins of East Lansing's Flat, Black & Circular. Of course, there are also thousands of CDs, independent label releases, magazines, a smattering of audio equipment, record care supplies and even cassettes. You walk in and almost anything might be playing in the store, from a mixtape with 23 different versions of "Caravan" to an MF Doom joint. Decade after decade, while other record stores have gone belly up, one after the other, FBC has squeaked through like a weasel among dinosaurs to rule the vinyl era and beyond.



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Best Wings, Best  
Curbside Pickup,  
Best Caterer/Catering  
Service, and Best  
Chef (Sean Johnson)**

**CityPULSE  
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NEWS**

**voted  
#1  
Top of the Town  
2023**

**Meat**  
SOUTHERN B.B.Q. & CARNIVORE CUISINE



## Top of the Town

from page 31

### Best Landscape Company

1. Guy With A Mullet Landscaping
2. Turf Jockeys, LLC
3. R&D Landscape

### Best Laser Hair Removal

1. Mirkin Electrology
2. NECTAR Body•face•skin
3. Milan Laser Hair Removal

### Best Law Firm

1. Abood Law Firm
2. Lansing Legal Group, PLLC
3. The Law Offices of Casey D. Conklin, PLC

### Best Local Computer Store/Repair

1. Capitol Macintosh
2. Digilink Computers
3. Mac Men Computer & Phone

### Best Local YouTube Channel

1. WLNS
2. Pawsitive K9s of MI, LLC
3. FOX 47 News

### Best Massage Studio

1. Creative Wellness
2. Functional Mobility and Health, LLC Massage & Bodywork
3. In Good Hands Massage Therapy

### Best Med Spa

1. NECTAR Body•face•skin
2. (tie) Douglas J Salon & Skin Boss Med Spa

### Best Music Lessons

1. Elderly Instruments
2. Okemos Music Academy
3. School of Rock

### Best Nail Salon

1. Jenny Nails
2. Lynny Nails
3. VIP Nail Bar

### Best News Source

1. WILX
2. WLNS
3. City Pulse

### Best Non-Profit Organization

1. Capital Area Humane Society
2. Ele's Place - Capital Region
3. Constellation Cat Cafe

### Best Oil Change Shop

1. Fast Eddie's Car Wash and Oil Change
2. Valvoline Instant Oil Change

### 3. Rapids Oil Change

### Best Online Ordering

1. Bad Annie's Sweary Goods
2. Curvaceous Lingerie
3. Bento Kitchen Cravings

### Best Optometrist

1. Dr. Jeff Rule || Rule Eye Care Associates
2. Dr. Harper Wildern || Eye Care Associates of Charlotte, PLLC
3. Dr. Tracy Putnam || L.O. Eye Care Okemos

### Best Painter

1. Stroke of Color Painting, LLC
2. Choice Painting
3. Blue Sky Painting

### Best Pest Control Company

1. Bullseye Pest Defense
2. Rose Pest Solutions
3. Horton's Pest LLC

### Best Pet Grooming

1. The Elegant Pooch
2. Kelly's Pet Boutique East
3. Amanda's Grooming

### Best Pet Rescue

1. Capital Area Humane Society
2. Saved By Zade
3. Constellation Cat Cafe

### 3. Aaron's Plumbing & Mechanical

### Best Post Office

1. USPS 1140 Abbot Road, East Lansing
2. USPS 118 East Jefferson St., Grand Ledge
3. USPS 2025 Central Park Drive, Meridian Township

### Best Property Management Company

1. Gillespie Group
2. DPMG Prime
3. Morleigh Inc.

### Best Public Relations Firm

1. Piper & Gold Public Relations
2. Truscott Rossman
3. Martin Waymire

### Best Radio Station

1. WKAR 90.5
2. WITL 100.7
3. WQTX 92.1

### Best Residential Remodeling Company

1. Custom Built Design & Remodeling
2. Honey Home Interiors
3. JJE Builder

### Best Senior Living Community

1. Independence Village of Grand Ledge
2. Delta Retirement Center
3. Mason Country Care

### 2. Ink Therapy

### 3. True Blue Tattoo Company

### Best Therapy/Therapist Service

1. Rooted Counseling
2. Right Direction Counseling, PLLC
3. Origami Rehabilitation

### Best Towing Company

1. P.J.'s Towing
2. Northside Service, Inc.
3. Okemos Marathon

### Best Travel Agency

1. Nowlan Travel by Dream Vacations
2. Globetrotter Travel
3. Time To Travel, LLC

### Best Veterinarian Service

1. Evergreen Veterinary Clinic
2. Waverly Animal Hospital
3. Haslett Animal Hospital

### Best Wedding Services

1. Becker's Bridal Outlet
2. The Northfork Estate
3. Twiggies

### Best Wifi/Internet Service Provider

1. Xfinity Store by Comcast
2. Metronet Telecom, Inc
3. Verizon

### Best Yoga Studio

1. Peoples Yoga
2. Just B Yoga
3. Functional Mobility and Health, LLC Massage & Bodywork

## Frandor parking lot – Best Place to Cry in Public, Worst Pothole

It's the middle of January. You haven't seen the sun in weeks. Either you lost your job or you have to keep it. Either your partner has left you or they're settling in for the duration. You've been diagnosed with something you can't pronounce and your doctor told you to cut coffee.

Whatever the cause, you need somewhere to go and cry, big time. There is only one place in Greater Lansing worthy of your suffering. You drive to the longest strip mall humans could possibly string together, folded into a Kafkaesque, penitentiary-style rectangle with a vast expanse of asphalt at the center, bearing the sinister Middle Earth name of Frandor. Seagulls mournfully circle the Sears water tower as you park under the tallest mountain of dirty snow you can find and cry your heart out. But take heart. This is not the end of your sordid little display. You may not believe it now, but there is redemption here. Your tears are not in vain. Thanks to the recent completion of the long-awaited Montgomery Drain project, we are assured by Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann that your tears will pass through a series of ingenious natural filters, swales and holding ponds that will scour them of 98% of their toxic emotions and residual alcohol and drugs, and they'll emerge crystal clear into the Red Cedar River to build a renewed ecosystem for the trout, frogs and dragonflies. Snowy-white egrets will wade in your sorrow and take wing.



### Best Pharmacy (locally owned)

1. Apothecary Shop
2. Ware's Pharmacy
3. Central Pharmacy Westside

### Best Photography

1. Autumn Luciano
2. Lost Girl Vision
3. Rikki Shepherd Photography

### Best Plumbing Service

1. Hedlund Plumbing
2. Michigan Plumbing

### Best Tailor/Seamstress Company

1. Nu The Tailor
2. Silver Thread Tailor Shoppe
3. Kim the Tailor

### Best Tanning

1. J2 Tanning
2. Uptown Sun Company
3. Pacific Tan

### Best Tattoo Parlor

1. Splash of Color Tattoo & Piercing Studio

## SHOPPING

### Best Antique Shop

1. Little Red Schoolhouse
2. Thrift Witch
3. Vintage Junkies

### Best Art Gallery

1. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center

2. Katalyst Art Gallery & Gift Boutique
3. Absolute Gallery

### Best Art Supply Store

1. Odd Nodd Art Supply
2. Hobby Lobby
3. Michaels

### Best Asian Market

1. Fresh International Market
2. LLB Asian Market
3. Lotte Market

### Best Auto Dealership

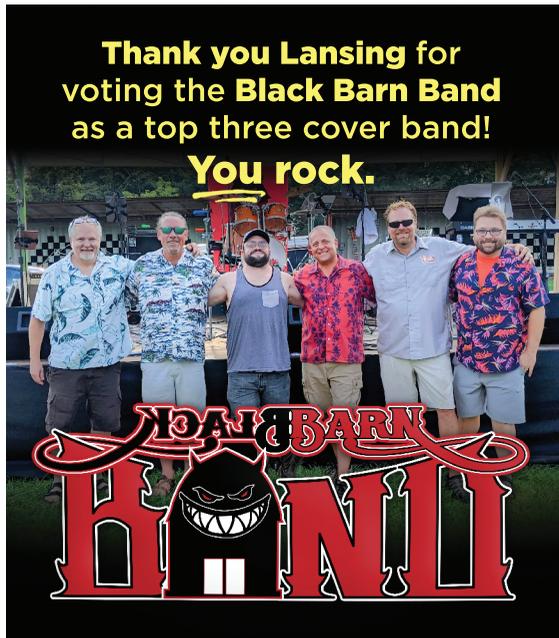
1. Shaheen Chevrolet of Lansing
2. Williams Subaru
3. Team One Chevrolet Buick GMC

### Best Beer Selection in a Retail Store

1. Horrocks Farm Market
2. Mega-Bev
3. (Oades) Big Ten Party Store West

### Best Bookstore

1. Schuler Books
2. Deadtime Stories: True Crime and Other Books
3. Hooked



**Thanks, Lansing!**

I am honored to have received your votes for John K. Addis as *Best Local Author* in this year's TOTT awards. I'll keep writing creepy Michigan-based stories if you keep reading them!

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Learn about *The Eaton*, *The Paper*, *Journey to Cassiopeia*, and upcoming titles here:  
[johnkaddis.com](http://johnkaddis.com)

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[tinyurl.com/bobt23](http://tinyurl.com/bobt23)

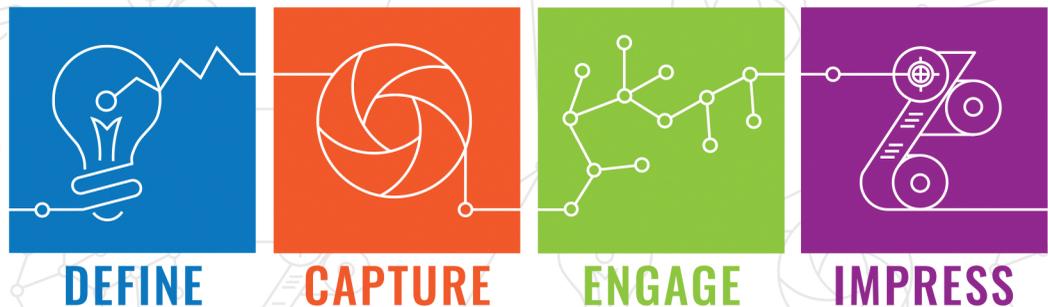
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## Top of the Town

from page 33

### Best Butcher Shop

1. Monticello's Market & Butcher Block
2. MEAT on the WEST Side
3. Merindorf Meats & More - Mason

### Best Candy Store

1. Fabiano's Candies
2. Peanut Shop
3. Kean's

### Best Cheese Department

1. Horrocks Farm Market
2. Monticello's Market & Butcher Block
3. Whole Foods Market

### Best Clothing Store (Locally Owned)

1. Curvaceous Lingerie
2. Grace Boutique of Old Town
3. Polka Dots Boutique

### Best Comic Shop

1. Summit Comics & Games
2. Grave Danger
3. Capital City Collectables

### Best Consignment Shop

1. Metro Retro
2. Kellie's Estate Sales, Auctions & Resale
3. Thrift Witch

### Best Farmer's Market

1. Meridian Township Farmers Market
2. Allen Farmer's Market
3. Downtown DeWitt Farmers Market

### Best Florist

1. Van Atta's Greenhouse & Flower Shop
2. (tie) Hyacinth House & Where the Wild Things Bloom

### Best Furniture Store

1. Pilgrim House Furniture
2. Vintage Junkies
3. Bradly's HG

### Best Gardening Center

1. Horrocks Farm Market
2. Van Atta's Greenhouse & Flower Shop
3. Lansing Gardens

### Best Gas Station

1. Costco Gas Station
2. Speedway – East Michigan Ave
3. Tailgaters – Lansing

### Best Gift Shop

1. Kean's
2. Bad Annie's Sweary Goods
3. October Moon

### Best Grocery Store (locally owned)

1. Horrocks Farm Market
2. Westlund's Apple Market
3. Monticello's Market & Butcher Block

### Best Hardware Store

1. Vet's Ace Hardware
2. Grand Ledge Ace Hardware
3. Great Lakes Ace Hardware

### Best Hot Tub/Pool/Sauna Store

1. Classic Pool & Spa Inc.
2. Cannonball Pools
3. G & B Pool and Spa

### Best Jewelry Store

1. Sweet Custom Jewelry
2. Becky Beauchine Kulka Diamonds and Fine Jewelry
3. Grand Ledge Jewelers

### Best Lingerie Store

1. Curvaceous Lingerie

### 2. Soldan's Pet Supplies

### 3. Joey's Pet Outfitters

### Best Place to Buy Mums

1. Horrocks Farm Market
2. Hyacinth House
3. Lansing Gardens

### Best Quality Dairy

1. Quality Dairy, 2400 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing
2. Quality Dairy, 2233 Cedar St., Holt
3. (tie) Quality Dairy, 804 Willow Hwy., Grand Ledge & Quality Dairy, 1699 W. Grand River Ave., Meridian Charter Township

### Best Record/CD Store

1. Flat, Black & Circular
2. The Record Lounge
3. Mi-Rural Records

### Best Secondhand Shop

1. Volunteers of America Thrift Store

### & Wild Side Smoke Shop

### Best Video Game Store

1. Disc Traders Lansing
2. The Swap Meet
3. Extra Levels Gaming

### Best Wine Shop

1. Horrocks Farm Market
2. Dusty's Cellar
3. Old Town General Store

## WHATEVER

### Best Axe Throwing Venue

1. High Caliber Karting and Entertainment
2. Spare Time Entertainment Center

### Best Casino

1. (tie) FireKeepers Casino Hotel & Soaring Eagle
2. Gun Lake Casino

### Best Day Trip

1. Lake Michigan
2. Frankenmuth
3. Old Town Lansing

### Best Facebook Group or Page

1. Bath Township Police Dept.
2. Lansing Foodies
3. Lansing Facts

### Best High School

1. Grand Ledge High School
2. East Lansing High School
3. Haslett High School

### Best Historical Place

1. Turner-Dodge House
2. Michigan History Center
3. Brenke Fish Ladder

### Best Instagram Account (local)

1. Constellation Cat Cafe
2. Lansing Foodies
3. Strange Matter

### Best Local Art Festival

1. East Lansing Art Festival
2. A Festival of Oddities
3. Old Town Scrap Fest

### Best Local Event/Festival

1. Lansing Pride
2. A Festival of Oddities
3. Old Town Scrap Fest

### Best New Business

1. Lansing Shuffle
2. Hooked
3. Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge

### Best Outdoor Adventure

1. Hiking The Ledges at Fitzgerald Park
2. Lansing River Trail
3. Hawk Island Park

### Best Place to Cry in Public

1. Frandor Parking Lot
2. In a van, down by the river
3. MSU Horticulture Gardens

### Best Place to Find Quiet

1. Woldumar Nature Center
2. Fenner Nature Center
3. MSU Horticulture Gardens

### Best Place to Work

1. From home
2. Constellation Cat Cafe
3. The Hive Dance Studio

See Top of the Town, Page 37

### Curvaceous Lingerie – Best Lingerie Store, Best Clothing Store, Best Retail Salesperson

*By Beauregard the boudoir buck*

OK, so I broke into the store. You saw the security footage like everybody else. I don't deny it. How could anyone look through the window of Curvaceous Lingerie and not resist the urge to peek inside? I don't have arms. I can't open doors the way you can. The range of sizes, colors and styles here is unbelievable! Of course I crashed through the window. They say I saw my reflection and went nuts. It's sad how people fall back on these old stereotypes. How else could I check out the fantastic selection of swimwear, formalwear, pajamas and robes? I know people are saying I'm some kind of rampant buck, driven crazy by the sexy lingerie on the mannequins, but really, I was just so impressed by the funny, classy presentation in the window that I had to see it all for myself. I can't take the online bra-fitting test. I can't communicate with the helpful staff, so I thought a quick in-and-out wouldn't do much harm. So, please don't rush to blame. Even the owners don't mind that I visited their store and broke a couple of things. They put a sign out that says, "We fit all racks." I'm OK with that. ERMMPHH. Excuse me. I see something shiny at Sweet Custom Jewelry. Didn't I win the TOTT award for Best Jewelry Store? Only the best for my deer.



### Best Liquor Store

1. Mega-Bev
2. (Oades) Big Ten Party Store West
3. Tom's Party Store and Wine Shop

### Best Metaphysical Store

1. Coyote Wisdom Bookstore
2. Triple Goddess Bookstore
3. (tie) Beyond A Dream, LLC & Oracle's Apothecary

### Best Musical Instrument Store

1. Elderly Instruments
2. Marshall Music Company
3. Meridian Winds

### Best Organic/Natural Market

1. Whole Foods Market
2. Foods For Living
3. Clean Refillery

### Best Outdoor/Camping Store

1. Moosejaw
2. Sierra

### Best Pet Store

1. Preuss Pets

### 2. Thrift Witch

### 3. Metro Retro

### Best Sex Shop

1. Cirilla's
2. Lion's Den
3. Deja Vu Love Boutique

### Best Thrift Store

1. St Vincent de Paul Society and Thrift Store
2. Volunteers of America Thrift Store
3. Thrift Witch

### Best Tire Store

1. Discount Tire
2. Belle Tire
3. Quality Tire, Inc.

### Best Used Car Dealership

1. Sundance Chevrolet, Inc.
2. Spartan Toyota
3. LaFontaine Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram FIAT

### Best Vape Shop

1. Wild Bill's Tobacco
2. (tie) Level Up Smoke Shop

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MUST PRESENT COUPON IN STORE. SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY SEE STORE FOR DETAILS.



## Top of the Town

from page 35

### Best Podcast (local)

1. Violent Ends (formerly So Dead)
2. Films for the Void
3. Speakeasy

### Best Science Event

1. MSU Science Festival
2. Chemistry Day at Impression 5
3. Astronomy on Tap

### Best Shop Pet

1. Rocky || Preuss Pets
2. Morrison and Hendrix || Deadtime Stories: True Crime and Other Books
3. Winnie Girl || Clean Refillery - Winnie the Dog

### Best Staycation Hotel in Lansing

1. The English Inn

2. The Graduate East Lansing
  3. Wild Goose Inn
- Best Twitter Account (local)**
1. Lansing Facts
  2. WLNS
  3. mitch on the web (@howintensive)

### Best Urban Farm

1. Magnolia Ave Farms
2. Half Barn Farmstand
3. Hunter Park GardenHouse

### Best Vehicle Ever Made in Lansing

1. Olds Cutlass Supreme
2. Camaro
3. Chevy SSR

### Best Wifi Spot

1. Constellation Cat Cafe
2. Strange Matter Coffee
3. Hooked

### Category We Didn't Think of

1. Best Mural
2. Worst Little Caesar's
3. Best Dog Groomer

### Cleanest Public Restroom

1. Flour Child Bakery
2. Foods For Living
3. Meat BBQ

### Eye Candy Building

1. Knapp's Centre
2. Beaumont Tower
3. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum

### In Memoriam: Businesses Lost

1. DeLuca's Restaurant
2. Roma Bakery

## The Rodney Whitaker Quartet – Best Jazz Musician



It's easy to be overcome by awe when describing the significance of Michigan State University Jazz Studies Director Rodney Whitaker. Hell, a Top of the Town nod is just a speck of dust on his awards shelf. He's a world-renowned jazz bassist and the King Arthur of MSU's Round Table-level jazz faculty, one of the premier programs in the world. For a generation, he's been the leading light of a thriving, ever-growing community of young musicians, many of whom go on to educational roles and musical stardom in their own right. He's a composer, an arranger, a University Distinguished Professor, a repository of music history and a teacher of teachers. But there's one thing you must never forget about Whitaker. Underneath it all, the man loves to play the bass. Whether it's the music of John Coltrane, Johann Sebastian Bach, Carly Simon or Donny Hathaway, Whitaker unerringly locates the heart and soul of every note. His recent recordings, including chart-topping CDs of the music of Lansing composer Gregg Hill, show he's far from done making his mark in the studio, and he keeps on showing up, not just in fancy places in Italy, Japan and New York, but at local holes in the wall like Moriarty's Pub in downtown Lansing and Red Cedar Sprits just outside of town. Nobody can lay down a groove or quietly command a mood more definitively than Whitaker. And when he closes his eyes, digs for a root note on the bass that nobody else can reach and pulls another heart-stopping vine of melody out of the earth, you forget all about his resumé. The vibrations in your chest tell you all you need to know.

### 3. Zeus' Coney Island

### Most Trustworthy Business

1. Playmakers
2. Elderly Instruments
3. Constellation Cat Cafe

### Worst Eyesore

1. Lansing Area roads
2. Garo Trump House on Michigan Ave

### 3. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum

### Worst Pothole (Specific Location)

1. Frandor Parking Lot
2. Railroad tracks on Cesar Chavez, Old Town
3. Railroad on Kalamazoo between Hosmer and Beech

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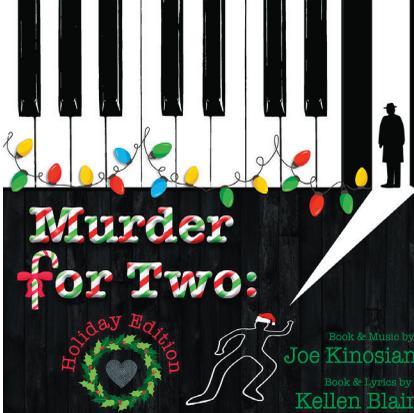


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Book & Lyrics by Kellen Blair

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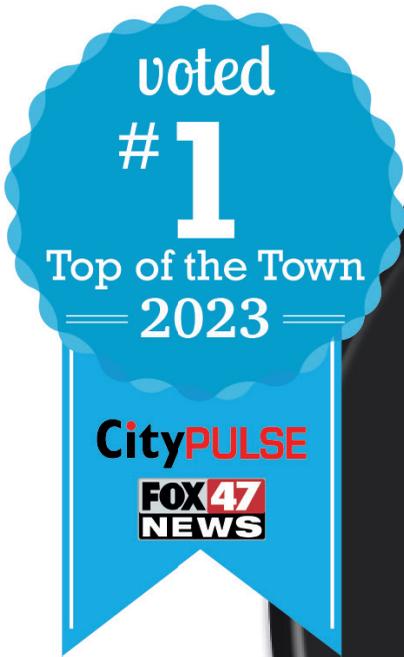


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Top 3

Axe Throwing  
Venue

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Escape Room Venue

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# LCC offers a whirlwind of joyful gossip and Regency drama

By **DANA DEMINK**

In a letter written to her niece in 1817, author Jane Austen wrote, “Single women have a dreadful propensity for being poor — which is one very strong argument in favour of matrimony.” Indeed, in Regency-era England, women of high social class and connection were schooled in the “respectable” arts — music and dance lessons and education in elegant manners prepared a young woman for a debut year designed to attract a wealthy suitor who would help ensure social standing and economic security. Without family connection and an attractive dowry, young women were doomed to the hardships and peril of poverty and low social standing. Such is the dire situation the Dashwood sisters, Elinor, Marianne and young Margaret, find themselves facing in Austen’s novel “Sense and Sensibility.”

When their father, Henry Dash-

wood, dies, his estate is passed down to his son from his first marriage, John Dashwood. John’s wife, Fanny, not given to generosity, has made an inhospitable environment for the rest of the Dashwoods. The Dashwood girls, along with their mother, are forced to retreat to a rented cottage in the country.



Review

## “Sense and Sensibility”

LCC Performing Arts  
Nov. 17-19  
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday  
2 p.m. Sunday  
LCC Black Box Theatre  
411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing  
lcc.edu/showinfo

But before they depart, Fanny’s brother, Edward Ferrars, the shy heir to a large fortune, and Elinor Dashwood have a chance meeting in the parlor.

Don’t be fooled by the tense backdrop — Lansing Community College’s production of “Sense and Sensibility” is a delicious romp. Like a colorful platter of meringues, Kate Hamill’s adaptation is designed to be light, sweet and delightful. Faithfully executed by the cast and crew and expertly directed by Mary Job, the performance is a fete of ingenious minimalist staging and fast-paced comedy. From the clever touches, such as invisible dogs straining on

their leashes, to the ventriloquist dummy that serves as the ancient dowager Ferrars, this production is fluid and snappy.

While Vivian Brown’s portrayal of Marianne Dashwood is more “ingenue” than the headstrong young woman that faithful Austen fans remember, her singing and speaking voice is enchanting. Standout comedic performances by Hannah Spencer as Margaret Dashwood/Lucy Steele and Nick Lemmer’s larger-than-life Sir John Middleton must be mentioned. But even better than their individual performances, this cast is at its best as an ensemble.

True to the script, the Gossips of this production provide stinging social commentary and underscore the moral codes of the era. Cast members deftly fly into Gossip roles, synchronously buzzing with juicy tidbits, and then out into other cast roles seamlessly within scenes. Rolling furniture that doubles as a carriage drawn by human horses, the cast’s “tick-tock” chant to convey the passage of time, a modern spin on a reel dance and even the retrieval of a wayward sheet



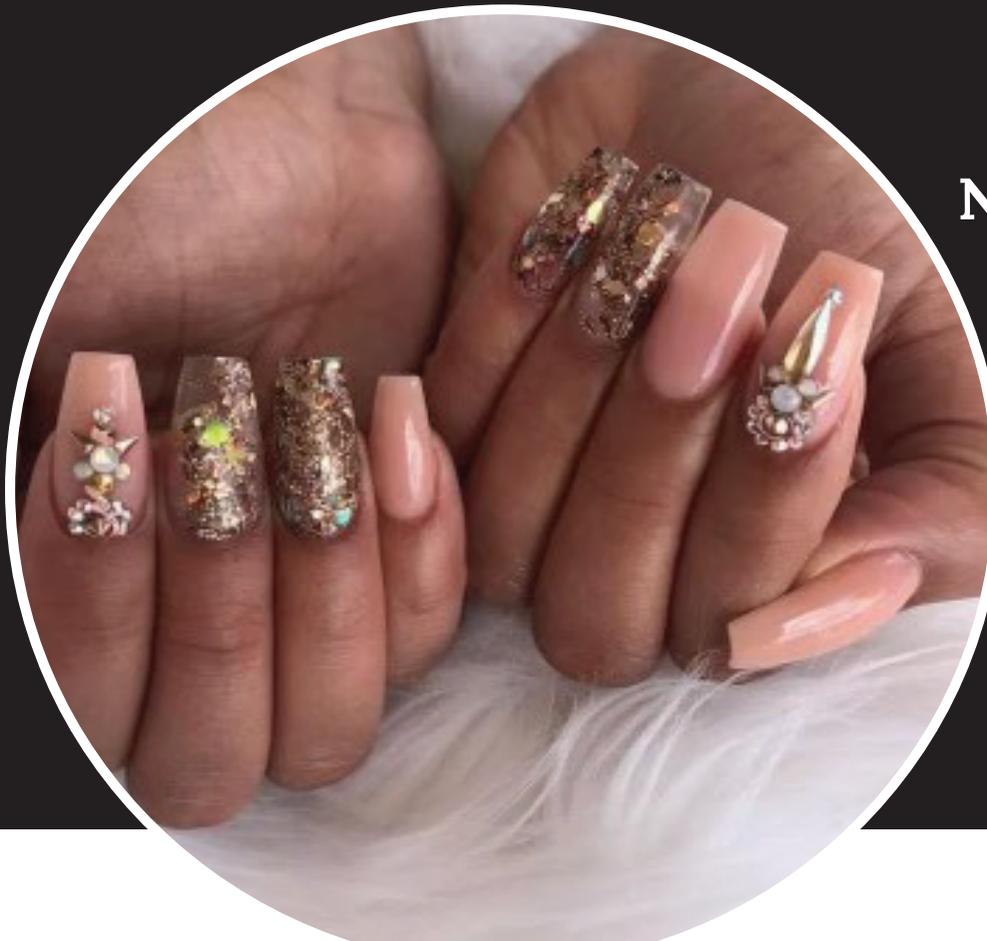
Photo by Kevin Fowler

From left: Emily Brannam (Elinor Dashwood), Vivian Brown (Marianne Dashwood) and Trey Sylla (Col. Brandon) in Lansing Community College’s production of “Sense and Sensibility.”

of paper that flew off a desk and a button that popped off a waistcoat on opening night reveal that everything is well-timed and economical. Props to assistant scenic designer Kessler Jones and costume and sound designer Chelle Peterson.

# Thank you for voting Jenny Nails in Top of the Town!

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# 'The Trail to Oregon' is irreverent but hilarious

By **MARK GMAZEL**

If you're interested in seeing what new Lansing-area talent has to offer, hurry to Riverwalk Theatre's Black Box this weekend to see "The Trail to Oregon," directed by Ayden Soupal. You'll be greeted by great voices, hilarious scenes and energetic performances.

The musical is based on the widely beloved strategy video game. The characters travel along the historic Oregon Trail in the 1840s to start a new life out west. Along the way, they must make decisions and face consequences regarding logistics, resource management, bargaining and trading, all while facing storms, river crossings, hostile hu-

man threats and, of course, disease — usually dysentery. All of this was put to music and humorously dramatized by StarKid Productions, a musical theater company founded in 2009 at the University of Michigan, so be prepared for some outrageous, edgy jokes and vulgar language in the style of Chicago comedy troupe the Second City or "Saturday Night Live."

Quentin Villa (Father) brings breezy charm and earnestness to the show, facing his indignities with aplomb. He has a strong singing voice and a wide

vocal range, and his voice shines while he deftly manages asides and monologues. He's funny and mischievous but also honest and believable, making me think of Curly in "Oklahoma!"

Taren Going (Mother) is feisty but sweet, with plenty of determination and drive. The actor's pioneer dialect is excellent, and they juggle comedy and drama equally well. Their song "When the World's at Stake" is one of the standout numbers of the entire show.

Xia Skowronek (Son) is simply outstanding in her role. Always funny and interesting to watch but never upstaging her co-stars, her characterization is spot-on throughout the entire show and brings a barrel full of laughs. Skowronek is a polished and professional performer, and her performance is well worth the price of admission.

JT Tosolt (Everyone Else) is hilarious and throws herself into the



Review

## "The Trail to Oregon"

Nov. 16-19  
7 p.m. Thursday  
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday  
2 p.m. Sunday  
Riverwalk Theatre  
228 Museum Drive, Lansing  
riverwalktheatre.com



Photo by Ariniko Artistry

From left: Dale Wayne Williams (Grandpa), Xia Skowronek (Son) and Kaela Panicucci (Daughter) in Riverwalk Theatre's production of "The Trail to Oregon."

show completely, earning laughs with every move she makes and every character she plays. Kaela Panicucci (Daughter) is fun, sweet and vulnerable, while local favorite Dale Wayne Williams (Grandpa) pleases as usual. The cast is cohesive and focused, always staying on track throughout this fast-paced show, and there's also a surprise appearance by a crustacean, recalling last season's production of "Big Fish."

It should be noted that there's a lot of broad, vulgar and potentially tasteless comedy along the trail, and there's also a scene centered on gun play that hits a little different now than what may have been intended when the musical was written. This irreverent production is one bathroom joke after another, but that's just part of the fun of it all.

To read Mark Gmazel's review of "Much Ado About Nothing," produced by Michigan State University's Department of Theatre, visit [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com).

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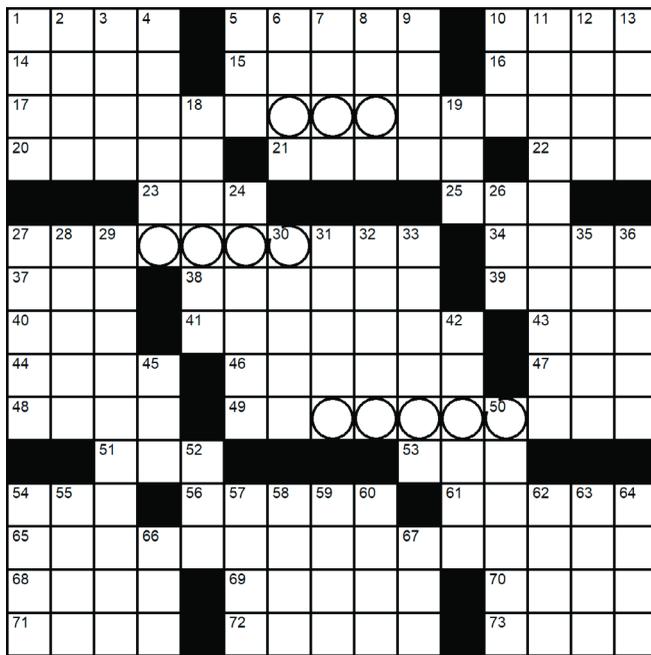
WE APPRECIATE ALL THE SUPPORT

# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"To Bead Determined"  
-- wanna swap?  
by Matt Jones  
© 2023 Matt Jones

- ACROSS**
- Greek Z
  - Landfill emanations
  - It's almost not a pencil
  - State, to Pierre
  - Character voiced by Charles Martinet until 2023
  - See 28-Down
  - What yoga and deep breathing help with
  - Rapper Shakur
  - Wombat relative
  - 157.5 deg. from N
  - "Blueberries for \_\_\_" (Robert McCloskey children's book)
  - "And She \_\_\_" (Talking Heads song)
  - Filmmaker's framing
  - Cat on a sportswear logo
  - A.P. competitor
  - 1980s Big Apple mayor
  - Oklahoma city near Oklahoma City
  - Part of HBO
  - Generous chances at starting fresh
  - 601, in Rome
  - Guinness of stage and screen
  - Celtic language
  - "Where \_\_\_ we headed today?"
  - Signals "yes"
  - 1994 song by Live that reached No. 2 on Billboard's Mainstream Rock Tracks chart
  - Bowl during a bowl game broadcast, maybe
  - "Achtung Baby" producer Brian
  - Pitcher handle
  - Dish with dressing
  - Tablets that run



- Safari
- Accessory where you'd see the three circled words (designed to look like one of these, sorta)
  - Look after
  - Crossword theme type (but not in Jonesin'--I'm not that mean)
  - Almond \_\_\_
  - Queries
  - "Forever" mail attachment
  - County hub
- DOWN**
- Lemon peel part
  - "And you?", to Caesar
  - Ball field coverer
  - Far from nervous
  - Mantra syllables
  - Nighttime
  - Shake flavor
  - "Low" rapper Flo
  - James Brown's genre
  - "The \_\_\_-Weed Factor" (1960 John Barth novel)
  - Time announced (and repeated) in monster truck ads
  - Chicago-style pizza chain, informally
  - Radius, for one
  - One way to run
  - Cornfield noise
  - Largest lake in Europe
  - "George of the Jungle" creature
  - Sandwich type with ham and roasted pork
  - With 16-Across, 2014 Olympics skating analyst
  - Long Island iced tea, for one
  - "Cheers!", in Scandinavia
  - Crude abode
  - 3M sponge brand
  - Prosper
  - Economics opener?
  - "Arrivederci" relative
  - Having great views
  - Gil Grissom's TV group
  - "Three's Company" spinoff, with "The"
  - It's happening right now in Portland, for short
  - "Donde \_\_\_ la biblioteca?"
  - Astounds
  - Goes on linear television
  - Online writing system that coined "n00b"
  - "Dancing Queen" group
  - Tom, for one
  - Ingredient in some lip balms
  - Five times duo-
  - Turnovers, e.g.
  - Hook-and-ladder cos.
  - Cleopatra's downfall

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky November 15-21, 2023

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** When we experience authentic awe, our humility deepens. This tends to make us kinder, smarter and more positive. So, how can we stimulate awe? Among the many possible ways are gazing at magnificent art, hiking in a natural wonderland or being in the presence of a beautiful human soul. In accordance with astrological omens, I recommend that you go in quest of awe and related feelings like reverence, amazement, adoration and veneration. Your mental, physical and spiritual health will flourish in response.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** It's the Season for Cherishing and Smoking Out Secrets. So, let's talk about the subject. 1. Some secrets are sad, haunting, even risky — and worth keeping secret. 2. Other secrets can be beautiful, healing and potentially life-changing if they are revealed gracefully. 3. Some secrets are buried so deeply that only very persistent seekers dig them up. 4. Some secrets are "hidden" in plain view and only visible to people who are clear and brave enough to identify them. I suspect you Taurus will have a special knack for managing all types of secrets in the coming weeks, including those I mentioned.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** I hope you won't fill yourself up with appetizers and hors d'oeuvres in the coming weeks, Gemini. My soul will be at peace if I see you save your hunger for the main courses. Your motto should be "Feasts, not snacks!" or "The Real Deal, not the pretenders!" or "The jubilee, not the distractions!" If you ever find yourself feeling halfhearted or inattentive, you're probably not in the right situation. Here's an affirmation to go with your mottos: "I am liberating my divine appetite!"

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Playwright Anton Chekhov (1860-1904) is regarded as one of history's great writers. That does not mean everything he said was wise, useful or worthy of our attention. For example, he was once asked to give his opinion about ballet. "During the intermissions, the ballerinas stink like horses," he replied. I hesitate to bring up such a vulgar reference, but I wanted to make a vivid point. In the coming weeks, I hope you will ignore the advice of people who don't know what they are talking about, no matter how smart or charismatic they may be. I hope you will not attribute expertise to those who have no such expertise. I hope that as much as possible, you will rely on first-hand information, rigorous research and reliable influences.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Researchers have determined that there are two basic dispositions among tigers. One is what they call "majesty." Creatures with this orientation tend to be dignified, imposing and agile. The other type of tiger personality revolves around "steadiness." This is the opposite of neuroticism and includes the qualities of being affable, easy to get along with and well-adjusted. I know many astrologers associate lions with you Leos, but I prefer to link you with tigers. If you agree with me, here's my prediction: You are beginning a phase when you will be more majestic than steady — but with plenty of steadiness also available if you want it.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** "It is better to entertain an idea than to take it home to live with you for the rest of your life," wrote author Randall Jarrell. That's decent advice, though I will add a caveat. If you entertain an idea for a while and it turns out that you love it, and you also love the beneficent effect it has on you, you may be smart to take it home to live with you. I'm guessing you Virgos are at a pivotal point in this regard. Not yet, but soon, you will know whether it will be wise to get cozier with certain influences you have been flirting with — or else decide they are not ones you want to keep.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** If I could give an award for Most Curious Genius in the World, it would be to Libran author and naturalist Diane Ackerman. She would also get my prizes for Most Voracious

Learner and Best Questioner and Most Exuberant Seeker and Searcher. "To hear the melody," she writes, "we must hear all the notes." In response to the question, "What is life?" she offers this answer: "Corsages and dust mites and alligator skin and tree-frog serenades and foreskins and blue hydrangeas and banana slugs and war dances and cedar chips and bombardier beetles." In accordance with current astrological omens, I encourage you to be like Diane Ackerman in the coming weeks.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Have you located any of your soul twins? If not, is that an interesting prospect for you? Please note that soul twins are not necessarily the same as dream lovers. They may simply be people with whom you share deep values and perspectives. They might aspire to influence the world in ways similar to you. With a soul twin, you feel at home in the world and extra happy to be yourself. I bring these meditations to your attention, Scorpio, because the coming months will be an especially likely time for you to encounter and engage with soul twins. Be on the alert!

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Composer Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) was charismatic and forceful but also hot-tempered and prone to rude behavior. The writer Goethe, his contemporary, said "his talent amazed me" and described him as an "utterly untamed personality." Beethoven seldom lived in one home for very long and loved to sing at the top of his lungs as he washed himself. Although he played piano with exquisite skill, he was quite clumsy as he moved through the world. Can you guess what astrological sign he was? Same as you! Sagittarius! I'm not saying you are exactly like this wild, unruly genius, but you do have tendencies in that direction. And in the coming weeks, I expect you'll be inclined to be more Beethoven-esque than usual. Please work on emphasizing the winsome aspects.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** I hope you have developed good boundaries, Capricorn. I hope you are so skilled at taking care of yourself that you steadfastly refuse to let people manipulate you or hurt you. Just to make sure your discernment is working at peak levels, though, I will offer you a tip. In the English language, we have the idiom "to rub salt in a wound," which refers to the fact that daubing salt in an open gash in the skin makes the pain even worse. But did you know that smearing sugar in a wound is equally distressing? The metaphorical lesson is that you should be vigilant for seemingly nice, sweet people who might also violate your boundaries to hurt or manipulate you.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** I estimate this horoscope is worth \$22,225. It has been made possible by my many years of disciplined meditations, extensive reading of holy texts and an ever-growing devotion to astrology and my readers. But here's the fun part: You can read these words for free! No cost at all! I will, however, ask you to do something for me in return. First, give your gifts joyously and generously in the coming weeks, holding nothing back. Second, don't be concerned in the least about whether you will receive benefits in return for your gifts. Find the sweet spot where you love bestowing blessings for no other reason except this one: You are expressing your gratitude for the miraculous life you have been given.

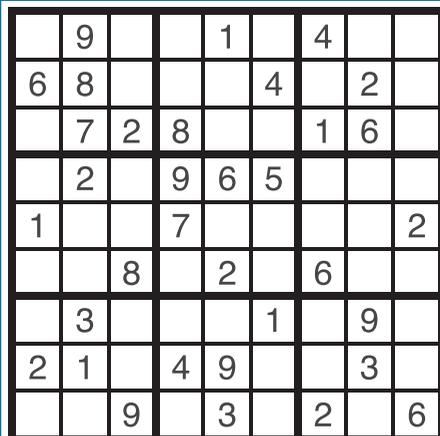
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Do you possess gambits, tactics and knacks that we might refer to as your "bag of tricks"? I hope so because such an asset will be extra valuable during the coming weeks. You will be wise to employ every cagey move you can imagine and call on every favor that's owed to you and cash in on every advantage you have accrued. I don't want you to engage in outright cheating, but I encourage you to use ploys and stratagems that have full integrity. Be on the lookout for secret shortcuts, magic cookies and wild cards.

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Answers on page 56

# SUDOKU

# Beginner



## Fun By The Numbers

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

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

# OUT on the TOWN

## Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](https://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, Nov. 15

**26th EAST LANSING FILM FESTIVAL** - For a schedule of film showings, visit [elff.com/films-schedule](https://elff.com/films-schedule). 3:30 p.m. Studio C! Meridian Mall, 1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-980-5802.

**"A Course of Love" Book Study, Facilitated by Lucille Olson & Bill Dietrich** - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. [unitylansing.org](https://unitylansing.org).

**Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids** - Ages 5-12. 4:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

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

**Art Ed Lab** - Take a self-directed, hands-on approach as you experiment with various art media. This session's theme is "abstract." 12:30 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. [reachstudioart.org](https://reachstudioart.org).

**Bagged Leaves ONLY drop-off** - Self-serve drop-off. All leaves must be in paper yard waste bags. 8-11 am. Publicly Owned Treatment Works, 5961 McCue Road, Holt. [delhitownshipmi.gov](https://delhitownshipmi.gov).

**Basic Cartooning with Dennis Preston** - Learn

some of the basics of developing original cartoon characters. 10+. 4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. [lansingartgallery.org](https://lansingartgallery.org).

**Bored Jar** - Decorate a jar and fill it up with fun activities to do when you get bored. Grades 4-12. 4 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. [eradl.org](https://eradl.org).

**Brian Byrnes at the Graduate Rock Bar** - 8 p.m. 133 Evergreen Ave., East Lansing. 517-348-0900. [facebook.com/graduaterockbar](https://facebook.com/graduaterockbar).

**Emergency Services** - 6 p.m. LSW Emergency Services, 7425 Woodbury Road, Laingsburg. [laingsburg.us](https://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](https://meridian50plus.com).

**Homeschool Day: Art Field Trip!** - Families are invited to explore the galleries and create art together in response. 1-4 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](https://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Improv Acting Class** - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Jazz Dance Class** - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Jug & Mug Holiday Party Registration** - Register by Nov. 21 for the event on Dec. 9 at Crowne Plaza Lansing West. Members \$65, non-members \$70. Mail checks to Jug & Mug, 10810 Countryside Drive, Grand Ledge, MI 48837 and c/o Ingrid Todd. Call Todd at 517-652-9451 for more information. [jugandmug.org](https://jugandmug.org).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild FALL MEMBER ART SHOW** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. [midmichiganartguild.org](https://midmichiganartguild.org).

**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](https://lamc.info).

**"Mixed Media Medley," by Bobbie Margolis** - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. Call 517-347-2021 beforehand to

### 'A Little Night Music'

7 p.m. Nov. 15, 17, 18

3 p.m. Nov. 19

Fairchild Theatre

542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing



Michigan State University Opera Theatre will perform Stephen Sondheim's "A Little Night Music" at the school's Fairchild Theatre 7 p.m.

Wednesday (Nov. 15), Friday (Nov. 17) and Saturday (Nov. 18) and 3 p.m. Sunday (Nov. 19). A College of Music press release called the show, "A comedic and engaging interwoven tale of harmony and heartbreak."

"Set around the year 1900 in Sweden, 'A Little Night Music' follows the romantic lives of five individuals, making the Tony Award-winning musical more like a love pentagon than a love triangle," the College of Music wrote. "Hilarious and devastating, this work, with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by Hugh Wheeler, is about a lusciously tangled web spun by an actress, her two lovers and their wives. A critically acclaimed performance from Broadway and beyond, it is perfect for the new or contemporary operagoer."

MSU Opera Theatre performers will be joined by the MSU Symphony, conducted by Octavio Más-Arocas, MSU's director of orchestras.

"'A Little Night Music' is a timeless example of the genius of Stephen Sondheim. The music is entirely in 3/4 time, which amplifies this tale of mismatched couples who, on one endless Swedish summer night, find their soulmates," said Melanie Helton, director of MSU Opera Theatre. "We can all see something of ourselves in the characters. In fact, the elderly Madame Armfeldt says it best: 'The summer night smiles three times: once for the young, who know nothing; then for the fools, who think they know; and for the old, for whom it is too late.'"

Reserved seating tickets, available at [music.msu.edu](https://music.msu.edu), are \$22 for adults, \$20 for seniors (age 60 and older) and \$7 for students.

ensure gallery space is open. [facebook.com/Mid-MichiganArtGuild](https://facebook.com/Mid-MichiganArtGuild).

**Rosie the Riveter & Beyond: How Women Helped Win WWII** - 7 p.m. Mason Area Historical Museum, 200 E. Oak St., Mason. [masonmuseum.org](https://masonmuseum.org).

**Tap II Class** - 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com). East Lansing, MI

**Virtual Life Drawing (nude model)** - Join us online for a virtual drawing session to participate in the

tradition of drawing nude models. Sign up at [reachstudioart.org](https://reachstudioart.org) for a Zoom link. 6 p.m. 517-999-3643.

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

### Thursday, Nov. 16

**26th EAST LANSING FILM FESTIVAL** - For a schedule of film showings, visit [elff.com/films-schedule](https://elff.com/films-schedule). 3:30 p.m. Studio C! Meridian Mall, 1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-980-5802.

**"A Course in Miracles," Facilitated by Lisa Schmidt** - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. [unitylansing.org](https://unitylansing.org).

**Acting 101 Class** - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Acting Ensemble Class** - 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Bagged Leaves ONLY drop-off** - Self-serve drop-off. All leaves must be in paper yard waste bags. 8-11 am. Publicly Owned Treatment Works, 5961 McCue Road, Holt. [delhitownshipmi.gov](https://delhitownshipmi.gov).

**Chipmunk Story Time** - Stories are followed by nature activities and a guided walk. 10 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. 517-349-3866.

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&  
Songs of the Season

December 8th and 9th 7:30pm  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing  
5509 S Pennsylvania Ave. Lansing MI, 48911  
Tickets \$15 at the door or at  
[WWW.LANSINGOUT.COM](https://WWW.LANSINGOUT.COM)

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I appologize.



-Wheel House Studio

# Events

from page 46

**Dixon's Violin** - The world's premier visionary violinist, Dixon's life mission is to inspire people — and he has done so at over 1,000 concerts across North America. 8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

**Eloquents 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.

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**Jazz/Hip Hop II class** - Ages 9-13. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Karaoke Thursday** - 8 p.m.-midnight. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

**Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club** - Join other adult women for fun, exercise, friendship and skating practice. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. ladiessilverblades.org.

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

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild FALL MEMBER ART SHOW** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

**"Mixed Media Medley," by Bobbie Margolis** - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. Call 517-347-2021 beforehand to

ensure gallery space is open. facebook.com/Mid-MichiganArtGuild.

**Moms' Thankful Night** - Connect with other moms while creating Thanksgiving decorations. Bring a Thanksgiving-themed dish to pass and a beverage of choice. Registration req. 6-8 p.m. tinkrLAB, 2650 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-500-8687. tinkrlab.com.

**"Murder for Two: Holiday Edition"** - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

**Native Wildlife Sculpting** - Learn about native wildlife and create animal sculptures with Play-Doh and clay. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

**"Plastic Wars" Film Screening** - Screening and panel discussion of "Plastic Wars," a Frontline documentary that's sure to spark conversation. 3:30-6 p.m. MSU Recycling, 468 Green Way, East Lansing. 517-355-1723. msurecycling.com.

**REACH: Arts Incubator for Young People** - Teens ages 14-19 can learn new art-making techniques and develop core skills while hanging out with other young people! 5 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

**Rescuing the Rougarou: Preserving culture in a changing climate** - Cajun folklorist and environmental activist explores the challenges of sustaining the traditional cultures of coastal Louisiana in the face of land loss and climate migration. 7 p.m. Broad Business College Complex Room N130, 632 Bogue St., East Lansing. geo.msu.edu

**Ruhala Broadway Ensemble** - Learn to excel equally in singing, acting and dance. 5:30 p.m. 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhala-center.com.

**Stitch 'n Bitch** - Come hang out with some fellow

## Alternative Holiday Sale

5-9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17  
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18  
Edgewood United Church  
469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing



The Peace Education Center's annual Alternative Holiday Sale runs 5 to 9 p.m. Friday (Nov. 17) and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday (Nov. 18) at Edgewood United Church in East Lansing.

With a variety of local vendors selling everything from art to home goods and beyond, the sale provides holiday shoppers with an opportunity to support the economic growth of the Lansing area through its artists and creators. In addition, meals and snacks will be available for purchase at the event.

Some profits from the sale will go toward assisting the Peace Education Center with its yearly programming and peace and justice initiatives.

A Ten Pound Fiddle concert featuring award-winning singer-songwriter Joe Jencks is also set to take place 7:30 p.m. Friday. The Chicago-based artist merges "conservatory training with his Irish roots and working-class upbringing, delivering engaged musical narratives filled with heart, soul, groove and grit," Ten Pound Fiddle wrote on its website. To purchase tickets, which are \$20 for the public, \$18 for Fiddle members and \$5 for students, visit [tenpoundfiddle.org/event/joe-jencks](http://tenpoundfiddle.org/event/joe-jencks).

More information about the sale is available at [peaceedcenter.org/event/alternative-holiday-sale](http://peaceedcenter.org/event/alternative-holiday-sale).

stitching witches! 5-8 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

**Thursday Chef Series: Yeti Kitchen Holiday Dinner** - A traditional holiday meal to celebrate Tihar, complete with sel roti, dal bhat and a chai and dessert course. Pre-registration req. 6:30 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. [order.toasttab.com/online/yeti-kitchen-325-riverfront-drive](http://order.toasttab.com/online/yeti-kitchen-325-riverfront-drive).

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly** - 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.

**"The Trail to Oregon"** - 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

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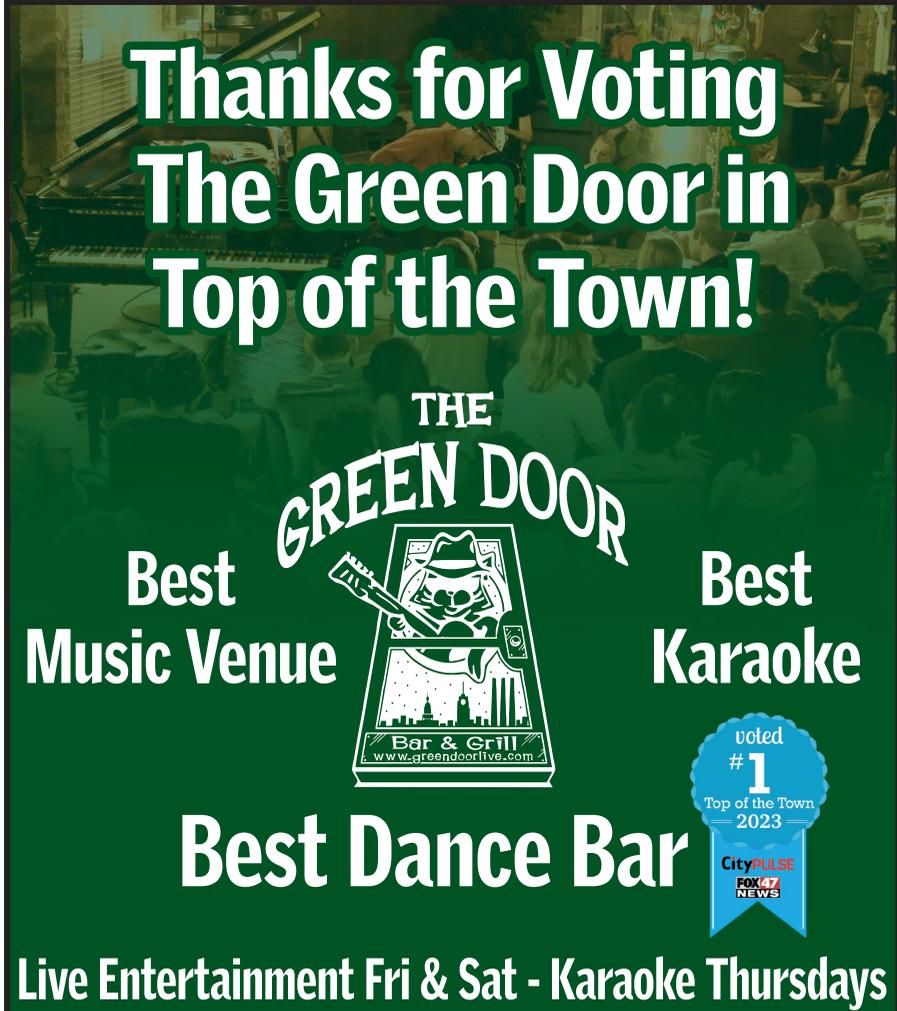
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# Events

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**Tri-County Office on Aging's 38th Annual Dinner and Auction** - Raising funds for Meals on Wheels and in-home services for older adults in Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties. 6 p.m. Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. 517-887-1377. tcoa.org.

## Friday, Nov. 17

**"A Course in Christ" Book Study** - 10:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 269-762-3189. unitylansing.org.

**Alex Mendenall** - 3 p.m. The Willows at East Lansing, 3500 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. 517-336-3424.

**Alternative Holiday Sale** - 5-9 p.m. Edgewood United Church, 469 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. peaceedcenter.org.

**Bagged Leaves ONLY drop-off** - Self-serve drop-off. All leaves must be in paper yard waste bags. 8-11 am. Publicly Owned Treatment Works, 5961

McCue Road, Holt. delhitownshipmi.gov.

**Brian Byrnes at The Peanut Barrel** - 8 p.m. 521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0608. peanutbarrel.com.

**Chamber Music Collage Concert** - 5:30 p.m. Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, 640 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-355-9672. frib.msu.edu/events/index.php.

**The Coffeehouse at All Saints** - Monthly showcase of mostly Michigan-based musical and spoken-word talent. Bring a snack/drink to share. Free admission. 7:30 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-7160. allsaints-el.org.

**Dogs After Dark** - You and your dog can enjoy a guided walk through the nighttime woods! 7 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

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

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe

time. 3-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**Homeschool Fridays** - Area homeschool families receive a discount on regular admission prices. Noon-3 p.m. Launch Trampoline Park, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. launchtrampolinepark.com/lansing.

**Life Drawing (Clothed)** - Drawing session with a live model or still life, taught by artist and educator Elyse Gambino. 6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

**Michigan's Poet Laureate Event** - Poetry reading by Michigan Poet Laureate Nandi Comer. Opening reading by Lansing Poet Laureate Masaki Takahashi. Presentations followed by Q&A with both poets. 5:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild FALL MEMBER ART SHOW** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

**"Mixed Media Medley," by Bobbie Margolis** - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. Call 517-347-2021 beforehand to ensure gallery space is open. facebook.com/MidMichiganArtGuild.

**Mr. Midnight wsg Twyla Birdsong presents music by Burt Bacharach** - 8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

**"Murder for Two: Holiday Edition"** - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

**"Sense and Sensibility"** - 8 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

**Sloan** - 8:30 p.m. The Green Door Bar & Grill,

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

**"The Trail to Oregon"** - 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

**Warm Up for Silver Bells at R.E. Olds Transportation Museum** - Grab a hot chocolate and explore Lansing's automotive history before heading to the Silver Bells parade. We'll be open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Regular admission applies. 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-372-0529. reoldsmuseum.org.

## Saturday, Nov. 18

**Alternative Holiday Sale** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Edgewood United Church, 469 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. peaceedcenter.org.

**Bagged Leaves ONLY drop-off** - Self-serve drop-off. All leaves must be in paper yard waste bags. 8-11 am. Publicly Owned Treatment Works, 5961 McCue Road, Holt. delhitownshipmi.gov.

**Black Rock 101 - Black Rock Sextet featuring Benjamin Hall** - This show offers a broad overview of the history, accomplishments, and contributions that Black musicians have made to rock 'n' roll. 8 p.m. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

**"Colors of Celebration" opening reception** - Join us for the opening of "Colors of Celebration: An Artistic Tribute to Global It's also the gallery's 1-year anniversary! 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Art Williamston gallery, 3845 Vanneter Road, Williamston. facebook.com/ArtWilliamston.

**Contra & Square Dance** - All dances taught. No partner needed. Come at 6:30 for a quick workshop on easy contra dance moves. 7 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. 517-614-5858. tenpoundfiddle.org.

See Events, Page 49

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# Events

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**Creative Tots (B) (four-week class)** - Young artists create process-focused art with their parent/caregiver under the guidance of teaching artist Meghan Andrews. 10:30 a.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

**Dine-in or carryout sauerkraut dinner and dance** - Dinner 5-6:30 p.m. Music starts at 6:30. For take-out dinners call Darlene Komm at 517-290-8624. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/LansingLiederkrantzClub.

**Game Night** - All table games are welcome, so bring your campaigns, board games, card games — whatever you like. BYOB. 5-8 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

**Intermediate Ballet class** - 11 a.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Kids Introduction to Watercolor with Michelle Detering** - Kids will learn about the medium and obtain skills by painting a variety of animal creatures. 10 a.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

**“Mixed Media Medley,” by Bobbie Margolis** - 9 a.m.-7 p.m. CADL – Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. Call 517-347-2021 beforehand to ensure gallery space is open. facebook.com/MidMichiganArtGuild.

**“Murder for Two: Holiday Edition”** - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

**National Apple Cider Day** - Serving cold nonalcoholic and hard cider; hot, spiced hard cider; free donuts while they last; and college football game day specials. Noon-9 p.m. Looking Glass Brewing Co, 115 N. Bridge St., DeWitt. 517-668-6004. lookingglassbrewingcompany.com.

**“Sense and Sensibility”** - 8 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

**Toastmaster Meeting** - Advanced club that helps members grow in speaking, presentation and leadership skills. Members get extensive evaluations to help them grow professionally. 9:45-11:30 a.m. MSUFCU, 104 S. Washington Square, Lansing. cdas.toastmost.org.

**“The Trail to Oregon”** - 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

**Vaccine Clinic** - Get vaccinated against COVID-19 and flu. HIV and STI testing available. Free COVID testing kits and Narcan. Get help accessing vaccine records, enrolling in health insurance, and replacing your COVID-19 vaccination card. Noon-4 p.m. Salus Center, 408 S. Washington Square, Lansing. saluscenter.org.

## Sunday, Nov. 19

**Bagged Leaves ONLY drop-off** - Self-serve drop-off. All leaves must be in paper yard waste bags. 8-11 am. Publicly Owned Treatment Works, 5961 McCue Road, Holt. delhitownshipmi.gov.

**Bottle and Can Collection for Eastern Ingham Farmers Market** - 11 a.m.-1 p.m. McCormick Park, 123 High St., Williamston. 517-618-1630. easterninghamfarmersmarket.org.

**Breaking Bread with the Blues** - Food & fundraiser event for Greater Lansing Food Bank with live blues performances. Doors 3 p.m., show 4-8 p.m. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

**Bridge the Gap: Connecting Across Generations** - Join us for coffee, treats and good conversation. Come with questions, ready to chat with someone

from a different generation. 2-4 p.m. Salus Center, 408 S. Washington Square, Lansing. saluscenter.org.

**Chamber 3: Flute, Harp, & Viola Trio** - 3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church of Lansing Molly Grove Chapel, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. lansingsymphony.org.

**GLAD Drum Circle** - All ages and experience levels welcome. 2-4 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-803-2392. facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers.

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

**Mary Gauthier w/ very special guest Jaimee Harris at Pump House Concerts** - 7 p.m. 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. 517-927-2100. facebook.com/PumpHouseConcerts.

**“Mixed Media Medley,” by Bobbie Margolis** - Noon-6 p.m. CADL – Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. Call 517-347-2021 beforehand to ensure gallery space is open. facebook.com/MidMichiganArtGuild.

**“Murder for Two: Holiday Edition”** - 2 p.m. Wil-

liamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

**Museum Tour: Deep-Rooted with Beal Botanical Garden** - An immersive tour unearthing the historical, social and political narratives growing within works of art from the museum’s collection. Registration encouraged. 1 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**Red Cedar Quaker Friends Worship** - 10:30 a.m. 1400 Turner St., Lansing. redcedarfriends.org/

join-us-for-worship.

**“Sense and Sensibility”** - 2 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

**SpARTan Wellness: Concrete Planters** - Pour, decorate and plant your own tiny concrete planter. Registration encouraged. 2 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

See Events, Page 50

Live & Local

**CityPULSE**  
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**FRIDAY NIGHT JAMS**  
Tony Thompson & Friends  
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**SUNDAY JAZZ**  
Randy Napoleon, Paul Keller,  
David Alvarez III  
Sun. Nov. 19, 6-9 p.m.





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# Events

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**Sunday Brunch** - Visit [lookingglassbrewingcompany.com](http://lookingglassbrewingcompany.com) for menu. Noon-5 p.m. Looking Glass Brewing Co., 115 N. Bridge St., Dewitt. 517-668-6004.

**"The Trail to Oregon"** - 2 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-482-5700. [riverwalktheatre.com](http://riverwalktheatre.com).

**Woldumar Folk & Bluegrass Jamboree** - Enjoy jam circles, live performances and the natural wonders Woldumar has to offer. 2-5 p.m. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. [woldumar.org](http://woldumar.org).

## Monday, Nov. 20

**Beginning Ukulele for the Family (six-week class)** - Taught by Michigan's ukulele ambassador, Ben Hassenger. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Burger Night** - Choice of hamburger, cheeseburg-

er or olive burger, plus fries. Dine in or take out. \$8. 5-7 p.m. Columbus Hall, 5300 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-321-2209.

**"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).

**Graphic Novel Book Club** - Hang out with friends, chat about the book, have a snack and do a book-related activity or craft. Grades 3-6. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**Jump Into Reading** - Stories, songs, activities and therapy dogs. Ages 0-5 with caregivers. 11 a.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. [eradl.org](http://eradl.org).

**"Letting Go," by David Hawkins: Book Study with Lucille Olson** - 1:30 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. [unitylansing.org](http://unitylansing.org).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild FALL MEMBER ART SHOW** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. [midmichiganartguild.org](http://midmichiganartguild.org).

**"Mixed Media Medley," by Bobbie Margolis** - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. Call 517-347-2021 beforehand to ensure gallery space is open. [facebook.com/MidMichiganArtGuild](http://facebook.com/MidMichiganArtGuild).

**Rest with Music: Jessica Dominic** - Take a break from your day, relax and enjoy a free concert under the 'night sky' of the planetarium. Noon. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. [health4u.msu.edu/courses/rest-with-music](http://health4u.msu.edu/courses/rest-with-music).

## Tuesday, Nov. 21

**Higher Ground Enrichment Time** - Kids can use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3-6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

**LAGE Game Night East** - 6:30-11 p.m. The Junction, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. [meetup.com/lansing/events](http://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](http://meetup.com/lansing/events).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild FALL MEMBER ART SHOW** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. [midmichiganartguild.org](http://midmichiganartguild.org).

**"Mixed Media Medley," by Bobbie Margolis** - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. Call 517-347-2021 beforehand to ensure gallery space is open. [facebook.com/MidMichiganArtGuild](http://facebook.com/MidMichiganArtGuild).

**Preschool Family Storytime** - Join us for stories, songs and a simple craft! Ages 1-6. 11 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Preschool Storytime** - Enjoy songs, rhymes and stories with Ms. Lindsay. Ages 3-6. 10:30 a.m. Maple Room, Mason City Hall, 201 W. Ash St., Mason. 517-676-9088. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/mason](http://cadl.org/about/our-locations/mason).

**StressBusters: Positive Mental Health for Kids** - 3 p.m. session for ages 3-6 and caregivers, 4 p.m. sessions for ages 7-10 and 11-14. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-346-8094. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

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

**YA Book Club** - Chat, eat snacks and have book-related fun. Grades 8-12. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. [charlottelibrary.org](http://charlottelibrary.org).

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# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING



Lawrence

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

The most fun part of writing restaurant reviews is being tasked to eat at restaurants you wouldn't normally visit. I've discovered so many favorites this way, including Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine, Blend and

The Ocean Crab. The bummer, however, is that with a new assignment to focus on every month and a busy life to manage, it's rare that I get to return to my longtime favorites. There just aren't enough meals in the week.

So, whenever I can, I like to check in on my standbys — kick the tires on the food and make sure the bathrooms are still clean, the fries are still hot and the bread pudding still drips with the world's most delectable, luscious caramel sauce (hello Soup Spoon, my old friend). Every year, City Pulse's Top of the Town issue gives me a great opportunity to remember some of my favorite haunts and plan return visits.

Olympic Broil factored heavily into my high school lunch routine during my tenure at Sexton High School. We had an hour for lunch and an open campus, and one can only eat so many Wendy's chicken nuggets and Fazoli's breadsticks. Therefore, I've been enjoying Olympic Broil's wavy fries and chicken tenders for more than 20 years, and I decided that it was high time to introduce the Lawrence babies to this winner of multiple Top of the Town categories. My family shared a box of chicken tenders, a chicken wrap, a bacon cheeseburger and a Humdinger burger, which I have always loved because it has mayonnaise and pickles on top. The fries still need a lot of salt, but the kids loved the chicken tenders, and I didn't have heartburn that evening. I consider it a win, and the second generation of Olympic Broil lovers is cemented.

Mr. She Ate and I stole away for a lunch date on a weekday, which is virtually unheard of unless we're both attending the Lansing Regional Chamber Economic Club, where he generally considers himself to be too important to even sit at my table. We chose the Soup Spoon Café, and there are few things I love more than nestling into that restaurant on a blustery day and narrowing down my soup choices. For this lunch, I leaned into that feeling and chose a soup flight, which included pumpkin bisque, French onion, a cheesy short-rib chili and a spicy lamb stew. I love lamb, and I love how much lamb has always been featured on Soup Spoon's menu. The soups all still slap, and Mr. She Ate confirmed that his preferred tenderloin salad does as well. We haven't yet introduced the children to this perennial favorite because I remember seeing a sign that claimed unattended children would be given a puppy and an espresso, and Mademoiselle She Ate isn't yet ready for prime time. But it's coming, and I predict that the pancakes and sausage patties will become favorites.

My third trip to an old favorite this month was to El Oasis food truck, since I had to go pick up our repaired vacuum cleaner at Lam's Sweeper Shop. I always have a chorizo quesadilla on a corn tortilla, which is utter perfection. El Oasis was one

# Which Lansing-area restaurants really reign supreme?

people to come out to the polls. Thankfully, the Top of the Town contest offers another chance for community members to weigh in and select their top choices among the pool of culinary candidates. After reviewing the final polls, I offer my post-election analysis.

### Landslides

TOTT's highest honor for Best Burger and Best Olive Burger has been bestowed upon my personal favorite, Weston's Kewpee Sandwich Shop. I waxed poetic for this pillar of our food community in February 2022, and having dined there over the last month, I can say I still agree with its supremacy.

That said, these categories offered me an opportunity to visit another local institution, Dagwood's Tavern & Grill, which finished second in both. My father used to take me to Dagwood's when I was a youngster, and we'd split burger and shrimp baskets. Walking inside was like a journey back in time. Not much has changed décor-wise over the decades, and even the Budweiser Clydesdales carousel globe still oversees the action from above. The food is also still consistently on point. If you get a chance to visit, sit at the bar near the cooking station to observe Dena commanding the flat top and deep fryers. You'll

be amazed at the speed and efficiency with which sandwiches and sides fly out of the kitchen.

I arrived on a Spartan game day when most of the seats in the tavern were occupied, and I ordered the Olive Burger with cheese and an extra patty (\$7.50) and a side of onion rings (\$5) from the condensed menu. Even as I had a front row seat to the cooking action, I'm not sure how my food arrived so quickly. The burger was juicy but not overly greasy, and the cheddar offered just enough sharp contrast to the creamy olive sauce on which the burger sat atop, rather than the traditional sauce-on-top versions across town. Dagwood's olive sauce doesn't skimp on the key ingredient, and while I prefer sliced olives to chopped,

these olives weren't minced, so it was kind of the best of both worlds. The onion rings were crisp and flavorful, though they arrived at the fryer frozen and not freshly battered — again, speed and efficiency.

### Stop the steal

In March, I wrote about my less than favorable experiences at Old Bag of Nails. To see it voted as the Best New Restaurant is surprising, to say the least. I promise to make a return visit to see if the restaurant has ironed out its issues, but in the meantime, I wonder if the timing of the voting and the summer arrival of Toscana was a factor in the Italian cucina not making the top three. I also already wrote about my regard for Lansing Shuffle, and frankly,



Courtesy photos

Dagwood's Tavern & Grill, Soup Spoon Café, Weston's Kewpee Sandwich Shop and Olympic Broil are just a few of the Greater Lansing restaurants that stood out to voters in this year's Top of the Town contest.



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- Best Happy Hour
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- Best Beer List

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BARTENDER • SHARDAE



# Thanksgiving magma

By ARI LEVAUX

A year has come and gone since I happened upon a flame-orange paste created from roasted squash and red peppers. I call it magma because it's red and earthy, but I could also call it autumn mayonnaise because it improves everything it touches. Whatever I name it, I'm still grasping the implications. It's a dip, spread, sauce, dressing and soup that's as hot, cold, spicy, mild or seasoned as you wish.

To create magma, you simply roast sweet red peppers and a starchy, squash-like kabocha and blend with olive oil, garlic and salt. The resulting puree is thick, and after some time, it will set up downright stiff, thanks to the pectin in both squash and peppers. Pectin is a carbohydrate that jam makers use to thicken their product, and it makes the magma as stiff as pudding.

Magma debuted at Thanksgiving dinner, passed around the table by glowing revelers who easily grasped its utility. The crimson emulsion was like a second gravy for the turkey. Its sweet pungency enhanced the stuffing, which sounds impossible, but it's true. The potatoes, dressed in red, became all the more delectable, and the Midwestern casserole became downright edible. After the meal, there were so many leftovers that the hosts handed out full takeout containers to any departing guest who wanted one, but they kept the remaining magma in a Tupperware of their own.

The day after Thanksgiving, I made

another batch, this time with hot peppers, and I spooned it onto scrambled eggs. It looked and tasted like salsa, despite having no tomatoes. For dinner, I seasoned my magma with oregano and thyme and served it upon pasta, and it was like a creamy marinara.

If all that wasn't glorious enough, the kids even liked it. If you've ever tried to get children to eat squash, you'll understand my excitement. Magma made its way into the school lunch rotation as a sandwich spread and a dip for fresh-cut vegetables.

The other day, I made a batch of chicken soup with onions, carrots and dill. Swerving from the protocols, I had added a hard piece of fine sourdough to the pot and let it simmer until completely soft. I then ladled some broth, the soggy bread and a carrot or two into the blender, along with some fresh magma, and blended until everything was thin and velvety smooth. I garnished with some dill, left over from the soup, and served it warm. It was the flavor of luxury — and



## Magma sauce

The quantities listed here will make about a quart of magma. If you want to make a different amount, use a ratio of one large pepper per pound of squash. As a soup, it serves four. As a sauce, a few more.

A 6-pound kabocha squash (or similar starchy winter squash)  
8 bell peppers, red or yellow (the flavor is good with both, but the color is better with red)  
Optional: some hot peppers if you want more fire in the magma  
1 head of garlic to roast, plus a raw clove  
4 tablespoons olive oil  
1 teaspoon thyme or oregano  
1 teaspoon salt, plus more to taste  
Set the oven to 375 degrees. Cut the squash in half, scoop out the seeds and lay the halves down on a baking pan. Cook until you feel softness when pushing from the outside, about 45 minutes.

the feeling of fall.

For an even quicker fix of this autumn bisque, simply heat some chicken bouillon, broth or salted stock and stir in the magma until it's the right thickness. Simmer together and serve.

In a separate pan, roast the peppers, turning once or twice so they blister on both sides. Remove the peppers after about 30 minutes, or when they're completely blistered and collapsed. Put the head of garlic and olive oil into a small bakeable container, like a half-pint mason jar, and bake for about 30 minutes.

Remove the ingredients when ready and allow them to cool to a safe temperature to work with. Peel the blistered peppers as best you can — it's OK if some bits of skin remain — and scrape out the seeds. Scoop the seeds out of the squash, then scoop out the flesh. Gently peel or squeeze the roasted garlic to get rid of the skin and add the garlic and oil to the blender, along with the squash flesh, pepper flesh, herbs and salt. Puree. Season with more salt if necessary. Puree again.

This is the end of the recipe for magma but the beginning of all of the things you will do with it.

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in Top of the Town!

Best Vegetarian/Vegan/GF Restaurant

Best Vegetarian Vegan Dish

## She Ate

from page 51

of the food trucks that Mr. She Ate and I engaged for our wedding reception, and I will forever fondly remember the taco man passing around platters of food to our guests as they waited outside in front of the other trucks to have their orders filled. It was fun, and the food was delicious. It still is.

A constant gripe that I hear is that there's nowhere to eat in Lansing. Sure, there's a noticeable lack of fine dining. But from ChouPli to Sansu and Kewpee to Fleetwood, there's something for everyone. We embrace cuisine from other parts of the world.

We expand our horizons. We know the importance of supporting local businesses, as evidenced by my attempt to take the family for a long-overdue dinner at Cugino's. The place was packed to the gills, and the anticipated wait time meant we couldn't do it, but that doesn't bother me. It's so much better than finding out your neighborhood favorite struggled until it had to close.

I have to point out my utter shock at the Best New Restaurant winner, Old Bag of Nails. We're all familiar with the adage to keep your trap shut if you don't have anything nice to say, so it's a good thing that I have leftover chicken tenders at home with which I can stifle myself.

## He Ate

from page 51

I would put it first if for nothing more than the diversity of divine flavors inside and the excitement it's garnered as a new gathering place.

### In memoriam

This year, TOTT has a category for Businesses Lost. I concur with the conclusion that DeLuca's is dearly missed in our community. The pizza was a treasure, as were the lasagna, ranch dressing and spumoni ice cream. Many a family celebration took place at the eatery on Willow Street, and I lament the loss every time I drive by.

My own journey as a home chef took off because of the market offerings inside Roma Bakery, and its pastries were absolutely incredible. I'm indebted to the Castriciano family for the patience and kindness they

offered in sharing some of their culinary expertise with me whenever I stopped in. I'd add two more lost restaurants to the list: Pistachio's and Jambalaya's. I loved both of them for their seafood and ambiance.

### Best bite

As a family with four children, it can be hard to work in quality dining experiences or time for cooking at home when juggling academic, athletic and professional schedules. Thankfully, the quick-bite options in Lansing don't equate to poor taste choices. Case in point, Jersey Giant Subs. Whenever the occasion calls, a #6, or The Boss, hits the spot every time, filled with ham, capicola, prosciutto (a baked ham product), salami, pepperoni and cheese. I order mine with pickles, hot pepper relish, lettuce, Jersey Juice (oil and vinegar) and honey mustard. Its locally baked bread is paired with meats and cheeses sliced fresh for every order. Maybe I'll have one for lunch.



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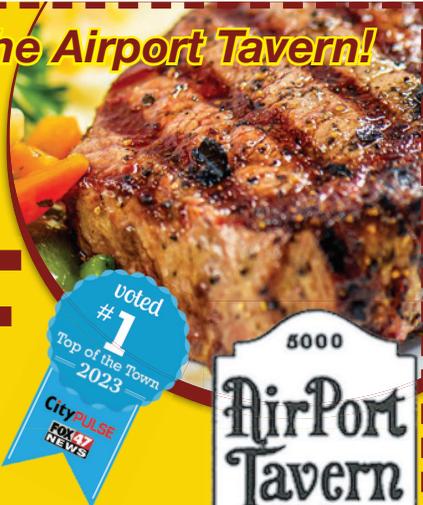
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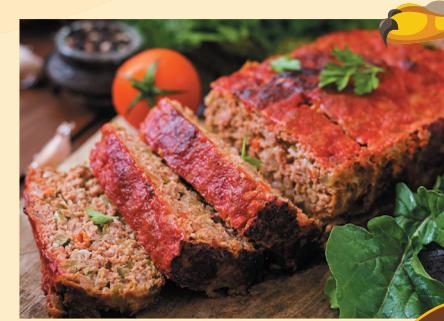
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## SUDOKU SOLUTION

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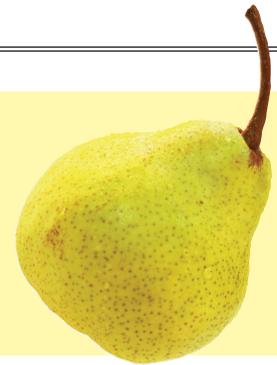
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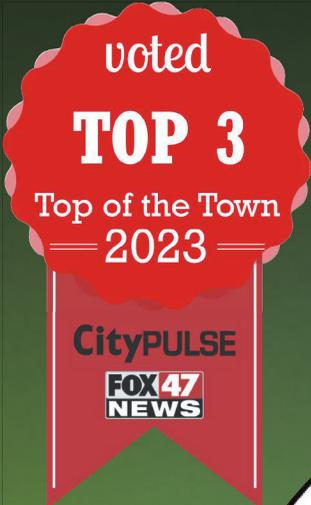


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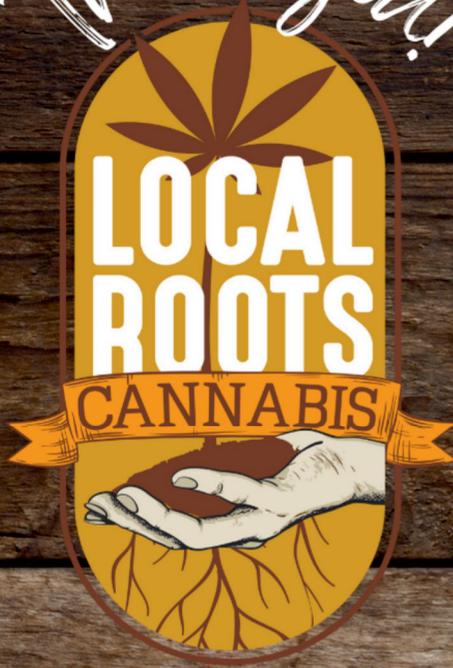
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