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December 4-10, 2024

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The nonprofit issue  
How to help your neighbors

See Page 13



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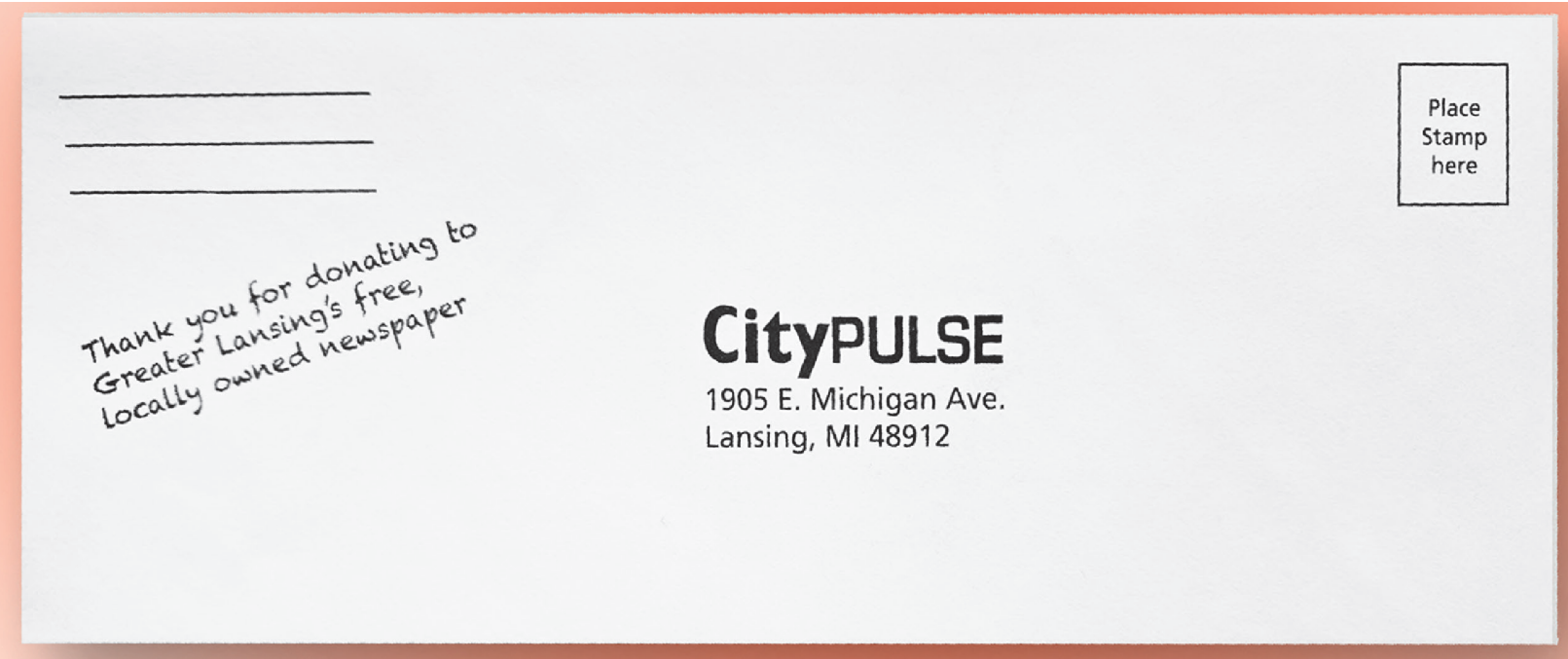
# CityPULSE

## A most vital mission

*"Following this election and its implications, very few voices of reason will be left unattacked or free to speak on behalf of at least half of this country. The Pulse is one of the true local voices of non-propaganda, and I praise you and hope you carry on. So much depends on you, my friends."* — Mark A. Hahn, teacher and artist, Lansing.

That is what one of our wonderful supporters has to say. With the inauguration of a new administration on the horizon, independent, local journalism will be more critical than ever in the fight to preserve our democracy.

We are two weeks into our holiday campaign. You can still use the envelope from the center of your Nov. 20 edition to donate to City Pulse this season. More than 75 of you have done so to date, and we thank you warmly.



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**Thank you so much and Happy Holidays to all!**

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# CityPULSE

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Local happenings to get you in the holiday spirit

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New Lansing shop caters to darting, disc golf enthusiasts

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Cugino's pasta dishes stand up to its beloved pizza

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\* KOFF \*

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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

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Please state the nature of the medical emergency!

I...HAVE A KNIFE STICKING OUT OF MY BACK.

It sounds like you have a knife sticking out of your back! If this is correct, please press or say "one."

YES! A--A KNIFE!

Undefined parameter error, please try again.

GAH! ONE!

I DON'T HAVE CANCER! I HAVE... A KNIFE STICKING OUT OF MY BACK!

I apologize for the error! Many things can go wrong with the human body! It appears that one of these things has happened to you!

I would advise you to consult a human medical professional, if you can find one! If you don't need anything else, please tap your credit card on the screen to process payment for services rendered!

I see you're having difficulty tapping your card! Please remain still while I initialize a remote scan of your wallet!

Scan complete! Thank you for using the ProfitCare Emergency Walk-In Network! Next patient please!

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## PULSE

## NEWS &amp; OPINION

# 'Shorthanded' UM Health-Sparrow nurses consider strike

## Authorization vote under way; contract expired in October

Leah Rasch worked as a medical surgical nurse at Sparrow Health System for five years before University of Michigan Health acquired it in April 2023.

"A lot of us were excited when they came in. We thought they were going to pump money into things we need, but right now they've just been putting it into buildings and signs," she said. "We deserve more than a logo change. We deserve some changes in the hospital staffing, in keeping patients and us safe. We just haven't seen it."

Rasch is among just 15% of nurses who have stayed in their profession for more than half a decade, the recruiting website Zippia.com reported. Nearly a quarter quit within their first year, while 34% do so within their first two.

Her tenure included serving patients through the COVID pandemic that accelerated the vacancies. She and her peers are pushing for better conditions to help retain more workers as America ages. The United States has more citizens over 65 than ever.

Now, more than 2,000 University of Michigan Health-Sparrow nurses unionized under the Michigan Nurses Association, including Rasch, are voting through Wednesday (Dec. 11) on authorizing a strike, should the union decide to call one.

Prompting the vote is that their contract — signed with Sparrow Health before it was bought out — expired Oct. 31. MNA President Jeff Breslin said his team has spent more than 300 hours across 35 bargaining sessions trying to secure a new contract, but so far, the matter remains "unresolved."

Further complications came Nov. 19, when UM-Sparrow announced it will end the East Lansing-based Physicians Health Plan by December 2025. It covers more than 65,000 area residents, including a large proportion of MNA union members.

Breslin was blindsided. As of Nov. 14, he said, members believed that PHP coverage would continue under a new



Courtesy Michigan Nurses Association

More than 1,000 UM Health-Sparrow employees affiliated under the Michigan Nurses Association union stage an informational picket outside of the Michigan Avenue hospital Nov. 12 to help hasten negotiations for a new contract after their previous agreement ended Oct. 31.

contract.

"There was no indication we would have anything different. We were under the understanding that what we were negotiating for was basically the price of the plan and what it covered. It's hard to believe they didn't know this was coming," he said.

UM-Sparrow spokesperson Mary Masson said the "increasingly competitive health insurance landscape" and changes to Medicare policy made the plan "unsustainable."

"Over the next year, there are anticipated layoffs that will occur as part of the wind-down plan. Every effort will be made to reassign displaced employees and help them with alternative opportunities," Masson said.

Breslin said the decision only heightens the need for a new contract.

"They're telling us that they're looking for another company to provide insurance so we have choices. Right now, we don't even know what that is, what it's going to cover and how much it's going to cost. These are all things that we bargain over in good-faith negotiations," Breslin said.

Breslin, 54, has worked as a nurse at Sparrow for almost three decades. In that time, he said, he's watched numerous co-workers exit the field.

"According to the narrative that there is a nursing shortage, we just don't have enough nurses to fill the positions, which is a twisted representation of what's really going on. There is a staffing crisis at the bedside. Hospital conditions, pay and benefits have led people to get out of the profession altogether," he said.

He worries an unfavorable contract will create an even larger gap in adequate healthcare services. UM-Sparrow's proposal to build a \$97 million psychiatric hospital at the site of the former Lansing Eastern High School building and a \$32 million healthcare facility under construction near Grand Ledge only add to his concerns.

The nursing shortage is a multi-pronged issue, however. A lack of qualified college instructors has also slowed the pipeline. Nursing programs denied 65,766 qualified applications in 2023, according to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

"Full-time nursing is not traditionally as flexible as some other professions where people can both work and also teach," Laura Appel, vice president of the Michigan Health and Hospital Association, said.

She called the pairing of an aging populace with the educator shortage

a "perfect set of conditions" that led to the nursing crisis. However, Michigan's gap is narrowing, according to Appel: The state had more than 8,400 nursing vacancies last fall, but that has fallen to just over 5,000.

"Not only did we reduce the number of vacancies, but we're also looking good in terms of our retention rate. We have a lower turnover among nurses in Michigan compared to the national average, which I think shows that Michigan hospitals are trying to do everything they can," Appel said.

The jury is still out, however. Data published by the Health Resources and Services Administration in 2022 indicates that Michigan is on track to have the fifth largest nursing shortage per state by 2035, with a projected vacancy rate of 15%. That's despite ranking 10th by population.

Despite the losses, Breslin believes "a majority" of qualified nurses who have left healthcare would return "if conditions improved."

Many could be enticed through policy changes, he said. He's keeping an eye on a trio of bills in the state Legislature to require mandatory nurse-patient staffing ratios, create a public database of staffing data and eliminate mandatory overtime. Relatedly, if state legislators opted to participate in the Nursing Licensure Compact, nurses with out-of-state licenses could take their expertise to Michigan with fewer barriers.

Appel said the MHA opposes all three bills but supports entering the compact. According to an MHA survey, Michigan hospitals would have to hire more than 1,300 nurses if the government regulated ratios come to fruition.

Breslin isn't buying it.

"Most people go into nursing so that we can affect positive change in people's lives. But when we are stretched so thin that we are barely able to get the minimum things done, we're not able to treat every patient like somebody's grandparent, child or spouse," Breslin said.

Strike or no strike, Breslin said he'll continue to push forward.

"Frankly, if the hospital focused more on staffing, they would be very solvent and have better outcomes," he said. "That's what we're trying to accomplish."



# New lawmakers learn from their media experiences

By ANNA ROSSOW  
Capital News Service

The 2024 election brought many new faces to Michigan's Legislature.

Four of them say they plan to use backgrounds in media and journalism in their approach to law-making and politics.

They come from districts ranging from the Upper Peninsula to Metro Detroit.

One is Ron Robinson, R-Utica, a real estate agent who owns a photography company. He said he plans to close the business with the excep-

tion of handling a few jobs. Robinson said he spent 20 years in radio broadcasting and some time in television.

His transition from journalism to politics was sudden, and he said it "just kind of happened."

Robinson said his media background made him "sensible and fair," traits that he said will play a part in his political approach.

"It's made me someone who likes to look at all 17,000 sides. I'm just a curious person, but mostly I'm pragmatic,"

Robinson said. "That's a skill that I've developed over the years."



Rep.-elect Ron Robinson, R-Utica



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Additionally, he said his professional background helps him communicate and interact well with different kinds of people.

"As a reporter, I've seen how hard it was for someone to beat an incumbent, even an unpopular incumbent," said Robinson. "So I figured I wasn't going to be able to outspend my in-

cumbent, so how was I going to win?"

He ousted Democratic Rep. Nate Shannon of Sterling Heights.

"I just knocked on doors and I got to know the people and went to listen to what they cared about. All things being equal, I think the reason I won this election was because I knocked on doors and went and met the people of my district," he said.

See Legislators, Page 7

## Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Michigan State Housing and Development Authority (MSHDA), Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) Water Resources Division (WRD) and the City of Lansing, Michigan.

This is to give notice that HUD under 24 CFR Part 50 has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Program. The proposed project is located at 220 E. Kalamazoo Street in Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan and is located in a Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) according to FEMA National Emergency Flood Hazard Layer Map 26065C0131D effective 8/16/2011 and confirmed through an ALTA/NSPS Land Title Survey. The proposed project includes the demolition of the current (vacant) commercial building which is currently partially located within the 100-yr floodplain and the existing parking lot, and the construction of a new 4-story, approximately 20,406SF building containing 63 residential units and approximately 2,130SF of commercial space. The proposed project will provide 28 RAD Project-based Rental Assistance (PBRA) units, 28 project-based Voucher (PBV) units and 7 market rate rental units. The proposed building will be constructed in the western portion of the site, outside of the 100-yr floodplain; however, the northern portion of the proposed paved parking lot and the driveway off will be Cherry Street will be located within the 100-yr floodplain; the remainder will be developed with sidewalk or maintained as landscaped yard.

The Lansing Housing Commission and HUD considered three other properties that met the initial site selection conditions for the proposed project; however, the sites were declined due to not being available for purchase or timing and demolition cost restraints. No equivalent practicable alternative locations were identified for this project. The following mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial functions and intrinsic values of the existing floodplain are planned for the project:

- Proposed construction will elevate the parking lot above the 100-year floodplain and create additional greenspace along the eastern property boundary to mitigate flooding an increase permeable ground surface for groundwater recharge.
- The proposed building will be oriented in the western portion of the property out of the floodplain and all relevant building mechanicals (HVAC, cogeneration, hot water heating, and all other systems) and all residential units are designed to be above the 500-year floodplain. Two entrances to the parking lot, one from Cherry Street (within the 100-year floodplain) and the other from S. Grand (outside of the 500-year floodplain) are planned in the event of flooding.

The Lansing Housing Commission and HUD have reevaluated alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to floodplain development. Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplain can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplain, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by HUD at the following address on or before December 11, 2024: HUD Office of Recapitalization, Metcalfe Federal Building, 77 W. Jackson Blvd, Room 2301, Chicago, IL 60604, Attention: Ladrenna A. Figueroa, Branch Chief or via phone at (312) 913-8290. A full description of the project may be reviewed upon request from the HUD Office of Recapitalization at the address stated above. Comments may also be submitted via email at [Ladrenna.A.Figueroa@hud.gov](mailto:Ladrenna.A.Figueroa@hud.gov).

Date: December 4, 2024

CP#24-754



## Legislators

from page 6

In the Upper Peninsula, Karl Bohnak also benefited from his media background in winning the election.

Bohnak is a Republican from Negaunee in the UP who defeated Democratic incumbent Jenn Hill of Marquette.

Bohnak was a television meteorologist who spent over 30 years in broadcasting in the UP. He started his media career as a radio announcer and went back to school and earned a degree in meteorology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"I had very good name recognition in the district that I was running in. I was a household name because I had been on television for so long," he said.

Bohnak said he was encouraged to run for office after being fired from his meteorology position in 2021. He said the corporate owners of his station mandated that employees receive the COVID-19 vaccine, and he refused.

The ability to speak clearly and concisely was one of the most valuable skills he learned from his time in media and will be useful in politics, he said.

Bohnak, who co-wrote three books on weather and weather history in the UP, said that experience of looking at patterns and statistics will give him a leg-up in the Legislature in deciding what may work and what may not.

Nancy Jenkins-Arno has spent more time in politics than in media but still uses some of her journalism skills.

Jenkins-Arno is a Republican from Lenawee County and trounced Democratic rival John Dahlgren of Clinton. She previously served in the House from 2011 until 2016, when she was term-limited.

In 2022, voters changed the state constitution to allow representatives and senators to serve up to 12 years, enabling her to run again.

She is the director of alumni and development for the Hudson Area Schools.

Jenkins-Arno, who earned her bachelor's degree in history and journalism from Evangel University in Missouri, never worked for a news organization.

However, she said she was able to use what she learned in studying journalism in her other positions, such as writing articles for Michigan Family Forum and newsletters for the Christian Family Center.

"I have an alumni magazine that we just started three years ago. I put that together from start to finish. I design it, write it, do everything, the whole nine yards," said Jenkins-Arno. "I enjoy that because that allows me to use all the skills that I have had from journalism."

She said it influences her approach by knowing how to do research and asking in-depth questions. It also helps her in writing letters and responding to constituents.

She transitioned into politics after years of interest in the



Rep.-elect Nancy Jenkins-Arno, R-Clayton

field. She earned her master's in political science and became involved in local, state and national

can use anywhere," said Jenkins-Arno.

"It's interesting being able to talk about it and understand that my background will be helpful to me in my role as a legislator going forward," she said.

Jennifer Wortz, a Republican from Quincy Township in Branch County, earned a journalism degree from Michigan State University and manages Central Grace Farm.

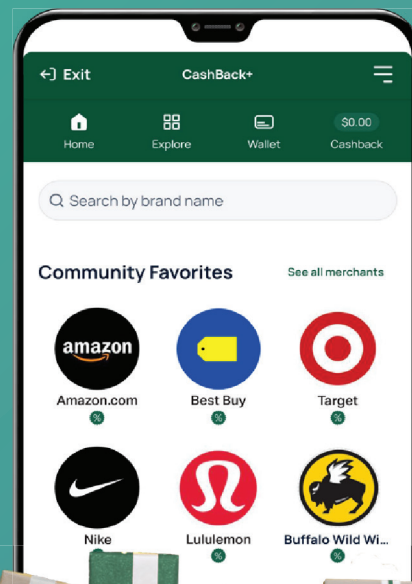
Wortz, who beat Democrat Don Hicks, said she has limited journalism experience and practiced the profession for only a short time before returning to education.

"I think journalism needs to be nonbiased and present facts and allow people to come to their own conclusions and opinions," said Wortz.



Rep.-elect Jennifer Wortz, R-Quincy Township

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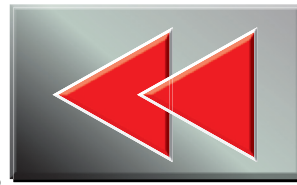
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# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



Seven supporters of the former Eastern High School, representing a larger audience, urged Lansing City Council to save at least part of the building. They implored the Council to either deny demolition permits or reach out to owner University of Michigan Health-Sparrow to preserve it, mainly focusing on keeping the auditorium and western wing of the school. Council members did not respond. Sparrow has not changed a proposal to build a psychiatric care facility on the property, said spokesperson John Foren. It still needs U of M regents' approval. (For more on this story, see [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com).)

MSU attorney Mark Zausmer said a federal judge should dismiss former MSU Faculty Senate Chair Jack Lipton's (pictured) complaint against the Board of Trustees, saying Lipton can't sue the board as a "person." Lipton claimed he suffered personal attacks from Trustees Rema Vassar and Dennis Denno and sought their removal. Zausmer said Lipton had no legal standing to act against the board since his suit focused on two trustees not acting on its behalf. He added that the board is immune because the 11th Amendment bars federal courts from hearing certain lawsuits against states. Only Gov. Gretchen Whitmer can remove Vassar and Denno from the board.



Jeremy (pictured) and Kristen Shepard of Mason and Dustin Urie of Okemos were convicted Monday on charges from a June 2023 shooting that injured a Lansing man, including assault with intent to murder, unlawful imprisonment, firearm possession by a convicted felon and tampering with evidence. They are in the county jail and scheduled to be sentenced Dec. 30.

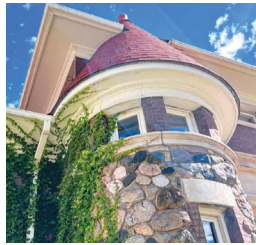
During the trial, Jeremy Shepard, who posted a bond with the understanding he would wear an ankle-monitoring device, fled the courthouse to Jackson, cut off his tether and attempted to flee the state. The Sheriff's Office sent out a statewide alert and captured him.

The U-M Health Plan insurance program (formerly Physicians Health Plan) will end in December 2025 after U-M Health officials said it's no longer financially viable. It serves about 64,000 members, or 16% of Lansing residents. Michigan Nurses Association President Jeff Breslin questioned the lack of



**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
HEALTH PLAN**  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

a replacement plan and the announcement's timing in a response statement. U-M Health Sparrow workers are amid contract negotiations after their prior contract expired Oct. 30.



The 121-year-old former Carnegie Library in Charlotte, home to several businesses after serving as the town's library from 1903 to '94, is up for sale for \$350,000.

Owner Tammy Bush, who is retiring from her floral business, has listed the property at 200 North Cochran Ave. Philanthropist Andrew Carnegie paid

for the library one of more than 2,500 he helped establish in the late 1800s through 1929. The building's next owner would get ownership of Bush' business and be able to negotiate new leases with current occupants.

Former MSU grad student Linglong Wei has filed a notice of intent with the Michigan Court of Claims to sue MSU, claiming she was diagnosed with cancer after working in a lab. The MSU Board of Trustees, the College of Agricultural and Natural Resources, the Horticulture Department and the Office of International Students and Scholars are defendants. Wei said she was diagnosed with a form of thyroid cancer in June, which she believes was caused by the lack of personal protection equipment and training while a master's student in the Horticulture Department from 2008 to '11. Her work involved spraying hazardous pesticides and herbicides, she said.

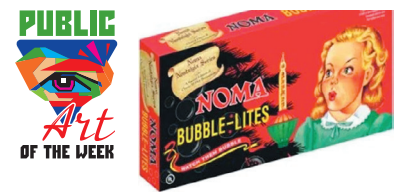


Ten Lansing School District schools on a state watchlist for underperformance should be released from oversight next year, Superintendent Ben Shuldiner told the Lansing State Journal, thanks to improved enrollment, attendance, graduation rates, test scores and other metrics. He said that "10 or more schools" were on the Education Department's partnership list, representing the bottom 5% of schools from the Michigan School Index System, but that number could be reduced to two based on the past year's data. Attwood, Forrest G. Averill, Gardner International, Gier Park, Lyons, Mt. Hope, North, REO, Wexford Montessori Academy and Sexton High School made the last list published in 2022.



Public safety

The Ingham County Sheriff's Office issued an alert notifying the public about scammers impersonating county workers, including those claiming to be specific individuals and asking for money to be put into gift cards to avoid going to jail on a bench warrant. Those who receive calls and believe they are scams should hang up immediately and report it to the Sheriff's Office. ... A 40-year-old Eagle man was killed in a single-vehicle crash on Packard Highway near Hartel Road, the Michigan State Police said. He lost control of his 2017 Buick Enclave, which struck an embankment, rolled over and ejected him. Police believe alcohol played a role in the crash.



### Christmas time in the city

Drive around Lansing, especially downtown, and the city lights up at night during the Christmas season.

Even the grey battleship parking lights glow in the spirit of the holiday. This year's state Christmas tree is spectacular in bright all red lights (offending some anti-Trumpers), and across the street in the lobby of City Hall an all-white tree graces the lobby with a metal Menorah nearby.

Using lights to celebrate Christmas can be traced to Germany in the 1500s, when homes were decorated with Christmas trees lit by real candles attached to the limbs. This tradition, albeit extremely dangerous, continued until cities and homes became electrified starting in the late 1800s. Even today we celebrate those candle-lit days with flicker-like candles like placed in windows.

At some point, Christmas lighting moved outside with luminaria lighting paths on Christmas Eve, which is still a tradition. Downtown may have even begun its Silver Bells tradition with luminaria lining the downtown shopping area in 1985 and 1986.

A 1913 editorial in the Lansing State Journal proposed that Lansing erect a "Municipal Christmas Tree," and during Christmas week that year the first tree was erected on the Capitol grounds, according to public historians Timothy Bowman and Andrew MacLaney. The earliest Christmas trees appeared in churches. The lit candles represent Jesus, "the light of the world." Slowly but surely, the Christmas tree became a symbol of a secular celebration. Advent wreaths with real fir boughs and lit candles (three white, one pink) were staples of most Catholic homes during the four weeks prior to Christmas.

Outdoor lighting on homes can be traced to the boom of the suburbs where otherwise plain tract houses glistened with lighting in the early 1960s and even before. I have a plywood Frosty the Snowman that my dad made in the 1940s, covered with fresh boughs and lights, that he hung on my grandmother's porch for years. Today, families still pile into SUVs to drive around looking at Christmas decorations.

Today, we use giant blow-up Santas, Grinches and snowmen planted on front lawns that during the day are deflated into plastic globs. And Christmas decorating exploits have made their way into movies like "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation."

**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.

# Act now to ensure diverse housing options in Lansing

By JOAN NELSON

In wrapping up 2024, I'd like to share the latest on a year-long effort supported by housing and neighborhood civic groups (Allen Neighborhood Center, southwest Lansing's SWAG, Ingham County Land Bank, Ingham County Trust Fund, ASPPIRE, Spartan Housing Co-op), myriad neighbors, small-scale developers and AARP to embrace incremental development and shared-use housing in Lansing.

Shared-use housing is a catch-all term that includes an assortment of housing options including duplexes, rooming and boarding houses, co-ops, cottage developments and back-yard granny flats (called ADUs for Accessory Dwelling Units). Gradually increasing these diverse housing options is one strategy to address the serious housing shortage in our city, as opposed to just erecting lots of apartment buildings. Housing diversity ensures that we have more than single-family homes to offer to:

- the roughly 30% of Lansing adults living alone, e.g., the young adult arriving in town for a new job, a traveling nurse, a visiting professor or a newly divorced friend who requires some private space as well as shared space where they can enjoy the company of others in a rooming house or boarding house;
- seniors interested in building an accessible ADU behind their homes to accommodate a family member, or a caregiver to assist with daily needs, or simply to provide retirement income;
- a newly arrived young adult refugee or a baby-boomer drawn to living in a housing cooperative which provides private space and access to shared space and a support system; or
- folks drawn to a cottage development where residents might gather in a shared courtyard for evening conversation, or gardening, or to share a moment with immediate neighbors.

As regular readers of this column know, a group of about 40 Lansingites have been working over the past year to advocate for more shared-use housing in our neighborhoods. This year, the city Planning Department crafted proposals to reduce barriers to ordinary people creating these housing options in our neighborhoods. The zoning approvals process has been long and thorough. Once drafted, the proposals went

through an internal review by various city departments. Then the city's Planning Commission scrutinized them over three meetings, ending with a unanimous endorsement. Now the proposals are in Council's hands.

A public hearing in October drew 22 people and several speakers from the Shared Use Housing Network, residents of housing cooperatives, the developer of Lansing's only cottage development and a slew of AARP members dressed in their signature red shirts. (The AARP is one of the largest supporters of ADUs in the country.) Not a single person spoke against the proposals. One speaker was neutral, simply offering a caution about parking.

As customary, the proposals were then returned to the Council's Development and Planning Committee. Rather than forwarding the proposals for a Council vote, the committee tabled them until Wednesday (Dec 11) in order to give the Planning Department more time to educate Council member on the proposals. We can only hope that the clear, strong and growing support for more inclusive zoning will prompt the committee to advance the proposals to the Council for a full vote soon.

Lansing's new zoning proposals are relatively modest and similar to those of 22 Michigan cities that have already approved backyard cottages and other forms of shared use housing. City leaders in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Manistee, Holland, Ann Arbor, Traverse City, Oscoda and others see these changes as helpful in creating more and more diverse housing in a tight market. And the 22 cities are among dozens throughout the nation that have opted for more inclusive zoning and other forms of "gentle densification" as a response to the national housing crisis. Frankly, I'm hard-pressed to figure out what people might be afraid of in these new proposals.

Recently, someone expressed concerns that shared-use housing might create too much work for an already stressed code compliance department. Let's look at this.

First, the thing about incremental development is that it is ... incremental. The likelihood of scores of co-ops or ADUs or cottage developments or boarding houses popping up in a few months or even a year is unlikely. What we hear from officials in Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor and Traverse City is that people move slowly to take advantage of these options and that the change that occurs in neighborhoods is not jarring but

rather presents as a gradual thickening or densification of the urban space. And, over time, this gentle densification draws more transportation options, more small service businesses and more robust use of local parks and green spaces.

There is nothing to lose here, but much to be gained — pretty painlessly and without damaging the fabric and feel of the neighborhoods we love. We're talking about incremental changes that respect local context and also, by the way, happen to generate steady if modest revenues in increased property taxes and income taxes for city coffers as more people find an appropriate place to live in our neighborhoods.

I wonder if there is something else at play here — perhaps just a general uneasiness about change in our neighborhoods? But here's the deal: Our neighborhoods are always changing. Isn't it best to have an adaptable, resilient neighborhood, one that can absorb neighborhood-initiated and incremental change to meet the diverse housing needs of our neighbors?

Charles Marohn, founder of the nonprofit media advocacy organization Strong Towns and co-author with Daniel Herriges of "Escaping the Housing Trap,"

suggests that "to address the dysfunction at the root of our housing problems, we need to shift our approach. We must move away from a model in which large developers and centralized financial institutions have unprecedented sway over what is built and where, to a more antifragile housing ecosystem in which the bar to entry is low, and every neighborhood can undergo incremental change over time."

In their book, Marohn and Herriges lay out a practical roadmap for incremental, community-driven change that begins with creating more inclusive zoning that allows for diverse and often more affordable housing options such as those included in Lansing's zoning proposals.

Input to the Council at this point is critical. Please make a call to your councilmember or send an email to City.council@lansingmi.gov.

Thank you in advance for speaking up in support of more homes for more and different configurations of people that live in our city and our neighborhoods — or for people who want to live in our neighborhoods, if only there was appropriate housing.

*(Joan Nelson is the retired founding executive director of the Allen Neighborhood Center. Her column appears monthly.)*

Opinion



CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION  
ORDINANCE 1535

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND EAST LANSING CITY CODE CHAPTER 50

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

City of East Lansing City Code Chapter 50, *Zoning*, will be amended as follows:

Section 50-5, *Definitions, A through C*.

*Bed and Breakfast* means a single family residential structure that (1) has 7 or fewer sleeping rooms, including sleeping rooms occupied by the owner; and (2) 1 or more sleeping rooms are consistently available to transient tenants; and (3) serves meals at no extra cost to its transient tenants.

Section 50-6, *Definitions, D through F*.

*Dwellings, classes of multiple*. All multiple dwellings for the purpose of this chapter are divided into two classes, namely: class A and class B.

(1) *Class A*. Multiple dwellings of class A are dwellings which are occupied for residence purposes and in which the rooms are occupied in apartments, suites or groups, in which each combination of rooms is so arranged and designed as to provide a separate room for cooking and kitchen sink accommodations or a kitchenette, and a toilet room within each of the separate units. This class includes tenement houses, flats, apartment houses, apartment hotels, bachelor apartments, and all other dwellings similarly occupied whether specifically enumerated herein or not.

(2) *Class B*. Multiple dwellings of class B are dwellings which are occupied by individuals who are lodged, with or without meals, and in which as a rule the rooms are occupied singly and without any provision therein or therewith for cooking or kitchen accommodations for the individual occupants. This class includes fraternities, sororities, hotels, lodginghouses, boardinghouses, roominghouses, bed and breakfasts, and all other dwellings similarly occupied, whether specifically enumerated herein or not.

ALL OTHER PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 50 REMAIN UNMODIFIED AND IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

Marie Wicks

East Lansing City Clerk

CP#24-755



# Bahar-Cook rides a roller coaster of emotions on election night

Rebecca Bahar-Cook took to Facebook at 4 p.m. Nov. 6, conceding defeat.

Michigan's 83 counties had reported their unofficial election night results to the Bureau of Elections. Bahar-Cook, a Democratic candidate for the MSU Board of Trustees, had finished behind Republican Julie Maday by 13,946 votes.

"I came real close," she wrote. "Thank you to everyone who knocked doors, donated to my campaign and voted for me. I'm okay. I have a full and happy life. I would have liked to have served, but it isn't a life-altering loss."

Hours before, the Capitol news service MIRS had called the election based on the Bureau of Elections numbers. However, Bahar-Cook's husband, Todd, and her adult daughter, Sara, were perplexed at the Cook household. They had whipped up a spreadsheet tracking the numbers the night before. Based on these, Mom had won. Where was the mistake?

Rebecca Bahar-Cook is a known problem-solver in Ingham County. While a proud Democrat who works for many Democratic clients politically, she's earned much respect across the aisle as a level-headed problem solver.

Her campaign team felt her reputation might help in her bid to fill one of two open trustee seats, but the consensus was this: If Kamala Harris won Michigan, she was a shoo-in. If Donald Trump won Michigan, she could win, but unlikely. Historically, that's what happens in these statewide education board races. A Republican presidential or gubernatorial candidate wins Michigan? The Republican MSU board candidates win.

So, while Trump only defeated Harris by 1.42 percentage points, if the numbers show Bahar-Cook lost a seat on the board by 13,946 votes, she probably lost.

Detroit Free Press reporter Paul Egan posted on Bahar-Cook's Facebook page the next day.

"Hi, Rebecca. I know you more or less conceded, and it is quite possible you can access more complete numbers than I do, but have you seen the latest AP updates? They have moved you into second place."

Later that afternoon, Cook's campaign team called me at the home

office. They noted that her family's numbers don't match the Bureau of Elections final unofficial tally either. Could I point them to the Bureau of Elections' county-by-county breakdown? I was happy to do so and show them how to quickly enter it into a spreadsheet.

Fifteen minutes later, they called back. They did what I suggested. Something was off. In Allegan County, the Bureau of Elections had Bahar-Cook receiving 2,363 votes, which was dramatically lower than the other MSU candidates.

Allegan County's website reported that Bahar-Cook received 20,363 votes. However, this data entered on the Michigan Bureau of Elections site had a digit missing.

When officials added the missing 18,000 votes, Bahar-Cook went from losing by about 14,000 votes to pulling ahead by 4,000. We double-checked the campaign's work. Everything added up. They were right.

At MIRS, we alerted the Bureau of Elections, which acknowledged that an Allegan County worker inputted the wrong number into their site.

We broke the news immediately. Bahar-Cook's phone started blowing up that night with congratulations.

Still, Bahar-Cook, a former county canvasser, knew the margins were tight. She also knew things could change during the canvassing process, so she checked the Bureau of Elections website a few times daily for the next week.

Sometimes, her margin increased by a couple hundred votes, and sometimes, it shrank by a few dozen. Ultimately, the final total was Bahar-Cook 2,426,171, Maday 2,422,059 — a mere 4,112-vote win.

In the last 100 years of Michigan history, no presidential or gubernatorial election was this close. The best statewide comparison I can find was in 2002 when Mike Cox beat Gary Peters for attorney general by 5,200 votes.

But still, 3 million voters participated in that election. This one was 5 million people. Bahar-Cook's margin of victory was four one-hundredths of a percent.

It was a roller coaster ride for this former Ingham County commissioner, now preparing to be sworn in as an MSU trustee in less than a month.

(Kyle Melinn is the editor of the Capitol News Services MIRS. His email address is melinkkey@gmail.com.)



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

## LET'S BOOGIE! Bob Baldori & David Small



### Jr. redux: Not him again

Hard to pin down the most annoying thing about RFK Jr. His voice could top the list, though his crackpot beliefs are right up there.

As with many of Bozo's choices, one wonders how long it will be before they fall out with the imperial nut case — as all the sane ones do. History shows that anyone who doesn't have one's head planted three feet up Bozo's ass doesn't last long around him. The main difference between this administration and the last one will be Bozo's ability to attract incompetent appointees whose main qualification is their willingness to abase themselves in his thrall. Kennedy, for all his failings, does not seem like someone with a high tolerance for Bozo's buffoonery. True that Kennedy has a track record loaded with crackpot theories and delusional — as well as dangerous — beliefs. On that score, he fits right in with Bozo's other picks.

But buried in Jr.'s history is the good environmental work he did while leading Riverkeeper to multiple successful lawsuits against environmental miscreants. His track record in that regard is stellar, and an indication that somewhere in that worm-infested brain is a competent, occasionally rational person. Actual competence! That in itself makes him an unlikely candidate for a long tenure in Bozo's crackpot universe.

Also overlooked in Kennedy's past is his support for AOC and her Green New Deal resolution along with many other instances of support for environmental sanity.

Like many with a long and troubled history of drug abuse (14 years of heroin addiction, including a felony conviction) Kennedy harbors paranoid beliefs about marijuana prohibition. Though there is some indication that those beliefs have evolved, he probably won't advocate for reform of the Fed's counter-productive drug policies that Republican administrations put in place in a 50-year campaign to suppress the vote in minority communities.<sup>1</sup> Overall, Jr. is a mixed bag, but the fact that there is actual competence in his history portends for a very short ride in Bozo's clown car.

1. "You understand what I'm saying? We knew we couldn't make it illegal to be either against the war or blacks, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with (marijuana and) heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities." John Erlichman, White House counsel and assistant to President Nixon.

(The Boogie Kings is an e-newsletter written by Bob Baldori, with art by David Small. The Boogie Kings Newsletter is published several times a week. To subscribe, go to [theboogiekings.substack.com](http://theboogiekings.substack.com).)



ALL STAR

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Well, it has been almost a month since the election, and I wish I could offer some hope, but I feel like I would be insincere if I told you that things will be ok. For me, things will be ok because of my cis white male privilege, but if you are queer, brown, or have reproductive anatomy, I cannot say the same. You might be all right, but that is a gamble at this point. For the last 4 years, I slept ok because I thought we had chosen a direction that would lead to progress, and for the last 26 days, I have laid awake wondering what is in store for us.

As I write this, Trump has announced Kash Patel as his choice to lead the FBI. Holy crap. His other choices are much the same. I fear I will not know what normal is after the next 4 years. I have fought to maintain a sense of reality, but I could see it being stripped away little by little during his previous term, from his inauguration crowd size on day 1 to good people on both sides in Charlottesville.

The weirdest thing to me is that I was born to reject everything that he stands for, as most of us were. As dysfunctional as my early childhood was, I knew that if someone made fun of a disabled reporter, that person was wrong. I would have been told to apologize immediately if I had done so. If I talked about women the way he does, I would have been reprimanded and punished. I would have been grounded in my room for eternity if I lied as he does, cheated a charity, or made false accusations or character assassinations.

However, his fans (that's what they are) excuse him for what they would not accept from their closest loved ones. I am trying to come to terms with the fact that I was raised in a different reality than today. What I thought was common sense is not so common anymore. Kindness is no longer a virtue; it is woke. But it is also an act of rebellion for us to continue to have hope. I have spent the last month trying to find joy wherever I can, and honestly, every act of kindness has brought me joy.

I do not know if I am courageous. Or brave. However, I think we will all discover how courage and bravery are necessary for ourselves and, more importantly, for those who feel invisible or directly in harm's way. Just as I witnessed so many do these last four years after the Supreme Court eliminated protections from Roe vs. Wade or Affirmative Action, we must continue to make our voices heard.

I did not advertise in the City Pulse until 2022, and I felt safe doing it because after Trump left the White House, I felt that America had rejected him because that wasn't what we wanted. I wrote, and I wrote, and I wrote. And eventually, I felt like maybe I didn't need to write anymore unless something happened, and I felt compelled to do so. It is also very expensive to do a full-page ad, but I did it because I wanted people to see that they were not alone, and I know from the many times people either called or wrote to tell me.

I feel compelled to write today. I don't know if I will tomorrow, but I will again soon, of that I am sure. I didn't write anything during Trump's first term, but it was not because I didn't have anything to say. I was definitely speaking out, but it was just on a different platform. But I digress. I will do anything I can to be a voice of comfort, a voice of normalcy for anyone who feels that hope is lost.

I will have been married to an amazing woman for 25 years this December 31. She majored in anthropology/paleontology with a minor in religion. She is much smarter than me and has reminded me that the world has a long history and that if we survive climate change, we will get through this. We may cry and fear, but we will emerge on the other side. With every example in history, I thought we were supposed to learn from the past and continue to evolve. Maybe this is just another lesson that we haven't done enough. I hope that she is right, for our adult children's sake. And for my future grandchildren's sake. We always say children are resilient, but we must be resilient too. If there is any solace, it is that history will not be kind to our future president; I am certain of that.

Forgive me if I seem glum. I am trudging on. I read the president-elect's Thanksgiving Day message, and I thought this was the first holiday message since the election, and he could not even offer up a well-wished message without dividing us into two separate sides. I was not surprised, but that doesn't mean I wasn't disappointed. I may not like him, but I still hold him to a higher standard, even if he never meets it.

So, I leave you with this: Every Thanksgiving, we go around the table, and everyone says something for which they are thankful. As I stated earlier, I am looking for joy wherever I can find it, and even for something as trivial as sports, I am thankful for the Detroit Lions. It is a bright spot for one day a week, and that is not nothing. Football is ending soon, so I am considering other distractions that will bring me some joy. I think everyone needs a dog. I swear I can count on a joyous greeting every time I get home, and I am thankful for that. I hope all of you can find some joy in some way because you will need it. Do not be consumed entirely in everything that is wrong, it will not help.

To not set myself up for disappointment, I plan on things getting worse before they get better. My heart goes out to those directly impacted by whatever Trump does. I wish I could do more. The social safety nets people rely on could disappear, and more people will fall through the cracks. I am certain that Project 2025 will bring uncertainty, that justice will not look like justice, and that precedent will no longer apply when the new administration takes over.

However, these things that have been a cornerstone to progress will not disappear without a challenge. I refuse to watch idly while they destroy and renege on the promises of this country. I hold us to a higher standard, which makes me more of a patriot than their plausible deniability with every claim that they are not self-serving populists enriching themselves at everyone's expense. Never mind the businesses that he has bankrupted; we must keep him from morally bankrupting us as citizens of the United States and the world.

As James Baldwin once said: "I imagine one of the reasons people cling to their hates so stubbornly is because they sense, once hate is gone, they will be forced to deal with the pain."

The people who support him may one day have to reconcile with that, assuming they can discern his cult of personality when his policies do not positively impact their lives. I do not have any delusions that those who align with his character will change, but the ones who decided that his promises on the economy and the border were worth their vote might reconsider when they see the outcome.

# ARTS & CULTURE

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# Sleigh bells are ringing

## Noteworthy holiday events to come in Greater Lansing

By NICOLE NOECHEL

From concerts to gift markets to gas-las and parties, there is an abundance of holiday events throughout the Lansing area in the coming weeks. Of course, we can't highlight everything in just one page, but the following is a list of especially notable happenings that are sure to spark the holiday spirit in even the grinchiest of friends or family members. For information on additional seasonal festivities, make sure to check out our Out on the Town section and weekly Thursday morning e-newsletters throughout the month.

### Wonderland of Lights

Through Dec. 23

5-8 p.m. Thursday-Sunday

Potter Park Zoo

1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing

Potter Park Zoo has once again decorated its pathways with thousands of lights, which are available to view 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday through Sunday through Dec. 23. Festive music rings throughout the zoo as patrons revel in the holiday spirit while taking in the light displays and animal enclosures. Fridays and Saturdays, families can take photos with Santa.

### Holiday Nights of Lights

Through Dec. 22

6-9 p.m. Friday-Sunday

Frances Park

2701 Moores River Drive, Lansing

The city of Lansing also hosts an annual light display, but this one is a drive-thru. Featuring a series of holiday scenes adorned with lights, the cruise through Frances Park is free and open to all 6 to 9 p.m. Friday through Sunday through Dec. 22. There's even an "I spy" activity for younger passengers, which can be found at [lansingmi.gov/967/Holiday-Nights-of-Lights](http://lansingmi.gov/967/Holiday-Nights-of-Lights).

### Night Lights Christmas parade and festivities

4-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6  
Downtown Grand Ledge

Similar to Silver Bells in the City's electric light parade, Grand Ledge's Night Lights Christmas parade kicks off 7 p.m. Friday (Dec. 6) at the fire department and continues down Bridge Street to Scott Street. Santa will make an appearance at the end of the parade, trading in his sleigh for a fire truck. The parade will be immediately preceded by the lighting of the Grand Ledge Christmas tree and followed by opportunities to visit with Santa, both at Bridge Street Plaza.

Additionally, the Xavier DeGroat Autism Foundation will hold a grilling fundraiser from 4 to 7 p.m. at Bridge Street Plaza; the Grand Ledge Area District Library will offer crafts, balloon art and caroling from 5 to 7 p.m.; and the Grand Ledge Rotary Club will hold a chili cookoff from 6 to 8 p.m. at the opera house.

### Old Town Krampusnacht

4-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7

Old Town, Lansing

Old Town's Krampusnacht returns for a second year Saturday evening (Dec. 7), offering a Krampus parade, an expanded Misfit vendor market, a costume contest, an art exhibit, live entertainment, food and drink vendors, games, kids' activities and more. Though the event has a darker tone than most other holiday events, it promises free, light-hearted fun for the whole family.

### Winterfest

3-9 p.m. Saturday Dec. 7

Downtown Laingsburg

Laingsburg will be awash with holiday activities on Saturday (Dec. 7), including a winter market, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus and horse-drawn carriage rides from 3 to 8 p.m., all at the Early Childhood Education Center; a lighted parade beginning at 6 p.m. at Laingsburg Elementary School; and a silent disco from 8 to 9 p.m. at Twilliger's Tavern. The Grinch



Courtesy Downtown Lansing Inc.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be busy traveling around the Lansing area in the coming weeks to greet children at an array of holiday events.

will be on the loose around town, taking photos with families and perhaps making a few rude comments.

### Mariachi Herencia de México: "A Mariachi Christmas"

7:30 p.m. Dec. 12

Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall  
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing

Two-time Latin Grammy-nominated band Mariachi Herencia de México will bring its "A Mariachi Christmas" show to the Wharton Center on Dec. 12. The 14-member ensemble, based in Chicago, will perform classic Mexican and American holiday tunes with a modern mariachi twist, including "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," "Winter Wonderland" and many more.

### Holiday Road Rally

6 p.m. Dec. 13

Foster Community Center  
200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing

The city of Lansing will reprise its popular Holiday Road Rally photo scavenger hunt on Dec. 13. Teams of four to six participants receive a clue book and rules at Foster Community Center, then embark on a hunt to capture as many photos and videos as they can in three hours before racing back to a local restaurant for the

award ceremony. Teams can register at [lansingmi.gov/968/Holiday-Road-Rally](http://lansingmi.gov/968/Holiday-Road-Rally) or by calling (517) 483-4313.

### Holiday Sing

7:30 p.m. Dec. 13

University Lutheran Church  
1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing

The Ten Pound Fiddle's annual Holiday Sing offers all community members, regardless of vocal ability, a chance to sing along to a variety of pieces themed around winter, the solstice, peace, home, Christmas and the new year. Songs will be led by Ten Pound Fiddle book-

ing manager and musician Sally Potter, with accompaniment by pianist Doug Austin and hammered dulcimer player Doug Berch. Lyric sheets will be provided. Lansing Poet Laureate Ruelaine Stokes will share a few spoken-word pieces during song breaks.

### Festival of Trees

Opening gala 7 p.m. Dec. 13

Dec. 14-31

1-7 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday

Noon-5 p.m. Friday-Sunday

Turner-Dodge House

100 E. North St., Lansing

The Turner-Dodge House's Festival of Trees opens Dec. 13 with a gala featuring live jazz music by local duo Clique Vocals, hors d'oeuvres, wine and the selection of the top three best-decorated trees by a panel of judges. Tickets will be available at the door on a first-come, first-served basis, and those with an annual Friends of Turner-Dodge family membership will receive free admission. Following the gala, the house will be open to the public Tuesdays through Sundays through Dec. 31. All three floors of the historic mansion will be adorned with trees decorated by local businesses, organizations and individuals. Proceeds from ticket sales benefit the restoration and preservation of the house.



LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

HOLIDAY POPS!

DECEMBER 15 | 3 PM | LANSINGSYMPHONY.ORG



A volunteer cradles one of 700 turkeys distributed to the community Nov. 23 at LMTS Community Outreach Services in south Lansing.

Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

# Helping helpers help

## Nonprofits stretch limited resources to meet mounting needs

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

For the dozens of nonprofits that help fill basic needs in greater Lansing and mid-Michigan, the big word in 2024 is “more.” More hunger and food insecurity, more demand for child care, more need for mental health services, and much, much more housing insecurity and homelessness.

“More” has no morals. It’s a cold brick of a word, with nothing to offer but dead weight.

The only thing to do is to put a bigger brick of “more” on the other side of the scale — more resources, more volunteers, more advocacy.

It’s a heavy lift, but there’s no better time to become involved in the crucial work of local nonprofits, large and small, donating, volunteering, advocating, helping helpers help.

Help has never been timelier. Besides

more need, there is more uncertainty for local nonprofits. Looming on the horizon is the only word scarier than “more” — less. With pandemic-era relief funds tapped out, and a new federal administration on the horizon, nonprofits are likely to be tasked with doing more with fewer federal funds from departments like Agriculture and Housing and Urban Development — crucial resources that have long helped to sustain local programs for the hungry and homeless. Agencies are preparing for fewer and smaller grants, less help from tapped-out corporate donors and diminishing purchasing power from the money that does come in, owing to inflation.

As an antidote to dread and despair, nonprofit leaders are putting their faith in the generous greater Lansing community, and in each other.

“We’re prepared for there to be less



Joe Enerson

grant funds available, especially from federal agencies,” Allen Neighborhood Center Director Joe Enerson said. “But at the same time, I think our neighbors recognize the need in the community. Typically, we see an uptick at the end of the year from people who want to help out however they can.”

### Food on the move

The next time you see a green and white Greater Lansing Food Bank van or truck, honk and salute. It’s probably on its way to one of dozens of local food pantries in the area, a school, a church or even a house on your block, where someone is going through hard times or living with a disability.

Food insecurity is pervasive in mid-Michigan, from the cracked concrete of downtown Lansing to the surrounding heartlands, from pre-school to college campuses.

“Food insecurity is at the higher level now since the 2008 financial crisis — even worse than during the pandemic,” Food Bank director Michelle Lantz said.

Clare County, one of the seven counties served by the Food Bank, is the most

See Nonprofits, Page 14



**CityPULSE**


**Sent in your City Pulse holiday donation envelope yet? You can still do so!**

Or scan the QR code or call **517-999-6704!**

**Thank you so much and Happy Holidays!**



## Nonprofits

from page 13



Michelle Lantz

food insecure in the state.

"It's very rural, access to food is harder there, and there are not a lot of good paying jobs there," Lantz said.

Cash donations make a big impact. The Food Bank can stretch a dollar a country mile, thanks to bulk purchasing power that enables it to buy food at wholesale or below.

"It's unheard of, and ridiculous, but we can turn one dollar into three meals," Lantz said. "I know people love to donate food, because it's very visceral, but we can do much more with money than they could by purchasing food at a retail store."

The scale of the operation is impressive. Working from a spacious new warehouse at 5600 Food Court Drive in Bath Township, the Food Bank distributes about a million pounds of food every month to Ingham, Eaton, Clinton, Shiawassee, Gratiot, Isabella and Clare counties.

Inside the warehouse, volunteers are often seen assembling care kits with open-and-eat food, utensils and personal needs, produced at the warehouse and sent to organizations working with the homeless, including schools that have students who are homeless.

The Food Bank works with 140 local entities in all, including both of the area's major hospital systems. They even go to college campuses.

"The cliché is the poor college student eating ramen noodles, but that's real," Lantz said. "There's a lot of food insecurity on college campuses." If people aren't fed properly, they can't learn.

The nonprofit's approach to food insecurity is different from when it started 40 years ago. Mass distribution to about 110 food pantries in the area is still a mainstay, but it's not enough. Food insecurity is everywhere, and it's often hidden.

"The barriers to food aren't as crystal clear as they used to be," Lantz said. "When we find a population that has a food insecurity rate, we try to figure out how to serve them best, where they are.



Courtesy photo

Volunteers pack thousands of ready-to-eat kits for people experiencing homelessness, including students, across seven Michigan counties at the Greater Lansing Food Bank's Bath Township warehouse.

If they don't have transportation, or can't get to a food pantry, how can we get food to them?"

The Food Bank has ramped up home deliveries for people who are housebound, or disabled, and other mobile services. Some volunteers even walk through neighborhoods with a wheeled cart, like an old-fashioned fruit vendor, in areas where many people don't have cars or access to a food pantry.

"Rural, urban — it doesn't matter," Lantz said. "Food insecurity affects everyone."

The Food Bank's web site has detailed information for people who want to donate money or food, become a corporate sponsor, or conduct a food drive for their own company or organization.

One of the busiest local food pantries replenished each week by the Food Bank and other donors is at the Allen Neighborhood Center on the east side of town. The number of people who come to the center's food pantry on Monday food distribution days has doubled in the past two years, director Enerson said.

Last year, emergency COVID-era increases in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits ended, reducing the average recipient's allotment by \$90 a month, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

"People had a lot more assistance available to them, but as those programs have ended, the need increased," Enerson said.

As need increases for food-related services, the Allen Neighborhood Center has expanded its partnership with the Food Bank.

"We couldn't have our weekly food distribution without the Food Bank," Enerson said. "But we need more hands to

aggregate the food from the Food Bank and distribute it."

People interested in volunteering can check the nonprofit's web site for more information.

Besides an uptick in people signing up for food assistance and seeking emergency assistance, the Allen Neighborhood Center has seen a major influx of people who need help with Medicaid enrollment. Other services, such as financial counseling and referrals for a variety of needs, are being stretched to the limit.

The center's Neighbors in Need program is a donor pool that supports all of the center's direct services, including its food pantry and outreach services. People can donate to Neighbors in Need via the center's web site.

### Home for good



Eric Hufnagel

Eric Hufnagel is not into drama. Teeth-gnashing doesn't help when your job is to coordinate and support dozens of Michigan nonprofits fighting the rising tide of housing insecurity and homelessness.

As the director of the Michigan Coa-

lition Against Homelessness, Hufnagel concentrates mainly on funding, logistics and communication. But every now and then, his steady, bureaucratic voice takes on a strained undertow, like that of a level-headed captain on a sinking ship.

"More people are falling into homelessness," Hufnagel declared. "Even though more shelters are coming on line, we can't adequately meet the need in most communities around the state and the shelters are full."

After the COVID-era moratorium on evictions ended in 2022, evictions increased drastically, as expected, but that's only part of the problem.

Hufnagel described the current housing market as "supply and demand on steroids."

"I don't care what anyone tells you," Hufnagel said. "The cost of doing business hasn't increased that dramatically. The landlords want to keep up with the market. They're making a greater profit, and it creates a situation where people are unable to stay."

Even people who are working or people with disabilities who have been granted a housing-choice voucher from the federal or state government can't find housing they can afford.

Tenants with nowhere else to go might grit their teeth and swallow a \$150 per month rate increase, but only for so long.

"And what do you know?" Hufnagel said. "After six months, it adds up to \$900 more than last year, they've had to tap into their savings and they're tenuously housed."

He paused to take a breath. "Sorry if you're hearing emotion in my voice."

The Capital Area Housing Partnership is hammering away at housing insecurity on several fronts. The nonprofit builds, or finds, permanent supportive units for people who are experiencing homelessness or domestic violence and helps cash-strapped homeowners deal with long-delayed, crucial maintenance like roofs or electrical systems.

The most urgent demand for CAHP's services is for more housing units, for sale and for rent, according to CAHP director Emma Henry.

"We know we need more units in the Lansing area," Henry said. "We have tried to leverage more resources to make that happen, whether that is state, federal, local, private banks."

With a background in construction as well as social work, Henry is well suited to the job. As a kid, she built bird cages, using nuts and bolts from a hardware store owned by her father.

"It's great to see a person move into a home we designed on paper and built," she said. "It changes the trajectory of a person's life."

See Nonprofits, Page 15





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## Nonprofits

from page 14



Emma Henry

This year, Henry is seeing the realization of a dream build, significantly larger than a bird cage — the renovation of Lansing's historic Walter French Academy into 76 apartments and a daycare center.

Tenants will begin moving in this month, and that opens up a unique, newly launched donor opportunity called "Home for Good at Walter French."

Of the 76 apartments, 19 are permanent supportive units for the homeless, people experiencing domestic violence and special needs clients.

But the apartments are unfurnished, and that's where the community can help.

"The people moving into the units may be coming in with the clothes on their back and a bag of belongings," Henry said.

Thanks to \$50,000 grant from the Lansing Regional Community Foundation, all the units have a bed, a couch, a chair, a lamp and a kitchen table. CAHP is asking the community for cash to provide the other essentials — sheets, pillows, silverware and other basic necessities.

Henry informally called the drive "adopt an apartment for the holidays."

Although cash donations are preferred, some new items will be accepted, or used at other permanent supportive housing units across mid-Michigan.

"If someone has a table, or some nice chairs, we won't say no, but we don't want a used pillow," Kuhn said.

(Go to the [capitalareahousing.org](http://capitalareahousing.org) and click "Home for Good," or contact Jen Zatkun at (517) 575-7161 for more information.)

## Punching above their weight

For people who want to help one or more of mid-Michigan's many nonprofits, but don't know where to start, the Capital Region Community Foundation is available to act as a kind of phil-



Courtesy photo

Lansing's historic Walter French Academy, renovated into 76 apartments and a day care center, will have 19 apartments earmarked for people experiencing homelessness or domestic abuse, or living with disabilities. The Capital Area Housing Partnership invites the community to donate to its "Home for Good" program to help furnish the apartments.



Laurie Baumer

anthropic stockbroker, investing donor funds where they are most needed.

The foundation also has updated information on small nonprofits in your area that need help.

Foundation president Laurie Baumer urges prospective donors and volunteers to consider one of the dozens of smaller organizations embedded in neighborhoods across the region.

"It can be tough for people to decide what to support," Baumer said. "There are so many deserving nonprofits doing excellent work. We all know the big ones, and they do big work, but we hope people will consider the smaller ones, too."

Some of these small nonprofits, like the Southside Lansing Ministries, Southside Community Kitchen and LMTS Community Outreach, provide a range of basic services. Child care is a crucial but often overlooked need filled by a range of nonprofits in the Lansing area, like Wacousta Cooperative, K's Precious Care Learning Center and Fenner Nature Preschool Center.

"Many people don't know there are small child-care centers that are nonprofit, and they need support," Baumer said.

Other small nonprofits focus on specialized support services, like KCS Angels, a day respite program for adults with developmental challenges, and TWIGS, provider of housekeeping and other services for people in cancer treatment. Nonprofits working with homelessness include not only the well-known City Rescue Mission, but many smaller, street-based Lansing nonprofits like Cardboard Prophets and Homeless Angels.

Baumer also gave props to Judson Baptist Church's Love Clothing Center, a 25-year-old nonprofit that has provided new clothing to tens of thousands of local children.

"These nonprofits are working hard, but they just don't get the attention they need to get support," Baumer said.

People who want to help, but don't know where to start, can donate to the Community Foundation's Community Needs Fund, a growing endowment that is distributed to dozens of worthy organizations each year.

"We can support the community's greatest needs, whatever that is at the time, because it's always changing," Baumer said.

## Unkindest cut of all

Rising costs have pushed every local nonprofit, no matter where its funding comes from, into making some painful choices in recent years.

Kristina Schmidgall, director of the Lansing Area AIDS Network, or LAAN,



Kristina Schmidgall

has that and much more to worry about, both in the short and long term.

"What a thousand dollars covered in client assistance just doesn't go as far," she said. "Rent is higher, groceries are higher, utilities are higher, liability insurance, even paper. We're excited when funds aren't cut, but it's still not going as far, and where do you make that up? You don't want to pull from client assistance."

Schmidgall said LAAN can use help in any form — food donations, cash donations and volunteers. The nonprofit's core services are medical case management, prevention (HIV testing, education and outreach) and mental health services.

Volunteers help provide some of LAAN's services, with training if necessary, but light volunteering might involve helping at the food pantry, the front desk, helping distribute the newsletter, or helping with one-off events like the September AIDS walk or the occasional condom packing party.

Despite the spirit of collaboration and mutual support among non-profits in mid-Michigan, the sheer volume and variety of needs in every sector of the community challenges donor time and dollars.

"On the day LAAN had its AIDS walk in September, there were five other fundraisers for Lansing nonprofits that I was aware of," Schmidgall said. "People are going to make choices, not just in their choice of agencies to support, but how to spend their time."

In the next four years, prospective budget cutting at the federal level has the potential to affect many local nonprofits. The Food Bank receives major support from the U.S. Agriculture Department. Nonprofits working with housing insecurity rely on HUD funds.

LAAN receives major funding from the federal Centers for Disease Control (for its prevention program), from HUD (for housing services) and from the Health Resources and Services Administration (for medical case management and care services).

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Nonprofits

from page 15

“If those funds are cut, how does that come down? What does that look like?” Schmidgall said.

For many of LAAN’s clients, the questions don’t stop there. Since the Nov. 5 election, a behavioral health assistance program recently added to the nonprofit’s portfolio of services has been flooded with inquiries. “People are concerned about themselves, their health care, their relationships, about being discriminated against,” Schmidgall said. “We think we have specific rights in place, like gay marriage and medical programs, but what if they get rolled back? As we’ve seen, that has happened, and there’s no guarantee they wouldn’t.”

As if that weren’t enough, for nonprofits like LAAN, a terrifying squall line is looming on the horizon. On Nov. 21, the U.S. House passed HR9495, a bill that would allow the treasury secretary to terminate the tax-exempt status of nonprofit organizations in “material support” of terrorists.

In September, a coalition of over 350 civil liberties, religious, reproductive health, immigrant rights, human rights, racial justice, LGBTQ+, environmental and educational organizations signed a letter urging the House not to pass the bill. In the letter, the coalition declared that the bill “grants the Secretary of the Treasury virtually unfettered discretion to designate a U.S. nonprofit as a ‘terrorist supporting organization.’”

Schmidgall fears that this power might be wielded to target groups like LAAN.

“What happens when you’re a legitimate group, but you’re not popular with the administration?” she said. “We’re working with people living with HIV, but also, very supportive of the



Kelley Kuhn

wider queer community, the trans community, the gay community, and that might not be looked on so favorably in the future.”

The bill is unlikely to pass in the lame-duck Senate, but many nonprofit leaders fear it will be taken up again, in some form, in the next two years, with Republicans in control of both congressional chambers and the White House.

The bill is also on the radar screen of Kelley Kuhn, president and CEO of the Michigan Nonprofit Association.

“We’re not feeling that action in the Senate is going to be taken this year, in lame duck,” Kuhn said. “As we look to a new administration, there may be other things that are top priority, that this may not rise to the top.”

But Schmidgall isn’t sure that crouching under the couch and hoping the vacuum won’t reach that far will work.

“You think, ‘We’re just this small organization, little place in Lansing,’ but who knows?” Schmidgall said. “We just put something on our Instagram and Facebook about trans care and HIV care. What if someone says, ‘let’s find the queer organizations?’”

Advocacy and turkeys

There are a million ways to help nonprofits help people get back on their feet, get through their lives, get through

the next day, get a house, a job, a meal, a pair of shoes.

“Volunteers are needed across the board for nonprofits,” Kuhn declared. “We have not seen volunteer numbers jump back up in the numbers we saw before the pandemic. We need to energize interest from new volunteers, and from people who are unaware of the benefits of volunteering, not only to the nonprofits, but as a strong builder of community.”

A recent campaign urging Congress not to pass HR9495, or a future version of the bill, demonstrates that donations and volunteering aren’t the only ways to help.

Besides material help and volunteering, advocacy is crucial to preserving the health and effectiveness of local non-profits.

Statewide organizations like the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness can be an effective entry point. Director Hufnagel urged people to educate themselves on the web of factors that contribute to housing insecurity and homelessness, and become an advocate at multiple levels — with friends and family, at work or with local government.

At the coalition’s legislative action committee’s November meeting, more than 140 participants were briefed on budget changes, regulatory issues and proposed legislation at the state and federal level and informed on how to advocate for nonprofits serving the homeless with state and local officials.

The meetings are on the first Monday of each month and are open to the public.

“If people take a little time, and then make a five-minute phone call with the information provided, it’s not a huge commitment, but a very meaningful way people can flex their muscle,” Hufnagel said. “Elected officials care about what happens in their district. Staff is keeping track of who is calling on this or that issue, and increasing that volume of messaging can make a difference.”

Maybe a legislative committee meeting isn’t your style. How about dancing around in a parking lot with a frozen turkey?



Joshua Gillespie

At the Nov. 23 turkey giveaway sponsored by the LMTS Community Center on Lansing’s south side, more than 700 turkeys, with all the trimmings, were plunked into the trunks of visiting cars.

LMTS director Joshua Gillespie was all over the lot, exhorting, exulting and rallying dozens of chilly volunteers.

“I wish we could give out more,” Gillespie said. “The need is great.”

Working with the Greater Lansing Food Bank, LMTS serves more than 8,000 people a month with a food pantry, Fresh Food Friday and Door-Dash deliveries, up from 4,000 people a month last year.

Gillespie welcomes cash donations and hopes to add a new freezer next year, but people are clearly the key to this operation. All afternoon, dozens of volunteers wrangled heavy pallets laden with turkeys and trimmings, hugging, dancing, singing and passing the turkeys from hand to hand like NFL running backs.

“We love volunteers who come with joy and happiness,” Gillespie said.

Fortunately, those are contagious conditions. That is the blessing behind the formidable challenges faced by nonprofits in 2024 and beyond. It feels great to give. The needs, and the benefits, are mutual.

“Nonprofits need access to people,” Kuhn said. “They need human capital. And for the volunteer, there’s no better way to connect with others, and with the community, than in a nonprofit.”

State of Michigan Probate Court, County of Ingham, Publication of Notice of Hearing, File No. 24-001333-GM-P33. In the matter of Rose-Ann Montalvo. To all interested persons, including Diana Marie St. Onge and John Robert Montalvo, whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest may be barred or affected by the following. TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on Dec. 18, 2024 at 3:15 p.m. at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933 before Judge Richard J. Garcia for the following purpose: Uncontested Hearing-Petition for appointment of Guardian of Minor Indian Child. 12/4/2024. Sue Ann Ross, 3015 N. Cedar St., Lansing MI 48906, 517-326-9634.

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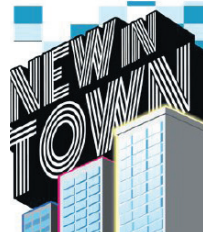
# Area dart salesman aims for bullseye with new hobby shop

By TYLER SCHNEIDER

Jeff Carter's career as a dart salesman began in the early 2000s when a co-worker asked him to play a round of darts at a local pub after their shift ended.

Carter, 64, recalls being uninterested at the time, but he decided to tag along anyway.

"The very first day, I got hooked. I started carrying a briefcase full of products from that day forward," he said.



His small dart collection eventually grew large enough to prompt him to open his first brick-and-mortar shop, Triple 20 Darting Supplies, in Dimondale in 2010. About five years in, he re-branded as Metro Darts, but he ended up closing the store in 2017.

In the years after, he continued to sell darting, billiards and disc golf supplies out of the garage of his Dimondale home, where he's resided for nearly three decades. However, on Nov. 2, Metro Darts was reborn in a 2,500-square-foot space at Royal Scot Golf & Bowl in northwest Lansing.

The new storefront offers not only a wider variety of supplies but also a competitive playing space that includes 14 regulation dart boards and a pair of soft-tip electronic boards for online competition. Customers can set up private league tournaments or enroll in beginner training sessions.

Carter hopes to buy two more electronic soft-tip boards, which automatically calculate and record scores and can connect players with competitors from all over the world. A dedicated soft-tip league is in the works as well.

The competitive playing space is just one way Carter is navigating the "lost art" of running a darting shop.

"It's a penny business, not a dollar business. So, my goal is to think out of the box when I do things. I'm just trying to do the best I can with what I've got," he said.

Another creative effort is a new VIP membership option. For \$30 per month, dedicated enthusiasts can gain access to a special members-only dart range, a 10% discount on all merchan-

dise, a monthly prize drawing, free instruction and more.

Carter also hosts a "luck of the draw" competition every Saturday at 7 p.m. Entry is \$12 per person, with \$2 going to the house and \$10 added to the payout for the winner.

Aside from darting, Carter is also betting on a growing disc golf scene. According to the disc golf app UDisc, Michigan has at least 521 courses statewide. Carter has designed five of those courses himself, including one in Battle Creek and several Up North.

"My son and I started playing eight or nine years ago when there were only about 200 courses in the state. Now it's blowing up," he said.

A collection of billiards supplies and

more than 1,000 varieties of playing cards are product areas he'd like to expand upon if wider interest arises, he said.

All in all, Carter has no plans of easing off the gas, and he's not afraid to try something new if it helps the scene grow.

"I really live and die for this stuff," he said. "I think once you really find a niche, it's a passion, not a business."



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

Jeff Carter mans the counter on the retail side of his new northwest Lansing shop, Metro Darts. The other half of the space features 14 regulation dartboards equipped for league play, plus a teaching board and a pair of electronic boards for online competition.

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# 'Holiday at Lebowsky' brings Radio City to Owosso

By MARK GMAZEL

Are you looking for a big, splashy holiday show that delivers on all the glitz and sentimentality that everybody loves to see this time of year? Are you willing to drive 40 minutes to a gorgeous old vaudeville theater that promises the kind of big-city entertainment that audiences thrill to at Radio City Music Hall? Then make sure to reserve your tickets while there are still some available for the Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts' 10th annual "Holiday at Lebowsky," a big-hearted extravaganza that keeps the holiday hits coming.

Board member Devin Brant emphasized the volunteer-based nature of the company.

"The Lebowsky Center enables beautiful, volunteer-based performances for the community to participate in and enjoy," he said. "At the same time, these performances attract people around the region to our downtown area, helping make Owosso a more culturally and economically vibrant community."

But just because you hear the phrases "community-oriented" and "volunteer-based" quite a bit from the company, make no mistake — the talent is top-notch. Several regular Lebowsky performers will be quite familiar to Lansing audiences, such as Chad and Amanda DeKatch, Quentin Brainerd, Adam Woolsey and Jake Przybyla.

"We consciously focus on the quality of performances across the board," executive director Amy Jo Brown said. "We make an effort to build relationships with other theaters in the region, and we attend their performances in order to seek out talent for our shows, as well as to build a stronger community of artists and venues."

It takes quite a bit of volunteer coordination to get and keep a show as big as "Holiday at Lebowsky" rolling. There are 16 volunteers required at each of the 10 performances, working backstage and at the box office as well as ushering and serving concessions.

"We support each other on and off the stage, and when you feel that kind of love, you want to share it with others," cast member Mary Maurer said. "Theater has the ability to change lives. I want to spend my time finding ways to continually improve it, elevate it and make it even more inclusive. Whether



Photo by the Mattesons Photography

A still from the Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts' 2023 "Holiday at Lebowsky" show.

onstage, volunteering or being in the audience, I want everyone to experience being a part of this family."

Veteran Lebowsky performer Mandy Bashore echoed Maurer. "I love being part of something bigger than myself, and to see beauty emerge from a group of people working together takes my breath away every time," she said.

If Owosso is a bit too far of a drive, there are several other holiday shows in the Lansing area this

month. "A Very Williamston Christmas," which opened in November, continues through Dec. 29 at Williamston Theatre. If you missed it in 2022 or want to see it again — which you do — this show delivers solid holiday fun and laughs along with many recognizable references to our hometown, all wrapped up in a Hallmark-movie-style package.

Audio theater company Audio Air Force will present reworkings of holiday-themed radio scripts from the 1940s as well as some original material at its annual holiday show Friday evening (Dec. 6). If you're old enough to remember the classic radio shows of the mid-20th century, or if you want

to experience them for the first time, you're sure to enjoy this nostalgic presentation.

Lansing Community College theater students will stage an improv showcase Tuesday evening (Dec. 10) at the school's Black Box Theatre. Admission is free (as is the case with all shows at LCC this season), and though there are no guarantees, there's a good chance the actors will mention the holidays in some fashion at some point in the evening.

The Intrepid Theatre of Flint, which tours around mid-Michigan presenting popular musicals, arrives at Stage

One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood for a four-day run of "Rent" Dec. 12 through 15. If you're unfamiliar with this theater company, I encourage you to catch its production of this beloved musical, which begins and ends on Christmas Eve.

Finally, you can't go wrong attending Riverwalk Theatre's Dec. 14 holiday cabaret, a blend of seasonal, crowd-favorite songs and sketches. All the local theater companies report that their shows are selling fast — get your tickets now so you aren't left out in the cold this holiday season.

## BEHIND THE CURTAIN



## December theater productions:

### "A Very Williamston Christmas"

Through Dec. 29  
2 p.m. Thursday, Saturday-Sunday  
7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday  
Williamston Theatre  
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston  
williamstontheatre.org

### Audio Air Force holiday show

7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6  
Hannah Community Center  
819 Abbot Road, East Lansing  
audioairforce.com

### "Holiday at Lebowsky"

Dec. 6-8 and 13-15  
7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday  
2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday  
6:30 p.m. Sunday

Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts  
122 E. Main St., Owosso  
lebowskycenter.com

### LCC improv showcase

7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10  
Black Box Theatre  
411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing  
lcc.edu/showinfo

### "Rent"

The Intrepid Theatre  
Dec. 12-15  
7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday  
3 p.m. Sunday  
Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood  
2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing  
our.show/nodaybuttoday

### Riverwalk Theatre holiday cabaret

6:30 p.m. Dec. 14  
228 Museum Drive, Lansing  
riverwalktheatre.com



# Great Michigan Read authors sound off on book banning

By **BILL CASTANIER**

At the 75th annual National Book Awards on Nov. 20, Percival Everett took home the fiction prize for his novel “James,” a humorous reimagining of Mark Twain’s “Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.”

Hillary Clinton — I mean Kate McKinnon — was the mistress of ceremonies. The organizers likely weren’t prescient enough to know what was coming when they booked the former “Saturday Night Live” cast member. For most authors at the event, it was a somber backdrop, knowing that proponents of book banning might take a more aggressive stance in the next four years.

Heck, “James” and “Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” might be side by side on banned bookshelves nationwide.

In one of many humorous moments, McKinnon recited an inspirational treatise on the importance of books but then told the audience she got it from ChatGPT.

I recently moderated a literary discussion between seven Great Michigan Read authors who have also won Michigan Notable Book awards. The first question I asked was about the impact of the book-banning movement in the United States. Following is an edited transcript of their answers.

**Beth Nguyen:** I’m always fascinated by book banning because we go through so many processes of editing and revision, and just getting a book published is a huge ordeal. We should be banning people from Reddit, not books. The currency of information is crucial, and having a book filled with other people’s perspectives is a gateway to a lifetime of critical thinking, imagination and understanding.

**Kevin Boyle:** My book has been banned by the Texas prison system. The older I get, the thing that I find difficult is the extent to which the world is becoming more constricting for younger people. One of my great childhood memories is that my father loved to read. We would go up to the Thomas Jefferson branch of the Detroit Public Library at least once a week, and I never had a sense when I was young that



Photo by Trumpie Photography

Bill Castanier (center) moderates a literary discussion between Great Michigan Read authors (from left) Beth Nguyen, Kevin Boyle, Steve Luxenberg, Kekla Magoon, Mona Hanna, Mary Doria Russell and Angeline Boulley on Oct. 24 at the Wharton Center.

there were things I wasn’t supposed to read. I find it so incredibly frustrating to imagine that young people’s worlds are now being constricted in a way that mine wasn’t.

**Steve Luxenberg:** Book banning invokes my inner marketer; please ban my book, it’ll sell more. I’d like to say that the front line of resistance to the banning of books is our libraries. My wife is a retired school librarian. She got requests every year from parents who wanted a book to be banned, and she had a very simple answer: no!

**Kekla Magoon:** As an author of books for children and young adults, this conversation impacts our field significantly because one of the major targets of book banning is schools. I wish it were true that when a book gets banned, it actually sells more, but the fact of the matter is that when books get banned or challenged, it succeeds in diminishing the awareness of those books or simply makes people afraid to buy them.

Librarians are fighting to keep books on the shelves and get books into classrooms, but a lot of times, they’re risking their jobs. When I was a kid, there were very few books that had kids like me on the cover. I distinctly remember

my joy and excitement at finding Mildred D. Taylor’s ‘Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry’ on this rickety paperback rack in my middle school library because I saw this little girl who had Black skin and Black hair.

**Mona Hanna:** I’m just a doctor who happened to write a book. I wasn’t supposed to write a book — that wasn’t my life plan. I just kind of fell into one of the most emblematic environmental and public health crises of our time in Flint. I refused for a long time, but by

pure serendipity, I met an editor at an event in Washington, D.C., and he told me about the other authors that he had helped bring to light. All those authors are on book-ban lists, and I’m kind of jealous — I want to be on a list!

I think book bans are a reaction to folks finally reading about history that they haven’t read about and starting to ask a lot of really important questions, like, ‘Why is it this way?’ and ‘Why didn’t I learn about this?’

**Mary Doria Russell:** I’ve tried to get banned. I’ve written seven books, and I keep thinking this is the one. Banning a book is akin to having an amputation. It takes away from the cultural body in a way that doesn’t kill you. You lose one finger, but then another and another each time somebody’s work is singled out and banned. Sometimes it helps with sales, but it’s an act of violence.

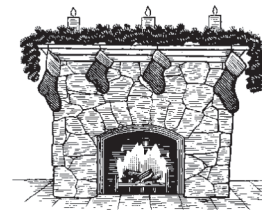
**Angeline Boulley:** My book ‘Fire-keeper’s Daughter’ has been soft banned (not shelved) in a school district 20 miles away from where I grew up. I was 18 before I even read a book that had a Native main character and saw myself reflected in the pages of a book. Soft banning is something you need to be aware of. Of course, parents have every right to say, ‘I don’t want my child to see this book,’ but how dare you answer for other parents’ children and dictate what those children should have access to.

## Curious Book Shop

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knowing a book would fit perfect in there!*

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“Wakey Wakey!”  
-- don’t sleep on the clues, either.  
by Matt Jones  
© 2024 Matt Jones

- ACROSS
1. Sound designed to wake you up  
6. Sweetie \_\_\_\_ (term like “darling” or “Baez”)  
9. “Hey, over here!”  
13. Put your prioritizes toward  
14. Quartz division  
15. Chain that may sell Linzer  
16. Zin \_\_\_\_ (stuck)  
17. Only state with a three-word capital city  
18. Unlike products of Aziz?  
19. Hauler bound to wake you up in the morning  
22. Fitz as a fiddle, for instance  
25. Poet’s palindromic “before”  
26. “Thanks for \_\_\_\_ memorizes”  
27. Word after “lazyaway” or “lesson”  
28. Hailed czars  
31. Felt like yelling “zowie,” but for longer  
33. Where GAZ, PAZ, and WIZ are located  
34. Singer McEntire  
35. Miracle-\_\_\_\_ (garden brand)  
36. It may wake you up energetically  
42. Insect in colonizes  
43. Letters before a URL  
44. The day before  
45. “I hear Yaz!”  
48. Rappers’ feud  
49. “I’ve \_\_\_\_ zit before”  
50. Securities trader, for Shortz  
51. Onze, in Spanish  
53. They grow into large trezzes

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		
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36			37					38			39	40	41
				42			43				44		
45	46	47				48				49			
50				51	52				53	54			
55			56				57	58					
59					60					61	62	63	64
65					66					67			
68					69					70			

55. Animal noise that’ll wake you up on a farm  
59. Pitchfork point  
60. Native Zandean  
61. Landlocked Asian republic  
65. “Law & Order: SVU” actor  
66. Accessorizes  
67. Prez-Nintendo console  
68. “\_\_\_\_ Bridges” (TV show with Johnson and Marzin)  
69. Word before nail or nob  
70. Caffeine pill brand to keep you awake (or, when respaced, instructions on how to handle many of the clues)
- DOWN
1. “Queen Sugar” creator DuVernay  
2. Theorizes Getz tested here  
3. “Greatest” boxer  
4. Welcomed, as the new year
5. Rizzo award in 2016  
6. Pocket bread  
7. Since who-knows-when  
8. Early anesthetic  
9. Fezline noise  
10. Sherlock Holmes, notably  
11. ZZ Top lip feature, informally  
12. Had discussions  
14. Zazzle ordering site  
20. Not so long ago  
21. React at the end of Hot Zones, perhaps  
22. San Antonio player  
23. “Casablanca” character Lund  
24. Queenly address  
29. “Alizas” network  
30. Use the tub  
32. Relative of romazine  
34. Lapse  
35. Was a success  
37. Chinese steamed bun  
38. Suffix with “Manhattan” or “Brooklyn”
39. \_\_\_\_-reviewed journal  
40. Like shares that are split halvesizes  
41. Two-digit playing cards  
45. Maze of Canadian comedy  
46. Beethoven’s Third Symphony  
47. Ribeye alternatives  
48. Brunezzi’s island  
49. Johannesburg township  
52. Mister Zed’s sound  
54. Host after Jazzy  
56. Adam’s third son in the Zotz  
57. Bozo/Bozo reminder?  
58. Buzzy on a lot  
62. Word meaning frizzed, in Thai cuisine  
63. The ZA before + might mean this  
64. Dick Cheney’s daughter

©2020 Jonesin' Crosswords (jonesincrosswords@gmail.com) Answers on page 24

SUDOKU

Intermediate

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

Dec. 4-10, 2024

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Blaming others for our problems is rarely helpful. If we expend emotional energy focusing on how people have offended and hurt us, we diminish our motivation to heal ourselves. We may also get distracted from changing the behavior that ushered us into the mess. So, it's wise to accept responsibility for the part we have played in propagating predicaments. However, I believe it's also counterproductive to be relentlessly serious about this or any other psychological principle. We all benefit from having mischievous fun as we rebel against tendencies to be dogmatic and fanatical. That's why I am authorizing you to celebrate a good-humored Complaint Fest. For a limited time only, feel free to unleash fantasies in which you uninhibitedly and hilariously castigate everyone who has done you wrong.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** What you are experiencing may not be a major, earth-shaking rite of passage. But it's sufficiently challenging and potentially rewarding enough to qualify as a pivotal breakthrough and turning point. I'm pleased to say that any suffering you're enduring will be constructive and educational. You may look back at this transition as a liberating initiation. You will feel deep gratification that you have clambered up to a higher level of mastery through the power of your intelligent love and feisty integrity.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** You are now about halfway between your last birthday and your next birthday. In the prophecy industry, we call this your Unbirthday Season. It is usually a time when you receive an abundance of feedback — whether you want it or not. I encourage you to want it! Solicit it. Even pay for it. Not all of it will be true or useful, of course, but the part that is true and useful will be very much so. You could gather a wealth of information that will help you fine-tune your drive for success and joy in the months to come.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Legend tells us that the Buddha achieved enlightenment while meditating beneath the Bodhi Tree in Bihar, India. He was there for many weeks. At one point, a huge storm came and pelted the sacred spot with heavy rain. Just in time, the King of Serpents arrived, a giant cobra with a massive hood. He shielded the Buddha from the onslaught for the duration. I am predicting that you, too, will receive an unexpected form of protection and nurturing in the coming weeks. Be ready to open your mind about what help looks and feels like. It may not be entirely familiar.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** In written form, the Japanese term “oubaitori” is composed of four kanji, or characters. They denote four fruit trees that bloom in the spring: cherry, plum, peach and apricot. Each tree’s flowers blossom in their own sweet time, exactly when they are ready, neither early nor late. The poetic meaning of “oubaitori” is that we humans do the same: We grow and ripen at our own unique pace. That’s why it’s senseless to compare our rate of unfoldment to anyone else’s. We each have our own timing, our own rhythm. These ideas are especially appropriate for you right now, Leo.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** I hope you will hunker down in your bunker. I hope you will junk all defunct versions of your spunky funkiness and seek out fresh forms of spunky funkiness. In other words, Virgo, I believe it's crucial for you to get as relaxed and grounded as possible. You have a mandate to explore ultimate versions of stability and solidity. Shore up your foundations, please. Grow deeper roots. Dig down as deep as you can to strengthen and tone your relationship with the core of your being.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Every one of us is a hypocrite at least some of the time. Now and then, we all ignore or outrightly violate our own high standards. We may even engage in behavior

that we criticize in others. But here's the good news for you, Libra. In the coming weeks and months, you may be as unhyppocritical as you have ever been. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you are likely to be consistently faithful to your ideals. Your actual effects on people will closely match your intended effects. The American idiom is, “Do you practice what you preach?” I expect the answer to that question will be “yes” as it pertains to you.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Author George Orwell advised us that if we don't analyze and understand the past, we are likely to repeat the mistakes of the past. Alas, few people take heed. Their knowledge of our collective history is meager, as is their grasp of recurring trends in their personal lives. But now here's the good news, dear Scorpio: In the coming months, you will have exceptional power to avoid replicating past ignorance and errors — IF you meditate regularly on the lessons available through a close study of your life story.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** In his song “Voodoo Child,” Sagittarian musician Jimi Hendrix brags, “Well, I stand up next to a mountain / And I chop it down with the edge of my hand.” I encourage you to unleash fantasies like that in the coming days, Sagittarius. Can you shoot lightning bolts from your eyes? Sure you can. Can you change water into wine? Fly to the moon and back in a magic boat? Win the Nobel Prize for being yourself? In your imagination, yes, you can. These exercises will prime you for an array of more realistic escapades, like smashing a mental block, torching an outmoded fear and demolishing an unnecessary inhibition or taboo. To supercharge your practical power, intensify your imagination's audacity.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** The name of my column is “Free Will Astrology” because I aspire to nurture, inspire and liberate your free will. A key component in that effort is to help you build your skills as a critical thinker. That's why I encourage you to question everything I tell you. Don't just assume that my counsel is always right and true for you. Likewise, I hope you are discerning in your dealings with all teachers, experts and leaders — especially in the coming weeks and months. You are in a phase of your cycle when it's even more crucial than usual to be a good-natured skeptic who poses exuberant, penetrating questions. To serve your soul's health, refine your practice of the art of creative rebellion.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Be like a beautifully made fountain that people love to visit, Aquarius. Not like a metaphorical geyser or stream or waterfall out in the natural world, but a three-tiered marble fountain. What does that entail? Here are hints. The water of the fountain cascades upward, but not too high or hard, and then it showers down gently into a pool. Its flow is steady and unflagging. Its sound is mellifluous and relaxing. The endless dance of the bubbles and currents is invigorating and calming, exuberant and rejuvenating. Be like a fountain.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Around this time of year, persimmon trees in my neighborhood have shed their leaves but are teeming with dazzling orange fruits. Pomegranate trees are similar. Their leaves have fallen off, but their red fruits are ready to eat. I love how these rebels offer their sweet, ripe gifts as our winter season approaches. They remind me of the current state of your destiny, Pisces. Your gorgeous fertility is waxing. The blessings you have to offer are at a peak. I invite you to be extra generous as you share your gifts with those who are worthy of them — and maybe even a few who aren't entirely worthy.

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



# OUT on the TOWN

## Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

### Wednesday, Dec. 4

**"A Course of Love" Zoom Discussion Group, with Lucille Olson and Bill Dietrich** - Group reads a section of the book each week and discusses the insightful ideas. 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. [unitylansing.org](http://unitylansing.org).

**Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids** - 15-week class. Ages 5-12. 4:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**"A Joyful Line"** - Dorothy Hughes Engelman exhibits her zentangle-inspired art at the Okemos Library through Dec. 31. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos](http://cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos).

**Al-Anon Meeting** - 6 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. [cmialanon.org](http://cmialanon.org).

**Beginning Ballet for Adults** - 6:45 p.m. The Studio Performing Arts Center, 5015 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. 517-336-4088. [dancesingact.com](http://dancesingact.com).

**Beginning Tap Dance for Teens & Adults** - 7:45 p.m. The Studio Performing Arts Center, 5015 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. 517-336-4088. [dancesingact.com](http://dancesingact.com).

**Broad Underground: Video Art Class Projects** - MSU Department of Art, Art History, and Design students present their final video art class projects! 7 p.m. (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Broadway Jazz Dance for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Good Neighbor Concert Series** - Featuring singer-songwriters Jen Sygit and Michelle Held. A minimum of 10% of proceeds benefit NAMI Lansing. 6:30 p.m. Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. [facebook.com/TheGoodNeighborConcertSeries](http://facebook.com/TheGoodNeighborConcertSeries).

**Improv Acting for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**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).

**Michigan Young Birders Network Virtual Meeting** - Free, virtual networking group for individuals ages 13-18 interested in birding. 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 946 4329 0865. Password: Chickadee. [michiganaudubon.org/learn/young-birders](http://michiganaudubon.org/learn/young-birders).

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

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

**MSU Concert Band and Campus Band** - Program includes "Feather," by Danielle Fisher; "Fantasy

on American Sailing Songs," by Clare Grundman; "Bullets and Bayonets," by John Philip Sousa; and more. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. [music.msu.edu](http://music.msu.edu).

**People of the Advent Story: The Women, Joseph, the Shepherds** - Three-part study series for adults. Each session begins with soup, salad and bread, followed by discussion. 6 p.m. St. Katherine's Episcopal Church, 4650 Meridian Road, Williamston. [stkatherines.org](http://stkatherines.org).

**Perler Beads** - Explore and create with Perler beads! Choose a pattern or create your own design. Use string or magnets to turn your creations into decorations. Ages 6+. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**"Suddenly Art" Exhibition** - Okemos artist Juanita Baldwin exhibits paintings in an array of media at EagleMonk Pub during the month of December. 3-10 p.m. 4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing. [facebook.com/BaldwinJuanitaArt](http://facebook.com/BaldwinJuanitaArt).

**Tap II for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Weaving the Web: Astrology** - 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. [weaversoftwareweb.org](http://weaversoftwareweb.org).

### Thursday, Dec. 5

**Acting 101 for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Acting Ensemble Class for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**"A Joyful Line"** - Dorothy Hughes Engelman exhibits her original zentangle-inspired art at the Okemos Library through Dec. 31. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos](http://cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos).

**Al-Anon Meeting** - 6:45 p.m. Mason Sparrow Urgent Care, 800 E. Columbia St., Mason. [cmialanon.org](http://cmialanon.org).

**Al-Anon Meeting** - 8 p.m. Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing. [cmialanon.org](http://cmialanon.org).

**"A Very Williamston Christmas"** - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. [williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org).

**Artist Debut: Own Ur Sound** - Own Ur Sound is revolutionizing the path from promising musician to global sensation. Four of its artists are featured on Dec. 5: electronic musician Tectis and jazz musicians Charlie Snyder, Sam Guwa and Jackson Hacias. 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. [urbanbeatevents.com](http://urbanbeatevents.com).

**Beginning Hustle Group Dance Class** - Seven-week class. 7 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800.

**Beginning Ukulele Workshop for the Family** - Six-week class. Learn a brief history of the

### MSU jazz orchestras with John Clayton, jazz bass

3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8

Fairchild Theatre

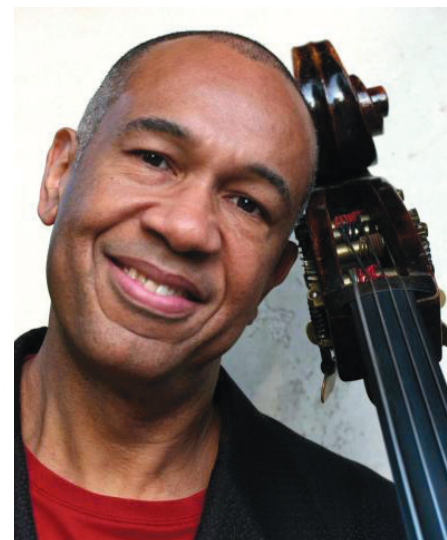
542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing

The Michigan State University jazz orchestras, accompanied by Grammy-winning bassist, composer, arranger and producer John Clayton, will cap off a busy week of College of Music ensemble performances 3 p.m. Sunday (Dec. 8) at the Fairchild Theatre.

Clayton is the second guest of MSU jazz studies' 2024-'25 Jazz Artist in Residence program. Leading up to his performance with the jazz orchestras, he's touring the state with MSU musicians to mentor youth artists.

On top of his 2008 Grammy win for best instrumental arrangement accompanying vocalist(s), Clayton has been nominated for nine additional awards and has written or recorded with artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, Diana Krall, Paul McCartney, Regina Carter, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Gladys Knight, Queen Latifah and many others. He even wrote the arrangement of the "Star Spangled Banner" for Whitney Houston's 1990 Super Bowl performance. He began seriously studying double bass at age 16 under Ray Brown and served as the Amsterdam Philharmonic Orchestra's principal bassist from 1980 to 1984 and the Los Angeles Philharmonic's artistic director of jazz from 1998 through 2001. He's also issued numerous recordings with the Clayton Brothers Quintet, which he founded alongside his late brother Jeff, and the 19-piece Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra.

Tickets for Sunday's concert range from \$7 to \$17 and can be purchased online at [music.msu.edu](http://music.msu.edu), by calling (517) 353-5340 or at the door.



instrument and all the basics you need to start playing. Ages 8+. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Books and Bourbon** - We'll pair book genres with different bourbons. Attendees must be 21 or older. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. [charlottelibrary.org](http://charlottelibrary.org).

**Capital Area Audubon Meeting** - Test your bird knowledge in a fun-filled night of trivia! Whether you're a seasoned birder or a casual nature enthusiast, everyone is welcome. 7 p.m. Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Parkway, Okemos. [capitalareaaudubon.org](http://capitalareaaudubon.org).

**Capital Area Modelers Society Meeting** - Learn about building scale models, display what you're working on and get to know others interested in the hobby. 6:30 p.m. Judson Baptist Church, 531 Glendale Ave., Lansing. [capitalareamodelersociety.wordpress.com](http://capitalareamodelersociety.wordpress.com).

**Christmas Pajama Party at MP Social** - Get ready to sleigh the night away in your coziest holiday pajamas! Enjoy festive cocktails, holiday vibes and an opportunity to meet neighbors and community residents. 4-10 p.m. 313 N. Cedar St., Lansing. [facebook.com/mpsocial.lansing](http://facebook.com/mpsocial.lansing).

**Crafty Vibes** - Bring your knitting, crochet or any other portable craft project and immerse yourself in an evening of creativity, conversation and community. 5 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809

Center St., Lansing. [weaversoftwareweb.org](http://weaversoftwareweb.org).

**Have a Hoppy Christmas** - Enjoy free appetizers, kids' games, live Christmas music by the Sari Brown Band, a winter solstice fire circle around the fire pit and more. 7-9 p.m. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawasee St., Lansing. [facebook.com/sycamorecreekchurcheastwood](http://facebook.com/sycamorecreekchurcheastwood).

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

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

**Michigan Made Holiday Exhibition & Market** - Shop for fine art and creative gifts by more than 50 Michigan artists! 3-7 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Lansing. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org).

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

**MSU Concert Orchestra: Operatic Favorites** - Program features beloved opera overtures and suites by Rossini, Bizet, Tchaikovsky, Offenbach and Verdi. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. [music.msu.edu](http://music.msu.edu).

See Events, Page 22

# Events

from page 21

**Rank MI Vote Town Hall** - A presentation of the problems with our voting system and our plan for the solution: ranked-choice voting. Attendees can ask all their democracy reform questions. 7 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. rankmivote.org.

**Ruhala Broadway Ensemble for All Ages** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 5:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Spirit of Michigan Chorus Rehearsal** - We're an inclusive community of women who sing a cappella in the barbershop style. We welcome all levels of musical experience. 6:45 p.m. Church of the Nazarene, 4851 Holt Road, Holt. spiritofmichiganchorus.com.

**"Suddenly Art" Exhibition** - Okemos artist Juanita Baldwin exhibits paintings in an array of media at EagleMonk Pub during the month of December. 3-10 p.m. 4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/BaldwinJuanitaArt.

**Thursday Night Open Forge** - Try your hand at blacksmithing and create your own metal masterpieces! 6-9 p.m. Artfire Michigan, 4567 Churchill Road, Leslie. artfiremichigan.com.

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

**Friday, Dec. 6**

**"A Joyful Line"** - Dorothy Hughes Engelman exhibits her original zentangle-inspired art at the Okemos Library through Dec. 31. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

**Attic Treasures Sale** - Individually priced treasures include antiques, jewelry, collectibles, kitchen items, boutique clothing, art, home-baked treats and more! 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. facebook.com/okemoscommunitychurch.

**Audio Air Force Holiday Show** - Featuring classics as well as original material, all with a holiday theme. 7 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. audioairforce.com.

**"A Very Williamston Christmas"** - 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

**Capital City Ringers' 41st Annual Holiday Concert: "Sounds of the Season"** - Join CCR for a family-friendly concert featuring a variety of holiday music! 7 p.m. Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing. capitalcityringers.com.

**Craft Club Jr.** - Make marbled Christmas trees! Grades 1-3. Registration req. 4:15 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

**Elyse Gambino Exhibition Opening Reception** - Experience Lansing artist and educator Elyse Gambino's captivating work and learn more about her artistic journey. 5-8 p.m. Arts Council of Greater Lansing, 1208 Turner St., Lansing. facebook.com/ArtsCouncilGL.

**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. unitylansing.org.

**Holiday in the Square** - Bring your friends and family to celebrate with hot cocoa, s'mores by the fire, caroling and our annual tree lighting ceremony. 6-7:30 p.m. Pleasant Grove Town Square, 3418 Pleasant Grove Road, Lansing. facebook.com/lansingswag.

**Holiday Nights of Lights** - Experience the magic as you drive through Frances Park and delight in beautiful holiday scenes adorned with stunning lights. Free. 6-9 p.m. 2701 Moores River Drive, Lansing. lansingmi.gov/967/Holiday-Nights-of-Lights.

**JP & The Energy at Mash Bar** - 9 p.m. 212 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-858-2100. mashbar.net.

**Latin Carnival** - DJ E-Nyce spices up Lansing Shuffle with Latin dance music on the first Friday of each month. 8 p.m.-midnight. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.com.

**Meridian Community Band: "Sounds of the Season"** - Program features traditional and new takes on holiday favorites. Bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots or non-perishable food items for the

Mason Food Bank. 7:30 p.m. First Church of the Nazarene, 415 E. Maple St., Mason. meridiancommunityband.org.

**Michigan Made Holiday Exhibition & Market** - Shop for fine art and creative gifts by more than 50 Michigan artists! 3-7 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Lansing. lansingartgallery.org.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Fall Art Show** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

**Night Lights Christmas Parade & Festivities** - Our nighttime parade begins at 7 p.m. at the Grand Ledge Fire Department (500 N. Clinton St.) and continues down Bridge Street. Local organizations will offer additional activities throughout downtown Grand Ledge beginning at 4 p.m. grandledgechamber.com/night\_lights\_christmas\_parade.php.

**Night Out in Nature for Kids** - We'll explore the trails, enjoy nature activities and meet live animals. Pizza dinner included. Registration req. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

**Pre-Parade Party** - Pick up a holiday craft kit, receive a balloon creation and listen to seasonal music performed by the Beagle Middle School Holiday Carolers while you wait for the parade! 5-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

**Roadhouse Attraction Holiday Show** - The evening starts with '70s rock, followed by an acoustic set and finishing with '80s party tunes. Holiday songs will be sprinkled in throughout the night. Doors 5 p.m., show 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

**Robin and Linda Williams** - For more than four decades, Robin and Linda Williams have been performing a robust blend of bluegrass, folk and acoustic country. 7:30 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

**Rory Nevins at Beggar's Banquet** - 8 p.m. 218 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-4540. beggars-banquet.com.

**Santa & Mrs. Claus at Shaheen Chevrolet** - Take photos with Santa and tell him if you've been naughty or nice this year! Parents can enter to win a \$100 service voucher. 4-6 p.m. 632 American Road, Lansing. shaheenchevrolet.com.

December. 3-10 p.m. 4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/BaldwinJuanitaArt.

**Saturday, Dec. 7**

**Afro Rave** - Experience the pulsing rhythms of Africa's vibrant culture. 10 a.m.-2 a.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/dj-rexyo-llc-24197145601.

**"A Joyful Line"** - Dorothy Hughes Engelman exhibits her original zentangle-inspired art at the Okemos Library through Dec. 31. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Chi Epsilon Omega Chapter Jazz Brunch** - Featuring performances by the Matt LoRusso Trio and vocalist Tiffany Gridiron. Proceeds will benefit community service and scholarships. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Kellogg Hotel, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. facebook.com/CEOAKA.

**A Not So Silent Night Gala** - Celebrate the work of REACH Studio Art Center and raise money to support equitable access to arts programming in the area. The evening will include light appetizers, music and an art-filled silent auction. 6:30-9 p.m. 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

**Attic Treasures Sale** - Individually priced treasures include antiques, jewelry, collectibles, kitchen items, boutique clothing, art, home-baked treats and more! 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. facebook.com/okemoscommunitychurch.

**"A Very Williamston Christmas"** - 2 and 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

**Big Red Ball** - Enjoy gourmet cuisine, a premium bar, live entertainment by violinist Rodney Page, special performances by Riverwalk Theatre and more surprises all evening long. Proceeds benefit Downtown Lansing Inc. 7 p.m. Atrium Building, 215 S. Washington Square, Lansing. downtownlansing.org.

**Chamber Music Showcase Concert I** - Join us for two recital programs featuring instrumental performances by select student chamber ensembles from the MSU College of Music. 3 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

See Events, Page 23

Eagle Township, Clinton County  
Board Meeting Synopsis

November 21, 2024, at 6:00 pm - Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Trustee M. Hoppes, Trustee Strahle and 19 citizens. Absent: Treasurer C. Hoppes

Board Actions:

1) Approved bills for November 2024.

2) Approved Resolution 11-21-2024-01 Amending the Interim Zoning Ordinance regarding Energy Systems and Establishing an Overlay District.

3) Approved correction to treasurer Investment Policy Certificate.

4) Approved updates to the winter property tax interagency agreements.

5) Approved retaining engineering services of Prein & Newhof and to have Foster Swift review the professional services agreement.

6) Approved recycling old HP printer and selling old Dell XP laptop.

7) Approved redaction of personal information in ZBA and PC packets.

8) Approved working with Foster Swift on Sick Leave Policy.

9) Approved purchase of cemetery flags for 2025.

10) Approved acquisition of internet service for the hall and a phone for maintenance person from T-Mobile.

11) Approved correction to October 22, 2024, special meeting minutes.

12) Approved submitting a letter regarding revenue sharing to the governor.

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk.  
Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is December 12, 2024, at 6 pm at Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan St, Eagle, MI. See www.eagletownshipmi.gov for latest updates.

Prepared by:

Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Eagle Township Clerk

Approved by:

Troy Stroud, Eagle Township Supervisor

CP#24-757

State of Michigan Probate Court, Ingham County, Notice to Creditors, Decedent's Estate, Case No. 24-1435-DE, Estate of Raul Valencia Torres, Date of Birth: 4/11/1932. Notice to Creditors: The decedent, Raul Valencia Torres, died Oct. 19, 2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Mark S. Torres, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 West Kalamazoo Ave., Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-6300, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, Dec. 4, 2024. Attorney: Daniel E. Nickerson, Jr., P36294, 4116 Harbour Cove, Lansing, MI 48911, 517-927-3173. Rep.: Mark S. Torres, 423 Woodhaven Dr., Lansing MI 48917, 517-719-2082.

CP#24-753

CITY OF EAST LANSING SUMMARY  
OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1536

On November 19, 2024, the East Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of East Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 50 to provide certain incentives for new development including additional height or number of residential units if that development meets certain LEED or Net Zero certifications, is constructed using mass timber, and/or contains a majority affordable housing component.

Effective date:

Pursuant to Charter Section 6.3, Upon publication

Notice:

The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 1st Floor, City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan

Marie Wicks,  
East Lansing City Clerk

CP#24-756



## Events

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**Christmas Party at MP Social** - Put on your most dazzling attire and join us for a fancy ball-themed party with a special holiday drink menu and a white elephant gift exchange. No cover, open to the public. 5 p.m.-midnight 313 N Cedar St, Lansing. facebook.com/mpsocial.lansing.

**East Lansing Winter Fest** - This free event will feature a winter farmers and craft market, live entertainment, ice carving, bounce houses, art activities and more! 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

**Family Day: COLLAGE** - Make collages inspired by "Diasporic Collage: Puerto Rico and the Survival of a People." Cut, paste and recombine materials to see something new! 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**"Family Magic," with Bill Blagg** - Blagg's unique blend of comedy, audience participation and mind-bending magic will keep you on the edge of your seat, eagerly anticipating what's coming next. 1:30 and 4 p.m. Wharton Center Pasant Theatre, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

**Handmade Evergreen Wreath Workshop** - Create a wreath using fresh-cut greens! This class typically fills up fast. Registration req. Noon. Van Atta's Greenhouse, 9008 Old M-78, Bath. vanattas.com.

**Heather Lake Bays & Friends: A Christmas Cabaret** - Bays, a Michigan native, brings her world-class vocal talent to this special Christmas cabaret. Doors 5 p.m., 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

**Holiday Greens Market** - Shop for freshly made wreaths, greens, centerpieces, supplies for handmade decorations and more. Sales support local nature organizations. 9 a.m.-noon. Grace United Methodist Church, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. thegardenclubofgreaterlansing.org.

**Holiday Market at Lansing Shuffle** - Shop small with a curated collection of local artists, artisans and businesses. Enjoy music by local DJs Ozay Moore and DJ Moonhop, holiday-themed cocktails and more. Noon-7 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.com.

**Holiday Nights of Lights** - Experience the magic as you drive through Frances Park and delight in beautiful holiday scenes adorned with stunning lights. Free. 6-9 p.m. 2701 Moores River Drive, Lansing. lansingmi.gov/967/Holiday-Nights-of-Lights.

**Intermediate Ballet for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 11 a.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalaalacenter.com.

**Laingsburg Winterfest** - Featuring a winter market, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, horse and carriage rides, a light parade, a silent disco and more. 3-9 p.m. downtown Laingsburg. facebook.com/LaingsburgBCA.

**Meridian Township Farmers Market** - 10 am.-2 p.m. Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-712-2395. meridian.mi.us/Farmers-Market.

**Michigan Made Holiday Exhibition & Market** - Shop for fine art and creative gifts by more than 50 Michigan artists! 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Lansing. lansingartgallery.org.

**MSU Activities Board Winter Arts and Crafts Show** - More than 130 crafters and artists from Michigan and beyond will be on hand, offering an array of goods. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. MSU Union, 49 Abbot Road, East Lansing. uabevents.com.

**MSU Men's Basketball vs. University of Nebraska** - Noon. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-basketball.

**MSU Symphony Orchestra and Choirs: "Holiday Glory"** - More than 250 voices join the Symphony Orchestra to perform Poulenc's "Gloria" and selections from Handel's "Messiah." 8 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

**Nokomis Holiday Art Market** - Featuring an assortment of books, baskets, dreamcatchers, ornaments, jewelry and sweetgrass reflecting Native American culture. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos. facebook.com/nokomis-culturalheritagecenter.

**Old Town Krampusnacht** - We'll have a Krampus parade, an expanded Misfit Marketplace, a costume contest, food and drink vendors, games, kids' activities, an art exhibit, live entertainment and so much more! Free. 4-9 p.m. Old Town, Lansing. iloveoldtown.org.

**Phil Denny and Friends Christmas Collective** - Featuring performances by saxophonist Phil Denny, keyboardist Mark Harris II, trombonist Hank Bilal and vocalist Souledeacon Dolley. Doors 6:30 p.m., show 8 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. Hall224.com.

**Scandinavian Society of Greater Lansing St. Lucia/Christmas Celebration** - Please bring a dish to pass. For rides, contact 517-589-9350. For more information, contact 517-482-8357. Event runs from 2-5 p.m. Bretton Woods Covenant Church, 925 Bretton Road, Lansing.

**South Lansing Holiday Market** - Shop for a variety of handcrafted goods! The dining area features ethnic food vendors and hot soups. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Pleasant View Magnet School, 4501 Pleasant Grove Road, Lansing. facebook.com/SouthLansingFarmersMarket.

**"Suddenly Art" Exhibition** - Okemos artist Juanita Baldwin exhibits paintings in an array of media at EagleMonk Pub during the month of

## NCROWD Magazine fall/winter fashion show

7-9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8

Lansing Center

333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Michigan State University student-run fashion collective and publication NCROWD Magazine will hold its fall/winter 2024 fashion show 7 p.m. Sunday (Dec. 8) at the Lansing Center. Keeping with NCROWD's dedication to providing a platform for underrepresented voices in the fashion industry, especially people of color and individuals from diverse backgrounds, the theme of the show is diversity and innovation. It will feature the work of young, emerging designers from across Michigan whose collections showcase bold concepts and cutting-edge trends. Student models, photographers and creative directors will bring the designers' visions to life.

"Our mission is to create an equitable space where everyone has the opportunity to shine," NCROWD President Damond Hardwick said. "This fashion show is not just about clothing — it's about celebrating identity, self-expression and the limitless potential of young creatives."

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at eventbrite.com/o/ncrowd-mag-81450841543. For more information on NCROWD, visit instagram.com/ncrowdmag.



December. Noon-10 p.m. 4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/BaldwinJuanita-Art.

**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., Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

**Yuletide Caroling** - We'll start at the church and meander through the streets of downtown Lansing. Dress warmly and feel free to bring instruments, songbooks or festive accoutrements. 7-9 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

## Sunday, Dec. 8

**"A Joyful Line"** - Dorothy Hughes Engelman exhibits her zentangle-inspired art at the Okemos Library through Dec. 31. Noon-6 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

**"A Very Williamston Christmas"** - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

**Chamber Music Showcase Concert II** - Join us for two recital programs featuring instrumental performances by select student chamber ensembles from the MSU College of Music. 7 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

**Christmas Candlelight Concert** - Featuring performances by the "legends of the opera house," including vocalist David Songer, members of Singers on the Grand and organist Scott Smith. 3 p.m. Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. gloperahouse.com.

**Christmas in the Village** - An afternoon of Victorian-era Christmas traditions, including live music by the Renaissance Singers, strolling carolers, visits with Santa and our annual tree lighting ceremony. 2-4 p.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridianhistoricalvillage.org.

See Events, Page 24



# Lansing Holiday Traditions!

ONLINE ORDERING AVAILABLE AT  
[www.QDQuickDelivery.com](http://www.QDQuickDelivery.com)






# Events

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

**FREE Gentle Nidra Yoga Class** - Designed for all levels to ease you into deep relaxation and stillness. Noon. Firefly Hot Yoga Barre, 118 S. Washington Square, Lansing. fireflyhotyogabarre-fitness.com.

**GLAD Drum Circle** - We offer a welcoming space for all, from beginners to advanced drummers. Bring your own drum or borrow one! 2-4 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers.

**Giant 3D Snowflakes** - Create 3D snowflakes that can be hung from the ceiling or used as wall decorations. 1 p.m. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

**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/macsbarmsu.

**Holiday Nights of Lights** - Experience the magic as you drive through Frances Park and delight in beautiful holiday scenes adorned with stunning lights. Free. 6-9 p.m. 2701 Moores River Drive, Lansing. lansingmi.gov/967/Holiday-Nights-of-Lights.

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

**LCC Rock Band Concert** - Students enrolled in the rock band ensemble course perform rock classics and original tunes. Free. 6 p.m. The Avenue, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

**The Lightfoot Band** - This group features the original band members who recorded and toured for decades with the late Gordon Lightfoot. 7:30 p.m. Margaret Livensparger Theatre, 5885 Holt Road, Holt. urbanbeatevents.com.

**MSU Activities Board Winter Arts and Crafts Show** - More than 130 crafters and artists from Michigan and beyond will be on hand, offering an array of goods. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. MSU Union, 49 Abbot Road, East Lansing. uabevents.com.

**MSU Jazz Orchestras, with bassist John Clayton** - 3 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

**MSU Women's Basketball vs. DePaul University** - 2 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-basketball.

**Nokomis Holiday Art Market** - Featuring an assortment of books, baskets, dreamcatchers, ornaments, jewelry and sweetgrass reflecting

Native American culture. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos. facebook.com/nokomis-culturalheritagecenter.

**Red Cedar Quaker Friends Worship** - A loving, peaceful community. Non-dogmatic. Live your values. 10:30 a.m. 1400 Turner St., Lansing. redcedarfriends.org/join-us-for-worship.

**Riverbend Voices Winter Concert: "Full Circle"** - Program covers the span of an entire calendar year, starting with New Year's Day and ending with music for the Christmas season. 3 p.m. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 218 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. facebook.com/CapitalCityMusicCollective.

**"The Science of Mind," SALT Presentation by Jeff Benoit** - An intro to Ernest Holmes' "The Science of Mind." Benoit will share the basics of Holmes' teachings and their parallels to Unity. 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. unitylansing.org.

**SpARTan Wellness: Finals Week Edition** - Take a study break! Decorate a reusable coffee koozie, then kick back with a cup of Strange Matter coffee. 2-4 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**Spirit of Michigan Chorus Presents: "An A Cappella Christmas"** - Join Spirit of Michigan for our first concert ever! Additional performances by Big Treble and Old Thyme Harmony Quartet. 2 p.m. Church of the Nazarene, 4851 Holt Road, Holt. facebook.com/spiritofmichiganchorus.

**"Suddenly Art" Exhibition** - Okemos artist Juanita Baldwin exhibits paintings in an array of media at EagleMonk Pub during the month of December. Noon-9 p.m. 4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/BaldwinJuanitaArt.

**Summerlands Sunday Brunch** - Noon-4 p.m. Summerlands Brewing Co., 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

**Violin & Viola Duo** - The LSO Chamber Series is designed to showcase the artistry of symphony musicians in a special setting and introduce audiences to classical programming. 3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. lansingsymphony.org.

**Monday, Dec. 9**

**"A Joyful Line"** - Dorothy Hughes Engelman exhibits her zentangle-inspired art at the Okemos Library through Dec. 31. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

**Al-Anon Meeting** - 8 p.m. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing. cmiala-anon.org.

**Beaded Snowflakes** - Make snowflake decorations out of beads. 5:30 p.m. Holt-Delhi Library, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt. cadl.org/about/our-locations/holt-delhi.

**Beginning Salsa Group Dance Class** - Eight-week class. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900

Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800.

**Bingo Night at Summerlands Brewing Co.** - Free to play, with fun prizes every game! 8-9:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

**Broadway Jazz Dance for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Capital City Ringers' 41st Annual Holiday Concert: "Sounds of the Season"** - Join CCR for a family-friendly concert featuring a variety of holiday music! 7 p.m. Delta Presbyterian Church, 6100 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. capitalcityringers.com.

**Fiber Circle** - Knitters, crocheters and stitchers of all ages and skill levels are welcome. Although formal instruction is not provided, attendees will assist each other with techniques and skills. 6 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

**Improv Acting for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Jazz/Ballet II for Kids** - 15-week class. Ages 9-13. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Meridian Community Band: "Sounds of the Season"** - Program features traditional and new takes on holiday favorites. Admission is free, but donations to support the band will be accepted. 7:30 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. meridiancommunity-band.org.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Fall Art Show** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

**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" Zoom Book Study, with Jeff Benoit** - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

**Ruhala Broadway Ensemble for All Ages** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 5:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**"The Untethered Soul" Book Study, with Kathi Frederick** - "The Untethered Soul" embraces non-judgment, allowing ourselves and others to be as we are without imposing expectations or labels. 1:30 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. unitylansing.org.

**Tuesday, Dec. 10**

**"A Course in Miracles" Discussion Group, with Lisa Schmidt** - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

**Acting 101 for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Acting Ensemble Class for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**"A Joyful Line"** - Dorothy Hughes Engelman exhibits her original zentangle-inspired art at the Okemos Library through Dec. 31. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

**Al-Anon Meeting** - 9 a.m. Alano Club South, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. cmialanon.org.

**Al-Anon Meeting** - 7 p.m. St. Jude Church, 801 N. Bridge St., DeWitt. cmialanon.org.

**Arts Council Grant Chat** - Discuss your creative

ideas with membership and program manager Taylor Haslett! She can provide information on local grant opportunities and assist you in planning applications. 2-3 p.m. The Coffee Barrel, 2237 Aurelius Road, Holt. facebook.com/ArtsCouncilGL.

**Beginning American-Style Rhumba Group Dance Class** - Eight-week class. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800.

**December Grand River Connection: The Rusty Mug (RED Town)** - Network and connect with other young professionals. 5-7 p.m. 1210 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. lansing501.com.

**Foster Parent/Adoption Information Session (Virtual Orientation)** - 9 a.m. To register, contact Christina Redmond at 517-775-2693 or redmondc2@michigan.gov.

**Intermediate Ballet for Teens & Adults** - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 5:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Jazz Tuesdays** - Weekly series showcasing the best and brightest mid-Michigan jazz musicians. 7 p.m. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/jazztuesdaysatmoriartys.

**Junior Achievement Starmakers Breakfast** - An entertaining, professional networking event featuring JA alumni and student speakers. Enjoy breakfast while helping expand JA programs in our schools. 7:30 a.m. Crowne Plaza, 925 S. Creyts Road, Lansing. midmichigan.ja.org.

**LCC Improv Showcase** - Join us for an evening of laughs! This free event features performances by students enrolled in the improvisation course. 7 p.m. Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

**Level I Dance for Kids** - 15-week class. Ages 5-8. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Fall Art Show** - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

**"Minecraft" Mania** - We'll have our "Minecraft" server set up and laptops ready to go. No experience needed — all levels of players/builders welcome. Ages 8-12. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

**On the Same Page Book Club** - Each participant reads the same book beforehand and comes to the meeting ready to chat, eat snacks and have book-related fun. Grades 7-12. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.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.

**"Suddenly Art" Exhibition** - Okemos artist Juanita Baldwin exhibits paintings in an array of media at EagleMonk Pub during the month of December. 3-10 p.m. 4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/BaldwinJuanitaArt.

**Summerlands Karaoke Night** - Family-friendly until 9:30 p.m. Enjoy food and beverages, both alcoholic and nonalcoholic. 7:30-11 p.m. Summerlands Brewing Co., 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

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

**Trivia Night at El Azteco East Lansing** - Drink a beer, munch on some food and compete for prizes! Free. 7 p.m. 225 Ann St., East Lansing. facebook.com/elaztecoeast.

**WITL Country Christmas Party, with Corey Kent, Ashley Cooke, Runaway June and John Morgan** - All proceeds benefit Ele's Place Capital Region. Doors 6:30 p.m., show 7:30 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

# Picture-perfect chicken Parmesan

By COURTNEY BOWERMAN

Every town seems to have at least one family-owned Italian restaurant. For Grand Ledge, it's Cugino's on Bridge Street. A beloved downtown destination since 2001, the restaurant's name means "cousin's" in Italian, a fitting choice since it's owned by cousins Mark Naccarato and Patrick DeLuca. DeLuca is related to the former owners of DeLuca's Restaurant, which unfortunately closed several years ago. Being a loyal customer of both restaurants, I can tell you that although nothing can replace DeLuca's, Cugino's is the next best thing.

The restaurant has a classic Italian ambiance — the dimly lit, romantic set-

ting would be perfect for a date night. The service is excellent, even on the busiest of evenings. The menu offers a savory selection of salads, breadsticks, pasta, calzones and pizza, with several vegetarian and gluten-free options.

Many will tell you that the pizza is the thing to order, yet whenever I've visited Cugino's, I've always been in the mood for pasta. The one I keep ordering is the chicken Parmesan, which, like all the restaurant's pasta dishes, comes with salad and a breadstick. While you can order breadsticks as a separate appetizer, they're so huge that one is plenty.

Surprisingly, the thick-cut chicken breast doesn't have a lot of breading,

though it's hard to tell under all the mozzarella cheese and marinara sauce it's topped with. If my description brings back memories of DeLuca's — which was known for covering everything with mountains of cheese — you'll be either relieved or disappointed to know that Cugino's goes easy on the mozzarella without skimping on it.

The spaghetti on the side is also topped with sauce, but if you want cheese on it, you'll have to use the shaker of Parmesan provided at your table. Together, the chicken and spaghetti make for a rich and filling dinner. I don't use



Courtney Bowerman for City Pulse

From pizza and calzones to lasagna and chicken Parmesan, Cugino's offers some of the best Italian food in the area — and with plentiful portions to boot.

the term "filling" lightly: Every time I eat at Cugino's, I spend the rest of the night feeling stuffed. If you're craving a huge helping of top-notch Italian food, head to Grand Ledge. Odds are, you're going to need a box to take home what you can't finish.

## Spice up your holiday dinner table

From METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Tastes have evolved over the years, affording today's dinner hosts more wiggle room when planning holiday menus. Though staples like ham may never be relegated to the dustbin, cooks can spice things up to make these beloved favorites a little more flavorful.

This spicy maple-glazed ham, adapted from chef Jacques Pépin's "Heart and Soul in the Kitchen" for Bon Appétit, adds a little heat to the traditional holiday entrée. The former personal chef to French President Charles de Gaulle, Pépin notes that poaching a ham before roasting removes excess salt, ensuring the finished product is tender and juicy.

### Spicy maple-glazed ham

Makes eight to 12 servings

- One 10-pound bone-in ham or 6-pound boneless ham
- 1/3 cup ketchup
- 1/3 cup pure maple syrup
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 2 tablespoons sriracha

If your ham has a fat cap, score it lightly in a crosshatch pattern, spac-



Metro Creative Connection

Make your holiday dinner one to remember by adding a little heat to the customary ham centerpiece.

ing cuts a little less than an inch apart. Transfer the ham to a large stock pot and cover with cold water. Cover the pot with a lid and bring the water to a simmer. Cook, adjusting the heat as needed to maintain a simmer, until an instant-read thermometer insert-

See Holiday dinner, Page 26

## TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

### TOP 5 BAKLAVA

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2024 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!

#### 1. Aladdin's Restaurant

Middle Eastern restaurant with a lengthy menu of vegetarian and meat-based dishes  
300 N. Clippert St., Lansing  
(517) 333-8710  
lansingaladdins.com  
10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday  
10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday

#### 2. Bell's Greek Pizza

Late-night spot serving a mix of Italian and Mediterranean cuisines  
1135 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing  
(517) 332-0858  
thebellspizza.com

10 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday  
10 a.m.-1 a.m. Friday-Saturday

#### 3. Bread Bites Mediterranean

Family-owned Mediterranean eatery known for its homemade bread and baked goods  
5100 Marsh Road, Okemos  
(517) 708-7112  
11:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday  
Noon-7 p.m. Sunday

#### 4. Jerusalem Bakery

Cozy Mediterranean restaurant and bakery serving fresh-made bites for lunch and dinner  
1456 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
(517) 485-9975  
jerusalem-pita.wixsite.com/mysite  
9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday  
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday

#### 5. Woody's Oasis

Quick-serve Mediterranean restaurant serving familiar offerings such as falafel, gyros and shawarma  
1050 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing  
(517) 351-2280  
woodysoasis.com  
11 a.m.-8 p.m. daily



## Holiday dinner

from page 25

ed into the thickest part of the ham registers 140 degrees, about 70 to 80 minutes for boneless or 80 to 90 minutes for bone-in. Remove the pot from the heat and let the ham cool in the cooking liquid until lukewarm.

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Stir the ketchup, maple syrup, balsamic vinegar and sriracha in a small bowl to combine.

Carefully transfer the ham to a

wire rack set inside a foil-lined baking sheet and pat it dry with paper towels. Discard the cooking liquid or save it for another use. Brush the ham with about half the glaze. Transfer it to the oven and bake until the glaze is tacky and lightly browned in spots, about 30 to 40 minutes. Brush the ham with the remaining glaze and continue to bake until the glaze is deeply browned, about 10 to 15 minutes more.

Transfer the ham to a cutting board and let it rest for 15 to 20 minutes before slicing and serving.

The ham can be simmered up to 12 hours ahead. Let it cool completely, then transfer it to a wire rack set inside a foil-lined baking sheet and place it in the fridge, uncovered. Let it sit at room temperature for 60 to 90 minutes before glazing and baking.



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517-323-9186  
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517-332-6892  
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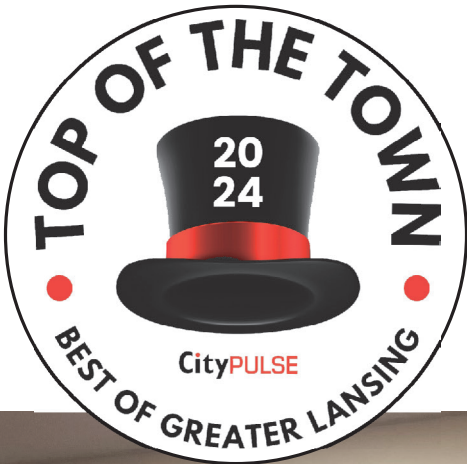


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