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July 31 - August 6, 2024

# CityPULSE

A newspaper for the rest of us  
Locally owned



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See Page 19



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## Diversity of coverage

Every week City Pulse brings you a wide spectrum of coverage of local political and social issues that impact Greater Lansing, as well as comprehensive event listings and much more. Here's what two readers say:



*"City Pulse is really the only local newspaper in this area. It provides articles on local and state politics (I like Kyle Melinn's column whether I agree with him or not) and hits local events with 'Out on the Town' and other local interest stories, such as the potential demolition of Eastern High School."* - **Lyn Beekman**, Okemos



*"I appreciate and look forward to the candid, localized news perspective the Pulse presents. The editors and journalists come across as deeply sincere people who love Greater Lansing. I have appreciated the coverage on the recent Lansing millage election and the impact it could have on housing issues. A few of the pieces from Joan Nelson on small houses, co-ops, and accessory dwelling units were great."* - **Cristóbal Arellano Borges**, East Lansing

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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



# Your Vote Decides Who Sits on the Michigan Supreme Court

It seems like there's news about the U.S. Supreme Court nearly every day. But what doesn't get nearly enough attention is the Michigan Supreme Court – and the fact that we, the people, have the power to elect our Supreme Court. Michigan is one of just 24 states that lets voters decide who sits on the highest court in the state. And every Michigander should know how the process works and why it matters.

This November, Michiganders get to choose who fills two spots on the court. This is an important civic duty and an opportunity to shape this vitally important institution. The Michigan Supreme Court is the guardian of justice, fairness, and freedoms for all Michiganders. The seven-person court makes decisions that touch every aspect of our lives, from civil rights and criminal justice to environmental protection and economic regulations.

Chances are, you know what's at stake in the next few years: reproductive rights, abortion laws, gun safety, and fair elections – and there's no telling what other issues may come before the court. The Michigan Supreme Court makes the ultimate decisions on the most challenging legal cases in the state, which require thoughtful, insightful, and robust deliberation to help ensure a fair outcome.

In Michigan, Supreme Court candidates are nominated by a political party, but their party affiliation is not included on the ballot. The justices are elected for eight-year terms, which means the votes you cast this year will make a difference for nearly a decade.

Plenty of Michiganders like to check the straight-party box, which is just fine – but don't stop there. To cast your vote for the Supreme Court candidates of your choice, you have to keep going to the non-partisan section of your ballot. You can't miss it. Get to know the candidates in advance, then mark the ballot to vote for the two people you think will do the best job of ensuring a strong, equitable future for our state.

Being a Michigan Supreme Court justice requires integrity, fairness, and a strong understanding of the law. In fact, candidates must be a licensed Michigan lawyer for at least five years. The Michigan Supreme Court is one of the three equal branches of our state government, along with the Legislature and Governor. Michigan voters have the privilege of choosing who is appointed to all three branches – and it's an important responsibility.

Remember: Don't stop at the top! Go all the way down the ballot to cast your vote for the two Michigan Supreme Court candidates of your choice. Your vote counts in every race, so make sure your voice is heard in this one, too.

Want to know more about the Michigan Supreme Court, the voting process, or how to spread the word about the importance of electing the people who will sit on our state's highest court? Visit

**[www.MISupremeCourtRocks.com](http://www.MISupremeCourtRocks.com)** to get all the information you need to play your part in this important part of this year's election.

-Steve James, Michigan United Movement Politics Director







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# CityPULSE

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America's deadliest school massacre forgotten no longer

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Pizza House offers next best thing to real Chicago deep dish

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## THIS MODERN WORLD


by TOM TOMORROW

**TOO MANY THINGS ARE HAPPENING**

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LAST FEW WEEKS**

JUNE 27: PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE THROWS DEMOCRATS INTO PANIC. WE ARE **DOOMED**--

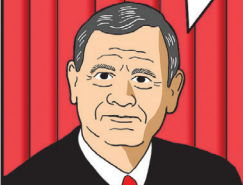
--IF HE STAYS! --IF HE GOES!




JUNE 28: SCOTUS KILLS CHEVRON DEFERENCE. WHO NEEDS REGULATORY EXPERTISE--WHEN YOU'VE GOT SIX RIGHT WING **JUSTICES!**



JULY 1: SCOTUS RULES THAT PRESIDENTS HAVE ABSOLUTE IMMUNITY. I MEAN, **REPUBLICAN** PRESIDENTS, OBVIOUSLY.




JULY 3: PRESIDENT OF HERITAGE FOUNDATION SAYS HIS REVOLUTION-- "--WILL BE BLOODLESS-- IF THE LEFT **ALLOWS** IT TO BE!"



JULY 13: TRUMP SURVIVES ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT BY REGISTERED REPUBLICAN. HE IS **CERTAIN** TO PIVOT TO KINDNESS AND GRATITUDE **NOW!**

Action McNews Network



JULY 15: JUDGE CANNON THROWS OUT CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS CASE. JACK SMITH DIDN'T SAY "**SIMON SAYS!**" CASE **DISMISSED!**



JULY 15: VANCE NAMED REPUBLICAN V.P. WHEN I SAID TRUMP WAS AMERICA'S **HITLER**--I MEANT IT IN A **GOOD** WAY!



JULY 17: MAGA CONVENTION CONTINUES. MENTIONS OF GUN RIGHTS AND ABORTION ARE CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT. THEY DO, HOWEVER, HAVE THESE SIGNS.

**MASS DEPORTATION NOW!**



JULY 18: TRUMP GIVES DISASTROUS SPEECH. I'LL BORE YOU LIKE **NOBODY'S EVER SEEN** BEFORE! BIG STRONG MEN WILL COME UP WITH TEARS IN THEIR EYES AND **BEG** ME TO STOP TALKING!

AND I'LL WHISPER, **NO.**



JULY 21: BIDEN STEPS DOWN, KAMALA HARRIS BECOMES PRESUMPTIVE NOMINEE. **WAIT!** THIS IS NO **FAIR!** I COULD HAVE BEATEN **HIM!**

THIS SHOULD BE **IL-LEGAL!**



NEXT: WHO THE HELL KNOWS. PEOPLE OF EARTH--PREPARE TO BE **ENSLAVED!**

OR ELSE EATEN. DEPENDS ON OUR MOOD.



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## PULSE

## NEWS &amp; OPINION

## Income discrimination bills take pressure off voucher holders

## ‘Everybody deserves a fair chance and place to live’

For about a year following the pandemic, Ashia Wilson and her son, Jordell, were living day-to-day on friends’ couches, in hotel rooms and occasionally in her car.

Seeking greater stability, the pair checked into the City Rescue Mission’s Women and Children’s Shelter on Cedar Street in September 2022. At the time, Wilson was working two jobs and taking classes at Lansing Community College.

“Between that and trying to get my son to and from school, it was just a really stressful time for us both and an emotional roller coaster for my son,” Wilson explained.

Their stay at the shelter lasted eight months. During that span, Wilson applied for dozens of rental units, but she was rejected for all but three due to her status as a recipient of the state’s Housing Choice Voucher Program, which provides rental assistance for qualifying low-income renters.

A recent set of bills passed by the Legislature this summer looks to remedy this issue.

The five-bill package comprises Senate bills 205, 206 and 207, plus House bills 4062 and 4063. Taken together, they prohibit landlords with five or more rental units from denying or terminating a tenancy based on the renter’s source of income, which includes housing vouchers and other renter assistance programs as well as social security and veteran benefits. They also provide mechanisms through which violators can be penalized.

State Rep. Emily Dievendorf, D-Lansing, has long championed these bills and others related to housing and tenant rights. Dievendorf cited another case of a constituent who was denied affordable housing despite having sufficient income because it depended on Social Security



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Ashia Wilson, speaking at a housing conference this year in Lansing, found herself unable to rent because she was on an assistance program.

“These bills are logical and necessary because they recognize that, a lot of times, our obstacles to housing are related to paperwork or documentation,” Dievendorf said. “As long as there’s payment, we should not have a problem.”

Wilson, 34, was fortunate enough to find a landlord who was willing to give her a chance. She and her son moved into a south Lansing home off Miller Road in May 2023.

“It felt like such a relief. I was in shock. I felt like I was dreaming. But honestly, after I moved in, I got depressed. I had been in survival mode for so long that I felt overwhelmed. I didn’t know how to come from out of that,” Wilson said.

Wilson’s period of homelessness came less than two years after she served a 90-day prison sentence in 2019 resulting from a 2017 property damage charge. While some landlords were initially hesitant to rent to someone with a record, Wilson said her difficulty in finding a place to live primarily stemmed from her voucher.

“This voucher was supposed to

be my golden ticket out of homelessness. It’s like, this is guaranteed money. What landlord wouldn’t want that? I don’t have an eviction history, my credit is good, but so many people like me still get denied. You just keep hoping the next one will give you a chance,” Wilson said.

Erika Farley, executive director for the Rental Property Owners Association, worked with legislators to help fine-tune the bills. While her organization took a neutral stance on the package as passed, she said many of its 2,000 members “actually prefer Section 8,” referring to the portion of the federal Housing Act that governs vouchers for rental assistance.

“They have a guaranteed payment, and they feel like they are getting good residents through the program,” Dievendorf explained.

Farley said Dievendorf and other legislators were receptive to several amendments suggested by landlord advocacy groups like hers, including the stipulation that the bills only apply to landlords who own

more than five rental units

“Most of the issues that we have with housing discrimination can be traced back to larger property owners, many of whom don’t even live in the state,” Dievendorf said. “Some of our smaller property owners are often also struggling to pay their mortgages. They are not generally the bad actors in this crisis.”

Farley said her group took a neutral stance on the package because it was unable to get all the amendments it had sought.

“We’re appreciative that they also understand where we’re coming from, and that’s one reason, as opposed to going into opposition, we wanted to get to that neutral position,” Farley said.

Doug Benson, president of the Rental Property Owners Association of Mid-Michigan, said he had wanted to see a few income sources excluded.

“Some of these temporary agencies that can help you out for a month or two might be used as sources of income. That makes it a little bit difficult, because you want to see consistency,” he said.

“But I’ve really got no problem whatsoever with a source of income that’s legitimate and recognizable — something that we’ve seen before in the marketplace, like a voucher.”

As for Wilson, she took up a new role as a manager for the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness.

“When I first started, it just blew my mind. I didn’t even know that people were really passionate about these issues, because when I was faced with them, I just felt really alone,” Wilson said.

Through her advocacy, she hopes to help others avoid the same fate.

“I’m really happy that it passed because all I can think about is the veterans, the women, children and men that are in shelters,” she said. “So, this really is major, and I’m excited for folks, because everybody deserves a fair chance and a place to live.”

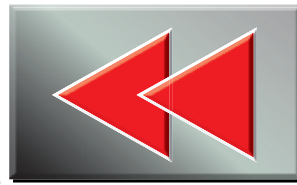
— TYLER SCHNEIDER



# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



The Ingham Community Health Centers' board is considering layoffs and site closures after officials reported a potential \$4.5 million deficit.

The board, scheduled to meet Aug. 8, oversees 13 sites that provide healthcare services to more than 19,000 people. An agreement with the county, required for federal funding important to keeping the centers open, expired last month. The most significant cost-cutting proposal — laying off 25 full- and part-time employees and closing five clinics — would save just \$3.3 million.



**Tom Perez (right), director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and former labor secretary, and Lansing Mayor Andy Schor toured the old Walter French Jr. High School Tuesday.** The school, more recently known as the Walter French Academy, at Mt. Hope Avenue and Cedar

Street, is being converted into a multi-family affordable housing development by Capital Area Housing Partnership. Afterward, Perez attended a roundtable at Oak Park YMCA with area agencies and organizations that have benefited from the Biden administration's American Rescue Plan Act.

**Danelle Hovenkamp, a former Lansing School District special ed teacher, has sued the district, claiming it has failed to consistently implement accommodations for students with learning disabilities.** She named the district, its board and Everett High School's principal, Amy Boyles, as defendants, filed in Ingham County Circuit Court. Hovenkamp, who worked for the district for six years, also alleged the district violated the Whistleblowers' Protection Act when it retaliated against her for filing complaints with the U.S. Education Department's Office of Civil Rights.



**Dr. Howard Brody, director of the Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences at Michigan State University from 1985 to 2000, died at his home in Knoxville, Tenn., on July 22.**

Brody was a family practice physician and MSU professor for more than 20 years. He researched and wrote extensively on end-of-life care, the placebo effect, the pharmaceutical industry and other topics related to medical ethics. Brody also wrote a health column for City Pulse during its first decade in the 2000s. He left MSU in 2006 to be director of the Institute for the Medical Humanities at University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston until he retired in 2016. He was 75.

**Lansing Community College Professor Jonathan Ten Brink, 42, was placed on administrative leave after being charged with child sexual abuse.** He was arrested July 17 in a sting involving the Lansing Police Department and the Eaton County Sheriff's Office. He was arraigned July 18 and pleaded not guilty to one count each of child sexually abusive activity and accosting a minor for immoral purposes and two counts of using a computer to commit a crime. Ten Brink was program faculty chair of LCC's music program. A hearing is scheduled for Aug. 8.



**The Lansing School District announced a plan Thursday to keep all four of its certified, full-time librarians, in addition to its high school librarians and 20 instructional assistants.**

The Board of Education will consider it Thursday (Aug. 1). The previous plan recommended removing two of the four full-time librarian positions and hiring 34 assistants, but the plan received strong community pushback at a July 18 board meeting at Eastern High School.



**Potter Park Zoo announced Tuesday on its blog and social media accounts the hatching of two Megellian penguin chicks, born July 16 and 19.** The births marked the second straight successful breeding for penguin parents Jayde and Skipper. Lead bird keeper Jake Brodie said it was the first time in more than 10 years that two eggs have hatched at the zoo. The chicks are off exhibit until they reach the next stage of development. Sweeney, their chick that hatched last year, still resides at the zoo.

### Public safety

A motorcyclist was critically injured in a crash with a sedan Sunday night at the intersection of Grand River Avenue and Howard Street in Frandor. The motorcyclist, who was not wearing a helmet, was thrown from his bike and taken to U-M Health-Sparrow Hospital. Lansing police are investigating the placement of a handwritten paper sign reading "So the Democrats can cheat" placed on a ballot dropbox at the Foster Community Center Thursday. Clerk Chris Swope said it was the first incident of its sort in Lansing. The city has video of the sign being attached to the box.



### Rose Garden in Frances Park

In 1908, J. Henry Moores continued his gifts to the people of Lansing with the installation of an inspirational bronze plaque in Moores Park on Lansing's near south side.

He had already built roads and bridges and installed other amenities at the 18-acre riverside park.

Moores made his fortune through buying and selling pine trees during the state's lumber boom in the 1800s. Later, he became one of the five stockholders of the Lansing Wheelbarrow Co., the world's largest producer of wheelbarrows.

Moores treated his adopted home of Lansing with great reverence, hoping to pass his love of nature to the next generation.

When he died in 1918, his will left the city the nearly 60-acre Frances Park, not far from his "cottage" on Moores River Drive, now one of Lansing most elegant neighborhoods. He requested the park be named "Frances" after his wife and that Moores River Drive continue with that name in perpetuity.

Frances Park, Lansing's largest park at the time, was in a rural setting adjacent to the Grand River. On weekends in the early 20th century, residents took leisurely drives along Moores River Drive.

In 1961, a rose garden, a gift of William and Hattie Present, was added to Frances Park, and recently a donation from the estate of June Kostman of \$200,000 was coupled with funds from the city of Lansing and the Michigan Natural Resources Department to upgrade the rose garden area, making it accessible and adding a pergola.

Frances Park is still a popular place for weddings, graduations and parties.

The Rose Garden is a sublime place to ponder nature and it is a wonderful example of nature, art and philanthropy crossing paths.

— BILL CASTANIER

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



# Voters need to grasp American campaigns, and money

By **DEDRIA HUMPHRIES BARKER**

Any number of emotions and ideas whirl in me as I continue to absorb the news about Kamala Harris, a Black American woman now one of two major party candidates to be the next president.

I am fiercely proud of her. I am also as surprised as anyone that President Biden endorsed her, even though she has been in position for the office for five years, first by campaigning for president in 2020, and then by being selected as Biden's 2020 running mate and getting elected as vice president. Now she is a candidate for POTUS again in 2024. A Black woman.

More than Rep. Shirley Chisholm, D-N.Y., whose presidential campaign went to court to win the doctrine of equal media time for candidates, Harris is a Black woman who has a real chance of being elected.

But I am more amazed by Biden. Over three weeks, volume and pressure for him to shelve his reelection effort amplified. The most unsure media reports were around the question of what will happen to his campaign money.

In total, he raised \$232 million, and at the end of May his campaign finance report said he had \$96 million left.

Just because the media didn't know what was going to happen doesn't mean Biden decided on impulse. He's accumulated more than a half century of lived campaign experience. He knew.

Campaign finance law allowed him to give his campaign fund to Kamala Harris because she was already a part of his campaign.

More of us need Harris' American political know-how. It's a super power.

I know more about politics after my run for public office (Lansing Charter Commission: 36 candidates, nine elected on May 7. I finished 15th).

I learned especially about campaign finance. That is, money. As calls increased for Biden to stand aside, I knew if he left the race, he would have to decide what to do with the money people gave him for his reelection effort. I had that issue too.

Media tells us often enough that money is the engine of political campaigns. "War chest," they call it. Yet, in articles speculating on Biden's stepping aside, a basic question was what happens to the money? Media sometimes take too much of a business approach to elections, using campaign

fundraising as a predictor of who will win. The barometer of money can be right or wrong.



Opinion

Without the anchor of my campaign treasurer, her job security being expertise in state campaign finance law and experience in a dozen campaigns, I might have paid a huge fine, as did another candidate. He had not even knocked on one door before he was fined \$300 for not filing campaign organization papers on time. The county clerk offered campaign finance training too late, in my opinion.

In the absence of campaign finance training, consumer spending behaviors can guide actions in political campaigns, but campaign finance laws are sticky and technical.

Before my campaign, I thought urgent email messages to "DONATE NOW," "ONLY TWO DAYS LEFT TO DONATE" were guerilla marketing. I ignored them.

My campaign treasurer taught me that contribution deadlines do exist, and when deadlines are violated, campaigns are fined. The fine amount? The same as the donation.

A candidate does all that work raising money only to hand it over to the government?

Yes.

Even politicians who should know better run afoul of basic campaign laws, one of which is that campaign funds are not candidate's personal money. But Lee Chatfield, former Republican speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, and his wife are scheduled to appear Thursday (Aug. 1) in an East Lansing court on charges of campaign fund embezzlement.



**Jacob D. Russell**

for Ingham County Commissioner,  
District 6

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Build a Better Future!**



Paid for by CTE Jacob Russell  
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In real life, one of the most common money transactions is a refund. but in for a political campaign a refund means something more than "it's the wrong color."

For instance, actor George Clooney cannot ask the Biden Victory Fund customer service department to please refund my money: OG Joe Biden does not fit me.

Contributor dissatisfaction with a candidate does not merit a refund, like in a store. Now that we have a new candidate, Clooney might be able to, in a manner of speaking, get store credit.

As the Federal Elections Commission explains online, campaign contributors receive refunds in only two situations. Neither one is wanting your money back.

One, refunds are made when checks are not deposited to the campaign account within 10 days. Then the check must be returned to the contributor, who can write a replacement check. Conveniently, electronic giving sends the money directly to the campaign account.

Second, federal law calls for refunds when individuals donate more than the law allows. This year, the amount is \$3,300 per cycle (primary vs. general election), up \$400 from 2022.

Trump's May report showed no refunds. His supporters gave exact change. But in May, Biden's campaign refunded \$101,483.24. That signals love for Biden.

There is such a thing as leftover campaign money. I had some.

I wanted that money. It was me who over-cafeinated on coffee dates asking for donations.

But, my treasurer said, "The people gave you the money to run your campaign. It's not yours, except to spend on your campaign." I donated my leftover money to a nonprofit, 501(c)3 foundation.



During this sprint of a presidential campaign, I am planning for my column to be an inside look at campaigning. Americans vote, but it's 'bout time we understood its mechanics.

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

**VOTE  
YES**

**For Seniors in  
Ingham County**

Over 13,000 older adults 60+ in Ingham County have been helped by the Elder Persons Millage - first adopted four years ago with a 76% vote, and now up for renewal on the August 6 ballot.

For more information, visit the "Vote Yes For Seniors in Ingham County" page on .

**Vote August 6th!**

Paid for by the Elder Services Millage Campaign Committee



# To diminish Lansing's mental health crisis, save old Eastern High

By **MARCO DIAZ-MUNOZ**

*(The writer is a professor in the Romance and Classical Studies Department at Michigan State University. A masked gunman broke into his class on Feb. 13, 2023, killing two of his students and injuring five others.)*

Looking back, Dr. Lou Anna K. Simon, a former president of Michigan State University, missed a great opportunity in 2013 when she allowed immediate monetary factors to determine the value of one of the oldest and most handsome academic buildings on the Campus of MSU, Morrill Hall, and agreed to demolish it.

I call it a mistake because it was. Buildings are not independent of their surroundings, but integral parts of them. A city is more than the aggregate of its parts, or the monetary value of each of its buildings; a city is the articulation of those parts, and that itself adds exponential value to the surroundings. In the case of MSU under President Simon, Morrill Hall was more than just an old building that was more costly to fix than to build a new one; it represented the opportunity to enhance more the character not only of the MSU campus, but of the community of East Lansing as a whole, and even economic opportunities that were missed. Turning Morrill Hall into a museum focused on MSU's past to pair it with the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum's focus on futurism would have tripled the interest in either of those two buildings alone. To experience two such very different exterior and interior spaces within a block and a half walking distance of each other would have added a stronger statement to the MSU campus architectural landscape and added a clear sense of homecoming to many people in October; let alone all the different economic possibilities Morrill Hall and its unique rooms offered to the university besides classroom space. And by that I mean character that other similarly prestigious campuses exude while ours could have benefitted from more. The high ceilings, grand halls and multiple rooms with fireplaces could have served as club space, event and fair space, shops and unique conference space that is not made of steel and glass and therefore so institutionalized and lacking in character — an attractive alternative with the right

publicity.

In an era where downtowns across the United States have for the most part disappeared, pushed by the drive to demolish and build new, atomizing and dividing communities into disjointed suburbs, the tide might just be turning, and we may feel nostalgia, wishing the old downtown buildings were still standing. Instead of add-

ing more and more new and impersonal steel and glass architectural cubes appearing everywhere in the globe, making each city indistinct one from the other perhaps only with the exception of size, we could help save part of what is left of Lansing's character. Tradition-

al dogmatic economic theories based on growth may be showing their clay feet by now. Under this form of

thinking, the harmonious skyline of East Lansing was altered in the last decade, and not for the better, I might add. We then rush to spend billions on vacations to sites that have conserved a connection to their past, a continuity upon which their identity is built. If those places we pay to visit followed our form of thinking, Rome, Paris, Florence, Venice would have been razed to the ground to build new and modern buildings, severing ties to the history that has brought them and us here.

Demolishing and building new seems to have been the vision of the 20th century, of the "progressive" modern architecture started by Le Corbusier and the functionalist movement a century ago. But some mistakenly still today continue to think that that is the vision for the 21st century. Our planet and communities are not going to make it into the future if we do not learn somehow to have sustainable growth, and perhaps even learn to live with little or no growth; something which may not work for capitalism, though it would for humanity as many of the inequalities of society have not been solved by capitalist economic growth. On the contrary, along with rapid economic growth has come the obscene concentration of wealth in fewer and fewer hands, increasing disparities globally that have certainly become visible in Lansing at every streetlight.

Engaging in new building projects, dissociated from the past, is not necessarily the solution of the new century.



**Opinion**



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

The rear of old Eastern High School with University of Michigan Health-Sparrow Hospital in the background. UM Health is considering tearing down the landmark school building, which it owns, and constructing a psychiatric hospital in its place.

Rather, repurposing what we do have (an approach clearly adopted by some innovative industries), especially when it has historic and much aesthetic value, may save us from the neurosis and psychosis of today's modern life. The aesthetic value of a majestic building could play a much-needed part in the dire mental health crisis in the city of Lansing. There is an undeniable connection between aesthetic beauty, serenity, inner peace and calmness so lacking in our modern world. Mental health institutions attempt offering this, though unsuccessfully, committing people inside new, impersonal buildings made of steel and thick glass.

Lansing has suffered from a lack of center, a lack of an integrated community, and mental health is not disconnected from that deficit here as we experienced it in my own classroom on Feb. 13 on the campus of MSU a year ago. We created disconnected, fragmented, centerless cities for segregated communities in the last half of the 20th century, leading to the flight to the suburbs, and leaving a void in inner cities for those in society we are least concerned with, the homeless and the mentally ill.

The Eastern High School building could be a great opportunity, not yet missed, to add a sense of center in Lansing. Old Town on Turner street and Cesar Chavez Avenue have attempted doing so, and we can already see the economic rewards, for people do crave a connection to the past, even

in Lansing. Instead of depriving the city of it as an imposition coming from outside forces, let this magnificent building, all of it, and not just the façade, be put to use for the benefit of the mentally ill and homeless, as a goodwill gift from the University of Michigan Health System to the city of Lansing. Let the homeless and the mentally ill experience the inspiring beauty and craftsmanship of a more interconnected bygone era. More concrete, cold steel and thick, tinted glass will not do what this magnificent building could do for them and for us all.

The Eastern High School building was created in the 1920s at the time when the world-renowned Mexican Muralism artistic movement emerged in war-torn Mexico due to civil strife, and the inspiration created by Mexican muralists with their public art in public spaces, accessible to the marginalized of Mexico, made a huge difference in building a strong sense of national identity in that country. The movement provided aesthetic beauty and art for the underprivileged masses, moving them, healing them, uniting them, rebuilding Mexico's sense of community. We in the United States experienced the benefit of Mexico's wise decision in waves that inspired the creation of a government-sponsored program for the arts under the Works Progress Administration of the New Deal, helping the vulnerable, impoverished and unemployed masses

See Eastern, Page 9



# Eastern

from page 8

during the Great Depression in the 1930s.

The Detroit Institute of Arts, and even the lobby of the old MSU Auditorium on Farm Lane witness the benefits of that important social movement. Mexican Muralism not only helped give meaning to Mexico’s marginalized groups through therapeutic beauty and tranquility in the walls of magnificent buildings open

to them, it united their whole nation. Even the ancient Greeks knew that when they built the Parthenon. Let Eastern High School be that opportunity and draw inspiration for community inspired murals along its extensive walls to create an aesthetic, and therefore therapeutic solution, helping the mentally ill and homeless while rebuilding identity in Lansing. Let me finish by underscoring that aesthetic beauty or lack thereof, identity and mental illness are all interconnected, and to not see that is definitely not a visionary approach to solving the mental health crisis in Lansing.

Memorial for

Julia Rodriguez

Saturday, Aug. 3

The Avenue



2021 E Michigan Ave, Lansing

1-3 p.m.



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

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY'S PROPOSED FISCAL 2025 PROGRAM OF PROJECTS & PUBLIC HEARING ON ITS PROPOSED FISCAL 2025 BUDGET		
Capital Area Transportation Authority hereby provides notice to the public and to private providers of its proposed fiscal 2025 program of projects and public hearing on its fiscal 2025 budget.		
The proposed fiscal 2025 program of projects follows:		
PROGRAM OF PROJECTS CAPITAL		
Section 5307 Formula Funding		
Item	Federal Share	Total Grant Budget
Less Than 30' Replacement Bus	\$ 555,500	\$ 694,375
Large Buses 40 Foot Replacement	\$ 4,721,383	\$ 5,901,729
Van Replacement	\$ 397,190	\$ 496,487
Facility Improvements (Admin, Maintenance, Storage)	\$ 173,189	\$ 216,486
Bus Terminal Facility Improvements	\$ 86,594	\$ 108,243
Facility – A & E Design (CTC/CAMG)	\$ 97,631	\$ 122,039
Customer Enhancements – Shelters	\$ 173,189	\$ 216,486
Customer Enhancements – Ped. Access/Walkways/Concrete	\$ 64,946	\$ 81,182
Customer Enhancements – A & E Design	\$ 8,659	\$ 10,824
Customer Enhancements – Signage	\$ 2,598	\$ 3,247
Spare Parts	\$ 127,345	\$ 159,181
IT Hardware and Software	\$ 255,287	\$ 319,109
Safety & Security – Equipment	\$ 64,906	\$ 81,132
Maintenance Equipment	\$ 86,594	\$ 108,243
Support Vehicle Replacement	\$ 84,897	\$ 106,121
Preventive Maintenance	\$ 952,540	\$ 1,190,675
Planning	\$ 21,649	\$ 27,061
Consultant Services	\$ 63,474	\$ 79,342
Emergency Response	\$ 1,299	\$ 1,624
Total	\$ 7,938,869	\$ 9,923,586

Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Funding		
Item	Federal Share	Total Grant Budget
Large Buses 40-foot Replacement	\$ 446,666	\$ 558,332
Less Than 30' Replacement Bus	\$ 402,970	\$ 503,713
Total	\$ 849,636	\$ 1,062,045
Section 5310 Funding Request		
Item	Federal Share	Total Grant Budget
Less Than 30' Replacement Bus	\$ 318,311	\$ 397,889
Total	\$ 318,311	\$ 397,889
OPERATIONS		
Federal Share Section 5307 and Other*	\$	15,780,000
State Share*	\$	21,684,000
Local Share	\$	26,388,000
Farebox and Other	\$	8,125,400
Total	\$	71,977,400
Total Capital/Operations	\$	83,360,920
The proposed program of projects will constitute the final program of projects if there are no changes. Additional details on the proposed fiscal 2025 program of projects and a copy of the proposed fiscal 2025 budget are available for public inspection at CATA's Administration Building, 4615 Tranter St., Lansing, MI 48910.		
CATA will hold a public hearing on its proposed fiscal 2025 budget Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2024, at 4 p.m. at the Lansing Center Governor's Room, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933.		
The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. This will be a levy under the current authorized millage. There is <b>NO</b> proposal for a new millage.		
Written comments on the program of projects or the budget should be addressed to CATA Marketing, Attn: Program/Budget Comments, 4615 Tranter St., Lansing, MI 48910, or emailed to <a href="mailto:marketing@cata.org">marketing@cata.org</a> and must be received by 4 p.m., Aug. 21, 2024. Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and should be requested by Aug. 19, 2024.		
Capital Area Transportation Authority Bradley T. Funkhouser, AICP, Chief Executive Officer		
		
*Includes federal and state preventive-maintenance funds.		
		CP#24-592

**CITY OF GRAND LEDGE  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Grand Ledge City Council will hold a public hearing during its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, 26 August 2024, to consider and receive public input on an ordinance amending the Zoning District Map referred to in City Code Chapter 46- Zoning, Article IV – Zoning Districts and Map, Section 46-94 – Zoning District Map, to conditionally rezone the property located at 5776 E. Saginaw Hwy. (parcel #030-13-200-040-00) and the large vacant parcel located immediately to the east (parcel #030-013-200-062-01) from AG Agricultural to R-HD Multiple Family Residential. The proposed ordinance is available for review on the City's website at [www.cityofgrandledge.com](http://www.cityofgrandledge.com) and at the City Clerk's office, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge, Michigan, between 8:00 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge MI 48837, in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, as amended, and will also be livestreamed via Zoom for informational purposes only. The online stream can be accessed at <https://www.zoom.us> with the Meeting ID: 865 2594 0180, or by calling +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC), +1 305 224 1968 US, +1 309 205 3325 US, +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), +1 646 876 9923 US (New York), +1 646 931 3860 US, +1 253 205 0468 US, +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma), +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston), +1 360 209 5623 US, +1 386 347 5053 US, +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose), +1 507 473 4847 US, +1 564 217 2000 US, +1 669 444 9171 US, +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose), +1 689 278 1000 US, +1 719 359 4580 US, with Meeting ID: 865 2594 0180.

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

Gregory Newman, City Clerk

**CP#24-595**



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY  
LEGAL AD NOTICE: WHITEHILLS SOUTH #1  
PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING IMPROVEMENT  
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 428**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
WHITEHILLS LAKES SOUTH #1 PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING IMPROVEMENT  
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 428  
NOTICE OF HEARING**

**TO THE RECORD OWNERS OF, OR PARTIES IN INTEREST IN, THE FOLLOWING  
PROPERTY CONSTITUTING THE PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT:**

Lots 1 through 13 (inclusive), Whitehills Lakes South #1

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a special assessment roll for the Whitehills Lakes South #1 Public Streetlighting Public Streetlighting Improvement Special Assessment District No. 428 (install, operate, and maintain streetlights along Southridge Road) has been prepared and is on file in the Office of the Township Clerk for public examination. Said special assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the cost of the above described public improvements to the property benefited therefrom. All questions and/or concerns should be directed to Meridian Township Department of Public Works at (517) 853-4440.

**TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Township Board will meet Thursday, August 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll and hearing objections thereto. Said roll may be examined at the public hearing. The Township Board is also interested in hearing those that favor the proposed project.

Appearance and protest at the hearing in the special assessment proceedings is required in order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the state tax tribunal. Your personal appearance at the hearing is not required, but you or your agent may appear in person at the hearing and protest the special assessment. To make an appearance and protest, you must file your written objections by letter or other writing with the Township Clerk before the close of this hearing. The owner or any person having an interest in the real property may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the state tax tribunal with 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll if that person appeared and protested the special assessment at this hearing.

Dated:  
Deborah Guthrie, Township Clerk  
Charter Township of Meridian

**CP#24-600**

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[meridian.mi.us](http://meridian.mi.us)

## Building hospital might worsen psych crisis

My heart sank reading about the possibility of U of M Health Sparrow converting the Eastern High School building into a psychiatric facility. My career as a dance therapist and counselor began in psychiatric hospitals, including a brand-new facility in Portland, Oregon, created to solve psychiatric boarding, the same problem that Sparrow is hoping to solve. Although I loved bringing the healing power of movement to people in acute emotional distress, I made the difficult decision to leave a failing hospital system. In-patient psychiatric hospitalization increases the risk of suicide, and that risk has been rising for five decades. People with comparable psychiatric symptoms fare better in alternatives, a fact I know all too well.

I was born at Sparrow and raised on Lansing's east side. During a difficult 7th grade year at Pattengill, I attempted suicide. Sparrow pumped my stomach and discharged me with the agreement that my parents would take me to counseling. The next day, my dad encouraged me to take a walk with him on Lansing's River Trail. I remember seeing the river and murals near Impression 5, and the both awful and incredible feeling of being alive after such an ordeal. My mom found a counselor who worked with youth, and after several awkward sessions we clicked. In therapy, I explored the context of my crisis and found relief.

After graduating from Lansing Eastern, volunteering at the Listening Ear Crisis Hotline solidified my interest in a mental health career. During graduate school, I moved to Oregon for my internship. After finishing, I worked at every psychiatric hospital in the city. My breaking point came when I experienced six suicides (four patients, two co-workers) in under two years. Recently, the dangers of hospitalization resurfaced when a friend admitted herself to a hospital for suicidal ideation, then killed herself a week after discharge.

I often think how different my life would be if I had been hospitalized at age 12 instead of being able to walk on the riverwalk with my dad. Losing my autonomy and being required to take antidepressants — which now carry mandatory warnings of increased suicide risk in young people — would have made my situation worse. I was not the type of teen to comply and likely would have experienced restraints and seclusion rather than what actually helped: compassionate conversations with my counselor.

Many communities seek hope through a new hospital, but more beds cannot solve a mental health crisis. The people of Lansing deserve a thorough examination of their mental health crisis service options, including likely costs and outcomes. Less restrictive crisis and preventative options such as peer support, respite houses, drop-in single session therapy clinics, non-police mobile crisis teams, and voucher programs for counseling should be examined. It is incumbent on Sparrow that they provide evidence that building this hospital will improve patient outcomes in Lansing, because if Sparrow's proposal follows current trends, its contribution to Lansing will be expanding a suicide crisis.

**Colleen Donaldson  
Milwaukee**  
*(The writer said she is a board-certified dance/movement therapist and licensed mental health counselor.)*

## Harris is the democratic choice

I disagree with Kyle Melinn's assertion (July 24) that Democrats are "rolling over democracy" by uniting behind Vice President Kamala Harris as their presidential candidate. The party-driven primary process has always been an instance of representative, rather than direct, democracy. Primary ballots are cast for delegates to the convention, who then represent the will of the voters should unforeseen circumstances arise. Candidates are mortal, and time comes for us all. The Biden-Harris campaign won an overwhelming majority of delegates over Marianne Williamson, Dean Phillips, and "uncommitted."

This meant that delegates had a choice on the Sunday when Biden chose to withdraw. Prospective candidates (Melinn mentions Newsom, Buttigieg and Whitmer) had a choice as well: to

enter the race and make their case, or to endorse Harris.

Harris rapidly secured the support of a majority of first-round delegates and became the presumptive nominee. In the next month, the delegates will cast their votes.

How could this have been more democratic, without depriving candidates or delegates of their freedom to choose? You can't have a competition without competitors. It is not productive for delegates to pretend they have not decided when they have. Vice President Kamala Harris is the party's nominee. The true test for a democracy whose foundations were shaken on January 6, 2021, is coming on Nov. 5.

**Matt Penniman  
East Lansing**

**Letters to  
the editor**



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River Ave Lansing, MI

# Most hotly contested primary race? It's for Meridian Township clerk

The Lansing area's hottest Aug. 6 primary race isn't a national, state or even countywide contest.

It's in Meridian Township, where Clerk Deborah Guthrie failed to pay an outstanding \$150 campaign fine before she filed and was kicked off the ballot two weeks before the filing deadline.

In the mad scramble that followed, three Democrats filed for the nomination:

— Angela Demas, a 21-year-old Michigan State graduate who has been working for elected public officials such as then-Sen. Curtis Hertel since she was in high school.

— Mike McCurdy, 49, co-chair of a nonprofit prison reform project designed to help exonerate wrongly accused inmates. Before that, he ran a student housing cooperative at Michigan State.

— Emily Stivers, 43, a former Ingham County commissioner who served on the Meridian Township Appeals Board and the Planning Commission.

Guthrie tried to marshal a write-in campaign but quickly abandoned that effort.

One Republican, Patty McPhee of Haslett, filed, but she has not been as visible in the primary.

Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum, Rep. Julie Brixie, Hertel, Sen. Sam Singh and the rest of the traditional Democratic establishment quickly got behind Demas, who made a strong impression on them as a campaign volunteer. Demas has united with the incumbent supervisor, treasurer and three trustees to run as a slate.

The elected leaders saw promise in a fresh-out-of-school leader who was instantly ready to serve her community. Earlier this year, she was among the final three applicants for a vacant township trustee appointment. When she didn't get it, her initial plan for 2024 was to run the communications shop for Hertel's congressional campaign.

McCurdy scored progressive community support: former Rep. Lynn Jondahl, Ingham County Commissioner Bob Peña, former Judge Jim Giddings and the clerk in Washtenaw County endorsed him. His selling point was that he's run a smaller organization before and has the managerial experience. Politically, he's been working for U.S. Senate candidate Hill Harper, campaign finance records show.

And Stivers has touted her friendship with East Lansing Clerk Marie Wicks and her background in serving in various

posts within state, Ingham County and Meridian Township government.

The friction started fairly early when McCurdy sent out an email accusing Demas' stepfather, political consultant Joe DiSano, of being the brains behind an organization called "Meridian Democrats for Biden" that McCurdy said attacked his character through robo-calls and text messaging.

The presumption was based on DiSano calling out McCurdy over social media for a union bug not being visible on a campaign sign and questioning McCurdy's allegiance to President Biden, among other things.

McCurdy has vocally supported Palestinians, having worked in the Gaza Strip in 2003 as a human rights observer. His strong opinions on "Jewish extremism" and "Jewish supremacy" caught the attention of Demas, who is Jewish herself.

"Those words raise some red flags to me," she said. "I know that this is a clerk's position, and it should be focused on our elections and also as a voting member of the Meridian Township board, but I can see how that would relate."

McCurdy supporters have told me his comments have been taken out of context.

Otherwise, Demas made it clear that anything DiSano is or isn't doing has nothing to do with her campaign. She said she, alone, speaks for her campaign.

On the ground, McCurdy seems to be winning the yard sign battle, but both he and Demas have been working the doors hard. Both are raising money, although Demas' numbers are higher because she's given her own campaign \$54,403.

Meanwhile, Stivers is running an admittedly "bare-bones campaign" due to temporary physical limitations. She's tried to stay out of the line of sight of DiSano, whom she calls "frighteningly intimidating" and says "thrives on discord."

All the while, Demas' young age is an underlying factor in the race. McCurdy said he doesn't have anything against his opponent but "she doesn't have the experience for such an important role."

Demas said she isn't running away from her age. Yes, she's young, but she's learning the job firsthand in Delhi Township as a seasonal worker in the Clerk's Office.

How does it all turns out? I'm not a Meridian Township voter and don't have a position.

That said, amid a rather dull primary season locally, the race has given political observers like me something to watch.

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

POLITICS  
KYLE MELINN



# ARTS & CULTURE

## ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

# Local painters venture into 'plein air' to connect with source, each other

By **CHELSEA LAKE ROBERTS**

"En plein air" is a French term meaning "in the open air." The practice of painting en plein air was solidified in France during the early 1800s, when portable easels and, later, the invention of paint tubes allowed artists to travel out of their studios and create "in situ," or onsite.

"You're connecting to the Earth. You're hearing the birds and the frogs, you're feeling the breeze, you're smelling the smells. We painted at a lavender farm a few weeks ago in Webberville, and when I got out of the car, the smell was just incredible," Andrea Jeris said, describing the experience of painting with En Plein Air Mid-Michigan, a group of local artists who get together weekly to create among nature.

Founded by Juanita Baldwin in 2012, the group will exhibit its work at Framer's Edge in Okemos tomorrow (Aug. 1) through Aug. 27, with an opening reception from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday (Aug. 4). The work is also available to view online at [framersedge.net/en-plein-air-august](http://framersedge.net/en-plein-air-august).

Jeris said she first tried painting outdoors while living in California.

"When I moved back to my native Michigan, I was surprised that they do it here because of the weather," she said.

The group meets from 9 a.m. to noon every Thursday from May through October.

"We call ourselves fairweather painters," Jeris said with a laugh. "But some groups do paint in the winter."

Baldwin started the group to "meet real people once a week in this world where we're all glued to cell phones and other devices" and to enjoy the warm weather season in Michigan.

"Painting in the studio offers certain measures of comfort and enjoyment: the right temperature, my favorite music and a cup of freshly brewed coffee, among others. However, I find it invigorating to experience the elements. I immensely enjoy feeling the warm breeze in summer,



Courtesy of Andrea Jeris

En Plein Air Mid-Michigan artists paint at the DeVries Nature Conservancy in Owosso.

the exuberance of nature, the contrast of light and shadows — and the fact that outdoors isn't as messy as my studio," Baldwin said.

Jeris and Baldwin are both part of a larger group, the Mid-Michigan Art Guild. Back in 2012, Baldwin connected with a few other artists to begin painting outside. It was an informal experiment that has grown to a sturdy email list of about 45 people, with five to 12 artists in attendance at each week's meetup.

"We have watercolorists, and sometimes someone will bring their pastels. If someone can't stay for the whole time, they might just bring a sketchbook and make some sketches for an hour," Jeris said.

The location changes from week to week to allow painters to take inspiration from a variety of scenes.

"We go to parks, we go to farms, and we went to Old Town and painted on the streets. That was a different experience because I was on one side of the street, painting the other side of the street. Cars kept pulling

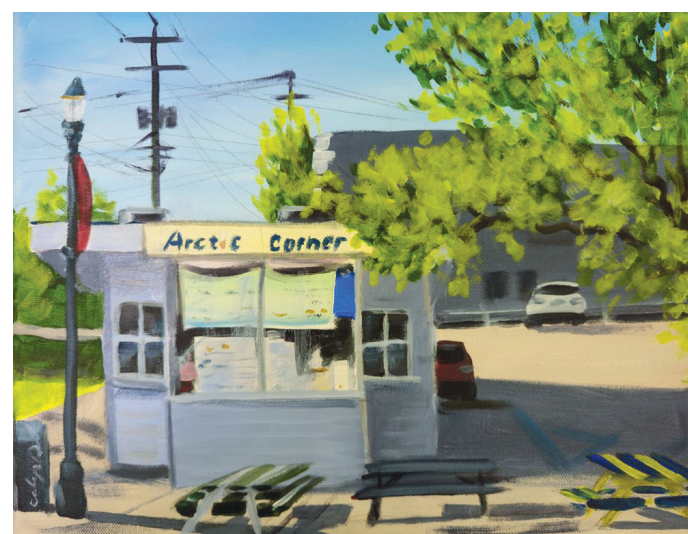
up and blocking my view!" Jeris said. "We went up to DeVries in Owosso when they had their full sunflower field. Most of the year, we're painting in a lot of green, so when we come across a sunflower or lavender field, it's a gift. And then in the fall, we get the colors."

According to Jeris, a first-time plein air artist might feel a little overwhelmed because there's so much to look at when painting outside.

"A still life is a very small, contained area, and when you're outdoors, you've got 360 degrees of views to look at. People think, 'What do I paint?' You have to wander around a little, and eventually, a scene will speak to you, and you'll say, 'This is my spot,'" she said.

Framer's Edge owner LeeAnn Buckingham called the group "unique and very close-knit."

"They share a lot of fun and laughter when they meet together to paint onsite. It's awesome — it builds a lot of strength within the artists, and they're very supportive of each other," she said.



Courtesy photo

"Old Town Treat," by Carolyn Damstra, is one of more than 25 pieces in En Plein Air Mid-Michigan's August art show at Framer's Edge in Okemos.

Baldwin also emphasized the group's supportiveness.

"I like the social interaction, the conversations that occur between painting and looking around. We don't critique other people's work. We will offer an opinion only if the artist requests it," she said.

Framer's Edge has hosted the group's annual art show the past four years as well. An artist herself, Buckingham said, "We really love supporting local artists. It's a lot of fun displaying their artwork. We have it posted on our online store and on Facebook."

Fourteen artists are included in the show, which depicts landscapes from well-loved Lansing locales like Hawk Island Park, Tollgate Wetlands and even Arctic Corner in Old Town.

Baldwin considers it a privilege to be the founder and organizer of the group.

"We've been going since May 2012, but during the pandemic in particular, it offered a chance for us to get together while maintaining the necessary physical separation and was a spiritual and emotional salvation for many of us," she said. "The privilege of creating such a successful group has been very fulfilling for me."

### "Alluring Nature 2024"

Aug. 1-27  
Framer's Edge  
1856 W. Grand River Ave.,  
Okemos  
Noon-5:30 Monday  
10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tuesday-  
Wednesday, Saturday  
10 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday-Friday  
(517) 347-7400  
[framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net)

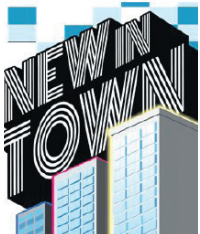


# Whites, reds and charcuterie spreads

## Graham Vineyard and Winery opens in Laingsburg

By TYLER SCHNEIDER

Heather and Michael McDonald have been running their Laingsburg wedding venue, Graham Banquet Center, since 2016. However, several years ago, they began looking for a way to



utilize more of their 6.5-acre property. They decided to pursue winemaking, which led to the establishment of a sister operation on the property, Graham Vineyard and Winery.

### Graham Vineyard and Winery

8920 W. Britton Road,  
Laingsburg  
3-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday  
Noon-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday  
Noon-5 p.m. Sunday  
(517) 741-0805  
facebook.com/p/  
Graham-Vineyard-and-  
Winery-61556516357116

trial and error.”

The winery opened for business on June 7 with 15 different wines at the ready. Guests can enjoy classics like cabernet sauvignon, merlot, moscato, pinot grigio, riesling, rosé and traminette, plus flavored wines like cherry, raspberry and sparkling peach.

“We’re going to be adding another 10, hopefully by this fall or next spring. We’ll also always have some specialty wine blends and stuff that our customers tell us they think would be lovely to try,” McDonald said.

The duo is still in the process of outfitting their land to grow their own grapes. For now, they’re sourcing their ingredients from other wineries across Michigan.

“We’ve started clearing trees at the back of the property, and we’re hoping that we can earn enough funds to get that started by next spring,” McDonald said. “We’ll never have the acreage for all our wines, but no winery does. So, you’re always going to have to outsource through other vineyards to carry all the wines you have. We try to keep everything local.”

The food is another draw, McDonald said. The menu includes pizzas, sandwiches, wraps, salads, charcuterie boards, kids’ meals and more.

“All of our dishes are artisan and scratch-made,” she said. “Our guests

just devour them. They absolutely love them, and we’ve been very blessed with the easy spread of word of how delicious our food is.”

McDonald noted that the winery is kid- and pet-friendly and also offers camping through Harvest Hosts, a Colorado-based company that connects owners of wineries, farms, breweries, museums and other attractions with RV owners looking for somewhere to dock for the night.

“If you have a camper or motor home, you can log in and pay their dues, then travel with your camper or RV and stay the night on the property,” McDonald

explained.

The winery occasionally closes to accommodate special events like weddings, but McDonald said its online hours will be kept as up-to-date as possible ahead of expected closures.

Overall, she hopes the new winery will provide a “laid-back” atmosphere where “everybody’s very neighborly and having a good time.”

“When my husband and I are on vacation or traveling, we’ll go to several wineries in a day. That’s what I wanted Lansing to have — another location for people to stop and relax and enjoy their stay,” she said.



Courtesy photo

Last month, Michael (left) and Heather McDonald expanded their Laingsburg wedding venue, Graham Banquet Center, to include a winery offering 15 varieties of vino and an artisanal food menu.

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30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

JazzFest

2024 • MICHIGAN



4 OUTDOOR & INDOOR STAGES  
› FRI AUG 2 • SAT AUG 3

20+ BANDS - General Admission \$15 › good for both Friday and Saturday

**CELEBRATING 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
Thirty years ago, when you walked through north Lansing, you would see mostly empty and boarded-up buildings. In the 1980s, a handful of artists set up studios and opened a few art galleries in the vacant buildings. In 1995, MICA produced the first JazzFest Michigan, which placed a spotlight on the historic commercial district we now know as Old Town. The journey has been steady. MICA helped establish Old Town as one of the first urban Main Streets in the nation. Now there are myriad thriving businesses, galleries, restaurants, boutiques, nightclubs, restored and new buildings, loft apartments and waiting lists of people wanting to live here. MICA is thankful to be able to serve as the catalyst for this community transformation and recognizes the significance that arts and artists play in sustainable economic development of a region. Please come this week and celebrate JazzFest Michigan's 30th Anniversary.

- 4 VENUES & 5 DAYS** We've added a kickoff concert on Wednesday night and a Sunday Gospel Fest. There are four venues: the MICA Stage, MessageMakers Stage, Tripp Stage, and UrbanBeat Stage.
- ENJOY THE SOCIAL DISTRICT** Old Town's designation as a Social District means festival-goers can buy, consume and walk on the streets with appropriately labeled alcoholic beverages from sponsor UrbanBeat and other bars and restaurants while experiencing all the Festival has to offer.
- T-SHIRTS & POSTERS** Festival T-shirts & Posters will be on sale Friday and Saturday. Artist Nicole Butcher will be signing Festival posters at MICA Gallery on Saturday AUG 3, from 5pm to 7pm.

MICHIGAN INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

Wed JUL 31 • Thur AUG 1

Fri AUG 2 • Sat AUG 3 • Sun AUG 4

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KICK OFF CONCERT › WED JUL 31

Ann Bell  
6:30pm

Clique Vocals  
7:30pm



BENEFIT CONCERT › THUR AUG 1

Anthony Taylor Trio  
6:30pm

Walter Blanding  
& Friends - 7:30pm



SUN AUG 4 • GospelFest – MICA Stage

11 am Service | 1 pm Gospel Performances



Paul Leroy Porter • Leila Taraneh • Semaje • Anthony Taylor

General admission \$20



MICA

MICHIGAN INSTITUTE  
FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

GALLERY

Featuring the artwork of

Matthew D. Anderson

AUG & SEPT 2024 • 1210 Turner St

TICKET INFORMATION Buy online at **micharts.org** or on-site.

WEDNESDAY KICK OFF CONCERT is free (limited seating)

THURSDAY BENEFIT CONCERT \$20 or donation.

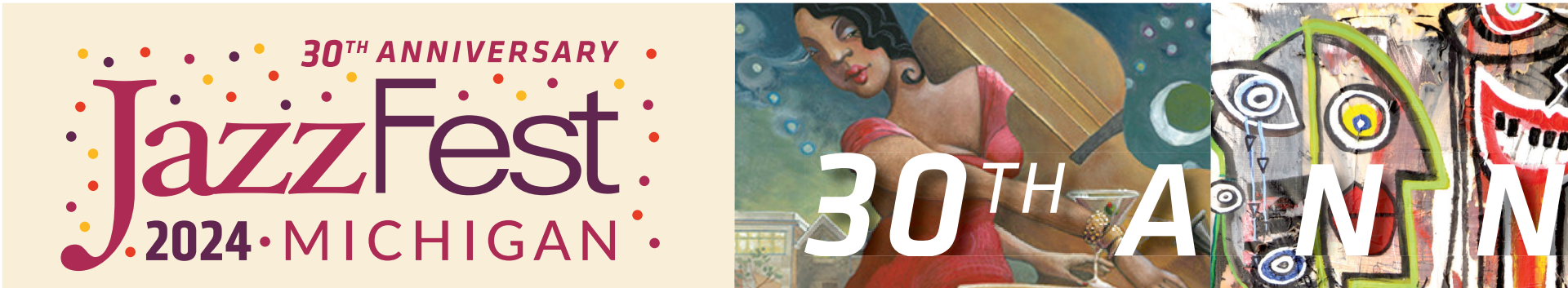
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY \$15 good for both days.

Over 20 Bands That's less than \$1.00 per band!

SUNDAY GOSPELFEST \$20.







WED JUL 31 • KICK OFF CONCERT

**ANN BELL**  
6:30pm | **UrbanBeat**,  
1213 Turner  
Dynamic singer, songwriter  
and pianist.



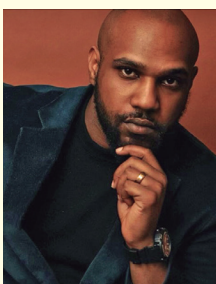
**CLIQUE VOCALS**  
7:30pm | **UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner  
Performing classic jazz ballads of the 1920s–’50s, plus a mix  
of pop and contemporary, Dan Templin and Kelly Sandula-  
Gruner are known for unique style with tight harmonies.

THUR AUG 1 • BENEFIT CONCERT

**For MICA’s KidzBeat Programs and Lawrence ‘Lo’ Leathers (L3)  
Foundation.** L3 provides scholarships and assistance to emerging  
artists seeking education in the Performing Arts. It was formed  
to memorialize Lawrence Leathers, the Lansing native and gifted  
young musician who lost his life in 2019. Lo won 2 consecutive  
Grammys performing with acclaimed singer Cecile McLorin Salvant.

**ANTHONY TAYLOR TRIO**  
6:30pm | **UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner

Anthony Taylor has an  
impressive music resume,  
including co-writing and  
producing Cried, a Pop Billboard  
Top 10 single with Candice  
Glover. Anthony will also be  
leading Sunday’s Gospel Show.



**WALTER BLANDING & FRIENDS**  
7:30pm | **UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner  
Walter Blanding embodies the spirit of a modern saxophonist  
– adept in jazz tradition, fluent in diverse styles, and a passionate  
educator. From his beginnings in New York City to his international  
acclaim, Blanding’s story is a testament to dedication, versatility,  
and pushing the boundaries of his instrument. He is also  
a professor of jazz in MSU’s world renowned Jazz Studies  
program. This will be a performance not to be missed.

FRI AUG 2



**SCHOOL OF ROCK › Adult Band**  
5:00pm | **Tripp Stage**  
School of Rock East Lansing delivers a revolutionary music  
program where students can refine their skills in popular styles  
and then go on to perform at notable live music venues.

**ANN BELL**  
5:30pm | **UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner

**BILL CESSNA TRIO**  
5:30pm | **MessageMakers Stage**  
Bill Cessna is a jazz pianist/multi-  
instrumentalist with a mission to  
preserve and celebrate jazz music  
and improvisation. Bill performs in  
Detroit and Chicago and composes  
original music. Bill’s first album,  
“Background Music,” was released  
in 2022.



**FREDDIE CUNNINGHAM  
AND F&J INC.**  
6:30pm | **MICA Stage**

Lansing’s own Blues legend  
Freddie Cunningham brings his  
powerful yet smooth vocals and  
storytelling prowess to the  
JazzFest stage. After 32 years as  
the voice and sound of Root Doctor,  
Michigan’s most celebrated Blues  
band, Freddie will now be bringing  
his own personal flair to jazz classics.



**MINOR ELEMENT**  
7:45pm | **MessageMakers Stage**  
Minor Element is an all-instrumental jazz fusion band from  
West Michigan founded by Keyboardist Brandon Fitzpatrick.  
Their sound is inspired by jazz, rock, gospel, classical, and fusion.  
Get energized by this outstanding band.



**CLIQUE VOCALS**  
8:00pm | **UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner



**TUMBAO BRAVO**  
9:00pm | **MICA Stage**  
Tumbao Bravo has won Detroit Music Awards on three different  
occasions for Best Jazz Recording, Best World Music Recording,  
and Best World Music Band. With tight arrangements and sizzling  
solo work, Tumbao Bravo performs the authentic rhythms of Cuba,  
including mambo, cha cha, rumba, and bolero, combined with rich,  
original jazz harmonics featuring congas, timbales, sax, flute, piccolo,  
trumpet, piano, and bass. Tumbao Bravo will make you want to move!

**BASHIRI ASAD**  
10:30pm | **UrbanBeat**,  
1213 Turner

Bashiri Asad has come to define his  
sound as “IndySoul”. Hailing from  
Indianapolis, Bashiri Asad is an  
award-winning Soul/Jazz Singer-  
Songwriter whose recent album  
“The Everyday Soulsinger” was  
released in 2023.



**AFTERGLOW • BASHIRI ASAD**  
11:30pm | **UrbanBeat**, 1213 Turner › *Limited seating*  
Bashiri Asad will perform followed by a band-led jam session  
with other festival musicians until 1:00 am.







SAT AUG 3

KIDZBEAT › Tripp Stage

2:00pm | Children's Ballet Theatre & Powers Dance

Combine to perform light-hearted dances by children for children of all ages. Directed by Jesse Powers.

2:30pm | Instrument Petting Zoo

Children and adventurers of all ages can try their hand at stringed instruments, keyboard, and percussion in this playful experience with encouraging musicians, led by Roger Gentry and Friends.

3:00pm | Greater Lansing Ballet Company & Academy of Dance

Under the direction of Jlm McEwan, Greater Lansing Ballet Company and Greater Lansing Academy of Dance perform classical and contemporary choreography that's fun for the whole family. This performance includes an opportunity for children to join in one of the dances.

JAMM BAND

2:00pm | MICA Stage

The Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan (JAMM) awards a music scholarship annually to a young jazz musician. This JAMM Band comprises past and present scholarship winners, led by Doug Fritch on guitar.



OLIVIA VAN GOOR with REUBEN STUMP TRIO

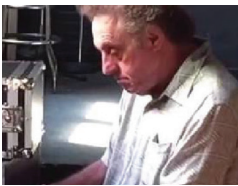
3:00pm | MessageMakers Stage

Olivia Van Goor is an award-winning Detroit-based jazz vocalist, band leader, arranger, and composer. Nominated for Best Vocal Jazz Album of 2021 by the Detroit Music Awards and Outstanding Vocalist in 2023, Van Goor has produced the show "Duets" with vocalist/bassist Reuben Stump, exploring the history of vocal jazz duets.

TOM DUFFIELD

3:00pm | UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner

A JazzFest favorite, Tom Duffield's repertoire includes interpretations of the standards as well as some surprises.



MARBIN WORKSHOP

4:00pm | UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner › Limited seating

Marbin, a progressive jazz-rock band based in Chicago, will be offering a special jazz workshop and then will be performing at 6:30pm on the MICA Stage.



LANSING CONCERT BAND-BIG BAND

4:00pm | MICA Stage

A local favorite, The Lansing Concert Band-Big Band plays the great jazz standards. Jim Kasprzak, lead trumpet, directs this dynamic 18-piece group composed of traditional jazz-era instrumentation, including full sections of saxophones, trombones, and trumpets, plus a swingin' rhythm section. The ensemble also features vocalists Dan Templin and Kelly Sandula-Gruner.

SCHOOL OF ROCK › Kids Band

4:00pm | Tripp Stage

School of Rock East Lansing delivers a revolutionary music program where students can refine their skills in popular styles and then go on to perform at notable live music venues.

MATT VON RODERICK

5:00pm | MessageMakers Stage

Innovative jazz trumpeter and heart-centered crooner Matt Von Roderick has been hailed by The New York Times as "a post-millennial Chet Baker" and by JazzTimes as "a top-drawer trumpeter who also sings like an angel obscured by a storm cloud". Expect an intimate performance celebrating Von Roderick's latest album, Celestial Heart.



SCHOOL OF ROCK › Adult Band

5:30pm | Tripp Stage

School of Rock East Lansing delivers a revolutionary music program where students can refine their skills in popular styles and then go on to perform at notable live music venues.

FAITH QUASHIE

6:00pm | MessageMakers Stage

The Faith Quashie Quintet is a harmonious fusion of musical talents, offering an enchanting journey through the realms of rhythm, melody, and soulful improvisation. This quintet is poised to captivate hearts and minds.



TOM DUFFIELD

6:30pm | UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner



MARBIN

6:30pm | MICA Stage

Marbin is a progressive jazz-rock band based in Chicago, with a unique story that stands out in today's music world. Bringing their original instrumental music to every part of the United States, Marbin has gained hundreds of thousands of devoted fans all over the world and has sold tens of thousands of albums.

CLIQUE VOCALS

7:30pm | UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner

WALTER BLANDING & FRIENDS

8:30pm | MessageMakers Stage

Walter Blanding embodies the spirit of a modern saxophonist – adept in jazz tradition, fluent in diverse styles, and a passionate educator. From his beginnings in New York City to his international acclaim, Blanding's story is a testament to dedication, versatility, and pushing the boundaries of his instrument.



PLANET D NONET

9:30pm | MICA Stage

Detroit's Planet d Nonet is nationally known for curating some of the best in early jazz traditions and Black-American musical influences from the '20s, '30s and '40s. Nominated and awarded multiple honors over the past decade, the band's repertoire is unmatched, paying tribute to the music of Duke Ellington, Fletcher Henderson and the proto-R&B sounds of Detroit artists such as Paul "Hucklebuck" Williams and King Porter.

AFTERGLOW • MARBIN

11:00pm | UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner - Limited seating

The band will perform from 11pm-12am, followed by a band-led jam session with other festival musicians until 1:00 am.

SUN AUG 4



GospelFest CONCERT

Service 11:00am | Concert 1:00-5:00pm MICA Stage

Get ready for a blessed and spiritual experience at GospelFest Sunday at JazzFest Michigan, presented by Southside Records in Lansing, MI. This special event, hosted by Pastor Anthony Taylor, CEO of Southside Records, will feature a talented lineup of artists including Paul Porter, Leila Taraneh, Semaje, Spoken Praise, and B-R-E The Rapper. Church service will start at 11 am, followed by the concert at 1 pm.

Prepare to be deeply moved by powerful performances from these incredibly talented gospel artists! Come and join us for an amazing celebration of faith, music, and community where the presence of God will be truly felt. In addition to the soul-stirring music, there will be an array of vendors showcasing unique and inspiring goods, delicious food to savor, and even a bounce house for the little ones to enjoy. Don't miss this opportunity to uplift your soul and be part of a truly blessed gathering.



LIVESTREAM

Portions of the festival will be livestreamed at vimeo.

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/JAZZFESTLIVESTREAM2024](https://bit.ly/jazzfestlivestream2024)



30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

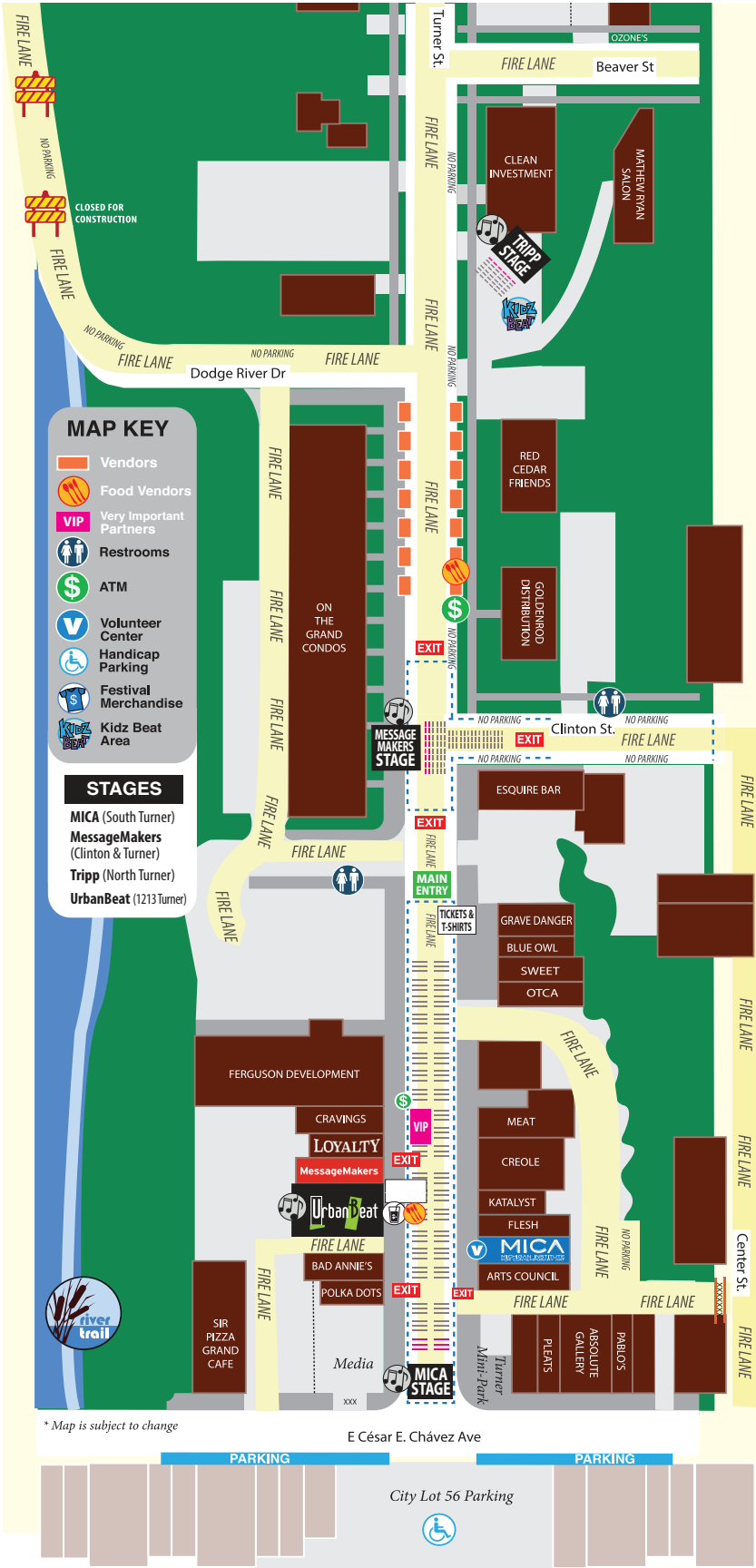
JazzFest

2024 • MICHIGAN

ON TURNER ST AT CESAR CHAVEZ AVE, IN OLD TOWN, LANSING

Wed JUL 31 • Thur AUG 1  
Fri AUG 2 • Sat AUG 3 • Sun AUG 4

The mission of the **Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art**, a 501(c)3 non profit, is to create open spaces where people can come together, meet old friends, make new friends, and in the context of the arts explore ways to bring about positive community transformation. MICA's exhibitions in the visual arts and programs in music, performance, film and literature provide opportunities to entertain, educate and inspire. For more, see **micharts.org**.  
*Grants, donations, sponsorships and other revenues support art programs and artists.*



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WED JUL 31 • KICK OFF CONCERT

6:30pm	Ann Bell	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
7:30pm	Clique Vocals	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner

THUR AUG 1 • BENEFIT CONCERT

6:30pm	Anthony Taylor Trio	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
7:30pm	Walter Blanding and Friends	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner

FRI AUG 2

5:00pm	School of Rock	Tripp Stage
5:30pm	Ann Bell	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
5:30pm	Bill Cessna	MessageMakers Stage
6:30pm	Freddie Cunningham and F&J Inc.	MICA Stage
7:45pm	Minor Element	MessageMakers Stage
8:00pm	Clique Vocals	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
9:00pm	Tumbao Bravo	MICA Stage
10:30pm	Bashiri Asad	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
11:30pm	AFTERGLOW • Bashiri Asad	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner

SAT AUG 3

2:00pm	KidzBeat • Children's Ballet Theatre & Power Dance	Tripp Stage
2:00pm	JAMM Scholarship Band	MICA Stage
3:00pm	Olivia Van Goor with Ruben Stump Trio	MessageMakers Stage
3:00pm	KidzBeat • Greater Lansing Ballet Company & Academy of Dance	Tripp Stage
3:00pm	Tom Duffield	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
4:00pm	Marbin Workshop	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
4:00pm	Lansing Concert Band-Big Band	MICA Stage
4:00pm	School of Rock Kids	Tripp Stage
5:00pm	Matt Von Roderick	MessageMakers Stage
5:30pm	School of Rock Adult	Tripp Stage
6:30pm	Tom Duffield	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
6:00pm	Faith Quashie	MessageMakers Stage
6:30pm	Marbin	MICA Stage
7:30pm	Clique Vocals	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
8:30pm	Walter Blanding and Friends	MessageMakers Stage
9:30pm	Planet d Nonet	MICA Stage
11:00pm	AFTERGLOW • Marbin	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner

SUN AUG 4 • GospelFest CONCERT

11:00am	Service	MICA Stage
1:00pm	Gospel Performances • Paul Leroy Porter Leila Taraneh • Semaje • Pastor Anthony Taylor	MICA Stage

\*Program subject to change

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# Jazz and the gospel truth

## JazzFest Michigan marks 30th year with expanded offerings

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

Before diving into the diverse sounds that will fill the streets of Lansing's Old Town at this week's JazzFest Michigan, let's ask a crucial question: What is jazz, anyway?

Ha! Just kidding. We're not going to snack on those rusty nails. Like a baby elephant with a crayon in its trunk bouncing over the potholes of Kalamazoo Street in a flatbed truck, JazzFest isn't overly focused on coloring inside the lines.

For its 30th anniversary, JazzFest Michigan (formerly Lansing JazzFest) has expanded to five days, from tonight's (July 31) kickoff gig at UrbanBeat to a four-hour gospel extravaganza on Sunday (Aug. 4). That leaves plenty of room for music that's straight-up jazz, jazz adjacent, sorta-kinda jazz and "let's just throw

this in for fun."

Michigan State University saxophone Professor Walter Blanding leads the core jazz contingent with a benefit concert Thursday evening (Aug. 1) to raise funds for musician scholarships and an additional performance at 8:30 p.m. Saturday (Aug. 3) on the MessageMakers stage. (For more about Blanding's remarkable life journey in music, check out his interview with City Pulse, posted June 19.) To plant the jazz flag deeper, Detroit's machine-tooled Planet D Nonet brings a bursting bag of Duke Ellington tunes at 9:30 p.m. Saturday on the MICA stage.

This year's festival also showcases the latest, jazziest phase of blues and soul singer Freddie Cunningham's musical journey, F&J Inc., at 6:30 p.m. Friday (Aug. 2) on the MICA stage.

Most JazzFest bands have already appeared at UrbanBeat, the live music venue on Turner Street that will also serve as the festival's epicenter. These artists reflect UrbanBeat's eclectic spirit, orbiting the jazz-o-sphere at varying altitudes and attitudes. There's the Battle Creek jazz-fusion band Minor Element (7:45 p.m. Friday, MessageMakers stage), soulful neo-crooner Bashiri Asad (10:30 p.m. Friday at UrbanBeat, followed by an afterglow performance and jam session), award-winning jazz vocalist Olivia Van Goor with bassist Reuben Stump (3 p.m. Saturday, MessageMakers stage) and the hypnotic jazz-rock forays of the young Chicago band Marbin (6:30 p.m. Saturday, MICA stage).

In between, there's music for every energy level, from the sizzling Latin licks of Detroit's award-winning

Tumbao Bravo (9 p.m. Friday on the MICA stage) to the cool, atmospheric and borderline scary whispers of singer-trumpeter Matt von Roderick (5 p.m. Saturday on the MessageMakers stage).

Nearly every jazz artist either started out singing in a choir or gravitated to gospel music at some point in their lives. So, it's only fitting that come Sunday, Turner Street will resound with a full slate of gospel artists, hosted by Pastor Anthony Taylor, head of Lansing's Southside Records label.

But is it jazz? There is only one logical answer: "hallelujah!" By Sunday afternoon, nobody will care how jazzy gospel, rock, folk, hip-hop and R&B can be. They'll be too busy vibrating to the last "amen" as it rolls through their souls and down the street into history.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

These days, Freddie Cunningham, the longtime frontman of soul-blues juggernaut Root Doctor, finds himself in jazz mode. That makes JazzFest the perfect place to lay down his latest musical bag, F&J Inc.

## Freddie Cunningham: 'A little different'

The amber burn of Freddie Cunningham's matchless voice — aching with emotion, burnished with wisdom and aged to perfection — is welcome at any music festival, whatever the name.

These days, Cunningham, the longtime frontman of soul-blues juggernaut Root Doctor, finds himself in jazz mode. That makes JazzFest the perfect

place to lay down his latest musical bag.

"This is going to be a little different," Cunningham said.

He wasn't sure how his musical life would play out after 2021, when Root Doctor held a farewell tour

after 32 years of roof-rattling soul and blues.

**Freddie Cunningham and F&J Inc.**

6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 2  
MICA Stage

Several months ago, veteran drummer Jeff Shoup invited Cunningham to perform at his weekly showcase of local and national jazz artists,

Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's Pub.

Singing jazz felt like a natural progression.

"A long time ago, when everybody wanted to do rock 'n' roll, soul and stuff, I wanted to do blues," Cunningham said. "I got to do it, and I enjoyed it. When Jeff invited me to Jazz Tues-

See Cunningham, Page 20



## Planet D Nonet: A special situation

Veteran Detroit drummer and band-leader RJ Spangler knows what he calls “a special situation” when he sees one, and he’s hip-deep in one right now.

Spangler’s nine-cylinder musical engine from Detroit, the Planet D Nonet, roars into JazzFest riding high over the critical and commercial success of its 2023 tribute to Duke Ellington, “Blues to Be There.”

Ellington tribute albums aren’t exactly in short supply, but for Spangler and his men, the project came at just the right time.

The nonet revels in Ellington’s lush harmonic palette of purple, ebony, vermilion and wavelengths yet unnamed.

The group even put its own unique stamp on “Caravan,” a tune that has been covered hundreds of times, swirling and drifting through its poly-rhythms in an opium-den ecstasy.

It’s a natural pairing. The Planet D Nonet is a musical time machine, and so was Ellington. In its long history, the nonet has zig-zagged from the avant-garde vibes of Sun Ra and his Arkestra to the old-time music of saxophonist and clarinetist Budd Johnson, a largely forgotten figure who bridged big-band jazz, bebop and early R&B.

“I’ve done all these tributes to differ-

See Planet D Nonet, Page 21

### Planet D Nonet

9:30 p.m. Saturday,  
Aug. 3  
MICA Stage



Photo by Chuck Anderson

The Planet D Nonet roared back into the studio this year to record “Echoes of Harlem,” a follow-up to its chart-topping 2023 tribute to Duke Ellington, “Blues to Be There.”

## Cunningham

from page 19

days, things kind of expanded.”

Shoup and Hammond organist Jim Alfredson, a frequent partner at the Mort’s gigs, were more than happy to cruise with Cunningham into jazzier waters. Cunningham and Alfredson had already worked together in Root Doctor for 10 years.

“We put together some tunes, and Jimmy’s so easy to work with,” Cunningham said. “They’re such professionals; they made it easy.”

At Mort’s, a new group coalesced around Cunningham’s vocal artistry, F&J Inc., featuring Shoup, East Lansing saxophonist Sam Corey and Luke Sittard, a bebop-loving guitarist who teaches at MSU’s Community Music School in Detroit. All three will return to play with Cunningham at JazzFest. Alfredson’s B-3 chair will be filled by another Mort’s regular, organist Cliff Metcalf.

“It’s more of a jazz flavor, where Root Doctor was rhythm & blues and soul,” Cunningham said. “The feel, the emotion, is pretty much the same, though, and I’m big into that. I enjoy it, and the people seem to enjoy it.”

If anything, the timeless F&J Inc. songbook lets Cunningham slow things down, shape each note more lovingly and dive more deeply into the well of emotion.

At Mort’s, Cunningham plumbed new worlds of expression in standards like “Almost Like Being in Love,” “My One and Only Love,” “Since I Fell for You,” “Misty” and “Unforgettable.”

One of his favorites is Victor Young’s “When I Fall in Love,” immortalized in a 1956 recording by Nat King Cole.

“There’s so much emotion, I can hardly get through it,” he said. “It’s that deep for me.”

Cunningham also had fun tripping lightly through up-tempo standards like Ellington’s “Don’t Get Around Much Anymore.”

Added to the mix are a few 1960s hits that fit the mellow vibe, like “Sun-

ny” and “The Shadow of Your Smile.”

It’s not that Cunningham’s grinding and shouting days are over. Anyone who caught him at a city-sponsored concert at Lansing’s Davis Park last month, dancing and rocking through the Temptations’ “Shakey Ground” with funk band Mixed Flavors, can attest to that.

“When I get a chance, I like to try and put my best foot forward,” he said.

He still sings in a Root Doctor-style bag with a blues and funk trio, the Jack Pine Savages, at a small venue in Brooklyn, southeast of Jackson.

But his primary focus for now is on the F&J Inc. repertoire, a revered cache of classics that have inspired and challenged the world’s greatest singers for decades.

“With soul and R&B, you have more of a chance to just let it out, get into it,” he said. “Now I have to work pretty diligently on my control. It’s not any less fun for me, but it’s a little more conscious. You can get your point across just as strongly.”

After giving his all to singing blues

and R&B for decades, he’s finding that he has another “all” to give.

“I’m not that tired at the end of the night as far as exertion, but it still taxes me, and that’s enjoyable to me,” he said. “It gives me something to shoot for, something to learn. It’s a lifelong process. You never will know it all.”

When Root Doctor broke up, Cunningham had visions of traveling and seeing the world. With several performances in July alone, his schedule doesn’t look much like a retirement.

“You’re not the first person who’s told me that,” he said.

Life in Lansing with his wife, manager and muse, Marge Mooney, is treating him well. There’s a reason he chokes up when singing the verse, “When I fall in love, it will be forever.”

As far as travel goes, a day trip to visit his daughter in Detroit or his son in Chicago is enough excitement.

“I don’t do much of that,” he said. “Three or four days away from home, and I’m ready to come back. Plus, we have a dog and three cats.”

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# Planet D Nonet

from page 20

ent artists, and everything comes in its own time,” Spangler said. “In my evolution as an artist and a bandleader, it was time for this.”

Ellington, who lived from 1899 to 1974, took music from the horse-and-buggy era into the Space Age, always alert to the newest developments.

“Every era he was alive, he was making significant music that was cutting edge,” Spangler said. “What an artist.”

Ellington’s music gives the nonet a chance to show all the chops they have, from Model T to moonshot. No wonder “Blues to Be There” stayed at No. 1 on the national Roots Music Report big-band chart for 12 weeks and made many critics’ year-end top 10 lists.

After “Blues to Be There” was in the can, Spangler had plenty of charts left, and the band was still in the mood for Ellington. The result is a brand-new follow-up, “Echoes of Harlem,” that’s already getting national airplay.

The album swings with gusto from Ellington’s Cotton Club days (“Rocks in My Bed”) to his most modern stylings (“La Plus Belle Africaine”).

For the album, Spangler dipped into a sweet spot where Michigan history and Ellingtoniana improbably, but gloriously, came together.

In 1958, Ellington visited Michigan’s Upper Peninsula for location filming with the cast and crew of the classic 1959 film “Anatomy of a Murder.”

“Echoes of Harlem” includes several tunes from Ellington’s soundtrack for the film, including the saucy swinger “Flirtibird,” inspired by actress Lee Remick’s sexy role. Last summer, Spangler took the nonet to the Upper Peninsula and performed the tunes at the tiny Mount Shasta Restaurant, where Ellington and “Anatomy” star Jimmy Stewart play a four-hand piano boogie in the film. The nonet played to a packed house on the veranda of the Thunder Bay Inn, another location in the film.

“It was great — quite an undertaking,” Spangler said.

The nonet will play the “Anatomy” tunes and much more in an all-Ellington program at JazzFest. Anchoring the band will be James O’Donnell, lead trumpeter and nonet co-founder; trombonist John “T-Bone” Paxton; and, of course, Spangler.

Nearly 50 years ago, Spangler, Paxton and O’Donnell formed a band called the Sun Messengers, playing everything from Fela Kuti burners to Louis Jordan jump blues. There have been detours along the way, but they’re

still together.

“I’ve been playing with those guys for 46 years,” Spangler said. “They’re my lifelong brothers in music.”

How much do these guys love playing Ellington? Another longtime nonet member, pianist Mike Zaporski, is cutting short a vacation in Ludington to drive to the Lansing gig.

The Sun Messengers enjoyed some heady times in the 1970s, working with activist-poet-musician John Sinclair and jamming with Sun Ra trumpeter Michael Ray.

“We were record store guys, listening to a voracious amount of music, and we’ve always felt that way,” Spangler said. He savors the memory of smoking weed and listening to P-Funk with fire-breathing Sun Ra saxophonist Marshall Allen after a wild Sun Ra concert in Ann Arbor. (Allen got the royal treatment in a June 24 New Yorker profile marking his 100th birthday.)

Later, when Ray moved to New Orleans, he invited Spangler to play on a record with Phish lead guitarist Trey Anastasio.

But after a while, the Messengers’ music morphed from Sun Ra’s “We Travel the Space Ways” to “Wedding Bells are Breaking Up That Old Gang of Mine.”

“The guys wanted to play weddings and make as much money as they could because they were always getting married and staying home, but I wanted to see the world and play music,” Spangler said.

Spangler’s wanderlust inspired him to become musical director and drummer for iconic blues guitarist Johnnie Bassett.

“We went to Europe a bunch of times, went coast to coast in Canada and the U.S. and made a lot of great records,” Spangler said.

Members of the Bassett band went on to play with Stevie Wonder, Bob Seger and other music legends.

After the years with Bassett, Spangler reconnected with Paxton, O’Donnell and other “guys from the old days” in 2007 and lifted the curtain on his third act, Planet D Nonet.

The band went from one triumph to the next, recording 18 albums and gaining more critical and audience acclaim than any of them had ever enjoyed.

For Spangler, the back-to-back Ellington tributes have been the most successful — and possibly the most rewarding — of all.

“We’re trying to keep it respectful, but these musicians are at the top of their game,” Spangler said. “They’re interested in making it come alive every time they play.”



Photo by Chuck Anderson

Drummer RJ Spangler co-founded and leads the Planet D Nonet. “These musicians are at the top of their game,” he said.



# Concerts in the Park

2024

DATE	BAND	LOCATION
June 12	Root Doctor	Moore's Park
June 19	Black Rock 101	Fenner Nature Center
June 26	Blues Ave Delegates	Bancroft Park
July 10	Frog & the Beeftones	Fulton Park
July 17	Sea Cruisers	Turner-Dodge House
July 24	Kathy Ford Band	Durant Park
July 31	Global Village	Riverfront Salt Shed
August 7	Tejano Sound	Frances Park



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# Bashiri Asad: The everyday soul singer

Indianapolis singer and composer Bashiri Asad knows how to sneak up on you and get inside your head.

With a sweet tenor voice, lubricious and lovely grooves and a wide-eyed air of wonder, he clears a sweet space for a reverie and brings the listener along.

His latest album is called “The Everyday Soul Singer,” and he embraces the title.

“When you leave your world — your corporate world, whatever it is that you do — and you’re looking to be transported to another place, you take your boyfriend or girlfriend, your spouse, and go to a jazz club, a lounge,” he said. “I’m the soul singer. I’m there to do my part. It’s therapeutic for me, too.”

He’s adept at gently drawing audiences deep into a mood — happy, sad or bittersweet. “Bare” finds him “staring at the great abyss/of self-inflicted loneliness.” Another original tune, “Fallin’,” is a quiet declaration

of love. “Baby, I’m digging on you,” he muses to the beat of acoustic guitar strums and finger snaps, as if coming to the realization while walking down an empty street.

He pivots deftly to the clap-your-hands, rubber-ball bounce of Luther Vandross’ 1981 R&B hit “Never Too Much” and Bobby Caldwell’s 1979 megahit “What You Won’t Do for Love.”

Not only does he give his all, without the slightest hint of irony or condescension, to the Carpenters’ 1971 soft-rock hit “Superstar,” but he has the confidence to slow it further down. (To be fair, Vandross, one of his musical heroes, also made the song his own.)

Several years ago, a young woman told Asad she spent her last \$10 to hear him sing.

“She needed a reminder that there were beautiful things left in the world,” Asad said. “You can’t take it too personally because you have your own things that you’re dealing

with. But it’s a reminder that we’re all connected.”

At 46, Asad is grateful for the opportunity to do what he loves.

“As you get older, you start to appreciate things that have always been under your nose,” he said. “You learn to take it all in. It’s just time being the ultimate truth teller.”

Asad grew up singing in the choirs at Little Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in his hometown of Indianapolis. Although he sang in various groups throughout middle and high school and joined the chorus at Central State University in Ohio, it was never in his mind to sing for a living.

“I always enjoyed doing it, singing those three-, four- and five-part harmonies, but I was always like the third guy in the group,” he said.

He loved singers who shamelessly put their hearts (and uvulas) on their sleeves, like Marvin Gaye, Al Green, Donny Hathaway and Jeffrey Osborne.

“Luther Vandross was THE guy,” he said. He realized that many of these iconic singers, including Stevie Wonder, came from the Midwest, and he began to study their styles.

“I got into gospel singers like Daryl Coley later, in college,” Asad said. “But I’m a soul head through and through.”

Many of Asad’s compositions celebrate the power of music to shake off the dust of the daily routine. He’s so convincing at it because he discovered that power in his own life.

After college, his life was grounded in a happy marriage, a big family (he has five children) and a steady job with the city, but after a few years, he missed making music.

“I realized that if I didn’t use it, I would lose it,” he said. With his wife’s encouragement, he pursued a singing career, and it’s still going



Courtesy photo

Bashiri Asad calls himself “the everyday soul singer,” taking inspiration from the expressive style of artists like Marvin Gaye, Al Green, Donny Hathaway and Jeffrey Osborne.

strong.

Asad’s soaring vocals are best set against the twinkling, bell-like star field of an electric keyboard, whether it’s a Rhodes, Wurlitzer or clavinet.

“It’s all about the keyboards,” Asad said. “I’m a big Rhodes fan and a Wurly fan. I love a good clav. Your keyboard must have the attitude and feel for those sounds. Stevie Wonder was the absolute master of this.”

Keyboard man Fred Dixie Jr. will caress the keys at JazzFest, alongside Taj St. Helene on bass, Graham Helste on guitar and Jordhan Perkins on drums. (Asad calls his band The Lady.)

“When everything comes together on stage — the arrangement comes together, the keyboard and the bass are together, the drummer’s not doing too much and not doing too little, the guitar player is hanging inside the crevice — you can’t beat it,” Asad said.

For him, music is a way to reconnect with the juice of life, and he loves to share that connection with the audience.

“When it comes to matters of love, we have to make sure we nourish it, water it, give it light,” he said. “These are the things that got us here in the first place. It’s a lifelong exercise.”

But how does he shake the dust off, on demand, night after night?

“It’s the old adage,” he said. “If it doesn’t feel like work, it’s what you’re supposed to be doing.”

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“A Quiet Spell” -- just relax and solve.  
by Matt Jones  
© 2024 Matt Jones

- ACROSS
1. Bottle of whiskey  
6. Bob's “The Price is Right” successor  
10. Fiery gemstone  
14. College founder Yale  
15. Took a Lyft, perhaps  
16. Sugar source  
17. “I’m headed onstage,” or an introduction to the first letter?  
19. Fish in a can  
20. Broccoli part  
21. Hydrogen and oxygen, e.g.  
22. \*Tagline for hopeful lottery winners, or a question of the second letter?  
26. Gave a big smile  
27. Not that frequent  
28. Choir section  
29. Book in many a hotel room  
31. Progressive spokescharacter  
34. Treble, e.g.  
35. \*Mount in Exodus, or write down the third letter?  
36. Like some news days  
37. Boxing wins, briefly  
38. “The Big Sick” actress Zoe  
39. Whatsoever  
40. Kingly title  
41. Escargot  
42. \*Of change, or the segue to the fourth letter?  
47. “\_\_\_ in Toyland”

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

48. Bitter feeling  
49. Together, on sheet music  
50. \*Executed perfectly, or closed with the last letter?  
55. Ability to charm, slangily  
56. Stink bug's defense  
57. Rainforest vine  
58. Tailor's concern  
59. Facebook's parent company  
60. Slip-up
- DOWN
1. Disgusted utterance  
2. Spot in the Seine  
3. Pacific Northwest tree  
4. Words before “All Fears” or “its parts”  
5. Moves fast  
6. In a boring way  
7. Mid-1990s
- animated wallaby on Nickelodeon  
8. School-based URL ending  
9. Little, in Glasgow  
10. Pump reading  
11. Remote function?  
12. Architectural addition  
13. Slightest amount  
18. Anti-D.U.I. org.  
21. “Chicago” actor Richard  
22. Quartet member  
23. Hall's erstwhile songwriting partner  
24. \_\_\_ Decay (cosmetics brand)  
25. South Pacific island  
26. Returned  
29. “Carmen” composer  
30. TV chef Garten  
31. Thrash about  
32. Ice \_\_\_ (popsicle, in the U.K.)  
33. Head-turning birds  
35. Draped garment  
36. Stuffy atmosphere  
38. “Best \_\_\_” (longtime MTV Movie Award category)  
39. French author \_\_\_ France  
40. “Gesundheit” precursor  
41. Unsettled state  
42. Letter-shaped ski lifts  
43. Spokes of a circle  
44. Full of activity  
45. Fails to be  
46. Puccini performance  
50. Actor DeLuise  
51. Literary tribute  
52. Street sealer  
53. Ambient composer Brian  
54. Canal site

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Answers on page 30

SUDOKU

Intermediate

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

### 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!

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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

July 31-Aug. 6, 2024

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** One meaning of the word “palette” is a flat board on which a painter places a variety of pigments to apply to their canvas. What would be a metaphorical equivalent to a palette in your life? Maybe it’s a diary or journal where you lay out the feelings and ideas you use to craft your fate. Perhaps it’s an inner sanctuary where you retreat to organize your thoughts and meditate on upcoming decisions. Or it could be a group of allies with whom you commune and collaborate to enhance each other’s destinies. However you define your palette, Aries, I believe the time is right to enlarge its size and increase the range of pigments you can choose from.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** The star that Westerners call Arcturus has a different name for Indigenous Australians: Marpeankurk. In their part of the world, it begins to rise before dawn in August. For the Boorong people of northwest Victoria, this was once a sign to hunt for the larvae of wood ants, which comprised a staple food for months. I bring this up, Taurus, because heavenly omens are telling me you should be on the lookout for new sources of sustenance and fuel. What’s your metaphorical equivalent of wood ant larvae?

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Seventy percent of the world’s macadamia nuts have a single ancestor: a particular tree in Queensland, Australia. In 1896, two Hawaiian brothers took seeds from this tree and brought them back to their homestead in Oahu. From that small beginning, Hawaiian macadamia nuts have come to dominate the world’s production. I foresee you soon having resemblances to that original tree, Gemini. What you launch in the coming weeks and months could have tremendous staying power and reach far beyond its original inspiration.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Ketchup flows at about 0.03 miles per hour. In 35 hours, it could travel about a mile. I think you should move at a similar speed in the coming days. The slower you go, the better you will feel. The more deeply focused you are on each event, and the more you allow the rich details to unfold in their own sweet time, the more successful you will be at the art of living. Your words of power will be incremental, gradual and cumulative.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Astrologer Chris Zydell says every sign has superpowers. In honor of your birthday season, I’ll tell you about those she attributes to you Leos. When you are at your best, you are a beacon of “joyful magnetism” who naturally exudes “irrepressible charisma.” You “shine like a thousand suns” and “strut your stuff with unabashed audacity.” All who are lucky enough to be in your sphere benefit from your “radiant spontaneity; bold, dramatic play; and whoo-hoo celebration of your creative genius.” I will add that you can’t always be a perfect embodiment of all these superpowers. But I suspect you are cruising through a phase when you are the next best thing to perfect.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Virgo-born Friedrich August Kekule (1829-1896) transformed organic chemistry with his crucial discovery of the structure of carbon-based compounds. He had studied the problem for years. But his breakthrough realization didn’t arrive until he had a key dream while dozing. There’s not enough room here to describe it at length, but the image that solved the riddle was a snake biting its own tail. I bring this story to your attention, Virgo, because I suspect you could have practical and revelatory dreams yourself in the coming weeks. Daydream visions, too. Pay attention! What might be your equivalent to a snake biting its own tail?

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Please don’t succumb to numbness or apathy in the coming weeks. It’s crucial that you don’t. You should also take extreme measures to avoid boredom and cynicism. At this particular juncture in your amazing life, you need to feel deeply and care profoundly. You must find ways to be excited

about as many things as possible, and you must vividly remember why your magnificent goals are so magnificent. Have you ruminated recently about which influences provide you with the spiritual and emotional riches that sustain you? I encourage you to become even more intimately interwoven with them. It’s time for you to be epic, mythic, even heroic.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Historically, August has brought many outbreaks of empowerment. In August 1920, American women gained the right to vote. In August 1947, India and Pakistan wrested their independence from the British Empire’s long oppression. In August 1789, French revolutionaries issued the Declaration of the Rights of Man, a document that dramatically influenced the development of democracy and liberty in the Western world. In 1994, the United Nations established Aug. 9 as the time to celebrate International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples. In 2024, I am officially naming August to be Scorpio Power Spot Month. It will be an excellent time to claim and/or boost your command of the niche that will nurture your authority and confidence for years to come.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** August is Save Our Stereotypes Month for you Sagittarians. I hope you will celebrate by rising up strong and bold to defend our precious natural treasures. Remember that without cliches, platitudes, pigeonholes, conventional wisdom and hackneyed ideas, life would be nearly impossible. JUST KIDDING! Everything I just said was a dirty lie. Here’s the truth. August is Scour Away Stereotypes Month for you Sagittarians. Please be an agent of original thinking and fertile freshness. Wage a brazen crusade against cliches, platitudes, pigeonholes, conventional wisdom and hackneyed ideas.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You’re never too old or wise or jaded to jump up in the air with glee when offered a free gift. Right? So, I hope you won’t be so bent on maintaining your dignity and composure that you remain poker-faced when given the chance to grab the equivalent of a free gift. I confess I am worried you might be unresponsive to the sweet, rich things coming your way. I’m concerned you might be closed to unexpected possibilities. I will ask you, therefore, to pry open your attitude so you will be alert to the looming blessings, even when they are in disguise.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** A friend of a friend told me this story: One summer day, a guy he knew woke up at 5 a.m., meditated for a while, then made breakfast. As he gazed out his kitchen window, enjoying his coffee, he became alarmed. In the distance, at the top of a hill, a brush fire was burning. He called emergency services to alert firefighters. A few minutes later, though, he realized he had made an error. The brush fire was, in fact, the rising sun lighting up the horizon with its fiery rays. Use this as a teaching story in the coming days, Aquarius. Double-check your initial impressions to make sure they are true. Most importantly, be aware that you may initially respond with worry to events that are actually wonderful or interesting.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** At least a million ships lie at the bottom of the world’s oceans, lakes and rivers. Some crashed because of storms, and others due to battles, collisions or human error. A shipwreck hunter named Sean Fisher estimates that those remains hold more than \$60 billion worth of treasure. Among the most valuable are the old Spanish vessels that sank while carrying gold, silver and other loot plundered from the Americas. If you have the slightest inkling to launch adventures in search of those riches, I predict the coming months will be an excellent time. Alternately, you are likely to generate good fortune for yourself through any version of diving into the depths in quest of wealth in all its many forms.



# OUT on the TOWN

## Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

### Wednesday, July 31

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

**Better Health Presents: "Do You Have Leaky Gut?"** - Determine the optimal nutrition plan and supplements to heal your leaky gut and/or aid your chronic digestive issues. Noon. 305 N. Clippert St., Lansing. [betterhealthmarket.com/eventmanager](http://betterhealthmarket.com/eventmanager).

**Broadway Jazz Dance** - Ten-week class, meets biweekly. Ages 12-adult. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Early Voting** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Carmel Township Hall, 661 Beech Hwy., Charlotte. [charlottemi.gov](http://charlottemi.gov).

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

**Improv Acting Class** - Ten-week class, meets biweekly. Ages 12-adult. 7:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Ingham County Fair** - Fair opens at noon, carnival opens at 1 p.m. Tethered hot air balloon rides from 6-8:30 p.m. 170th birthday party and Star-farm concert begin at 7 p.m. at the grandstand. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. [fair.ingham.org](http://fair.ingham.org).

**JazzFest Michigan Kickoff Concert, with Ann Bell and Clique Vocals** - 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. [micharts.org/jazzfest-schedule](http://micharts.org/jazzfest-schedule).

**Lansing Concerts in the Park: Global Village (variety), opener School of Rock** - Free. 7 p.m. Adado Riverfront Park Salt Shed, 201 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. [lansingmi.gov/994/Concerts-in-the-Park](http://lansingmi.gov/994/Concerts-in-the-Park).

**Lansing Live! Open Stage Night** - Whether you're experienced or just starting out, the stage is open to all. Not a performer? Enjoy dinner, drinks and live music. No cover, all ages welcome. 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. [urbanbeatevents.com](http://urbanbeatevents.com).

**Lansing Lugnuts vs. Dayton Dragons** - 1:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. [milb.com/lansing](http://milb.com/lansing).

**"Let's Give Them Something to Talk About"** - Exhibit of 31 original works by local artists Doug and Susan Smith. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos](http://cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos).

**Life Drawing** - Drawing session with a clothed model or still life. Facilitated by a teaching artist. Ages 13+. 6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. [reachstudioart.org](http://reachstudioart.org).

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

**Meridian Summer Concert Series: Slick Jimmy ('80s)** - Free. 6 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. [meridian.mi.us/about-us/calendar/summer-concert-series](http://meridian.mi.us/about-us/calendar/summer-concert-series).

**Meridian Township Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. [meridian.mi.us/FarmersMarket](http://meridian.mi.us/FarmersMarket).

**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. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. [lamc.info](http://lamc.info).

**MSU Summer Carillon Concert Series** - Free and open to the public. Bring a picnic and a chair or blanket and enjoy the bells of the carillon. 6 p.m. Beaumont Tower, 375 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. [music.msu.edu](http://music.msu.edu).

**Portland Sounds of Summer Concert Series: AJ and the Drifters (classic rock)** - Free. 7 p.m. Two Rivers Park, 201 Divine Hwy., Portland. [facebook.com/MiPortlandDowntown](http://facebook.com/MiPortlandDowntown).

**Samia Halaby: "Eye Witness"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**St. Johns Concerts in the Park: Dave Bennett Quartet (variety)** - Free. 7 p.m. St. Johns City Park, 801 W. Park St., St. Johns. [facebook.com/StJohnsCityParkPerformanceShell](http://facebook.com/StJohnsCityParkPerformanceShell).

**Summer Vibes Karaoke** - 8-11 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4365. [lansingshuffle.com](http://lansingshuffle.com).

**Teen Taste Test Challenge: Pizza** - See if you can correctly guess what restaurant made each cheese pizza! Ages 13-18. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Walk-in Wednesday** - Explore yarn painting! Free. Children under 7 must attend with a registered adult. 4:30-6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. [reachstudioart.org](http://reachstudioart.org).

**Wednesday Yoga on Albert** - Hosted by Yoga State. Bring a yoga mat. Free. 9:30 a.m. Albert EL Fresco, corner of M.A.C. and Albert avenues, East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com](http://cityofeastlansing.com).

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

### Thursday, Aug. 1

**Adult Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp** - Four-month roller derby training course. No experience necessary. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, Lansing. [lansingrollerderby.com](http://lansingrollerderby.com).

**"Alluring Nature"** - Exhibition of paintings by the En Plein Air Mid-Michigan group. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [framersedge.net/en-plein-air-august](http://framersedge.net/en-plein-air-august).

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

**Brown-Bag Books** - What will you find? Mystery, comedy, adventure and the chance to win prizes are all waiting for you at GLAD! Event runs Aug. 1-31. Prizes must be claimed by Sept. 15. All ages. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Charlotte Summer Concerts on the Square: Kathleen and the Bridge Street Band (blues/soul)** - Free. 6:30 p.m. 1885 Eaton County Courthouse lawn, 100 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. [facebook.com/charlottechamberofcommerce](http://facebook.com/charlottechamberofcommerce).

**Crafty Vibes** - Bring your knitting, crochet or any other portable craft project and immerse yourself



WILLOW TREE FAMILY CENTER PRESENTS

## CommUNITY of Families FESTIVAL

**CommUNITY of Families Festival**  
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3  
Willow Tree Family Center  
1141 N. Pine St., Lansing

Willow Tree Family Center, a nonprofit that equips Lansing-area families with resources for childbirth and parenting, will host its first annual CommUNITY of Families Festival 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday (Aug. 3) on its lawn. The event will feature vendor and resource tables, a free baby item store, free mini-workshops, a kids' area, food trucks and more. In addition, birth and young childhood professionals will be in attendance to offer services.

The event is free and open to the public. The first 100 attendees will receive a complimentary goodie bag provided by the Lansing Doula Network. For more information, visit [willowtreefamilycenter.org/events](http://willowtreefamilycenter.org/events).

in an evening of creativity, conversation and community. 5 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. 517-657-5800. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary. 5 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. [eradl.org](http://eradl.org).

**Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary** - Meet and learn about alligators and other creatures from the

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## St. Johns Mint Festival

**AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup>-11<sup>TH</sup>**

CARNIVAL, CRAFT SHOW,  
DOWNTOWN BLOCK PARTY,  
& MORE








Events

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**DeWitt Concerts in the Park: Sea Cruisers (50s-70s)** - Free. 7 p.m. Riverside Park, 315 S. Bridge St., DeWitt. dewittareacc.org/event/concerts-in-the-park.

**Dimondale Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. Village Square, 136 N. Bridge St., Dimondale. 517-646-0230. villageofdimondale.org/general-3.

**Early Voting** - Noon-8 p.m. Carmel Township Hall, 661 Beech Hwy., Charlotte. charlottemi.gov.

**Game Night and Live Music** - Enjoy activities and games from 5-9 p.m., including giant Connect 4, cornhole, giant Jenga, ping pong, giant chess and more! Live music at 6 p.m. Albert EL Fresco, corner of M.A.C. and Albert avenues, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

**Garden Bros. Nuclear Circus** - Featuring clowns, aerial artists, the human cannonball, the world's smallest person, motorcycles in the Sphere of Fear and more. 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Lansing Mall, 5330 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. gardenbrosnuclearcircus.com.

**Grand Ledge Music in the Park: Cooper Johnson (country), opener Wild Honey Trio** - Free. 7 p.m. Jaycee Park, 525 E. River St., Grand Ledge. grandledgechamber.com/music\_in\_the\_park.php.

**Holt Music in the Garden: Motor City Soul (variety)** - Food available for purchase from Two Guys Nomadic Grill. Free. 7 p.m. Veterans Memorial Gardens, 2074 Aurelius Road, Holt. delhitownshipmi.gov/402/Community-Events.

**Ingham County Fair** - Fair opens at noon, carnival opens at 1 p.m. Flying Stars Rodeo at 7 p.m. at the grandstand. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. fair.ingham.org.

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

**Laingsburg Music in the Park: Electric Flower Co. (variety)** - Free. Open mic at 6 p.m., band starts at 7 p.m. McClintock Park, 299 McClintock St., Laingsburg. laingsburg.us.

**Lansing Lugnuts vs. Dayton Dragons** - 7:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing.

**Lawrence "Lo" Leathers Foundation Benefit Concert, with the Anthony Taylor Trio and Walter Blanding & Friends** - 6:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. micharts.org/jazzfest-schedule.

**Modern Dance Class** - 10-week class. Ages 12-adult. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Parkinson's Exercise: Boxing** - Exercise program proven to help enhance strength, balance and agility. Free 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.

**Preserve & Thrive: Essential Food Preservation Techniques** - Learn the science behind food preservation, how to extend the shelf life of produce and ways to incorporate preserved foods into your meals. 6 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. facebook.com/HunterPark-GardenHouse.

**Reno's Magic Night** - Come see Jeff the Magician right at your table every Thursday night! 6-8 p.m. 16460 Old U.S. 27, Lansing. eventvesta.com/events/75153-reno-s-magic-night.

**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., Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

**Samia Halaby: "Eye Witness"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**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.

**Williamston Concerts at the Shell: Lansing Concert Band** - Free. 7 p.m. McCormick Park, 300 N. Putnam St., Williamston. facebook.com/williamstonconcerts.

**Zap Zone XL Magic Night** - Enjoy a night on the town with food, a full bar, amazing attractions and magic by Jeff the Magician. 8-10 p.m. 5220 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. eventvesta.com/events/75155-zap-zone-xl-magic-night.

**Friday, Aug. 2**

**"Alluring Nature"** - Exhibition of paintings by the En Plein Air Mid-Michigan group. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net/en-plein-air-august.

**Craft Club Jr.** - Make necklaces from recycled cardboard! Grades 1-3. Registration req. 4:15 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

**Cruise to Holt** - Weekly cruise-ins every Friday night at the Holt Farmers Market parking lot. 5-8 p.m. 2150 Cedar St., Holt. holtfarmersmarket.org.

**Dogs After Dark** - You and your dog can enjoy a guided walk through the nighttime woods! Approximately 3 miles long. Dogs need a 6-foot, non-retractable leash. 8 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. 517-349-3866. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

**Early Voting** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Carmel Township Hall, 661 Beech Hwy., Charlotte. charlottemi.gov.

**Euchre with the Kiwanis Club and Unity** - Potluck at 6:30 p.m., Euchre at 7. Tournament with cash prizes. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

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

**Garden Bros. Nuclear Circus** - Featuring clowns, aerial artists, the human cannonball, the world's smallest person, motorcycles in the Sphere of Fear and more. 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Lansing Mall, 5330 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. gardenbrosnuclearcircus.com.

**Great Pages Circus** - Ready for a showstopping, heart-pounding family adventure? The Great Pages Circus offers the finest international circus acts and artists. 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Fowlerville Family Fairgrounds, 8800 W. Grand River Ave., Fowlerville. pagescircus.com.

**Ingham County Fair** - Fair opens at noon, carnival opens at 1 p.m. Tractor pull at 7 p.m. at the grandstand. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. fair.ingham.org.

**JazzFest Michigan** - Enjoy an evening of jazz on four different stages! 5 p.m. Turner Street, Old Town. micharts.org/jazzfest-schedule.

**Lake Lansing Sounds of Summer Concert Series: Mixed Flavors (funk/R&B), opener Jen Sygit** - Free. Kids can enjoy big-wheel tricycles, a bounce house and an inflatable slide. 6:15 p.m. Lake Lansing Park South, 1621 Pike St., Haslett. facebook.com/Lakelansingbandshell.

**Lansing Lugnuts vs. Dayton Dragons** - 7:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing.

**Messy Play Fun Day** - Kids can play with chalk, bubbles, goop, squirt bottles, big trucks, mud and more. Find the fun outside GLADL, along our sidewalk and north lawn. 2-4 p.m. 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

**Moonlight Movies: "Wish" (Disney)** - 9 p.m. Veterans Memorial Gardens, 2074 Aurelius Road, Holt. delhitownshipmi.gov/402/Community-Events.

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### Ingham County Fair

Through Aug. 3  
Gates open at noon daily  
Ingham County Fairgrounds  
700 E. Ash St., Mason

The 170th Ingham County Fair continues through Saturday (Aug. 3) at the Ingham County Fairgrounds in Mason, offering livestock shows and auctions, carnival rides, food vendors, games and more.

Grandstand events begin at 7 p.m. each evening and include a 170th birthday celebration and performance by '80s cover band Starfarm tonight (July 31), a rodeo on Thursday (Aug. 1), a tractor pull on Friday (Aug. 2) and an SJO Motocross show on Saturday (Aug. 3). The carnival opens at 1 p.m. each day.

General admission tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for seniors, veterans and children under 13. Tickets for the grandstand events range from \$15 to \$25 and include admission to the fair if purchased online in advance. Carnival wristbands are \$30, with individual ride tickets available for \$1.50 each. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit fair.ingham.org.

## ULC OUTDOOR SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

AUGUST 4: KATHY FORD BAND

AUGUST 11: LCC JAZZ ENSEMBLE

AUGUST 18: THREE MEN AND A TENOR

ALL CONCERTS BEGIN AT 6:00 PM

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1020 S. HARRISON ROAD  
EAST LANSING, MI 48823  
WWW.ULCEL.ORG 517-332-2559

\*ALL ARE WELCOME! NO ADMISSION CHARGE  
\*FREE-WILL DONATION WILL BE TAKEN





## Emerging Playwrights Festival

7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3  
Riverwalk Theatre  
228 Museum Drive, Lansing

Riverwalk Theatre's Emerging Playwrights Festival, taking place 7 p.m. Saturday (Aug. 3), will highlight the work of five high school students whose original short-form plays were selected as winners from a pool of applicants from Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties.

This year's scripts include "Buddy's Pizza," by Eastern High School senior Evan Bywater; "Butterfly Grief," by Holt High School senior Olivia Quiroga, who was also named a 2023 Emerging Playwright; "Women at Housework," by Ovid-Elsie High School junior Abigail Triantaflos; "Strangers Like Us," by DeWitt High School senior Ella Reid; and "Roses Are Red," by DeWitt High School senior Paulina Rivet.

Two of the scripts will be performed as full productions, while the other three will be presented as staged readings. Admission is free, but donations to Riverwalk Theatre are encouraged. For more information, visit [riverwalktheatre.com/emerging-playwrights.html](http://riverwalktheatre.com/emerging-playwrights.html).

## Events

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**Parkinson's Exercise: Movement for Vitality** - Free group 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. [lpsg.org](http://lpsg.org).

**"Refuge Recovery"** - Buddhism-based recovery group that can be used for all addictions. Meetings include meditation and readings from the book "Refuge Recovery." 6:30 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. [unitylansing.org](http://unitylansing.org).

**Samia Halaby: "Eye Witness"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

## Saturday, Aug. 3

**2024 Lammas Ritual** - Join us in person or on Zoom as we celebrate the first harvest with a Lammas ritual, feast and raffle. 4-9 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. [weaver-softheweb.org](http://weaver-softheweb.org).

**"Alluring Nature"** - Exhibition of paintings by the En Plein Air Mid-Michigan group. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [framersedge.net/en-plein-air-august](http://framersedge.net/en-plein-air-august).

**BIPOC Business Day** - For the first time ever, the Ingham County Fair will host a BIPOC Business Day. Come shop or become a vendor by emailing [sricketts@ingham.org](mailto:sricketts@ingham.org) or calling 517-676-2429. Noon-8 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. [fair.ingham.org](http://fair.ingham.org).

**Character Creation** - Not only will we learn to sketch and design an original character from the ground up, but we'll delve into their unique personality, attitudes and lifestyle. Ages 14+. 2 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org).

**CommUnity of Families Festival** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Willow Tree Family Center, 1141 N. Pine St., Lansing. [willowtreefamilycenter.org](http://willowtreefamilycenter.org).

**Early Voting** - 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Carmel Township Hall, 661 Beech Hwy., Charlotte. [charlottemi.gov](http://charlottemi.gov).

**Emerging Playwrights Festival** - Free admission. 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. [riverwalktheatre.com](http://riverwalktheatre.com).

**Family Day: PLAY** - Join in the fun as we cut, copy and paste collaged tapestries. All ages welcome. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Fermentation Magic for Beginners** - Join Milton Shoup, general manager of the Eastside Lansing Food Co-Op, to learn how to process cabbage and other vegetables into sauerkraut or its Korean cousin, kimchi. 10 a.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. [facebook.com/HunterParkGardenHouse](https://facebook.com/HunterParkGardenHouse).

**Garden Bros. Nuclear Circus** - Featuring clowns, aerial artists, the human cannonball, the world's smallest person, motorcycles in the Sphere of Fear and more. 1:30, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Lansing Mall, 5330 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. [gardenbrosnuclearcircus.com](http://gardenbrosnuclearcircus.com).

**Great Pages Circus** - Ready for a showstopping, heart-pounding family adventure? The Great Pages Circus offers the finest international circus acts and artists. 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Fowlerville Family Fairgrounds, 8800 W. Grand River Ave., Fowlerville. [pagescircus.com](http://pagescircus.com).

**Ingham County Fair** - Fair opens at noon, carnival opens at 1 p.m. SJO motocross at 7 p.m. at the grandstand. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. [fair.ingham.org](http://fair.ingham.org).

**JazzFest Michigan** - Enjoy a day of jazz performances on four different stages! 2 p.m. Turner Street, Old Town. [micharts.org/jazzfest-schedule](http://micharts.org/jazzfest-schedule).

**Lansing Lugnuts vs. Dayton Dragons** - 7:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. [milb.com/lansing](http://milb.com/lansing).

**LGBC StreetFest** - A fun-filled day of golf (sign-up is separate), live music, handcrafted food and more than 20 special release beers, ciders and seltzers. Purchase tickets online for early entry. Ages 21+. 4-8 p.m. Bridge Street, downtown DeWitt. [looking-glassbrewingcompany.com](http://looking-glassbrewingcompany.com).

**Market on the Grand** - 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Jaycee Park, 525 E. River St., Grand Ledge. [grandledgechamber.com/market\\_on\\_the\\_grand.php](http://grandledgechamber.com/market_on_the_grand.php).

**Meridian Township Farmers Market** - 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-712-2395. [meridian.mi.us/Farmers-Market](http://meridian.mi.us/Farmers-Market).

**Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association Golf Fundraiser** - Ticket includes 18 holes with a cart, boxed lunch at the turn and a taco bar dinner. 2 p.m. Wheatfield Valley Golf Course, 1600 Linn Road, Williamston. [mdhatoday.org](http://mdhatoday.org).

**Samia Halaby: "Eye Witness"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Stationery Store Day at Dear Ollie & Co.** - We'll celebrate from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. with a postcard party, where you can fill out and mail postcards for FREE. Get tatted up at our temporary tattoo bar and enjoy free gifts with \$15 minimum purchase. 222 S. Washington Square, Lansing. [dearollie.com](http://dearollie.com).

**Summer Still Life** - Join us for a vibrant acrylic painting session where you'll unleash your creativity and explore the beauty of flowers and color! Ages 16+. 10 a.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.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](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**"The Emotional Value of Chords" Ukulele Workshop, with Jim D'Ville** - There's a chord associated with each of the notes of a major scale. Learning these relationships will open your ears to the chord progressions of millions of songs. 11 a.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. [elderly.com](http://elderly.com).

**Village Crafters Arts and Crafts Show** - Stroll through the booths while the kids enjoy free craft projects. Bring donations of non-perishable food items for a chance at some great prizes. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 411 Harrison St., Grand Ledge. [villagecrafters.net](http://villagecrafters.net).

## Sunday, Aug. 4

**"A Course in Miracles" Study Group, with Dan and Carol Maynard** - Noon. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. [unitylansing.org](http://unitylansing.org).

**Adult Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp** - Four-month roller derby training course. No experience necessary. 7-9 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, Lansing. [lansingrollerderby.com](http://lansingrollerderby.com).

**Deep-Rooted, with Beal Botanical Garden** - Art and plants intertwine in a conversation about the extraordinary ways our natural world has influenced art and societies throughout history. 1 p.m. 330 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Early Voting** - 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Carmel Township Hall, 661 Beech Hwy., Charlotte. [charlottemi.gov](http://charlottemi.gov).

**East Lansing Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. 517-319-6823. [cityofeastlansing.com/farmersmarket](http://cityofeastlansing.com/farmersmarket).

**Eastern Ingham Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. McCormick Park, 123 High St., Williamston. [easterninghamfarmersmarket.org](http://easterninghamfarmersmarket.org).

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

**Garden Bros. Nuclear Circus** - Featuring clowns, aerial artists, the human cannonball, the world's smallest person, motorcycles in the Sphere of Fear and more. 1, 4 and 7 p.m. Lansing Mall, 5330 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. [gardenbrosnuclearcircus.com](http://gardenbrosnuclearcircus.com).

**Great Pages Circus** - Ready for a showstopping, heart-pounding family adventure? The Great Pages Circus offers the finest international circus acts and artists. 2 p.m. Fowlerville Family Fairgrounds, 8800 W. Grand River Ave., Fowlerville. [pagescircus.com](http://pagescircus.com).

**Harmony Sundays** - Weekly DJ event featuring Aura the Brave and special guests. 9 p.m. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-484-6795. [instagram.com/macsbarnsu](http://instagram.com/macsbarnsu).

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

**Laingsburg Outdoor Farmers Market** - 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Roosevelt Row, downtown Laingsburg. 517-295-8128. [laingsburgbusiness.org/farmers-market-1](http://laingsburgbusiness.org/farmers-market-1).

**Lansing Lugnuts vs. Dayton Dragons** - 1:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. [milb.com/lansing](http://milb.com/lansing).

**University Lutheran Church Outdoor Summer Concert Series: Kathy Ford Band** - The Kathy Ford Band plays a wide variety of styles, such as bluegrass, rock, Top 40, blues, Motown, country and jazz. Free. 6 p.m. 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. [ulcel.org](http://ulcel.org).

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

**Samia Halaby: "Eye Witness"** - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Sunday Yoga on Albert** - Hosted by Yoga State. Bring a yoga mat. Free. 10 a.m. Albert El Fresco, corner of M.A.C. and Albert avenues, East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com](http://cityofeastlansing.com).

**Three Sparks Comedy** - Free comedy with Three Sparks. 7-9 p.m. One North Kitchen & Bar, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. 517-901-5001. [onenorthdining.com](http://onenorthdining.com).

**"Twelve Powers"** - Monthly series on Charles Fillmore's 12 Powers. Fillmore believed that each of us receives twelve God-given powers that allow us to create the life we want. 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. [unitylansing.org](http://unitylansing.org).

## Monday, Aug. 5

**Al-Anon Meeting** - Are you concerned about someone else's drinking? This group welcomes any adult looking for help. 8 p.m. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing. [cmialanon.org](http://cmialanon.org).

**"Alluring Nature"** - Exhibition of paintings by the En Plein Air Mid-Michigan group. Noon-5:30 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [framersedge.net/en-plein-air-august](http://framersedge.net/en-plein-air-august).

**Broadway Jazz Dance** - Ten-week class, meets bi-weekly. Ages 12-adult. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Broadway Musical Theater SING-ACT-DANCE Camp** - Students will learn basic vocal techniques and Broadway songs. Choreography and staging will then be added to create a musical theater medley. Ages 5-13. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

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

**Five Senses Fun** - Participate in fun games and activities while learning about your five senses. Ages 3+. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Great Pages Circus** - Ready for a showstopping, heart-pounding family adventure? The Great Pages Circus offers the finest international circus acts and artists. 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Eaton County Fairgrounds, 1025 S. Cochran Road, Charlotte. [pagescircus.com](http://pagescircus.com).

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# Events

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**Improv Acting Class** - Ten-week class, meets biweekly. Ages 12-adult. 7:30 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. Playground of Dreams, 100 Howe Drive, Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

**Magic at Culvers of Eastwood** - Come see Jeff the Magician right at your table every Monday night! 6-8 p.m. 3115 Centre Blvd., Lansing. eventvesta.com/events/75140-magic-at-culvers-of-eastwood.

**Open Mic Night, hosted by Kathy Ford** - 6:30-9:30 p.m. One North Kitchen & Bar, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. 517-901-5001. onenorthdining.com.

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

**Yoga for Parkinson's** - Free group 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, Aug. 6**

**Al-Anon Meeting** - Are you concerned about someone else's drinking? This group welcomes any adult looking for help. 7 p.m. St. Jude Church, 801 N. Bridge St., DeWitt. cmialanon.org.

**“Alluring Nature”** - Exhibition of paintings by the En Plein Air Mid-Michigan group. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers's Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net/en-plein-air-august.

**Ballet Class** - Ten-week class. Ages 12-adult. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Dine & Discovery Series: Peruvian Ceviche** - Learn how to recreate Peru's national dish from chef Jose of Tantai. 6 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3921. facebook.com/AllenNeighborhoodCenter.

**Great Michigan Read: “Firekeeper's Daughter” Book Chat** - Refreshments provided. Ages 16+. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

**Great Pages Circus** - Ready for a showstopping, heart-pounding family adventure? The Great Pages Circus offers the finest international circus acts and artists. 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Eaton County Fairgrounds, 1025 S. Cochran Road, Charlotte. pagescircus.com.

**Magic Night at Fazoli's** - Come see Jeff the Magician right at your table every Tuesday night! 6-8 p.m. 5705 S. Cedar St., Lansing. eventvesta.com/events/75143-magic-night-at-fazolils.

**Modern Women's Self-Defense Seminar, with fourth-degree black belt Andrea Moon** - Women-only class focusing on a variety of self-defense techniques. Ages 13+. Registration req. 5:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

**Parkinson's Exercise** - Free group class for people with Parkinson's, led by exercise professionals. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8888. lapsg.org.

**“The Quest: A Journey of Spiritual Rediscovery” Book Study, with Rev. Sharon Ketchum** - 1:30 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

**Summer in the Park: Cameron Zvara** - Cameron's show is filled with magic, comedy, juggling, music and TONS of audience participation. 11 a.m. Oak Park, 230 Seminary St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

**Trivia at Lansing Shuffle** - 7:30-9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4365. lansingshuffle.com.

**Wednesday, Aug. 7**

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

**“Alluring Nature”** - Exhibition of paintings by the En Plein Air Mid-Michigan group. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers's Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net/en-plein-air-august.

**Broadway Jazz Dance** - Ten-week class, meets biweekly. Ages 12-adult. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**By the Beard of the Prophet: Exploring the First American Muslim Superhero in WWII** - Visiting scholar Safiyya Hosein of Toronto Metropolitan University discusses her ongoing research and collections at MSU she's found valuable. Noon. Main Library, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. lib.msu.edu.

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

**Improv Acting Class** - Ten-week class, meets biweekly. Ages 12-adult. 7:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Lansing Concerts in the Park: Tejano Sound** - Free. 7 p.m. Frances Park, 2701 Moores River Drive, Lansing. lansingmi.gov/994/Concerts-in-the-Park.

**Lansing Live! Open Stage Night** - Whether you're experienced or just starting, the stage is open to all. Not a performer? Enjoy dinner, drinks and live music. No cover; all ages welcome. 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

**Life Drawing** - Drawing session with a clothed model or still life. Facilitated by a teaching artist. Ages 13+. 6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

**Meridian Summer Concert Series: Garage Sale Band (pop/rock)** - Free. 6 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/about-us/calendar/summer-concert-series.

**Meridian Township Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/FarmersMarket.

**Michigan Young Birders Network Virtual Meeting** - Virtual networking group for individuals ages 13-18 interested in birding. 7 p.m. Meeting ID: 946 4329 0865. Password: Chickadee. michiganaudubon.org/learn/young-birders.

**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. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. lamc.info.

**MSU Summer Carillon Concert Series** - Free and open to the public. Bring a picnic and a chair or blanket and enjoy the bells of the carillon. 6 p.m. Beaumont Tower, 375 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

**Portland Sounds of Summer Concert Series: Lighting Matches (alternative rock)** - Free. 7 p.m. Two Rivers Park, 201 Divine Hwy., Portland. facebook.com/MIPortlandDowntown.

## CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on **August 26** at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI, on the proposed Lansing Gateway Corridor Improvement Authority Development and Finance Plan in accordance with the provisions of Part 6, Corridor Improvement Authorities, of the Recodified Tax Increment Financing Act, Public Act 57 of 2018, as amended (the Act) and as defined by Public Act 57 of 2018 as:


In 2019 the City of Lansing used the adopted State Law (Act 280 of 2005) to create what is known as the Lansing Gateway Corridor Improvement Authority (LGCIA) and established a District with eligible property within 500 feet of the centerline of North Grand River, east on Franette Road to Old US 27 on East North Street with branches on North Martin Luther King Boulevard, Turner Road and Capital City Boulevard.


The purpose of the Corridor Improvement Authority Act is to help communities plan for and fund improvements along a corridor. The overall goal is to help support economic development and redevelopment of this area. The types of improvements could include sidewalks/pathways, streetlights, streetscape enhancements, façade improvements, and other public investments which could support and enhance economic development and the quality of life for business owners and residents within this district. The CIA's first task to be able to fund these improvements is to create a Development and Tax Increment Financing Plan. This plan describes the types of activities that the CIA can participate in as well as how those activities are financed. The plan covers a 15-year period and explains how Tax Increment Financing (TIF) will work, which is the primary means in which new projects would be funded. **It is important to note that TIF is not a new tax nor does it raise property owner's taxes.**

City Council will hear comments from citizens, taxpayers and property owners, officials from any affected taxing jurisdiction and any other interested persons. All aspects of the Plan will be open for discussion at the public hearing. Maps, plats, and a description of the development plan, including the method of relocating families and individuals who may be displaced from the area, are available for public inspection at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, 124 W Michigan Avenue, 9th Floor of City Hall, Lansing, MI 48933. The Development and Finance Plan can be found on the Lansing Economic Development website: [Lan Gateway Com Corridor | Lansing Economic Development Corp. \(lansingedc.com\)](#).

If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov).


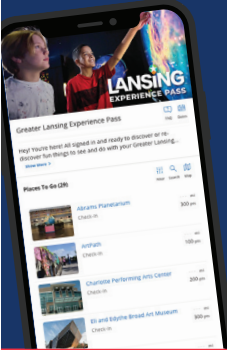
CP#24-594



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STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT, INGHAM COUNTY, NOTICE TO CREDITORS, Decedent's Estate, Case No. 24-000826-DE-P33. Estate of Mary Margaret Evangelista – Date of Birth: 12/19/1955. NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, Mary Margaret Evangelista, died July 2, 2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Nancy Jo Evangelista, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 West Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-6300 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 07/31/2024. Personal representative: Nancy Jo Evangelista, 31 Pine Hill Dr., Alfred, NY 14802, 607-281-9587.

**CP#24-602**

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND  
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

July 31, 2024  
City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning  
316 N. Capitol Ave  
Lansing, MI 48933  
(517) 483-4040

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Lansing, MI.

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

On or about August 22, 2024 will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of HOME ARP funds under Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1990, as amended (42 U.S.C. 12701 et..seq) (NAHA) to undertake a project known as the Hillsdale Place project located at 1020 W. Hillsdale with a project funding of \$2,102,301. This is a 40-unit rental housing development that will provide 20 of those units for permanent support housing to qualifying populations per the Lansing's HOME ARP Allocation Plan, with preference to those households who are chronically homeless and meet at least one of the definitions of qualifying populations.

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

The City of Lansing, Michigan has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at [www.lansingmi.gov/development](http://www.lansingmi.gov/development) or City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning, 316 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing, MI 48933 and may be examined or copied weekday's 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the or City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning, 316 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing, MI 48933. All comments received by August 19, 2024 will be considered by the City of Lansing prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

**RELEASE OF FUNDS**

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

**OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Lansing's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Lansing (b) the City of Lansing has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the **U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development –Detroit Field Office, Keith E. Hernandez, Director, Community Planning and Development at 477 Michigan Ave, Suite 1600, Detroit, MI 48226 or [DetroitCPD@hud.gov](mailto:DetroitCPD@hud.gov)**. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Andy Schor, Mayor, City of Lansing

**CP#24-599**

**CITY OF LANSING  
SUMMARY OF  
ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1322**

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to Re-Adopting the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lansing.

Effective date: August 22, 2024

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

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

**CP#24-597**

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS  
WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

Pursuant to Section 401 of Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, as amended (the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act), notice is hereby given that at a regular meeting held on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Williamstown Township Board of Trustees adopted amendments to Section 4.01(D)(3) of the Zoning Ordinance, concerning parking requirements for multiple family residences.

The proposed amendment replaces the previous requirement of 2.5 off-street parking per dwelling unit with the requirements set forth in the following chart:

Number of Bedrooms in Dwelling Unit	Number of Parking Spaces Required
1	1
2	1.5
3	2.25

A copy of the ordinance amendments may be obtained or inspected at the Williamstown Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Road, Williamston, MI 48895 during normal business hours. Pursuant to Section 401(6) of Act 110, the amendments shall take effect upon expiration of seven days after publication of this notice.

Robin Cleveland, Township Clerk

**CP#24-596**

**CITY OF GRAND LEDGE  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Grand Ledge City Council will hold a public hearing during its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, 26 August 2024, to consider and receive public input on an ordinance amending the City Code, Chapter 46 – Zoning to add Planned Unit Development. The proposed ordinance is available for review on the City's website at [www.cityofgrandledge.com](http://www.cityofgrandledge.com) and at the City Clerk's office, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge, Michigan, between 8:00 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge MI 48837, in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, as amended, and will also be livestreamed via Zoom for informational purposes only. The online stream can be accessed at <https://www.zoom.us> with the Meeting ID: 865 2594 0180, or by calling +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC), +1 305 224 1968 US, +1 309 205 3325 US, +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), +1 646 876 9923 US (New York), +1 646 931 3860 US, +1 253 205 0468 US, +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma), +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston), +1 360 209 5623 US, +1 386 347 5053 US, +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose), +1 507 473 4847 US, +1 564 217 2000 US, +1 669 444 9171 US, +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose), +1 689 278 1000 US, +1 719 359 4580 US, with Meeting ID: 865 2594 0180.

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

Gregory Newman, City Clerk

**CP#24-598**



FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

# Getting stuffed on Pizza House's Chicago stuffed pizza

By COURTNEY BOWERMAN

If you're craving Chicago-style pizza but can't make it to the Windy City, East Lansing's Pizza House is the next best thing. Located in Hannah Plaza, the restaurant boasts a wide menu of dishes, including burgers, sandwiches, chipatis and pasta. It even serves breakfast. Unfortunately, I haven't tried any of these options yet. How can I when the pizza is so amazing on its own? Customers can order almost any kind of pizza one could imagine: traditional, thin crust, super thin crust, Sicilian deep dish, Chicago deep dish or Chicago stuffed. Whenever my family and I visit, there's never a question of what

to order. Our favorite is the Chicago stuffed. Since we don't live in East Lansing, we tend to reserve it for special occasions like birthdays. Most of the time, it's easier for us to just pick it up and take it back home to Delta Township instead of eating at the restaurant. I know you're probably thinking it's stupid to drive all that way when there are plenty of other pizza places closer to our area. Well, after one taste of the delicious Chicago stuffed cheese pizza, you won't care how far the distance is, either. In true Chicago form, the stuffed pizza is served with the hearty marinara sauce on top and



**Chicago stuffed cheese pizza**  
\$14.99-\$29.99  
Pizza House  
4790 Hagadorn Road,  
East Lansing  
10:30 a.m.-4 a.m. daily  
(517) 336-0033  
pizzahouse.com

cheese baked underneath. If the gooey mountain of mozzarella under the sauce isn't enough cheese for you, more is baked inside the crust itself! Some might argue it's more like tomato pie than pizza. No disrespect to tradition, but this is pizza on a whole other level. It's like a combination of deep-dish pizza and stuffed-crust pizza in one glorious creation. As you can imagine, this is a very filling meal all on its own. However, when we're feeling adventurous, we add an order of Pizza House's famous Cheesy Bread Stix, which are always top-notch. They're baked with garlic butter and four types of cheese: mozzarella, cheddar, muenster and Parmesan. If we want to go the extra mile, we get the feta bread, which is basically the same thing with the addition of feta cheese. Both come with your choice of marinara, ranch or chipati sauces. If you really want to blow your tastebuds away, mix the ranch and marinara together for a unique, creamy taste. While stuffed pizza may be one of the pricier items on the menu, I guar-



Courtney Bowerman for City Pulse

In true Chicago form, Pizza House's Chicago stuffed pizza is served with the hearty marinara sauce on top and cheese baked underneath. antee it's well worth the cost, especially if you want a real taste of Chicago. Maybe I'll try some of Pizza House's other offerings one of these days. It's just a shame that the pizza will be a tough act to follow.

TOP 5

DINING GUIDE

THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED BY CITY PULSE READERS

- TOP 5 PIZZA**  
*Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2023 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!*
- 1. Art's Pub**  
Mellow gameday hangout serving a wide menu of pub grub and pizza  
809 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing  
(517) 977-1033  
artspublansing.com  
7 a.m.-11 p.m. daily
- 2. The Cosmos**  
Wood-fired pizza parlor offering a variety of artisanal toppings  
1200 N. Larch St., Lansing  
(517) 897-3563  
thecosmoslansing.com  
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday  
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday  
Noon-11 p.m. Saturday  
Noon-10 p.m. Sunday

- 3. Cugino's**  
Italian restaurant with bar and patio seating for pizza, pasta and other staples  
306 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge  
(517) 627-4048  
cuginosmenu.com  
4-8:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday  
4-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday
- 4. Klavon's**  
Pizzeria and pub known for its signature stuffed pizzas, plus calzones, burgers and other casual eats  
318 W. Kipp Road, Mason  
(517) 604-6565  
klavons.com  
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday  
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday
- 5. Tony M's Restaurant & Banquet Center**  
Eatery and event space serving familiar Italian fare, from pizza to lasagna  
3420 S. Creyts Road, Lansing  
(517) 322-2069  
tonyms.com  
10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday  
Noon-9 p.m. Saturday  
Noon-7 p.m. Sunday

## Oven tomato sauce

By ARI LEVAUX

When August hits, I make a point to enjoy the summer like it's going out of season. Some of my favorite ways of doing so involve tomatoes, and I treat it like my job to eat a year's worth of the ripest, juiciest, most delicious tomatoes I can get my hands on. I also make time to stash away these glorious fruits for year-round enjoyment in the form of a simple oven-roasted tomato sauce. Toward the end of every summer, I freeze this universal ingredient, shooting for quantities that will stretch through

the winter. If my soup needs a little more tang, my sauce is just the thing. If it's eggplant parmesan, tomato sauce is in the equation. On top of spaghetti, snuck into deer curry or toasted on bread with cheese when I'm feeling lazy — with frozen sauce on hand, I'm a culinary man. This time of year, the glorious red spheroids that are best for sauce are at their cheapest. I don't often go for deals at the farmers market. I usually don't like bargaining with farmers because they work too hard. But toward the end of tomato season, they don't want to bring home boxes of tomatoes any more than you





# Flash

from page 29

want a sauce-free winter. I'd suggest seeing if you and your favorite farmer can find a confluence of interests. They get some freedom from a box of tomatoes — and cash — and you get a project.

For every four pounds of tomatoes, you'll need an onion, three cloves of garlic, a red or yellow sweet pepper and a half-cup each of grated carrots and zucchini, so make sure to pick those items up while you're there.

Don't mess around with heirlooms because they have too much water and not enough acid. The shiny, round, red orbs are the tomatoes that make the best sauce. Big red tomatoes, small red tomatoes, red paste tomatoes.

The ripe bounty of the harvest — and the cool mornings, lazy afternoons and dwindling evenings stashed away before the frosty breath of fall — stops the music.

**Oven-roasted tomato sauce**

This mixture is a blank canvas, ready to be customized as a sauce or incorporated as an ingredient into

something else.

*Makes 1 quart*

4 pounds small red tomatoes, cut in half, or larger tomatoes cut into quarters

1 teaspoon salt

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 cup minced onions

Two cloves garlic, minced or grated

Two sweet peppers, cleaned and cut into quarters

Optional: 1/2 cup shredded zucchini

1/2 cup shredded carrots

See Flash, Page 31



Courtesy of Ari LeVaux

Toward the end of summer, when tomatoes are at their cheapest, Ari LeVaux suggests making and freezing a simple tomato sauce for year-round enjoyment.

**Eagle Township, Clinton County  
Board Meeting Synopsis**

July 18, 2024, at 6:00 pm - Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee M. Hoppes, Trustee Strahle and 12 citizens.

Board Actions:

1. Approved bills for July 2024.
2. Appointments were made to the Niles Cemetery Board.
3. Appointed alternate members to the Board of Review and Zoning Board of Appeals.
4. Referred updates to the Permitted Use Chart in the Interim Zoning Ordinance to the Planning Commission.

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk. Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is August 15, 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#24-601

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 23

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**SUDOKU SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 23

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

# A WIN-WIN

For 20 years, City Pulse has donated hundreds of dollars a year to the Ingham County Animal Shelter thanks to pet adoption ads sponsored by our readers. Thank you!

Won't you join them in 2024? An ad is \$35, and \$6 goes to the shelter so it can do its important work in placing dogs and cats in permanent homes.

**The next pet adoption ad appears on August 21.  
Call by August 16 to be included.**





**Please help City Pulse help the Ingham County Animal Shelter. Call Publisher Berl Schwartz at (517) 999-5061 or email him at [publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:publisher@lansingcitypulse.com) with "pet adoption" in the subject line. You'll be helping City Pulse and the shelter at the same time.**



# Flash

from page 30

1/2 teaspoon fresh rosemary  
1/2 teaspoon fresh thyme  
Lay the tomatoes on a baking sheet with the cut sides facing down. Sprinkle with the salt, drizzle with the olive oil, and bake under the broiler on high heat until the peels start to shrivel and shine (about 40 minutes).  
Remove the baking sheet from

## THE PULSIFIEDS

### Animal Scientist

Twelve Oaks Farms Inc. seeks an Animal Scientist (Multiple Openings) in Webberville, MI. Applicants must have Bachelor's degree in Animal Science, Veterinary Medicine, Agronomy, or related. Housing benefit available in exchange for rent. Interested candidates should submit a resume & cover letter to HR, 1175 Dietz Rd, Webberville, MI 48892

### SENIOR SOFTWARE DESIGNER/IMPLEMENTER (ORACLE/J2EE)

Delta Dental. FT Senior Software Designer/Implementer (Oracle/J2EE) (mult. positions avail.). Lead/contribute to analysis & design specs. & perform progr. & test. of syst. comp. Req: Bach. or equiv.+ 5 yrs. exp. In alt.: Master's or equiv. + 3 yrs. exp. Jobsite: Okemos, MI. Hybrid pos. w/ in-office req. Must live within commutable dist. of Okemos, MI & be able to work in-office as req. Apply online: [www.deltadentalmi.com/careers](http://www.deltadentalmi.com/careers). Sal: \$104,062/year. Visa spons. not avail.

Sinto America Corporation in Grand Ledge, MI seeks Mechanical Engineering Lead to mentor & lead eng team members on designing automated systems. USBS (or for equiv) in Mech Eng, Indus Eng, or a clos-rel fld & 5 yrs of progress exp required. Hybrid. 3 days in office/2 remote as req'd. Apply to Amy.Busch@sintoamerica.com or by mail to A. Busch, Sinto America, 150 Orchard Street, Grand Ledge, MI 48837.

### Office for Lease



**PERFECT FOR ART STUDIO**  
Above Soup Spoon Restaurant  
1417 1/2 E Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI  
517-332-5222  
Jim Caster  
[casterandassociates.com](http://casterandassociates.com)

the oven and allow the tomatoes to cool to the point where you can pick off the skins. Add the peppers, onions, garlic and optional veggies and herbs, stir it all together and return the sheet to the oven. Bake at 300 degrees for 30 minutes, stirring once or twice as the sauce cooks down.  
When the mixture approaches a homogeneous consistency, turn off the heat and allow the sauce to cool to room temperature in the oven, ideally overnight. In the morning, puree the sauce in a blender for a smoother texture that I believe freezes better than chunky sauce.  
Transfer the sauce to freezerware or heavy-duty Ziploc bags, leaving as little air as possible in each container. Thaw early, thaw often, all the way through the winter.

### Thank You For Voting Us The Best!

voted #1 Top of the Town 2023  
CityPULSE FOX 47 NEWS

Best BBQ  
Best BBQ Sauce  
Best Nachos  
Best Wings  
Best Catering Service  
Best Curbside Pickup  
Best Chef: Sean Johnson

## Meat

SOUTHERN B.B.Q. & CARNIVORE CUISINE

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Lansing - Haslett - South Side  
**WE CATER ALL EVENTS!**

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**GET 2X THE REWARDS POINTS STOREWIDE WHEN YOU COME IN DURING THE SALE**  
Offer good July 30 – August 3, 2024

**35% TO 50% OFF 150+ BRANDS**

## Better Health MARKET

[www.BetterHealthMarket.com](http://www.BetterHealthMarket.com)

**EAST LANSING**  
(Frantor) Across from Frantor Mall  
305 N Clippert Ave • 517-332-6892  
Hours: Mon-Sat 8am-9pm • Sun 10am-7pm

**LANSING**  
6235 West Saginaw Hwy  
517-323-9186  
Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-8pm • Sun 11am-6pm

**TUESDAY JULY 30 – SATURDAY AUGUST 3**



**DISCLAIMER:** For use by individuals 21 years of age or older or registered qualifying patients only. Keep out of reach of children. It is illegal to drive a motor vehicle while under the influence of marihuana. National Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222

**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.**