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May 1-7 2024

# CityPULSE

A newspaper for the rest of us  
Locally owned



**'THIS IS GOING TO BE FUN'  
RUELAIN STOKES BECOMES  
LANSING'S POET LAUREATE**

**See Page 12**



## **GREWAL LAW**

*protecting your rights* **PLLC**

**517.393.3000**

Informational meeting  
(in-person)

### Planning to Plan: How to Successfully Approach East Lansing's Comprehensive Plan Update



Thursday, May 9, 2024, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Eastminster Presbyterian Church,  
1315 Abbot Road



Meeting will be recorded.



This brown bag lunch meeting about East Lansing's comprehensive plan update will be a talk given by Dr. Rex LaMore, Director of MSU's Center for Community and Economic Development.

Free parking is available at the church and there is a stop for CATA Route 26 in front as well.

Light refreshments will be provided, but attendees are asked to bring their own lunches.

Register in advance here:  
[www.cityofeastlansing.com/planupdate](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/planupdate).



*Simon Says:*  
**"Elect Lori For Lansing!"**

### LANSING CITY CHARTER COMMISSION

#### REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOT

[mivc.sos.state.mi.us/AVApplication](http://mivc.sos.state.mi.us/AVApplication)

#### VOTE EARLY

MAY 4 – MAY 5 | 11AM-4PM

Reo Elections Office  
1221 Reo Rd • Lansing, MI 48910  
Phone: 517-483-4485

#### ELECTION DAY

MAY 7, 2024 | 7 AM-8 PM

[simon4lansingchartercommission@gmail.com](mailto:simon4lansingchartercommission@gmail.com)  
517.741.0119

Paid for by Lori Simon For Lansing City Charter Commission 3105 S. MLK, Jr. Blvd. #181 Lansing, MI 48910

**“** Lori Adams Simon is a principled, experienced community leader who has shown to be a listener, consensus builder, and advocate for Lansing families. I'm excited to support her candidacy and I believe she will bring a fresh perspective to the Charter Commission.”

**Endorsed by**  
State Senator Sarah E. Anthony  
21st Senate District (D)



# START PLANNING NOW!

## Choose Well. Live Well. Presentation

Seniors and their adult children are invited to learn about the various senior care options over a complimentary luncheon or dinner, and an informal Q and A with an area expert.

**Tuesday, May 21, 11:30AM**  
with complimentary luncheon

**Wednesday, May 29, 5:30PM**  
with complimentary dinner

held at at the NEW Courtyard at Delta  
Temporary Sales Center located at  
635 East Saginaw Hwy. in Grand Ledge.

**THE** *Courtyard* **at DELTA**  
ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE  
[theCourtyardatDelta.com](http://theCourtyardatDelta.com)



*Rsvp* for the presentation or schedule an appointment by contacting SarahKate at (517) 775-6217 or by emailing [svanauker@encorecares.com](mailto:svanauker@encorecares.com).



Currently under construction at 350 South Marketplace Blvd. in Lansing, MI, tucked in behind The Marketplace at Delta Township.

# Traditions, old and new, that you can count on

We've been privileged at City Pulse to have creative, experienced and invigorating writers that carry on our editorial traditions or start new ones. Whether it's "Lansterdam," "Politics," or "The Dish," we have voices that provide insight, information and inspiration. **It's through your support that we've been able to do this**, week in and week out, for more than two decades.



**Chris Silva, staff member:** *"Writing the Lansterdam column has been a rewarding and fulfilling experience. As someone who was working in Lansing pot shops during the emergence of this new industry, I am honored to continue the tradition of independent journalism that gave a voice to my movement and community all those years ago, and has seen it grow into the culture and industry it is today."*



**Lizy Ferguson, contributor:** *"As a food writer for City Pulse, I've loved exploring Lansing, looking both for hidden gems and institutions that have earned their reputation. It's given me a whole new appreciation for my beloved hometown!"*

# CityPULSE



**Kyle Melinn, contributor:** *"Since Berl Schwarz founded City Pulse more than 20 years ago, I've been pleased to contribute political/government news/commentary to a non-corporate, locally owned weekly publication. In the Lansing area, City Pulse is truly one of a kind."*

**When you contribute to City Pulse**, you enable us to both continue beloved editorial traditions and launch new ones. Please become part of the team today and support us through one of the options below:

- Donate online at [lansingcitypulse.com/donate](https://lansingcitypulse.com/donate)
- Donate by mailing a check to City Pulse at 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
- Donate by calling (517) 999-6704

We greatly appreciate all of you who already support us. And thank you so much to those who join them.

Yours truly,

The City Pulse team

# CityPULSE

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Connect with artists at Williamstown Twp. studio tour



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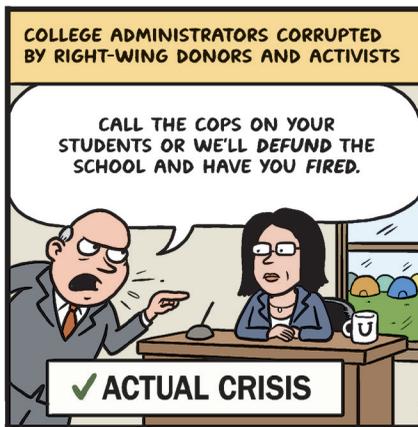
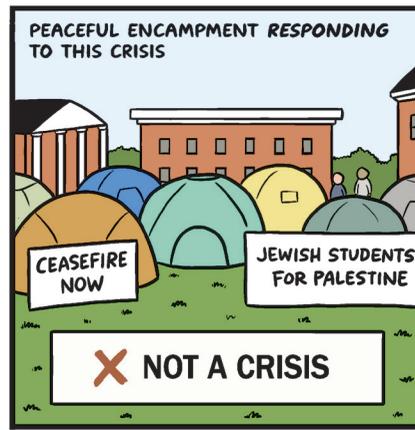
Ixion highlights diverse voices in show of short plays



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Find the greatest hits of Hawaiian cuisine at Aloha Cookin'

Cover photo by Raymond Holt



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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR Duke Ellington's smile

It was spring 1957, and I was a draftee soldier at Fort Eustis, Virginia. Soon to be released and needing money, I was also a volunteer soldier-waiter at the Officer's Club.

One Saturday night was Spring Dance at the club, and the featured performer was Duke Ellington at the piano. I had been aware, naturally, of Ellington as a band leader, but hearing him perform alone was a treat. Or, it would have been had I not been waiting and cleaning up after tipsy officers and their wives and lovers. It seemed that no one was paying attention to perhaps the greatest of all jazz greats.

As business slowed, however, I managed to find reasons to linger at attention in my white apron just outside the kitchen swinging door — and next to the small stage. There I could surreptitiously (I hoped) watch Duke Ellington's hands. My knowledge of jazz was deficient, but I was watching those hands, and making eye contact, better than any other person in that club.

And that is why, I will always choose to believe, at a certain moment Duke Ellington glanced my way, fingers never hesitating, our eyes meeting as he flashed a quick smile, as if to suggest that we two shared a secret that no one else in that hall could fathom.

**Bruce Curtis  
East Lansing**

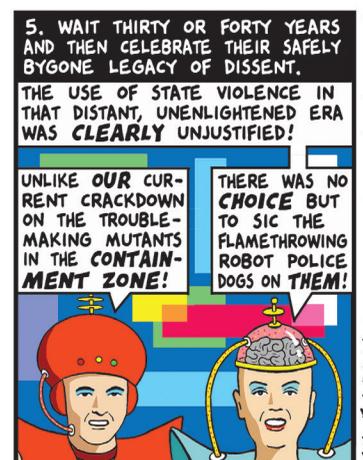
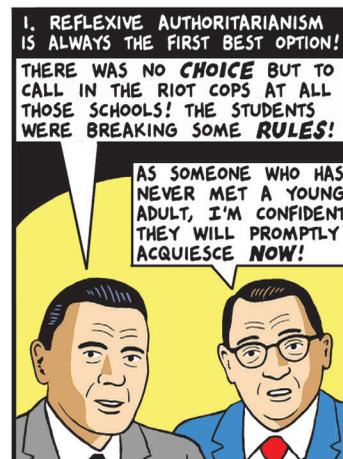
(Monday marked the 125th anniversary of Duke Ellington's birth.)

(Have an interesting experience to share? From your past, or something recent? City Pulse welcomes them. Please send them to [letters@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:letters@lansingcitypulse.com). The limit is 250 words.)



## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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# PULSE

# NEWS & OPINION

## Stage set for Lansing Charter Revision Commission election

### 36 candidates vying for nine spots on Tuesday

The 36 candidates for Lansing's Charter Revision Commission have expressed divergent views on significant changes they would tackle if chosen in next Tuesday's special election.

Some differ on the executive powers granted under the existing strong-mayor system, with a potential shift toward a professional city manager format emerging as an alternative.

They've also offered contrasting takes on the ideal size of the City Council, while a few have withheld any firm stances whatsoever in favor of keeping an open mind.

Lansing voters will choose nine next Tuesday to serve on the first-ever review panel, vested with the authority to propose changes to the document that has determined the city's operating rules since its adoption in 1978.

The process was initiated in November when 51.61% of voters chose to open the city charter. The question has been on the ballot every 12 years since 1978, but it had never come close to passing before. In 2011, 65% of voters opposed it.

Polls open at 7 a.m. Tuesday and close at 8 p.m. City Clerk Chris Swope said 11,000 of 17,000 absentee ballots his office sent out beginning in late March have not been returned by mail or in person as of Monday. With the election so close, voters are urged to drop off absentee ballots in person at the city's Reo Elections Office, 1221 Reo Road; one of the city's 14 drop boxes; one of the early voting sites that will operate 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the weekend; or at polling places. More information is available at [lansingvotes.gov](http://lansingvotes.gov).

The commissioners elected next week will hold their first meeting May 21. From there, members can meet 90 times over up to three years to draft a revised charter proposal. They will elect officers, set the body's rules and procedures, hire legal and professional consultants, form subcommittees,

and appoint members in the event of a vacancy.

A majority of the commission can send a proposed revised charter to the governor. If the governor approves, voters have the last say. If not, commissioners can choose to disband or try again twice more, so long as they do so within the three-year, 90-meeting window. If voters disapprove, the commission can try again twice.

The process is expected to cost at least an estimated \$500,000, which the Schor administration based on the cost of producing the original charter 46 years ago, adjusted for inflation.

The most significant cost is an estimated \$200,000 in "clerk expenses," such as legal consultation and election administration. To date, \$23,806 has been spent on the latter.

The next biggest expense is \$200 a day per commissioner for up to 90 meetings, which translates into \$162,000.

The remaining \$138,000 out of the estimated half million is split among administrative expenses, such as stenography, office supplies, postage, printing and publishing the proposed revisions.

The most optimistic expense may be a \$10,000 "contingency" fund. City spokesperson Scott Bean said the number "could likely shift for next year" because "they're going to go through a half a million really fast."

According to campaign statements, the revision period could encompass a wide range of alterations to the city's executive branch, the makeup of the City Council and the process for naming members of boards and commissions.

It could also take the form of minor changes intended to modernize the document, including using more inclusive language or addressing con-



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

(From left) Candidate Heath Lowry, 1st Ward voter Phillip Lamoureux and candidate Julie Vandenoorn discuss the upcoming Lansing Charter Revision Commission election during a door-knocking session in early April.

temporary concerns.

The most significant change could come if the commission explores the merits of weakening or strengthening mayoral duties, such as appointing department heads and other city positions and exercising veto powers.

Commissioners could suggest moving away from an elected strong-mayor system in favor of a city manager, such as in East Lansing, whose Council selects a member to serve as mayor and employs a city manager to run the city's operations and staffing.

Seven candidates are on record supporting the strong-mayor format. Few, if any, have indicated a firm preference for a city manager. However, a

handful have proposed a hybrid system in which both would share powers to be determined by the commission.

Another major shift could come through altering the composition of the City Council. The Council features four ward-based representatives and four more at-large seats.

More than half the field has advocated a nine-member Council, but the candidates have differed on how to

reach that number. Some candidates discussed adding a member to discourage deadlock and eliminating some or all at-large positions to add more wards to the mix.

At one end, a few have suggested eliminating at-large seats in favor of wards, citing greater representation and expedited communication between members and the neighborhoods they represent.

Others have proposed adding more at-large seats or, at the very least, electing the potential ninth seat via an at-large race.

Most lie somewhere in the middle, however, with many open to adding one to three wards. At least five candidates prefer to keep the Council's existing makeup.

Regarding boards and commissions, the mayor nominates them to the Council, which decides. Among the ideas that emerged during the campaign is requiring the mayor to share the authority to nominate with the Council in some fashion or widen the vetting process.

A few candidates have also proposed or supported some lesser-discussed changes, including a provision that would require the city to hold its elections on even years, add sexual orientation as a protected class, create additional departments, boards and commissions, implement diversity, equity and inclusion, bring tenants' rights considerations into the charter's language and make the city attorney an elected position rather than one that's determined through a mayoral appointment.

One issue that has yet to be aired in the campaign is whether the process will likely be worth the expense. The charter has been amended seven times through elections: in 1993, 1994, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2022. Examples of previous amendments include decriminalizing marijuana in the city and adjusting the terms of specific employee contracts.

Costs were small: a little more ink on ballots.

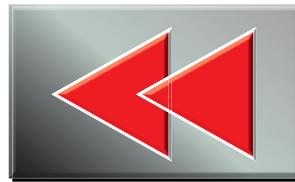
— TYLER SCHNEIDER

**What do candidates for the Lansing Charter Revision Commission specifically want to do if elected? We posed that question to all of them. See what those who answered have to say at [bit.ly/4biReW4](http://bit.ly/4biReW4)**

# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



### Foods for Living, an independent natural grocer in East Lansing, will close by the end of June.

The employee-owned retailer was founded in 1997 by John and Wilma Snyder and has occupied its current, 15,000-square-foot storefront since 2001. Whole Foods opened a location just half a mile away eight years ago, and a new Trader Joe's location is being constructed across from Whole Foods, which looks to be a factor in the closure. East Lansing Food Co-op, another local and organic grocer that had operated nearby on Northwind Drive starting in 1976, closed in 2017 and then reorganized on Kalamazoo Street in Lansing.



### The Washington Apartments, 927 S. Washington Ave. in Lansing's REO Town, was added to the National Register of Historic Places on April 17.

Built in 1922, the six-story building has been unoccupied since 2019, when the city ordered it vacated because New Jersey-based owner Washington Avenue Apartments LLC lacked a valid rental certificate. The designation means the owner could apply for tax credits for renovations. The State Historic Preservation Review Board said it was told that the goal is to create up to 70 rental units.



Jo Ellyn Tucker has filed for divorce from former MSU head football coach Mel Tucker and alleges in a request for a restraining order that he has pulled money without notice from their joint funds, including \$1.5 million for his legal expenses, according to USA

Today. The Tuckers were granted a mutual restraining order Thursday preventing "the dissipation of marital assets," 20 days after she filed for divorce. Jo Ellyn Tucker indicated she sought the order because her husband withdrew all the money from his two retirement accounts and transferred them to an individual account to which she did not have access.

### Emma Huver of Lansing, 26, pled guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm in the 2023 death of her 2-year-old son, King Muhammad, during a change of plea hearing Monday in Grand Rapids.

The child died of a self-inflicted wound when he accidentally discharged the unattended gun in a vehicle at a Sunoco station on Dunkel Road. The statement from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Michigan also noted that Avis Coward, 44, and Gina Schieberl, 27, were charged with conspiracy to tamper with evidence and evidence tampering, while Coward was also charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm. Huver will face sentencing Sept. 16.



### The Hurriya Coalition and other MSU students protesting the Israeli war on Gaza posted a "victory statement" on Instagram on Saturday, adding they were dismantling their encampment in the People's Park on campus.

Launched on Thursday, the April 2024 MSU Occupation Movement joined college protests nationwide in calling on their schools to divest from Israel. The coalition said their movement isn't ending,

but "as long as long as MSU invests in genocide and occupation we will be here to oppose it. We will be back." The Board of Trustees issued the protesters a camping permit after MSU police initially told them they'd be ticked or arrested if they did not remove their encampment.

### Holt Junior High School teacher Nicole McGaugh filed a lawsuit April 9 alleging her school district ignored her requests for accommodations that would ease her anxiety and PTSD concerning safety amid mass shootings in schools.



She told the Lansing State Journal she felt increasingly unsafe teaching and took an extended leave in 2021 because of her anxiety. McGaugh claims the district and the executive director of curriculum, Jessica Cotter, failed to accommodate her disability and discriminated against her. She also said the district retaliated against her when she reported to the U.S. Office of Civil Rights that the school disciplined students of color more harshly than white students and did not give students the disability accommodations they needed.

### Dennis Joshua Whaley, 51, charged with two counts of open murder and four felony weapon counts in the April 18 deaths of Jason McKenzie, 50, and Christine Cambric, 53, had a previous arrest warrant against him for assaulting Cambric.

Lansing Police Department officers were dispatched to their Lansing home last November where she told them she had been assaulted. Police did not arrest him then, citing lack of probable cause, but later obtained a warrant. Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney John Dewane said police don't always track people down, likely due to limited personnel and funding. Whaley has admitted to the shootings but said one was in self-defense and the other was accidental. He will face a hearing May 9 to determine if he should stand trial.



### Aaron Johnson-Bey of Lansing, 22, was shot and killed Friday on the 3100 block of Turner Street in north Lansing.



Police have a suspect in custody but had not released a name as of Monday. It was Lansing's fourth homicide this year, all in April.



1616 S. Cedar St., Lansing

This 892-square-foot home on the eastern edge of Lansing's Fabulous Acres neighborhood has been red-tagged since Nov. 28, 2011, making it one of the longest-standing entries on the city's list of unsafe properties. It was boarded up a year later, in 2012. In the years since, its siding, roofing and windows have continued to deteriorate noticeably, particularly on its western side facing the backyard. Built in 1888, the house has been owned by Brian T. McNamara, since before the city assessor began keeping online records more than 20 years ago. He still owes \$1,410 for the home being declared unsafe in 2011. Ingham County Treasurer Alan Fox said this property has been a problem site for the city for some time, adding that McNamara has "kept out of tax foreclosure in the last few weeks of each cycle since 2017." The city recently cited the property for trash, sending a letter to the owner in March. Efforts to contact the owner were unsuccessful.

— TYLER SCHNEIDER

"Eyesore of the Week" is our weekly look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates with Public Art, by Bill Castanier. Have a suggestion? Email [eye@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call in a nomination at 517-999-5061.

# Why supporting MI Avenue businesses during rehab matters

By **JOAN NELSON**

After many years, multiple community input sessions and a half-dozen studies, the Michigan Avenue Rehabilitation Project is in full swing. Public Service Director Andy Kilpatrick says, “This project is an opportunity to rebuild the infrastructure along the Michigan Avenue corridor in a way that balances its role as an important connection between downtown and East Lansing with the support it provides to the businesses and neighborhoods along it.”

Utility upgrades (sewer and water mains) account for a third of costs. The balance of the \$14.1M project goes toward road reconstruction and reconfiguration (down from five to four lanes, with a bike lane on the roadway or cycle tracks, which are separate from the roadway and sidewalks), sidewalk replacement, and (audible) traffic signal modernization. This will result in a significantly more pedestrian — and bike-friendly — corridor that is more accessible and welcoming to businesses, neighbors and visitors.

Historically stable, today’s Michigan Avenue has significant strengths and some challenges. The medical services district, anchored by UM Health-Sparrow, is solid. The 2000 block, the eastside’s commercial heart, and nearby blocks feature settled, interesting businesses. New apartment buildings add density and provide housing for young professionals and retirees. On the other hand, scattered along the avenue are more empty lots, empty buildings and unsightly mini used-car lots than I recall seeing in the past.

I have attended most of the Michigan Avenue community input sessions and am impressed with the research demonstrating that walkable commercial districts promote healthy living patterns. Living in a walkable community improves health because people are more likely to walk or bike to their destinations. It also fosters social interaction and connection; people on foot are likelier to stop and chat with a neighbor than if they are driving to get someplace.

Walkable communities also boost prosperity. The global urban consulting firm ARUP says, “Walkable environments are not just healthier

but also wealthier: research has shown positive correlations between improved walkability, raised local retail spend, enhanced value of local services and goods and the creation of more job opportunities. A dense and walkable urban network may facilitate the spread of small local shops and street markets” and “increase the variety of goods and services,

independent retailing, local employment, and start-up opportunities.”

Small business owners on Michigan Avenue know that improved

walkability, upgraded structure and a more vibrant urban environment increase their shops’ long-term viability. However, their immediate concern is the 24 months of construction facing them. They need to survive two years of orange cones and redirected traffic to be part of a shopping district that will be more lucrative.

We know that a neighborhood’s health and vitality and the corridors that run through it are interdependent. As one goes, so goes the other. So, what can those of us for whom Michigan Avenue is the front door to our neighborhood do to support businesses during construction?

**Increase patronage at hard-**

**est-hit stores — Individuals** within walking distance can purposefully increase patronage in the stretch experiencing “hard closure” at any given time. A hard-closure segment is completely blocked to automobile traffic, though stores can still be accessed from the back or side streets. According to the city’s webpage for this project (<https://www.lansingmi.gov/1091/Michigan-Avenue-Rehabilitation>), hard closures will move from east to west during construction.

An individual or household can commit to weekly visits to familiar shops in a hard closure area and

See Events, Page 8



Opinion

## JACKSON GRAND OPENING SPECIALS

MSUFCU has opened a new branch at **1800 N. Wisner St.** in Jackson and we’re celebrating with specials just for you! Take advantage of our limited-time offers, available only until May 31, 2024.

Don’t miss the chance to win big while experiencing the exceptional service and support you expect from MSUFCU.



Scan to learn how much you could win  
or visit [msufcu.org/jacksonspecials](https://msufcu.org/jacksonspecials).

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# Nelson

from page 7

perhaps to less familiar businesses. We could come out of this much better acquainted with the rich assortment of shops on the avenue.

**Neighborhood organization adopt-a-block efforts** – Foster Your Neighborhood (an old hand at this), Allen Neighborhood Association, Eastside Neighborhood Association and other neighborhood groups should organize monthly nights out, selecting a block or two of the avenue to tour, including businesses. During the projects, folks can follow the construction intensity as it moves westward so that those businesses in the thick of the dust can receive neighborly support when needed.

**People working/living on the avenue** – Managers of apartment buildings and other durable institutions (Sparrow, Resurrection, MSU-CED) can publicize and promote local offerings and encourage residents/associates to support commercial neighbors. Note that

the city has offered to produce fliers that feature business specials during construction.

On a recent Sunday, I wandered through the hard-closure area between Howard Street and Foster Avenue and was surprised by the number of small enterprises on this stretch. The hard closure is scheduled to end June 18. The blocks include El Oasis, People’s Kitchen, Quality Dairy, Sea House Fish & Chicken, MAC’s Bar, Tattoo Shop, Go Puff Warehouse, Lake Life Farms, Lam’s Sweepers, Morton’s Fine Catering, I.Q. Fitness and Wellness Center, Elite Health Practices, Lansing Scooters2Go, Capital Imaging, Listening Ear Crisis Center, Avis Car Rental, Muffler Man, Feldman Chevrolet, Cricket Wireless and Stop 1 Insurance Agency.

Please pick a few of these businesses and give them as much attention as possible over the next six weeks. I think you will be amazed, as I was, at how many little shops call this stretch of the avenue their business home. Let’s do what we can to ensure that it continues to be.

Michigan Avenue is evolving, as it has since Lansing’s founding in the



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

The first hard-closure stretch of Michigan Avenue includes 20 businesses.

mid-19th century when it was created to lead directly to the front steps of the Capitol. By late 2025, we can expect an improved, more attractive and accessible Michigan Avenue to serve as the welcoming road to the city’s heart. Between now and then, steadfast and generous patronage by those of us who live, work, play and worship nearby may make all

the difference to our commercial neighbors.

**dotheavenue.com** – Information about Avenue offerings and an evolving map/storyboard focusing on businesses impacted by “hard closure.”

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AVAILABILITY

#### PROPOSED PHA ANNUAL PLAN FOR July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Public notice is hereby given that the Public Housing Authority Annual Plan (covering the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025) for the Lansing Housing Commission is now available for public inspection, review, and comment. The Public Housing Authority (PHA) Annual Plan is a planning document required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The public is invited to review and provide written comments on the proposed PHA Annual Plan. The comment period commences on April 29, 2024, and will expire at 5:00 p.m. on June 17, 2024. A copy of the proposed PHA Annual Plan a public inspection and review at the office of the Lansing Housing Commission, 419 Cherry Street, Lansing, MI 48933 during normal business hours, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and on the Lansing Housing Commission website [www.lanshc.org](http://www.lanshc.org).

A question-and-answer session will also be held June 12, 2024 @ 1:00 PM at the Lansing Housing Commission located at 419 Cherry Street, Lansing, MI 48933.

Public notice is also hereby given that the Lansing Housing Commission will hold a public hearing at its meeting to be held on June 26, 2024. at the Lansing Housing Commission office located at 419 Cherry, Lansing, MI 48933 to provide an opportunity for public review and comment on the proposed Annual Plan.

All written comments regarding the proposed Annual Plan that are received prior to 5:00 p.m. on June 17, 2024, will be considered and reviewed for possible inclusion in the final document that will be submitted to HUD.

For information regarding the proposed PHA Annual Plan, please contact:

Kim Shirey, Deputy Director  
Lansing Housing Commission  
419 Cherry  
Lansing, MI 48933  
517-487-0242  
[kims@lanshc.org](mailto:kims@lanshc.org)

This notice is officially dated April 28, 2024.

CP#24-500

### Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is requesting proposals for Demolition & Debris Removal and Asbestos Containing Material & Hazardous Materials Removal & Disposal. The Request for Proposal packet is available May 1, 2024 at the Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner St, Lansing, MI, 48906, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday-Friday or at [www.inghamlandbank.org/contractors](http://www.inghamlandbank.org/contractors). Responses are due at the Land Bank offices by 10am on May 29, 2024 and will be opened at 10am, May 29, 2024. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply. RFP# BEP3-1506-Demo-Abatement-2024

CP#24-502

### NOTICE OF ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION

**TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF ONEIDA CHARTER TOWNSHIP, EATON COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that at a regular meeting held on April 9, 2024, the Oneida Township Board introduced language to adopt an ordinance as listed below:

#### ONEIDA CHARTER TOWNSHIP, EATON COUNTY, MICHIGAN ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

At a meeting of the Oneida Charter Township Board, Eaton County, Michigan, held at the Township Hall on April 9, 2024, at 7 p.m., Clerk Jackie Kilgore moved to introduce the following Ordinance for first reading, posting, and publication prior to subsequent final adoption, which the motion was seconded by Board Member James Green.

*An ordinance to amend the Oneida Charter Township Zoning Ordinance to regulate permanent and temporary storage containers in Oneida Charter Township to maintain the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents and visitors of the Township.*

The full ordinance may be requested by contacting Oneida Township Hall or at [www.oneidatownship.org](http://www.oneidatownship.org) under Public Notices. Jacqueline Kilgore, Clerk Oneida Charter Township (517) 622-8078

CP#24-497

# Whom does Kennedy's candidacy hurt? In Michigan, as elsewhere, neither party

The popular narrative is that if it hadn't been for Ross Perot in 1992, George H.W. Bush would have won a second presidential term and there wouldn't have been a Bill Clinton.

It's also said that if it weren't for Ralph Nader in 2000, Al Gore would have become president.

Well, here we are in 2024 with Robert Kennedy Jr., another popular independent candidate, registering in public opinion polls. The initial belief was that the son of former U.S. Attorney General and U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy would hurt incumbent President Joe Biden come November.

After all, Kennedy ran in the Democratic primary until bailing out of the race to seek an independent run.

However, as the campaign has worn on, recent polls have shown that Kennedy, a pro-choice vaccine critic, isn't drawing away lopsided support from either Biden or likely Republican nominee Donald Trump.

The last few polls have shown Kennedy taking equally from both.

Last week, Emerson College asked 1,000 Michigan voters their views on a head-to-head Trump-Biden election. They found that 45% said Trump, 44% said Biden and 11% were uncertain.

When asked whom they supported with Kennedy and an "other" added to the Biden-Trump mix, 43% said Trump and 42% Biden. Kennedy got 5%, 2% said someone else, and 8% were undecided.

In both polls, Trump is still up one percentage point, well within the +/- 3% margin of error.

This isn't a Michigan phenomenon, either. Emerson polled in Arizona, too. Trump is up four percentage points in a head-to-head race, and Kennedy is up four percentage points in the mix.

Wisconsin, Nevada, Georgia and North Carolina showed Trump with a slightly larger lead over Biden with Kennedy included, but get this:

A CBS News poll taken this month in Michigan showed the same thing. Biden's two-point lead over Trump was the same regardless of whether Kennedy was on the ballot. CBS reported, "Kennedy looks like he's drawing more interest from the

kinds of voters backing Trump than backing Mr. Biden."

Finally, a Fox News poll this month found the same thing. Trump has a 49% to 46% lead over Biden in Michigan. With Kennedy and the other third-party candidates on the ballot, it's 42% to 40% Trump over Biden with Kennedy at 9%.

What's going on here?

Anecdotally, Kennedy's support isn't coming from those with harsh partisan bents, which is the point of his campaign. Unlike a Green Party candidate or even a Libertarian, Kennedy takes populist stands rather than leaning on strict ideology.

He supports a woman's right to have an abortion but would instead create huge childcare and daycare incentives to reduce abortions.

He doesn't support "forever wars" and is trying to wind down the military, something those on the political far left and far right support.

He wasn't a big fan of the COVID-19 vaccine but doesn't like "Big Pharma" much either. He's more for taking care of one's health pre-emptively. Again, this appeals to both sides of the political spectrum.

Kennedy wants a tighter border, but he isn't threatening mass deportations.

It's hard to imagine defining a 70-year-old as a young candidate, but compared to Trump (age 77) and Biden (age 81), he is.

He represents genuine new energy from voters who don't want a Part 2 of either Biden or Trump.

I'm not saying Robert Kennedy Jr. will be the next president. He has a long way to go before he can be part of that conversation.

However, his candidacy is a protest vote that may impact both sides equally. There are more than a few Republicans who can't stomach Donald Trump and more than a few Democrats who feel Biden can't make it, healthwise, for another four years.

In 2020, these people didn't have an option that excited them. In 2024, maybe they do.

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



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

5/3/24 at 12pm 1425 Rensen St Lansing MI 48910 NO PHONE CALLS  
22 Compass 3971  
18 Soul 8237  
18 Yamaha 1922  
14 Optima 0884  
22 Ram 5619  
13 Terrain 5397  
06 Charger 1401  
12 Impala 4795  
11 Terrain 7068  
14 Fiat 4466  
13 Sentra 4291  
12 Fusion 5606

CP#24-495



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY  
LEGAL AD NOTICE: ORDINANCE 2024-03  
PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE

### ORDINANCE 2024-03 – PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

The Township Board at its regular meeting on April 16, 2024 approved for final adoption Ordinance 2024-03 to reduce the number of members of the Planning Commission from nine to seven.

A complete copy of the amendment may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198 (517.853.4560) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Deborah Guthrie  
Township Clerk

CP#24-498

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **East Lansing Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Larry Viles on behalf of George F. Eyde Family, LLC, for the property at 120 West Saginaw Street. The request is to remove ten existing trees in addition to thirteen trees already removed and the proposed plan has been modified from an earlier request previously considered by the Planning Commission.

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

Landon Bartley, AICP, Principal Planner  
410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823  
517.319.6930 or [lbartley@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:lbartley@cityofeastlansing.com)  
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

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

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

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

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

Marie E. Wicks  
City Clerk

CP#24-501

# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## Williamstown Township studio tour welcomes newcomers

By CHELSEA LAKE ROBERTS

According to local artist Ron Cook, studio tours allow patrons to connect with artists more intimately than typical art exhibitions.

“When you go to a gallery, the work is on the wall, and you can talk to a curator. With a studio tour, you can visit with the artist directly and ask about their process and inspiration. You get a more in-depth look into their choices and how the work is made,” he said.

Cook developed his artistic point of view in the late 1960s while taking fine art classes at Michigan State University. Although he didn’t graduate with a degree in art, he’s maintained a lifelong interest in painting.

“There was an active and wonderful group of professors in the art department, and a lot of the work was abstract or semi-abstract. That’s my greatest interest, although I do some traditional and representational work,” he said.

Cook will exhibit his work at the annual Williamstown Township Artists’ Fine Art Sale & Studio Tour, running 5 to 9 p.m. Friday (May 3) and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday (May 4). This year’s event features seven stops where attendees can browse local art, snack on appetizers and observe artists in their natural habitats.

Township Supervisor Wanda Bloomquist said the tour will welcome six new artists who either responded to the township’s call for art or were invited directly by participating artists. She’s especially excited that one of the tour’s founders, Bobbi Kilty, will open her personal studio to the public for the first time. Kilty creates abstract paintings, collages and mixed-media pieces featuring Lansing-area places, people and things.

Bloomquist has been with the township for 18 years and has been involved in the art tour since its inception more than 13 years ago. She considers herself an appreciator of the arts.

“I’ve taken ceramics classes, but I’m more of a wannabe,” she said with a laugh. “I do own a lot of art from these



Courtesy of Gwen Brandon

“Summer of 23,” an acrylic painting on canvas by Ron Cook.

artists, just because it’s so good. Our home is full of art.”

She described the tour as “a wonderful event that gets people driving throughout the countryside.”

“We have people who come in from the surrounding areas and make a day of it. You could see a few studios on Friday night and visit the rest during the day on Saturday,” she said.

Tickets are \$5 and available at each tour stop. Proceeds will directly benefit the township’s playgrounds. Tickets can also be used to enter an art raffle.

“As part of this event, each artist creates a piece to be raffled off. You can write your name and the number of the item you want to win and turn that in, so your ticket is also your raffle entry,” Bloomquist

said.

The venues include the Township Hall, local business Williamston Wellness and five artist studios. A total of 21 artists will showcase works in various mediums, such as jewelry, leather, painting, photography, glass and clay.

The furthest stop on the tour is Christine Beals’ studio. Known as

Folk Art by Christine Beals on Instagram, she regularly posts her unique style of contemporary folk art inspired by nature. Her pieces are informed by sacred geometry, outsider art and animals — especially birds.

Tour newcomer Teagan Chatterley studied fine art at Michigan State University and has a master’s degree in design from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She describes her work, which she’ll exhibit at her father’s studio, as “informed by quirky objects” as well as the natural world and social interactions.

“Mark Chatterley’s studio is almost like going onto the set for ‘Avatar,’” said tour facilitator Gwen Brandon. “He has 10-foot-tall clay sculptures outside in the meadow. It’s a very beautiful, natural setting. And this year, his daughter is joining him, so we’ll get to see her coming up and being an active artist in the community.”

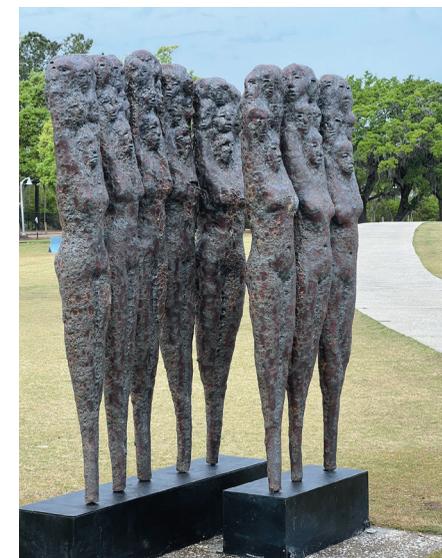
Tour chair Mary Curtis Fritz will also open her studio to the public, showing work alongside local artists Susan Daniels, Doug DeLind, Carol Ray and Bill Selanders. Fritz is also active in the Cracked Pot Studio Tour and the Red Barn Pottery ceramics community.

As Cook reminisced about his history with the tour, he said, “One of the



Courtesy of Gwen Brandon

“Garden Bunny,” a ceramic sculpture by Mary Curtis Fritz.



Courtesy of Gwen Brandon

A ceramic sculpture by Mark Chatterley.

great quotes that I try to go back to is by Picasso, who said, ‘Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.’ I try not to be too perfect, to be more spontaneous and to go back to that time when I didn’t have a lot of pre-conceived notions about how to draw or what makes a good drawing. Children see something and draw or paint it, and it’s a very pure expression of emotion. I like to try and get to that.”

LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
**RACHMANINOFF SYMPHONY NO. 3**  
 MAY 10 • 7:30 PM

# Learn to ‘peel back the layers’ of your ancestors

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Each year, the Archives of Michigan and the Michigan Genealogical Council host a seminar on compiling family histories that’s geared toward both genealogical experts and amateurs who want to learn more about their families and where they came from.

The program is named for the late Barbara J. Brown, who dedicated her life to writing her family history. It’s supported by the Abrams Foundation, a nonprofit that funds various projects around the state, primarily relating to education and science.

For 26 years, Brown was president of the Abrams Foundation, founded by her uncle and aunt Talbert and Leota Abrams. She was also president and a board member of the Abrams Aerial Survey Corp., a former Lansing company that was world-renowned for its aerial photography.

Brown published two books on family genealogy, including one on the Abrams family. Her work is a significant part of the state archives’ genealogical collection, which is underwritten by the Abrams Foundation, now led by her daughter.

Registration for the two-day program May 10 and 11 at the Michigan History Center is \$55 and available at [michigan.gov/mhc/archives](http://michigan.gov/mhc/archives). For those who attend in person, breakfast and lunch will be provided. The sessions will also be available on Zoom.

This year’s keynote speaker is Ari Wilkins, who specializes in African American genealogical research. She’s a librarian at the Dallas Public Library and runs her own gene-

alogical consulting company called Black Genesis.

Wilkins will speak on three topics throughout the two-day seminar: tracking African American migration patterns to Northern industrial cities; reconstructing communities through Sanborn maps, city directories and census records; and using antebellum plantation records to trace family history.

The African American population of Lansing was fueled by the Great Migration as families moved to the city for jobs in the burgeoning auto industry. One of those individuals was William Turner, who left his spouse, Vellmerie, two days after they were married to make the trip to Lansing to look for work. When he finally landed a job at Atlas Drop Forge, where he worked for 38 years, he sent a letter to his spouse back in Ragland, Alabama, telling her how to make the treacherous trip north.

Other seminar speakers include librarians Jessica Trotter of Capital Area District Libraries and Adam Oster of the Library of Michigan.

Trotter will highlight useful genealogical information from historic clubs and associations, especially during the Progressive Era of the 1890s to 1920s, and Oster will discuss the use of school resources like yearbooks and alumni lists in researching family history.

I recently looked up a yearbook from Grosse Pointe South High School to track a deceased friend



Courtesy photo

Ari Wilkins, a genealogist who has been researching family history for more than 25 years, will be the keynote speaker at the Archives of Michigan and Michigan Genealogical Council’s annual Family History Seminar May 10 and 11.

from college and found yearbooks can be a vast resource for information.

State Archivist Mark Harvey attributed the growth in genealogy research to “people looking for an anchor in a world that’s more disconnected.”

“Genealogy continues to connect individuals with families and increasingly connects them with the communities they live in,” he said.

He also posited that “people are just curious about their family’s past and want to peel back the layers of their ancestors.”

Arguably, the popularity of genealogy as a hobby can be traced to popular media like the 1976 book and corresponding 1977 TV mini-series “Roots” and the PBS series

“Finding Your Roots” with Henry Louis Gates, as well as the explosion in online data that took research out of dusty public buildings and into peoples’ homes.

Websites like jointly owned Ancestry.com and Newspapers.com have had a massive influence on the growth of amateur genealogy. Ancestry.com has more than 3.5 million subscribers and more than 40 billion records in its database, while Newspapers.com has about 2.5 million subscribers, according to public records, and offers archives from more than 25,800 publications. Many libraries and research institutions allow free in-person access to these sites.

Another free resource is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints’ FamilySearch database, which holds everything from

cemetery records to birth and death certificates and marriage licenses.

A quick search on the database showed I was living in Bay City in 1949 with my parents and grandparents. I also fell into a bit of a rabbit hole: My maternal grandparents, despite living in Bay City, were married in Wayne in 1920. Why? Did they elope? What was behind that decision? I may never know since everyone is dead, but I did discover my mother was a pastry chef.

**Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar**

9 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday, May 10  
 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, May 11  
 Michigan History Center  
 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing  
[michigan.gov/mhc/archives](http://michigan.gov/mhc/archives)

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Photo by Raymond Holt

(From left): Dennis Hinrichsen, Ruelaine Stokes and Masaki Takahashi, three of Lansing's four poets laureate since the program started in 2017, at the Robin Theatre in REO Town last week at which Stokes accepted the symbolic laurel. The fourth, Laura Apol, was unable to attend.

# 'It's the godmother's turn'

## Ruelaine Stokes takes up the mantle of Lansing's poet laureate

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

No more than five minutes after becoming Lansing's fourth poet laureate, Ruelaine Stokes summoned up thunder.

Those who gathered at the Robin Theatre to see Stokes accept the symbolic laurel from outgoing laureate Masaki Takahashi last week didn't think they needed a reminder to breathe.

But they did.

Palms out, voice warmed to a healing mist, Stokes crouched into conjuring mode.

"Breathe in," she said. "That is a blessing. Breathe out. That, too, is a blessing."

After a lifetime of dedication to practical language education for English as Second Language students, and a founding role in Lansing's thriving poetry scene, she likes to bring it back to first principles.

"What we do is this amazing thing," she said to the group. "We take thoughts and feelings from inside our head and send them through the air to another person, and they get them inside their heads, and we take this for granted. It's really astounding to be a human."

For her first performance as laureate, Stokes, who is 79, chose a poem harking back to her youth in Livingston, Montana, a beloved diner and a cup of coffee she described as a "circle of heat in the midst of the great frozen plains."

"I know nothing," Stokes humbly declared — thinking, perhaps, of the expectations and possibilities that come with being poet laureate. "Only that you are sitting at my table, tears in your hand, wanting something more. I offer this coffee, this cup, this light, breaking like laughter at your feet on the floor."

The audience fell silent.

"Language has amazing power," Stokes told the group. "A poem is one of the most powerful forms

language takes."

At that moment, a thunderclap boomed outside the theater, rattling the floorboards. There was no rain.

### Marching orders

There is a dreaded moment in many arts-based events where the funder takes the microphone.

Shirt untucked, heart on sleeve, Bob Trezise Jr. defied the stuffed-suit stereotype at Tuesday's celebration.

Trezise, chairman and CEO of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership and a self-confessed "wannabe poet," is also the chief instigator of Lansing's poet laureate program.

"We are the only economic development agency in America that has had the audacity to start and run a poet laureate program," Trezise said.

It all sprang from Trezise's frustration that Michigan was one of a few states in the nation to lack a poet laureate, a gap that was only filled by the state Legislature in 2021.

Michigan did have a poet laureate back in the 1950s — folksy, sentimental Edgar Guest, a reporter and columnist for the Detroit Free Press, widely known as the "people's poet" (and a favorite of the fictional Edith Bunker from "All in the Family"). Besides writing over 10,000 poems, Guest inspired a memorable couplet, often attributed to Dorothy Parker: "I'd rather flunk my Wassermann test/than read a poem by Edgar Guest." (The Wassermann test is for syphilis.) The titles of two of Guest's poetry collections, "A Heap O' Livin'" and "Just Folks," speak volumes.

After Guest died in 1959, the state's poet laureate chair went into mothballs, despite multiple attempts to bring it back. (It was re-established in 2021 by the Legislature at the request of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. In 2023, Detroit-based poet Nandi Comer became

the state's first laureate since Guest's time.)

Meanwhile, throughout the 2000s, poet laureates sprang up in thousands of places in the U.S. and around the world, promoting literacy, language education and self-expression in an explosion of readings, workshops, concerts, events, books, poetry slams and other forms.

Trezise and Stokes shared their frustration when they both attended a Rally of Writers conference about 10 years ago.

Stokes told Trezise that she and two other poets, Anita Skeen and Laurie Hollinger, were lobbying for a state poet laureate.

"We were so determined to get a poet laureate for Michigan," Hollinger said. "This is one of the most beautiful states in the country, with so many poets and such a legacy." Hollinger directs the Center for Poetry, part of MSU's Residential College for the Arts and Humanities and a key partner in Lansing's poet laureate program.

The trio of poets had plans to bombard the state Legislature with postcards, but state Sen. Sam Singh, then a state representative, told Hollinger not to bother, because the bill was in a committee "where bills go to die."

Trezise knew that other cities, including Grand Rapids, had poet laureates.

"I never understood why we're not considered with the big boys," Trezise said.

He also knew that Lansing has a thriving poetry scene, with a poetry club going back to 1938, a burgeoning hip-hop and slam poetry culture and hundreds of poetry events throughout the year.

Dennis Hinrichsen, who was named Lansing's first poet laureate in 2017, credited Trezise with the idea of getting a laureate for Lansing.

"We talked about cultural life here, how important

it is," Hinrichsen said. "The goal was to add poetry to that, along with the sculptures and murals and other things."

Stokes, Skeen and Hollinger went to Grand Rapids and other cities to see how other poet laureate programs were set up. They forged a partnership with LEAP, as funder of the project, the Center for Poetry at MSU's Residential College for the Arts and Humanities and the Lansing Poetry Club.

Everyone agreed that it would not be an honorific title or ceremonial job, but more like a set of marching orders. Even Geoffrey Chaucer, one of the world's earliest poet laureates, was expected to organize poetry readings for the king. (He was paid in wine.) Lansing's poet laureate would have a more ambitious docket: "engaging with the community through readings, workshops and other events, not just for poets or people interested in poetry, but for everyone," Hinrichsen said.

They decided that the laureate would serve two-year term, a balance of stability and variety. Poets would submit their applications to the Arts Council to be reviewed by an external selection committee.

Hinrichsen's legacy as the first poet laureate can still be seen, in the form of poems etched in sidewalks around Lansing.

"Dennis built the foundation," Stokes said. "He did a spectacular job with the sidewalk poetry, and did a lot in the three counties, having readings and workshops in St. Johns, Charlotte, taking poets out to Williamston and Eaton Rapids. He did a great job of connecting all these places and I'd like to build on that."

Lansing's second poet laureate, Laura Apol, had to adapt to pandemic reality mere weeks after taking the position in early 2020. Shortly after the lockdown, Apol sent out the call to area poets, asking them to send videos of themselves reading their poems. The impromptu project evolved into an intimate chronicle of a frightening and unprecedented crisis and, for many, a lifeline out of pandemic isolation. Apol also set up a four-week Writing Retreat at Home that picked up international buzz and grew to unexpected proportions.

"You'd see some of your neighbors and other participants from Greece, the U.K., Bangla Desh, Mexico," Stokes said. "It was quite amazing."

Lansing third poet laureate, Masaki Takahashi, plugged the city into the boundless energy of slam poetry, primarily in his regular series of mixed-poetry events, The Poetry Room.

On Saturday, five days after handing the laurel to Stokes, Takahashi oversaw the Lansing Poetry Festival at the downtown Capital Area District Library, with Richmond, Virginia, poet laureate Roscoe Burnems.

"This must about the 50th nationally known spoken word poet Masaki's brought to town," Hollinger said. "Lansing's on the spoken word circuit now, thanks to Masaki."

"He's been outspoken, uncompromising, exactly the way a poet should be," Trezise said. "He even gave a presentation to my board of directors, all in their suits and ties, and he did an incredible job. He really worked hard to leverage his position."

### Like it was a treat

Despite their obvious differences in age, approach and style, Takahashi and Stokes found common ground at last week's laurel handoff.

Summoning the fierce energy that fired up his two-year tenure as laureate, Takahashi revved up to slam poetry rhythm and expressed his frustration over a video of a white man who got millions of approving views on YouTube for ordering a meal in perfect Chinese:

"He had the privilege to learn a language I spent forced to forget. For him, Chinese was just a new hobby. For me, English meant survival."

Takahashi's struggle to master English, and with finding a voice of his own, resonates with Stokes' life and career.

"I thought that was a great poem to go on to thanking someone who's spent all of their lives teaching ESL students," Takahashi said.

In the 1990s, Stokes already had a master's degree in English from MSU, but she fell in love with the rewards and challenges of teaching English as a second language, a relatively young academic field at the time.

A passage from Stokes' poem "My Black Linen Jacket" offers a glimpse of her modus operandi — and makes you wish you'd had her as a teacher.

"Chalk in hand, I circle an adjective clause, show how it clings to the noun it loves, while the adverbials slouch off to the end of the sentence, keep a low profile."

Stokes taught for decades at Michigan State University, Lansing Community College and the Refugee Development Center in a variety of community programs with refugees, immigrants and international students.

"It's a fabulous way of life," she said. "I felt like I was staying in one place and the world was coming to see me. The students helped me grow up."

She knows what it's like to struggle to find a voice. She grew up in Livingston, Montana, in a home she described as "harsh and unpredictable." Voracious childhood reading fed her love of language.

"I disappeared into books," she recalled.

Her vocabulary and writing skills earned her a four-year scholarship at Stanford, but she was unprepared for the experience. She struggled with shyness and even considered suicide.

A ray of light struck her in a poetry class at Stanford, taught by poet Arthur Yvor Winters.

"I was sitting in class when he started to read this poem by Emily Dickinson," Stokes recalled. The poem begins, "There's a certain slant of light, Winter Afternoons."

"Suddenly, his voice and this poem were the only things in the room," she said. "I could see and feel what he was talking about."

In 1978, while attending MSU, Stokes went to a downtown Lansing gallery and heard three young poets — Lee Upton, Rosa Arena and Leonora Smith.

"I'd never really seen women before, exhibiting that much mental freedom, the ability to talk about things people don't usually talk about, and show how they're funny, or bizarre, or hilarious," she recalled. "They were having so much fun. It was so exuberant. I was blown away."

Stokes went to Upton's poetry workshop, even though she didn't consider herself a poet. In her time with Upton, she learned to tap into the "potential for power and pleasure" locked into the natural human voice.

"I learned, from watching and listening to her, that there was a zone you could get into, and you could connect with the words in a certain way," she said, lowering her voice playfully to a Darth Vader pitch. "And the power of the muse just flows through you."

While teaching at LCC, she found that the 13th-century Sufi mystic poet Rumi lit a quiet fire in her students, while fulfilling practical pedagogical goals. When the time came to write a dissertation to get a



Photo by Raymond Holt

Bob Trezise Jr., president and CEO of Lansing Economic Area Partnership, which initiated and operates the Lansing poet laureate program, at the Robin Theatre event.

master's degree in teaching ESL, she combined her two linguistic passions into a blueprint for using poetry to help students learn pronunciation.

She worked out a system, using four- or six-line poems like this one: "Lovers find secret places inside this violent world where they make transactions with beauty."

"Rumi has this remarkable ability to put great, incredible thoughts in a few words," Stokes said.

When she came back to class after break, she would find the students writing poems from their own countries on the blackboard, in the original languages, and translating them into English. They had so much fun that they created a bilingual booklet of poems at the end of the semester.

One day, a colleague ran into Stokes in the staff room and told her an anecdote she still treasures.

The colleague saw one of Stokes' students, walking down the hall with a big smile on his face.

"What's up?" she asked him.

"Test today," he said.

"And you're smiling?"

"Then we had a poem."

Stokes laughed at the memory.

"Like it was a treat!" she said.

### Ugh, hidden meanings

For all four of Lansing's poet laureates, the job of celebrating poetry didn't start with their tenure, nor will it end.

Peter Ruark of the Lansing Poetry Club, established in 1938, recounted that Stokes was "thrust into" the role of club president in 2015, when a vacancy suddenly opened. Right away, she created online and live workshops and fundraisers for refugee development services and other non-profits.

"She's taken it in a lot of places," Ruark said. "She's really made the club what it is today."

The club holds lively open mic nights on the third Sunday of each month in the lounge of University United Methodist Church.

"I love the variety and genuineness of the voices there," Stokes said. "People really trust that the audience really wants to hear what they have to say."

A constant flow of projects keeps Stokes involved and grounded in Lansing life. Last year's "My Secret Lansing" writing contest and the resulting book gathered dozens of poems and prose celebrating life in Lansing by established and new writers. Stokes lives in South Lansing with her "artistic and life partner," Ten Pound Fiddle impresario and Eastside Lansing



Laura Apol, the poet laureate during the pandemic, signing books at a fund-raising event for the Greater Lansing Food Bank.



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**VOTE MAY 7**

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## Stokes

from page 13

Food Co-op manager Sally Potter.

Takahashi will continue running The Poetry Room, and Stokes will continue to pop in, both as a performer and a listener.

“Masaki has done a great job of creating space that welcomes and nurtures young poets,” Stokes said. “I’m as happy listening to poets as I am performing.”

At Tuesday’s event, Trezise recalled “trembling” at the energy of The Poetry Room. Hollinger has also basked in the energy of Takahashi’s events and performed on stage.

“There are so many upcoming poets in this community now, and a lot of it’s due to the Poetry Room,” Hollinger said. It’s a cross-section of Lansing. You’ve got old broads like me, high school kids coming up to the mike, folks from every walk of life.”

For Takahashi, things won’t change much with the passing of the laurel.

“I’ve done the same thing before, during and after being poet laureate,” Takahashi said. “That’s to encourage people to tell the story they want to tell. Lansing has a rich story and culture that people want to hear.”

At Tuesday’s celebration, Stokes coyly asked for a little time to come up with a vision.

“I’ve only been poet laureate about three minutes,” she pleaded.

But she was sandbagging. Come to think of it, she said, she did have a few “scraps of ideas.”

The “scraps” included a state poetry conference in Lansing, poetry camps for kids in summer, art exhibits that incorporate poetry, programs that get poetry into stores and businesses, theatrical projects that combine spoken word and music, pop-up poetry events, especially in restaurants and cafes.

She also envisioned a “poetry university” where poets learn writing and “public presentation in a variety of contexts,” from publishing to recording, producing, teaching and marketing.

“But maybe that’s too big,” she allowed.

At Tuesday’s event, Trezise announced that LEAP will continue to fund the poet laureate, but it would hand off running the program to the Arts Council of Greater Lansing. The council’s director, Meghan Martin, said she was glad of the opportunity to “honor the literary art in a way we have already honored the visual arts and the performing arts.”

One of Stokes’ first priorities is to go on a listening tour to gather ideas from area poets, “along with people who are indifferent to poetry and people who don’t like poetry.”

Stokes knows the haters are out there. She keeps in mind a sobering experience she had years ago, while teaching ESL at MSU with international students. The textbook assigned to the class had too many chapters to cover in one semester, so she invited the class to help her choose the chapters they wanted to focus on.

“There’s a chapter on poetry,” she enthused, assuming it would sell itself.

“Ugh, hidden meanings,” came a

groan from multiple corners. The poetry chapter didn’t make the cut.

“It was funny, but I was so disappointed,” she said.

When poets get abstruse or complex, a lot of people turn them off, but Stokes has a ready defense.

“We say and think the same things over and over again,” she said. “Those poets are trying to get us to look at things fresh. Some people prefer that more complex poetry.”

It’s not her style, though.

“I would love it if I could write poems that were a little more mysterious,” she admitted. “Not tremendously mysterious. I like some mystery. But a lot of times I feel I don’t have enough time and I need to get to the heart of the matter.”

Fortunately, it’s easier now than ever to make the case for poetry, thanks largely to the rise of hip-hop and slam poetry.

Poets sometimes distinguish literary “page poetry” from live “stage poetry,” but the boundary has always been fluid.

“Originally, poetry was an oral art,” Stokes explained. “Rhyming and rhythm were ways to make the stories more memorable.”

With the creation of books, poetry became a more literary art, but in recent decades, rhythm and rhyme have surged back in ways undreamt of by Homer and Sappho.

“The hip-hop, spoken word, slam poets, brought it back around,” Stokes said. “They

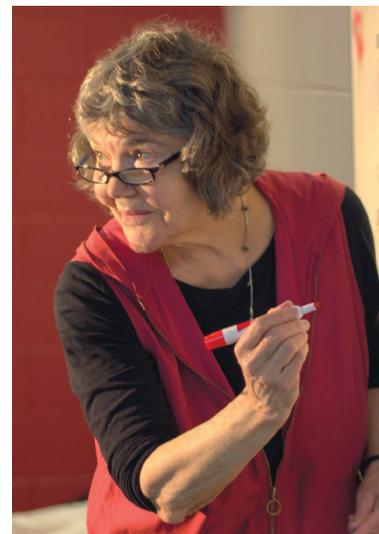
have revitalized American poetry.”

That makes being poet laureate even more fun.

“Stage poets and page poets can learn a lot from each other,” Stokes said. “Some people can function well in both worlds; some are more in one world than another. But it’s a great time to be a poet in our country because there’s so much creative energy out there.”

One of the sources of that energy, Takahashi, wished his successor good fortune.

“It’s the godmother’s turn,” Takahashi said. “She calls it in. I think it’s a great handoff. I don’t know what her plan is, but whatever she does, I hope she makes it gigantic.”



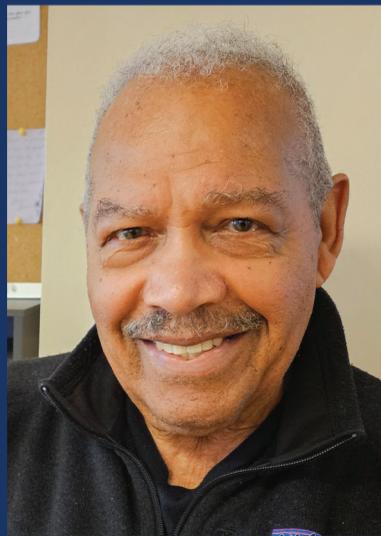
Courtesy photo

Ruelaine Stokes often used the rhymes and rhythms of poetry to pump zest into the classroom, and help her students grapple with English pronunciation in her decades-long career as a teacher of English as a second language at Michigan State University (pictured) and Lansing Community College.

## KEITH WILLIAMS

✓ VOTE May 7<sup>th</sup>

for  
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Paid for by Keith Williams for Lansing, 2816 Delta River Drive, Lansing, MI 48906

# Have cannabis prices dropped too low?

By **CHRISILVA**

“Good weed ain’t cheap, and cheap weed ain’t good.” When I worked in pre-legal market caregiver stores, this was a popular saying among operators.

With around 90 retail stores in Lansing at one point and no regulatory hurdles, the need for businesses to distinguish themselves from the competition pushed many retailers to cut their prices, but never to the extreme lows we see today.

On the other hand, some operators started to focus on quality, ensuring additives used in the cultivation process were top-level, plants were cured properly and not rushed to market, and attention was given to traditional hallmarks of quality like taste, terpene profile and effect. Like most things in life, growing cannabis the right way costs a little more. Furthermore, almost no caregivers were operating at the scale today’s legal operators have achieved. The lack of regulatory fees helped offset this, but no business was able to reach the level of output seen in today’s market.

In addition, there was relatively unequal access to the market across the state due to municipalities’ varying levels of enforcement regarding gray-market stores. This inequality of access helped pave the way for cities like Flint, Lansing, Detroit and Traverse City to become pot meccas but didn’t completely flood the market and allowed cannabis prices to stay relatively stable and comparable to the traditional extralegal sector.

Well, the times are changing. Retailers are locked in a race to the bottom on both quality and pricing. Many producers remediate their flower with ozone or radiation to maximize the chances of successful and profitable crops. This 420, a lot of



PRO Stock Professional/Shutterstock

As cannabis retailers race to the bottom on both quality and pricing, insiders are starting to question whether state minimum pricing would benefit the market as it has with alcohol.

retailers were barely covering their costs on many of the holiday sales.

The same inequality of access that plagued the gray market for years is present but slightly different in the legal market. Cities can choose whether to allow cannabis businesses in their communities, and many have opted out of cannabis business altogether or don’t allow retail establishments. Even with this caveat, there are significantly more retailers now than in the caregiver days, and they’re spread across the state much more evenly than in the past.

Another big difference in today’s market is the proliferation of incredibly well-funded corporate companies. They’re motivated by market share above all else and enter the market with the understanding that price fluctuation will be dramatic due to the rapid increase in cultivation capacity that accompanies the initial surge of legalization. Our state’s relatively free-market approach to cannabis has allowed a lot of operators

into the cultivation space, leading to an increased output capacity that has flooded the market with products. This and the cutthroat race for retail market share have fueled the sprint to the bottom on pricing. These large and sophisticated companies can burn through their financiers’ cash reserves and wait for the smaller operators to run out of money and drop out of the market.

It’s a crazy time for cannabis consumers. Prices are cheap — in many cases, cheaper than the total cost to produce and sell the stuff. While I love that cannabis is accessible, I wonder if we should stop and question the impacts of these low prices on the market and the community. A lot of small operators simply can’t compete at what is, in many instances, an artificially low price point.

The state of Michigan has minimum shelf prices for alcohol. This has benefited the craft industry by offering a level of stability in pricing against larger companies. More and more cannabis insiders



that I talk to are starting to question if such a policy would be good for cannabis. It would stop large operators’ predatory pricing schemes and would go a long way in encouraging higher quality standards since producers would be less tempted to cut corners in a more stable market. It would also benefit the state and municipalities by keeping excise tax revenue flowing from a sustainable base of operators with stable prices.

It might be time to seriously consider state minimum pricing on cannabis. It would ultimately benefit a lot of small and local operators and create a more sustainable path for growth in an industry ripe for all sorts of predatory and speculative practices. A healthier industry with a good mix of small and large operators would create a good variety and quality of products, which would benefit consumers. Even without minimum pricing, I would challenge consumers to think about where they spend their dollars in the cannabis market.

**NOTICE OF ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION**

**TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF ONEIDA CHARTER TOWNSHIP, EATON COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that at a regular meeting held on April 9, 2024, the Oneida Township Board introduced language to adopt an ordinance as listed below:

**ONEIDA CHARTER TOWNSHIP, EATON COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 17, SECTION 17.05**

At a meeting of the Oneida Charter Township Board, Eaton County, Michigan, held at the Township Hall on April 9, 2024, at 7 p.m., Clerk Jackie Kilgore moved to introduce the following Ordinance for first reading, posting, and publication prior to subsequent final adoption, which the motion was seconded by Board Member James Green.

*An Ordinance to amend the Oneida Charter Township Zoning Ordinance to update regulations pertaining to parking restrictions.*

The full ordinance may be requested by contacting Oneida Township Hall or at [www.oneidatownship.org](http://www.oneidatownship.org) under Public Notices. Jacqueline Kilgore, Clerk Oneida Charter Township (517) 622-8078

**CP#24-496**

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What they said: 

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What I heard: **MAYDAY**  
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# Ixion Ensemble explores conflict in new works showcase

By **CHELSEA LAKE ROBERTS**

Lansing locals might know Rose Jangmi Cooper as the woman who sings on her motorcycle or as a member of the spoken-word and gospel music group Voices of the Revolution. But singing isn't her only artistic passion. Seven years ago, Ixion Ensemble Theatre founder and artistic director Jeff Croff invited her to participate in the small, experimental theater troupe, where she quickly learned the ins and outs of acting and stagecraft before moving into directorial roles.

This month, Cooper directs Ixion's new works showcase "Let's Fight," a series of short plays focused on conflict. This collaborative show is designed to bring bolder, underrepresented voices to Lansing's theater community.

"What keeps me coming back is what's at the heart of Ixion: We want to tell stories that don't normally get heard," Cooper said.

In addition to the unique voices showcased in the scripts, Cooper noted that her direction adds an important point of view to the show.

"I'm a Black female director," she said. "There are a couple of us in town, but you don't see a

lot of our stories. When there are Black actors and directors, it's usually a trauma story or a random Black person playing a best friend. We are not just trauma stories."

Although the theme of the show is conflict, Cooper said it's filled with laugh-out-loud moments and intensely relatable characters.

"You'll sit back and think, 'Oh yeah, that looks like me.' Some shows will have trigger warnings because they push that envelope, but there will be raucous laughter, too. It's a good mix of actors and storylines," she said.

The 60-something-year-old has

played her fair share of tough characters and wanted to do something lighter for this series of one-acts.

"This is just about having fun and enjoying the theater again, what actors can bring to the stage, and what our crew has added," she said.

The show's fight choreographer, Rich Kopitsch, minored in acting at Lansing Community College while earning a degree in fire science. He participates in theater in the evenings while working full-time as a firefighter/EMT. He described the crossover between his two worlds as "a special kind of crazy."

"Being a firefighter, you have to give the person your best and have a good bedside manner. Even if you might be having a tough day, it's their worst day. I'm glad I can combine both of my passions in a way that's beneficial," he said.

As a choreographer, Kopitsch said he's been "incredibly lucky" with the cast of "Let's Fight."

"Things always pop up in local theater. I come in with a rough draft, knowing full well it's going to change. But working with the actors has been incredible," he said. "Ann Carlson has a background in martial arts, and Quinn

Kelly is physically funny and bold. He's a longtime wrestling fan, and he's brought new ideas that I never would've thought of. There's one move in particular that's amazing."

One of the nine short plays is titled "Kortal Mombat," written by playwright and Riverwalk Theatre custodian Adam Carlson. It's based on "Mortal Kombat," a fighting video game series in which characters battle to the death.

"One guy has become an avatar for the video game, and another character is able to control him. While this is going on, the video game player is having a hard time getting the controller to



Photo by Michelle Harvey Hill

Ann Carlson (left) and Rich Kopitsch rehearse a fight scene for "Not Part of the Choreography," one of nine short plays featured in Ixion Ensemble Theatre's new works showcase "Let's Fight," running May 10, 11, 17 and 18 at Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood.

work," Carlson explained.

He said his plays "tend to be silly and dark," which sets "Kortal Mombat" apart from some of the other scripts in the show.

"The other ones are much more light-hearted, and conflicts are resolved, but mine has a serious fight and ends in tragedy," he said.

Carlson worked with Cooper to rewrite parts of the script for the production.

"Originally, there was a cord coming out of a character's pants, but they were worried about how that was going to work," he said. As far as the actual fighting, he said he "left the stage directions vague on purpose so they can adapt it to whatever actors and abilities they have."

This is Carlson's third play to be produced by Ixion. He credits the troupe's pandemic writing group, Ixion's Wheel, with helping him to polish his scripts and apply for production opportunities.

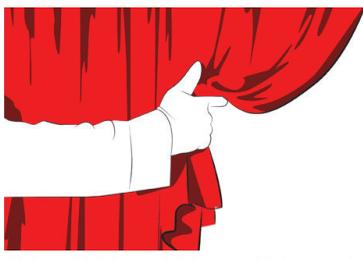
This year, Ixion joined forces with Sycamore Creek Church's Eastwood campus to produce its shows at the church's Stage One Performing Arts

Center. Cooper noted that "moving to Stage One is like going to the penthouse for us."

"We're a small company. Other places might have more infrastructure, like larger sets or a bigger venue. Last year, we staged our shows at the Lansing Mall, and we were at the Robin Theatre in 2017. We're kind of nomadic, and we've been trying to find a place that would fit us," she said.

In describing the value that Ixion brings to the local community, Carlson said, "Riverwalk tends to do more classic shows that you've heard about before. They have a black box where they have more experimental shows, but they do the big family musicals, too. Peppermint Creek always does the newest thing. Ixion does more experimental and newer shows. They're more likely to do a play that's never been produced before or something that's been written by a local playwright. Almost every year, they do this collection of plays on a theme. No other local theater is doing that."

## BEHIND THE CURTAIN



### May theater productions:

#### "Bright Half Life"

Through May 19  
8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday  
2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday; May 8 and 15  
Williamston Theatre  
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston  
williamstontheatre.org

#### "The Good Doctor"

LCC Performing Arts  
May 3-4  
7 p.m.

LCC Black Box Theatre  
411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing  
lcc.edu/showinfo

#### "The Wind in the Willows"

All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre  
May 3-5  
7 p.m. Friday  
3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday  
Hannah Community Center  
819 Abbot Road, East Lansing  
allofusespress.org

#### "Let's Fight"

Ixion Ensemble Theatre

May 10-11 and 17-18  
8 p.m.  
Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood  
2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing  
onthestage.tickets/show/ixion-ensemble

#### "Six"

May 14-19  
7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday  
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday  
2 p.m. Saturday  
1 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday  
Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall  
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing  
whartoncenter.com

#### "James and the Giant Peach"

May 16-19 and 23-26  
7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday  
2 p.m. Sunday  
Riverwalk Theatre  
228 Museum Drive, Lansing  
riverwalktheatre.com

#### "Bluey's Big Play"

May 28-29  
6 p.m.  
Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall  
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing  
whartoncenter.com

# Jonesin' Crossword

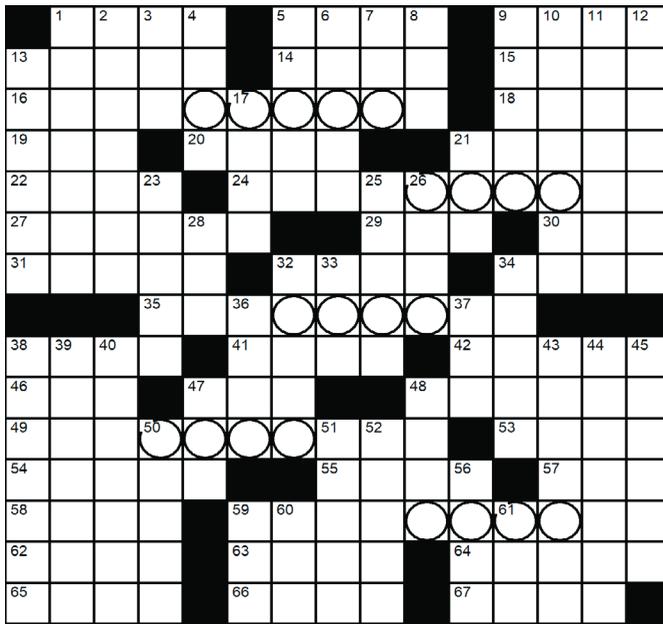
By Matt Jones

"No Fear" -- just the first parts of the phobias.

by Matt Jones  
© 2024 Matt Jones

**ACROSS**

- 1. "\_\_\_ the weather up there?"
- 5. Hurricane response org.
- 9. Pleased
- 13. Occupied, as a desk
- 14. Tehran's location
- 15. Shine partner
- 16. Ancient Greek mathematician who couldn't bring his triangle theorem out into the open?
- 18. Comcast and Spectrum, for two
- 19. Abbr. after a seller's suggested price
- 20. Seat of Washoe County, Nevada
- 21. Like fishnets
- 22. "Good for life" pet food brand
- 24. Job interview subject, even when you can't face the work?
- 27. Alpacas' cousins
- 29. "Boom Clap" performer Charli \_\_\_
- 30. 1055, to Caesar
- 31. Mr., in Spain
- 32. \_\_\_ stands
- 34. Spanakopita cheese
- 35. 1998 National League MVP who's not big on germs?
- 38. Spice Girl who turned 50 in April 2024
- 41. "\_\_\_ I a stinker?" (Bugs Bunny line)
- 42. Tricks
- 46. Cold War broadcast across the Atlantic, for short
- 47. Bowling target
- 48. Unfortunate event
- 49. Exactly right, but without the blood?
- 53. Lawnmower brand



- that means "bull"
- 10. Nimble
- 11. Road-surface material
- 12. Songwriter Buddy who co-founded Capitol Records
- 13. Gives away the ending of
- 17. 100 \_\_\_ ("Doritos & Fritos" duo)
- 21. Mystery guest moniker
- 23. Internet comedy group since 2002
- 25. Live and breathe
- 26. \_\_\_-1 ("Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire" vehicle)
- 28. Legendary Notre Dame coach Parseghian
- 32. Acid in proteins
- 33. Ant. antonym
- 34. Goethe "deal with the devil" character
- 36. Injure badly
- 37. '80s anti-missile plan, for short
- 38. List of events
- 39. Ineffectual
- 40. Like homes without TVs, slangily
- 43. Chance to take your shot?
- 44. Symptom of otitis
- 45. Multipurpose utensils
- 47. Chapel bench
- 48. "\_\_\_ Breckinridge" (Gore Vidal novel)
- 50. Dawson, Combs, Anderson, Karn, O'Hurley, and Harvey, e.g.
- 51. \_\_\_ Arcade (business trying to look cool in "Wayne's World")
- 52. Absorb eagerly
- 56. "You rebel \_\_\_" ("Return of the Jedi" line)
- 59. Impress
- 60. "Bali \_\_\_" ("South Pacific" highlight)
- 61. P, in the Greek alphabet

- DOWN**
- 1. Seat at a barn dance, maybe
  - 2. Footstool
  - 3. When doubled, a guitar effect
  - 4. "A \_\_\_ Is Born"
  - 5. Shrek's wife
  - 6. It might be clerical
  - 7. Old ewe in "Babe"
  - 8. Response, for short
  - 9. "Peer Gynt"

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Answers on page 21

## SUDOKU

## Beginner

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

## Fun By The Numbers

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

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

## Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

May 1-7, 2024

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** The world record for jumping rope in 6 inches of mud is held by an Aries. Are you surprised? I'm not. So is the world record for consecutive wallops administered to an inflatable punching doll. Other top accomplishments performed by Aries people: longest distance walking on one's hands, number of curse words uttered in two minutes and most push-ups with three bulldogs sitting on one's back. As impressive as these feats are, I hope you will channel your drive for excellence in more constructive directions during the coming weeks. Astrologically speaking, you are primed to be a star wherever you focus your ambition on high-minded goals. Be as intense as you want to be while having maximum fun giving your best gifts.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** I don't casually invoke the terms "marvels," "splendors" and "miracles." Though I am a mystic, I also place a high value on rational thinking and skeptical proof. If someone tells me a marvel, splendor or miracle has occurred, I will thoroughly analyze the evidence. Having said that, though, I want you to know that during the coming weeks, marvels, splendors and miracles are far more likely than usual to occur in your vicinity — even more so if you have faith that they will. I will make a similar prediction about magnificence, sublimity and resplendence. They are headed your way. Are you ready for blessed excess? For best results, welcome them all generously and share them lavishly.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** In accordance with astrological omens, I recommend you enjoy a celebratory purge sometime soon. You could call it a Cleansing Jubilee, a Gleeful Festival of Purification or a Jamboree of Cathartic Healing. This would be a fun holiday that would last for at least a day and maybe as long as two weeks. During this liberating revel, you would discard anything associated with histories you want to stop repeating. You'd get rid of garbage and excess. You may even thrive by jettisoning perfectly good stuff that you no longer have any use for.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Graduation day will soon arrive. Congrats, Cancerian! You have mostly excelled in navigating through a labyrinthine system that, once upon a time, discombobulated you. With panache and skill, you have wrangled chaos into submission and gathered a useful set of resources. So, are you ready to welcome your big rewards? Prepared to collect your graduation presents? I hope so. Don't allow lingering fears of success to cheat you out of your well-deserved harvest. Don't let shyness prevent you from beaming like a champion in the winner's circle. PS: I encourage you to meditate on the likelihood that your new bounty will transform your life almost as much as your struggle to earn it.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Ritualist and author Sobonfu Somé was born in Burkina Faso but spent many years teaching around the world. According to her philosophy, we should periodically ask ourselves two questions: 1. "What masks have been imposed on us by our culture and loved ones?" 2. "What masks have we chosen for ourselves to wear?" According to my astrological projections, the coming months will be an excellent time for you to ruminate on these inquiries — and take action in response. Are you willing to remove your disguises to reveal the hidden or unappreciated beauty that lies beneath? Can you visualize how your life may change if you intensify your devotion to expressing your deepest, most authentic self?

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** If human culture were organized according to my principles, there would be more than 8 billion religions — one for every person alive. Eight billion altars. Eight billion saviors. If anyone wanted to enlist priestesses, gurus and other spiritual intermediaries to help them out in their worship, they would be encouraged. And we would all borrow beliefs and rituals from each other. There would be an extensive trade of clues and tricks about the art of achieving ecstatic union with the Great Mystery.

I bring this up, Virgo, because the coming weeks will be an ideal time for you to craft your own personalized and idiosyncratic religious path.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Hidden agendas and simmering secrets will soon leak into view. Intimate mysteries will become even more intimate and mysterious. Questions that have been half-suppressed will become pressing and productive. Can you handle this much intrigue, Libra? Are you willing to wander through the amazing maze of emotional teases to gather clues about the provocative riddles? I think you will have the poise and grace to do these things. If I'm right, you can expect deep revelations to appear and long-lost connections to re-emerge. Intriguing new connections are also possible. Be on high alert for subtle revelations and nuanced intuitions.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** It's fun and easy to love people for their magnificent qualities and the pleasure you feel when they're nice to you. What's more challenging is to love the way they disappoint you. Now pause a moment and make sure you register what I just said. I didn't assert that you should love them \*even if\* they disappoint you. Rather, I invited you to love them BECAUSE they disappoint you. In other words, use your disappointment to expand your understanding of who they really are and thereby develop a more inclusive and realistic love for them. Regard your disappointment as an opportunity to deepen your compassion — and as a motivation to become wiser and more patient. (PS: In general, now is a time when so-called "negative" feelings can lead to creative breakthroughs and a deepening of love.)

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** I assure you that you don't need "allies" who encourage you to indulge in delusions or excesses. Nor do I recommend that you seek counsel from people who think you're perfect. But you could benefit from colleagues who offer you judicious feedback. Do you know any respectful and perceptive observers who can provide advice about possible course corrections you could make? If not, I will fill the role as best as I can. Here's one suggestion: Consider phasing out a mild pleasure and a small goal so you can better pursue an extra fine pleasure and a major goal.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** I invite you to take an inventory of what gives you pleasure, bliss and rapture. It's an excellent time to identify the thrills that you love most. When you have made a master list of the fun and games that enhance your intelligence and drive you half-wild with joy, devise a master plan to ensure you will experience them as much as you need to — not just in the coming weeks but forever. As you do, experiment with this theory: By stimulating delight and glee, you boost your physical, emotional and spiritual health.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Aquarian author Lewis Carroll said, "You know what the issue is with this world? Everyone wants some magical solution to their problem, and everyone refuses to believe in magic." In my astrological opinion, this won't be an operative theme for you in the coming weeks, Aquarius. I suspect you will be inclined to believe fervently in magic, which will ensure that you attract and create a magical solution to at least one of your problems — and probably more.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Which would you prefer in the coming weeks: lots of itches, prickles, twitches and stings or, instead, lots of tingles, quivers, shimmers and soothing? To ensure the latter types of experiences predominate, all you need to do is cultivate moods of surrender, relaxation, welcome and forgiveness. You will be plagued with aggravating sensations only if you resist, hinder, impede and engage in combat. Your assignment is to explore new frontiers of elegant and graceful receptivity.

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

# OUT on the TOWN

## Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com). Deadline is 4 p.m. Wednesday for the upcoming Wednesday edition. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Nicole at (517) 999-5066.

### Wednesday, May 1

**2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition** - An inclusive survey of work produced by MSU faculty. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**"A Course of Love" Discussion, facilitated by Lucille Olson & Bill Dietrich** - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. [unitylansing.org](http://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](http://ruhalacenter.com).

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

**Beginning Salsa Group Dance Class** - Easy-to-learn Latin dance. Seven-week class. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 517-364-8888. [sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club](http://sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club).

**Dementia Caregiving Series** - Three-session series for those caring for a person with dementia or Alzheimer's. 6 p.m. Dansville Free Methodist Church, 1330 Mason St., Dansville. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email [histedc@tcoa.org](mailto:histedc@tcoa.org).

**Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

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

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

**Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle** - 8 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. [lansingshuffle.com](http://lansingshuffle.com).

**Lansing Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp** - Ten-week program. Ages 12-17. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. [lansingrollerderby.com](http://lansingrollerderby.com).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild "Artistic Visions" Art Exhibit** - Open by appointment. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-999-3643. [midmichiganartguild.org](http://midmichiganartguild.org).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Spring Art Show** - Featuring an array of mediums. 9 am.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Male St., Lansing. 517-332-4663. [midmichiganartguild.org](http://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](http://lamc.info).

**"Painterly Dialogues"** - ART/5 is a group of five artists and friends who paint together year-round. This exhibition showcases recent works from their studios and plein air sessions. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net).

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

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

**Wheel of the Year: Beltaine and Family** - Join us online or in person for discussions, rituals, meditations and more! 6 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

### Thursday, May 2

**2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition** - An inclusive survey of work produced by MSU faculty. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

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

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

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

**"Bright Half Life"** - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. [williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org).

**Crafty Vibes** - Bring your knitting, crochet or any other portable craft project and immerse yourself in an evening of creativity, conversation and community. 5 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** - Featuring two works inspired by Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" and Mozart's last symphony, "Jupiter." 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. [whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.com).

**Frog & Koop at Cleats Bar & Grille** - 6 p.m. 5801 N. Aurelius Road, Lansing. 517-574-4008. [cleatsbarandgrille.com](http://cleatsbarandgrille.com).

**Greater Lansing Potters' Guild Spring Sale** - Featuring a variety of handmade ceramic items. 5-8 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. [greaterlansingpottersguild.org](http://greaterlansingpottersguild.org).

**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](http://ruhalacenter.com).

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

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild "Artistic Visions" Art Exhibit** - Open by appointment. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-999-3643. [midmichiganartguild.org](http://midmichiganartguild.org).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Spring Art Show** - Featuring an array of mediums. 9 am.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Male St., Lansing. 517-332-4663. [midmichiganartguild.org](http://midmichiganartguild.org).

**"Painterly Dialogues"** - ART/5 is a group of five artists and friends who paint together year-round. This exhibition showcases recent works from their studios and plein air sessions. 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

### "Piano Monster: Stories from Around the World"

Sunday, May 5

3 p.m.

Fairchild Theatre

542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing

The Michigan State University College of Music will present its last concert of the season, "Piano Monster: Stories from Around the World," 3 p.m. Sunday (May 5) at the Fairchild Theatre. Six faculty musicians, Young Hyun Cho, Deborah Moriarty, Derek Polischuk, Zhihua Tang, Tamar Mikeladze and Eric Zuber, will share the stage and sometimes the same keyboard as they perform on four grand pianos.

The program will feature a medley of classical music highlighting fairytales, folklore and culture from around the globe, including "Peter and the Wolf," by Sergei Prokofiev, narrated by voice faculty member Marc Embree; "La gazza ladra," by Gioachino Rossini; "The Stars and Stripes Forever," by John Philip Sousa; selections from the play "Peer Gynt"; and Mexican folk songs in celebration of Cinco de Mayo.

"We are excited about sharing this unique program with concertgoers," said Moriarty, Keyboard Area chair. "With such a diverse lineup of repertoire touching on unique stories and traditions across cultures, it's a wonderful opportunity to witness the enchanting beauty of pianos together in symphony."

Tickets are \$22 for adults, \$20 for seniors (60 and older) and \$12 for students and guests under 18. They can be purchased at [music.msu.edu](http://music.msu.edu), by calling (517) 353-5340 or at the door.



Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net).

**Rock-Steady Boxing for Parkinson's** - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8888. [lapsg.org](http://lapsg.org).

**Ruhala Broadway Ensemble** - Learn to excel equally in singing, acting and dance. 5:30 p.m. 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly** - Weight-loss support group. Weigh-in 5:30 p.m., meeting 6-7 p.m. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Haslett. 800-932-8677. [facebook.com/HaslettTops](http://facebook.com/HaslettTops).

### Friday, May 3

**2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition** - An inclusive survey of work produced by MSU faculty. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**"Bright Half Life"** - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. [williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org).

**Craft Club Jr.** - Make bubble wands! Grades 1-3. Registration req. 4:15 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. [charlottelibrary.org](http://charlottelibrary.org).

**Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

**The Future of Comedy Show at Spare Time Entertainment Center** - Performances by Mike Ball, Dave Wellfare, Nicole Melnyk and Ronnie Rohrbeck. Doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m. 3101 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-337-2695. [sparetimelansing.com](http://sparetimelansing.com).

**"The Good Doctor"** - Free performance featuring students enrolled in the beginning studio theatre classes. 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. [lcc.edu/showinfo](http://lcc.edu/showinfo).

**Greater Lansing Potters' Guild Spring Sale** - Featuring a variety of handmade ceramic items. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. [greaterlansingpottersguild.org](http://greaterlansingpottersguild.org).

**Jackalope** - Five-piece band entertains with its Americana originals and eclectic blend of crowd-pleasing covers. 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. [urbanbeatevents.com](http://urbanbeatevents.com).

**Live Music with Cold Leather Seats** - Folk-rock band from Michigan. 7 p.m. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. 517-371-2600. [lansingbrewingcompany.com](http://lansingbrewingcompany.com).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild "Artistic Visions" Art Exhibit** - Open by appointment. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-999-3643. [midmichiganartguild.org](http://midmichiganartguild.org).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Spring Art Show** - Featuring an array of mediums. 9 am.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Male St., Lansing. 517-332-4663. [midmichiganartguild.org](http://midmichiganartguild.org).

# Holism Haus is 'on a mission to make holistic trauma healing accessible'

By TYLER SCHNEIDER

Across eras, regions and cultures, humans have channeled music and sound as a therapeutic release from the toils of day-to-day life. At Holism House, which opened April 1 in west Lansing, Maranda Houston takes that concept a step further, helping people “overcome trauma through sound.”

## Holism Haus

3911 W. Michigan Ave.,  
Suite 1, Lansing  
5:30 p.m.–11:30 p.m.  
Monday–Friday  
12 p.m.–9 p.m.  
Saturday  
(517) 481-4287  
holismhaus.com

She does so through a handful of sound-based meditative services, the most beginner-friendly of which is the sound bath, she said. In a standard session, which lasts about 30 minutes, Houston homes in on the client's breathing patterns to create a relaxing series of sonic vibrations. The client wears a steam eye mask and lies on a heated massage bed while Houston produces a canopy of sounds and frequencies with a set of quartz bowls and metal tuning forks.

“Sound alchemy is what I like to call it,” Houston said. “Based on the sounds and frequencies that are coming back when I'm in a session, I'm able to understand some of the traumatic experiences someone might be working through or emotions that may need to be recentered.”

The results vary from person to person. Some see sessions as spiritual or metaphysical, while others point to scientific studies that have found sound baths and similar sound-based therapies can relieve stress and depression and even lower blood pressure in some individuals.

Houston said she tries “not to dive into the spiritual aspect of it” but instead prefers to let her clients form their own opinions on the results of the sessions.

“I don't want to retraumatize anyone or put myself out there in a way that's not in alignment with the vision. And that vision is to be able to have a community of people who have accessible healing and don't have to jump through hurdles to get it,” she said.

Holism Haus also offers guided breathing meditation sessions and immersive herbal baths, which combine aspects of the sound bath with an aromatic herbal soak. The front end of the space features a shop with wellness



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

Maranda Houston, owner of Holism Haus, which opened April 1 in west Lansing, aims to help clients overcome trauma through sound-based meditation.

products, apparel and more.

Having “experienced life at its fullest capacity,” Houston cited her upbringing in the foster care system as the main “spark” that led her to open Holism Haus.

“Usually, the stigma is that people in foster care go a certain way. I set out to change that trajectory by turning my

pain into a purpose,” she said. “I wanted to provide a support system for my community to help them understand that there are other resources out there that they can turn to when they're feeling let down by the way the system works when it comes to getting access to care.”

## Events

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**Movement with Vitality for Parkinson's** - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8888. lapsg.org.

**“Painterly Dialogues”** - ART/5 is a group of five artists and friends who paint together year-round. This exhibition showcases recent works from their studios and plein air sessions. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

**Parkour at ALIVE** - You and your little one will learn how to safely maneuver everyday obstacles using the whole body. Ages 2-6. 10 a.m. ALIVE, 800 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. 517-541-5800. myalive.com.

**Ready, Set, Build!** - Children ages 2-4 and their caregivers explore science through hands-on, inquisitive learning in a responsive, playful, exploratory environment. 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

**“Refuge Recovery,” A Buddhist Path to Recovering from Addiction** - Peer-led group meeting with a 20-minute meditation and a reading from the book “Refuge Recovery.” 6:30 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

**Steiner Chorale performs masterworks** - Featuring works by John Rutter and J.S. Bach, accompanied by a full orchestra. 7 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 South Harrison Road, East Lansing. steinerchorale.org.

**Williamstown Twp. Artists' Fine Art Sale & Studio Tour** - Self-guided tour stopping at seven artist

studios and venues in Williamstown Township. Proceeds benefit township playgrounds. 5-9 p.m. williamstown.us.engagementhq.com.

**“The Wind in the Willows”** - 7 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-333-2580. allofusedxpress.org.

## Saturday, May 4

**2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition** - An inclusive survey of work produced by MSU faculty. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**2024 Beltaine Ritual** - Join us in person or on Zoom as we celebrate the fullness of spring with our Beltaine ritual, plus a shared feast and raffle. 4 p.m. Fenner Nature Center scout campground, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

**Annual Kentucky Derby Gala: Celebrate the 150th Run for the Roses** - Outfit contests, magic show, exquisite cuisine, Kentucky Derby trivia and more. 4-8 p.m. The Northfork Estate, 9891 N. Fork Way, Eaton Rapids. thenorthforkestate.ticketbud.com.

**“Bright Half Life”** - 2 and 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

**Clean Up Day** - Any type of junk or trash that can legally be placed in a landfill will be accepted. Each household will be limited to one trailer/pick-up load. 7 a.m.-noon. Department of Public Works, 451 Morse Drive, Portland. portland-michigan.org.

**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.

**“Corazón por La Justicia,” A Social Justice Exhibit** - In the tradition of Chicano, Mexican and Latin American artists, we celebrate the work of Mich-

igan artists exploring issues that impact us today. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Casa de Rosado, 204 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/casaderosado.

**Family Day: WEAVE** - Explore the many ways you can create art through weaving. No glue, paint or paper needed! 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**“The Good Doctor”** - Free performance featuring students enrolled in the beginning studio theatre classes. 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

**Greater Lansing Potters' Guild Spring Sale** - Featuring a variety of handmade ceramic items. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. greaterlansingpottersguild.org.

**Hoods Up! at R.E. Olds Transportation Museum** - We'll have hoods up on almost all our vehicles,

with all sorts of engines on view. Docents will be on hand to give you the scoop. Regular admission prices apply. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

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

**Lansing Roller Derby | 2024 Season Bout 3** - Lansing A vs. Rockford Rage at 4:30 p.m., Lansing B vs. Lafayette Roller Derby at 6:30 p.m. Afterparty at Haslett's Mayfair Bar. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

**Lower Michigan Horse Association May show** - 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. facebook.com/LMHAAHorseShows.

See Events, Page 20

## Save the Date!

Please mark your calendars for a memorial service for

**Julia Rodriguez**

**Saturday, Aug. 3**

at The Avenue (2021 E Michigan Ave, Lansing), from 1-3 p.m.



If you knew and loved Julia, please join us in celebrating their life!

# Events

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**Meridian Township Farmers Market** - Shop local and support area vendors. 8 am.-2 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-712-2395. meridian.mi.us/FarmersMarket.

**Native Plant Sale** - Michigan-native shrubs, sedges, grasses, wildflowers, ferns and complete garden kits. Proceeds benefit HNC. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

**"Painterly Dialogues"** - ART/5 is a group of five artists and friends who paint together year-round. This exhibition showcases recent works from their studios and plein air sessions. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

**Singers on the Grand presents: "Vintage Vinyl: The Hits We Spun, 1950s-1980s"** - Includes full ensemble performances, solos, duets and small group numbers. 7 p.m. Portland Community Theater, 231 Maple St., Portland. portlandcivicplayers.com.

**Spring Fling Courthouse Show 2024** - Food vendors and booths from local organizations, crafters and businesses. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Ingham County Courthouse lawn, 315 S. Jefferson St., Mason. 517-676-1046. masonchamber.org.

**"Star Wars: A New Hope"** - Watch "A New Hope" with snacks and beverages! Grades 4-12. Noon. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

**"Star Wars": May the 4th Be with You** - The Lansing Symphony Orchestra explores the iconic musical galaxy of "Star Wars." 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. lansingsymphony.org.

**Tiger and Dragon Kenpo Martial Arts Training** - Based on a variety of martial arts systems, Tiger and Dragon Kenpo is designed to develop self-confidence in the warrior. 1 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

**Village Crafters Spring Craft Show: May the Fourth Be with You** - Free refreshments, kids' craft corner. Bring a donation for Ingham County Animal Control to be entered into a prize drawing. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. villagecrafters.net.

**Williamstown Twp. Artists' Fine Art Sale & Studio Tour** - Self-guided tour stopping at seven artist studios and venues in Williamstown Township. Proceeds benefit township playgrounds. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. williamstown.us.engagementhq.com.

**"The Wind in the Willows"** - 3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-333-2580. allofusedxpress.org.

## Sunday, May 5

**2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition** - An inclusive survey of work produced by MSU faculty. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**"A Course in Miracles" with Dan and Carol Maynard** - Noon. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

**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.

**"Bright Half Life"** - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

**Cinco de Mayo Patio Party** - Live music with DJ Face, yard games, Mexican board games, face

painting, exclusive margarita pitchers and more. No ticket required. 4-7 p.m. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. lansingbrewingcompany.com.

**"Corazón por La Justicia," A Social Justice Exhibit** - In the tradition of Chicano, Mexican and Latin American artists, we celebrate the work of Michigan artists exploring issues that impact us today. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Casa de Rosado, 204 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/casaderosado.

**Euchre** - 6 p.m. Esquire Bar, 1250 Turner St., Lansing. 517-487-5338.

**Friends of Historic Meridian 50th Birthday Party** - Founders day program at 3 p.m., birthday cake and refreshments to follow, all buildings will be open to the public from 4-6 p.m. Meridian Historical Village, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridianhistoricalvillage.org.

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

**Lansing Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp** - Ten-week program. Ages 12-17. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

**LCC Concert Choir** - 3 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. lcc.edu/showinfo.

**Let's Dance: Contra Dance Workshop** - Wear comfortable shoes and clothes you can easily move in. Ages 7+. 1:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

**Lower Michigan Horse Association May show** - 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. facebook.com/LMHAHorseShows.

**Magickal Mindset Series with LeAnn Crouch** - Deep dive into the magickal intersection of intention, mindset, intuition and manifestation, specifically tailored for entrepreneurs. 4:30 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

**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. 1 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**"Painterly Dialogues" Opening Reception** - 1-3 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

**Piano Monster** - Four grand pianos share the stage, commanded by pianists whose medley of classical selections highlights multi-artist combinations, including piano four-hands. 3 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

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

**Nobel Prize-winning physicist William Phillips: The Quantum Reform of the Modern Metric System** - 1 p.m. Virtual — visit frib.msu.edu/gateway to register for lecture.

**"The Wind in the Willows"** - 3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-333-2580. allofusedxpress.org.

## Monday, May 6

**Ballet II for kids** - Ages 9-13. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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

**Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian

## Matthew Ball

Sunday, May 5  
3 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church  
510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing

Metro Detroit-based pianist, singer and songwriter Matthew Ball, also known as the Boogie Woogie Kid, will visit Lansing for a family-friendly concert at the First Presbyterian Church of Lansing's Molly Grove Chapel 3 p.m. Sunday (May 5). He performs New Orleans and swing-era classics like "In the Mood," "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off," "It Had to Be You," "When the Saints Go Marching In," "Basin Street Blues," "On the Sunny Side of the Street," "Bumble Boogie" and more. According to his website, his shows are "engaging events of toe-tapping piano athleticism that capture the spirit, fun and tradition of a celebrated American music heritage."

The event is free, but donations for the church are welcome. For more information, visit facebook.com/LansingFirstPresbyterian or call (517) 482-0668.



Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

**Glowing Oil and Water Experiment** - Can you mix oil and water? We'll experiment with oil, water and neon paint and then add a black light to see it glow. Ages 5+. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

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

**Jazz Dance Class** - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Jump Into Reading** - Join Ms. Erin for 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.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild "Artistic Visions" Art Exhibit** - Open by appointment. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-999-3643. midmichiganartguild.org.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Spring Art Show** - Featuring an array of mediums. 9 am.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Male St., Lansing. 517-332-4663. midmichiganartguild.org.

**"Painterly Dialogues"** - ART/5 is a group of five artists and friends who paint together year-round. This exhibition showcases recent works from their studios and plein air sessions. Noon-5:30 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

**"The Quest: A Journey of Spiritual Rediscovery" Book Study with Jeff Benoit** - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

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

**Teacher & Staff Appreciation Day at High Caliber** - Teachers and school staff with a valid ID receive a FREE All-Access Pass. Karaoke runs 7 p.m.-close. Noon-10 p.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Suite 800, Okemos. highcaliberkarting.com.

**Unity Book Study: "The Power of Now," by Eckhart Tolle** - Facilitated by Lucille Olson. 1:30 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

**Yoga for Parkinson's** - Free yoga class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1

p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8888. lapsg.org.

## Tuesday, May 7

**Acting 101 Class** - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Acting Ensemble Class** - 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Balance, Conditioning and Strength for Parkinson's** - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8888. lapsg.org.

**Basic Smartphone Photography with Wayne Pope** - Participants must bring their own phone. 5:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

**Comedy in Billtown** - Featuring Michigan comedians Louis D. Michael (also the evening's host), Michael Bussler, Jason Jamerson, Alexa Stanton and Mike Geeter. 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

**Double Wide Ride Country Concert & More** - Double Wide Ride will take the stage 6:30-10 p.m., while a Michigan beer tasting event runs 6-8 p.m., and a food tasting event runs 5-7 p.m. Free. High Caliber, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Suite 800, Okemos. highcaliberkarting.com.

**Intro to Acting/Improv for Kids** - Ages 5-12. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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

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

**Level I Dance Class** - Introduction to theater dance using ballet, tap and jazz. Ages 5-8. 4:45 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild "Artistic Visions" Art Exhibit** - Open by appointment. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-999-3643. midmichiganartguild.org.

# Events

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**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Spring Art Show** - Featuring an array of mediums. 9 am.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Male St., Lansing. 517-332-4663. [midmichiganartguild.org](http://midmichiganartguild.org).

**North of Five at Cleats Bar & Grille** - 6 p.m. 5801 N. Aurelius Road, Lansing. 517-574-4008. [cleatsbarandgrille.com](http://cleatsbarandgrille.com).

**"Painterly Dialogues"** - ART/5 is a group of five artists and friends who paint together year-round. This exhibition showcases recent works from their studios and plein air sessions. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net).

**Powerful Tools for Caregivers workshop** - We'll discuss self-care strategies for caregivers. Six-week program. 1 p.m. DeWitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, Suite 9008, DeWitt. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email [histedo@tcoa.org](mailto:histedo@tcoa.org).

**Preteen Reads Book Club** - Chat, eat snacks and have book-related fun. Grades 4-6. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. [charlottelibrary.org](http://charlottelibrary.org).

**"The Quest: A Journey of Spiritual Rediscovery" Book Study with Rev. Sharon Ketchum** - 1:30 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. [unitylansing.org](http://unitylansing.org).

**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).

## Wednesday, May 8

**2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition** - An inclusive survey of work produced by MSU faculty. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**"A Course of Love" Discussion, facilitated by Lucille Olson & Bill Dietrich** - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. [unitylansing.org](http://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](http://ruhalacenter.com).

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

**"Bright Half Life"** - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. [williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org).

**Beginning Salsa Group Dance Class** - Easy-to-learn Latin dance. Seven-week class. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 517-364-8888. [sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club](http://sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club).

**Coffee and Conversation** - Join us to learn about Chamber of Commerce members. 9 a.m. City Hall Community Room, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge. [grandledgechamber.com/coffee\\_and\\_conversation.php](http://grandledgechamber.com/coffee_and_conversation.php).

**Climate Change as of 2024** - A fact-based look at the scientific state of the issues and impacts involved in climate change. Registration req. 6:30 p.m. DeWitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, Suite 9008, DeWitt. 517-669-3156. [dewittlibrary.org](http://dewittlibrary.org).

**Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

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

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

**Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle** - 8 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. [lansingshuffle.com](http://lansingshuffle.com).

**Lansing Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp** - Ten-week program. Ages 12-17. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. [lansingrollerderby.com](http://lansingrollerderby.com).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild "Artistic Visions" Art Exhibit** - Open by appointment. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-999-3643. [midmichiganartguild.org](http://midmichiganartguild.org).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Spring Art Show** - Featuring an array of mediums. 9 am.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Male St., Lansing. 517-332-4663. [midmichiganartguild.org](http://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. [lanc.info](http://lanc.info).

**"Painterly Dialogues"** - ART/5 is a group of five artists and friends who paint together year-round. This exhibition showcases recent works from their studios and plein air sessions. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net).

**Read Between the Wines Book Club** - Join us at our first-ever book club, where we'll delve into "These Tangled Vines," by Julianne MacLean! Glasses of wine \$1 off. Registration req. 5 p.m. Burgdorf's Winery, 5635 Shoeman Road, Haslett. 517-655-2883. [burgdorfwinery.com](http://burgdorfwinery.com).

**Spring salad luncheon** - Variety of salads, brats, coffee, tea and dessert. \$15. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Lansing Liederkrantz German Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-882-6330. [facebook.com/lansingliederkrantzclub](http://facebook.com/lansingliederkrantzclub).

**Tap II Class** - 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts

## Comedy in Billtown

Tuesday, May 7  
7:30 p.m.

Williamston Theatre  
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston

Williamston Theatre will hold its final Comedy in Billtown event of the season 7:30 p.m. Tuesday (May 7), featuring five Michigan comedians: host Louis D. Michael, whose "edgy and not entirely well-thought-out jokes and stories will have audience members laughing at some darker topics," according to the theater; Michael Bussler, the self-proclaimed "second funniest person in Grand Rapids"; Jason Jamerson, voted best comedian in Detroit Metro Times' 2020 Best of Detroit contest; Alexa Stanton, known for her weed-themed podcast, "The Budcast," and the YouTube series "Barefoot and Pregnant," a spoof of MTV's "16 and Pregnant"; and Mike Geeter, an Ivy League dropout who "brings a pointed look at life, family and relationships that few others can ... or should," according to his LinkedIn page.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at [williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org) or by calling (517) 655-7469. Williamston Theatre has four Comedy in Billtown events planned for its 2024-'25 season.



Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Walk-in Wednesday: Paper Quilling** - Free art class for all ages. Children under 7 must attend with a registered adult. 4:30 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. [reachstudioart.org](http://reachstudioart.org).

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

## Thursday, May 9

**2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition** - An inclusive survey of work produced by MSU faculty. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**2024 MDHHS Spring Job Fair** - More than 150 positions available in healthcare, manufacturing, transportation and more. Bring your resume and dress for success! 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Gier Community Center, 2400 Hall St., Lansing. 517-887-9705. [michigan.gov/mdhhs](http://michigan.gov/mdhhs).

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

**Aaron Johnson at Cleats Bar & Grille** - 6 p.m. 5801 N. Aurelius Road, Lansing. 517-574-4008. [cleatsbarandgrille.com](http://cleatsbarandgrille.com).

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

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

**Adam Bronstein & ABTrio** - Instrumental trio that takes influence from jazz to hip hop, R&B and psychedelia. 8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. [urbanbeatevents.com](http://urbanbeatevents.com).

**"Bright Half Life"** - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. [williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org).

**Crafty Vibes** - Bring your knitting, crochet or any other portable craft project and immerse yourself in an evening of creativity, conversation and community. 5 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**"First Light," by Liz Kerin** - Kerin discusses the latest book in her vampire series with local

author Alexis Henderson. Followed by a Q&A and book signings by both authors. 7 p.m. REO Town Marketplace, 1023 South Washington Ave., Lansing. [wayfaringbooksellers.com](http://wayfaringbooksellers.com).

**Grand Ledge Area Historical Society Purse Bingo Fundraiser** - Purchase tickets at Grand Ledge Area District Library. Light snacks and beverages provided. Prizes include designer purses. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St, Grand Ledge. [facebook.com/GLAHSM1975](http://facebook.com/GLAHSM1975).

**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](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Karaoke Thursday** - 8 p.m.-midnight. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. [greendoorlive.com](http://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. [ladiesilverblades.org](http://ladiesilverblades.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](http://laingsburg-business.org/farmers-market-1).

**Lego-Palooza!** - Each child will get a tray of LEGO bricks to build their most fantastic creation. Some Duplo bricks will be available for younger children. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild "Artistic Visions" Art Exhibit** - Open by appointment. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-999-3643. [midmichiganartguild.org](http://midmichiganartguild.org).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Spring Art Show** - Featuring an array of mediums. 9 am.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Male St., Lansing. 517-332-4663. [midmichiganartguild.org](http://midmichiganartguild.org).

**"Painterly Dialogues"** - ART/5 is a group of five artists and friends who paint together year-round. This exhibition showcases recent works from their studios and plein air sessions. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net).

**Rock-Steady Boxing for Parkinson's** - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8888. [lapsg.org](http://lapsg.org).

**Ruhala Broadway Ensemble** - Learn to excel equally in singing, acting and dance. 5:30 p.m. 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 17

H	O	W	S	F	E	M	A	G	L	A	D
S	A	T	A	T	I	R	A	N	R	I	S
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## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 17

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# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### Enjoy fusions of flavor at Aloha Cookin'

By LIZY FERGUSON

I'm often guilty of eating an incredible meal somewhere but failing to return for extended lengths of time due to matters of convenience or budget, even while remembering the meal often and with great longing. So it was with Aloha Cookin', a restaurant serving the greatest hits of Hawaiian cuisine in downtown East Lansing, where I enjoyed delicious Korean-style chicken wings and teriyaki salmon about a year ago. Thankfully, this past week, I returned to my senses and revisited Aloha's wonderful food.

What is Hawaiian food, exactly? It's so much more than the roast pig and poi featured in television and film luau scenes. Like any other cuisine in any other geographic location, it

represents all the different cultures that have collided and coalesced. In the case of Hawaii, the core foodways of the Indigenous Polynesian people are mixed with Korean, Japanese and American influences. The menu at Aloha reflects this, with poke bowls, teriyaki, katsu, spicy cucumber salad and pineapple-ring garnishes all on offer.



**Barbecue short ribs**  
\$24.95  
Aloha Cookin'  
350 Albert Ave., East Lansing  
Noon-8 p.m.  
Wednesday-Sunday  
(517) 657-7963  
alohacookin.com

I was tempted to get the teriyaki salmon again, but then I saw the Hawaiian barbecue section of the menu — more specifically, the short ribs. Being familiar with kalbi, the delicious Korean-style short ribs, I had an inkling these would be similar. They were similar — but superior to any other preparation of short ribs I've had. Marinated in what tasted like soy, brown sugar, ginger, garlic and toasted sesame oil, they were sweet, smoky and intoxicatingly car-

amelized. This was a rare dish where the first bite, taken with the eyes, paled in comparison to the explosion of flavor and texture of the second.

Like most other entrees, the ribs came with rice and two sides, and for those, I was already set on what I'd had before. The first was a side salad identical to the variety that often comes with your meal at a sushi restaurant, but with the freshest, most blazingly orange ginger dressing I've ever had. The second was one of my favorite and most unexpected examples of culinary fusion: macaroni salad.

The main ingredient was, of course, macaroni, but I had to guess a bit about the other components. It was similar to the macaroni salad that sometimes comes as ban chan at Korean restaurants but with its own fresh spin. There was carrot, some green onion and a light, slightly sweet, slightly tangy mayonnaise dressing. Simple but oh-so delectable. I recommend peeling the meat off your



Lizy Ferguson for City Pulse

East Lansing's Aloha Cookin' is serving up the greatest hits of Hawaiian cuisine, a combination of Indigenous Polynesian foodways and Korean, Japanese and American influences.

short ribs and using it to pick up gobs of mac salad for a perfect bite.

Don't be like me. Go indulge yourself at Aloha Cookin', and then don't wait nearly a year to go back!

### Pork and beans the Brazilian way

By ARI LEVAUX

Pork and beans are an age-old combination, expressed in countless ways around the world. Southwestern pinto beans refried in lard. Asian tofu with pork sauce. The all-American can of pork and beans. Wherever there's pork and beans, there's pork with beans.

Portugal's feijoada (faysh-WA-da) spread to the furthest reaches of its empire. Each former colony's version is built on a different bean: red beans in the Iberian motherland, white beans in Angola, kidney beans in Macao. But the world's favorite feijoada is probably the version made with black beans.

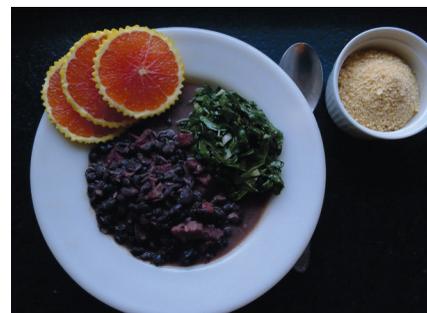


The national dish of Portugal's largest former colony, Brazil, is usually what we're talking about when we talk about feijoada.

In any Brazilian restaurant in or outside of Brazil, from a swanky steakhouse to the eminently practical pay-by-weight buffet, there will be a dark, chunky vat of feijoada waiting for you. It isn't glamorous, but it hits the spot.

The ascent of Brazilian feijoada began in slave quarters, urban slums and rural villages. Beans were used to extend the mileage of each precious scrap of meat and extract nutrients from bones. Over time, less desperate cuts, along with smoked meat and sausage, made their way into the dish.

I learned how to make feijoada from



Courtesy of Ari LeVaux

Feijoada semi-completa.

Edilson Oliveira, owner of Oliveira's Steak House in Somerville, Massachusetts. His first and only question was, "With or without pig feet?"

I soon realized that when it comes to his feijoada, such flexibility is rare. I asked about adding other meats like beef to pork feijoada. He shook his head sympathetically. "Beef meat will confuse the

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taste,” he said. “It will make no sense.”

Oliveira’s feijoada recipe is one that any Brazilian would immediately recognize as an exemplary representation of this national art form. It’s a feijoada that breaks no rules, takes no chances, crosses no lines and contains no adulterants. A feijoada you could bring home to mama.

Most Brazilian meals are served with a shaker or bowl of cassava flour. This gritty powder, called farinha (far-EEN-ya), is hugely important in Brazilian food and culture.

Like feijoada, farinha began as a food-stretching method for the poor. It absorbs water from its surroundings and becomes a thick paste. A bowl of broth and a dish of farinha was a normal meal for the poorest Brazilians. In the same way beans can stretch the goodness of a chunk of meat, a few spoonfuls of farinha will stretch the goodness of a bowl of feijoada. But it isn’t just starvation food. Even well-fed Brazilians add farinha to many dishes, either plain or in its toasted form, farofa (fa-ROW-fa).

The manager of Oliveira’s, Victor Almeida, who’d been sitting with us in the crowded dining room, held up his phone so I could see the photo of Yoki-brand farofa.

“This is what you want it to taste like,” he said. He suggested buying both plain farinha and a package of Yoki — easily found online — so you have a reference for the farofa flavor when you fry it yourself.

While feijoada and farinha make a filling meal, on special occasions, a whole spread is built around feijoada. Feijoada completa (comb-PLAY-tah) includes fried greens like collards or kale, rice, orange slices and pickled vegetables.

Brazilians are known to take good ideas to extremes, and feijoada completa is no exception. It’s the Carnival of pork and beans.

## Brazilian feijoada

Along the lines of “with or without feet,” the only room for improvisation in this recipe is the kinds of pork to use. There should be at least three types of pork, one of which is sausage, ideally linguica. Something needs to be smoked — preferably not bacon, unless it’s unsliced. A smoked ham hock is great. There should be meaty pieces, fatty pieces and a bone or two. A rib is an example of a cut that has meat, fat and bone. The recipe below gives one example of three types of pork that check all of these boxes.

*Serves everyone, provided there’s farinha*

- 2 pounds dry black beans
- 1 pound pork belly
- 2 pounds smoked ham hock (bone included)
- 1 pound sausage (linguica, kielbasa or bratwurst)
- 5 garlic cloves (smashed with salt)
- 4 bay leaves

Salt and pepper

Optional accompaniments: farinha or farofa, collards, rice, orange slices, minced onion for garnish

Add the beans to a large pot and cover with twice the amount of water. Bring to a boil and cook for about an hour, or 25 minutes in the pressure cooker, so the beans are soft but not mushy.

Meanwhile, brown the pork under the broiler, each type of pork in its own oven-safe pan. I use cast iron. Rotate the pans and stir the meat as necessary so nothing stays too close to the broiler for too long. The sausage needs the least time since it just needs to be browned on the outside. Cut the sausage into rounds, add the mashed garlic to the pan and cook the sausage

and garlic on medium heat until browned but not burnt. Then turn off the heat.

When the meat is cool enough to work with, remove it from the greasy pans. Oliveira recommends leaving the melted fat behind, “Otherwise, it would be too heavy.”

Cut the meat off the bones and into half-inch pieces. Add the meat, bones, bay leaves and browned garlic from the sausage pan back to the bean pot, along with enough water to cover everything. Cook for another hour or two, seasoning with salt and pepper. The next morning, it will be even better — and thicker. It’s always OK to add water.

Serve with all the available fixings.

### Eagle Township, Clinton County Board Meeting Synopsis

April 18, 2024, at 6 pm - Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Trustee Strahle, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee M. Hoppes and 28 citizens.

Board Actions:

- 1) Approved bills for April 2024.
- 2) Approved contacting township attorney regarding termination of NDA.
- 3) Approved creating an RFP for legal services.
- 4) Approved a letter to Clinton County Board of Commissioners.
- 5) Approved a quote for services to remove a tree from Niles Cemetery.
- 6) Approved a fireworks display permit.
- 7) Approved Clinton County Road Commission contracts for 2024.
- 8) Approved review of MTA Township of Excellence checklist.
- 9) Approved establishing a Strategic Plan group and completion of a Strategic Plan.
- 10) Approved further review of BS&A Cloud software including completion of a cost/benefit analysis.
- 11) Approved an electrician to repair lights in the hall basement.

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk. Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is May 16, 2024, at 6 pm at Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan St, Eagle, MI. See [www.eagletownship.org](http://www.eagletownship.org) for latest updates.

Prepared by: Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Eagle Township Clerk  
 Approved by: Troy Stroud, Eagle Township Supervisor

CP#24-503



### TOP 5 IRISH RESTAURANTS

Based on your votes in City Pulse’s 2023 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!

#### 1. Dublin Square

Upscale Irish pub offering a pub-grub menu, plus live bands and DJs  
 327 Abbot Road, East Lansing  
 517-351-2222  
[facebook.com/dublinsquare](https://facebook.com/dublinsquare)  
 4-11 p.m. Monday-Tuesday  
 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Wednesday  
 11 a.m.-midnight Thursday  
 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Friday-Saturday  
 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday

#### 2. Kelly’s Downtown

Modest Irish-themed pub serving familiar bar fare and cocktails  
 220 S. Washington Square, Lansing  
 517-708-2007  
[kellys-downtown.com](http://kellys-downtown.com)  
 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday

#### 3. Moriarty’s Pub

Irish American pub offering live music, darts tournaments and trivia, plus standard bar food  
 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
 517-485-5287  
[moriartyspublansing.com](http://moriartyspublansing.com)  
 3 p.m.-2 a.m. daily

#### 4. The Old Bag of Nails Pub

Local restaurant chain serving American comfort food and signature battered fish and chips  
 210 Cascade Blvd., Lansing  
 517-826-6266  
[oldbagofnails.com](http://oldbagofnails.com)  
 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday  
 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday



### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY MEETING NOTICE: PENSION BOARD MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024

#### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE PENSION BOARD MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Pension Board of the Charter Township of Meridian is conducting a regular organizational meeting on Monday, May 13, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864.

Information may be examined at the Department of Accounting and Budgeting, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may be sent prior to the meeting to the Pension Board, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to [ianni@meridian.mi.us](mailto:ianni@meridian.mi.us), or at the meeting.

Deborah Guthrie  
 Township Clerk

CP#24-499



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**1g Grand River Dabs**



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**WARNING: USE BY PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING WOMEN, OR BY WOMEN PLANNING TO BECOME PREGNANT, MAY RESULT IN FETAL INJURY, PRETERM BIRTH, LOW BIRTH WEIGHT, OR DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS FOR THE CHILD.**