

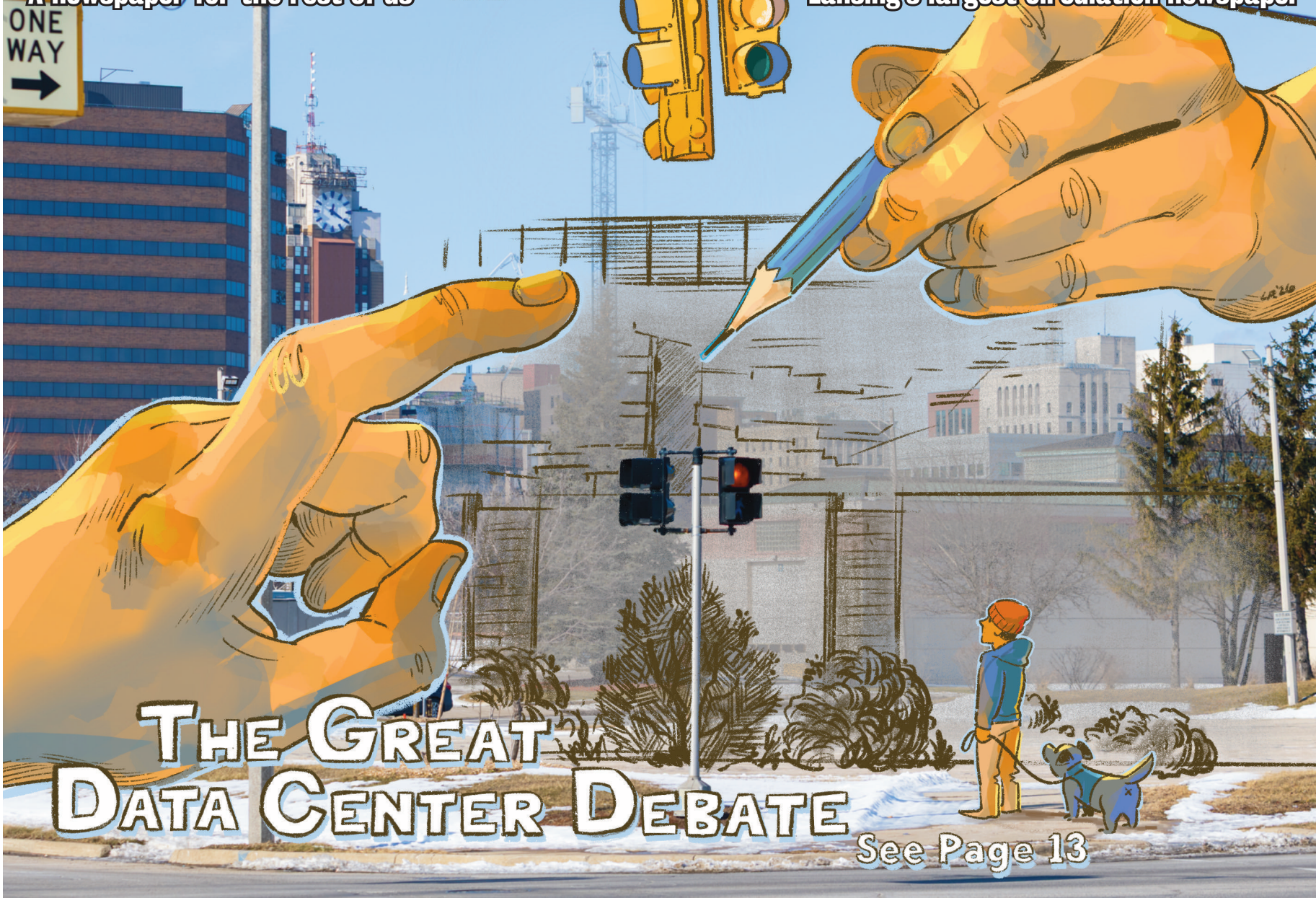
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February 18-24, 2026

# CityPULSE

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## THE GREAT DATA CENTER DEBATE

See Page 13



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### The Rest of the Planet Has Eyes

For years, the Trump movement has tried to sell Americans a bedtime story with a badge: ICE is heroic, ICE is “law and order,” and anyone who opposes it must be a radical Democrat, an anarchist, or a domestic terrorist. In their worldview, dissent isn’t patriotism — it’s treason. If you protest ICE, you don’t just hate the agency. You hate America.

That narrative works beautifully inside the U.S. propaganda bubble.

It collapses instantly the moment you leave the country.

Because in Milan and other cities in Italy, ICE agents have reportedly been met with protests and public outrage over their presence at the Winter Olympics. And that alone should detonate the entire Trump-aligned fantasy. Italians are not American liberals. They are not MSNBC viewers. They are not “woke mobs.” They are citizens of a sovereign nation reacting to the presence of an American agency that has become globally associated with raids, detention camps and state brutality.

Which raises the obvious question: if ICE is so noble, why does the world treat it like a contaminant?

ICE is not an international humanitarian organization. It’s not a neutral security agency with a reputation for protecting rights. It is a U.S. enforcement machine whose modern legacy includes family separations, mass raids and detention centers that look like something out of a dystopian nightmare — except funded by taxpayers and defended by politicians who call cruelty “policy.”

So when ICE shows up in Europe, it is not simply a logistical decision.

It is a political statement.

It is the United States exporting its enforcement culture across borders as if it were something to be proud of.

And the world is responding accordingly.

Trump supporters love to repeat that “the world respects America more under Trump.” They chant it like scripture. But if that were true, the presence of a U.S. agency at an international event would inspire confidence, not street protests. It would be welcomed as professional support, not treated like an invasive threat.

The Trump narrative depends on one core lie: that opposition to ICE is illegitimate. That anyone who resists it must be irrational, criminal or politically corrupted. But Italians aren’t participating in American partisan warfare. They’re reacting to what ICE represents internationally — and that reaction exposes an uncomfortable truth:

ICE has become a global symbol of authoritarian enforcement.

Not justice.

Not safety.

Domination.

The world has watched the footage. Children behind fences. Families torn apart. Migrants being treated like criminals for daring to exist. The language of American officials calling human beings “invaders” and “animals.” The endless political justification of cruelty as deterrence. ICE doesn’t have a reputation problem because people misunderstand it.

ICE has a reputation because people understand it perfectly.

And now that reputation is following it overseas.

The Olympics are supposed to symbolize unity, cooperation and human achievement. They’re marketed as peace wrapped in spectacle. So what does it say when ICE becomes part of the Olympic story? What does it say when the United States inserts an agency infamous for detention and intimidation into an event meant to represent the best of humanity?

It says America can’t stop policing, even when it travels.

It says the American state is so addicted to enforcement that it treats the world as an extension of its security perimeter.

And it says the U.S. has become so accustomed to militarized power that it can’t even attend a global celebration without dragging the machinery of fear into the room.

The final insult is predictable: Trump’s allies will respond to these protests the same way they respond to protests at home — by smearing the protesters. By calling them radicals. By dismissing them as enemies. But that only deepens the hypocrisy. Because when dissent anywhere in the world is automatically treated as illegitimate, what is being defended is not law and order. It is authoritarianism.

The protests in Italy are not a minor controversy. They are a mirror held up to America. They expose the lie that only Democrats oppose ICE. They expose the lie that the world admired Trump’s America. And they expose the truth that can’t be spun away: ICE is not a symbol of national pride. It is a symbol of national shame.

And now the rest of the planet is saying, loudly, in the streets:

We see what you are.

We see what you export.

And we are not impressed.

The rest of the planet has eyes.

And America’s enforcement state has been on full display since the cell phone got a shutter.

Frankly, Trump continues to prove he is clueless. A 1st-grader could’ve predicted the response Italian citizens would have by sending ICE to the Olympics.

With distraction after distraction, I still believe more and more people will ultimately bail on him. I never thought I’d live in a world that couldn’t play connect the dots. But here we are. The Epstein files have his name on them more than anyone else, and yet they can’t see it. And now I can’t imagine what they’ll say when it all comes crashing down around them.

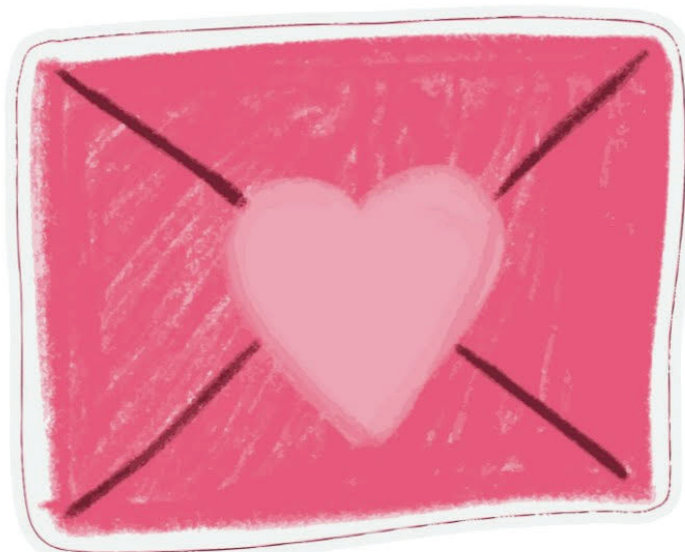
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# CityPULSE

**VOL. 25  
ISSUE 28**

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How investigators made an arrest in gruesome homicides

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Cover design by Lora Root, with photography by Raymond Holt

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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

HEY THERE, DONNY! IT'S ME-- THE GHOST OF JEFFREY EPSTEIN!

WHY WON'T YOU GO AWAY? YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A BIT OF UNDIGESTED BIG MAC, A FRAGMENT OF AN UNDER-COOKED FRENCH FRY!

WELL, I WISH I STILL HAD A BODY--YOU HAVE NO IDEA--BUT ALAS, AFTER WHAT HAPPENED IN MY CELL THAT NIGHT--

I VERY DEFINITELY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT! BUT YOU ARE DEAD! WHY IS ANYONE STILL TALKING ABOUT YOU?

MAYBE BECAUSE YOU AND YOUR ALLIES HYPED MY FILES RELENTLESSLY FOR YEARS?

YEAH, BUT THAT WAS WHEN WE THOUGHT IT WOULD HURT DEMOCRATS! I DIDN'T THINK THAT ANYONE MIGHT USE THEM AGAINST ME!

WE WERE BEST PALS WHO HUNG OUT ALL THE TIME! WE SHARED "WONDERFUL SECRETS," LIKE YOU WROTE IN MY BIRTHDAY BOOK!

FAKE NEWS! THE DEMOCRATS ARE JUST TRYING TO DISTRACT EVERYONE FROM THEIR PLANS TO STEAL THE NEXT ELECTION! WHICH IS WHY I HAVE TO STEAL IT FIRST!

LOOK, I HAVE TO GO GIVE A SPEECH ABOUT HOW GREAT EVERYTHING IS! IF I REPEAT IT OFTEN ENOUGH, IT BECOMES TRUE! THAT'S WHAT MILLER SAYS.

WELL, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE WITH YOU, BUDDY! BUT DON'T WORRY--NOBODY CAN SEE ME BUT YOU!

AND SO-- EVERYONE LOVES ME AND THE ECONOMY IS SOARING! SHUT UP! YOU'RE DEAD AND I BARELY KNEW YOU! GO BACK TO GHOSTLAND, YOU STUPID GHOST!

UH--GO TELL KAROLINE TO SAY THIS WAS "THE WEAWE."

SURE, THAT SHOULD DO THE TRICK.

IF YOU HAVE A BETTER IDEA, I'M ALL EARS.

TOM TOMORROW © 2026-02-16 ... JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: [thismodernworld.com/subscriptions](http://thismodernworld.com/subscriptions)

# PULSE

# NEWS & OPINION

## Whitmer proposes \$88.1B budget as state reckons with federal cuts

By **KYLE DAVIDSON**  
Michigan Advance  
michiganadvance.com

Heading into her final budget season, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has proposed \$88.1 billion in funding for the 2027 Fiscal Year, a pitch she says would double down on her administration's long-term priorities while offering financial relief to Michiganders.

Of that \$88.1 billion, \$13.6 billion would be allocated to the state's general fund and \$21.4 billion for K-12 education. The governor also proposed a \$400 million withdrawal from the state's rainy day fund, which is used to help stabilize revenue during economic downturns.

Whitmer did not deliver her final budget recommendations in person. State budget officials laid out the proposal while highlighting challenges heading into this year's budget season, citing impacts from the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Although budget officials projected the federal law would cost the state \$10 billion by Fiscal Year 2032, State Budget Director Jen Flood said the state was able to take steps during last year's budget process to mitigate some of those impacts. However, the policy is still expected to cost the state nearly \$4 billion by 2032, with costs increasing over time.

Heading into Fiscal Year 2027, the state also is facing a \$1.8 billion gap in funding, which Flood said is largely driven by declines in revenue, rising health care costs, the direct fiscal impact of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act and persistent inflation across sectors.

The governor's proposed budget includes a narrow set of investments to preserve access to health care, create jobs and keep communities safe, Flood said, calling the budget a responsible mix of new revenue proposals, cuts and use of reserve funds.

"We're confronting the numbers strategically, making deliberate choices to preserve what matters most," Flood said. "By focusing our resources thoughtfully, we can protect our services, strengthen infrastructure and make targeted investments that help our communities thrive, even in the face of ongoing fiscal pressures."

Lowering costs, supporting education



Gretchen Whitmer

and protecting access to health care and keeping communities safe were key priorities in the governor's proposal, Flood said.

In line with those priorities, Whitmer recommended a \$250 increase in funding per student, for a total of \$10,300 per student.

The governor's budget also sets aside \$200 million for the state's free school meals program while asking the Legislature to cement the effort as a permanent piece of the school aid budget.

The proposal also includes \$625 million to support student literacy as the state continues to rank among the worst in the nation for fourth-grade reading scores. The governor has set literacy as a top priority for her final year in office.

Whitmer also asked the Legislature to expand eligibility for the state's Great Start Readiness program to provide free pre-K to all four-year-olds in the state, and to include new funding to encourage students in areas with high concentrations of poverty to take advantage of col- lege dual enrollment opportunities.

### Other highlights from Whitmer's budget include:

- An expanded tax credit that would provide property tax relief to 335,000 seniors by refunding approximately 10% of their property taxes.
- A sales tax holiday on school supplies
- \$43.2 million for the Elec-

tion Equipment Reserve Fund, which supports local election administration and maintenance of election equipment

- \$1.6 billion for Michigan road repairs and maintenance
- Continued tax exemptions on tips, overtime and Social Security

Amid federal cuts to health care, Whitmer also proposed several new revenue streams to support Michigan Medicaid, providing \$780.4 million in total. This includes \$232 million through updates to Michigan's tobacco tax rate,

\$73.6 million from taxing vaping and non-tobacco nicotine products similarly to other tobacco products, \$282 million from a tax on digital advertising and \$192.8 million from updating the state's internet gaming, sports betting, and online gaming tax structure.

A portion of the vape tax revenues would also support programs to support smoking and cancer prevention and youth mental health.

"If we fail to fully fund Medicaid in Fiscal Year '27 the consequences will be real," Deputy Budget Director Kyle Guerrant said. "Providers could face deeper financial strain, access to care could narrow, wait times could increase, and rural hospitals and long-term care facilities who are already operating on thin margins would be at great risk of closing."

In order to implement federal changes to both Medicaid and SNAP, the federal low-income food assistance program, Whitmer recommended setting aside \$186.6 million to ensure compliance and help Michigan residents retain their benefits. \$60.4 million of that funding would go to the Department of Health and Human Services for ongoing staffing and beneficiary support, while \$30 million in ongoing funds are allocated to the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity for job search support and training, employment services and apprenticeships to help residents meet new work requirements.

### With governor's proposal on the table, the budget clock begins

With revenue estimates and the governor's budget proposal in hand, the Democratic-led Senate and the Republican-led House are set to begin assembling their own budget proposals. However, last year's tumultuous budget process, in

which lawmakers blew past the state's legally-required July 1 budget deadline and nearly reached a government shutdown, continues to cast a shadow over this budget season.

"I think we would be kidding ourselves if we thought that last year was a successful process," Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Sarah Anthony said, calling on her fellow senators in attendance to join her in recommitting themselves to professionalism and preparing to negotiate across the aisle.

However, Michigan House Speaker Matt Hall (R-Richland Township) has already ruled out any potential tax increases as well as withdrawing money from the rainy day fund, instead calling for \$1.2 billion in cuts to address the revenue shortfall.

"There will be no tax increases in this budget when we do this deal," Hall told reporters at a press conference held ahead of the budget presentation. "Instead, we're gonna have to live within our means just like the people of Michigan do when they have increased expenses."

House Appropriations Chair Ann Bollin (R-Brighton Township) similarly told reporters after the presentation that she was skeptical of whether a revenue increase would be needed.

"Are they proposing revenue increases because they've expanded the size of government?" Bollin asked. "That's a very different question than raising the revenue because there's a need for it."

Bollin and state Rep. Jim DeSana (R-Carleton) also said they would like to see property tax relief for residents across the board, rather than just seniors.

Heading into this budget cycle, Anthony acknowledged that the state would need to be creative given the restraints on state funding, but said that Republicans would need to show their work to show where funding cuts would come from if the state does not bring in additional tax revenue.

"My North Star goal is that we're not harming people as we're making those types of reductions and also not robbing the rainy day fund," Anthony said. "So I think we have a lot of work to do to find the right balance, but ultimately, this is going to be a very difficult budget year."

# After a yearlong investigation, two charged in gruesome murders, mutilation of body

By **HEATHER VANDYKE**

LANSING — Two people have been charged with open murder and the mutilation of remains in connection with the 2025 deaths of two men at separate Lansing residences, authorities announced Thursday, Feb. 12.

The charges follow a yearlong investigation by a task force including the Michigan State Police, the Lansing Police Department, and the Eaton County Sheriff's Office.

The investigation centered around the Feb. 9, 2025, deaths of Lance Pollo and Raequan Brown.

Timothy Galbraith, 44, and Trisha Bos, 49, were arraigned this week in Ingham County 54-A District Court, where a judge ordered both held without bond. Court records indicate the two defendants shared a residence on South Foster Street in Lansing,

According to the prosecutor's office, Galbraith faces two counts of open murder for the deaths of both Pollo and Brown. Authorities allege Pollo, 38, was killed at a home in the 500 block of South Foster Avenue, while Brown, 28, was killed at a location in the 600 block of South Francis Avenue.

A motive was not immediately disclosed by the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office. Scott Hughes, juvenile justice/community outreach coordinator, said the office has a practice of not commenting on or releasing evidence that may come out in a trial, which includes not releasing information on "possible motives."

Galbraith, charged as a fourth-offense habitual offender, faces a 12-count warrant that details a harrowing aftermath to the killings. In addition to the murder charges and felony firearm violations, he is charged

with multiple counts of tampering with evidence and the disinterment and mutilation of a dead body.

Bos is charged with one count of open murder in connection with the death of Pollo. Her charges also include felony firearm, conspiracy to commit tampering with evidence, and the disinterment and mutilation of a body.

According to previous media reports, Pollo's body was discovered Feb. 10, 2025, after a fire was extinguished at two outbuildings on a property in Windsor Township. Brown's body was discovered by hunters in a wooded area on March 23, 2025.

He had been reported missing to the Lansing Police Department in late February 2025.

Police believe both men were fatally shot in Lansing before their bodies were moved

to attempt to conceal the crime and evidence.

Under Michigan law, "open murder" is a broad charge that allows a jury to determine whether a defendant is guilty of first-degree or second-degree murder.

Bos was arraigned Tuesday, Feb. 10. Galbraith's arraignment was on Wednesday, Feb. 11. The two defendants are scheduled to appear before Judge Cynthia Ward for a probable cause conference on Feb. 20, followed by a preliminary examination on Feb. 27.

## Report: ICE expanding in Michigan

By **KATHERINE DAILEY**  
**MichiganAdvance.com**

Three Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities are expanding or being established in Michigan, according to federal records obtained by WIRED in a new report released Tuesday.

The current ICE facility at the Rosa Parks Federal Building in downtown Detroit, which also currently houses offices for the U.S. General Services Administration, Internal Revenue Service, and Customs and Border Protection, will expand, while new offices will be leased at the Waters Center in downtown Grand Rapids and the One Towne Square complex in Southfield, just outside Detroit.

ICE did not respond to a request for confirmation of these new and expanded locations. The Waters Center currently does not list ICE or any relevant groups as a part of its tenant directory. Neither the Waters Center nor One Towne Square responded to requests for comment from Michigan Advance.

These facilities are part of a nationwide expansion of ICE's physical presence — the WIRED report details 54 locations, all "planned ICE lease locations as of January, and includes current ICE offices that are set to expand and new spaces the agency is poised to occupy."

This physical expansion also comes as ICE has been undertaking a national hiring surge. According to WIRED, these new leases are intended to provide new homes for the ICE offices that handle immigration enforcement, including the arrest, detention, and removal of immigrants, as well as the agency's legal arm.

Michigan is home to the North Lake Processing Center in Baldwin, the largest ICE detention center in the Midwest and one of the nation's largest. The facility, which has drawn numerous protests from activists, is operated through a private contract with the GEO Group.

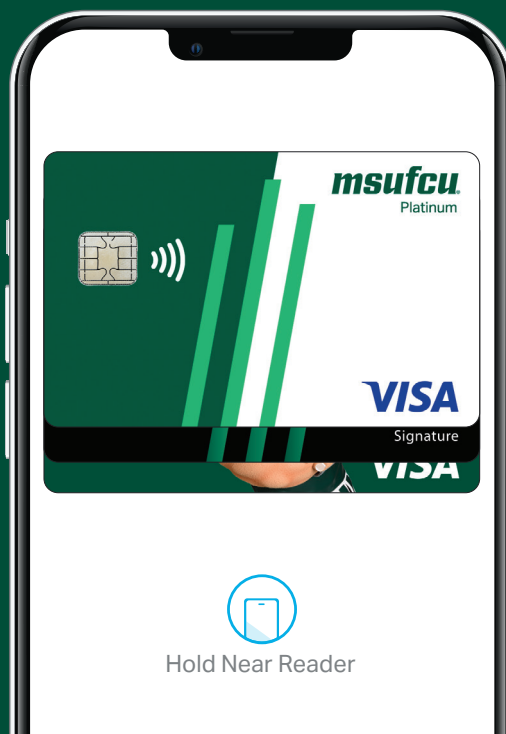
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# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

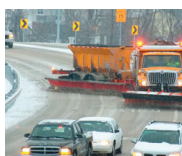
COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



**The Rev. Jesse Jackson has died. The 84-year-old civil rights leader and presidential candidate was born in Greenville, S.C. He rose to prominence through a variety of activism, including the 1960 desegregation of the county's library as part of the "Greenville Eight."** Jackson was an associate of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and was in Memphis when King was assassinated in 1968. Jackson was one of the most recognized civil rights leaders, founding the People United to Save Humanity Coalition, marching with unions, joining with LGBTQ communities and leading international hostage negotiations as well as business protests and boycotts.

Jackson ran for president in 1984 and 1988, becoming the first Black candidate to appear on 50 state ballots (then-U.S. Rep. Shirley Chisholm was on the ballot for about a dozen states in 1972). He also campaigned at MSU in March 1988, speaking at Munn Arena, and visited the Lansing area other times, including in 2012 (see Raymond Holt photo) when he joined then-Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero and then-senator Gretchen Whitmer during a sit-in protesting Right-to-Work legislation in the Capitol Rotunda. Jackson had disclosed a Parkinson's diagnosis nearly a decade ago and in his last years had disclosed a rarer brain disorder, progressive supranuclear palsy. Memorial plans have not been announced, but tributes have come in from hundreds of people.

**Melting snow across the Lower Peninsula triggered statewide air quality alerts over the weekend with hazy skies, and similar conditions could return later this spring, according to WKAR.** When temperatures warmed, the snow released particulate matter that had accumulated for months into the air



all at once, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy meteorologist Alec Kownacki told WKAR. This winter's heavy snowfall, warming temperatures, stagnant air, and regular emissions from vehicles all lined up to trigger the alerts, he said. The conditions are expected to improve this week, but poor air quality could return this spring.



**The owners of the Topsy Nickel Bar & Grille in Mason will be taking a few days to focus on their employees, following a Valentine's Day fire during dinner service.** Tim Warvel said his daughter, manager Brandy Warvel, noticed the blaze and firefighters arrived quickly to extinguish it. He told City Pulse that they will be focusing on their employees as the details unfold. On Monday, the Warvels were at the restaurant surveying damage. It's not clear yet what the next steps will be, the Warvels said, but they said they intend to get their employees back to work soon.

**Two teachers from Greater Lansing were among 10 named by the Michigan Department of Education as Regional Teachers of the Year, selected from nominations from students, staff and community members.** Erica Gorzen, a visual arts teacher at Portland High School and Amanda Bush, an elementary teacher at Dansville Elementary, will be considered with other regional winners for Michigan's 2026-27 Teacher of the Year award. The MDE organizes the Teacher of the Year program, underwritten by the Meemic Foundation, to honor and elevate the voices of teachers. The Regional Teachers of the Year make up the Michigan Teacher Leadership Advisory Council to bring their voices to a wider audience, including through direct work



with MDE to provide input on proposed policies and initiatives and to help share valuable information and resources with their colleagues in their respective regions.



**All registered voters in the City of East Lansing should be getting new voter identification cards in the coming weeks.** The new ID cards will arrive in the mail and replace any existing voter ID cards. Everyone is getting new cards because the city is reducing the number of precincts from 17 to 13. Some voters will have a new polling location, but all will have a new precinct number.



**A young child died and three others were injured after being attacked while out for a walk in a neighborhood near Waverly High School.** Alexander Lamar Banks, Jr., 21, was arrested in connection with the assaults and has been issued multiple felony charges in the 56-A District Court, according to WLNS News, including one count of first-degree murder, three counts of assault with intent to murder, four counts of felony firearm, one count of carrying a weapon with unlawful intent, and one count of possessing a loaded firearm in or upon a vehicle. A statement said the child died at the scene, and a 37-year-old man and a 33-year-old woman were hospitalized in stable condition, and a 72-year-old woman was in critical condition.

"Preliminary investigation shows a vehicle driven by the suspect struck a family who was out for a walk," according to the Eaton County Sheriff's Office. "The suspect then exited the vehicle and fired numerous shots at the members of the family. A bystander who attempted to help was also attacked and suffered serious injuries." According to a probable cause affidavit, Banks told investigators that he had been receiving threats online telling him "he had to kill someone to save his family." Officials sent out active shooter alerts in the immediate aftermath; those were fol-

lowed by notifications that an arrest was made.



**One person was shot in the foot near downtown Lansing on Monday afternoon.** The shooting was reported near Chestnut and Hillsdale streets around 3:30 p.m., according to the Lansing Police Department. According to WLNS News, police said the accused shooter and the victim knew each other and the injuries were not life-threatening.

**The three-time Quality Dairy Paczki eating champ likes the banana one and advises against the powdered ones (if you're on a five-minute clock and eating six of them, at least).** The annual eating contest got a lot longer and added a lot more calories this year: Going from three minutes and with the champs managing to pound down up to three Paczki, the six contestants ate more and for longer. Their universal verdict: It's harder than it looks to eat a bunch of paczki really fast. The Paczki boss, eating a full half dozen this year, continues to be Akiem Harshman, representing Judson Baptist Church. He was joined by runner-up, radio host DeSean Whipple, for Haven House. Also competing were influencer Halatu Musa, for Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence; radio host Terry Stevens, for VFW National Home; Lansing mayor's office's Mark Lawrence, for American Red Cross; and Riverwalk Theatre's Brian Farnham, for Riverwalk Theatre. The charities received donations from QD and LAFUCU. Fat Tuesday has come and gone, but you may be able to find some leftover Paczki at various locations.



**PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS  
FY2026, 7/1/2026 – 6/30/27  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**Notice is hereby given that the City of Lansing Planning Board will hold a public hearing to solicit public input on the proposed funding allocations for the City of Lansing’s FY 2026 Annual Action Plan which covers the time July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.**

TO: ALL LANSING CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS  
FROM: LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION  
SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS  
PLACE: Neighborhood Empowerment Center  
600 W. Maple Street  
Lansing, MI 48906  
TIME: 6:30 p.m.  
DATE: Tuesday, March 3, 2026

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE CITIZENS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE AND COMMENT ON PROPOSED OBJECTIVES, GOALS AND PROJECTED USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT, HOME AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAMS, TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CITY’S ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUBMISSION FOR FY 2026 (7/1/2026- 6/30/2027)

For additional information, please contact Doris M. Witherspoon, Senior Planner at [doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov](mailto:doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov)

**PLEASE NOTE – Entitlement Grant Awards for FY 2026 (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027) have not been announced by HUD as of the date of this publication. Amounts proposed herein for FY 2026 CDBG, HOME and ESG activities are based on prior year entitlement awards. If the grant amounts HUD actually awards to the City of Lansing for CDBG, HOME and ESG are different from the amounts shown above, pro-rata adjustments will be made to the budget amounts proposed for each activity**

**FUNDING ALLOCATIONS  
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS  
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2026 (7/1/26– 6/30/27)  
CITY OF LANSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES**

The primary objective of Lansing’s Housing and Community Development Program is the development of a viable community which will provide standard housing in a suitable living environment, principally to benefit low- and moderate-income persons, preserve and expand existing businesses and industries, and create an atmosphere conducive to stability in neighborhoods.

- a. Provide standard housing in a suitable living environment through rehabilitation, new construction, and improvement of the housing stock primarily in CDBG eligible neighborhoods and in specifically designated housing target areas.
- b. Provide housing counseling and assistance that will benefit low and moderate-income households.
- c. Promote home ownership for low and moderate-income households and promote deconcentrating poverty.
- d. Maintain at current levels the number of public and assisted housing units available to low and moderate-income households.
- e. Provide homeless prevention assistance, emergency shelter, street outreach, and supportive human services for people with special needs, people who are homeless, and those at risk of becoming homeless.
- f. Provide assistance for permanent supportive housing and human services for low- and moderate-income households with a history of chronic homelessness, including those with special needs.
- g. Promote economic opportunity for low and moderate-income individuals by facilitating economic development, providing employment opportunity, sponsoring job training, supporting business development, micro-enterprise lending, and business or financial educational programs and initiatives.
- h. Promote economic development to provide jobs, business services, and shopping opportunities for residents located in CDBG eligible areas.
- i. Provide community and neighborhood services, recreational opportunities and public facilities, and promote neighborhood social cohesion to improve the quality of life in CDBG eligible neighborhoods.
- j. Increase security and safety in neighborhoods by supporting public safety and crime prevention initiatives, public educational programs, and citizens’ awareness in CDBG eligible areas.
- k. Improve the city’s transportation, public facilities, and infrastructure systems in CDBG eligible areas.

- l. Protect and improve the city’s physical environment, including preventing or eliminating blight, removing lead or other safety hazards, preserving historic resources, mitigating flood hazards, promoting healthy housing, and improving energy fitness in housing occupied by low and moderate-income households.
- m. Promote fair housing objectives.
- n. Provide affordable housing and economic development that benefits low- and moderate-income people in the context of mixed-use development along transit corridors.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

**Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation**

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

Proposed funding amount: \$1,183,592.57

**Rental Unit Rehabilitation**

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

Proposed funding amount: \$90,000

**Blight Removal**

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

Proposed funding amount: \$1,000

**Public Services (limited to 15%)**

Includes services for low- and moderate-income individuals such as: education, youth and senior programs, neighborhood clean-ups, community gardens, home repair classes. Services are for low- and moderate-income individuals and/or those in CDBG-eligible areas located within the Lansing city limits.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 285,000 (15% of CDBG)

**Economic Development and Business Technical Assistance**

Loans, technical assistance, and training to low- and moderate-income owners of and persons developing micro-enterprises within or planning to locate within the Lansing city limits. Technical assistance to individuals and for-profit businesses including workshops, technology assistance, and façade improvement loans/grants. Creation of jobs to benefit low and moderate-income city of Lansing residents.

Technical assistance to individuals and for-profit businesses including workshops, technology assistance, façade improvement loans/grants, market analysis, business promotion, referrals for the attraction of new business and expansion of existing business within CDBG-eligible areas of Lansing.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 50,000

**CDBG General Administration (limited to 20%)**

Includes staff and other costs associated with preparation of required Consolidated Planning documents, environmental clearances, fair housing activities and citizen participation activities associated with the delivery of CDBG, HOME and other state and federal programs.

Includes planning and general administration costs associated with delivery of CDBG and other state and federal programs. Includes indirect administrative costs and building rent paid to the city.

Proposed funding amount: \$372,495.43

**TOTAL CDBG includes FY25 allocation of \$1,982,088. This total does not include any anticipated program income or previous year unspent funds.**

**HOME**

**Down Payment Assistance**

Funds provided to homebuyers for down payment and closing costs for purchase of a single-family home located within the Lansing city limits. Up to \$10,000 will be available as a 0% interest second mortgage for homebuyers with income at or below 80% of median income. Assistance limited to first-time homebuyers. May include staff time and/or homeownership counseling fees associated with this activity.

Proposed funding amount: \$200,000

**Homeowner Housing Construction and Rehabilitation (ADR)**

Includes funds for loans and grants for housing construction and rehabilitation with non-profit and for-profit developers, including CHDOs.

**CP#26-052, From page 8**

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

Proposed funding amount: \$264,936.57

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

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

Proposed funding amount: \$ 94,500

**Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Operating (limited to 5%)**

Funds reserved at option of the City to provide operating funds to CHDO's utilizing the City's HOME funds to produce affordable housing in the community.

Proposed funding amount: \$31,500

**HOME General Administration (limited to 10%)**

Includes staff and general administration costs to deliver the HOME program.

Proposed funding amount: \$63,000

**TOTAL HOME includes FY25 allocation of \$653,936.57. This total does not include any anticipated program income or previous year unspent funds.**

**EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG)**

**Street Outreach**

Street Outreach activities.

Proposed funding amount: \$5,357

**Homeless Prevention**

Homeless Prevention activities.

Proposed funding amount: \$58,922

**Administrative Activities (limited to 7.5%)**

Funds provided to offset the cost of administering emergency solutions program.

Proposed funding amount: \$12,498

**Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)**

Funds will be provided for HMIS and comparable database costs.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 5,357

**Shelter Operation**

Funds provided to shelter providers to cover cost of maintenance, operations, insurance, utilities, and furnishings in shelter facilities.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 96,417

**TOTAL ESG: \$178,551**

**SUMMARY**

Fifty-Two Year Community Development Resources

Program	Annual Action Plan
<b>CDBG Entitlement Grant:</b>	\$1,982,088
<b>HOME Program Funds</b>	\$653,936.57
<b>ESG Program Funds:</b>	\$178,551
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$2,814,575.57

Administrative, management and operation costs for the above programs include the administration, management, and operations of the eligible activities, **as well as other federal and state community development programs in which the city is now or may be participating.**

**CP#26-052**



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY  
LEGAL AD NOTICE: Rezoning #26006 (Tekchandani)  
MONDAY, March 9, 2026**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
LEGAL NOTICE  
Rezoning #26006 (Tekchandani)  
Public Hearing**

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517-853-4560) to hear all persons interested in a rezoning request. Tekchandani Enterprises, LLC is requesting to rezone one parcel, approximately 0.5 acre, located at 2936 Jolly Road, from C-1 (Commercial) to RB (Single-Family Residential).

Materials related to the request are available for viewing in the Department of Community Planning and Development office (5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, 48864), Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm, or on the Township website at the following location: [www.meridian.mi.us/businesses/development-projects](http://www.meridian.mi.us/businesses/development-projects). Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Planning Commission, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to [shorkey@meridian.mi.us](mailto:shorkey@meridian.mi.us).

Angela Demas  
Township Clerk

**CP#26-051**

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS  
EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**, at the City of East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

1. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness for a Notice to Proceed from Barry Sims located at 329 Center Street. The applicant request is to demolish the existing garage and build a new garage.
2. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Brett Melnick located at 422 Grove Street. The applicant request is to replace the decorative metal porch railing with a modern porch railing.
3. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Candice Gandy located at 220 N. Harrison. The applicant request is to replace the retaining wall.

Owners of structures containing more than four (4) dwelling units or other distinct spatial areas owned or leased by different persons are requested to post this notice at the primary entrance to the structure.

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

For more information on the request please contact Alycia Reiten at (517) 319-6941 or [areiten@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:areiten@cityofeastlansing.com). Materials related to the request are available for viewing at:

Department of Planning, Building, and Housing  
East Lansing City Hall,  
410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823

between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City's website located at [www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications). Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Historic District Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to [coelhdc@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:coelhdc@cityofeastlansing.com).

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

Dated: February 12, 2026  
East Lansing, MI 48823

Emily Gordon  
City Clerk

**CP#26-053**

# Investing in public education is investing in our future

Michigan is struggling to retain teachers. A recent study outlines how teachers are exiting the profession at an alarming rate, especially in the high-demand field of special education. Teacher shortages are intensified in Michigan's urban and rural areas, disproportionately affecting high-poverty communities and students of color.

As Vice President of East Lansing's School Board, I serve my district and I'm a state-wide advocate for public education. We need real change. We need to invest in our educators. We must invest in our schools.

That's why I'm supporting Invest in MI Kids — a ballot proposal and constitutional amendment that would bring in over \$1 billion each year for Michigan public schools. It would place a modest 5% surcharge on joint filers making over \$1 million in income (\$500,000 if filing individually). Every dollar raised would be constitutionally protected and dedicated exclusively to classroom use, including hiring and retaining teachers, reducing class sizes and expanding career and technical education.

Don't be fooled - the median income for self-employed individuals running their own incorporated business is under \$52,000 according to the Small Business Administration. This surcharge on individuals (not on businesses) would affect less than 1% of Michigan residents, yet would make a measurable difference in our educational system. As a small business owner myself, I know strong schools make stronger communities and a well-educated workforce.

Even in a district flush with resources, I see firsthand how our educators and support staff go above and beyond daily in a sorely underfunded and devalued system. While our state's per pupil stipend is finally above \$10,000, we are still far below the national average of \$17,700. We need to do better for our kids.

This initiative is a people-powered movement, a true grassroots effort in support of Michigan schools that's been in motion since 2018. Our coalition includes students, educators, community members, and small business owners, working tirelessly to gather signatures in support so we can get this proposal on the ballot in November 2026.

School funding in Michigan relies on state and federal sources. Much of



Tali Faris-Hylen

our federal funding has recently been cut. Additionally, we cannot rely on property taxes (which vary widely from district to district) or the lottery. While the lottery is an important contributor, the funding makes up only 6% of our school aid fund.

It just makes sense. We live in the wealthiest country in history, yet we are experiencing historic income inequality, highlighted by the disparity in property tax revenue as a source of school funding. We know that when we invest in education, we invest in the future.

Public education fosters critical thinking, social cohesion and civic engagement and is fundamental to individual development, economic stability, and a healthy democracy.

When schools thrive, so do property values. A well-educated community is good for growth.

Investing in Michigan schools is a long-overdue step. Let's show our teachers and kids they're worth investing in. Michigan State Board of Education, Detroit Federation of Teachers, Michigan PTA, and many school boards and small business owners across the state have endorsed this initiative.

Invest in MI Kids gives us a path to a better state.

For more information on this ballot proposal, where to sign, and how to get involved, go to [InvestInMiKids.org](http://InvestInMiKids.org).

## Tali Faris-Hylen

*Faris-Hylen serves as vice president on the East Lansing Board of Education and co-owns Ripple Public Relations. She is a member of the Invest In MI Kids campaign team and has personally collected over 2,000 signatures.*

## Opinion

# Would Republicans rather be right or be happy?

I can't get a few words from Kevin Rinke out of my mind.

Rinke, if you remember, made a little money back in the day running a car dealership in Southeast Michigan. He self-funded a campaign for Governor in 2022. Finished second in the Republican primary.

He didn't disappear, though. He continued to hit grassroots Republican events. He started a podcast. Without being completely overt about it, Rinke tried to create a public groundswell for a future campaign. It didn't work out.

A couple weeks ago, he showed up on PBS's Off the Record to make the announcement that he's not running for governor in 2026.

The dozens of chicken dinners in dozens of Michigan locales drove Rinke to this conclusion: "Republicans would rather be right than happy."

The phrase came to me again as I investigated claims of Adora Orlowski, the sister of Republican Secretary of State candidate Amanda Love.

Orlowski posted a 4-minute Facebook video this week to publicly announce that her sister is not qualified for the job as well as . . .

"She is a truly evil person and will do anything to anyone to gain power or control," Orlowski said. "Mandy is a snake who lives with her life entwined in a web of lies."

Admittedly, Orlowski said she and Love haven't talked in a couple of years.

The two broke off contact when Orlowski blew the whistle on her sister leaving her husband and five children to shack up with a former GOP state House candidate 10 years her junior (a piece of information verified with two other sources).

Shortly thereafter, Orlowski said she had strong reason to believe her sister cooked up a phony Child Protective Services (CPS) claim against her husband. The authorities came to find nothing, but the Orlowski's lives were turned upside down for a spell.

Love didn't respond to requests for comments. Instead, she posted on Facebook that the claims were "deeply hurtful" and "not grounded in fact."

"Some things should never be taken to social media, and I refuse to turn personal pain into public spectacle," Love wrote. "I love my sister and always will. That will never change. I forgive my

sister, and I forgive the campaign that chose to coordinate this attack."

Up to this point, the only candidate who has made issues of Love's personal past an issue is fellow candidate Monica Yatooma. Sources watching this race tell me GOP delegates haven't left Love over the attacks.

In fact, Love's support among delegates is growing while Yatooma's is shrinking.

Love has run several campaigns for Republicans in the past. She's got the rhetorical lines down pat. Outside of the Clarkston School Board, she's never been elected to anything before.

Meanwhile, a leading Republican candidate for attorney general is a defense attorney named Kevin Kijewski, who was accused by his ex-wife of spousal abuse. Kijewski said these old claims are all BS.

Maybe they are. But to Republican delegates, Kijewski is a hero of sorts for helping get criminal charges against the 2020 Republican electors thrown out of court.

Running against Love for Secretary of State is Tony Forlini, the clerk of Macomb County, Michigan's third largest county.

Running against Kijewski for Attorney General is Doug Lloyd, the Eaton County prosecutor who once led the statewide county prosecutors' association.

Both have resumes that General Election independents would at least look at.

Yet Republican delegates may reject both in favor of being "right." Like they did in supporting Kristina Karamo for Secretary of State and Matt DePerno for Attorney General in 2022, GOP delegates may nominate far-right ideologues with little to no general election appeal.

Democrats are preparing to either nominate the sitting Lieutenant Governor or Ingham County clerk for Secretary of State. A county prosecutor will be their AG nominee.

Instead of governing, the Republicans may, again, resign themselves to being the grumpy spectator bitching about the Democrat in charge.

To quote a former gubernatorial candidate: It's as if they'd rather be "right than happy."

*(Kyle Melinn is the editor of the Capitol news service MIRS. You can email him at [melinnky@gmail.com](mailto:melinnky@gmail.com).)*



KYLE MELINN

## POLITICS

**CITY OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 23, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider an amendment to Chapter 1460 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances by amending Section 1460.01 to adopt and amend the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code.

For more information, please call Lansing City Council at 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., the day of the hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov).

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

**CP#26-044**

**CITY OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 23, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider an amendment to Chapter 1460 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances by adding Section 1460.05 to establish a unified system of notices to be posted on properties that are in violation of this Chapter.

For more information, please call Lansing City Council at 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., the day of the hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov).

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

**CP#26-045**



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY  
LEGAL AD NOTICE: Sanctuary #2 Public Streetlighting  
Improvement Special Assessment District No. 430  
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN - LEGAL NOTICE  
SANCTUARY #2 PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING IMPROVEMENT  
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 430  
NOTICE OF HEARING**

**TO THE RECORD OWNERS OF, OR PARTIES IN INTEREST IN, THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY CONSTITUTING THE PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT: Lots 1 through 7 (inclusive), Sanctuary #2.**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, acting on a request from property owners of Sanctuary #2 and on its own initiative, pursuant to Act 188, Public Acts of Michigan, 1954, as amended, has determined to make the following described public streetlighting improvement: **Operate, and maintain four (4) 46-watt LED streetlights with Traditional fixtures with cut-off, and standard fiberglass poles along Crane Circle;** and to defray the cost thereof by special assessment against the properties specially benefitted thereby. Plans and estimates have been prepared and are on file with the Township Clerk for public examination.

**TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Township Board will meet **Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, for the purpose of hearing objections to the improvement and the special assessment district therefore. The Township Board is also interested in hearing those that favor the proposed project.

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

The Township Board may proceed with the improvement and special assessment district unless written objections from more than 20% of the property owners are filed with the Township Board at or before the hearing.

**"FOR PURPOSES OF THIS HEARING, THE AMOUNT TO BE ASSESSED AGAINST YOUR PROPERTY IS ESTIMATED TO BE:**

**First Year Cost: \$ 208.25/Lot**  
**Annually Thereafter: \$ 104.13/Lot**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
Angela Demas, Township Clerk

**CP#26-035**



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY  
LEGAL AD NOTICE: Sierra Ridge #4 Public Streetlighting  
Improvement Special Assessment District No. 431  
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN - LEGAL NOTICE  
SIERRA RIDGE #4 PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING IMPROVEMENT  
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 431  
NOTICE OF HEARING**

**TO THE RECORD OWNERS OF, OR PARTIES IN INTEREST IN, THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY CONSTITUTING THE PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT: Lots 70 through 83 (inclusive), Sierra Ridge #4.**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, acting on a request from property owners of Sierra Ridge #4 and on its own initiative, pursuant to Act 188, Public Acts of Michigan, 1954, as amended, has determined to make the following described public streetlighting improvement: **Operate, and maintain four (4) 47-watt LED streetlights with Traditional fixtures with cut-off, and standard fiberglass poles along Fresno Lane;** and to defray the cost thereof by special assessment against the properties specially benefitted thereby. Plans and estimates have been prepared and are on file with the Township Clerk for public examination.

**TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Township Board will meet **Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, for the purpose of hearing objections to the improvement and the special assessment district therefore. The Township Board is also interested in hearing those that favor the proposed project.

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

The Township Board may proceed with the improvement and special assessment district unless written objections from more than 20% of the property owners are filed with the Township Board at or before the hearing.

**"FOR PURPOSES OF THIS HEARING, THE AMOUNT TO BE ASSESSED AGAINST YOUR PROPERTY IS ESTIMATED TO BE:**

**First Year Cost: \$ 104.13/Lot**  
**Annually Thereafter: \$ 52.06/Lot**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
Angela Demas, Township Clerk

**CP#26-036**







**BIG STEAM**

Hands-on activities for students in grades 7-12 to explore STEAM-related areas of study.

Feb. 21 • LCC Downtown Campus  
Event registration at [lcc.edu/bigsteam](http://lcc.edu/bigsteam).




Local activist Nichole Keway Bibe, pictured at an anti-data center protest in December.

# Trudging the depths on Deep Green proposal

## Four months into controversial project, data center builders altering their rezoning request

By LEO V. KAPLAN

When Lansing City Council members went into closed session the night of Monday, Feb. 9, the packed city chambers were abuzz with conversation — specifically, to the tune of about 55-65 decibels.

That meant the noise in that room was comparable to the promised maximum noise levels of the project that many of those present were there to oppose: a data center, pitched by British company Deep Green for Lansing’s stadium district.

The phrase “a different kind of data center” has appeared on posters and PowerPoint presentations at several community engagement meetings as Deep Green seeks to sell a skeptical public on building a 24 megawatt, one-acre data center on top of parking lots at Kalamazoo, Cedar and Larch streets. Keeping

noise levels low is one of many promises the company has made, alongside donating waste heat to the Lansing Board of Water and Light, donating \$120,000 to the BWL’s Pennies for Power fund and using no more water than a small restaurant.

But there were so many people objecting that a second viewing space needed to be set up on the first floor of City Hall. And many said they simply didn’t believe those promises. The meeting ran past midnight.

Council members also raised concerns that Deep Green’s promises were not contractual. Second Ward Council Member Deyanira Nevarez Martinez said Deep Green prematurely made the rezoning request, since the city owns the property.

First Ward Council Member Ryan Kost has declared himself a firm “no” vote after listening to

See Deep Green, Page 14

Photos by Leo V. Kaplan, rendering by Deep Green



Cherry Hill neighborhood resident Mike Smalligan, who lives just blocks away from the proposed data center, chats with Deep Green’s vice president for North America at a meeting last month.

# Deep Green

from page 13

constituents.

That's a problem for Deep Green because it needs the Council's approval to build the data center. The company's modus operandi is to donate waste heat to local utilities, but that means setting up shop in the urban core rather than more traditional outskirts or rural areas. The city owns the land, and Council members need to approve both the sale and a rezoning request that could make the land industrial, conditioned on being a data center.

At the meeting, residents still expected that City Council would approve or deny the sale on Monday, Feb. 23. But on Friday, Feb. 13, Deep Green announced that it would be starting the process over, resubmitting the rezoning request in conjunction with the city and making some of its promises contractual.

The planning commission, which initially recommended against the rezoning condition after a packed meeting the same day the project was announced, will reconsider on March 3, effectively starting the process from scratch again.

City spokesperson Scott Bean said Mayor Andy Schor could have rectified the rezoning issue by simply offering the condition himself, but that Deep Green wanted to start over.

Council President Peter Spadafore said this course of action was the "clearest and most transparent" amid a highly scrutinized proposal.

The project is popular with city officials and union leaders. Schor has supported it alongside the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, the BWL and the Lansing Economic Area Partnership. Representatives from several trade unions have also spoken in favor of the project.

Opposition has been fierce amid a national debate about the future of data centers, which have proliferated alongside the AI technologies they power.

Now with Lansing's data center debate poised to last several more months, here's how the project started and what we currently know.

## How did we get here?

At 4428 Creyts Rd, not far from where I-69 and I-96 meet, is a nondescript building labeled "liquid-



Last week's City Council meeting ran past midnight, and was so packed that a second viewing area had to be set up in the City Hall lobby. Commenters took the elevator to the tenth floor, presented their comment, then returned downstairs. Many of those in the lobby had initially protested outside City Hall against the data center, finding the Council chambers already packed when they chose to move inside.

web." It's one of two small-scale data centers that the web hosting company has run in the area since 1997. The servers lining the 24-hour facilities have hosted websites big and small for nearly 30 years, and have done so without generating much controversy or much attention at all.

It's a very different story from the massive backlash to the Deep Green project. But it's also a different kind of data center from a very different time.

A data center, at its most basic level, is a building for computer server farms, which in turn are just clusters of computers that are better together than separate. A data center can house anything from websites, to video game servers to the Google Doc this article was written in.

In recent years, as AI technologies like large language models and image generators have taken hold, the demand for data centers has sharply increased. AI companies like OpenAI, which operates ChatGPT, have funded enormous data centers to train and run their models, such as a 250-acre project currently causing controversy in Saline Township.

Those massive data centers require massive amounts of energy. Consulting firm McKinsey & Company

predicted in April that data centers equipped to handle AI processing would require over \$5 trillion in investment by 2030. The U.S. Energy Information Administration said in June that data centers would push U.S. energy consumption to record highs.

But despite having by far the most data centers in the world, the U.S. has lagged behind the U.K. and Europe in finding uses for the excess heat that all those AI queries are generating. In Sweden, for instance, Microsoft is building a data center region that is expected to heat an entire large city. In the US, a Biden-era executive order to expand research into data center heat reuse was overturned in 2025 by President Trump.

It's in that environment that Deep Green announced this project in November. A U.K. company seeking to expand into the U.S. after a £200 million investment from Octopus Energy Generation, the renewable energy wing of the U.K.'s largest energy utility, Deep Green found a partner in the BWL to debut its heat-reuse technology in the U.S. (and build its largest data center yet).

The BWL, currently transitioning its downtown heating loop from steam to hot water, wants the free

heat. At no cost to them except setting up the pipe to take the heat, from the edge of Deep Green's property line, the utility could offer water to downtown residents at a lower cost. Deep Green doesn't have to worry about getting rid of all their heat, which is a major nuisance for data center operators.

When the project was announced to the media in November, BWL General Manager Dick Peffley called the project "the perfect marriage."

Residents quickly disagreed. About 40 people showed up to a city planning and development committee meeting to oppose the project, the same day it was announced.

Weeks later, the Ingham County Environmental Affairs Commission passed a resolution urging the BWL to create more long-term regulations on proposed data centers, which the County Board of Commissioners later adopted with modifications.

The project has been opposed by local activists at multiple protests, including one in December at the Capitol that brought hundreds together from across the state to oppose several data center developments.

At a community meeting about a month ago, Deep Green and the BWL revealed that the facility would have a 16MW fuel cell power plant onsite, which would be built by Deep Green and owned by the BWL. It would help avoid congesting the power grid, and be more climate-friendly than burning gas for all of the energy, but the fuel cell plant being a better-than-a-worse-option hasn't made climate activists feel happy.

Nichole Keway Biber, an organizer with Clean Water Action, was at that protest and the Feb. 9 City Council meeting. She told City Pulse last week that she opposed the project, arguing that the parking lot should be used for something other than a data center.

That lot has sat empty for decades. One development was proposed for it around 2008, a mixed-use development called "Lansing Gateway" that would have included home and office spaces and a green roof. It quietly disappeared.

City Pulse was unable to get in contact with anyone directly involved with that project, but LEAP CEO Bob Trezise said it would have been difficult. The site is "very tough," he wrote in an email, with loud traffic, car exhaust and a "quasi-rundown industrial/commercial feel to the area."

It fell victim, like so much, to lack of financing due to the Great Recession," he said. "But even then, I don't know whether it really could have come to fruition.

Trezise said Deep Green offers the chance to turn "a useless city parking lot" into "a cash cow for important city services," with Deep Green's property taxes and return on equity payment, via BWL, to the city expected to be well over a million dollars a year.

Keway Biber said if she were offered a choice between the data cen-



Joseph Davis, former business manager at the BWL and a member of IBEW local 352, speaks in support of the data center at the Feb. 9 Council meeting.



Evan Springer, a student at MSU, opposes the data center at the Feb. 9 Council meeting, referencing the harm other industries have brought on the rust belt.

## Deep Green

from page 14

ter and an eternal parking lot, she'd choose the parking lot over having "a power plant, increased emissions and a foreign company without a lot of experience, that we really have no idea what the data will be used for."

### A power plant in the stadium district?

When Deep Green first started scouting out Lansing, a realtor offered the former Cooley Law School campus as a potential location. That proposal didn't last long, Bean said, with the city telling Deep Green a location right in the middle of downtown wouldn't get approved.

Deep Green CEO Mark Lee said last week that concerns from the local community and knowing that the building could have a better use downtown led Deep Green to step away from the location, working with the city to find the current spot.

The location is still close to residential areas, like the Cherry Hill neighborhood just across the river. Cherry Hill Park is fewer than a thousand feet away.

Peffley has said multiple times he hopes to see the fuel cell plant designated as "clean energy," something he's in talks with some state officials about. It's not an unprecedented designation, but it is a controversial one, since fuel cell plants still use fuel and generate carbon dioxide.

### Should Cherry Hill residents be concerned about a 16MW fuel cell power plant being built just across the street?

Douglas Jester is managing partner at 5 Lakes Energy, a former senior policy advisor of the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth, and a former BWL commissioner. He said a fuel cell plant operating correctly would only be so "clean," since it still generates about 60-70% of the carbon dioxide that burning the fuel would. But in terms of conventional air pollution, it's night and day.

"The reduced pollution of conventional pollution, sulfur and nitrogen oxides and particulates, is important," he said. "Those are significant public health concerns. And I don't want to dismiss that, but in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, the fuel cells are only a partial solution."

A Cherry Hill resident, though, shouldn't be any more concerned by that CO<sub>2</sub> than a resident of any other neighborhood in any other part of the world, because the CO<sub>2</sub> will spread into the atmosphere globally within a matter of days.

That's if everything works correctly. Doug Bessette is worried it won't.

An associate professor in Michigan State University's department of community sustainability, he studies community support and opposition to large-scale renewable energy projects, and said concerns around data centers have been "a natural extension" of that work.

"Regarding the methane fuel cells, there's the plan and then what actually occurs," he said. "When it comes to data centers, the two often aren't



A rendering of Deep Green's proposed data center

aligned.

"I have concerns about the likelihood of Deep Green and BWL actually installing methane fuel cells, when we know that these technologies are in huge demand and face significant backlogs. And the backup power generation could end up being diesel generators if there are extenuating circumstances, which there nearly always are."

Bessette is also concerned about the increased greenhouse gas emissions.

"BWL simply can't be the ones leading our climate initiatives," he said. It's not in their interest. It has to be City Council and the mayor. They need to lead."

### Who benefits?

Assuming data centers are critical infrastructure for the future — an assertion Deep Green made at the Council meeting — the Deep Green project has clear advantages over other plans.

Its power usage effectiveness (PUE) would likely be 1.03-1.17, Lee said, with data centers averaging around 1.8, according to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

As a small, multi-tenant facility, it won't be housing the workloads used to power controversial, large AI technologies, instead being used for local and regional use cases like research. That also makes it less likely to go belly-up in the event of a theorized "AI bubble."

Then there's the heat donation, the relatively small size, the closed-loop water-glycol cooling system that would minimize water usage, the fuel cell plant for the BWL, the Pennies for Power donation and the \$1 million in additional revenue to the city, 10% of which could go to a new city housing fund if an ordinance proposed by Council President Peter Spadafore goes through.

### But why?

Deep Green's leaders market themselves as enterprising do-gooders, happy to put in the extra time, money and effort to mitigate their climate impact and help communities.

On the business side, though, they argue that heat reuse helps counteract an inherent problem with data centers: Once built, they're basically just a big box that guzzles power and makes money.

In a Q&A on Deep Green's own blog, Lee said local opposition to data centers in the U.S. necessitates

clear, local value in proposals.

"People believe that data centres put strain on the grid without benefiting them, and in some cases, this is true," he said. "So, if new data center builds can integrate with communities and offer clear local value, this is a game-changer. Heat reuse models embed data centres within local ecosystems; this is a clear advantage in terms of securing approvals and ensuring long-term viability."

Asked about this quote in person, Lee said Deep Green remains active in the communities it operates in beyond continuing to donate heat. In Manchester, for example, it does not just heat a swimming pool with one of its smaller data centers, but offers free lessons to an underserved population in the community. It has committed to a carbon reduction program by helping to reforest an area of the community. It partners with the school for several educational programs.

These were not part of the approval process in Manchester, Lee said.

There are substantial differences between the U.K. projects and the Lansing one, though. Alongside being much larger and in a different country, the Lansing project is the first of a planned "pipeline" Deep Green wants to build in the U.S., with seven sites currently being considered.

It's not possible to know whether Deep Green will continue coming up with more community benefit projects. But the new obligations it has agreed to in contracts does necessitate some things, at risk of being taken to court: It will make a \$1 million yearly return on equity payment to the city via the BWL; its closed-loop cooling system will minimize water use to that of roughly 15 homes or a small restaurant; it will pay all required energy infrastructure costs upfront; it will pay standard published rates for energy and water; it will comply with downtown zoning noise limits and its building aesthetics will conform to the surrounding community.

The promised 15 long-term jobs are not contractual but are a conservative estimate, Lee said, essentially the bare minimum to run the place.

### Cutting-edge or on the edge of obsolescence?

Not far from the planned site, Jerry Norris operates The Fledge,

a local community center, on the east side.

Norris knows a thing or two about tech and data centers: He's started three globally operated tech companies. He's not against AI and other similar tech, and uses those tools to do coding and previously heated The Fledge in part by mining Litecoin, until last year.

Norris is a proponent of edge computing — distributed computing that essentially brings smaller, computing closer to the person using it, rather than sending it across the country to the whirring computers in, say, Virginia's Data Center Alley.

On a small computer called a Raspberry Pi and Google's Coral processor, which cost him less than a combined \$200, Norris can run open-source large language models similar to closed-source models like ChatGPT. He can power the whole operation with solar panels, and he can do it all without his data ever leaving the building.

It's a vision that's strikingly similar to a vision of Deep Green founder and CIO Mark Bjornsgaard expressed to the BBC last month, in an article titled "Honey, I shrunk the data centres: Is small the new big?"

Bjornsgaard foresees a future where every public building houses a small data center, connected in a large network, and generating heat.

"London is just one giant data centre that hasn't been built yet," Bjornsgaard said.

Norris sees a similar future. "The way I see us using AI would be to help us improve how we distribute our food, to help us improve how we manage our farm," he said, "and I don't think I need a big data center for that."

His \$200 setup powers those needs just fine.

"So if I have that for my AI, and you have that for your AI, and we let other people share in that through a federated internet, then data centers become a thing of the past, not the future."

Asked about the incongruence between Bjornsgaard's vision and the acre-sized data centers Deep Green is proposing, Lee said "the world isn't ready for that yet."

"The reality is that edge computing will come, and there are certain use applications where edge computing will come to the fore and be a more prevalent sort of way of building data centers," he said. "You can see a world where data centers will be very small and devolved in the context of this situation, but I don't think those use cases are prevalent yet, from a commercial perspective."

He added the proposed Lansing location is very small compared to the large-scale data centers the industry is known for.

After hearing Bjornsgaard's comments, Norris said that was a technology he could get behind.

"When they're there, then come back to Lansing," Norris said, "because that would be a lot better than what they're proposing right now."



# MSU Latinx Film Festival

February 19–22

2026



scan to learn more

## Live & Local

## CityPULSE

### The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

#### Space Dogg Collective

Fri., Feb. 20, 9 p.m.

#### Dark Art of Michigan Black Hearts Ball

Sat., Feb. 21, 8 p.m.

#### 800G

Sunday, Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m.

### Blue Gill Grill

1591 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett

#### Showdown

Fri., Feb. 20, 8-11 p.m.

### BrickHaven Brewing Co.

200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge

#### Chris Muethel

Fri., Feb. 20, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

#### We Three Strings

Sat., Feb. 21, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

### Chengdu Teahouse

100 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing

#### Jeff Boog & Friends

Fri., Feb. 20, 5:30-7 p.m.

#### MusicalTEA Time, with Zarocho

Sat., Feb. 21, 5 p.m.

### Classic Pub & Grill

16219 Old U.S. 27, Lansing

#### Gimme 5

Fri., Feb. 20, 8 p.m.-midnight

#### Tad & the Fat Katz

Sat., Feb. 21, 8 p.m.-midnight

### Dart Auditorium

500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing

#### Sometimes Happy, Sometimes Blue: LCC Jazz

Band w/ Happendance

Fri., Feb. 20, 7-8:30 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 21, 7-8:30 p.m.

### Dublin Square

327 Abbot Road, East Lansing

#### Aaron Manbeck

Wed., Feb. 18, 9 p.m.

#### Coaster

Thurs., Feb. 19, 9 p.m.

### EagleMonk Pub and Brewery

4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing

#### Chad Benson & Ed Lutz

Wed., Feb. 18, 7-9 p.m.

#### Bart Moore and the Hot Boyz

Wed., Feb. 25, 7-9 p.m.

### East Lansing Public Library

950 Abbot Road, East Lansing

#### LSO Family Series: oboe

Sun., Feb. 22, 2 p.m.

### Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids

#### Rian Mohre

Fri., Feb. 20, 6-9 p.m.

#### Justin Deason

Sat., Feb. 21, 6-9 p.m.

### The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

#### Wavelength

Wed., Feb. 18, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

#### The Back of the Class, The Player

Fri., Feb. 20, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.

#### Joe Hertler & the Rainbow Seekers, Ohly

Sat., Feb. 21, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.

#### Wavelength

Wed., Feb. 25, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

### Horrocks Farm Market

7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing

#### Ally Fies

Thurs., Feb. 19, 6-7:45 p.m.

#### Elements of Soul

Fri., Feb. 20, 5-8 p.m.

#### John Beltran

Sat., Feb. 21, 2-5 p.m.

#### Atomic Annie

Sat., Feb. 21, 5-8 p.m.

#### John Beltran

Sun., Feb. 22, 1-5 p.m.

### The Irish Pub

1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing

#### Open mic night, with Scott Seth

Thurs., Feb. 19, 6:30-11 p.m.

#### Full House Band

Sat., Feb. 21, 8-11 p.m.

### Mac's Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

#### Jaq the Maq "Service with a Smile" album release party

Sat., Feb. 21, 7 p.m.

#### T-Rell: Strictly for the Women

Sun., Feb. 22, 7 p.m.

#### Unity — In Music

Thurs., Feb. 19, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

Tues., Feb. 24, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

### Mash Bar

212 Albert Ave., East Lansing

#### Geech

Fri., Feb. 20, 9:30 p.m.

### Moriarty's Pub

802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

#### Open mic night, with Jen Sygit

Wed., Feb. 18, 8-11 p.m.

#### Atomic Boogaloo & Aaron Holland

Thurs., Feb. 19, 9 p.m.-midnight

#### The Polaroids

Fri., Feb. 20, 8 p.m.-midnight

#### Big Willy

Sat., Feb. 21, 8 p.m.-midnight

#### Freddie Cunningham & the Johnny D Blues Band

Sun., Feb. 22, 4-8 p.m.

#### Jazz Tuesdays

Tues., Feb. 24, 7-10 p.m.

#### Open mic night, with Jen Sygit

Wed., Feb. 25, 8-11 p.m.

### MSU College of Music

#### Carl Craig and Rodney Whitaker: Made in Detroit

Thurs., Feb. 19, 5:30 p.m.

MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing

#### MSU Professors of Jazz

Fri., Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Murray Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing

#### Lunar New Year Celebration Concert

Sun., Feb. 22, 3 p.m.

Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing

#### Chance Huiet, tuba

Tues., Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.

Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing

#### MSU Concert Band & Campus Band

Wed., Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m.

Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing

### Nico's Pub and Grill

117 S. Bridge St., Dimondale

#### Red Bird Band

Fri., Feb. 20, 7-11:30 p.m.

### Nuthouse Sports Grill

420 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

#### Starfarm

Sat., Feb. 21, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.

### One North Kitchen & Bar

5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing

#### Mike Skory

Thurs., Feb. 19, 6-9 p.m.

#### Kevin Nichols

Fri., Feb. 20, 7-10 p.m.

#### Keith Minaya

Sat., Feb. 21, 7-10 p.m.

#### Open mic, with Kathy Ford

Mon., Feb. 23, 6:30-9 p.m.

### The Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing

#### Frog & Koop

Fri., Feb. 20, 8-10 p.m.

#### Deadly String Band

Tues., Feb. 24, 6-8 p.m.

### Red Cedar Spirits

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing

#### Randy Napoleon Trio

Sun., Feb. 22, 6-9 p.m.

### Relli's Italian Restaurant

202 E. Main St., DeWitt

#### School of Rock House Band

Fri., Feb. 20, 6-9 p.m.

### Reno's North

16460 Old U.S. 27, Lansing

#### Roadside Attraction

Fri., Feb. 20, 6-10 p.m.

#### Roadside Attraction

Sat., Feb. 21, 6-10 p.m.

### The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing

#### Monte Pride, Emily Rose, Mike Ward

Thurs., Feb. 19, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

### Sholty's Bar

1819 S. Washington Ave., Lansing

#### Spoonful

Tues., Feb. 24, 6-9 p.m.

### Sidebar

246 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing

#### David Salvador

Fri., Feb. 20, 7-10 p.m.

#### Aaron Manbeck

Sat., Feb. 21, 7-10 p.m.

### Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood

2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing

#### Songwriters in the round: Sammie Hersshock,

Nicholas James Thomasma, Tania Watt

Tues., Feb. 24, 7-9 p.m.

### Stober's Bar

812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

#### Johnny Aimcrier

Sun., Feb. 22, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

#### Your Dad

Tues., Feb. 24, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

### Summerlands Brewing Co.

1957 Cedar St., Holt

#### Velocity Shift

Fri., Feb. 20, 8-11 p.m.

#### Crystal Hoffman

Sat., Feb. 21, 8-11 p.m.

### University Lutheran Church

1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing

#### Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas (Ten Pound

Fiddle)

Fri., Feb. 20, 7:30-10 p.m.

### UrbanBeat

1213 Turner St., Lansing

#### Lansing Live! open mic

Wed., Feb. 18, 6-9 p.m.

#### Walter Blanding with his Jazz Ambassadors:

Gershwin for Lovers

Fri., Feb. 20, 6-8:30 p.m.

#### Salsa Verde

Fri., Feb. 20, 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m.

#### Lansing Live! open mic

Wed., Feb. 25, 6-9 p.m.

### Wharton Center

750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing

#### "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" in

concert, with the Lansing Symphony Orchestra

Fri., Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 21, 2 p.m.

### Williamston Roadhouse

3700 E. Grand River Road, Williamston

#### 2 Pretty 2 Think So

Sat., Feb. 21, 7-11 p.m.

# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## Fresh off the lens

### Current, compelling films pack MSU's Latinx Film Festival

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

"Immigration" is a dry bone of a word, bleached white and worn to a nub by countless fingerprints, agendas and statistics. The stories and images that fill this weekend's fourth annual Michigan State University Latinx Film Festival put flesh, skin and blood on that bone.

Immigration can mean getting the hell out of an intolerable situation, whether it's economic chaos in Venezuela, sex trafficking in the Dominican Republic or ecological ruin in Peru. It can also mean reaching for something better, whether you're a young teen yearning to become a singer, an 80-year-old woman putting together a bucket list or an outsider artist breathing new life into castoff junk.

These compelling stories and many others will be explored in a rich banquet of 11 feature films, two shorts programs, three receptions, two concerts and more, split between venues on MSU's campus and in Lansing. Six filmmakers will appear in person to introduce films and lead discussions after the screenings.

These aren't dusty nuggets from the vaults. All are fresh-off-the-lens Michigan premieres, most are Midwest premieres, and some are "almost U.S. premieres," in the words of festival founder and director Scott Boehm, having been shown only on the East or West Coast.

"What we're most proud of is that this is a program you would expect in New York, Miami or Los Angeles, but it's in Lansing," Boehm said. "We've got stand-out films that you're not going to see anywhere else in Michigan, and you can't see on the big screen anywhere else in the U.S. right now."

There's been a lot of debate over the term "Latinx," but Boehm, an assistant professor of Spanish language and culture at MSU, sees it as a useful shorthand way to describe the festival's



"Boca Chica," screening Saturday at MSU's Latinx Film Festival, plunges the viewer into the life of 12-year-old Desi, who longs to leave the beachside community of Boca Chica and become a famous singer but is vulnerable to the exploitation associated with the tourist and sex trades.

diversity.

"There are a lot of Latino film festivals, and that works, but we're not just Latino, we're Latin American, and Spain is in there," Boehm said. "We always have a film from Brazil, in Portuguese, and we always have a film where Quechua is a primary language." (Quechua, a widely spoken indigenous language family in the Americas, is spoken in two of the most visually stunning films on the program, "Through Rocks and Clouds" and "Karuara, People of the River.")

"So, it's inclusive not just in the gendered way, but in the broadest sense," Boehm said.

Celebrated Venezuelan neorealist filmmaker Mariana Rondón, one of the highest-profile guests to ever attend the festival, will introduce two films. (Rondón's award-winning film "Bad Hair" was featured at the 2018 festival.)

Boehm was elated to get hold of Rondón's 2024 film, "Zafari," a dystopian vision of class conflict, societal collapse and starvation in Venezuela. Rondón will also present "Boca Chica," a film by Dominican Guyanese American director Gabriella A. Moses.

Rondón co-wrote the screenplay.

Venezuela's internal troubles and American military intervention are hot topics, and Rondón's introductions and post-screening Q&A sessions promise to be lively and timely.

"Boca Chica" plunges the viewer into the life of 12-year-old Desi, who longs to leave the beachside community of Boca Chica and become a famous singer but is vulnerable to the exploitation associated with the tourist and sex trades.

Another hot button will be pushed by the feature-length documentary "Vieques: A Living Archive," in which filmmaker Juan Carlos Rodríguez blends personal interviews, archival footage and commentary to tell the story of the beleaguered island of Vieques before and after the departure of the U.S. Navy in 2003. Rodríguez will present the film and take questions afterward.

"That film, and Mariana Rondón's presence at the festival, gives us the opportunity to talk about the history of U.S. interventions and militarism in South America," Boehm said.

Good timing and personal connections helped Boehm snag a significant new documentary from Cuba, and the filmmaker's attendance.

"Landrián," directed by Ernesto Da-



In Gabriel Mascaro's "The Blue Trail," screening Sunday, a 77-year-old woman charts a boat and takes a vividly filmed, dreamlike voyage upriver, where she hopes to charter a flight and fulfill her bucket-list wish of flying in an airplane.

ranas Serrano, tells the story of Nicolás Guillén Landrián, Cuba's first Black filmmaker, whose visionary films ran afoul of Cuban authorities in the 1960s. Serrano miraculously rescued the negatives of Landrián's films, poetic chronicles of everyday joys and struggles of Cuban people, and led the restoration team that brought them back to light in the early 2020s.

Like many of today's Latinx filmmakers, Landrián wasn't interested in showing life the way the authorities wanted it shown. (His impertinence went further than that — his documentary film "Coffea Arábica" featured The Beatles' song "The Fool on the Hill" as Fidel Castro appeared on the screen.) The Cuban authorities repeatedly interrogated, jailed and institutionalized him and even subjected him to shock therapy.

Landrián's life and work, lovingly restored by Serrano, reveal the opportunities and risks of speaking truth to power. The same is true of "We Shall Not Be Moved," a 2024 black comedy-drama that marks Pierre Saint-Martin Castellanos' directorial debut. The protagonist is Socorro, a chain-smoking, crusty lawyer in her

See Film Festival, Page 18

#### MSU Latinx Film Festival

Thursday, Feb. 19–Sunday, Feb. 22  
Various venues at MSU and in Lansing  
[msulatinxfilmfestival.com](http://msulatinxfilmfestival.com)



## Lansing Travelogue Series Switzerland

Friday, February 20th 7:00pm

Foster Community Center

Room 213, North Foster Ave., Lansing

Returning to the Lansing Travelogue Series, Bob Sheap & Pat Tomasik are eager share their latest (animated images, music, and narration) adventure: a visit to beautiful Switzerland. This was actually a Friendship Force of Greater Lansing Journey. The first week was a custom-designed travel tour which included: St. Moritz, Zermatt, a ride on the famed Glacier Express, the Matterhorn, Geneva, and much more. The 2nd week, Lansing Club members were guests in the homes of the Solothurn Friendship Force Club and explored more of Switzerland's famed sites including Lucerne, Bern, a Swiss chocolate factory, a ride on the cog wheel rail to Mt. Rigi and much much more. Come join us to relive this very special adventure.

## Film Festival

from page 17

60s who has devoted five decades of her life to tracking down the soldiers who killed her brother during clashes between student demonstrators and the military in 1968. The director doesn't shy from showing the corrosive damage Socorro's lifelong obsession has inflicted on herself, her family and her friends. The film has been screened at multiple festivals and has taken many awards in its relatively short life.

With several dystopian scenarios in the mix, this year's Latinx Film Festival is no Hallmark feel-good fest. But Gabriel Mascaró's "The Blue Trail," a Brazil-Mexico-Chile-Netherlands co-production, reaches beyond its dystopian future vision in the hope of something better. The central figure is Tereza, a 77-year-old woman who charters a boat and takes a vividly filmed, dream-like voyage upriver to Itacoatiara, where she hopes to charter a flight and fulfill her bucket-list wish of flying in an airplane. The boat trip, full of strange sights and encounters that change Tereza's life, demonstrates the power of film to immerse the viewer in distant places and rare experiences.

"Karuara, People of the River" offers another eye-opening trip, using both live action and hand-painted animation to reveal a hidden folkloric world beneath the waters of Peru's Amazon region. The Karuara women petition the Peruvian government to recognize the Marañón River as a legal person, reflecting their belief that all things are interconnected. The visionary film will be presented by director Stephanie Boyd via Zoom.

Friday night, the film festival will collaborate with the MSU Broad Art Museum to screen "Rito de Paso" ("Rite of Passage"), a politically charged documentary centering on Caribbean artist-activist Helen Ceballos. Director Pedro Iván Bonilla will present the film alongside Rhett Garcia, his colleague at LA 18, the Museum of Contemporary Art of Puerto Rico's film division. In a neat convergence of the film festival and the MSU Broad Underground

series, Bonilla and Garcia will follow the documentary screening with a program of short films produced by LA18.

Music has always been an integral part of the film festival, both on and off screen, from the rap music that inspires the young protagonist of "Boca Chica" to the inventive electronic score that accompanies the hallucinatory cinematography of "The Blue Trail." This year's festival will push the synergy between film and live music to new heights.

Saturday night, all the events take place in REO Town. The Robin Theatre will host the Michigan premiere of the award-winning documentary "La Singla," a Spain-Germany co-production written and directed by Paloma Zapata.

"La Singla" centers on the story of a teenage flamenco dancer who suddenly disappeared from the stage in the 1960s, at the height of her fame. Zapata spent four years tracking La Singla down, leading a final reveal that is strange, surprising and poignant.

The screening will be followed by a concert at the REO Town Clubhouse featuring Michigan's Hot Sun Duo, or guitarist Nikola Baltic and percussionist Roberto Maldonado.

The duo will play flamenco-inspired Spanish rumba similar to the music featured in "La Singla," stretching out into Brazilian samba and Latin jazz.

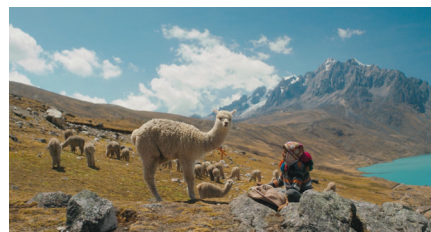
"What I love about this is that they're going to carry over what we've just watched and heard at The Robin and then take us on this journey that reflects the whole film program," Boehm said.

Friday's events will climax with a sizzling set by Latin big band Salsa Verde at UrbanBeat in Old Town.

"This is the first time we've had two full concerts off campus," Boehm said. "We've said music is a crucial part of the festival, and this shows how robust the program is."

Boehm is so enthusiastic about this year's slate that he's recruiting visitors from Ann Arbor, Detroit and Grand Rapids.

"We've got the kind of films that would make the drive worth it," he said. "Usually, it's the other way around."



Quechua, an indigenous language family of the Andean Mountain region, is spoken in two of the festival's most visually stunning films: "Through Rocks and Clouds" (left) and "Karuara, People of the River," both screening Thursday.



### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY

LEGAL AD NOTICE: MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

MARCH 3, 9, 10 AND 11, 2026

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
BOARD OF REVIEW MEETINGS  
5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864  
(517) 853-4400  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Charter Township of Meridian Board of Review will conduct its organizational meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864.

2026 Tentative Factors:	
Commercial Real Property	1.00000
Industrial Real Property	1.00000
Residential Real Property	1.00000
Personal Property	1.00000

The Board of Review will meet for assessment appeals at the Township Municipal Building on the following days:

Monday, March 9, 2026:	2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 10, 2026:	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 11, 2026:	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

For an appointment to appear before the Board of Review, call (517)853-4400 by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

Written appeals will be accepted if received by 12:00 noon on Wednesday, March 11, 2026. Appeals must be in office by this time, post marks are not accepted.

ANGELA DEMAS  
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP CLERK

CP#26-050

# 'Frozen' will thaw even the iciest of hearts

By **NICOLE NOECHEL**

I was 14 when "Frozen" hit theaters, probably slightly too old for the film's target audience, but my siblings had just turned 11 and were eager to see it on the big screen. I didn't expect much going in, being more of a fan of young adult movies than Disney films at that point, but throughout the 102-minute run time, I was pulled in by the bright animation, the musical talent of the star-studded cast and the heartwarming theme of the power of familial love to conquer all.

That timeless and universal theme almost brought me to tears at the conclusion of Evolve Theatrics' production of "Frozen: The Musical," which brings everything fans know and love about the film to the cozy stage at Delta Presbyterian Church.

From the ensemble, which sings in angelic harmony, to the leads, every cast member is clearly working their best to do justice to this

widely beloved musical. Sabrina Harvey-Cronk is a pure ice queen as the necessarily distant Elsa. Melanie Walker, also the show's music director, masterfully belts out her songs with ease and does an equally good job playing the part of the naïve but determined Anna. Anthony Mandalari is charming and comedic as Kristoff, playing off Bobby Maldonado's physical humor as the reindeer Sven.

Speaking of physical humor, perhaps the most popular character in the show, according to audience applause, is Olaf the snowman, a full-body puppet operated by Ayden Soupal.

Set designer Bob Hill has crafted an immersive set with several moving parts, including

a changing wooden backdrop and a large rolling bridge, upon which Elsa makes her showstopping costume change during "Let It Go." Additional shoutouts go to choreographers Philip Franke and Leah Thelen for the top-notch dance sequences, lighting/sound designer



Review

## "Frozen: The Musical"

Feb. 20-22  
7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday  
2 p.m. Sunday  
Delta Presbyterian Church  
6100 W. Michigan Ave.,  
Lansing  
evolvetheatrics.com



Photo by Nancy Bassett

From left: Anthony Mandalari, Melanie Walker and Rylan Bowman in Evolve Theatrics' production of "Frozen: The Musical."

Mike Stewart and technician Arthur Hill for music and sound effects that never skipped a beat, and director Helen Hart for bringing everything together so expertly.

"Frozen" may seem like a family musical, but I'm in my mid-20s,

as is my boyfriend, and we both thoroughly enjoyed our time at the show. Whether you're 10 or 100, and whether you're already a "Frozen" fan or not, this uplifting, hit-packed musical will melt your heart.

# 'Dial M for Murder' is a blast from the past

By **VIC RAUCH**

Seating can profoundly affect one's perspective in theater in the round. For instance, I saw a "gotcha" blinking of eyes that made me and several others in my section chuckle on the opening night of "Dial M for Murder" at Williamston Theatre.

The eye blinker was Maxine Hadley, played by actress Yolanda Davis in a tension-filled update of the classic 1954 film. She was facing my section, speaking to Tony Wendice, played by Ryan Patrick Welsh, who had his back to us.

At that moment, her character had just seemingly spelled doom for Tony's claims of innocence in a botched plot to kill his wife, Margot, so he could inherit her money. I didn't get to see Tony's

facial response. Others could. I bet it was good.

This is one of many "gotchas" — and twists, turns, intonations, screams and shouts — all performed masterfully by what I consider an all-star cast. Stage and screen actress Jamie Elvey plays the role of Margot Wendice in her debut performance at Williamston.

The audience is omniscient, having witnessed confidential conversations, face to face and on the phone, among Maxine, Margot, Tony and Lesgate, an old acquaintance of Tony's hired to do away with Margot while Tony and Maxine are away for a live radio interview at the BBC.

Lesgate, played by Williamston Theatre veteran Patrick Loos, follows Tony's instructions, but Margot isn't where she's supposed to be in the scenario when the phone is

to ring, providing an alibi for Tony and Maxine.

When Scotland Yard gets involved, you couldn't ask for a better Inspector Hubbard than another Williamston returnee, Tobin Hissong, who plays a lawman who, perhaps purposely, perhaps not, jumps to all the wrong assumptions and conclusions.

Throughout the whole production, audience tension is building constantly, relieved briefly by gasps and nervous laughs prompted by dialogue or movements, depending on one's perspective, such as Maxine's blinking.

Updating a classic movie from the time of rotary telephones with wires plugged into wall sockets is virtually impossible. To make a call or answer the phone, one has to go to where it is. And this story is built around a telephone. It's essential. So, here we were in London, back in 1952, with lines like "pick it up!" or "don't pick it up!"

Where's the update? The original play and movie had three central characters, two men and a woman.



Review

## "Dial M for Murder"

Through March 8  
2 p.m. Thursday, Saturday-Sunday  
7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday  
Williamston Theatre  
122 S. Putnam St.,  
Williamston  
(517) 655-7469  
williamstontheatre.org



Photo by Chris Purchis

Patrick Loos (left) and Jamie Elvey in Williamston Theatre's production of "Dial M for Murder."

This version stars one man and two women. Hmm?

The play was adapted for the stage by Jeffrey Hatcher from Frederick Knott's original. Kudos to returning director Jasmine Rivera, who was helped by lighting designer Harley Miah, costume designer Marley Boone, movement director Alexis Black, prop designer Michelle Raymond, stage manager Adam Kruger and sound designer Julia Garlotte. (Note: I wish the ringing had come from the phone itself.)

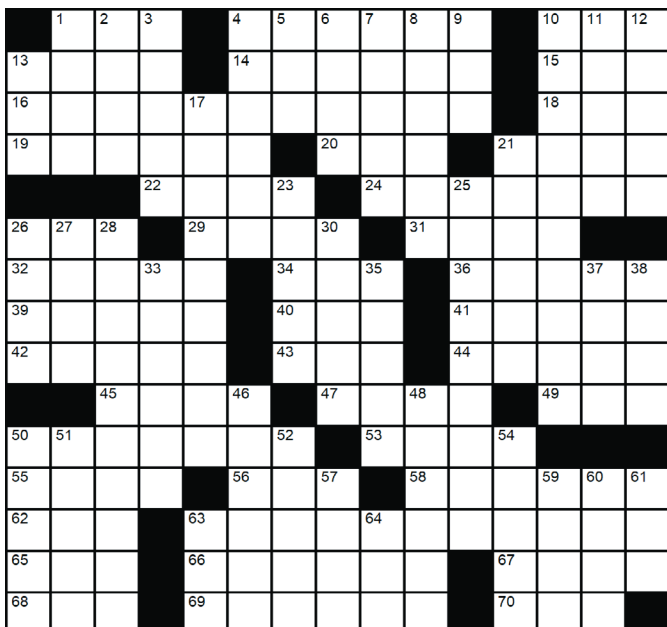
# Jonesin' Crossword By Matt Jones

"Letters Across the Atlantic" -- just the last one.

by Matt Jones  
© 2026 Matt Jones

**ACROSS**

- 1. 70-Across's U.S. equivalent
- 4. Newspaper section
- 10. Latest craze
- 13. Walk off with
- 14. Northern lights phenomenon
- 15. Indignation
- 16. Where words are formed letter by letter in dreams?
- 18. Pro hoops gp.
- 19. Words with "on TV"
- 20. Woeful sound
- 21. Japanese wheat noodles
- 22. Charlie Brown outburst
- 24. Hamilton bills, slangily
- 26. "I see it now!"
- 29. Droplets of water
- 31. "Galloping Gourmet" Graham
- 32. Football party entree, often
- 34. Long-standing divisions
- 36. AL and NL divisions
- 39. Bored feeling
- 40. Smørrebrød bread
- 41. Party game with a similar concept to "The Traitors"
- 42. Laundry day target
- 43. \_\_\_ Leppard
- 44. Perfect places
- 45. Diner orders
- 47. Butter-and-flour sauce thickener
- 49. "\_\_\_ Kapital" (Karl Marx work)
- 50. Solvent in nail polish remover
- 53. Smooth-talking



- 55. Bank (on)
  - 56. Number that's its own fourth power
  - 58. Odd
  - 62. Not so well
  - 63. Menswear delivery for Danson or Lange?
  - 65. Pub provision
  - 66. Lip overgrowth, slangily
  - 67. Very, in Versailles
  - 68. Lawn repair roll
  - 69. Artist known for optical illusions
  - 70. 1-Across's U.K. equivalent (and inspiration for this puzzle)
- DOWN**
- 1. Sticks in the microwave
  - 2. Somehow manages (with "out")
  - 3. Lamprey lurer
  - 4. Musician Buffy \_\_\_-Marie who retired from live performance
  - 5. Knock-knock joke, usually
  - 6. Assns.
  - 7. Bender, for example
  - 8. "From the Alex \_\_\_ Stage ..."
  - 9. Dejected
  - 10. Hide-and-seek players being provided snacks?
  - 11. Shady garden spot
  - 12. Academic heads
  - 13. Screening org.
  - 17. Provides a segue for
  - 21. Like emails with bold headers
  - 23. "The Princess Bride" weapon
  - 25. Hatch location
  - 26. Leaves amazed
  - 27. Little help
  - 28. Romance author Monaghan took over?
  - 30. Comparatively cunning
  - 33. Culpable
  - 35. Remove condensation from
  - 37. "Bob's Burgers" daughter
  - 38. Mouthy lip (or lippy mouth)
  - 46. Pig noses
  - 48. Donegal's province
  - 50. Opera selections
  - 51. Yo-Yo Ma's instrument
  - 52. Supercomputer first unveiled over 80 years ago
  - 54. Teen doll line since 2001
  - 57. Ingrain indelibly
  - 59. Raison d'\_\_\_
  - 60. Pull up dandelions, e.g.
  - 61. NFL rushing units
  - 63. Quito-to-La Paz dir.
  - 64. "All That \_\_\_ Wants" (1992 Ace of Base hit)

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

## SUDOKU

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

## Intermediate

### Fun By The Numbers

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

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

# Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsy

Feb. 18-24, 2026

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Saturn has entered Aries. I see this landmark shift as being potentially very good news for you. Between now and April 2028, you will have enhanced powers to channel your restless heart in constructive directions. I predict you will narrow down your multiple interests and devote yourself to a few resonant paths rather than scattering your intense energy. More than ever before, you can summon the determination to follow through on what you initiate. My Saturn-in-Aries prayer: May you be bold, even brazen, in identifying where you truly belong and never settle for a half-certain fit.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** I am issuing a Wow Advisory. Consider this your high-voltage wonder alert. Your future may offer you thrilling quests and epic exploits that could be unnerving to people who want you to remain the same as you have been. You will have a knack for stirring up liberating encounters with lavish pleasures and rich feelings that transform your brain chemistry. The rousing mysteries you attract into your sphere may send provocative ripples through your own imagination as well as your web of allies. Expect juicy plot twists. Be alert for portals opening in the middle of nowhere.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** In Leonardo da Vinci's notebooks, you find anatomical drawings next to flying machine designs, mathematical calculations alongside water flow observations, and philosophical musings interrupted by grocery lists. He moved from painting to engineering to scientific observation as curiosity led him. Let's make him your inspirational role model for now, Gemini. Disobey categories! Merge categories! Mix and match categories! Let's assume that your eager mind will create expanded knowledge networks that prove valuable in unexpected ways. Let's hypothesize that your cheerful rebellion against conventional ways of organizing reality will spawn energizing innovations in your beautiful, mysterious life.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** In falconry, there's a practice called "weathering." It involves regularly exposing trained birds to the wild elements so they don't become too domesticated and lose their wildness. The falconer needs a partner, not a pet. Does that theme resonate, Cancerian? Is it possible that you have been too sheltered lately? Either by your own caution or by well-meaning people who think they're protecting you? Let's make sure you stay in touch with the fervent, untamed sides of your nature. How? You could expose yourself to an experience that scares you a little. Take a fun risk you've been rationalizing away. Invite touches of rowdiness into your life.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** The loudest noise in history? It was the 1883 volcanic eruption of Krakatoa in Indonesia, heard thousands of miles away. The pressure wave circled the Earth multiple times. I am predicting a benevolent version of a Krakatoa event for you in the coming months. Not literal loudness but a shiny, bright expression of such magnitude that it redefines your world and what people thought was possible from you. Can you be prepared for it? A little. You'll be wise to cultivate visionary equanimity: a calm willingness to stay focused on the big picture. I predict your big boom will be challenging but ultimately magnificent and empowering.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Buddhism teaches about "near enemies": qualities that may appear to be virtues but aren't. For example, pity masquerades as compassion. Clingy attachment pretends to be love. Apathy and indifference pose as equanimity. In the coming weeks, Virgo, I hope you won't get distracted by near enemies. Your assignment: Investigate whether any of your supposed virtues are actually near enemies. After you've done that, find out if any of your so-called negative emotions might harbor interesting powers you could tap into.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Many intelligent people think astrology is dangerous nonsense perpetrated by

quacks. For any horoscope writer with an ego, this affront tends to be deflating. Like everyone else, we want to be appreciated. On the other hand, I have found that practicing an art that gets so much disdain has been mostly liberating. It's impossible for me to get bloated with excess pride. I practice astrology for the joy it affords me, not to garner recognition. So, in a backhanded way, a seemingly disheartening drawback serves as an energizing boon. My prediction is that you, Libra, will soon harvest an analogous turnabout. You will draw strength, even inspiration, from what may ostensibly appear to be a liability.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Mycologist Paul Stamets claims mushrooms taught him to think in networks rather than hierarchies. He sees how everything feeds everything else through vast webs of underground filaments. This is Scorpio wisdom at its most scintillating: homing in on the hidden circuitry working below the surface; gauging the way nourishment is distributed incrementally through many collaborative interconnections; seeing the synergy between seemingly separate sources. I hope you will accentuate this mode of understanding in the coming weeks. The key to your soulful success and happiness will be in how well you map the mycelial-like networks, both in the world around you and in your inner depths. PS: For extra credit, study the invisible threads that link your obsessions to each other, your wounds to your gifts, and your rage to your tenderness.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** The peregrine falcon dives at speeds exceeding 240 miles per hour, making it the fastest animal on Earth. But before the dive, there's often a period of circling, scanning, and waiting. The spectacular descent is set up by the patient reconnaissance that precedes it. I believe you're now in a phase similar to the falcon's preparatory reconnaissance, Sagittarius. The quality of your eventual plunge will depend on how well you're tracking your target now. Use this time to gather intelligence, not to second-guess your readiness. You'll know when your aim is true.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** There's a certain miracle you could really use right now, Capricorn. But to attract it into your life would require a subtle and simple shift. In a related development, the revelation you need most is concealed in plain sight. To get these two goodies into your life, you shouldn't make the error of seeking them in exotic locales. Ordinary events in the daily routine will bring you what you need: the miracle and the revelation that will change everything for the better.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Over the last 4,000 years, a host of things have been used as money in addition to precious metals and paper currency. Among them have been cows, seashells, cheese, tobacco, velvet, tulips, elephant tusks, and huge stone wheels. I hope this poetic fact will inspire your imagination about financial matters. In the coming weeks, I expect you'll be extra creative in drumming up new approaches to getting the cash you need. Here are questions to guide you. Which of your underused talents might be ready to boost your income? What undervalued gifts could you be more aggressive about giving? What neglected treasures or underutilized assets could you use to generate money?

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Big, bright transitions are at hand: from thrashing around in the educational mire to celebrating your sweet escape; from wrangling with shadows and ghosts to greeting new allies; from messing around with interesting but confounding chaos to seizing fresh opportunities to shine and thrive. Hallelujah! What explains this exhilarating shift? The Season of Dazzling Self-Adoration is dawning for you Pisceans. In the weeks ahead, you will be inspired to embark on bold experiments in loving yourself with extra fervor and ingenuity.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsy'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, Feb. 18

**"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden"** - 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. [dcwgardens.com](http://dcwgardens.com).

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

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

**Allen Farmers Market** - 3-6:30 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. [allenneighborhoodcenter.org/allen-farmers-market](http://allenneighborhoodcenter.org/allen-farmers-market).

**Bingo** - Every Wednesday. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Bingo cafe 5 p.m. Early bird 6 p.m. Eaton Rapids Senior Center, 201 Grand St., Eaton Rapids. [facebook.com/EatonRapidsSeniorCenter](http://facebook.com/EatonRapidsSeniorCenter).

**Bookend Gallery Display by Katie Krive** - Krive draws on nature, science and fantasy to create her colorful paintings on wood. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. [cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett](http://cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett).

**Broadway Jazz Dance Class for Teens & Adults** - Meets twice per week. 7-8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**The Changemakers Center Grand Opening** - Join LCC for the grand opening of The Changemakers Center, featuring a ribbon cutting, inductee recognition, refreshments and an inspiring look at the changemakers of tomorrow. 5-7 p.m. Gannon Building, 422 N. Washington Square, Lansing. [lcc.edu/changemakersopening](http://lcc.edu/changemakersopening).

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

**Financial Disaster Preparedness and Recovery** - If a disaster occurs, the government and disaster-relief organizations will try to help you, but you need to be ready as well. No one is ever 100% prepared for a disaster. 11 a.m.-noon. Virtual — register at [canr.msu.edu/mimoneyhealth](http://canr.msu.edu/mimoneyhealth).

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

**Group Dance Class: Beginning Salsa** - Learn the basic steps of one of the most popular Latin dances. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888.

**Intro to Fly Tying Workshop** - Too chilly to fish? Learn to tie flies for the summer with the Red Cedar Fly Fishers! Ages 12+. Registration req. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Lighthouse Love Paint Party** - Grab some friends and get creative in DeWitt! Pre-traced canvas for your ease. We'll guide you step by step! 6:30-9 p.m. Tin Cup Cafe, 121 E. Main St., DeWitt. [paintyourpoison.com](http://paintyourpoison.com).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Show @ Bestsellers Books and Coffee** - MMAG members are displaying original works, including paintings, photography, mixed media and so much more. 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. [midmichiganartguild.org](http://midmichiganartguild.org).

**MSU Women's Basketball vs. Northwestern University** - 6:30 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. [msuspartans.com/sports/womens-basketball](http://msuspartans.com/sports/womens-basketball).

**Overwintering Habitat of Monarchs in Mexico: Zoom Webinar** - Betty Seagull, Wild Ones Red Cedar chapter board member and former president, will present on the critical overwintering habitat for monarch butterflies in Mexico. 7-8:30 p.m. Virtual — register at [wildoneslansing.weebly.com](http://wildoneslansing.weebly.com).

**Parkinson's Exercise: Tai Chi** - Free group class tailored for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. Improve balance and strength. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. [lapsg.org](http://lapsg.org).

**Tap II Class for Teens & Adults** - 6-7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Waverly Football Boosters Purse Bingo** - 6-10 p.m. AC Hotel, 3160 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. [eventbrite.com/e/waverly-football-boosters-purse-bingo-tickets-1979235048309](http://eventbrite.com/e/waverly-football-boosters-purse-bingo-tickets-1979235048309).

**Weaving the Web: Initiation** - Join us in person or online for our weekly community night, an open, cross-tradition discussion space where we learn, share and build community together. 6-8 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**Women's Healing Circle** - A space for women to share their stories, inspire each other and lift each other up. 8:30-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

### Thursday, Feb. 19

**"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden"** - 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. [dcwgardens.com](http://dcwgardens.com).

**Acting 101 Class for Teens & Adults** - Meets twice per week. 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Acting Ensemble Class for Teens & Adults** - Meets twice per week. 8-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

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

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

**Battle of the Books Team Spirit Night** - Let's eat pizza, talk Battle books, create your team gear and more! 6-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**Bookend Gallery Display by Katie Krive** - Krive draws on nature, science and fantasy to create her colorful paintings on wood. Noon-6 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. [cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett](http://cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett).

**Charlotte Community Library Board Meeting** - The board meets the third Thursday of every month in the library's Spartan Room. 6-8 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. [charlottelibrary.org](http://charlottelibrary.org).

### Malcolm X Symposium

5-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19  
LCC Gannon Building  
422 N. Washington Square, Lansing  
[lcc.edu/calendar](http://lcc.edu/calendar)



Malcolm X, born Malcolm Little, spent his formative years in Lansing. A symposium at Lansing Community College on Thursday aims to celebrate the civil rights leader with the theme "100 Years of Black Excellence in Historic Celebration."

The symposium will include student presentations of creative writing and spoken word, performances by violinist Salena Thompson and the Kuungana African Drum and Dance Company, a pop-up library, a Black history display and heavy hors d'oeuvres. A panel discussion, titled "Lansing 100 Years Ago," will feature English Professor Ravon Keith, community historian Dennis Burnside and adjunct history Professor David Siwik.

The symposium is open to the community. Attendees must register for the free event in advance.

**Chipmunk Story Time** - Story time comes alive as children interact with puppets Chicory Chipmunk and his animal friends. Stories are followed by nature activities and a guided walk. 10 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. [meridian.mi.us/hnc](http://meridian.mi.us/hnc).

**"Dial M for Murder"** - A smart, tight, compelling update of Frederick Knott's tale of jealousy, deception and homicide. 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. [williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org).

**Farm Policy and Risk Management Series: Cabbage Cost of Production Study Review** - Join us for a presentation on the recent cabbage cost of production report. We'll go over the main findings and discuss how to interpret the tables within the report. Noon-1 p.m. Virtual — register at [canr.msu.edu/van\\_buren](http://canr.msu.edu/van_buren).

**February Downtown Business Huddle** - Start your morning with networking and coffee. We'll have insightful speakers to fill you in on the latest happenings in downtown Lansing. 8-9 a.m. DoubleTree by Hilton, 111 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. [facebook.com/downtownlansing](http://facebook.com/downtownlansing).

**Group Dance Class: Beginning West Coast Swing** - A fun, exciting partner dance style to learn. 7 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888.

**Hogwarts-Style Dinner Celebration** - By order of the Ministry of Magic, you have been selected to attend a most enchanted gathering at "The Center." All ages welcome! 5-10 p.m. Eaton Area Senior Center, 804 S. Cochran Ave., Charlotte. [eventbrite.com/o/15564810298](http://eventbrite.com/o/15564810298).

**Intro to Acting/Improv Class for Kids** - Ages 5-12. 4-4:45 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

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

**Malcolm X Symposium** - Enjoy a showcase of student creative writing and spoken word, music and cultural performances, and a panel discussion with major union representatives. All employees and students are welcome. 5-8 p.m. LCC Gannon Building, 422 N. Washington Square, Lansing. [lcc.edu](http://lcc.edu).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Show @ Bestsellers Books and Coffee** - MMAG members are displaying original works, including paintings, photography, mixed media and so much more. 7 a.m.-8 p.m. 360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. [midmichiganartguild.org](http://midmichiganartguild.org).

**MSU Ice Hockey vs. University of Notre Dame** - 7:30 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing. [msuspartans.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey](http://msuspartans.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey).

**North to Alaska Beer Pairing Dinner** - This exclusive dinner features a multi-course menu inspired by the flavors of the Last Frontier, thoughtfully paired with Alaska Brewing Co. favorites. Advance tickets required. 6-8 p.m. One North Kitchen & Bar, 1310 Abbot Road, East Lansing. [onenorthdining.com](http://onenorthdining.com).

**Parkinson's Exercise: Rock-Steady Boxing** - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's. Caregivers are welcome to participate if space permits. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. [lapsg.org](http://lapsg.org).

**Preserving MI Harvest: Warm Up with Frozen Food** - Planning to use the food you spent time freezing prevents freezer burn and can help keep your food budget in check. Get some inspiration to utilize the food in your freezer. 1-2 p.m. or 6-7 p.m. Virtual — register at [canr.msu.edu/food\\_preservation](http://canr.msu.edu/food_preservation).

**Ruhala Broadway Ensemble: Performing Group for All Ages** - Meets twice per week. 5:30-7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

See Events, Page 22

## Pure Options Stand-Up presents Jimmy Dore

7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20  
Grewal Hall  
224 S. Washington Square,  
Lansing  
hall224.com

## Comedy in Billtown

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24  
Williamston Theatre  
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston  
williamstontheatre.org

Comedy fans can catch Jimmy Dore performing in downtown Lansing on Friday, bringing his political commentary and stand-up act to Grewal Hall, and then check out some of the hottest rising comedians a few days later at Williamston Theatre.

Dore spent a decade with the sociopolitical news and commentary program "The Young Turks," including appearing on its "Aggressive Progressives" show. His high-energy comedy sets are fast, direct and unapologetic, blending real laughs with real talk.

Regular host Louis D. Michael, known for his "edgy and not entirely well thought out" jokes, will return for the ninth installment of Williamston Theatre's Comedy in Billtown series on Tuesday, also featuring Lansing comedian Robert Jenkins, Chicago comedians Sohrab Forouzesh and Tory Ward, Toronto comedian Jen Richardson and Detroit-born, Los Angeles-based comedian Brad Wenzel.



Minskoff Pavilion, 645 N. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/burgess-institute-1474751979.

**"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden"** - 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. dcwgardens.com.

**Author Talk: "House of Diggs"** - Join us for a book discussion with Marion Orr, author of "House of Diggs: The Rise and Fall of America's Most Consequential Black Congressman, Charles C. Diggs Jr." 6-7 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. hookedlansing.com.

**Be Warm-Hearted and Give Blood: Red Cross Blood Drive** - Donate blood and receive a \$15 e-gift card to the merchant of your choice! Registration req. 10 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladd.org.

**Bookend Gallery Display by Katie Krive** - Krive draws on nature, science and fantasy to create her colorful paintings on wood. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett.

**"The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon"** - The fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm are turned on their heads in this fast-paced, rollicking ride. 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

**The Coffeehouse at All Saints** - Monthly showcase of mostly Michigan-based musical and spoken-word talent. Bring a snack/drink to share. Free. 7:30-9:30 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. facebook.com/TheCoffeehouseAtAllSaints.

**Date Night Dance Class for Couples** - A fun, engaging experience where partners learn basic steps, build connection through rhythmic movement, and create shared memories. 7-8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Register by calling 517-364-8888.

**"Dial M for Murder"** - A smart, tight, compelling update of Frederick Knott's tale of jealousy, deception and homicide. 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

**Fish Fry Fridays Fundraiser** - \$8 to \$15 — kids under 5 eat free. 4:30-7:30 p.m. VFW Post 701, 123 N. Rosemary St., Lansing. 517-485-1656.

**Friday Fish Fry** - Every Friday, Feb. 20 through April 3. \$15 three-piece cod dinner, \$5 one-piece basket with fries. Kids 5 and under free. Additional fish available for purchase. 4-7 p.m. VFW Post 671, 12250 S. U.S. Highway 27, DeWitt. facebook.com/DeWittVfwPost671.

**Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall food court every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

**Jimmy Dore Show** - Pure Options Stand-Up presents Jimmy Dore. Don't miss his return to Lansing! 8 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Show @ Bestsellers Books and Coffee** - MMAG members are displaying original works, including paintings, photography, mixed media and so much more. 7 a.m.-8 p.m. 360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. midmichiganartguild.org.

**MSU Ice Hockey vs. University of Notre Dame** - 6 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 609 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey.

**Night Out in Nature for Kids** - No need to book a sitter! Send your kids (ages 5 - 10) to Harris Nature Center for a fun night out. We'll explore the trails, enjoy nature activities and meet live animals. Pizza dinner included. 5:30-8:30 p.m. 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

**Parkinson's Exercise: Movement with Vitality** - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's. Caregivers are welcome to participate if space permits. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

**Travelogue: Sensational Switzerland** - Join host Nancy Norton as we "travel" near and far, hearing firsthand accounts. Admission \$2. 7-8:30 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. 517-482-4235. parksonline.lansingmi.gov.

**What Will You Find?** - Drop in and learn how the GLADL Digi-Lab can easily help you digitize your old media and restore pictures that have seen better days. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladd.org.

## Saturday, Feb. 21

**2DAY VENTURE: Spring Session** - 1-9 p.m. Minskoff Pavilion, 645 N. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/burgess-institute-1474751979.

**"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden"** - 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. dcwgardens.com.

**Baby Stories & Play** - We'll read a story, sing and rhyme together, do a finger play, and have fun while learning and playing. 0-2 years. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladd.org.

**Big STEAM** - An opportunity for students in grades 7-12 to explore what it's like to be in STEAM-related programs and career fields through hands-on activities and experiences. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. LCC Arts and Sciences Building, 419 N. Washington Square, Lansing. lcc.edu.

**"Beyond the Tollbooth": A Ballet for Everyone** - Based on "The Phantom Tollbooth," this original ballet is a joyful reminder that life gets exciting when you choose to look closely. 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. https://www.dancesingact.com.

**"The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon"** - The fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm are turned on their heads in this fast-paced, rollicking ride. 7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

**Cocaine Anonymous Meeting** - "We are here and we are free." 10 a.m. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing.

**Contra and Square Dance** - No partner needed. Come at 6:30 p.m. for a quick workshop on easy contra dance moves. Dance runs from 7-10 p.m. Caller: Maeve Devlin. Band: Round Creek String Band. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave, Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

**Couple Shuffle** - Events: Mile, 5K, 10K, volunteer then run, kids' dash, 15K. Every registration includes swag, a custom medal, chip timing with live results and awards, free photos, snacks at the finish line and plenty of fun! 9 a.m.-noon. Adado River Park, 201 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. runsignup.com/Race/MI/Lansing/CoupleShuffleLansing.

**Cozy Cardinal Paint Party** - Our last paint party sold out, so we're adding another. Pre-traced canvas for your ease. Our amazing artist Melissa will guide you step by step! 6-8:30 p.m. Cafe Sports, 710 N. Main St., Perry. paintyourpoison.com.

**"Dial M for Murder"** - A smart, tight, compelling update of Frederick Knott's tale of jealousy, deception and homicide. 2 and 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

**Downtown Lansing BrrrrCrawl!** - Grab your crew and head downtown for delicious drink specials, good times and the chance to win Downtown Digital Dollars. 4-9 p.m. Check in at Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. facebook.com/downtownlansing.

**Entrepreneurship Mixer Series: The Lending Essentials** - Learn the steps of business lending and funding to start or grow your business. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. LAFUCU, 106 N. Marketplace Blvd., Lansing. lafcu.com.

## Events

from page 21

**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.

**Startup Career Fair** - MSU students can engage directly with founders and early-stage team members, gaining insight into the entrepreneurial environment and the potential for rapid career growth. 2-4 p.m. Entrepreneurship Lab, 651 N. Shaw Lane, Room M025, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/burgess-institute-1474751979.

**Tai Chi for Better Sleep** - This series combines Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention and the Sleep Education for Everyone Program (SLEEP). 9 a.m. or 7 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/tai-chi-for-arthritis.

**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.

**The Trick Is in the Cards** - 5-11 p.m. Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge, 219 1/2 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. homebrewgamelounge.com.

**Wine Bingo Night** - Come play a bit, win some swag, and hang with us. It's free to play. 6-7:30 p.m. Horrocks Wine Bar, 7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/HorrocksWineBar.

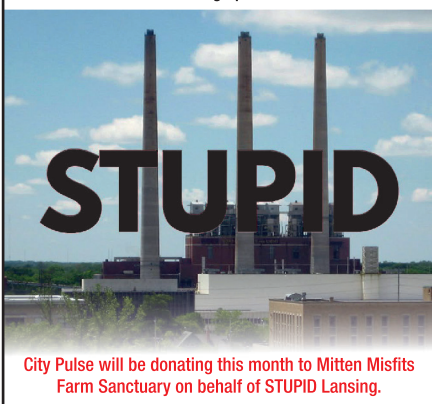
## Friday, Feb. 20

**2DAY VENTURE: Spring Session** - 2DV isn't a hackathon or pitch competition. It's an entrepreneurial workshop and an opportunity for Spartans, regardless of their major, to explore turning an idea or innovation into reality in just two days. 1-9 p.m.



## Welcome STUPID Lansing content

Say hi to STUPID Lansing, the social media folks who help to celebrate Big Penny, the Pennsylvania Street Bridge. We're hoping to make this a City Pulse feature and we're starting with a bunch of love the STUPID Lansing crew spotted around town this weekend. Stay tuned for truck munching updates.



City Pulse will be donating this month to Mitten Misfits Farm Sanctuary on behalf of STUPID Lansing.

# Events

from page 22

**Helping Resident Winter Birds: Campfire Science & S'mores** - Learn how our resident (non-migratory) birds adapt in the winter and how to help them. Enjoy a story and a presentation, then make some crafts to share some treats with winter birds. 4:30-6 p.m. Lincoln Brick Park, 13991 Tallman Road, Grand Ledge. gladi.org.

**Intermediate Ballet Class for Teens & Adults** - Meets twice per week. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

**Lansing Lupus Symposium** - Featuring presentations by three prominent local physicians on lupus and heart health, childhood lupus, and emerging research on treatment options. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. milupus.org/events/lansinglupus-2026.

**Lecture Series: "Designing Dreams: Toronado"** - Dick Ruzzin, a former executive on the General Motors design staff, will explore the design and evolution of the Oldsmobile Toronado. Copies of his recent book, "Designing Dreams," will be available for purchase and signing. 3-4 p.m. R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

**Meridian Township Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meridian Mall, 1982 E. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian.mi.us/FarmersMarket.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Show @ Bestsellers Books and Coffee** - MMAG members are displaying original works, including paintings, photography, mixed media and so much more. 7 a.m.-8 p.m. 360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. midmichiganartguild.org.

**Scuffed Realtor Live** - Nick Rochefort and Alex Schultz are bringing your favorite hub for viewer-submitted house reviews, antique expertise, and unsolicited life advice live to you. 7-9 p.m. The Studio at 414, 410 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/120697995881.

## Sunday, Feb. 22

**"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden"** - 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. dcwgardens.com.

**APS Carnival Celebration** - Celebrate Mardi Gras with this family-friendly Carnival event featuring a French immersion class for little ones, a craft table for older kids, and a chance to see how delicious beignets are made. 2-4 p.m. Aux Petits Soins, 2824 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. apsfrenchclass.com.

**"The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon"** - The fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm are turned on their heads in this fast-paced, rollicking ride. 2 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

**"Dial M for Murder"** - A smart, tight, compelling update of Frederick Knott's tale of jealousy, deception and homicide. 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

**DJ Trivia at Summerlands Brewing Co.** - Free to play. Prizes for the top 3 teams. 4-5:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlands-brewing.

**Jugglers and Would-Be Jugglers** - Jugglers meet at the Orchard Street Pump House at 2 p.m. Sundays. 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. mikemarhanka@gmail.com.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Show @ Bestsellers Books and Coffee** - MMAG members are displaying original works, including paintings, photography, mixed media and so much more. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. midmichiganartguild.org.

**MSU Men's Basketball vs. Ohio State University**

- 1 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-basketball.

**Paint Party @ Wooden Nickel II** - Pre-traced canvas for your ease. Dansville artist Heather will guide you step by step! Seating is limited, so be sure to sign up early. 2-4:30 p.m. Wooden Nickel II, 1029 Jackson St., Dansville. paintyourpoison.com.

**Quaker Meeting for Worship** - Rich communal silence that invites thinking deeply, developing spiritually, loving fully, speaking our truths. Children's program provided. 10:30 a.m. Red Cedar Friends Meeting House, 1400 Turner St., Lansing. redcedarfriends.org.

**Refugee Development Center Fundraiser** - Love Rose benefit concert — eclectic poetic soul with interpretive dance and audience percussive participation. Silent auction/food drive for the RDC and ceramic art/CD/poster sales. 5-8 pm. Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine, 1312 E. Michigan Ave., East Lansing. facebook.com/altusethiopianscuisine.

**Sunday Brunch at Summerlands Brewing Co.** - We've updated our hours and menu to bring you the perfect Sunday experience, whether you're craving something classic, something coastal, or something hearty. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

**Voices in Winter: Poets Speak** - A fast-paced, different kind of reading, full of provoking poems to engage both poetry fans and those unfamiliar with its performance. Ages 16+. 2-4 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladi.org.

**Weekly Drum Circle at Altu's** - Get your groove on and de-stress with us every Sunday! This is a free, family-friendly event. All ages and experience levels are welcome. 2-4 p.m. 1312 E. Michigan Ave., East Lansing. facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers.

## Monday, Feb. 23

**"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden"** - 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. dcwgardens.com.

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

**Bookend Gallery Display by Katie Krive** - Krive draws on nature, science and fantasy to create her colorful paintings on wood. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett.

**Brewers Meetup at Summerlands Brewing Co.** - A discussion group to talk about all things brewing and winemaking. All levels of experience welcome, from pros to those considering taking up homebrewing. 6-7:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

**Broadway Jazz Dance Class for Teens & Adults** - Meets twice per week. 7-8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

**Department of Public Works Meeting** - 5:30 p.m. City Hall, 114 Woodhull St., Laingsburg. 517-651-5374. laingsburg.us.

**Downtown Development Authority Meeting** - 6 p.m. City Hall, 259 Kent St., Portland. 517-647-5027. portland-michigan.org.

**DJ Bingo at Summerlands Brewing Co.** - Kick off your week with a night of music, laughs, and friendly competition! Join us Monday nights for DJ Bingo, where classic bingo meets your favorite songs. 7-8:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. www.facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

**Euchre** - 1-3 p.m. Eaton Rapids Senior Center, 201 Grand St., Eaton Rapids. facebook.com/Eaton-RapidsSeniorCenter.

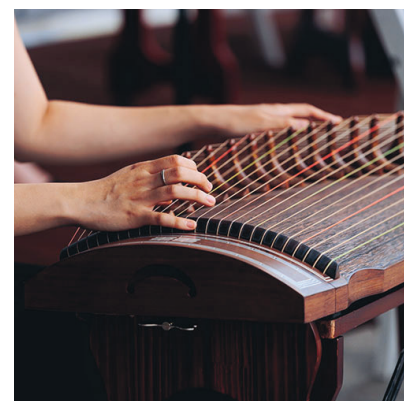
**Everyday Kitchen Safety: Simple Tips** - Keep your kitchen safe with simple, practical food safety tips you can use every day. Noon-12:30 p.m. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/safe\_food\_water.

## MSU Lunar New Year Celebration Concert

3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22

Cook Recital Hall

333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing  
music.msu.edu



The Michigan State University College of Music will celebrate the Lunar New Year on Sunday with a concert featuring guest artist Haiqiong Deng.

Deng, a leading player of the zheng and the qin, ancient Chinese stringed instruments, has crafted a program titled "Nature, Music, and Convergence." It will include "Moon Phase," a concerto by Sun Yue written for Deng and performed with a chamber ensemble of MSU student musicians on flute, clarinet, violin, cello and percussion, as well as solo works for the traditional 21-string guqin.

"By including student chamber musicians on the program, it gives them the opportunity to perform in a culturally rich musical setting while offering audiences the chance to experience musical traditions that are rarely heard live," said Yvonne Lam, associate professor of violin and director of the Lunar New Year Celebration Concert.

Following the performance, the audience is invited to a casual post-concert gathering with refreshments.

Tickets are \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors and free for students and youth. They're available at the door, online at music.msu.edu or by calling (517) 353-5340.

**Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall food court every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

**Improv Acting Class for Teens and Adults** - 8:30-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

**Level I Dance Class for Kids** - Ages 5-8. 4-5 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

**MI Ag Ideas to Grow with Conference** - This educational experience features tracks focused on animal agriculture, field crop production, vegetable production, food preservation, irrigation and drainage, beginning farmers, and solar photovoltaic. Sessions will be held via Zoom. Feb. 23-March 5. For a schedule of sessions and to register, visit canr.msu.edu/miagideas.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Show @ Bestsellers Books and Coffee** - MMAG members are displaying original works, including paintings, photography, mixed media and so much more. 7 a.m.-8 p.m. 360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. midmichiganartguild.org.

**Mindful Monday Lunch & Learn: Forgiving and Letting Go of the Past** - This session will discuss the nine steps to forgiveness and letting go of the past, as well as how to overcome barriers to forgiving. 11 a.m.-noon. Virtual — register at canr.msu.edu/mindfulnessforbetterliving.

**Parkinson's Exercise: Yoga** - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's. Caregivers are welcome to participate if space allows. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

**Ruhala Broadway Ensemble: Performing Group for All Ages** - Meets twice per week. 5:30-7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

**Women's AA Meeting** - 6 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. lansingdistrict6.org.

## Tuesday, Feb. 24

**"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden"** - 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. dcwgardens.com.

**A Migrant Farmworker's Perspective** - Author

Robert "Carlos" Fuentes will share his experience as a migrant farmworker in Northern Michigan. His book, "The Vacation," was recently named a 2026 Michigan Notable Book. Registration req. 6:30-7:30 p.m. City of DeWitt Community Room, 414 E. Main St., DeWitt. dewittlibrary.org.

**Acting 101 Class for Teens & Adults** - Meets twice per week. 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

**Acting Ensemble Class for Teens & Adults** - Meets twice per week. 8-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

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

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

**Beautiful Blooms Paint Party** - Paint with us step by step at Beggar's Banquet! Seating is limited, so be sure to sign up early. 6-8:30 p.m. 218 Abbot Road, East Lansing. paintyourpoison.com.

**Bookend Gallery Display by Katie Krive** - Krive draws on nature, science and fantasy to create her colorful paintings on wood. Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/get-involved/friends-library/haslett.

See Events, Page 24

**As Seen On the Cover of CityPulse**

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**CITY OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**4220 S. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard  
Special Land Use Permit – Church**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider a request for a special land use permit to permit a church at 4220 S. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

For more information, please call Lansing City Council at 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, March 9, 2026 at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov).

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

**CP#26-047**

**WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP  
Board Meeting February 11, 2026  
Synopsis**

The Williamstown Township Board held a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 with Supervisor Poth, Clerk Cleveland, Treasurer VanErp, Trustee Brinker, Trustee Duffy, and Trustee Steinberg present. The Board approved the following:

- Consent Agenda
- Resolution outlining the impacts that the proposed ITC High-Voltage Power Lines will have on Williamstown Township
- 2025 Master Plan and Future Land Use Map
- Public Hearing for Budget and Police Assessment for March 4, 2026
- Establishing a Data Center Moratorium for a period of 12 months
- Board Meeting dates for FY 26-27
- 2026 Township road projects
- Harvest Festival date for October 3, 2026

The next regular Board meeting will be held on March 11, 2026 at 6:30 pm. in the Community Room of the Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Rd., Williamston. Visit [williamstownmi.gov](http://williamstownmi.gov) for the latest agenda, documents, and updates. Phone (517) 655-3193.

Robin A. Cleveland, MiPMC  
Township Clerk

**CP#26-054**

**Williamstown Township  
2026 March Board of Review Notice**

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 11:00 am (Organizational Meeting)

The Williamstown Township Board of Review for 2026 will be hearing assessment appeals at the Williamstown Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Rd, Williamston, MI on the following dates by appointment:

**Monday, March 9, 2026**

**9:00 am—12:00 pm, 1:00—4:00 pm, & 6:00—9:00 pm (Assessment Appeals)**

**Tuesday, March 10, 2026**

**6:00 pm - 9:00 pm (Assessment Appeals)**

Contact Jeanne Caselli at 655-3193 for an appointment.

Residents unable to attend may protest by letter, *provided protest letter is received at the Williamstown Township office by 4:00 pm Tuesday, March 10, 2026.*

Board of Review Members: Brian Johnston-Chairperson, Gerald Eidt, Mike Rice, and Lisa Fletcher, alternate

**Williamstown TWP Tentative Ratios 2026**

Agriculture	Commercial	Industrial	Residential
48.67	50.44	49.46	47.88

*The Williamstown Township Board of Review will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon five a (5) day notice to the Williamstown Township Board of Review. Individuals requiring these services should contact the Township Clerk at (517) 655-3193 or [clerk@williamstowntownship.com](mailto:clerk@williamstowntownship.com) to request assistance.*

Robin A. Cleveland, MiPMC  
Clerk, Williamstown Township  
[clerk@williamstowntownship.com](mailto:clerk@williamstowntownship.com)

**CP#26-034**

**Events**

from page 23

**Comedy in Billtown** - Williamston Theatre presents a night of stand-up comedy in the heart of Billtown! Hosted by Louis D. Michael. Featuring Sohrab Forouzesh, Robert Jenkins, Tory Ward and Brad Wenzel. 7:30-9 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. [williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org).

**Compulsive Eaters Anonymous-HOW Meeting** - Meets in person and virtually. 5:30 p.m. St. Jude Catholic Church, 801 N. Bridge St., DeWitt. For Zoom info, call 989-620-0448 or go to [ceahow.org/en/find-a-meeting](http://ceahow.org/en/find-a-meeting).

**Game Night at Summerlands Brewing Co.** - Bring your favorite board game, card game, or party game — or jump in on one of the games we already have here. 6-9 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. [facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing](https://facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing).

**Hay Production 101** - Topic: hay industry overview; matching hay species to farm goals. 7-8:30 p.m. Virtual — register at [canr.msu.edu/forages](http://canr.msu.edu/forages).

**How Much Home Can You Afford?** - Learn to calculate how much home you can afford to purchase and maintain based on your current income. 3-4 p.m. Virtual — register at [canr.msu.edu/mimon-eyhealth](http://canr.msu.edu/mimon-eyhealth).

**Intermediate Ballet Class for Teens & Adults** - Meets twice per week. 5:30-7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**LAGE Game Night** - A Meetup group that facilitates free board/card gaming experiences for diverse people and cultivates a safe, inclusive, fun gaming community. 6:30-11 p.m. Reno's Sports Bar, 16460 Old US 27, Lansing. [meetup.com/lansing](http://meetup.com/lansing).

**Level II Dance class for Kids** - Ages 9-12. 4-5:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett

Road, East Lansing. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Show @ Bestsellers Books and Coffee** - MMAG members are displaying original works, including paintings, photography, mixed media and so much more. 7 a.m.-8 p.m. 360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. [midmichiganartguild.org](http://midmichiganartguild.org).

**Parkinson's Exercise: Balance, Conditioning and Strength** - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's. Caregivers are welcome to participate if space allows. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. [lapsg.org](http://lapsg.org).

**The Poetry Room Open Mic Presents: Heartthrob** - Whether you're a seasoned poet or stepping onto the stage for the first time, this is your platform to share your words with a supportive audience. Optional theme: love poems. 7-9 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. [facebook.com/The517PoetryRoom](https://facebook.com/The517PoetryRoom).

**Tai Chi for Better Sleep** - This series combines Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention and the Sleep Education for Everyone Program (SLEEP). 9 a.m. or 7 p.m. Virtual — register at [canr.msu.edu/tai-chi-for-arthritis](http://canr.msu.edu/tai-chi-for-arthritis).

**Trivia at Lansing Shuffle** - 7:30-9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4365. [lansingshuffle.com](http://lansingshuffle.com).

**Wednesday, Feb. 25**

**"A Caregiver's Butterfly Garden"** - 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. [dowgardens.com](http://dowgardens.com).

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

**Adult Tabletop Board or Card Games** - Gather in the daytime with other adults for coffee, conversation and games. 2:30-3:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION  
From Pg. 20**

Z	E	E	S	P	O	R	T	S	F	A	D		
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A	H	A	D	E	W	S	K	E	R	R			
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**SUDOKU SOLUTION  
From Pg. 20**

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

**CITY OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 23, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider an amendment to Chapter 1460 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances by amending Section 1460.44 to 1460.52 to clarify and update the regulation and certification of rental properties, and adding section 1460.53 regarding information to be provided to tenants at the time of occupancy.

For more information, please call Lansing City Council at 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., the day of the hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov).

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

**CP#26-046**

# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING



Lawrence

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

I'm surprised that before this assignment, I had never been to Cask & Co. Not only is the restaurant extremely close to my house, but there are bowls on the menu.

Bowls have become a trendy menu item. In my experience, they're essentially a one-stop shop kind of meal, containing some type of grain (which can usually be swapped out for greens because the target audience is women who were personally victimized by Atkins, like myself) as well as different veggies, a protein and usually a fun sauce or some other bonus like crunchy breadcrumbs or gremolata.

I'm a sucker for bowls. They're my ideal weekday lunch. However, I was also made nervous by the size of the menu at Cask & Co. When a single restaurant offers sushi, burgers and pasta, I become concerned that this is a "jack of all trades, master of none" situation.

With trepidation, I met two professional colleagues for lunch on a Friday afternoon. We walked into a restaurant that was jumping: groups of co-workers taking a fun lunch, girlfriends chit-chatting, dudes having a beer. The place was busy, and I was encouraged.

We perused the menu and decided to start with the crab Rangoon dip (\$15), which was cheesy and creamy as expected. It was served with extremely crispy fried naan, which was unexpected and delightful.

True to form, I ordered the Maui bowl (\$19), with a base of half rice and half greens. The bowl was packed with raw salmon and tuna, sliced avocado, cucumber, edamame, seaweed salad and sesame seeds. It was fresh, nourishing and filling, and I ate literally every bite.

My friends had pad Thai (\$16) and a Nashville hot chicken sandwich (\$15), both of which looked delicious and garnered rave reviews. They also each had a beer or two, which I guess qualifies as cutting loose when you're a bunch of parents having a lunch meeting to talk about mutual clients and all the sports games you're going to drive your kids to over the weekend. How times have changed.

I returned a few days later for lunch with a girlfriend. We nestled ourselves in a quiet booth, all the better to gossip uninterrupted. We started with Brussels sprouts (\$15), which could have been crispier but were topped with a deliciously tangy slaw that made up for the texture.

I moved on to the Mediterranean chicken tacos (\$16), which should be called Indian street tacos or something similar because they're much more Indian-in-

See She Ate, Page 26

# Cask & Co.: Jack of all trades, master of most

**Cask & Co. Kitchen & Bar**  
 3415 E. Saginaw St., Lansing  
 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday  
 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday  
 (517) 580-3720  
 caskandcompany.com

### What was good

On my first visit for this review, I got takeout for lunch. I ordered at the backdoor kiosk and waited a short 12 minutes for my food to be ready. I started



Bryan Beverly for City Pulse

Cask & Co. strikes a unique balance between gastropub, global kitchen and community living room.

By **BRYAN BEVERLY**

As I've written before in regard to Bento Kitchen Cravings and Middle Eats, Frandor's food scene is on the come up. From decades-old



Beverly

breakfast spots to a wide array of ethnic eateries to national chains finally planting a flag, this side of town is flourishing with dining options.

There's "a place to eat," and then there's a place where you feel connected. That's exactly what Cask & Co. Kitchen & Bar delivers on. Part gastropub, part global kitchen, part community living room, Cask & Co. strikes a unique balance that keeps the restaurant bustling on a Tuesday afternoon or a Valentine's Day weekend. What truly sets this place apart isn't the food or the beer list — it's the personality behind it.

Owners Frank and Michelle Cheng are the heartbeat of the restaurant. Fellow diners often remarked how present and engaged the owners were, moving through the dining room, greeting regulars by name and checking in with guests as if they had invited them into their own home. That personal touch is evident in every detail, from the care poured into the drinks to the way the staff seems genuinely glad to serve. Whether it's a recommendation from the bartender or a friendly chat with a server about life in Lansing, there's a sense that Cask & Co. is more than a place to grab a bite to eat — it's part of your night out.

with the burnt ends (\$15), which were coated in a brown sugar and whiskey glaze and served with a pleasant Asian slaw and three dipping sauces: Korean barbecue, sweet barbecue and Guillermo sauce. The Korean barbecue was my favorite because it paired best with the slaw, though the meat itself was far tougher than it should have been.

The massive Nashville hot chicken sandwich (\$15) was fried nicely, with a crunchy texture. However, the sauce was merely drizzled on top. I would have preferred for them to toss it to coat the meat evenly.

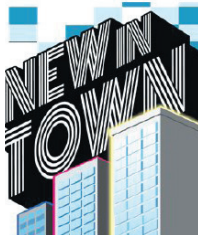
Because the menu is so wide ranging, I decided to add two pieces of fresh crab nigiri (\$8/each). The lump crab meat was tasty and sweet, and the accompanying ginger and wasabi elevated the flavor profile.

### What was better

My valentine and I saddled up to the bar Saturday afternoon to take

See He Ate, Page 26

# Two national chains arrive in Lansing within a few days — and a few steps — of each other



## Bubbakoo's Burritos

3101 E. Saginaw St.,  
Lansing  
11 a.m.-11 p.m.  
Sunday-Thursday  
11 a.m.-2 a.m. Friday-  
Saturday  
(517) 220-2521  
bubbakoos.com

led him to contact the owners of Bubbakoo's Burritos, a New Jersey-based chain known for its diverse, customizable menu.

The eatery opened Monday (Feb. 16) near the Frandor Shopping Center, one



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

Manager Shannon Marcera awaits customers behind the register at the newly opened Bubbakoo's Burritos franchise near the Frandor Shopping Center.

BY LEO V. KAPLAN

Before moving to Lansing from New York two years ago, Jeet Singh made a living franchising businesses like Subway and Dunkin' Donuts.

When he began brainstorming potential franchising opportunities in his new home city, he set his sights on something that wasn't already here. That

of several new food spots cropping up in that area of town. Singh and manager Shannon Marcera said Bubbakoo's variety sets it apart from other fast-casual Mexican-style chains.

"I wanted to bring something new, because we got Chipotle, we got Qdoba, we got other franchises here," Singh said. "This is something that really excited me when I saw it in New Jersey."

"It's not standard," Marcera said of the menu. "When you come in and look at our line, it's bright, it's colorful, and there are a lot of options."

More unique items include birria, General Tso's chicken and cooked-to-order hibachi-style steak and shrimp, as well as condiments such as boom boom sauce, a sweet and spicy mayo, and Southern barbecue sauce.

Customers can build their own burritos, bowls, tacos, nachos, quesadillas, taco salads and Chiwawas, which are Bubbakoo's signature panko-crusting cheesy rice balls. There's also a selection of "signature creations" with pre-selected ingredients.

Marcera, who is diabetic, is fond of the bowls. Even with diabetes, she said she's been able to eat something different every day while training.

"The beautiful thing is that there's something here for everyone," she said.

## Shake Shack joins the Frandor fold

Over the last 21 years, Shake Shack has expanded from a hot dog stand to a multi-national, multi-billion-dollar corporation. But it hasn't made its way to Lansing — until now.

## Shake Shack

3106 E. Saginaw St., Ste. A,  
Lansing  
10 a.m.-midnight Sun-  
Thurs  
10 a.m.-midnight Fri-Sat  
(517) 280-6897  
shakeshack.com

Center, becoming the first of several planned businesses to do so.

The chain is known for its burgers and shakes, with offerings ranging from standard fare like its signature cheeseburger topped with lettuce, tomato and tangy "Shack Sauce" to limited-edition items like a Korean barbecue burger.

General manager Tyler Hart said he's excited to be running the first Shake Shack in his hometown.

"I was born and raised in Lansing, so I'm happy to be bringing Shake Shack home for us here," he said.

Asked what he recommends a Shake Shack newbie try, Hart immediately suggested the shakes. Made from fresh custard, they're an improvement over similar offerings at other fast-casual burger joints, he said. Alongside classic vanilla, chocolate, strawberry and coffee shakes that are available year-round, current offerings include tiramisu, "chocolate blackout pudding" and spicy caramel, which is part of the same limited-edition Korean-inspired menu as the barbecue burger.

The location's proximity to MSU is ideal, Hart said, and not just because of the student traffic. Aiming to ground itself in local communities, Shake

The area's first Shake Shack location opens today (Feb. 18) in part of the former Rite Aid near the Frandor Shopping Center, becoming the first of several planned businesses to do so.



Leo V. Kaplan/City Pulse

Shake Shack, which opened today (Feb. 18), is the first of several businesses that will occupy the former Frandor Rite Aid.

Shack often partners with area organizations for fundraisers, and MSU is a perfect partner. One dollar from every sandwich sold on opening day will go to the MSU food bank, and the store is already in talks to arrange departmental fundraisers in the future.

Hart said a core value at Shake Shack is to provide restaurant-level service, meaning customers who dine in will have employees check in on them to offer refills and the like.

"We're going to give you that service that you won't find at a Culver's or McDonald's or Five Guys," Hart said.

The Lansing location is the chain's 10th in Michigan, with more to come. No follow-up locations in the Lansing area are currently in the works, but Hart said the state is a "key focus" for the company as it continues to expand.

## She Ate

from page 25

spired than Mediterranean. The chicken is marinated in curry and yogurt, flavors popular in Indian cuisine, and the taco "shells" are made of naan. They were fine, but there are multiple items on the menu that I would choose next before returning to the tacos. Chiefly, I want to try the duck sloppy Joe, the grilled cheese and the Cobb salad.

Now that I've figured out how to navigate the one-way streets between my house and Cask & Co. and where to park (behind the building), I'm confident I will have lots of future opportunities to give these a whirl.

## He Ate

from page 25

advantage of a rare (and unplanned) break from the littles in our lives. We arrived just ahead of Cask & Co.'s reservation window and enjoyed our first taste of the Winter Olympics on the screens as we sipped riesling (\$11, for her) and white sangria (\$10, for me). Both were refreshing and crisp.

We ordered the Brussels sprouts (\$15), which were charred to perfection and topped with cranberries, apple cider vinegar and sliced almonds. We really liked them but regretted not adding prosciutto for an additional \$2; that extra layer of savory smokiness would surely take this appetizer to the next level.

My much better half overestimated her heat toler-

ance when ordering the yummy crunch roll (\$15). The tempura crunch, avocado and cucumber were all on point, but the spicy crab had too much heat for her, so she removed most of it. The piece I tasted was delicious. Sadly, the side order of french fries (\$8) never arrived.

### Best bite

I have a new go-to sushi order. The surf and turf roll (\$22), filled with lump crab and asparagus and topped with beef carpaccio, a white citrus sauce, Korean barbecue sauce and sriracha, is worth every penny. Spicy, sweet, savory, bright — this roll has it all, and I want more.

# Slow cooking is a go-to option for busy home cooks

## From METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Slow cooking is appealing for a number of reasons. Busy home cooks know that slow cooking ensures a home-cooked meal is ready and waiting when they arrive home from work. And those accustomed to slow cooking know the aromas emanating from the Crock-Pot throughout the day can make anyone look forward to dinnertime.

Winter is an especially popular time to utilize a slow cooker, since they're widely associated with hot and hearty meals. Such is the case with this beef stew from Lines+Angles, which makes a great dinner on busy, cold nights.

### Beef stew

*Makes six servings*

- 2 pounds boneless stew beef
- 1 teaspoon coarse salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Two onions, peeled and diced
- One clove of garlic, peeled and finely chopped
- Three carrots, peeled, trimmed and thickly sliced
- Three ribs of celery, rinsed, trimmed and diced



- Six medium new or red bliss potatoes, rinsed and quartered
- Two bay leaves
- 2 teaspoons sweet paprika
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 cup red wine
- 2 cups vegetable or beef broth

1. Rinse the beef under cold running water and pat it completely dry with paper towels. Using a sharp knife, cut the beef into bite-sized pieces.

2. Combine the salt, pepper and flour. Place the cubed beef in a large, resealable Ziploc bag. Add the seasoned flour and shake to coat the beef thoroughly.

3. Heat the oil in a heavy-bottomed skillet over medium heat. Add the flour-coated beef and brown on all sides.

4. Place the browned beef in the slow cooker. Add the onions, garlic, carrots, celery, potatoes, bay leaves, paprika, Worcestershire sauce, wine and broth.

5. Cover and cook for one hour on high heat, then reduce the heat to low and continue cooking for six hours, or until the meat is tender and the vegetables are cooked through.

6. Remove the bay leaves and discard. Ladle the stew into individual serving bowls and serve.

Note: Cooking time may vary depending on the age and size of the slow cooker.



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**www.maximaids.net**

### DELTA CHARTER TOWNSHIP

7710 W. Saginaw Highway  
Lansing, Michigan 48917  
517-323-8520

### BOARD OF REVIEW 2026 MEETING DATES

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** to the taxpayers and property owners of the Charter Township of Delta, Eaton County, Michigan:

The Board of Review will meet in organizational session and is presented the 2026 Assessment Roll to review. This meeting is not for public protest of property assessments. The Board of Review of said Township will meet in Public Meeting Room "B" of the Delta Administration Building 7710 W. Saginaw Hwy. Lansing, MI 48917 on the following:

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 8 am

The Board of Review meets for the purpose of reviewing the 2026 Assessment Roll and hearing objections in the Public Meeting Room "B" of the Delta Administration Building located at 7710 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917 on the following:

Monday, March 9, 2025 9 am – 12 pm & 1 pm – 4 pm

Tuesday, March 10, 2025 2 pm – 5 pm & 6 pm – 9 pm

Appointments must be scheduled by calling the Assessor's office at (517) 323-8520.

Questions pertaining to valuation can also be answered prior to the meeting of the Board of Review by calling the Assessor's Office.

<u>Tentative Assessment Level</u>		<u>Estimated Equalization Multiplier</u>
Real Property		
Agricultural	50%	1.00000
Residential	50%	1.00000
Commercial	50%	1.00000
Industrial	50%	1.00000
Developmental	50%	1.00000
Personal Property	50%	1.00000

Individuals with disabilities attending Township meetings or hearings and requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Township Manager and ADA Coordinator Brian T. Reed by email at [manager@deltami.gov](mailto:manager@deltami.gov) or calling (517) 323-8590 to inform him of the date of the meeting or hearing that will be attended. Copies of minutes may be purchased or viewed in the Clerk's Office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA  
MARY R. CLARK, TOWNSHIP CLERK

CP#26-038

## TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

### TOP 5 DINERS

*Based on your votes in WKAR and City Pulse's 2025 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!*

#### Fleetwood Diner

Retro diner serving homemade breakfast, lunch and dinner items  
2211 S. Cedar St., Lansing  
(517) 267-7606  
[facebook.com/FleetwoodDiner](https://facebook.com/FleetwoodDiner)  
7 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday, Saturday  
7 a.m.-midnight Friday, Sunday

#### Good Truckin' Diner

Eclectic breakfast and dinner restaurant catering to both carnivores and herbivores  
1218 Turner St., Lansing

(517) 253-7961  
[facebook.com/goodtruckin](https://facebook.com/goodtruckin)  
7 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday-Wednesday  
7 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday

#### Soup Spoon Cafe

Colorful and cozy cafe offering a diverse menu of homestyle eats  
1419 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
(517) 316-2377  
[soupspooncafe.com](https://soupspooncafe.com)  
8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday

#### Sparty's Coney Island

Old-timey diner known for Coney dogs and other American staples  
300 N. Clippert St., Ste. 5, Lansing  
(517) 332-0111  
[spartysconeyisland.com](https://spartysconeyisland.com)  
7 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Saturday  
a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday

#### That New Place

Casual restaurant offering breakfast favorites and lunch fare  
(517) 242-1810  
[facebook.com/ThatNewPlace517](https://facebook.com/ThatNewPlace517)  
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## Help Cats and Dogs Find A Home

### INGHAM COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

TO ADOPT ONE OF THESE PETS, VISIT ICAS AT 600 BUHL ST., MASON, CALL (517) 676-8370 TO MAKE AN APPT. OR GO TO AC.INGHAM.ORG



Sponsored by Anne and Dale Schrader

*Eeyore*

is a goofy 7-month-old American bully/Staffordshire bull terrier mix who was part of an "oops" litter. He can be a little shy but he warms up quickly. He spent some time in a foster home where he was interested in cats but didn't chase, took corrections from the cranky senior dog in the home and is learning the difference between what can and cannot be chewed up. He's a pretty typical pitie baby who would do well in a home with a playful dog and someone with the time and patience to help him be the bestest boy!



Sponsored by Debbie and Mark Bathurst

*Finka*

is a sweet tabby who was found outside in the cold. Her finder was unable to find her owners, so they brought her to the shelter to find a new home. They said she did great with one of their cats but the other didn't like her. She did great as an indoor-only cat and should adjust easily to a new home. She was most likely someone's indoor-outdoor cat, so her new family should keep in mind that some cats are used to being outside when they choose and cannot adjust to life as an indoor-only cat. Potential adopters wishing to make one of them an indoor pet will need to be patient and remember there could be potential behavior issues because some cats never lose their desire to roam.



Sponsored by Kato and Mouse

*\$1.47 and her sister QR Code*

\$1.47 and her sister QR Code (not shown, in foster care) are sweet older puppies who have not had a lot of love in their short lives. They are getting braver every day but would benefit from quieter homes with patient people who will show them that the world isn't as scary as they think it is. They would benefit from a calm, gentle friend to help them settle in, but with a little TLC and lots of positive reinforcement, they are going to be amazing dogs for a couple of lucky families!

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Thanks to these ads, City Pulse has donated more than \$10,000 to the Ingham County Animal Shelter.

Please help. Email [mike@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:mike@lansingcitypulse.com) or call Mike Ellis at (517)999-6707

Ads appear in the 3rd issue of each month. The next deadline is March 13th.