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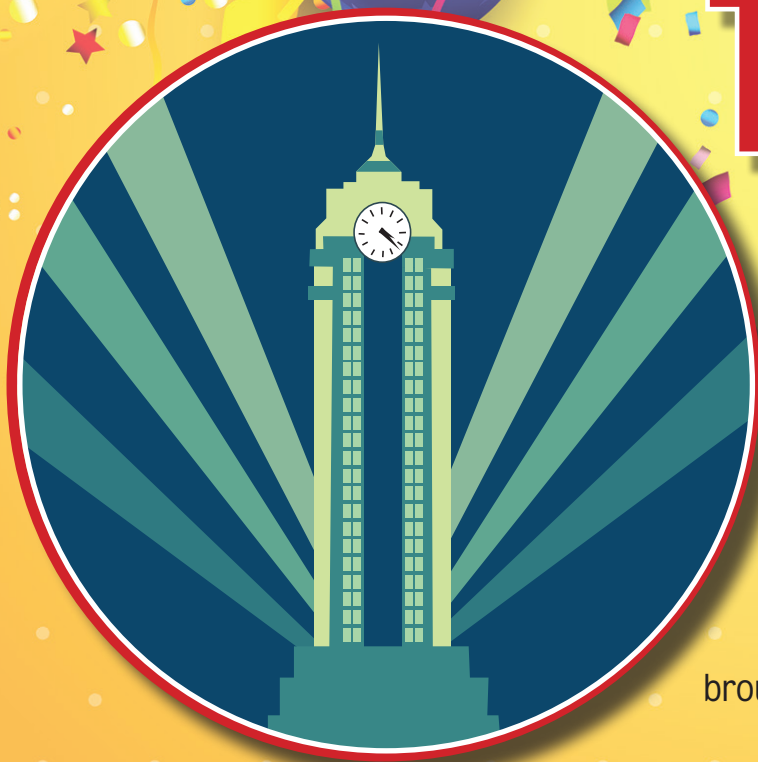
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CityPULSE



*Kimberly Laven*

SEE PAGE 15

**How to Use Twitter Without Getting ANGRY**

ONLY CLICK ON TRENDING TOPICS THAT INVOLVE K-POP OR WWE WRESTLING.

What's happening  
Trump tweet  
Shooting  
Tucker Carlson  
Anti-mask rally  
September Smackdown

BODY SLAMS... SO SOOTHING!

WHEN YOU SEE SOMEONE WHO'S FALLEN HOPELESSLY DOWN AN EPISTEMOLOGICAL RABBIT HOLE, LET THEM GO.

FAREWELL, OLD FRIEND!

MUTE!

IF THE "WHO TO FOLLOW" WIDGET KEEPS SUGGESTING PEOPLE YOU DESPISE, TRY BLOCKING THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE SCREEN ALTOGETHER.

Moby Dick

CONSIDER JUST STARING AT AN IMAGE OF THE TWITTER BIRD INSTEAD.

AHH... MUCH BETTER!

# CityPULSE

**VOL. 20  
ISSUE 6**

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Lansing mourns the victims of a housefire

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or email [citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com)  
**CLASSIFIEDS:** (517) 999-6704

**EDITOR AND PUBLISHER • Berl Schwartz**  
publisher@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5061

**ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR • Skyler Ashley**  
skyler@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5068

**EVENTS EDITOR/OFFICE MANAGER • Suzi Smith**  
suzi@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6704

**PRODUCTION • Abby Sumbler**  
production@lansingcitypulse.com  
(517) 999-5066

**STAFF WRITERS • Lawrence Cosentino**  
lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5065

**Kyle Kaminski • kyle@lansingcitypulse.com**  
(517) 999-6710

**SALES EXECUTIVE  
Lee Purdy • lee@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5064**

**Contributors:** Andy Balaskovitz, Justin Bilicki, Capital News Service, Bill Castanier, Ryan Claytor, Mary C. Cusack, Tom Helma, Gabrielle Lawrence Johnson, Terry Link, Kyle Melinn, Mark Nixon, Dawn Parker, Dennis Preston, Carrie Sampson, Nevin Speerbrecker, Rich Tupica, Ute Von Der Heyden, David Winkelstern, Paul Wozniak

**Delivery drivers:** Rick Stilgenbauer, Dave Fisher

**Interns:** Matthew Stine • [stinem47@gmail.com](mailto:stinem47@gmail.com)



Violinist Dixon plays Blue Mitten Farms

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New in Town: Sultan's Mediterranean

**PAGE 38**



**Cover Art**

By Kimberly Lavon

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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

### SO MANY HOAXES

#### 1. CLIMATE CHANGE IS OBVIOUSLY A HOAX

THE WEST COAST IS BURNING BECAUSE THEY DON'T SWEEP UP THEIR FOREST FLOORS!

I BET THOSE FIRES WERE SET BY BIDEN-SUPPORTING ANTIFA ANARCHISTS!



#### 2. THE CORONAVIRUS DEATH TOLL IS A HOAX

MOST OF THOSE PEOPLE DID NOT DIE FROM COVID-19! YOU SEE, THEY HAD PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS!

AND YOU KNOW HOW REPUBLICANS FEEL ABOUT THOSE!



#### 3. THE WOODWARD TAPES ARE A HOAX

IT'S ABSURD TO USE THE PRESIDENT'S OWN WORDS ON TAPE TO ACCUSE HIM OF KNOWINGLY DOWNPLAYING THE VIRUS!

HE WAS JUST BEING A CHEERLEADER!

IF THERE'S ONE THING HE'S KNOWN FOR, IT IS HIS RELENTLESS OPTIMISM!



#### 4. MAIL-IN VOTING IS A HOAX

IF EVERY MAIL-IN BALLOT IS COUNTED, THEN DONALD TRUMP WILL CLEARLY LOSE THE ELECTION!

ER, I THINK YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT IT IS A SYSTEM RIFE WITH FRAUD AND ABUSE!

GAH, I ALWAYS GET THAT MIXED UP!



#### 5. RACISM IS A HOAX

WHEN I DRIVE THROUGH CROWDS OF PROTESTERS IN A PICKUP TRUCK WITH A GIANT CONFEDERATE FLAG, I DON'T EVEN SEE COLOR!

IT'S NOT ABOUT RACE--IT'S ABOUT HERITAGE!

EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T ACTUALLY LIVE ANYWHERE NEAR THE SOUTH.



#### 6. OBJECTIVE REALITY IS THE BIGGEST HOAX OF ALL

AMERICANS ARE RUGGED INDIVIDUALISTS! WE SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS THE OLD FASHIONED WAY--

--BY DENYING THAT THEY EVEN EXIST!



ONE THING IS TRUE, THOUGH TRUMP IS FIGHTING A SECRET WAR AGAINST DEEP-STATE PEDOPHILES AND CANNIBALS!



TOM TOMORROW © 2020

# City Market shuffle

Last week Mayor Andy Schor announced his intent to open up a new chapter in the storied history of the Lansing City Market. Only it won't be a farmers market. Schor and the city's development partner, Detroit Rising Development, aim to transform the vacant structure on the downtown riverfront into a shuffleboard social club with food vendors, a bar and other community-oriented activities.

The plan was initially met with reactions ranging from guffaws and skepticism to curiosity and excitement. Shuffleboard? Really? Long viewed as a popular recreational pastime at Florida retirement communities, shuffleboard is evidently gaining traction with an entirely new and much younger demographic. St. Petersburg, Florida, is home to an historic shuffleboard club that reportedly attracts people of all ages, including trendy hipsters and young families. In recent years shuffleboard clubs have opened in New York City and Chicago, the latter featuring rotating food trucks and bars serving tropical-themed adult beverages. Shuffleboard, it seems, is actually a thing.

It's an intriguing concept that could well be a good fit for Lansing's moribund former city market building. As described by the city and developers, the combination of family-friendly recreation, food and alcohol may well be the highest and best use for the property. It has a good chance to draw more people to the downtown riverfront and even create a community of sorts for a new generation of shuffleboard aficionados.

A potential sticking point for the deal is found in the terms Mayor Schor negotiated with the developers. Under the agreement, which the City Council will be asked to approve or reject, the city's annual rental income will start out at just \$24,000 per year, potentially increasing to \$64,000 annually when the deal is fully realized 40 years down the road. By comparison, the now defunct Waterfront Bar & Grill paid the city more than \$70,000 annually for less than half of the 11,000-square-foot building. Lansing officials say the deal will actually save the city money by eliminating the need to subsidize the facility to the tune of \$80,000 a year. The agreement also references the developers' intent to seek a brown-field incentive, which may raise a few hackles when the Council takes up the matter.

The city will also allocate 25 parking spaces to the facility with additional spaces available for a fee.



## The CP Edit

### Opinion

Convenient parking near the former city market building has always been a sticky wicket for city planners and customers. When it is financially feasible, we think it makes sense to build a single-level parking deck on top of one or both of the surface lots immediately behind the Lansing Center. A parking deck would provide hundreds of covered spaces that would benefit not only the new shuffleboard venture, but also the wildly popular riverfront kayaking business and other amenities in the newly enhanced Rotary Park. To tie it all together, the city should reengineer the landscape and walkways between the front entrance of the market building, the Lansing Center and the riverbank for ease of access and walkability.

We won't belabor the convoluted and controversial history of the Lansing City Market. Our focus is looking forward, but in our hearts we would still support a plan to return the facility to its historic roots as a farmers market. We acknowledge the unavoidable reality that such a venture would require a substantial subsidy

from the city to make it work, which is unlikely in light of the looming decimation of the city budget due to the COVID pandemic. While it's not a new idea, we still believe the city could further enhance the downtown riverfront — and scratch the itch of those who want to see a farmers market in the heart of the city — by hosting outdoor farmers markets fashioned after the successful events held twice each summer on the grounds of the State Capitol. The riverfront promenade, the City Market plaza and the outdoor concourse adjacent to the Lansing Center could easily be transformed into a farmers market.

It still confounds us that Michigan's capital city has been incapable of creating and sustaining a viable farmers market in the downtown core. Old-timers point nostalgically to the historic City Market that thrived during the downtown's heyday in the '50s and '60s. Yet the market for fresh produce was changing long before the old market building was finally demolished, thanks to the rise of big box retailers with vast produce sections and the proliferation of neighborhood farm markets that serve the same fresh produce-seeking customer base. Add to the mix the uncomfortable truth that no one — neither the city nor the market's former vendors — made a serious commitment to making it work. The new structure failed as a farmers market because it was more of the same, just in fancier digs.

The rule for successful urban farmers markets appears to be go big or go home. In Flint, more than \$30 million in public and private investment was poured into a Health and Wellness Corridor that included 40,000 square feet for the Flint Farmers' Market and an additional 30,000 square feet of warehouse space. The warehouse alone is three times larger than the Lansing City Market building. The Flint market also features more than 50 vendors offering barbeque, sushi, chocolate and more. The operating costs for the market are heavily subsidized, including a \$150,000 annual contribution from the Mott Foundation.

Sadly, we think the opportunity to build and sustain an urban city market in Lansing comparable to the one in Flint has passed. Based on what we know thus far, we're happy to embrace the shuffleboard social club concept as the next best idea and encourage City Council to approve the deal.

Send letters to the editor on this editorial or any other topic to [letters@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:letters@lansingcitypulse.com).

Please limit them to 250 words

# Reich, Jones square off in Eaton Co. sheriff's race

On Nov. 3 voters in Eaton County will choose between Sheriff Tom Reich, a two-term incumbent, and former state Sen. Rick Jones, who was sheriff for four years before being elected to the state Legislature. Each has more than three decades of experience in law enforcement. They sat down on Zoom together for a debate moderated by City Pulse editor and publisher Berl Schwartz, which is available at [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com).

## OPINION

Reich, a Democrat, and Jones, a Republican, both declined to say whom they support for president — a sidestep nod to the purpleness of Eaton County, which Donald Trump carried in 2016 yet seven of its eight commissioners are Democrats.

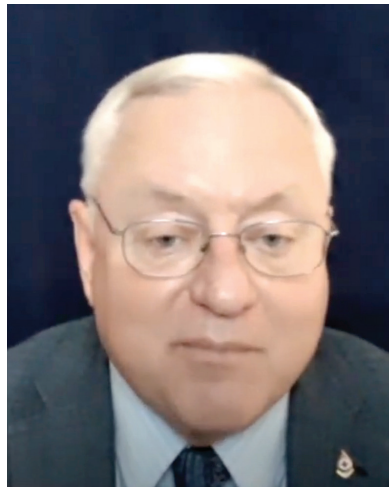
Here are their opening statements from their Zoom debate, when Jones went first:

### Rick Jones

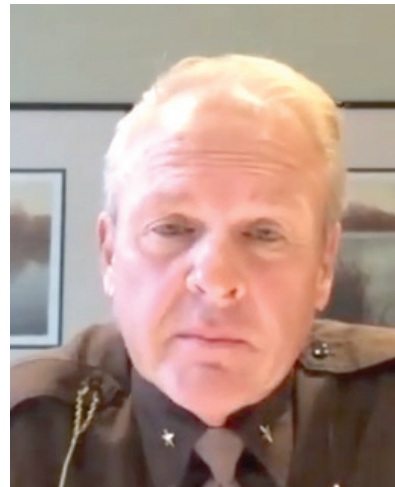
I'm a career cop. I started at 21 years old as a deputy, and I held every position to the Sheriff's Department, including the jail administrator before I finally became sheriff. Why am I running? Many reasons. I've seen things going wrong at Eaton County Sheriff's Department and I'd like to see changes. For example, we had a deputy who was on a routine traffic stop who snapped. He lost his temper. He brutally, brutally assaulted a citizen, grabbing him by the neck and the head, made an arrest, through him in jail, wrote a false police report. And why was the citizen exonerated? Only because he left a cell phone recording on the dash and it showed that he didn't do a thing, not a thing. The deputy simply snapped. So, what happened? The sheriff called him in, he was allowed to resign, but he never sent a report to the prosecutor.

I have confirmed this. He never requested criminal action against the deputy. And there should have been, because he let him resign. He then went to another department. Sheriff Reich did not send a video to the new employer. And he had further assaulted behavior at the other department. Sheriff Reich had a deputy accused of rape, a horrible crime. What should have occurred is he should have immediately been put on administrative leave until it was determined that he was innocent or guilty.

This didn't happen. That's not normal police procedure. And he had a deputy who was addicted to opiates, very serious. He knew about this and he told the media, "Yeah, I knew about it for about four months." Why wasn't he taken off the road? Why was he left on the road with a gun and a badge? Why wasn't he immediately called in and said, "You have a problem, and we'd like you to take a drug test, and we will put you in rehab, but we're not going to



Jones



Reich

leave you out on the road with an addiction." That didn't happen. I'm urging you to make a change this November, return Rick Jones as your sheriff.

### Tom Reich

In 2012, I was voted in as sheriff of Eaton County. I was reelected in 2016 as the sheriff of Eaton County. Throughout my eight years career as sheriff, we've done many things. Prior to me being sheriff, I was 25 years old and I retired out of the Ingham County Sheriff's Department, where I held every position up to Detective Lieutenant. From there, I worked for the state of Michigan for 12 years as a director for Bureau of State Lottery. Then I ran for sheriff, because I'd seen all the problems that Eaton County had, and I wanted to make a difference. So, from there, I ran in and, like I said, for eight years, I've done a lot of things here in Eaton County that are good.

I don't have the time to touch base on the false information Mr. Jones is saying. I urge people to go to my Facebook to look at my Fact Check Fridays, where I have already put in there the facts of these cases that Mr. Jones is referring to on these deputies. It's pretty dangerous going to those accusations when he doesn't have the facts, he does not have the facts. There's a lot of things that go into play in that. But in my 33 years of law enforcement experience, I've done a lot of accomplishments. Mandatory deescalation training for all of our deputies since 2015. I later mandated every deputy receive additional training in escalation prevention and deescalation training. I've mandated a separate course on fair and impartial policing. Since I implemented these programs long before the current world events and recent government mandates, my deputies are now leaders in using their knowledge and communication skills, we have had much success in

preventing the escalation of situations and deescalation of events on a daily basis.

I've mandated every deputy wear body-worn cameras since 2015. I mandated autism training. I have mandated cultural diversity training. In 2017, Eaton County's Sheriff's Department was instrumental in the development of our Lansing Region Crisis Intervention Team Training.

I'd also like to point out, with all the progress that Eaton County

Sheriff's Office have made and the changes I've made for the good of the people of Eaton County, I have been selected the Michigan Sheriff of the Year by the Michigan Sheriff's Association.

**Both candidates were asked if they think systemic racism is a problem in policing today or if it's just "bad apples" causing the problems?**

**Jones:** Well, I can tell you that I have seen some horrible examples in the media. Kneeling on a man's neck, I was taught not to do that in the '70s. It's simply something that's not done. I think we have a few bad apples out there that need to be removed. I think the vast majority of the police officers want to serve and protect and, unfortunately, they need the proper leadership to make sure that's what they're doing.

**Reich:** I have recognized that every department goes through a issue with a bad deputy or police officer. Eaton County was one of them. We've had some bad deputies that I have removed from that position. Other departments have had the same thing, whether it's racial or not, sure, there are some deputies and I'm sure some officers that are racist. What we've seen with this police officer putting his knee on someone's neck and eventually killing this individual was horrific, and that person should be charged with murder. This racial thing, it kind of hits home to me. I have two granddaughters who are biracial and it saddens me what they go through weekly, whether they're in school or not. I want my deputies to be treated and treat others the same as I want my grandbabies to be treated.

Yes, there needs to be more cultural diversity training. I want new programs developed by the experts where we can implement those at the Eaton County Sheriff's Office. So, I look forward to these changes in the next four years.

# REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By KYLE KAMINSKI

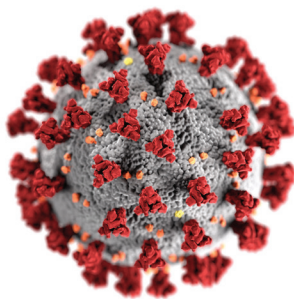


## Shuffleboard in store for City Market

A lease agreement pending between the city of Lansing and the Detroit Rising Development Group aims to transform the old Lansing City Market Building into the Lansing Shuffleboard and Social Club by 2022, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor announced. Plans include six or more food vendors, a bar, live entertainment and community space. The developer will pay a maximum of \$24,000 a year, far less than the last tenant, Waterfront Bar & Grill, paid (\$72,000 annually) for a third of the space, but the city said it's justified by an \$80,000 a year savings in maintenance that the developer will take over. Portions of the \$3.2 million development costs would be funded with tax-increment financing through a Brownfield Redevelopment plan. City Council must approve.

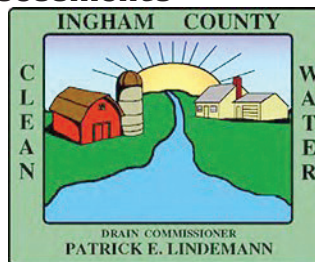
## COVID-19 cases skyrocket in East Lansing

Officials at the Ingham County Health Department are still scrambling to control a recent spike in COVID-19 cases tied largely to ongoing house parties near Michigan State University. (See story, P. 8). As of this week, more than 550 cases have been tied to students living near campus in East Lansing. The recent uptick means Ingham County is now tracking the highest daily case rate in Michigan, and it's getting worse. Ingham County Health Office Linda Vail tallied 980 cases in Ingham County — including more than 550 at MSU — since Sept. 1. That's almost 40% of the cases detected since March in just two weeks. At MSU, more than 15% of all tests processed in the last two weeks have been positive. In total, Michigan has had more than 112,000 COVID-19 cases and 6,600 deaths, including more than 3,600 cases and 66 deaths in Greater Lansing.



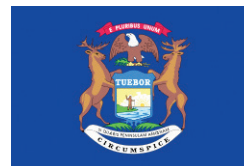
## Lansing taxpayers face extra \$12M in assessments

The Lansing City Council moved closer this week to issuing \$12 million in tax assessments to residents as soon as this winter to cover about two-thirds the cost of the Ingham County drain commissioner's \$34.8 million Montgomery Drain reconstruction project. About half of Lansing's share of the regional project is set to be covered by every taxpaying property owner in the city. Those near the project will pay the other half, plus the citywide tax. That equates to an average cost over 30 years of \$6,681 for residential properties without parking lots and \$243,445 for commercial properties. It also means the average taxpaying property owner would pay an added .26 mills on their winter property taxes — more if near the project. A public hearing is scheduled Oct. 12.



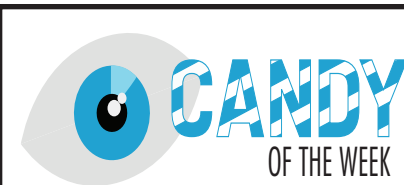
## Guns are still allowed at Capitol

A board that oversees Michigan's Capitol building on Monday put off making a final decision about whether to ban guns there, more than four months after armed protesters opposed to the governor's coronavirus shutdowns entered the building. The Michigan State Capitol Commission voted against two motions to ban all long guns and open carry of any gun. Commissioners want to meet with lawmakers to discuss funding for enforcement before making a final decision. Law enforcement could still carry weapons.



## City Rescue Mission expanding

Additional space could be available soon for those struggling with homelessness as the City Rescue Mission of Lansing charts expansion along the 600 block of Michigan Avenue. Officials told City Pulse last week about plans to expand the mission's existing men's shelter into the two buildings to the west, across the street from the Capital City Market grocery store, hotel and apartments under construction in Lansing's Stadium District. The Rescue Mission purchased a vacant law office at 605 E. Michigan Ave. (and the empty loft apartments above it) last month. Plans continue to buy a vacant commercial building at 603 E. Michigan. Renovations could take a few years.



## H&H Mobil 1500 Haslett Road East Lansing

This month's Eye Candy is H&H Mobil at the corner of Hagadorn and Haslett roads in East Lansing. It is part of the marvelous mundane — buildings that transcend their utility to also be pleasing to the eye. H&H Mobil achieves this by fitting itself into its residential surroundings. The tidy little brick building houses a convenience store, or "snack shop," and is offset by a full-service garage for auto repair. The property owners plant flowers in the spring, hang an oversized evergreen wreath in the winter, and wrap the trees along Haslett Road with twinkling lights. What truly sets the building apart is its architecture, particularly its cupola (the small white tower on the roof seen in the photo). Cupolas typically have three parts, as this one does: a base, vents or louvers, and the cap. Some historians trace the origins of the cupola to the eighth century; they became popular in the United States in the 1800s. At that time, one of the primary purposes was to add ventilation to the barn or carriage house. This look was adopted in the 1960s for gas stations in residential areas, distinguishing them from the futuristic styles that were seen alongside highways.

— **CARRIE SAMPSON**

"Eye Candy of the Week" is our look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail [eye@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call Berl Schwartz at 999-5061.

# MSU's new slogan: 'Together we kill'

## Students make Ingham County worst in state for COVID-19

A recent spike in COVID-19 cases tied almost exclusively to parties near Michigan State University has forced local health officials into crisis mode as Ingham County quickly becomes the top coronavirus hotspot in Michigan, according to data tracked by state officials.

"It's a crisis at this point. We were tracking some of the best numbers in the state. Now, we have the worst," said Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail. "This is the biggest spike we've seen. If you look at the charts, it's like nothing even happened in March, April or May. It's just astonishing, just startling."

Since March, Ingham County has edged down its average caseload to seven or eight new COVID-19 cases each day — a standardized rate of about 25 daily cases per million residents. Over the last two weeks, however, that rate has skyrocketed eightfold to about 200 daily cases per million residents — a new two-week countywide average of about 60 new cases per day.

The recent uptick, which Vail said is largely attributed to off-campus parties in East Lansing, means Ingham County, as of last week, is now tracking the highest daily case rate in Michigan.

It's also getting worse. Vail tallied 980 cases in Ingham County — including more than 550 now at MSU — since Sept. 1. That's almost 40% of the cases detected since March in just two weeks. And on campus, more than 15% of tests in the last two weeks have come back positive.

"I don't have the words to describe the severity of what's happening right now," Vail added.

"This trend has been going up for weeks, but I would not have predicted it would be this bad."

So how did we get here?

About two weeks before the fall semester, MSU officials followed suit with other universities nationwide and announced a shift to virtual instruction — shuttering most residential halls and discouraging more than 10,000 of its students from coming back to East Lansing this fall.

But for most students, the news arrived far too late to make much of a difference.

Vail said most students have been



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Twenty-eight fraternities, sororities and rental houses in East Lansing are under mandatory quarantine in an effort to stem the growth of COVID-19 cases since MSU students returned for the fall semester.

"It's a crisis at this point. We were tracking some of the best numbers in the state. Now, we have the worst. This is the biggest spike we've seen. If you look at the charts, it's like nothing even happened in March, April or May. It's just astonishing, just startling."

**Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail**



trapped in long-term lease agreements for months, leaving them little if no opportunity to find other arrangements should they want to leave the city. Others simply wanted to stay in East Lansing. Collegetown is still Collegetown, even without college.

The expectation of house parties — and the actual parties that followed in recent weeks — triggered several preventative measures from both Ingham County and the city of East Lansing.

Outdoor gatherings were restricted to 25 people across most of the city. Indoor gatherings, though much more difficult to detect, were limited to 10 people. Face masks were also mandat-

ed both indoors and out across MSU's campus and much of downtown East Lansing.

The Ingham County Board of Commissioners also recently pushed forward a resolution that would ramp up civil fines to up to \$1,000 for violations of pandemic-related health department orders — including restrictions on indoor and outdoor gatherings and face mask requirements.

Still, cases climbed even as students pushed their parties onto lawns, porches and patios.

Over last weekend and 300 cases later, Vail issued a "strong recommen-

ation" that all MSU students living near campus immediately quarantine themselves to contain community spread.

That recommendation remains in effect through Sept. 26. And while not an emergency order, Vail had warned that more stringent and mandatory restrictions could be en route. MSU officials are also weighing suspensions for several allegedly rule-breaking students.

"None of it is perfect. We know that. We just keep putting in additional measures on top of additional measures. If those don't work, we'll do more," Vail said. "It's like OK: What do we do next? We're starting to run out of tools in the toolbox. What we need is some real cooperation."

By Monday, those enhanced restrictions couldn't wait. Mandatory quarantines were necessary.

Several dozen people living in 28 large rental homes across East Lansing — including 21 fraternity and sorority houses — must now remain in quarantine through Sept. 28, Vail said. Each of them involves a confirmed COVID-19 case or viral exposure among those living inside.

"We were doing so well. Our cases were low. This has to stop," Vail added. "It's going to put the entire community at risk. These students might think they're just infecting each other, but eventually it leaves that circle, starts to spread and soon the entire community feels an impact."

During quarantine, guests cannot enter those homes unless providing an essential service. Residents must also remain inside unless working an essential job, seeking medical care or purchasing supplies essential to health and safety that cannot otherwise be delivered.

In accordance with state law, a willful violation of the order could be punishable by a misdemeanor, a six-month stint in the Ingham County jail and a fine of up to \$200. And East Lansing Police can also physically arrest those caught violating the recent quarantine mandate.

"I can't deny people things that sustain their lives," Vail added. "They're able to go out and get medication, food, go to doctor's appointments, go to critical jobs if they need work to survive. We're hoping that we have



# MSU

from page 8

some adults in the house that are going to help us with that, because if a new case erupts in these houses, all that's going to do is extend the quarantine."

Those caught violating the quarantine either by local cops or health officials will face prosecution, Vail warned. Health officials also plan to continuously add to the list of 30 properties as necessary. If that doesn't work, additional crowd control restrictions could be near.

"The only thing I can think to do next is restrict gathering sizes even further," Vail said.

Meanwhile, misinformation is fierce, Vail explained. Younger patients are statistically less likely to face severe health complications from COVID-19. And without more context, that data is leading many students to recklessly disregard the dangers of social gatherings, she added.

The MSU Interfraternity Council, for example, voted last month against a ban on parties that could attract crowds. The majority of those who voted against it are now in mandatory quarantine.

"They may think they're just infecting each other, but eventually it leaves that circle, starts to spread in the community and older people and those with health complications will die," Vail said. "Any of these young people could also have some serious medical consequences and they're being very nonchalant about it, almost to the extent of intentionally trying to get infected."

So what's the outlook? Vail doesn't see much silver lining. She's just focused on curbing an outbreak already certain to translate to more deaths by October and November. Only three people were hospitalized with COVID-19 this week, but she expects a winter surge.

"Ultimately, this will hop through the community until we have people of color, elderly people and people with serious health conditions who get sick and die. If students don't see that happening, it can be hard to get the message through to them," Vail said. "We need to get that out there. People have long needed to take this seriously. Wear masks. Protect yourselves. Be aware."

— KYLE KAMINSKI

## WORST COUNTIES IN MICHIGAN FOR COVID-19

(Ranked by daily cases per million residents as of 1/9/20)

County	CPM	Average Daily Cases
1. Ingham County	199	57.7
2. Houghton County	196	7.1
3. Mecosta County	142	6.1
4. Keweenaw County	134	0.3
5. Ottawa County	116	32.9
6. Iron County	102	1.1
7. Branch County	92	4.0
8. Kalamazoo County	88	23.1
9. Delta County	79	2.9
10. Mackinac County	79	0.9

Source: State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

## EAST LANSING PROPERTIES UNDER MANDATORY QUARANTINE

- 453 Abbott Rd. (Theta Chi)
- 532 Abbott Rd.
- 544 Abbott Rd.
- 505 Albert Ave.
- 403 Ann St.
- 532 Ann St.
- 217 Burcham Dr.
- 220 Cedar St. (Beta Theta Pi)
- 230 Cedar St. (Beta Theta Pi)
- 301 Charles St. (Pi Kappa Alpha)
- 128 Collingwood Dr. (Alpha Sigma Phi)
- 626 Cowley Ave. (Phi Delta Theta)
- 729 E. Grand River Ave. (Phi Gamma Delta)
- 1148 E. Grand River Ave. (Delta Kappa Epsilon)
- 1218 E. Grand River Ave. (Delta Sigma Phi)
- 810 W. Grand River Ave. (Psi Upsilon)
- 342 N. Harrison Rd. (Sigma Alpha Epsilon)
- 365 N. Harrison Rd. (Delta Gamma)
- 332 M.A.C. Ave.
- 427 M.A.C. Ave. (Sigma Delta Tau)
- 518 M.A.C. Ave. (Sigma Kappa)
- 605 M.A.C. Ave. (Kappa Kappa Gamma)
- 616 M.A.C. Ave. (Alpha Phi)
- 639 M.A.C. Ave. (Zeta Tau Alpha)
- 258 Michigan Ave. (Gamma Phi Beta)
- 110 Oakhill Ave. (Sigma Nu)
- 303 Oakhill Ave. (Kappa Alpha Theta)
- 101 Woodmere Ave. (Phi Kappa Psi)

Source: Ingham County Health Department

My name is **Robin Lea Laurain** and I am asking you to **Vote Green** for Michigan's Education Slate.



I am the Co-Chair of the Green Party of Michigan and I am the dual candidate for the Green Party of Michigan and the Socialist Party of Michigan.

Visit us at [michgreenparty.org](http://michgreenparty.org). Check out all our Green Candidates! #michiangreensunited

Paid for by the Trust Robin Laurain 2020 Committee  
4106 Bridgeport St., Lansing, MI 48911.



**FOR 30th CIRCUIT COURT**  
[kwasnikforkids.com](http://kwasnikforkids.com)

- ✓ 15 years as Ingham County Assistant Prosecutor (special victims and family court)



- ✓ 2016 recipient of Civilian Citations from the Lansing Police Department for his work fighting child abuse
- ✓ Graduate of MSU and MSU Law School
- ✓ Youth coach, husband, and father

*Having worked with Steve Kwasnik as a practicing attorney, I have known him to be prepared, knowledgeable, open minded and fair. Combine these qualities with his unmatched years of experience, there is no doubt that Steve will serve the people and families well as your next Ingham County Circuit Court Judge.*

— JULIE O'NEILL,  
56-A District Court Judge

*To support the candidate that's fighting for families, vote for Steve Kwasnik for Ingham County Circuit Court Judge by Absentee Ballot, or at the polls on November 3rd!*

PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT STEVE KWASNIK FOR 30TH CIRCUIT JUDGE  
1302 Fair Oaks Ct., East Lansing, MI 48823

# From the ashes: Lives lost in house fires are mourned

## Former mayor offers support after Elizabeth Street tragedy

More than 100 people, including former Mayor Virg Bernero, gathered at Evergreen Cemetery Monday morning for the funeral services of a 53-year-old grandmother and her two grandchildren after they were killed in a house fire on Lansing's east side.

"Aston and Jesse were good kids who loved their grandma and their family," Bernero said. "If they were anything like me as a kid, I'm sure they were not perfect angels. But they are now."

Melissa Westen, 53, and two of her grandchildren, Jesse Ja'Meer-Archie Kline IV, 4, and Aston Zy-Aire Griffin, 8, were found dead inside a house along Elizabeth Street on the east side of Lansing after firefighters arrived shortly before midnight Sept. 3.

Firefighters are reportedly still investigating the cause of the fire, which is believed to be accidental, and have ruled out arson.

"Lansing is wrapping its love around you, now and well into the future. We love you, we support you, we pray God's grace and light will shine upon you and carry you through this difficult time, as though on the wings of eagles," Bernero said. "All of Lansing grieves with you. May you feel God's grace and the love of this incredible community in very real ways during this difficult time."

Sympathy cards were read aloud, friends shared fond memories and family joined Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Pastor Kevin Brown in prayer and song to mourn

**To contribute to the family, you may send checks and money orders made out to St. Vincent de Paul Society. The address is St. Vincent Thrift Store, 1020 S. Washington Ave., Lansing 48910. Put "For Melissa Westen family" in the memo field. You may also drop off cash contributions there.**



Jesse



Aston



Westen



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Friends and family gathered at Evergreen Cemetery Monday for the funeral and burial of a grandmother and two of her grandchildren who died in a house fire Sept. 3.



Courtesy

Three brothers in the Zavala family were lost to a fire on New York Avenue in Lansing on Oct. 30 last year. From left: Ramiro, 5; Manolo, 3; and Juan, 8. Their grandmother plans to demolish the house and create a memorial garden.



Berl Schwartz/City Pulse

Until recently, stuffed animals were on the steps of the burned-out house on New York Avenue.

## Grandmother to demolish home for family tribute to 3 lost kids

Shelly Palen can still smell burnt wood from her home on New York Avenue in Lansing.

Last October, Palen was jarred awake in the early morning to see flames glowing outside her bedroom window. She could hear a helpless pounding and shouting coming from next door. Inside, her young grandchildren were trying to escape from a fire quickly engulfing the house.



Palen

The Lansing Fire Department extinguished the blaze in minutes and later declared the cause of as accidental, likely tied to electrical issues. But they were moments too late. Three of Palen's grandkids — and the family dog — were found dead inside.

"It looked like my whole driveway was lit up," Palen remembered. "I looked out and saw the whole front of

the house was on fire. My stepdaughter and her boyfriend were trying to break inside. By the time they brought out my last grandson from the fire, he was unrecognizable."

The boys' mother, her fiancé and two other young children escaped with injuries. Eight-year-old Juan Zavala, 5-year-old Ramiro Zavala and 3-year-old Manolo Zavala never made it out.

Assistant Fire Chief Michael Tobin told reporters that the boys apparently tried to escape — they were found near doors and windows — but none had a heartbeat by the time they were found. Tobin also told reporters the tragedy of the fire was something that would stick with him for life.

And the heavily damaged home still stands next door to Palen as a grim reminder of tragedy. An array of deflated balloons and dirty stuffed animals are still keeping watch over the front porch. The windows have since been boarded up. Trash has been steadily piling up in the front yard.

"When I heard the house was going to be rebuilt, I thought there was just no way I could see another family living there knowing everything we went through that night," Palen explained.

Palen, after negotiating with her landlord, finally bought the house in July. Her plans: Demolish the charred embers and replace it with a memorial for her three grandsons. She envisions a large boulder with a plaque and some photos — a place to pay tribute to lives lost far too soon.

"We'd like to see if we can get someone to donate a big rock," Palen said. "I'd like to put some mulch around it and add their pictures and get something engraved on it to remember them — really anything other than looking at this house and having to relive

# Westen

from page 9

the recent loss. Several doves were released to help guide Westen and her grandchildren to the afterlife.

“There’s nothing that justifies it. There’s nothing that makes sense when we talk about the transition from life to death. We don’t understand why, and the truth is, much of it we cannot control, but there are some things we can control,” Brown said before reading from the Bible.

Westen will be remembered for her beautiful smile and positive attitude. She also loved her family, music, dancing, travel and was known for an

encyclopedic knowledge of movie trivia. She’s survived by her partner and six grandchildren — many of whom attended the funeral.

Griffin would have started third grade this year at Dwight Rich School of the Arts. Kline was eager to start preschool at Capital Area Community Services’ Head Start program. Both were remembered for their active, inquisitive nature and interest in superheroes and serial killers.

“No matter what happens tomorrow, know you’re better off with God on your side,” Brown said.

The boys enjoyed spending time with their grandmother, watching YouTube videos, listening to music and playing with their little brother. They are survived by their parents and plenty of family.

“Just as you’ve touched them, and helped mold them over the years, they’ve touched you, and changed you fundamentally and forever,” Bernero added. “It is never easy to say goodbye, all the more so with ones so young. So, don’t say it. Keep their memories alive. Let their spirit, their energy and their passion live through you, here on earth. Be a shining light in their honor.”

— KYLE KAMINSKI



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For our Families.  
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# Palen

from page 9

this memory every morning.”

Palen said she cashed in her 401k to buy the crumbling home from her landlord, but it was a price she was willing to pay to bring some much-needed closure to both her and her family. She’s waiting for the city to approve demolition permits.

“It’s so hard looking at this house every day. It’s like having flashbacks. I can still smell the fire,” Palen said. “I’m ready to be able to demolish it and replace it with something in their memory.”

In the wake of the fire, family and friends also pitched in more than \$40,000 through an online fundraiser to help the family after their devastating loss. Palen said the money helped the boys’ mother, Alyssa Wallace, move into a new house and to replace furniture and other essentials.

“She’s trying to start over, but it’s still tough. They’re still not doing all that great,” Palen added.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER**

**In the Matter of:  
Cook and Thorburn Drain (Grand Meadows Branch)**

**NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DETERMINATION**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** to you as a person liable for an assessment that the Board of Determination, composed of John Leonard, Cheryl Risner, Dennis Williams, and Jennie Nerkowski (Alternate), will meet on **Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.** to hear all interested persons and evidence and to determine whether the actions prayed for in a Petition dated June 26, 2020 for the cleaning out, relocating, widening, deepening, straightening, tiling, extending, improving, relocating along a highway, providing structures or mechanical devices that will properly purify or improve the flow of a drain, or pumping equipment to assist or relieve the flow of a drain, adding lands to or deleting lands from the existing drainage district, and adding branches, extensions, enlargements, and/or relief drains are necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare of Delhi Charter Township, County of Ingham, State of Michigan, in accordance with Sections 72 and 191 of Act No. 40, PA 1956.

Please take notice that the meeting will be conducted following the guidelines of Michigan Governor’s Executive Order 154, and all other Executive Orders that may be applicable at the time of the meeting. Due to the requirements in the Executive Orders, the meeting cannot be held in person, and will be held by remote electronic access. For those seeking to participate through online video conferencing, participants can access the electronic meeting through the following Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87885162860>. The public may also participate by calling the following toll-free number: 1-833-548-0276 and entering Meeting ID: 878 8516 2860.

Members of the public will only be able to speak during the public comment portions of the meeting. To provide for orderly public participation, a person wishing to speak must state their name and request to be recognized by the Board. The Board of Determination will recognize all persons wishing to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the Ingham County Drain Commissioner. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Ingham County Drain Commissioner at the number noted below (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 711 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. Minutes of the meeting will be on file in the following office: Ingham County Drain Commissioner’s Office, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854.

**YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED** that persons aggrieved by the decisions of the Board of Determination may seek judicial review in the Circuit Court for the County of Ingham within ten (10) days of the determination. If the actions prayed for in the Petition are determined to be necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare, a special assessment may be levied against properties that benefit from the project. A landowner of or party of interest to property to be assessed, or their agent, may appear in person to comment on the necessity of the project.

Dated: September 9, 2020

Patrick E. Lindemann  
Ingham County Drain Commissioner  
Phone: (517) 676-8395

**#20-211**

# Voter enthusiasm easy to spot on the open road in Michigan

Nailed to a huge tree outside a house somewhere between Eagle and Portland, I ran across a first-of-its-kind yard sign reading, “MEDIA IS THE VIRUS.”



KYLE MELINN

Below it, was stapled this sign: “KEEP BIDEN IN THE BASEMENT 2020.” Yet, another read, “TRUMP WINS IN 2020.”

## OPINION

It was here, about 20 miles into my five-day, 500-mile bicycle journey from Lansing to Mackinaw City, that the political landscape I’d only passively noticed before it came into focus.

People are displaying A LOT of political stuff this year. Like, really, a lot.

Do you ever remember anyone flying a flag promoting a political candidate?

No. Because it’s never happened before. There weren’t flags for Bill Clinton in ‘92 or George W. Bush in ‘00. Barack Obama had his iconic “Hope” picture from ‘08. But nobody flew flags.

Last week, I saw dozens of homeowners — maybe even 100, I honestly lost count — from Wacousta to Bliss flying Donald Trump flags. Sometimes, more than one. Sometimes above American flags.

Forget the official stuff, other property owners made their own signs. Or spray-painted pro-Trump messages on their vehicles. The more rural the home, the further north I biked, the more likely I was to see the Trump flag.

Trump didn’t have the monopoly. Joe Biden had plenty of his lawn-ornament pride, too. Much more than I ever saw in 2016 for Hillary Clinton.

It took me about a half mile before I figured out what the “BYEDON 2020” sign with the blond swoosh meant. (Hey, I was at mile 105 on my third day, cut me some slack.) The closer I biked to suburban or urban areas, the more I saw them.

That didn’t surprise me. What did surprise me was how many pro-Biden, anti-Trump signs I saw in West Michigan, along Lakeshore Drive between Holland and Grand Haven, for example. Wasn’t this supposed to be a Republican haven?

And, yet, I saw just as many signs for seemingly token Democratic MI-2 candidate Bryan Berghoef as I did for

incumbent U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga, R-Zeeland.

When I stopped at my buddy’s house outside of Free Soil, WZZM-13 seemingly ran the same commercials for John James, Gary Peters and Democratic MI-3 candidate Hillary Scholten over and over and over. Serious money being spent for a Democratic congressional candidate in West Michigan? Really?

Oh, the National Rifle Association had an anti-Biden ad running during the local news segment, too.

Outside a stretch of cabins north of Platte Lake, every other yard had a sign posted out front. The support seemed to alternate back and forth like an IQ Test pattern — Pro-Trump, pro-Biden, anti-Biden, anti-Trump, pro-Trump, pro-Biden ...

Folks are fired up about this election and not in some traditional way. Nobody is wearing cute little campaign buttons. Trump has turned his brand of Trump Towers or Trump Steaks or Trump Vodka into being a Trump American — basically, “I am what I am and if you don’t like it, tough. ... You say he called veterans ‘losers?’ He downplayed COVID-19 virus to some reporter a half year ago? FAKE NEWS!”

Trump has made being a rich, plain-spoken American so desirable, people are wearing hats and shirts bearing his name or his simple “Make American Great” catchphrase. Trump isn’t just a political candidate, he’s a brand that folks are throwing themselves behind like a football team or a NASCAR driver.

In Freeland last week, people sat in an hour-long car line to be at his presence.

Democrats still haven’t figured out how to curb the enthusiasm. Some new blockbuster story isn’t going to do it. A large paid-media campaign somehow equating the Trump brand to something undesirable might dull the shine.

Otherwise, Democrats can pin their hopes on Biden’s having more supporters than Trump. Simple numbers. It might work.

My report from the open road is there’s a lot of enthusiasm out there. Just warning you, it runs both ways.

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



Photo by Kyle Melinn

A tree between Portland and Eagle tells part of the political story in Michigan as the General Election approaches.

**B/21/019 BARE ROOT TREES** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids electronically on line at [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info) or at the City Of Lansing Purchasing Office, at 124 W. Michigan Ave 8TH Fl, Lansing, MI 48933 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **September 29, 2020** at which time bids will be opened. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128, or [stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov](mailto:stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov) or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info).** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

#20-215

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held to consider a Site Plan and Special Use Permit application from Walgreens Co., for the property at 100 W. Grand River Avenue to allow for a new Walgreens Retail Store and Pharmacy pursuing a liquor license for the sale of packaged beer and wine. The subject property is located in the B-3, City Center Commercial District.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing, prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager’s Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-377.

Note: This hearing is currently scheduled to occur as a regular public hearing at the meeting. If, at the time of this hearing meetings are still not permitted under an Executive Order of the Governor and an Executive Order permitting meetings electronically allows for an electronic meeting, this hearing will occur electronically and a notice of the means of participation in that hearing will be published in compliance with the Open Meetings Act and any relevant Executive Orders.

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

#20-212

# START THE VOTING PROCESS NOW FOR THE NOVEMBER 3 ELECTION

## REGISTER TO VOTE!

- Register to vote online or by mail through October 19. Complete or download an application at [mi.gov/vote](https://mi.gov/vote)
- Starting October 20 through **8:00 p.m. on Election Day** register to vote at your city or township clerk's office
- It only takes two minutes, register today!

## REQUEST YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT!

- Online NOW at [mi.gov/vote](https://mi.gov/vote)
- By MAIL by printing an application from [mi.gov/vote](https://mi.gov/vote)
- By calling or visiting your city or township clerk's office

YOUR COMMUNITY IS DEPENDING ON YOU TO VOTE THIS ELECTION.  
LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR VOTING RIGHTS AT

**MichiganVoting.org**

**ABANDONED VEHICLE SALE  
CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN**

Sealed bids marked **S/21/007, ABANDONED VEHICLES** will be accepted at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, 124 W Michigan Ave 8th floor, Lansing Mi. 48933 until but no later than, **1:00 PM**, local time in effect **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020**. Questions regarding this sale may be directed to Stephanie Robinson, Buyer, at (517) 483-4128 or email: stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov.

Vehicles may be inspected **WED. SEPT. 23, 2020**, as follows:

SHROYER'S, 2740 EATON RAPIDS RD, LANSING MI. 48911	8:00 AM
PJ'S , 1425 RENSEN, LANSING MI	10:00 AM
NORTHSIDE TOWING, 226 RUSSELL, LANSING, MI 48906	10:45 AM
H&H TOWING, 1500 HASLETT RD, E LANSING MI 48823	11:45 AM
SWIFT TOWING, 2347 N CEDAR , HOLT MI 48842	8:45 AM

**ABANDONED VEHICLE SALE SEPT 23, 2020**

<b>H&amp;H TOWING</b>	<b>PJ TOWING</b>	<b>SHROYER TOWING</b>
2003 VW	2007 CADL	2008 CHEV
2019 MOPED	2004 FORD	2014 MOPED
2010 NISSAN	2009 HYUND	2008 GMC
<b>NORTHSIDE TOWING</b>	2008 BMW	2015 BUICK
1978 HONDA	1999 MERCED	2018 KIA
2015 NISSAN	1999 GMC	2002 NISSAN
2008 FORD	2014 CHEV	2012 CHEV
2000 FORD	2002 FORD	2012 MOPED
2016 CHEV	2004 PONT	2009 PONT
2003 CADL	2004 PONT	2010 FORD
2010 FORD	2005 CHRY	2020 DODGE
2003 HYUND	2006 CHEV	2007 VW
2018 NISSAN	2003 FORD	2005 GMC
2005 AUDI	2011 CHEV	2006 MERCED
2002 LINC	2005 PONT	2009 TOYO
2005 JEEP	2010 CHEV	2004 TOYO
2005 CADL	2005 FORD	2014 CHEV
2006 JEEP	2007 HONDA	2017 CHEV
2004 CHEV	2005 HONDA	
2018 JEEP	2010 GMC	
2007 CHEV		
2007 INFINITI	<b>SWIFT TOWING</b>	
2016 CHEV	2006 FORD	
2002 FORD	2007 PONT	
2012 FORD	1998 JAGUAR	
2006 PONT	2007 CADL	
2008 BUICK		

#20-214

**B/21/018 VFD FOR SCOTT PARK PUMP** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids electronically on line at [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info) or at the City Of Lansing Purchasing Office, at 124 W. Michigan Ave 8th Fl, Lansing, MI 48933 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **September 29, 2020** at which time bids will be opened. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128, or [stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov](mailto:stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov) or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info). The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

#20-216

**CITY OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, Monday, September 21, 2020 at 7 p.m. during the regularly schedule City Council Meeting, via ZOOM Conferencing, Meeting ID 840 5989 1689 for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to: amend Chapter 1420 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances by consolidating the adoption of the Single State Construction Code Act (the "Act"), including the State Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing Codes and creating a single Construction Board of Appeals pursuant to the Act; And repeal the sections of Chapters 1422, 1424, AND 1426, which provided for individual adoption of the State Plumbing, Electrical, and Mechanical Codes, and created individual Boards of Appeal for those Codes.

Governor Whitmer declared a statewide State of Emergency due to the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to provide essential protections to vulnerable Michiganders and this State's health care system and other critical infrastructure, it is crucial that all Michiganders take steps to-limit in-person contact, particularly in the context of large groups. Therefore, the public hearing will be conducted via audio/video conference.

The public hearing will be electronically in accordance with the Open Meetings Act in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public. A Michigan Executive Order provides temporary authorization of remote participation in public meetings and hearings. Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting may do so by logging into or calling into the meetings using the website or phone number and Meeting ID provided on the August 31, 2020 meeting agenda. (Note: this option requires downloading Zoom software. If you have not already installed the software, this may take a few minutes)

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation to fully participate in these meetings should contact the City Council Office at 517-483-4177 (TDD (517) 483-4479) 24 hour notice may be needed for certain accommodations. An attempt will be made to grant all reasonable accommodation requests.

For more information, please call 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., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov).

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

#20-213

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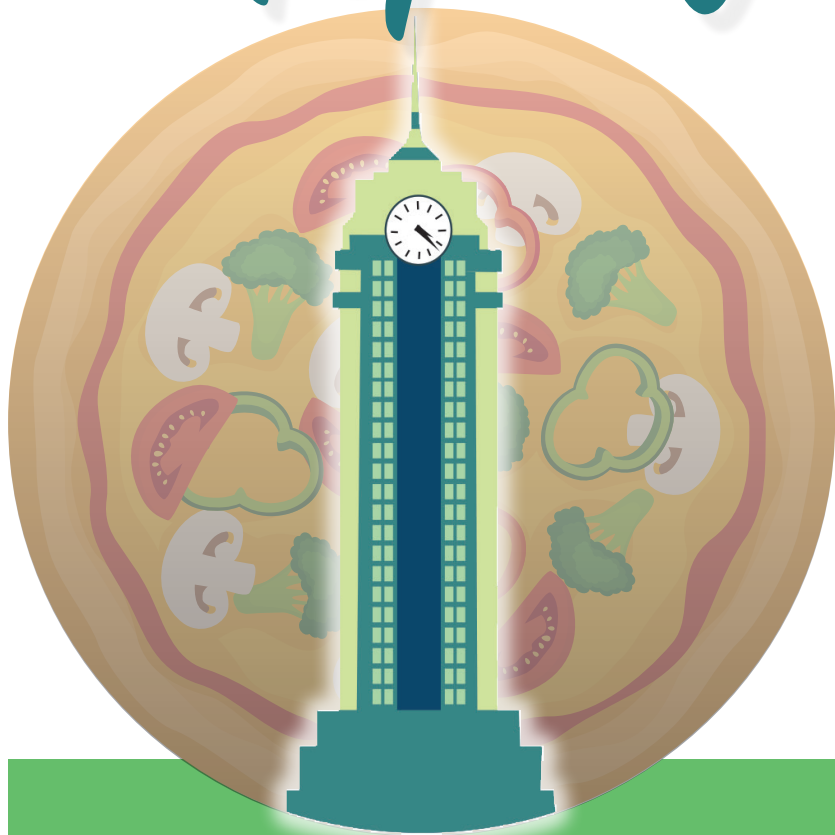
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# Top of the Town

# BEST PIZZA CONTEST 2020



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**Vote at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com)**

**W**elcome to our first ever Best Pizza Contest! And a big one: We have 32 categories! And for the first time, you'll nominate Best Pizza by ZIP code and by

such measures as crust, value, tomato sauce, pepperoni, etc. In Round 2, we will ask you to select the Best Pizza in Mid-Michigan from the 10 top vote getters in all all ZIP codes combined as

well as the top five by in all the other categories.

Please only nominate local pizza places. That means no Domino's, Little Caesar's, Pizza Hut, etc.

## BEST PIZZA CATEGORIES

### *By ZIP Code:*

- Best Pizza Lansing North Side (48906)
- Best Pizza Lansing South Side(48910-11)
- Best Pizza Lansing East Side (48912)
- Best Pizza Lansing West Side (48915 & 48917)
- Best Pizza East Lansing (48823)
- Best Pizza Downtown (48933)
- Best Pizza Okemos ( 48864)
- Best Pizza Haslett (48840)

- Best Pizza Holt (48842)
- Best Pizza Dimondale (48821)
- Best pizza Grand Ledge (48837)
- Best Pizza Dewitt (48820)
- Best Pizza Williamston (48895)
- Best Pizza Charlotte (48813)
- Best Pizza Eaton Rapids (48827)
- Best Pizza Elsewhere in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties

### *By Style:*

- Best Thin Crust Style Pizza
- Best Deep Dish Style Pizza
- Best New York Style Pizza
- Best Gluten Free Pizza
- Best Eccentric Pizza
- Best Regular Pizza

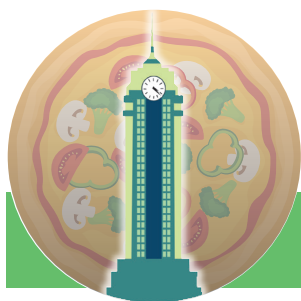
### *Toppings/Crusts:*

- Best Crust
- Best Toppings Variety
- Best Cheese
- Best Tomato Sauce

- Best Sauce
- Best Pepperoni

### *Everything Else:*

- Best Value
- Best Staff
- Best Decor
- Speediest Delivery Drivers
- Best Value
- Best Breadsticks
- Best Ranch Dressing
- Best Salad



# BEST PIZZA CONTEST TOP OF THE TOWN 2020

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## From Lansing with love

Sampling the lovely greasy flavors of local pizza

By SKYLER ASHLEY

One defining characteristic of a city is how it cooks its pizza. Detroit pizza, which is finally catching on nationwide, is known for its thick and greasy squared off crust. New York City's large, thin slices are so famous that some swear it's the only proper way to enjoy a pizza.

But what about Lansing? Our hometown is lucky enough to be a greasy melting pot of many distinct pizza joints. Whether you want to drown in cheese, cut through a thick deep dish or enjoy a crispy wood-fired slice, there's almost certainly a restaurant with just the right pizza for you.

"Lansing has a great selection of pizza," Old Town Sir Pizza manager Danelle Admire said. "You come down here and you'll get that hot pocket type of pizza with greasy love. That's what makes us Lansing, the love we put into our food."

### Cheese, cheese and more cheese

If the popularity of restaurants like Art's Pub is any indicator, Lansing loves a healthy — OK, maybe a little unhealthy — dose of cheese. Ask any local pizza aficionado that's been around the block a few times where to get a delicious, extra-cheesy pizza and chances are the name Art's Pub will pop up.

"What separates us from the rest is just the sheer amount of cheese," Art's Pub co-owner Greg Sinicropi said. "It's probably two or three times the amount that most people use, and that's just our standard."

But how does a restaurant prepare a cheese-heavy pie without it turning into a goopy, inedible mess? The secret, Sinicropi said, lies within the preparation. First, Art's Pub does not grind its cheese too fine. The shredding process the cheese undergoes actually leaves behind much thicker cuts than one



Courtesy

Art's Pub is known for its thick layers of cheese.

might imagine. The other crucial step is using 100 percent mozzarella — there can't be any cheddar inside the blend mucking things up.

"We buy five-pound logs of mozzarella and then we shred it," Sinicropi said. "We cube it and put it right into a chopper and it gives us pea-sized chunks, rather than the usual shredded fare. The cheese itself makes a huge difference. There's a big, big quality difference between the lowest and highest ends of mozzarella."

Art's Pub goes through so much cheese that it has an employee on staff whose entire job consists almost entirely of shredding cheese. "He works 30 hours a week and his only job is making dough and shredding cheese," Sinicropi said. "It's a full-time job, even on a slow day we're still doing a hundred pizzas."

The thick layers of cheese necessitate a special thick sauce to keep everything properly blended together. Sinicropi said Art's Pub, which reopened in 2018, uses recipes handed down from the original restaurant's sauce specialist, Mike Reynolds. "I think our sauce is very underrated, you can't have something that's too runny," Sinicropi said. "It's really thick and it has a sweet taste. We put in fine, crushed red pepper and it creates a perfect storm. When you put

it all together, it works out really well."

### Hot and thin wood-fired crust

One method of pizza preparation that is rising in popularity nationwide is the wood-fired oven. The chain restaurant Blaze Pizza has commercialized the process and wood-fired pizza restaurants are a common sight in any hip big city neighborhood. Lansing has its own master wood-fired pizza chef in Frank Tignanelli.

Tignanelli has been in the pizza business for 50 years. Before he opened his own restaurant in Lansing, Detroit Frankie's Wood-Fired Brick Oven, Tignanelli was a pizza consultant for a California tomato cannery and would travel the country to help clientele get their own pizzas just right. Tignanelli's expertise, handed down to him from his family, taught him how to fix any issue a restaurant could throw at him, whether it was bad batches of sauce or cheese that wouldn't cook properly. "I was a pizza specialist for 25 years," Tignanelli said. "It's pretty much all I've done my entire life."

Tignanelli swears by the East Coast style of preparing pizza. It's his favorite type of pizza to eat, and therefore his favorite type of pizza to cook.

How is it all done? The key to cooking a pizza like Detroit Frankie's is the scorching temperature achieved by its brick oven. Burning hot at 750 degrees, Detroit Frankie's Wood-Fired Oven can cook a pizza in just a few short minutes.

The process requires special high-gluten flour that is hand-tossed and spun, and when it comes out of the oven it's left with a slight blackened char across the bottom. Don't confuse it for a burn mark though: The char adds to the flavor. Tignanelli has mastered the art of wood-fired pizzas; during his days as a pizza specialist with the cannery he also helped restaurants calibrate their ovens.

"You can't layer the ingredients thick. Other places are doing it in a deck oven and it takes time to cook through," Tignanelli said. "We're doing it in three minutes, so you can't pile it on"

Tignanelli said a key factor in the success and longevity of a pizza restaurant is shelling out the necessary cash for



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

A dill pickle pizza from Detroit Frankie's Wood-Fired Oven.

high-quality, time-tested ingredients. Choosing to go cheap with unproven brands, Tignanelli says, leads to inconsistency and unhappy customers.

"The quality products have usually been around for 50-60 years. The reason they've been around is because they're consistent," Tignanelli said. If you try to save money with lesser-priced products, you'll find they're not as consistent. Customers want you to be consistent."

Detroit Frankie's Wood-Fired Oven got its start as a food truck in 2014 and finally opened a brick and mortar location in March. Unfortunately, the restaurant's debut was interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic and it's been unable to serve people with dine-in. So far, Tignanelli and his crew have had to stick with curbside pickup.

"I look forward to getting back to normal. I miss the normal part of things," Tignanelli said.

### Enough ingredients for a feast

Sir Pizza is one of Lansing's most stalwart pizza chains and its signature dish, the Royal Feast, covers every inch of the pie with cubed pepperoni, sausage, onions, mushrooms and green peppers. If you can see crust or cheese, it probably didn't come from Sir Pizza. The old school pizza joint's square crust

See Pizza, Page 18



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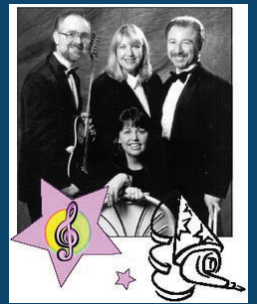
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## Pizza

from page 16

and overload of ingredients is a unique quirk not commonly found elsewhere.

“The Royal Feast is a huge seller. Every ingredient goes straight to the edge, you barely have any crust leftover,” Old Town Sir Pizza manager Danelle Admire said. “Everything’s fresh. When we slap on all of those wonderful ingredients and put it through the oven, it’s just like you’re making it at home for your family.”

But why leave absolutely no room for crust? Why does Sir Pizza smother the entire pizza with ingredients? Admire said if you want to enjoy crust, well, that’s what breadsticks are for.

“Every bite you take is tasteful,” Admire said. “That’s what we want customers to remember, ‘Wow, no dryness! This is a wonderful pizza.’ They’ll want more and they’ll want to order more every day. That’s why we push the toppings all the way to the edge.”

Sir Pizza’s Old Town location is also popular as a community-gathering place. The restaurant encourages a party-like atmosphere by regularly booking live entertainment and hosting open mic nights. Sir Pizza is also heavily integrated in Old Town festivals such as Michigan BluesFest and Michigan JazzFest. “We put a lot of thought into our community,” Admire said. “The community makes us who we are. We’re memorable for the atmosphere we create for our customers.”

### Everybody loves a good gimmick

As social media becomes further integrated in the culinary world, you’ve probably noticed the rise of gimmicky pizzas. It’s become commonplace for a restaurant to go semi-viral on Facebook or Instagram because of its off-the-wall pizzas. After all, if you ate an absolutely crazy pizza, wouldn’t you want to share your story with your friends?

Pickle pizzas, breakfast pizzas, desert pizzas — there’s far too many novelty pies to mention that have become hot topics of debate on Twitter. Lansing pizzerias aren’t shy about taking their own stabs at crafting specialty pies.

Tignanelli, with his multiple decades of experience in the business, loves the culinary freedom and creativity demanded by an unusual pizza.

“Everybody has their favorites. We do chicken and waffles; we do a pickle pizza and a Coney dog pizza,” Tignanelli said. “It’s all for fun; there’s no rules. If you have good crust, you can put anything on there.”

Sinicropi attested that the dill pickle pizza from Detroit Frankie’s Wood-Fired Oven is delicious, despite its unusual marquee ingredient. He said



Courtesy

Pizza being prepared at Art’s Pub.

that novelty pizzas are also a hit at his restaurant, and customers have been very open-minded about experiencing new blends of ingredients.

“We love them. We have breakfast pizzas that use sausage gravy instead of red sauce,” Sinicropi said. “We’ll use tater tots, and chicken tenders. That’s the beauty of pizza. Anybody can find a style they like.”

Sleepwalker Brewery in REO Town has dabbled in lots of wild and risky pizzas. One of its recent creations is a Hawaiian style pizza that uses Spam as its primary source of protein. “It’s actually quite delicious in a weird way,” Sleepwalker President Jeremy Sprague said. “Even if it doesn’t sell that great, at least we gave it a shot.”

Sprague said Sleepwalker keeps a constant rotation of unique pizzas, such as the Chupacabra, which has a black bean and enchilada sauce base.

“We do as much as we can as a very small microbrewery to have fun pizzas and make people happy. It works out well,” Sprague said. “But you have to be careful not to take credit, there’s people doing this everywhere.”

A popular style that began life as a novelty and is now a staple at many pizzerias is the buffalo chicken pizza. Admire said it’s since become one of Sir Pizza’s most popular options.

“People really like it. You’ve got the chicken; your sauce is a buffalo sauce and then you’ve got the regular provolone and mozzarella mix of cheese,” Admire said. “You add feta, which gives it a little bit more of a taste, then you add jalapeño and cheddar cheese to bring everything together.”

But if all of the novelties teach us anything about pizza, it’s that people crave variety and are always searching for something new.

“People will come eat my pizza one time, and then go to another spot the next time,” Tignanelli said. “That’s how it should be. You don’t want to go to the same spot every night. Move around and try something different.”



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## Kaminski: Go ahead and vote.

# I already know where to find the best pizza

A newspaper reporter's totally biased guide to the best pizza in Greater Lansing

I grew up near Lansing, have lived downtown for more than two years and for the last several months have made it my personal mission to try every pizza restaurant in the area. Just about every Friday this summer, I've grabbed a six-pack of Oberon and an afterwork carryout pizza.

Here are some of my favorites from the last few months:

### C&J Family Pizzeria in Stockbridge

This pizza place relocated from Webberville to Stockbridge in 2017 and makes — wait for it — the single best pizza within 100 miles of Lansing. Owner Jim Sommer runs the Stockbridge location, which seems to turn out better pies than his first shop that still operates in Jackson.

The pizza looks standard, but the crust here is slightly thicker and butterier than your standard chain Domino's and the toppings always taste as fresh as can be. The most noticeable feature: Thick layers of cheese are layered over the toppings unless requested otherwise. My favorite is a standard pepperoni, which combines perfectly with C&J's slightly sweet variety of pizza sauce.

Side recommendation: Cheesy bacon ranch bread, add onion. I'm drooling just thinking about it.

### Papa John's Pizza (no, the other Papa John's Pizza) in Lansing

This place had to make the list if only for its consistency. I've ordered more pizza from here than probably anywhere else in Lansing, and I've never once been disappointed. Whether it's the pizza, breadsticks or grinders, this locally owned shop



Kylie Kaminski/City Pulse

Left: Pizza from C&J Family Pizzeria.



Right: Papa John's pepperoni pizza.

clearly has a commitment to quality.

It's also worth noting that this Papa John's Pizza is in no way affiliated with the nationally known Papa John's Pizza and has none of the racist undertones. It also tastes much (much) better than any chain-variety pie I've had the displeasure of ordering.

My favorite part: The little bubbly pepperonis that collect just the right amount of grease inside.

### Art's Pub in Lansing

Art's Pub has a cult following in Lansing almost exclusively for its mozzarella cheese. You can order traditional pies, thin crusts or deep dish varieties, but all of them come absolutely loaded with mountains and mountains of fresh, gooey mozzarella cheese that strings off every slice.

Specialty pies like Vladimir Poutine offer eccentric toppings like brown gravy, cheese curds, pulled pork and french fries. One of my favorites, The Spartan, has a pesto sauce drizzle. Art's even serves up breakfast pies with toppings like bacon, ham, eggs, cilantro and queso fresco.

See Kaminski, Page 20

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## TOP OF THE TOWN 2020

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## Kaminski

from page 19

Stop by on Tuesday for a \$2 slice or to take advantage of a buy-one-get-

one special on all pies.

### Klavon's Pizzeria & Pub in Mason

Klavon's opened up a location in Mason last year and describes its "handcrafted artisan pizza" as more of an "experience" than than a meal — which is exactly the fancy-sounding type of hipster shit that made me want to wait an hour to order a carryout shortly after they opened.

Founder Justin Klavon, at age 16, started delivering pizzas in Grass Lake and in 2008 launched Justin Tyme Pizza in Jackson, eventually expanding to three locations in Napoleon and Grass Lake before it was rebranded as Klavon's Pizzeria and Pub in 2007. Today, they have nearly 200 employees and serve more than 500,000 guests annually, according to its website.

Klavon's offers a variety of pie, including classic American round pizzas, thinner neapolitan-style pies,

Detroit-style deep dishes and an even fatter, stuffed variety of Chicago-style deep dish.

My favorites is the Sweet Heat Pete with caramelized onions, Italian sausage, garlic, peppadew and green peppers and the seafood pie with a creamy, garlic alfredo sauce, shrimp and crab.

to at least save some cash and pick up a few \$1 slices.

This place is clearly known for its thick crust pan pizzas, but it also carries a variety of other Greek snacks (like spinach pies, samosa potatoes and hummus) to round out a complete meal.

### Bell's Greek Pizza in East Lansing

I didn't go to Michigan State University as an undergraduate student, but I still tagged along on plenty of late-night trips to this classic college town pizza shop. The thick-but-airy crust will always have a warm place in my heart. Plus, it might be the only place for drunk pie at 4 a.m.

I always seem to have bad luck with less-than-appetizing slices in the glass display, so ordering whole pizzas — with plenty of artichoke — is the best way to handle a midnight run to Bell's. Alternatively, go there on Wednesdays

### Honorable Mention: Good Slice Pizza Co. in Lansing (RIP)

This downtown pizza shop announced its closure, along with adjacent Taps 25, in June, but briefly had the distinct honor of serving one of the best and worst pizzas in Greater Lansing. My first carryout order was amazing: perfectly crisp with a crust that overflowed with herb flavors.

My next three orders were spent chasing the high of that first pie, only to be disappointed with the doughiest trash ever served in the capital city. I'll miss the place, but also good riddance.

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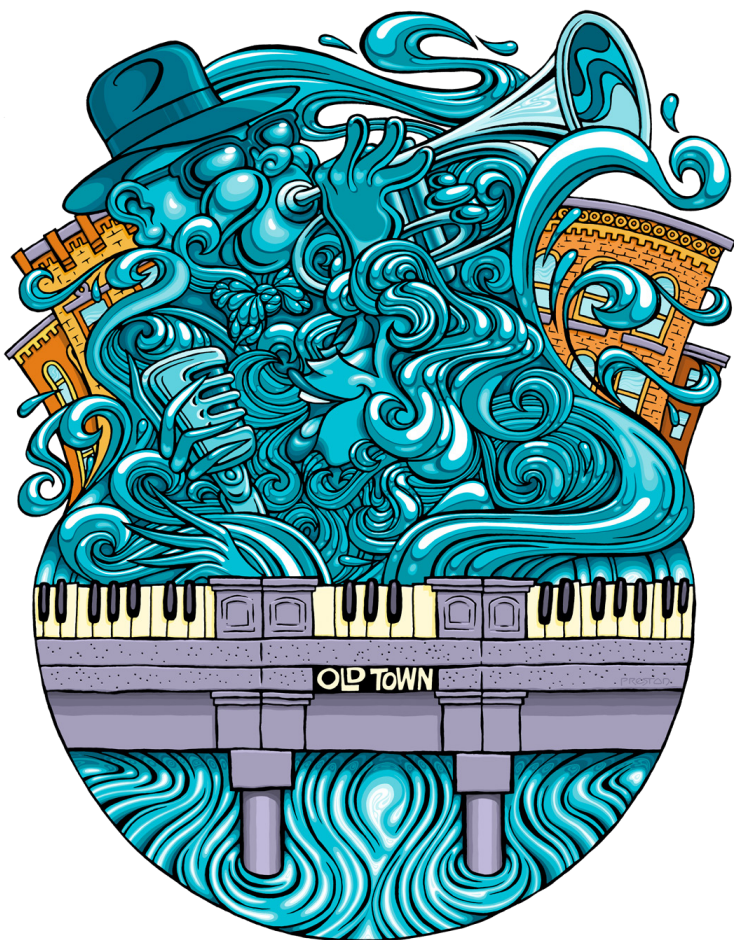
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# Michigan JazzFest & Michigan BluesFest 2020

## September 13-20

### THE LINEUP

9/13  
SUN



**6:00PM**  
GINA GARNER & THE ALL NIGHT LONG BAND (LIVE)

**7:00PM**  
ISIS DRESCH (LIVE FROM BRAZIL)



Dresch's jazz vocals and piano chops have brought her an active career in the jazz scene of Curitiba and Sao Paulo, Brazil. Her musical style is infused with Latin, soul and alternative elements.

**8:00PM**  
DAVE SHARP WORLDS QUARTET (LIVE)



The Worlds Quartet explores music traditions from Turkey, Egypt, Ukraine, India, Bulgaria and Greece. Featuring oud, violin, electric bass, synthesizer and world percussion, the Worlds Quartet is fueled by the spirit of jazz, world music and dynamic exploratory improvisation.

**9:00PM**  
TWYLA BIRDSONG (LIVE)



One of Lansing's most loved vocalists, known for her show-stopping voice and stage presence. With her deep roots in the Blues, she performs the style with unbridled passion, although recently adding a touch of Jazz.



**9:15PM**  
DEACON EARL

9/14  
MON

**5:00PM**  
SUGAR RAY (BACKSTAGE PASS REWIND)



Sugar Ray" Norcia captured live playing "traditional Chicago blues" for BackStage Pass making music in Michigan at BluesFest 2013 in Lansing's historic Old Town district.

**5:10PM**  
DAGO SCHELIN PLAYS THE BEATLES (LIVE FROM GERMANY)



Dago Schelin is a Brazilian musician based in Germany whose mellow guitar-playing and soothing voice takes us back to a 60s Bossa Nova feel. Brazilian classics are likely to be in his repertoire, but Dago also brings a freshly arranged Brazilian-style Beatles selection, which he intends to show us at this year's JazzFest.

**6:00PM**  
THE SPRINGTAILS (LIVE)



The Springtails are a charming Michigan-based husband-and-wife duo, Andy & Julianna Wilson. Mixing new songs with old vaudeville and swing-era standards, her lilting voice and snappy ukulele with his soulful harmonica and retro-sounding horn transport listeners back in time with songs that range from haunting ballads to playful swing.

9/14 (CONT) 7:00PM  
MILT HINTON EXCLUSIVE (WITH INTRO BY PERICLES GOMES AND TERRY TERRY)



This is a Jazz Workshop, which took place in February of 1995 at MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY. It was documented by professor Pericles Gomes (PhD in Education at MSU). Milt Hinton talks about the history of American Jazz and demonstrates his invention, slap acoustic double Bass playing! He also talks about his amazing photography.



**8:00PM**  
HANK MOWERY & THE HAWKTONES (LIVE)

**9:00PM**  
THE CORZO EFFECT



The Corzo Effect strives to create a laid-back atmosphere for people to come relax and groove to some smooth blues tunes! With Josh Corzo, bass, Stephen Boone, keys, and Caleb Robinson, drums.

**9:15PM**  
HANK MOWERY & THE HAWKTONES (Q&A)



**9:30PM**  
EMMET COHEN TRIO FEATURING MUSIC BY GREG HILL

**9:40PM**  
SENA ERHARDT (BACKSTAGE PASS REWIND)



**9:46PM**  
CRAIG HENDERSHOTT

9/15  
TUES



**6:00PM**  
KAMMY YEDOR (LIVE)



**7:00PM**  
MICHAEL REED OCTET

**7:30PM**  
ANDY WILSON HARMONICA Q&A (LIVE)

**7:40PM**  
SENA ERHARDT (BACKSTAGE PASS REWIND)

**7:46PM**  
RODNEY WHITTAKER W ROCKELL FORTIN (BACKSTAGE PASS REWIND)



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# Michigan JazzFest & Michigan BluesFest 2020

## September 13-20

9/15 (CONT)

**8:00PM**  
CIRCUIT BLUES BAND (LIVE)



Hailing from Flint, Saginaw, Detroit, and Lansing, the Circuit Band has amazed crowds all across the Midwest with their heavy-hitting soul and blues music. Vocals are led by powerhouse Tony Purifoy, and the band consists of drummer Steve McCray, bassist Coreyeon Ingram, guitarist Scott Vandel, and keyboardist Mike Lynch.

**9:00PM**  
MILT HINTON EXCLUSIVE (WITH INTRO BY PERICLES GOMES AND TERRY TERRY) (BACKSTAGE PASS REWIND)



This is a Jazz Workshop, which took place in February of 1995 at MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY. It was documented by professor Pericles Gomes (PhD in Education at MSU). Mil Hinton talks about the history of American Jazz and demonstrates his invention, slap acoustic double Bass playing! He also talks about his amazing photography.

**9:45PM**  
BRIAN MICHAEL FISHER (BACKSTAGE PASS REWIND)

**9:55PM**  
BIG LOU (BACKSTAGE PASS REWIND)



**5:10PM**  
DAGO SCHELIN & PETER HERRMANN  
PLAY THE BEATLES (LIVE FROM GERMANY)

**6:00PM**  
KATHLEEN & THE BRIDGE STREET BAND (LIVE)



"Queen of the Blues," Kathleen Walters, has been captivating audiences since the formation of her first band, Blues Xpress, in the late 90s. In 2020 she performs with Kathleen & the Bridge St Band, winners of the 2019 West Michigan Blues Society International Blues Challenge (WMBS IBC), with Steve Dely on slide guitar, Doug Fritch on guitar, Tim Brouhard on bass and harmonica and Eric Payne on drums.

**7:00PM**  
FOUR SPACE CLOWNS (LIVE FROM BRAZIL)



With Pericles Gomes, Mateus Brandao, Smile and Will Brazilian  
This unique Brazilian band plays classic tunes and original ones, mixed with lots of fun and creativity. Not only do they have musical talent, but also lots of dancing, standup comedy and theatrical skills. Of course, they are not from planet Earth!

**8:00PM**  
JON GEWIRTZ QUARTET (LIVE)



Jon Gewirtz has performed throughout the United States, Europe, and Brazil in various styles including classical, jazz, funk, salsa, R&B, blues, and pop. He is a member of faculty jazz ensembles from LCC and Hillsdale College.

**9:00PM**  
FREDDIE CUNNINGHAM & FRIENDS



**9:45PM**  
LAWRENCE "LO" LEATHERS TRIBUTE FEATURING WYNTON MARSALIS

9/17  
THURS

**6:00PM**  
STAN BUDZYNSKI & THIRD DEGREE (LIVE)



Stan Budzynski & 3rd Degree features premier slide guitarist Stan Budzynski, bassist Ron Bretz, drummer Rick Alicea, and keyboardist Roger Little. In 2005 and again in 2009 Stan Budzynski & 3rd Degree won the Capital Area Blues Society's annual Blues Brawl with sets of all-original tunes. The recent addition of vocalist Catherine Groll brings a fresh element of energy, new harmonies, and a variety of electrifying material.

**7:00PM**  
ELDEN KELLY



Guitarist, composer and singer Elden Kelly has captivated audiences across the country with his masterful writing and improvisational ability. His music thrives at the nexus of jazz, classical and world music, combining a deep knowledge of music with astounding and engaging performances. His sets are marked by exploration and stylistic range, combining jazz with a broad range of global music traditions, instrumental work and original songs.

**8:00PM**  
RJ SPANGLER AND TBONE PAXTON SEXTET (LIVE)



Lifelong buddies RJ Spangler & Tbone Paxton started working together in 1980 with a very popular band around Detroit called the Sun Messengers. They toured the east coast, Midwest and deep south for a number of years. Back then Tbone was awarded a Motor City Music Award for best trombonist. He has also become quite an engaging vocalist. In fact, he has been nominated the last two years as best jazz vocalist at the Detroit Music Awards. The two are cornerstone members of the 9 pc Planet D Nonet, and as such, have toured to 11 states, released as many CDs and garnered 6 Detroit Music Awards.

**9:00PM**  
MICHAEL REED TRIO



**9:15PM**  
TAMIR HENDELMAN TRIO

**9:30PM**  
BRANDON ROSE FROM TROUBADOUR STUDIOS

9/18  
FRI

**5:10PM**  
DAGO SCHELIN & CRIS GAVAZZONI PLAY BEATLES (LIVE FROM GERMANY)



Yes, an (unpretentious) reinterpretation of the Beatles. Brazilian (but not overdoing it), acoustic (a bit of bass, a bit of percussion). This project is a longing for a 60s vibe, bridging time and cultures. It's a confabulation with John, Paul, George and Ringo, into the thoughts and feelings expressed in their music. A re-tropicalism with progressive tendencies.

**6:00PM**  
THE CORZO EFFECT (LIVE)



The Corzo Effect strives to create a laid-back atmosphere for people to come relax and groove to some smooth blues tunes! With Josh Corzo, bass, Stephen Boone, keys, and Caleb Robinson, drums.

**7:00PM**  
NELSON MOZART PLAYS BOSSA NOVA (BRAZIL)

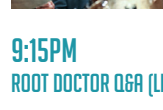
9/18 (CONT)

**8:00PM**  
ROOT DOCTOR (LIVE)



Root Doctor plays a diverse mix of classic soul and R&B alongside traditional blues and inspired original material. 25 years of club, concert and festival performances, they have released six recordings to local and national acclaim. Their 2013 release, New Attitude, has been receiving airplay and rave reviews from around the world, including Australia, Italy and Japan.

**9:00PM**  
MICHAEL REED TRIO



**9:15PM**  
ROOT DOCTOR Q&A (LIVE)

**9:30PM**  
LUTHER ALLISON (LIVE FROM NEW YORK)

9/19  
SAT

**6:00PM**  
ATOMIC HULLABALOO (LIVE)



**7:00PM**  
PATRICK RICOY (LIVE FROM BRAZIL)

**8:00PM**  
CHRIS CANAS BAND (LIVE)



Canas' diverse sound and powerful energy keeps blues alive and interesting for all music lovers. His set includes a great blend of covers and originals that keep you captivated from beginning to end.

**9:00PM**  
CAPITAL CITY RECORDS

**9:15PM**  
CHRIS CANAS BAND Q&A (LIVE)

**9:30PM**  
LUTHER ALLISON (LIVE FROM NEW YORK)

9/20  
SUN

**11:00AM**  
LET'S SHOUT WITH INDUSTRY COGIC (LIVE)

**12:00PM**  
BRAZILIAN BARBECUE BAND FROM THE ATLANTIC RAINFOREST (LIVE)

**2:00PM**  
GREGORY D. AND COMPANY (LIVE)



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# ARTS & CULTURE

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## Dixon's Violin: One man, five strings, and endless possibilities

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Never describe Dixon's violin playing with a label or brand it with a specific genre. That is precisely the kind of "fit into a box" categorization he scorns. Dixon, whose legal name is David James Hammond, is a musician and philosopher who never plays the same song twice and never asks for people to limit themselves to narrow categories.

### Dixon's Humankindness Tour

Thursday, Sept. 17,  
Doors at 5:30  
\$20 Advance, \$25 At Door  
Kids Under 12, Free  
Blue Mitten Farms  
4977 Cornell Rd, Meridian  
Charter Twp. 48864

He's bringing his Humankindness Tour to Okemos on Thursday. The outdoor concert is at Blue Mitten Farms, and attendees are asked to bring their own chairs, blankets and beverages. A yoga and meditation class with Katy Joe DeSantis will precede the 7 p.m. concert.

"Humankindness is the blending of humankind and kindness," Dixon said. "I believe we are all connected and we can honor each other with compassion and care."

Dixon was raised in greater Flint and lived 17 years in Lansing before moving to Dearborn and more recently Ann Arbor. "I'm blessed to have a comfy home and wooded land that I share with my beloved, Leslie," he said.

Using a five-string Yamaha EV-205 electric violin and a bank of effects and looping pedals, he makes truly unique sounds. The extra low C string and digital enhancements give him a six-or-seven-octave range to play with. The system Dixon invented makes him an all live, one man symphony. "I love the idea that what you see is one person with a violin but what you hear is 12," he said.

Besides manipulating the violin, he has to listen closely to all the layers to harmonize and keep rhythm with them. "I believe there is an analogy there in life," Dixon said. "In addition to speaking our truths, we need to be carefully listening to others in order that we work together."

Dixon improvises multiple rhythmic and melodic violin repetitions with the loops — adding percussive



Experimental violinist Dixon, performs at Blue Mitten Farms in Okemos on Thursday.

Courtesy of Aaron Lingenfelter

noises, power chords, speed runs and more on top of the recordings. Dixon might pluck, strike, or bow his metallic violin — or attack the fret board like a rock guitar god.

The result can be a swirling cascade of sounds or gentle, harmonious patterns. Even Dixon doesn't know where a spontaneous composition might go. "It's a delight to see what sonic landscape I can create and play with," he said.

Dixon's favorite composition is called "The Song That Doesn't Exist — Yet." He creates it live. Like his concerts, the instrumental is never the same, twice.

Dixon's between-song chats do have some of the same messages. He has three recorded TED Talks that are easily streamed that feature Dixon's uplifting and consistent philosophies.

"In my first, I took the audience on a journey of catharsis," Dixon said. "My second was sharing a bit of my story of walking away from the corporate world to follow my dream, and my most recent was about defying categories."

Dixon, 50, who has been training on the violin since age 10, never planned to make a career out of solo

performances. He played in various orchestras, including the Midland Symphony, but got a graduate degree in computer science from Michigan State University. "Yes, I'm a geek," Dixon said.

For most of his life he had a tech career. "I was director of technology for a couple of successful startup companies in Lansing for over 15 years," Dixon said. "My specialty was multi-dimensional data visualization," he said. A liberating trip to the Burning Man festival in Nevada in 2005 changed everything.

"After living my life only using my head, when I realized the power of sharing from the heart, and the soul-moving, even spiritual experiences you can share through music, I knew I had to do this full time," Dixon said.

He now boasts 10 performances at Burning Man, and more shows in states than he can count. "I've played much of the United States, as well as a number of shows across Canada, a couple of times in Mexico, and even once in South Africa," Dixon said. He always wants people to leave his shows with feeling "they can do anything they set their mind to."

The Humankindness Tour, which gets its electricity from Dixon's own solar battery-powered PA and lights — is his first since the Covid shutdown. "Instead of doing a smaller number of big shows, I'm doing a ton of small ones," he said.

Audiences are usually kept to 50 people in a large outdoor space — the Okemos show allows no more than 100. Attendees are encouraged to wear masks whenever entering or leaving their spots. So far, the social distancing has been great, Dixon said. "Occasionally, someone forgets and offers to shake my hand. This is very different from some other events I've read about where the attitude is to ignore safety," he said.

A portion of the ticket fees goes to support Black Lives Matter. "We have been able to donate over \$2,000 and counting," Dixon said. "I acknowledge all the privileges I've had in my life so I am happy to support this important cause."



# Deb Davies makes her mystery novel debut with ‘Northern Light’

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Former Jackson Community College professor Deb Davies is making her debut as a mystery novelist with “Northern Light,” published by BHC Press.

“Northern Light,” which has nothing to do with the aurora borealis, is set in northern Michigan on the banks of the Au Sable River. Davies, who taught creative writing and basic writing, said the light she refers to in the title comes from the clear light artists like to work with, which appears in the cold crisp air of northern Michigan.

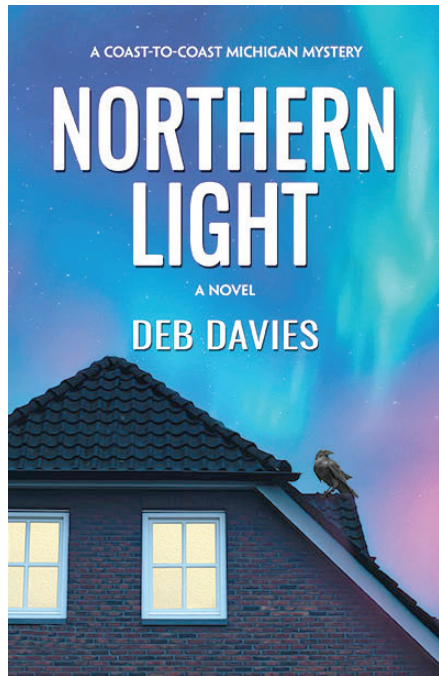
These backwoods mysteries, often set in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan, are called “cozies” in the mystery genre, where the murder and violence tend to be offset. Early on in Davies’ book, the writing has all the feelings of a cozy but soon becomes as dark as a Stephen King thriller.

Because Davies has crossed over into old age, she said she wanted to write a mystery novel featuring older protagonists that weren’t victims and had normal lives and romances.

Davies, a lifetime fan of mysteries, also said she wanted to write a mystery where friendships last a long-time. “You don’t kill lead characters, and not everyone has to die,” she said.

The two lead protagonists, Claire and Laurel, have been friends from childhood. Claire has recently lost her husband, George, and Laurel has recently divorced a seedy philandering husband. Laurel comes to visit Claire, accompanied by her daughter Jen and a new friend of Jen’s, Charles, an amateur ornithologist whose birding skills are integral to the book. Always the perfect host, Claire has a welcoming party with her friends from the nearby town. As it turns out, one of these friends likely has a malevolent bent when it comes to Claire.

Things start to go terribly wrong



when what appears to be a wayward raven is found trapped in Claire’s house. The raven does incredible damage, but that is only a sign of things to come. As the mystery ramps up, the local sheriff Arnie enters the story. He appears to have a crush on the newly widowed Claire, so you immediately wonder if there is a spark that will start a fire.

“When I started the book, Arnie was only going to be a throw-away,” Davies said.

Spoiler alert: Davies said she is under contract to write a series featuring her characters, so we know they come out of this mystery alive. She has set the next book in Michigan’s Garden Peninsula and the following one in Empire on the Lake Michigan coast.

Davies said she wanted to feature Michigan’s natural treasures because she has run across too many people who know nothing about Michigan. One told her Michigan has no big lakes and another said we have no sandy

beaches.

Davies said as she moved into her 70s, she wanted to learn something new and create a challenge for herself. Writing a mystery was the answer.

She said the first three chapters came to her almost as if she was in a dream. Davies said the characters, both male and female, are clearly based on amalgams of people she knows. “People I know and respect have gotten into the book,” She said.

Davies has a Montgomery Ward kit house with her husband, Rick. They use it as a cottage at Luzerne on the Big Creek, which feeds into the Au Sable River. Her familiarity with the natural world adds believability to the book’s plot. Though, she did admit to researching birds.

Davies said the novel took more than a year from start to finish.

“The first three chapters came easily, but chapters four through six took seven to nine months,” she said. “It took me forever to get the mystery’s tone right.”

She also said getting the antagonist down correctly was complicated and the hardest thing in doing the book.

Davies also said she worked hard to get the setting right of Claire’s home on Big Creek.

“It was important to have it well described,” she said. The bar and restaurant Ma Deeters makes an appearance in the book, and it’s where Claire chugs four Bloody Marys after a sexual dalliance.

Davies’ dry sense of humor is also evident throughout the book, and lends enough comic relief to take some of the tension off the rising dread of evil.

It won’t be long before the next Big Creek mystery is published, since Davies has submitted a draft to the publisher.

“I was sorry to say good bye to the

characters, and when you are old enough god knows what’s going to happen to you,” she said.

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**SING SOME MORE!**  
*With Deborah Diesen*  
**September 19 · 7pm**

Beloved Pout Pout Fish author Deborah Diesen stops in for a virtual storytime on Facebook to share her new book *Sing Some More!* Written in rhyme and full of musical fun this story introduces musical vocabulary to children through four spirited birds.

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**THE GOOD FIGHT**  
*With Jana Kramer & Mike Caussin*  
**September 24 · 7pm**

Award-winning country music star Jana Kramer and husband former NFL player Mike Caussin join us virtually to share their new book *The Good Fight.* Purchase of the book is required to attend the event and is ordered through [kramercaussin.eventbrite.com](http://kramercaussin.eventbrite.com)

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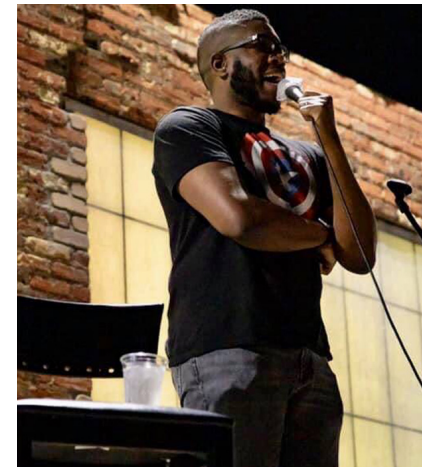
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# Favorite Things

## Robert Jenkins and his Springfield SAINT AR-15 pistol



*Robert Jenkins is lawyer by day and comedian by night. He is one of the hosts of Mac's Monday Comedy Night. Jenkins has released two albums, Achievement Unlocked and Attempted Salvation. In his spare time, Jenkins enjoys gaming, playing the piano and going to the gun range. At the range, he gets to spend quality time with his favorite thing, a Springfield SAINT AR-15 pistol.*



I got it in May, actually. This was during the protests. You know, when they all went down and stormed the Capitol with all their guns. I said, "OK, I see how it is." I had a couple guns before that, but after that, I was like, "I want the same shit they have."

So, I went online and I found this gun. The Springfield SAINT. It's a pistol, but it's on the AR platform. It's a pistol because it has a very short barrel, 10 inches. But it shoots the same rounds as an AR-15. I love this thing. I put a scope on it, a red dot sight, a magazine that holds a hundred rounds.

Growing up, my parents wouldn't let me touch a gun. When we had water guns, they had to look cartoonish. I didn't understand it when I was a child. Looking back on it, they didn't want me playing with a fake gun, then have the police shoot me and kill me like they did to Tamir Rice.

I got my first gun when I started doing comedy. There was an incident at this bar in the middle of nowhere. These three guys thought they were going to jump me, and the owner of the bar wouldn't escort me out to my car. And I don't call the police, so I had to get out of that situation on my own.

There were three of them and only one of me. I would've been at a dis-

advantage. For comedy, I travel alone a lot. I don't really believe in interacting with the police. Any problems that I have, I will have to solve them myself. That's what started it. After that incident, I got my concealed carry license and got a gun. Then, I got a few more guns along the way. Now, here I am. For me, it's strictly a self-defense thing.

Most of the time, there are only four or five rounds exchanged between people. You have to know how to react quickly. Even simply drawing your gun. You'd be shocked how many people don't even practice that. If you can't get the gun out, then what good is it?

I've never been into guns like I am right now. But given our current climate and watching how things are going, I wish more liberal people would get into guns. The liberal side definitely doesn't have as many as guns as they do. We gotta start buying some.

*Interview edited and condensed by Cole Tunningley. If you have a suggestion or would like to submit your own Favorite Thing email [Skyler@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:Skyler@lansingcitypulse.com).*

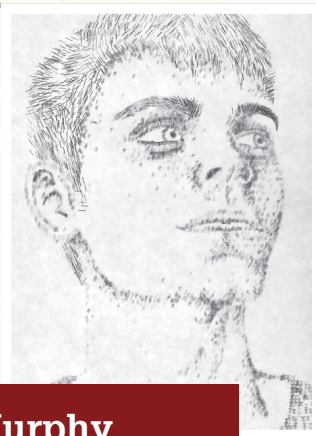
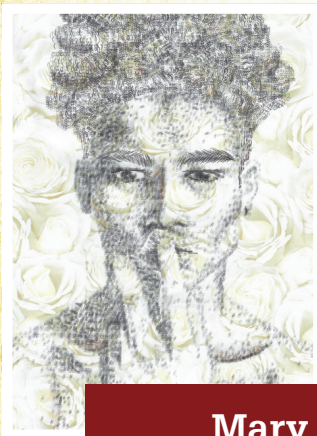
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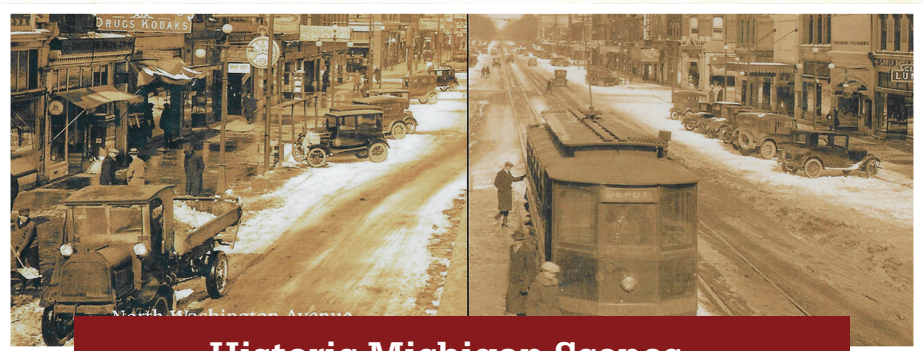
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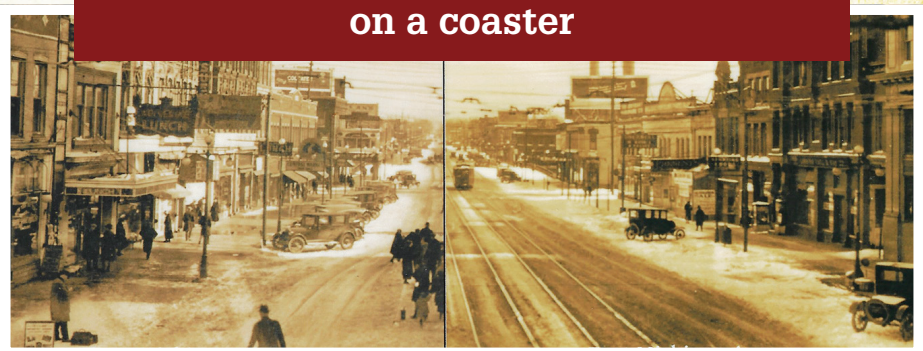
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# Live hash rosin — the Holy Grail of dabs or expensive hype?

High Life Farms rolls out dank (and costly) cannabis concentrates

By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

**High Life Farms — MB15 Live Hash Rosin**

**Price — \$80/gram**

**THC content — 74.6%**

Warning: Live hash rosin isn't the same hippie shit your dad used to mash together. And at \$80 per gram, it's easily among the most expensive products available on the medical cannabis market in Lansing. Jars sells half-grams for \$40. I dabbled it away over the course of two nights.

So what makes it so expensive? And is it worth shelling out the extra cash?

First, let's understand the difference between resin and rosin. According to High Times, live resin typically refers to butane hash oil made only from fresh bud or trim and frozen immediately after harvest to preserve a live-plant aroma and the terpenes to go along with it. Live rosin is a solvent-free derivative that usually involves full melt bubble hash — making it one of the most highly sought, highest quality concentrates available at the retail level, High Times reported.

Put simply, cured hash rosin doesn't use any solvents at all in its extraction. Live hash rosin goes one step further by only using freshly frozen plants instead of cured product varieties.

The result is a much more flavorful



**Lansterdam in Review: Jars Cannabis**

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version of your standard bubble hash that looks much more like a thick, opaque earwax than traditionally translucent shatter dabs. It also takes more work to produce and typically creates a smaller yield — making it rare on the modern marijuana market.

This half-gram nub was enough to crack apart into about eight (massive) hits over two evenings.

I'm relatively new to concentrates, but dab rigs seem to be the most efficient way to smoke them. And I'm working it down to a cough-proof science: Apply a butane torch for about 20 seconds. Let it cool off for another 15 seconds. Drop in a sliver and take several slow breaths.

Then lock yourself in for a heady sort of buzz that'll leave you zoning for at least two hours.

I've used the word "earthy" to describe flower before, but this THC-packed little nugget set a whole new standard. It tasted like someone ripped the plant up by the roots and somehow packed the entire thing — stems and seeds and all — into one rich, incredibly smooth toke.

Pro tip: Briefly clean the quartz drum with a Q-Tip between every hit. Every. Single. Hit. It helps clean out the excess residue and butane taste to provide an all-natural flavor for each



Courtesy

Wax from High Life Farms.

dab. It also helps avoid the massive coughing fits I've had from overly dirty or overheated dab rigs.

A lot of science. A lot of technique. But at the end of the day, was it worth the price? Probably not. It was fun to try something new and expensive, and it's clearly a high-quality product for those with wallets thick enough to handle it. But you can usually find a variety of powerful concentrates for \$60 per gram or less. The extra earthiness and purity just wasn't worth the

\$20.

That being said, a few tokes of this live hash rosin was the perfect complement to a four-hour weekday Hulu binge. It really didn't take much to trigger a long-lasting buzz that simply felt more natural — with a much more clear-headed sort of high — compared to some other concentrates.

For someone who also tends to shop exclusively for organic products at the grocery store, it was also mentally comforting

to know that no butane or other chemicals were used in the extraction. But until I get a substantial pay raise, I'll stick to cheaper products so I can still afford my dinner.

*Kyle Kaminski, a City Pulse staff writer, cannabis enthusiast who has been smoking marijuana just about every day for the last decade. Kaminski samples some of the best bud in Greater Lansing, gets real high and writes about it.*



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# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

**"Report Card"**  
 --How did we do?  
 [#373, Aug. 2008]  
 By Matt Jones

**Across**

- 1 It may be fatal
- 5 Disease contracted by Seal at an early age
- 10 Brand that pops up frequently in crosswords?
- 14 Sitar master Shankar
- 15 \_\_\_ ear and out the other
- 16 Get ready for surgery
- 17 Couturier Cassini
- 18 British pottery manufacturer known for bone china
- 19 City that represents a county
- 20 Helgenberger of "Erin Brockovich"
- 21 Less polluted
- 22 Rowboat need

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21					22			
23			24	25					26			
27	28			29					30		31	32
33				34					35			
36				37					38			
39				40				41				
42				43					44			
45									46			
47	48	49	50					51	52	53	54	55
56				57			58					
59							60					
61							62					

- 23 \_\_\_-country (Drive-By Truckers' genre)
- 25 "Damn, it's cold out!"
- 26 "Ty Murray's Celebrity Bull Riding Challenge" network
- 27 The Hulk's catalyst
- 29 Food vendor's requirement (abbr.)
- 30 Resource
- 33 Last name in riding lawnmowers
- 34 "\_\_\_ bin ein Berliner" (famous JFK quote)
- 35 Desert landscape features
- 36 Spicy spread
- 37 \_\_\_ Na Na (group that preceded Jimi Hendrix at Woodstock)
- 38 It's said coming and going
- 39 Kiddie lit web spinner who gets a B?
- 42 Fashion line?
- 43 Cartoonist who created Tintin
- 44 Insignia on Cardinals caps
- 45 Hathor or Hera, e.g.
- 47 Won back
- 51 John's 2008 adversary
- 56 Gave high honors
- 58 "Out of Africa" author Isak
- 59 Element taken in supplements
- 60 Flea market event
- 61 Sets up tents
- 62 Brand with the discontinued flavor Grape Watermelon
- Down
- 1 "You'll hear \_\_\_ my lawyer!"
- 2 "Ooh \_\_\_!"
- 3 Singer Cocker who gets a C?
- 4 Leeway
- 5 Cindy Brady's impediment
- 6 Like private phone numbers
- 7 Billionaire Branson who gets an F?
- 8 Price at a dime a dozen, perhaps?
- 9 Fortune teller
- 10 They're added to foot baths
- 11 "Dilbert" cartoonist Adams who gets an A?
- 12 Equipment
- 13 Makes a decision
- 24 Hot concept
- 26 Chocolate necessity
- 27 Sum up
- 28 It comes straight from the horse's mouth
- 31 Fred's wife, on "I Love Lucy"
- 32 \_\_\_ Maria (liqueur)
- 40 Get all emotional and teary-eyed
- 41 Part of GLAAD
- 45 Fade out, like a light
- 46 "We \_\_\_ song of sorrow ..." (lyric from Saves the Day's "What Went Wrong")
- 47 Beat too fast, like a heart
- 48 McGregor of "Angels & Demons"
- 49 Mineral that's the softest on the Mohs scale
- 50 Killer whale
- 52 Bodily system that includes the lungs (abbr.)
- 53 Acronym that sometimes means "right now"
- 54 Word after blood or fuel
- 55 Place to play horsey
- 57 Dungeons & Dragons game runners, for short
- 58 Withdrawal symptoms

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Answers Page 35

## SUDOKU

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

## Intermediate

### TO PLAY

Fill in the grid so that every row, column, and outlined 3-by-3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 exactly once. No guessing is required. The solution is unique.

Answers on page 35

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

September 16-22, 2020

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** In one of your past lives, maybe you were a Neanderthal midwife in what's now southern France. In another incarnation, you may have been a 17th-century Guarani shaman who shared your knowledge about local plants with an Italian Jesuit missionary in what's now Uruguay. All the powers and aptitudes you perfected in those and other previous ages could prove helpful as you cultivate your genius in the coming weeks. JUST KIDDING! Cancel my previous speculations. For you Aries folks, past achievements are often of secondary importance as you create your future. In fact, your mandate is usually to transcend the old days and old ways. It may be better not to imitate or rely on old stories, no matter how dazzling. This will be especially true in the coming weeks.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** "There are no ordinary feelings," says poet Dean Young. "Just as there are no ordinary spring days or kicked over cans of paint." That's always true, but it will be especially true for you in the coming weeks. I suspect you will be host to a wealth of interesting, unique, and profound feelings. They might be a bit overwhelming at times, but I think they will mostly provide rich opportunities for your soul to grow deeper and stronger and more resilient.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** "There should be a science of discontent," said novelist Frank Herbert. "People need hard times and oppression to develop psychic muscles." I partially agree with that observation, but I also think it's a gratuitous cliché that's not at all absolute. In fact, our culture is under the spell of a mass delusion that tempts us to believe "no pain, no gain" is the supreme learning principle. I'd like to see the development of a robust science of contentment: how fascination and freedom and generosity can build psychic muscles. You'll be a good candidate to study that subject in the coming weeks.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Cancerian songwriter Mathangi Arulpragasam is better known by her stage name M.I.A. She has accomplished a lot in her 45 years on the planet, having been nominated for three Grammy Awards and an Academy Award. "Esquire" magazine named her the 75th most influential person of the 21st century. One key to her success is the fact that she formulated a clear master plan many years ago, and has used it to guide her decisions. In her song "Matangi," she refers to it: "If you're gonna be me, you need a manifesto / If you ain't got one, you better get one presto." I bring this to your attention, Cancerian, because the coming weeks will be an excellent time to formulate (or re-formulate) your life manifesto and master plan.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** "If you're not invited to the party, throw your own," declares singer and actress Diahann Carroll. In the coming weeks, I urge you Leos to use that advice as a metaphor in every way you can imagine. For example, if you're not getting the love you want from a certain someone, give it to yourself. If no one hands you the opportunity you need, hand it to yourself. If you wish people would tell you what you want to hear, but they're not saying it, tell yourself what you want to hear. It's a time when you need to go beyond mere self-sufficiency. Be self-gratifying, self-rewarding, self-acknowledging.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** "At the necessary moment, going naked will be your most convincing disguise," writes poet Dobby Gibson. As I apply his witty statement to your life, I'll interpret it metaphorically. My sense is that you could really use the kind of "disguise" he's talking about. What I mean is that you would benefit by appearing to be different from what people expect of you. You can gain key advantages by shifting the image you present to the world—by expressing a part of your identity that is not usually obvious. And I think the best way to do that is to "go naked"—i.e. be candid and transparent and vulnerable about your core truths.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Libran playwright

Wendy Wasserstein wrote, "Every year I resolve to be a little less the me I know and leave a little room for the me I could be. Every year I make a note not to feel left behind by my friends and family who have managed to change far more than I." I recommend Wasserstein's practice to you, dear Libra. The coming weeks will be an excellent time to launch this ritual as an annual tradition. For best results, write it out as a vow. I mean take a pen and paper and compose a solemn pledge, then sign it on the bottom to seal your determination.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** "I may not lead the most dramatic life," confesses singer-songwriter Rufus Wainwright, "but in my brain it's War and Peace every day." He was referencing Leo Tolstoy's sprawling, exuberant 1,200-page novel "War and Peace", which features stories about five families who lived through Napoleon's invasion of Russia in the 19th century. I'm guessing that these days your fantasy life may also be filled with epic fairy tales and heroic sagas and tear-jerking myths. Is there a problem with that? Not necessarily. It could be quite entertaining and educational. I do recommend that you keep your actual life a little calmer and saner, however.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** "I rejoice to live in such a splendidly disturbing time!" said author Helen Keller (1880-1968). She was a smart activist who worked hard in behalf of women's equality, labor rights, antimilitarism, and socialism. Was she being sarcastic in saying she loved being alive during a time of upheaval? Not at all. She derived excitement and vigor from critiquing injustice. Her lust for life soared as she lent her considerable energy to making life on earth more enjoyable for more people. I invite you to consider adopting her attitude in the coming weeks. It's a good time to experiment with generating the personal power that becomes available by taking practical action in behalf of your high ideals.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You know what perfectionists are: people who obsessively strive to finesse every last detail, polishing and honing so compulsively that they risk sucking all the soul out of the finished product. In contrast to them, I propose that we identify a different class of humans known as "imperfectorists". They understand that a ferocious drive for utter purity can make things sterile and ugly. They resolve to cultivate excellence while at the same time they understand that irregularities and eccentricities may infuse their work with beauty. I hope you'll act like an imperfectorist in the coming weeks, Capricorn.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** "Everything good I've ever gotten in life, I only got because I gave something else up," writes author Elizabeth Gilbert. To that melodramatic declaration, I say, "Really? Everything? I don't believe you." And yet I do think she has a point. On some occasions, the most effective strategy for bringing good new influences into our lives is to sacrifice an influence or habit or pattern we're attached to. And often the thing that needs to be sacrificed is comfortable or consoling or mildly pleasurable. I suspect that the coming weeks will offer you one of these opportunities, Aquarius.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** "I and me are always too deeply in conversation," confessed philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche. I wonder why he said "too deeply" and not just "deeply." Did he mean his dialogs with himself distracted him from important matters in the world outside of his imagination? Was he implying that he got so consumed while conducting his self-interviews that he lost his bearings and forgot what his goals were? With these cautions in mind, Pisces, I invite you to dive into an intense but spacious communion with yourself. Make this a delightful and illuminating conference, not a raging debate or a debilitating argument.



*Thank you!*

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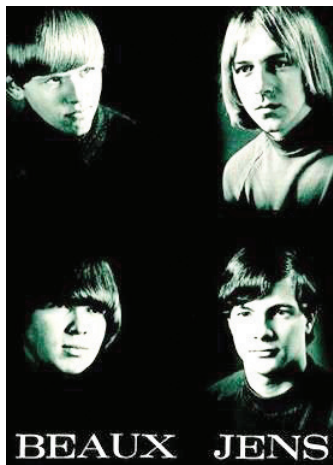
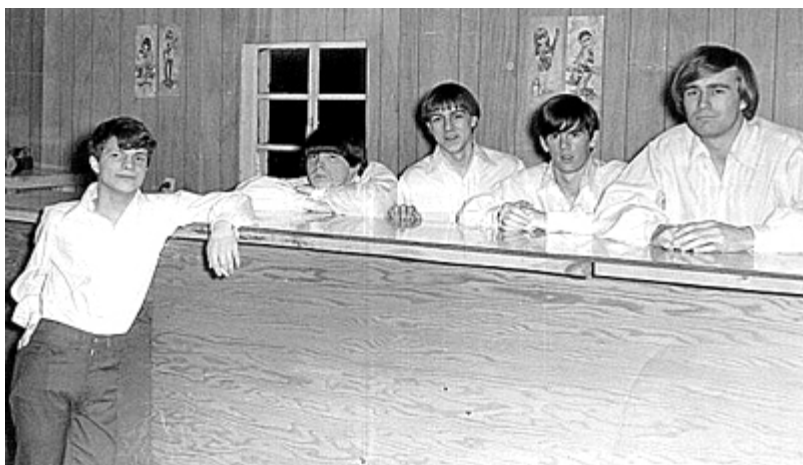
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# TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE  
BY RICH TUPICA

## TURN IT DOWN: A LOOK BACK AT THE BEAUX JENS



The Beaux Jens were a 1960s Grand Ledge-based outfit best known for its highly collectable “Trouble Baby” / “She Was Mine” 45 single. The 1967 sought-after single fetches hundreds of dollars. (Courtesy Photos)

### The '60s Grand Ledge teen band recorded the classic track 'She Was Mine'

Back in March 1966, a group of Grand Ledge high schoolers linked up and recorded a few now-classic garage rock tracks, including the epically moody “She Was Mine.” The sporadic screams and haunting organ set it apart from other bubblier tunes of the times.

The original track, cut by The Beaux Jens in April 1967, was the flipside to “Trouble Baby,” a peppier, but equally as brash original. Still, the B-side (“She Was Mine”) became the short-lived band’s signature track, and has been included on piles of ’60s compilations — including in Crypt Records’ iconic “Back From the Grave” series. Their tunes were also pressed on the massive 2007 “SCREAM LOUD!!” box set, which collected some of the most collectable Mid-Michigan and West Michigan ’60s teen-band singles.

Toby Bates, the band’s organ/coronet player, recalled The Beaux Jens’ modest genesis, which occurred at the height of Beatlemania. “We didn’t know shit,” Bates told me in 2013. “Tim Schram was the musical leader because he actually knew chords. At the beginning of the band we were still learning how to play. We were only 15 or 16 at the time.”

However, after countless rehearsals and frequent shows at teen clubs across Michigan, the budding musicians developed into an energetic and solid live band.

“I think we were pretty intense,” Bates said. “Between Gordy Garris (bass/vocals) and Joe Panessidi (drums)

we had two very energetic performers on stage. We were an energetic show and very fast-paced. We didn’t fool around between songs. We were on it. Joe was a ball of fire twirling his drum sticks around, jumping up and down, laughing and smiling.”

Of course, the guys had to juggle rock ‘n’ roll with high school. That was always kind of a drag, according to Bates.

“None of us were great students,” he said. “The more success we got as a band, the more we all kind of fizzled out on academics. But we had a great following at our high school. Along with our rivals, Tonto & the Renegades, we were all in the same circle. After we released the 45, we had a fan club between Grand Rapids and Flint.”

That 45, released on Sound of The

Scen Records (a vanity label named after The Scen, a teen club the band frequented), may have lived on over the ensuing decades, but the party ended for the band in July 1968 when Garris left the group and hooked up with a Michigan guitar legend.

“When we lost Gordy, our bass player, to Dick Wagner’s band, The Frost,” Bates said. “It was the beginning of the end. We tried to replace Gordy with two people, and it still didn’t work. Two months later it all fizzled out and everyone went their own directions.”

With the end of The Beaux Jens also came the end of ’60s and the end of the garage-band boom. As the Vietnam War and Civil Rights protests consumed the country, music also changed and morphed into more psychedelic sounds. More complicated

brands of progressive rock became the norm, and the primitive 45s left behind by young bands like The Beaux Jens were left in the dust. But for many record collectors, those dusty 45s never lost a bit of their magic. In fact, “She Was Mine” sells for over \$650 when they pop up on eBay. Keep an eye out. They’re rare, but worth tracking down. True Michigan artifacts.

#### CROSSWORD SOLUTION From Pg. 33

F	L	A	W	L	U	P	U	S	E	G	G	O	
R	A	V	I	I	N	O	N	E	P	R	E	P	
O	L	E	G	S	P	O	D	E	S	E	A	T	
M	A	R	G	P	U	R	E	R	O	A	R	S	
	A	L	T	B	R	R	C	M	T				
A	N	G	E	R	L	I	C	A	S	S	E	T	
D	E	E	R	E	I	C	H	C	A	C	T	I	
D	I	J	O	N	S	H	A	A	L	O	H	A	
	G	O	O	D	C	H	A	R	L	O	T	T	E
	H	E	M	H	E	R	G	E	S	T	L		
				G	O	D	D	E	S	S			
R	E	T	O	O	K	B	A	R	A	C	K		
A	W	A	R	D	E	D	D	I	N	E	S	E	N
C	A	L	C	I	U	M	T	A	G	S	A	L	E
E	N	C	A	M	P	S	S	N	A	P	P	L	E

#### SUDOKU SOLUTION From Pg. 33

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

### CITY PULSE

#### MITTEN MUSIC QUIZ:

1. 1948’s “Boogie Chillen” was recorded in Detroit by this bluesman.
2. This Calumet, Michigan native was a composer and violinist on many of Disney’s early films.
3. This Detroit native debuted in 1956 with “Byrd Jazz” LP
4. “Stranger in Town” was a 1965 pop hit for this Coopersville-raised musician.
5. In 2003, this indie star released his “Michigan” LP, a concept album dedicated to his birthplace.

Answers on page 36

# OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com). Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Suzi at (517) 999-6704.

## Wednesday, September 16

**2020 East Lansing Kiwanis "Virtual BBQ"** - 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. For info and tickets: [elkiwanis.org](http://elkiwanis.org).

**Allen Farmers Market** - 2:30-7 p.m. Allen Farmers Market 2020, 2100 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

**Book a Librarian** - Book a 25 minute virtual appt. for one-on-one tech help. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. [dewittlibrary.org](http://dewittlibrary.org)

**Grandhaven Carnival for Essential Workers** - 4-6 p.m. Grandhaven living

Center, 3145 W Mt Hope Ave, Lansing. 517-294-6864.

**Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting Webinar Series** - 7:30-9 p.m. [canr.msu.edu/events](http://canr.msu.edu/events)

**MParks Foundation Virtual 5k** - September 1-30. For information and to sign up, [mparks.org/events](http://mparks.org/events)

**Outdoor Pop Up Art Shop** - Michigan artists! 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N Washington, Ste 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400.

**PeaceQuest Greater Lansing 2020** - For September events, go to [peacequestgreaterlansing.org](http://peacequestgreaterlansing.org).

**Researching the Underground Railroad in Michigan** - 3:30-5 p.m. Michigan History Center. Go to [facebook.com/pg/MichiganHistoryCenter](http://facebook.com/pg/MichiganHistoryCenter)

**Special Collections Look Club: World Travel**. 2-2:45 p.m. Online, MSU Libraries, East Lansing. [bookings.lib.msu.edu](http://bookings.lib.msu.edu).

## Thursday, September 17

**Bath Township Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13751 Main St., Bath. [shopbfm.org](http://shopbfm.org).

**Dimondale Farmers' Market** - 3-7 p.m. Village Square, 136 N Bridge St, Dimondale. 517-646-0230. [villageofdimondale.org](http://villageofdimondale.org).

**Outdoor Pop Up Art Shop** - featuring the work of Michigan artists! 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Lan-

sing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N Washington, Ste 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400.

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 6-7 p.m. [facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing](http://facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing)

**South Lansing Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. Casimir Catholic Church, 800 W Barnes Ave, Lansing. 517-374-5700.

**Studio (in)Process at Home** - 9-10 p.m. MSU Broad. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu)

## Friday, September 18

**Outdoor Pop Up Art Shop** - Michigan artists! 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N Washington, Ste 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400.

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 7:30-8:30 p.m. [facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing](http://facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing)

## Saturday, September 19

**Outdoor Pop Up Art Shop** - featuring the work of Michigan artists! 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 119 N Washington, Ste 101, Lansing. 517-374-6400.

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 7:30-8:30 p.m. [facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing](http://facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing)

## Sunday, September 20

**Community Open Call: Identity Through Performance** - What does it mean to be Asian American? 2-3 p.m.

[events.msu.edu](http://events.msu.edu) for Zoom link.

**East Lansing Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 300 Valley Court, East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com](http://cityofeastlansing.com).

**Lansing JazzFest** - The annual Michigan JazzFest will be a week-long interactive online event. [Jazzlansing.com](http://Jazzlansing.com)

## Monday, September 21

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 6-7 p.m. [facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing](http://facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing)

## Tuesday, September 22

**Doing Site Nominations** - The Michigan Underground Railroad Heritage Gathering. 3:30-5 p.m. For info, go to [facebook.com/pg/MichiganHistoryCenter](http://facebook.com/pg/MichiganHistoryCenter)

**Special Collections Virtual Pop-up: Dangerous Books!** - Get ready for Banned Books Week with a look at the most dangerous books in Special Collections! 1-2 p.m. Online, MSU Libraries, East Lansing. [bookings.lib.msu.edu](http://bookings.lib.msu.edu).

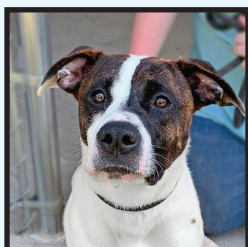
### MITTEN MUSIC QUIZ ANSWERS

1. John Lee Hooker
2. Paul Smith
3. Donald Byrd
4. Del Shannon
5. Sufjan Stevens

# Ingham County Animal Shelter

To adopt one of these pets, visit the ICAS at 600 Buhl St., Mason, call (517) 676-8370 to make an appt. or go to [ac.ingham.org](http://ac.ingham.org).

Sponsor a pet on the next Adoption Page for only \$35, \$6 goes to the shelter. To sponsor, call 999-5061 now!! Adopt a pet on this page and Soldan's will thank you with a \$10 gift certificate. Contact (517) 999-5061 after you adopt.

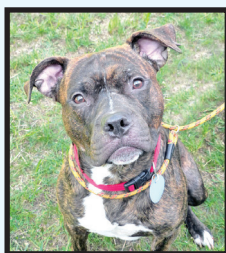


**Knapp** is a bouncy young gentleman who came in as a stray. He would do great with a family who has experience training dogs. He gets along with other dogs but might chase a cat!



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**DeWitt**  
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**Charlotte**  
515 Lansing St.



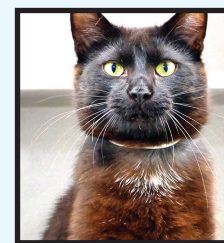
**Higgins** is a sweet shy guy who just wants someone of his own to love. Would do best with an easy-going female and is good with kids.

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**Nautilus** is an adorable male kitten who is ready for his new home. Who can resist that handsome face? We have many adorable kittens ready for adoption.

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**Shiffed** is a handsome outgoing guy who is very affectionate, loves attention and is waiting patiently for his forever home. He should be fine with kids and other cats.

Sponsored by **Schuler Books**



**Sam** is a sweet, very shy guy who needs a patient, quiet family who will give him time to come out of his shell. He is not aggressive or hissy, just scared.

In memory of **Rodica's cats**



**Karen** is a very shy lady with beautiful face markings! She's a little nervous but has a sweet personality and would prefer a home with other easy going animals and gentle older kids.



**Barlow** is a sweet, affectionate older girl who loves people and is happiest when she is with them. She's a mystery mutt, possibly whippet/beagle, a great beauty no matter what she is!

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# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### Sultan's Mediterranean relocates to downtown East Lansing

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Sultan's Mediterranean Cuisine & Bakery owner Bassam Mahmoud says he is the grandfather of Mediterranean food in Greater Lansing, having helped many fellow local restaurateurs get their start in the industry at Sultan's. Though his restaurant's main location has moved from Hannah Plaza to downtown East Lansing, he's still serving the classic dishes that have made his restaurant a mainstay. Right now, you can



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(517) 333-4444,  
sultansmediterranean.com

enjoy Sultan's by dining-in and ordering takeout or delivery.

Mahmoud said the switch came about because rent at the original Hannah Plaza location, where Sultan's first opened in 1995, was becoming unjustifiably expensive. He found a much better price at the new spot on Grand River Avenue and made the move. An additional perk, Mahmoud said, is the extra foot traffic Sultan's can attract from the students living off campus in East Lansing. "When COVID-19 started, by law I could



A falafel combo from Sultan's Mediterranean.

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See Sultan's, Page 39

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# Sultan's

from page 38

only do catering and carryout. That was not enough to cover my expenses, so that got me thinking about downsizing," Mahmoud said. "I have gotten a few new customers, and they left good reviews and will probably be coming back."

Though Sultan's is open for dine-in, Mahmoud said customers in East Lansing still seem a little shy about returning to the restaurant for a sit-down meal. "Ninety-five percent of my business is carryout and delivery through Uber, DoorDash and GrubHub," he said. "My old customers that have known me for a long time, they keeping coming to support me."

At the new Sultan's location in East Lansing, diners can still expect to enjoy the same famous dishes that made Sultan's become a Greater Lansing mainstay. Mahmoud said a popular dish that is ordered again and again, is Sultan's signature chicken shawarma. Mahmoud said his favorite dish is the deboned, charbroiled chicken. "I like dark meat, so when I need to eat here, I eat the deboned chicken," Mahmoud

said. "I eat it as a combo with hummus, salad and rice."

Mahmoud swears by his freshly prepared, in-house ingredients. Nothing is frozen and nothing, besides tomato paste, comes from a can. Sultan's shish kafta is prepared with a blend of meats that Mahmoud makes himself using cuts of lamb and beef. "I don't trust the

ground beef from outside," Mahmoud said. "I'm very sensitive about serving pork or ham. I saw a report by ABC that discovered that packages of meat that claimed to be 100 percent beef would still have five percent pork."

Though Mahmoud has a pharmaceutical degree, he is continuing his family's line of work by being a restaurateur.

"My passion is in restaurants. My father used to own restaurants back home in Syria, I used to study and work with him all my life, until I came to this country," Mahmoud said. "Being in the restaurant business has been a part of my life since I was a kid. I am the one who's opened the doors of my restaurant for the past 25 years. I do my job out of love."



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