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## Who will rescue the rescuers?

SEE PAGE 18



Attorney Andrew P. Abood and Lansing Community College President Dr. Steve J. Robinson

Pleased to welcome Dr. Steve Robinson, President, Lansing Community College.

— Andrew P. Abood



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# CityPULSE

**VOL. 20  
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**How to reach out to Trump voters  
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**Cover Art**

Illustration by Nevin Speerbrecker

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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

**LIFE IN THE STUPIVERSE  
WE ARE ALL SO VERY, VERY TIRED**

**DONALD TRUMP VS. REALITY**  
BY TWITTER FIAT, I HEREBY CLAIM ELECTORAL VICTORY IN THE STATES I AM LOSING, AS IS MY DIVINE RIGHT AS YOUR FAVORITE PRESIDENT!

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**CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER**  
IT MAKES NO SENSE, WHITE-HAIRED GUY! HOW CAN SLEEPY JOE POSSIBLY HAVE WON, AFTER ALL WE DID TO CLOSE POLLING SITES, RESTRICT EARLY VOTING, DELAY EARLY VOTE COUNTS, AND SABOTAGE THE POSTAL SYSTEM?

DEMOCRATS CLEARLY DO NOT BELIEVE IN FAIR AND FREE ELECTIONS, SIR!

**A VERY GOOD AND SENSIBLE SYSTEM**  
JOE BIDEN GOT FOUR MILLION MORE VOTES THAN HIS OPPONENT!

THAT DOESN'T MATTER! THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT HE COLLECTED ENOUGH VALUABLE STATE POINTS ON THE BIG BOARD TO WIN THE GAME!

**THE TANTALIZING POSSIBILITY OF BLESSED RELIEF**  
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GO HOURS AT A TIME WITHOUT EVEN THINKING ABOUT TRUMP!

I...I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT THAT WOULD BE LIKE.

**NEXT: TEN WEEKS OF RATFUCKERY**  
GET ME SOME GASOLINE AND A LIGHTER! IF I CAN'T HAVE THE OVAL OFFICE--NOBODY CAN!

ER--RIGHT AWAY, SIR.

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# A time to heal

America got it right. So did President-elect Joe Biden, claiming the nation's highest office over the weekend with a call to unity and civility. It is a time to heal, he said. He's right, but it will take time. Time for jubilation on the left to give way to a pragmatic focus on the future. Time for disappointment on the right to fade, yielding to acceptance not just of the election results, but of the necessity to abandon combative partisanship in favor of a renewed commitment to comity and compromise. Just as the human body requires nutrients to heal, our democracy is nourished when good people set aside their differences to focus on the shared values and common cause that bind us together as Americans.

Toward that end, we think it's time for Republican leaders in Michigan and elsewhere to renounce their foolish and damaging efforts to challenge the integrity of our elections, undermining public confidence in our democracy. It is time for reasonable Republicans to stand up and speak out against the insidious infection of Trumpism that has led the nation astray and left their party in a shambles. It is time to remember the legacy of moderate Michigan Republicans like Bill Milliken, a leader who eschewed partisanship in favor of statesmanship, and who worked in good faith with anyone who was dedicated to advancing the common good of the people of Michigan.

Sadly, the tenor of our national politics is far too bitter to imagine a back-to-the-future reconstruction of the Republican Party. But there is always room to move in the direction of reason and moderation, especially at a time when the status quo is dominated by division and derision. It is indeed time for Trump and Biden supporters alike to set aside the acrimony and accusations and look for common ground.

It is time for Americans of every stripe to rally around the cause of healing the deep wounds in our body politic that have festered for the past four years. It is time to double down on racial justice and equity, on securing health care and economic security for all, and on embracing the notion that environmental protection and economic development are not mutually exclusive. And it is time to consider issues that we will never agree on — abortion comes to mind — as settled questions of law and move on.

## The CP Edit

### Opinion

It wasn't so long ago, before Trump was something more than a wealthy game show host, that moderate Republicans lived in fear of being "primaried" by the anti-tax Tea Party. Now they live in fear of the far right Trumpian fringe that worships guns and white supremacy. Will the Trump Cult continue to hold sway over Republicans who would otherwise be inclined to work with Democrats? Let's hope that courage and resolve take the place of fear and blind fealty, at least for some, giving us hope that the great American experiment will again rise to meet our lofty expectations.

This election laid bare once again a tale of two Americas, one largely urban that favors Democrats and one largely rural that favors Republicans. It's as if two different nations co-exist within the same borders. There was a time not so long ago when those two nations lived together in peace, for the most part. Now the two sides look at each other across ideological battle lines not so different from the DMZ that separates North and South Korea. How can we move back toward magnanimity and mutual understanding? It is a question that each of us must ponder in the challenging days ahead.

It is often said that time heals all wounds. Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, late matriarch of one of America's most revered political families, dismissed that notion. "The wounds remain," she said, reflecting on a life marked by unfathomable tragedy. "In time, the mind, protecting its sanity, covers them with scar tissue and

the pain lessens. But it is never gone." Scar tissue is just now forming over our national wounds. Let us all commit to leaving it alone for a while. In due time, although our pain will only have lessened, let us move forward together as one nation with one purpose: to restore the American ideal of liberty, justice and equality for all.



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

# Records battle shows lack of police accountability in Lansing

Lansing cops shield public records. What else are they hiding?

(Kyle Kaminski is a reporter for City Pulse.)

As a newspaper reporter, I'm intimately familiar with Michigan's Freedom of Information Act.

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor's administration has also made a routine out of forcing local

**OPINION** media outlets — including City Pulse and the Lansing State Journal — to use the legislation to obtain even rudimentary-level details and supplemental records over the most insignificant of topics.

So, earlier this summer, when several maskless Lansing Police Department officers pointed guns at my back and mistakenly detained me in front of my downtown apartment, I expected a FOIA request would be the only way to eventually pry loose any police reports or video footage.

The case of mistaken identity was admittedly a jarring experience, but the total disregard for pandemic-related precautions showcased by the officers' bare faces was much more alarming. Chief Daryl Green later promised to investigate and discipline any cops who broke any policies.

Naturally, I was curious what would become of the whole ordeal.

More than a month afterward, the Police Department reached back out: My complaints against at least one of the several officers involved had been "sustained" — meaning that some form of departmental policy violation, likely one involving face masks, was found to have been violated.

Top cops didn't list which policies were broken or whether discipline resulted from the internal investigation. Any more details, as expected, would require a FOIA request, they explained.

Last month, and about two months after the incident, the City Attorney's Office finally responded: I wasn't to get a single record from the city. No reports. No videos. No documents related to an internal in-

vestigation into policy violations. No details about sustained complaints or discipline.

Given that police in Lansing are largely expected to police themselves over alleged misconduct, I wasn't entirely shocked by the flippant disregard for transparency. Internal investigations at LPD often never see the light of day. And when they do, they're often heavy with redactions.

Because this incident also revolved around an unsolved shooting, city attorneys had claimed that videos of me being mistakenly detained by maskless cops could "interfere" and "influence" witness testimony too. It could also somehow taint a jury and stifle a fair trial, attorneys claimed.

Additionally, and most concerning: These internal investigations require cooperation from police officers, attorneys said. Knowing that results from those probes could go public would create a "chilling effect" at LPD and could push cops to clam up during interviews, city attorneys claimed.

It's the same defense the city used in denying City Pulse access to hundreds of internal investigations into alleged misconduct earlier this year. And it's simply unacceptable reasoning.

Shielding police records, especially to those who filed complaints to trigger investigations, clashes with the broader public interest of police accountability and transparency. The public — and especially the individual complainant — deserve to know what becomes of their complaints.

And you'd think cops, if they've got nothing to hide, would have no problem being forthcoming.

Lastly, the city, as usual, argued its interest in privacy simply outweighed the public's interest in disclosure — a clear sign that members of Schor's administration are apparently more interested in covering their own asses than being forthcoming in the face of public criticism.

It's a situation we've seen play out on many issues facing the city of Lansing, most recently involving the death of Anthony Hulon in the city jail and beneath City Hall and the dearth of details that followed.

Naturally, we called bullshit and immediately filed an appeal to City Council President Peter Spadafore.

And last week, Spadafore must've agreed when he opted to overturn the denial and order the release of redacted versions of incident reports, videos and internal investigations.

The same day Spadafore attempted to steer lawyers in Schor's administration back on course, however, the City Attorney's Office shot back with another roadblock in the form of a \$200 bill. Officials also demanded an upfront deposit of nearly \$100 to even get started on the request.

Here's the thing: I don't intend to pay that bill, and I think it's ridiculous this administration would request it be paid. Would I like to know whether any cops were punished for failing to wear masks during a pandemic? Sure, but I found a more meaningful takeaway: Transparency at the Lansing Police Department leaves much (much) more to be desired. Reforms should start there.

Not everyone is as familiar with public records requests. That extra hurdle, in and of itself, is an overt barrier to the expedient release of information to the public. And when it involves allegations of improper conduct, there should be as few barriers as possible to accountability.

And the idea that cops might freeze up during future investigations if the public were to catch wind of their proven misconduct? Bull. Taxpayers deserve to know whether they've hired good cops and if top brass is doing anything at all to hold them accountable for their misdeeds.

The city, instead, is arguing that total accountability requires an overlying level of secrecy to be effective. I'd challenge Schor's administration to think long and hard about that reasoning and whether it falls in line with the reforms that are desperately needed at the Police Department.

Do better. The residents of this city deserve nothing less.

## LETTERS to the editor

### Recognize malice

As I was following news coverage of the plot to abduct the governor, I was appalled to see the Muskegon Chronicle refer to this as a "plan." That word is so weak. A township planning commission does plans. There's no malice in a plan.

I want to know where these terrorists got their money? When they stormed the capitol building last spring, it was said that Betsy DeVos was fomenting the charade. I that true? She funded the Michigan Freedom Fund. Were they in on this?

In a two-year old journal of the Southern Poverty Law Center, (they keep track of white fringe groups) I read that a white supremacist who plotted to abduct a federal judge was sentenced to 40 years in prison. That's more like it. Stupidity is not a defense. This is very serious.

I wrote to the Chronicle, but they don't do letters to the editor anymore. Another time-honored tradition out the window.

Please accept thanks for your excellent Op-Ed piece showing our hero Governor Gretchen Whitmer knocking out these gun-rights and anti government nuts. (Oct 14, 2020.)

**Catherine Ellis**  
East Lansing

Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages?

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#### 2.) Write a guest column:

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(Please include your name, address and telephone number so we can reach you. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.)



# REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By KYLE KAMINSKI



## Whitmer still wants to fix the damn roads

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer stopped by I-496 in Lansing Tuesday to see the nearly completed construction of the first project in her “Rebuilding Michigan” plan. MDOT invested about \$60 million to improve a stretch of the highway between I-96 and Lansing Road. Work included rebuilding the freeway and ramps and maintenance. The project is expected to wrap up soon. It’s also one of 122 projects on heavily traveled state-owned highways made possible or put on an accelerated timeline thanks to bond financing approved by the State Transportation Commission in January. Added Whitmer: “This freeway used to be held together with patches and emergency repairs, and with the hard work of our dedicated construction workers who worked on the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic, this new project is yet another step towards building a stronger more reliable state.”



Last month’s Eye for Design (pictured below) was identified correctly by Mary Minor as the Orchard Street Pumphouse in East Lansing. The building was designed by local architect Harold Childs in 1934. The published detail showed the half-moon window over the front door through the back window. Although its symmetry, dramatic porch pillars and gridded windows make it appear colonial, the pass-through view from front to back windows indicate a connection to the natural world that evokes the Art Deco movement popular at the time this modest brick structure was built.

This month’s Eye for Design (above) can be found by looking up in Meridian Township. If you know where this Eye for Design can be found, email carriesampson@micourthistory.org and you could win an Eye for Design mug.

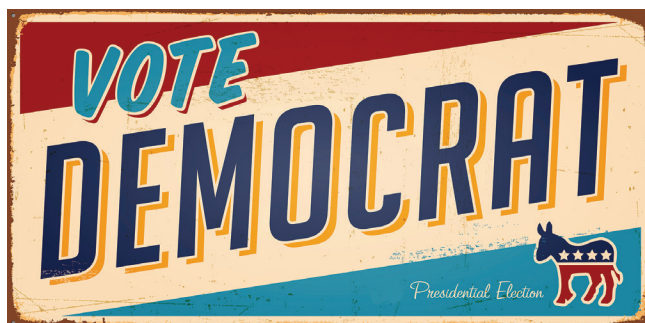
— CARRIE SAMPSON



“Eye for Design” is our look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eye candy of the Week and Eyesore of the Week.

## Lansing firefighters seek cadets

In partnership with the Lansing School District, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor recently announced the formation of the Lansing School District Fire Academy — a cadet program for high school students that began earlier this fall and was only recently approved by the City Council. The program helps high school students to complete their state firefighter certification while still in school. Participants attend training and classes every day of the week for a total of 242 hours of lecture and hands-on work, followed by state written and practical exams. At least 10 students are currently enrolled in the program and plan to take state exams before summer.



er Gretchen Driskell, who lost by a wide margin in her third attempt to beat Republican incumbent Tim Walberg.

## The Blue Wall has returned

A record 5.5 million Michiganians voted on Election Day, returning the state to Democratic hands after helping deliver it and the nation to Donald J. Trump four years ago. That’s 500,000 more votes than the previous record of 5 million votes in 2008, when Barack Obama carried the state, according to The Associated Press. Absentee voting accounted for nearly 3.5 million votes. The unofficial results show Biden leading Trump by more than 150,000 votes, compared to Trump’s 2016 victory by fewer than 11,000 votes. With Michigan in the bag, Biden went on to win Pennsylvania and the presidency. Meanwhile, first-term incumbent Gary Peters kept his U.S. Senate seat, narrowly beating Republican John James. U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin, a Democrat, held onto her district, which includes all of Ingham County, defeating Republican Paul Junge by a 4-point margin. Despite having a huge fundraising advantage this year, Slotkin ran about the same as she did in 2018 when she took the seat away from incumbent Republican Mike Bishop. In mid-Michigan’s other congressional district, three times did not prove the charm for Democratic challeng-



## Hundreds protested at the State Capitol

Despite Joseph Biden’s 150,000-vote margin over Donald Trump in Michigan, hundreds of Trump supporters took the Capitol grounds Saturday claiming that the election had been stolen. That didn’t fall on deaf ears: The Republican-controlled Michigan Legislature issued a subpoena Saturday to investigate possible election irregularities, despite lack of evidence. Michigan troopers were on hand to keep the large Trump crowd separated by a few dozen Biden supporters who showed up to celebrate their victory.



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# Bernero, Spitzley shaping up as likely challengers to Schor

As Lansing Mayor Andy Schor continues to solicit campaign donations for a run at a second term, two potential candidates have surfaced in recent weeks as viable challengers.

In interviews this week with City Pulse, former three-term Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero said he is “strongly considering” a 2021 campaign and Councilwoman Patricia Spitzley declared: “I’m in it to win it.”

“It’s my intention to file to run,” Spitzley explained. “It’s time to move Lansing forward, and I’m interested in moving forward with new leadership and a new sense of transparency and accountability. This election is where our residents will really decide the future of their city.”

Mayoral candidates have until April 27 to file for next year’s election. None have done so.

Schor hasn’t formally announced a reelection campaign and declined to disclose his plans this week to City Pulse, though his campaign committee is still actively seeking donations, in part through an annual “Beer Tasting Fundraiser” next week.

“I’ll continue to fundraise regardless. That’s not uncommon,” Schor explained. “I’m going to continue to do my part to push the city of Lansing in a positive direction. I’ll keep doing my job.”

Council President Peter Spadafore and State Rep. Sarah Anthony — both widely speculated to be mayoral contenders next year — crossed themselves off the list of possibilities this week. Despite rumors, both told City Pulse that they have no intention

to run for mayor next year.

City Clerk Chris Swope, another possible mayoral candidate, played it cool.

“I want to continue to serve the citizens of Lansing,” he said. “I’m not saying more than that.”

That leaves Schor, for now, facing the possibility of a three-way primary race for mayor next August amid a backdrop of a worsening pandemic, financial uncertainty and racial tension. The top two vote-getters in the nonpartisan primary election will face each other in the November general election.

Bernero said he likes his chances. Spitzley said she simply wants to leave voters with a choice in 2021.

“Next year’s election will be another opportunity to make key decisions to improve life in Lansing and address some glaring problems,” Bernero said. “Numerous civic leaders, including the business and faith communities, have encouraged me to return for the last several months.”

Added Spitzley: “I think we should trust the democratic process and let residents choose the best leader for this city, someone who they feel can move forward their vision for the community. Good, bad or indifferent, any mayor is going to need to be held accountable for their decisions.”

Schor has faced calls for his resignation over the last several months — both from the louder segments of the Black Lives Matter movement in Lansing and from some of the 1,300 city retirees who expect to have their health benefits slashed by the city on Jan. 1, 2021.

After the death of Anthony Hulon in the Police Department lockup beneath City Hall was revealed to the public in the form of a federal wrongful death lawsuit last month, the angst against Schor’s administration — and perceptions of secrecy — have only compounded.

City officials have since largely declined to answer any questions about the incident at all.

“Andy is really more of a city manager than a mayor,” one long-time public official told City Pulse. “The

mayor’s job is to be regional, visionary, collaborative. You know, big picture. Andy is taking a more low-profile, managerial approach, and I don’t think that’s going to work for him.”

Many offered their speculation on next year’s mayoral race, but only under the condition of anonymity. City Pulse offered that option to dozens of people over the last week to weigh in.

Despite recent missteps, particularly with the Black community in Lansing, Schor hadn’t done any irreparable damage to a possible reelection campaign, some suggested. Others said residents were still shaking a major sense of “Virg fatigue” that took root back in 2016 and 2017.

“I don’t necessarily think that the people pushing for divestment in Lansing, those who are also most critical of the mayor, really speak for the citizens of Lansing,” one prominent politician said. “As for Virg? That’s like a reboot of a movie that’s not that old. I’m not sure we’re ready for it.”

Bernero won by 23 points in 2005 and carried 71% percent of the vote in defeating Lansing City Councilman Harold Leeman in 2013. After then state Rep. Schor chased Bernero out of running for a fourth term in 2017, Schor won the mayoral race by similar margins — 72% — against then-Councilwoman Judi Brown Clarke.

Many speculate that a race between Schor and Bernero would be bound to take a nasty turn as both candidates looked to lean on their own records while simultaneously attacking the other. Bernero is also expected to lean on racial discord to sew continued opposition to Schor.

Not having been mayor, Spitzley could possibly avoid those barbs, some said. Though with multiple terms on Council, including as president, she’ll also have her own record to defend.

Others suggest that an eventual

dogfight between Spitzley and Bernero would only help Schor’s odds as the two compete over a finite pool of fundraising dollars and endorsements.

“Any incumbent is always going to have that incumbent advantage, and I think Schor will maintain that advantage going into next year,” one business leader told City Pulse. “I think a lot of this will hinge on the status of COVID-19, unfunded liabilities and a business recovery plan.”

Recent campaign finance reports filed with the Ingham County Clerk’s office show that Schor is sitting on about \$150,000 to pour into a bid for another term, including about \$40,000 that was raised in the last four months alone. One source also labeled Schor a “door-knocking wizard.”

Bernero, also known to be a major-league fundraiser, was late in filing campaign finance reports from his longstanding mayoral candidate committee last month. Reports from August showed him with a balance of about \$17,000. Spitzley’s last report shows a balance of about \$1,200.

“Andy and Virg really aren’t all that different politically speaking. They’re both pro-development. They’re both supportive of tax incentives. Virg is charismatic and can be inspiring, but I don’t think he can stand on that alone,” another local politician told City Pulse. “Patricia could give voters a real alternative, but I’m also not so sure she’s prepared to go up to bat against them.”

“This all depends on whether Andy can build the visible army of volunteers that he needs to stand on his side of these issues,” another political insider told City Pulse. “It’ll also depend on the status of federal funding and city finances with COVID-19 going on in the background too. One thing is for sure: It’s one hell of an interesting race that’ll shape up over the next 90 days.”

— KYLE KAMINSKI



Bernero



Spitzley



Schor



Spadafore



Swope

**STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF INGHAM NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Decedent's Estate  
File No. 20-827 DE  
Estate of Hue Thi Le. Date of birth: 02/11/1950  
**TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The decedent, Hue Thi Le, died 02/20/2020. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Thuan D. Le, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, MI 48933 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of this notice.  
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Thuan D. Le  
4005 Barker Court, Apt 115  
Fairfax, VA 22032-1370  
(301) 996-3845  
CP#20-282

**STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF INGHAM NOTICE OF HEARING WITH REMOTE PARTICIPATION**  
File No. 22-GA-P33  
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Judge Dunning's Meeting Room ID number: 9571863173  
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If you cannot participate by Zoom or telephone, please immediately contact the Judge's Judicial Assistant at 517-483-6328 for more information.  
Ryan Stockwell  
Adult Protective Services  
517-775-4824  
stockwellr@michigan.gov  
CP#20-281

# Lansing City Council reels back controversial police defunding plans

Seeking more consensus on a resolution calling for redistributing police funds, Lansing City Councilwoman Patricia Spitzley pulled the measure from the agenda Monday night to return it to her committee for more consideration.



Spitzley

The resolution would have created a subcommittee to find ways to redirect police funds into other community programs and services.

Spitzley acted under her authority as head of the Committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, which last week unanimously sent the resolution the full Council for a vote.

“I want to bring it back to the committee to continue to work on reaching a consensus,” Spitzley explained. “Government is what government is. If both sides are unhappy, then we’re probably right where we need to be. It’s all a process. It didn’t start overnight and it won’t end overnight.”

The initial resolution from Council members Brandon Betz and Kathie Dunbar called for a 50% budget cut over the next five years, but those benchmarks were eliminated altogether last week in favor of “significant” cuts with no set time frame through a series of committee-level amendments.

“I’m committed to continuing to work to put forth a resolution that addresses reimagining public safety in the city of Lansing,” Spitzley said on Tuesday. “What I’m not willing to do is put for-

ward a resolution that doesn’t do that. I was clear then and in committee: I do not agree with the funding language. Defunding the police is not going to address systemic racism in Lansing.”

“Throwing out a word like reducing or significantly reducing, without understanding what that means, is irresponsible,” Spitzley said. “If we’re going to do this, let’s do it right.”

Council members Carol Wood, Adam Hussain and Jeremy Garza oppose any cuts. Betz and Dunbar, in turn, have tried to sway Spitzley while leaning on Councilmen Brian Jackson and Peter Spadafore to garner the five votes required to put the plan into motion.

“Any language that talks about the police budget, I think that’s putting the cart before the horse,” Spitzley explained, labeling any funding reduction at the Police Department as a “non-starter.”

Spadafore, who proposed eliminating the 50% benchmark at last month’s committee meeting, labeled the more ambiguous language as a more politically feasible alternative. Still, more compromise will be necessary to push it through Council.

Alternatively, Spitzley could always choose to begin the work of the yet-to-form Public Safety Transformation subcommittee within her own in-house Committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion — essentially rendering the proposal from Betz and Dunbar unnecessary to the city’s action plans.

“What I heard from the Council was that there doesn’t seem to be a need to form a separate structure to do some of this work,” Spadafore added. “I hope this committee can start the task on its

own of developing a roadmap to getting a greater equity and investment in social services.”

The initial resolution — a direct response to the murder of George Floyd and subsequent national unrest — noted that police departments nationwide have their own “history of violence and discrimination.” Increased policing does not actually mitigate crime in the city, it contends.

It also called for the “Public Safety Transformation” subcommittee to generate a “New Priorities Report” and turn it over to the City Council for review by March 1, 2021. The stated goal: Reroute a significant amount of police cash to education, health care, mental health programs and other community-led social programs designed to curb criminal behavior before it begins.

The proposal doesn’t necessarily carry operational weight and would still require an eventual budgetary adjustment from Lansing Mayor Andy Schor’s office. Still, the issue has divided the City Council. During a heated exchange



Spadafore

on Monday, Betz, a white man, labeled a vote against the plan as a “vote for white supremacy.” Spitzley, a Black woman, labeled the remark offensive.

“That type of rhetoric really prevents us from making any real, effective change in this city,” Spitzley added. “It’s easy to say things like that, but it’s harder to actually roll up your sleeves and get to work on real solutions that could address diversity, equity and inclusion in this city.”

And of course, even if the resolution had garnered Spitzley’s support this week, it could always be subject to a veto from Schor’s office — which would then require an even more unlikely sixth vote to override it. Garza, Wood and Hussain have all refused to budge on potential divestment.

Spitzley emphasized that more “middle ground” would be required before plans could continue. She also said she plans to continue workshopping the resolution in her committee before sending it back to the City Council. And, of course, instead of forming a new subcommittee, Spitzley’s committee itself could always also begin analyzing its own reforms and budget cuts.

“Whatever we do, I want the community to be involved in a meaningful way,” Spitzley added.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

### CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Z-8-2019, 5400 S. Cedar Street

Conditional Rezoning from “F” Commercial & “J” Parking Districts to “G-2” Wholesale District

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 30, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM Conferencing, Meeting ID 871 4961 8641, to consider Z-8-2019. This is a request by Amerco Real Estate Company to rezone approximately 9.38 acres of the property at 5400 S. Cedar Street from “F” Commercial & “J” Parking Districts to “G-2” Wholesale District, with conditions requiring certain site improvements and restricting the allowable uses. The purpose of the rezoning is to permit the property to be used for self-storage, U-Haul truck and trailer sharing and a moving and storage retail store.

Note: Michigan Director of Health and Human Services Robert Gordon’s Order of October 9, 2020 regarding Gather Prohibition and Face Covering, as well as states of emergency declared by the Mayor and approved by City Council have led to a closure of City Hall to public at this time due to COVID-19. Public observation and participation may be facilitated electronically in accordance with the Open Meetings Act in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public.

Members of the public wishing to observe or participate in the meeting may do so by logging into or calling into the meetings using the website <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87149618641> (Note: this option requires downloading Zoom software. If you have not already installed the software, this may take a few minutes) or by calling (301) 715 8592 and entering Meeting ID: 871 4961 8641.

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).

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CP#20-285

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# Helping people, help people

A major focus at the Capital Area Literacy Coalition is on Adult Literacy - helping adults in the community with their educational or career goals and in becoming more self-sufficient in their everyday lives by evolving their literacy skills. This could not be accomplished without help from volunteers and adult tutors.

Each month, Tutor Trainer Anthony Andrus facilitates a Basic Reading Tutor Training Workshop at CALC to better prepare new volunteers to work with adult students in their literacy endeavors. As it has for everyone, the Covid-19 pandemic created challenges for the training environment, which



is why the workshops are now being held virtually.

“There were so many people interested in volunteering throughout the summer, and our office space was not cutting it, given the safety limitations in place. I wanted to get tutors working with students as quickly as possible. Therefore, I worked hard at creating an online workshop curriculum. We had our first virtual workshop last month and

the second one is soon. So far, the reviews are overwhelmingly positive. It is humbling to be able to see people so eager to begin tutoring,” said Anthony Andrus.

Because the Tutor Training workshops are now hosted online, there is always space available. Anthony could not be happier to help people, help people.

If you would like more information on becoming an Adult Tutor, you can visit [thereadingpeople.org](http://thereadingpeople.org) or call (517) 485-4949



**To make a financial donation: [thereadingpeople.org/give-money](http://thereadingpeople.org/give-money)**

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### Coronavirus in Michigan: Week 35

#### By the numbers...

Michigan —	11/3/20	11/10/20	Weekly Increase
Cases	187,995	223,277	^ 18.8%
Deaths	7,400	7,724	^ 4.4%
<b>Greater Lansing —</b>			
Cases	7,518	8,790	^ 16.9%
Deaths	98	116	^ 18.4%
<b>Ingham County —</b>			
Cases	4,981	5,685	^ 14.1%
Deaths	70	79	^ 12.9%
<b>Eaton County —</b>			
Cases	1,285	1,613	^ 25.5%
Deaths	12	19	^ 58.3%
<b>Clinton County —</b>			
Cases	1,252	1,492	^ 19.2%
Deaths	16	18	^ 12.5%

## Greater Lansing records 1,200 more COVID-19 cases since Election Day

At least 14 more dead last week across Ingham, Clinton and Eaton counties

The coronavirus pandemic is reaching new levels of uncontrolled spread in Michigan, including across Greater Lansing, as the state surges past 220,000 COVID-19 cases and 7,700 deaths.

“We are in a stage right now of broad, widespread community transmission of this virus in our community and in most communities in the state and across the nation,” Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail told several reporters Tuesday.

In Greater Lansing, cases have climbed by more than 18% in the last week, including more than 700 cases and nine deaths reported in Ingham County since Election Day, Nov. 3.

Vail said Ingham County, at least compared to more significant spikes in Eaton and Clinton counties, is still “doing fairly well” as it works to mitigate community transmission and keep hospital beds available. Most patients are also not experiencing severe symptoms, she said.

The bulk of local cases are still centered on Michigan State University. East Lansing zip code 48823 alone was tracking about 1,980 cases Tuesday, or about 40% of those in Ingham County.

“Things are kind of on the rise again in East Lansing,” Vail added.

In response, East Lansing Mayor Aaron Stephens last week extended the city’s State of Emergency and the requirement to wear a mask in all outdoor and indoor public spaces in and near downtown. Violations can be punished by a civil infraction and a fine of up to \$25, officials said.

According to a press release from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Michigan could track 100 deaths every day by Christmas if COVID-19 transmission levels remain steady into the winter months. Social distancing and face masks continue to be essential tools to combat the virus, she said.

Among those infected in the last week: A worker at the Ingham County Consolidating Absent Voting Counting Board. Officials said the election worker was asymptomatic but had received a test as a precaution due to potential exposure of a family member. Those who may have been exposed have been notified as County Clerk Barb Byrum pitches in with contact tracing efforts.

Meanwhile, the pharmaceutical industry is working on a vaccine. Pfizer announced that an early analysis showed that its COVID-19 vaccine is 90% effective. Vail labeled the development as “very promising.” She also said the county is prepared to distribute vaccines.

As part of the state’s continued efforts to slow the spread of the virus, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services also rolled out a COVID-19 exposure application called “MI COVID Alert.” The anonymous, no-cost software lets users know whether they may have been recently exposed by aggregating voluntary testing information from patients across the state.

Whitmer also announced this week that nearly \$100 million had been allocated to 14,000 businesses across Michigan through the Michigan Small Business Restart Program. The grants reportedly helped struggling businesses to retain at least 97,000 jobs during the pandemic.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

# Winners, losers from the 2020 election

The 2020 election is in the books in Michigan. Unless you're President Trump or believe something is going to come of his spaghetti-on-the-wall lawsuits.



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

In sum, Democrats had a better cycle, but not by a lot. Republicans had wins, too, and some near upsets — U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin only won reelection by about 15,000 votes to a lightly funded opponent. Rep. Angela Witwer, D-Delta Twp., darn near lost, too, to someone who received little support from the Republican caucus.

My winners and losers are equally a mixed bag:

## Winners

1. Chief Justice Bridget McCormack - The "Justice of the Supreme Court" moniker and her Irish surname won her some votes, to be sure. But McCormack's stellar, even-handed and professional tenure on the court won her support from business groups, the Farm Bureau, Realtors and other trade groups who might have otherwise gone with both Republican nominees.

She attached her positive name ID to that of Elizabeth Welch, helping the Grand Rapids attorney get second place and securing the Democrats' first majority on the Supreme Court in about 10 years.

2. State House maps - Republicans purposely drew state House maps in 2011 that would preserve a GOP majority even if the top of the ticket faltered. Instead of drawing more seats with thinner GOP base numbers (as they did in 2001), they drew fewer GOP seats, but with stronger base numbers.

The result? Joe Biden and Gary Peters both won, but Republicans kept a 58-52 majority in the state House.

3. U.S. Rep. Fred Upton, R-St. Joseph - The dean of Michigan congressional delegation turned his perceived competitive race against Democrat Jon Hoadley into a nearly 16-point blowout. Even U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee's, D-Flint, lightly covered reelection bid turned out to be closer.

The co-chairman of the congressional Problem Solvers Caucus showed

a lot of class by congratulating Joe Biden on his victory. He let others pass the hat for Trump's crafty election attorneys.

## Losers

1. Electoral College - Donald Trump, Mike Pence and Trump's kids were in Michigan 18 of the final 20 days of the campaign. Several states didn't see any of facetime from any of Team Trump or Team Biden, for that matter. Joe Biden won by nearly 5 million votes and 51% of the American public. And the result is still being contested?

At some point, the other 40 states that get ignored every four years are going to join this National Popular Vote Compact and end this Battleground States of American presidential contest.

2. People Who Confuse Polls For Crystal Balls - Polls are only as good as the people who participate in them, which is about 2% of the population. Part of that 98% are rural Trump voters don't even pick up the phone. They embrace the president's tactic to delegitimizing anything that casts him in a less-than-flattering light — polls, the media or the nation's election system.

Also, Michigan's final polls were only off 5% or so. In most cases, that's the margin of error. Mitchell Research and Communications' poll for MIRS on Oct. 29 had a Biden 52%-to-45% victory. The final margin was 51% to 48%. That's not wildly inaccurate.

3. The Media. Think about this. John James hardly talked to the media outside of Fox News. Voters didn't care. The Republican came 86,000 votes from becoming a U.S. senator and he rarely fielded a tough question. When he did, he flubbed it.

This campaign showed that someone can ignore the press and debates and still nearly win a high-profile office. All you need is a boatload of money to run good TV ads and a half-way-decent social media operation.

4. Conspiracy Theories. Dressing up like Paul Revere and chanting "stop the vote" outside of a room of election workers counting ballots isn't patriotic. Election fraud is a 4-year, \$2,000 felony in Michigan. You have proof someone is engaging in it? Turn it over to authorities.

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

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## Feds come after Lansing for \$250K in mismanaged grant cash

Allegations against Joan Jackson Johnson lead to federal penalties

The city of Lansing must repay nearly \$250,000 to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development after federal officials confirmed several conflicting interests and mismanaged financial controls within the city's Department of Human Relations and Community Services.

Despite recent attempts from city officials to appeal the decision, a letter from HUD last month confirmed that the city of Lansing will eventually be required to return \$234,000 in "questioned costs" related to federal Continuum of Care grant funds designed to rehome the homeless — either by immediate wire transfer or through a 36-month repayment agreement with HUD.

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor said he was "disappointed" to see the fine after the city had quietly appealed the decision earlier this year. Still, city officials plan to continue working with federal regulators to address any lingering concerns, Schor said in a statement on Tuesday.

The city also requested an extension until January to pay back the six-figure penalty, Schor said.

The issue, officials explained, stems from Joan Jackson Johnson's several-year stint as the department's director before she was placed on administrative leave and eventually retired last year amid allegations of conflicting interest, financial improprieties and misspent federal grants.

"The consequences of her conflicts resulted in unethical behavior, a lack of integrity and mistrust, misuse of power in an official business capacity; profiting from governmental resources; perceived favoritism with select sub-awardees; and a conscious decision to choose private interests over her employee obligations," according to an Oct. 22 letter from HUD.

Federal and state authorities for several months have kept open an investigation into the alleged financial missteps that enabled city officials to push Jackson Johnson



Jackson Johnson

out of a job and into early retirement this year. As of this week, no criminal charges have surfaced against her.

The results of that investigation have yet to be seen, but federal officials still found issues.

Among HUD's concerns: Federal grant cash flowed directly from Jackson Johnson's department to One Church One Family, a housing-focused nonprofit in which she had been heavily involved and that also directly administered portions of the city's federal grant funding.

"Jackson-Johnson failed to disclose her relationships to the City Council, federal funders, and to nonprofit organizations that she was serving in dual roles as both the sponsor and the receiver of local, state, and federal funds," according to HUD's findings. "She was biased in the award selection process and in the administration of federal contracts ... and failed to recuse herself."

The conflict was enough to suspend Jackson Johnson while city officials handed off the unfinished probe to law enforcement. Jackson Johnson has since retired and remains involved in community volunteer work. She again called the investigation a "witch hunt" this week.

"It seems this city is set on doing anything they can to bury me," she told City Pulse on Tuesday. "In the end, I followed the process. I signed those grants, but so did the city attorney and the mayor. It seems if a person of color is involved, there's

See Grant, Page 15

# CityPULSE



## LOCAL EXPERTS

### FINANCE

#### Old, Wise Words Regarding Retirement

There's this old Maldivian parable that I just finished creating about a man and a coffee-monger. Every day this man would treat himself to a \$1- cup-of coffee from this guy he knew — a guy who by vocation sold coffee. Every day for a year he performed this ritual. After a year, he had squandered his savings and his inheritance on coffee and ended-up sad. Very, very sad.

Had this same man seen this ad, and called Jose, not only could he have been told about capital preservation (keeping your hard-earned inheritance safe) and capital appreciation (growing that cute little pile of investments into a comfortable pile of money that's suitable for retirement), but he could have avoided ending up so very sad.

The moral of the story? Preparing for retirement isn't as painful as you might fear. If you call Jose, with even the most modest of monies, he can help you be not sad! And being not sad can make you happy!



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### GIFTS

#### 3 Points to Consider When Framing

- Always consider the value of the piece you are going to frame. The value should be considered both emotional and economic. Also consider how easy it would be to replace the piece you wish to frame; and how long you anticipate having the piece. If it is something that can not be replaced, spend more money on the framing. A reputable framer should "do no harm" and everything should be completely reversible for how they handle the piece.

- Use of quality materials. There are various grades of materials on the market today. Chemistry is also very important in framing. "Archival" is a legally regulated term by the Library of Congress and therefore is a better gauge for the quality of materials you are using. Higher quality materials tend to be worth the added cost, in my honest opinion.

- Glass should NEVER touch what's in the frame. Think of glass as being a living thing. Ultimately it will stick to whatever it is touching. There should always be at least a 2mm space between the framed piece and the glass; the larger the piece, the more space that should be allowed as the glass bows toward the artwork in the middle. Acrylic pieces do not require this spacing.



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# Grant

from page 14

just this automatic rush to judgment.”

Federal officials first notified city officials of “issues with contracts” that prompted them to place Jackson Johnson on leave last year. A subsequent audit report showed that at least \$1.38 million in city funds under Jackson Johnson’s oversight had been funneled into various nonprofit groups in which she or her family was either involved or directly led the organization.

The nonprofit group that received the bulk of those funds has since been placed into a court-ordered receivership to take over its assets following a petition from the city of Lansing.

The penalty was initially levied in June and appealed by the city in September, according to the letter. Though the city argued that funds were used for allowable costs to rehouse the homeless, federal officials decided otherwise in upholding the six-figure penalty in its letter late last month.

“Immediate steps were taken as soon as these issues were discovered,” Schor explained in response to questions this week. “We filed an appeal

and provided information documenting actions taken to report the former director’s potential conflict of interest to the proper authorities, and ordinance updates were provided to City Council in order to strengthen controls.”

A \$50 penalty for “mistrust and abuse” was also increased to reflect the severity of the violations, officials wrote. Several other conflicts were also listed in the letter. Among them:

- Jackson-Johnson, her husband and her daughter have been directly or indirectly involved in the governing boards of several area non-profits that received payment from HRCS.
- No evidence — including during a third-party audit — was discovered that these relationships were disclosed to the City Council, as required by the city policies.
- Forensic auditors discovered at least one instance where a grant request was signed by Jackson Johnson as both president of the organization and as departmental director.
- Multiple audits found that Jackson-Johnson and her family profited from the very funds she was entrusted to oversee as both nonprofit director and as departmental official.

— **KYLE KAMINSKI**

**CITY OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**Z-3-2020, 1030 S. Holmes Street  
Rezoning from “B” Residential & “D-1” Professional Office to “DM-4” Residential**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 30, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM Conferencing, Meeting ID 871 4961 8641, to consider Z-3-2020. This is a request by Blackboard District, LLC to rezone the property at 1030 S. Holmes Street from “B” Residential district and “D-1” Professional Office district to “DM-4” Residential district. The purpose of the rezoning is to permit the conversion of the vacant, former Holmes Street School building into apartments and to permit the construction of additional multiple family residential apartment buildings on the subject property.

Note: Michigan Director of Health and Human Services Robert Gordon’s Order of October 9, 2020 regarding Gather Prohibition and Face Covering, as well as states of emergency declared by the Mayor and approved by City Council have led to a closure of City Hall to public at this time due to COVID-19. Public observation and participation may be facilitated electronically in accordance with the Open Meetings Act in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public.

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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**  
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**CP#20-283**

**RFQP/21/031—Housing Rehabilitation and Lead Safe Lansing Application Processing** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed proposals at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, 8th Floor, 124 W. Michigan Ave. Lansing MI. 48933 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **November 18, 2020**. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by contacting Shannon Tracy at (517) 483-4128 or [shannon.tracy@lansingmi.gov](mailto:shannon.tracy@lansingmi.gov), or for content and purpose of this proposal contact: Ms. Barbara Kimmel at (517) 483-4053 or go to [www.mtmi.info](http://www.mtmi.info).** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

**CP#20-276**

**Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority**

Notice is hereby given that the Ingham County Land Bank will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 4:30pm through Zoom. The public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering the fiscal year 2021 budget. See the meeting agenda packet posted at [www.inghamlandbank.org](http://www.inghamlandbank.org) for more information and the Zoom link, or call 517-267-5221. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

**CP#20-277**

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE  
AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER)  
July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020**

TO: Citizens of the City of Lansing

PURPOSE: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THE CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER) July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

The City of Lansing is preparing its Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 pursuant to Federal Community Development Program rules and regulations. Before submitting its Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for approval, the City must, after appropriate public notice, make the report available to the public for examination and comment for a period of 15 days. The comment period is November 12, 2020– November 27, 2020. The EDP Office must receive any comments regarding the CAPER for this time period in writing no later than 5: 00 p.m. on the last day of comment period.

A summary of public comments received as a result of the public participation process will be submitted to HUD as part of the CAPER.

Notice is hereby given that the CAPER for the time period noted above for the City of Lansing is on file and available for review at the city’s website at [www.lansingmi.gov/development](http://www.lansingmi.gov/development). Information regarding the CAPER may be obtained by contacting Doris M. Witherspoon at (517) 483-4063 or at [doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov](mailto:doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov).

**CP#20-275**

**CITY OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 30, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. to consider the adoption of a form-based code (FBC) and zoning map to replace and repeal the existing zoning ordinance and map, being Part 12, Title 6 of the City of Lansing Codified Ordinances, except for Chapter 1300 – Marijuana Operations. The FBC incorporates placemaking into a zoning ordinance to more effectively implement the recommendations of the Design Lansing Comprehensive Plan.

Due to COVID-19, the public hearing may be held electronically in accordance with the Open Meetings Act in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public. Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting may do so by logging into or calling into the meetings using the website <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87149618641> or phone number (646) 876 9923 and Meeting ID 871 4961 8641

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)

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**CP#20-280**



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# Pivoting, pushing and praying

## Nonprofits face an uncertain winter

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

For 50,000-plus nonprofit organizations in Michigan — nearly 4,000 in Ingham County alone — the year 2020 has been challenging in the extreme.

Nonprofits help weave the social safety net and embroider it with arts and culture. They provide basic human needs like food, housing and health care and feed the soul with music, drama and visual arts.

This spring, many nonprofits were slammed with unprecedented demand for services even as traditional fundraising tools disappeared and overstretched donors were pressed from all sides. Some nonprofits, especially in the arts, lost nearly all of their event-driven revenues from concerts, festivals and ticket sales.

All of them had to pivot fast to deliver vital services in new ways. Benefactors large and small came through with record donations. But winter is on the way and survival is far from assured. By tradition, late fall and the holiday season is the prime fundraising period for most nonprofits. Seeing no sign yet of a second round of federal COVID relief, nonprofit leaders are stretching every penny and hoping donors will continue to give.

### Hot dogs and sanitizer

Carmen Turner, director of the Lansing Boys and Girls Club, sounded overwhelmed but not overcome by the trials of 2020.

“I don’t like humdrum,” she said.

The Boys and Girls Club is a case study in adaptation, pandemic style. Tuesday morning, about 50 kids from kindergarten to 12th grade studied quietly at socially distanced work stations dispersed throughout the club’s old-school headquarters on Lansing’s south side.

In normal times, the building can hold up to 300 kids.

In the parking lot, a beloved chef known to all as “Granny” took advantage of 70-degree weather in November to grill hot dogs for one of two meals that are brought to each student’s station daily.

Turner spent years as a single parent and knew that the Lansing School District’s shift to virtual schooling would put some working parents into a serious bind. In late August, she called Lansing School deputy superintendent Delsa Chapman and set up daytime learning labs for up to 75 Lansing kids whose parents needed to focus on work at home.

The staff had to break with its usual program schedules and roll with the school district’s.

“It’s a production,” Turner admitted. Despite some ongoing glitches with WiFi — soon to be fixed with new equipment — things are going well.

“It’s all about being able to switch up on a dime,



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

The nonprofit Allen Neighborhood Center’s outdoor farmers market grew in attendance over last year, despite the pandemic, but other programs faced challenges.

period,” Turner said.

The club resumed its summer schedule July 6, with strict distancing guidelines and regular deep cleanings. A board member who owns a cleaning service chipped in with an ionized water system that sanitizes surfaces in seconds.

Thanks to a donation from Jackson National Life Insurance Co., an in-house social worker joined the staff to help meet the kids’ needs and connect parents, teachers and students — a long-sought goal made more urgent by the pandemic.

Some of Turner’s staff at the Boys and Girls Club of Lansing also work or volunteer at Impression 5 Science Museum and work together to develop science classes.

“The nonprofits have come together for real during this time, to see how we can help each other,” Turner said. “It’s really brought us together for the main purpose of making sure as many kids as possible do not fall through the cracks.”

### Making the pivot

If you’re a nonprofit, what you’re going through this

year depends largely on what services you offer and how you are funded.

Kelley Kuhn, vice president of the Michigan Nonprofit Association, offered a mixed report.

“Some are facing challenges and some are doing well,” Kuhn said. “The secret to their success is the ability to make the pivot and be creative, and we’re seeing that across the state.”

Kuhn credited the federal PPP program with helping nonprofits make it through 2020’s bleakest months, but individual donors are still the biggest income source for most nonprofits.

Laurie Baumer, vice president of the Capital Region Community Foundation, reported that until now, most nonprofits have done a good job of sustaining themselves and maintaining their services, or transitioning to virtual services.

“So far, we haven’t lost any in the tri-county area, that we’re aware of,” Baumer said.

This summer, the Community Foundation set up a \$1 million COVID-19 nonprofit support fund. The

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## Nonprofit

from page 18

foundation board is nursing the fund along carefully; only half has been distributed so far. Baumer expects the need to sharpen as winter looms.

(Prospective donors are invited to contact the foundation at [www.ourcommunity.org](http://www.ourcommunity.org).)

A Community Foundation COVID grant helped Turner's staff at the Boys and Girls Club make the pandemic pivot.

"They have really stepped up and gone above and beyond," Turner said.

Baumer and her staff don't wait for cries for help. They regularly call area nonprofits, ask what they need and offer coaching on how to stay afloat.

"Part of it is just getting nonprofits comfortable with asking their donors," Baumer said. "Many of them rely on fundraising events, not asking, and this is no time to be shy."

Everybody is tired of virtual everything — fundraising included — but nonprofit leaders have seen little sign of donor fatigue yet.

"It's all about relationships," Turner said. "You can't start them now. Your relationships show up in a hard time."

In the first half of 2020, charitable giving was up 7.5 percent over the same period in 2019, according to the Association of Fundraising Professionals, an advocacy group. Most donor growth came in gifts of \$250 or less, a crucial donor segment for nonprofits that serve basic human needs.

### Food and shelter

Some nonprofits don't have the luxury of scaling back services. Michelle Lantz, CEO of the Greater Lansing Food Bank, said the nationwide hunger rate — the number of people and families who experience "food insecurity" — has spiked by 30% to 50% nationwide since the start of the pandemic. The rate is up by about 30% in the seven-county area served by the food bank.

At the same time, food has gotten more expensive, up to 25 percent for some items like beef.

So far, donors have been "more generous than usual," Lantz said. The food bank is a central warehouse and distribution center for food that is distributed by about 150 pantries and other local agencies.

"People respond to things that are very tangible, like feeding hungry neighbors," Lantz said. In its 40 years,



Photos by Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

A COVID grant from the Community Foundation helps the Boys and Girls Club of Lansing to continue serving K-12 kids meals (barbecued hot dogs were on the menu Tuesday) and socially distanced lessons (below).



the food bank has built up a solid donor base, with thousands of smaller donors and a reliable phalanx of corporate partners.

Rawley van Fossen, director of the Capital Area Housing Partnership, said calls for help from new and old clients quadrupled when the pandemic hit in March and April.

The organization provides a range of housing-related services in Ingham, Clinton, Eaton and Shiawassee counties, including expert counseling for homeowners facing foreclosure and renters facing eviction.

Van Fossen and his staff had to make its services more accessible while clos-

ing its offices to in-person traffic.

A drastic and sudden spike in virtual consultations, with staffers working from home, didn't come without "internal struggles, specifically over technology," Van Fossen said.

The duct-tape and hand-me-down budget of many nonprofits didn't cut it when they had to set up a high-volume virtual network almost overnight.

"Nonprofits aren't always at the forefront of the newest and best technology, whether it's laptops, cell phones and what have you," Van Fossen said. "A lot of the time, we're living five or 10 years in the past, compared to a company like Google or Facebook."

Working with a third party "Geek squad," it cost the housing partnership over \$2,300 per employee to convert from land lines to cell phones, hard drives to laptops, buy the needed software and do it all as fast as possible. A Community Foundation COVID grant covered the transition costs for two of Van Fossen's nine employees; the rest had to come from reserve accounts.

Van Fossen praised his board of directors for managing the organization's funds wisely in recent years, but said COVID had put a "definite strain" on the budget. Dart Bank helped get an early and timely approval for eight weeks of PPP money.

"We had to re-create all of our programs in a week's notice, because the need was there, from the start," Van Fossen said. "People were getting laid off; mortgage bills were coming in; utility bills were coming due."

Brian Philson, director of the nonprofit Highfields Inc., faced the same obstacles to providing a range of services in counseling and education to a 13-county swath of mid-Michigan.

Philson said it was a chance to "make lemonade out of lemons."

Zoom meetings have replaced face-to-face coffees and lunches. Philson clumps donors who know each other into a virtual coffee hour.

"There's this camaraderie of, 'what kind of bagel are you eating?'" Philson said.

This year's Thanksgiving and Christmas fundraising events will go virtual. Students will read their Thanksgiving essays on line and donors can peruse them at their leisure.

A mid-October "Strength in Families" breakfast, Highfield's biggest fundraiser of the year, topped its goal of raising \$100,000 despite going virtual — or maybe because of it. It costs a lot to feed in-person crowds of potential donors.

"Expenses were dramatically lower," Philson said.

And he got some unexpectedly positive feedback from older donors.

"They consistently tell me, 'I'm 82, I don't want to get up, get dressed and try to make it to the Kellogg Center by 7:45,'" Philson said. "I'd love to sit in my bathrobe, have a cup of coffee and watch it on line." When in-person fundraisers return, Philson plans on keeping the virtual option. This year, Philson said, only one of his 25 or so major donors declined to give.

### Arts on a tightrope

Arts organizations, especially those that rely on ticket sales, have been hit

See Nonprofit, Page 22

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# SUPPORT LANSING'S ~~NON~~-ESSENTIAL NONPROFITS

## Nonprofit

from page 19

extra hard by the pandemic.

“Human services nonprofits is where a lot of the donors have invested this year,” the Food Bank’s Michelle Lantz said. “Food, shelter, help with rent or utilities — the basics — those are areas where donors are really willing to give.”

Statewide, Kuhn said she’s seen a lot of foundation support for the arts this year.

“Since many arts organizations closed their doors, I’ve seen lasting support, second and third waves of funding,” Kuhn said.

Barb Whitney, director of the Lansing Art Gallery, has found that “in the nonprofit arena, emergency funding often is produced quickly, in response to serious issues.”

But she also pointed out that the percentage of applicants that get funding (the rate of return) is dramatically lower under crisis conditions. Often, out of thousands of applicants, a tiny percentage is funded.

Moving more art into the open air in projects like ArtPath along the River Trail, and opening an online gallery store, launched last week, are only two parts of 2020’s big pivot for Whitney and her staff.

“For the first time in my lifetime, it’s beneficial to us that we don’t have a significant amount of earned revenue related to ticket sales,” he said. (Admission to the gallery is free.) “That’s a model that’s been incredibly difficult for other organizations to change.”

Meghan Martin, director of the Arts Council of Greater Lansing, has been checking in with member organizations every day since March.

“Performing arts have been hit the most,” Martin said. “Not being able to gather, be in enclosed spaces, is a massive hit, but they’re trying to be as creative as possible.”

Nationwide, arts organizations have lost over \$14 billion in earned revenue so far this year.

Local arts organizations have soldiered on, with outdoor performances like the Artists’ Umbrella drive-through show in the North Capitol parking lot, parking lot performances at Riverwalk Theatre and outdoor chamber concerts by the Lansing Symphony, featuring a handful of masked musicians. Online concerts, plays, gallery art walk-throughs and other virtual events have exploded.

“They may not be able to grab those revenues from ticket sales, but in some cases, they’ve reinvented themselves,” Kuhn said. “What they’ve done to deliver arts and culture to the public will live on past the pandemic.”

No one supposes that a handful of socially distanced performances or outdoor exhibits will generate the earned revenue of a full-on, live season, but they also send a crucial signal.

“It’s a matter of putting programming out there so people can see that your organization is still viable and still critical for this area,” Martin said.

More than ever, ongoing donor relationships are a lifeline.

“You have to plan performances and shows in advance. You can’t gamble thousands of dollars on the chance we’re let out of quarantine,” Martin said.

“Advocacy will be crucial in the coming months.”

### Into the unknown

At the east side’s Allen Neighborhood Center, where socially distanced, food-based programs like a weekly outdoor farmers market and “veggie box” curbside delivery have flourished during the pandemic, the winter promises fresh challenges.

To help make ends meet, the center rents out its spacious “great room” and conference rooms for parties, galas, charrettes, meetings and other events.

Back in March, the rooms were booked solid with reservations, from wedding season in spring through fall graduations and beyond.

Every single event was cancelled. Rentals probably won’t resume until next year.

“Now I’m worried,” director Joan Nelson admitted. “I kept thinking we needed to hang on until fall, but we’re all beginning to realize that this will go on very likely through the bulk of next year. I’m keeping my fingers crossed that another PPP is coming.”

After all of the generous donor support and quick-thinking operational acrobatics of 2020, the nonprofit outlook for winter and beyond is far from certain.

“Unfortunately, the worst may be yet to come for nonprofits,” Baumer said.

No one knows whether traditional late-year fundraising drives and the spirit of holiday giving will offset looming spikes in COVID cases, further restrictions and lockdowns and emptying reserve funds. Dec. 1, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, will be the eighth annual Giving Tuesday, a global day of charity and philanthropy that raised \$511 million in the United States in 2019.

Kuhn hopes that large and small donors will surpass that figure this year and help the state’s nonprofits weather the uncertain times ahead.

Lantz of the Food Bank hasn’t seen much evidence of donor fatigue, but she’s braced for a spike in need, beginning in the holiday season and lasting through the winter.

“It’s a critical time where we need more donations to meet the demand,” she said. The Food Bank also needs volunteers to pack up and distribute food. (Volunteers can go to the Food Bank’s web site to find out more.)

Because of the Food Bank’s bulk purchasing power, help is most welcome in the form of money donations rather than food.

“We can take a dollar and turn it into about three meals,” Lantz said.

The Food Bank also needs volunteers to pack up and distribute food. (Volunteers can go to the Food Bank’s website to find out more.)

Nonprofit leaders also urge potential volunteers to consider stepping up, in safe and distanced ways, to support their favorite nonprofits.

To face the long-term challenge, Nelson’s team at the Allen Neighborhood Center is stepping up a three-year-old program called Lansing Eastside Giving Society, or LEGS, in which donors pledge to give between \$1,000 and \$10,000 for three years. A new project, Sustaining Neighbors, is designed to tap community members who value the Allen Neighborhood’s range of services, but can’t cough up the big bucks. Mailers just went out, soliciting small deductions of \$10 a month or more a month from a wider net of small donors.

For eight challenging months, nonprofit leaders like Capital Area Housing Partnership’s Rawley Van Fossen have stayed hopeful, floating one innovative idea after another and beating the virtual bushes for old and new donors.

But it’s impossible to plan confidently for the unknown.

“A lot of things worry me,” Van Fossen said. “To keep our programs active, keep our people employed, keep our lights on, it’s not just one grant or project or source that makes it work. That’s where fundraising is key.”

This year, the organization planned a massive block party and barbecue showcasing four new homes, its biggest fundraiser of the year. When the event was canceled, \$50,000 in expected fundraising evaporated and the 2019-2020 fiscal year ended in the red.

“Now we’re still living in COVID, living in uncertainty, and I’m not even trying to make up the difference from last year,” Van Fossen said. “I’m just trying to sustain the current budgeted amount without projecting yet another loss. What does the future hold for eviction, for foreclosure, for utility and household bills? That’s the moment we’re living in now.”

### CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Z-2-2020 5528 S. M.L. King Jr. Blvd.  
Rezoning from “D-1” Professional Office to “F” Commercial

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 30, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM Conferencing, Meeting ID 871 4961 8641, to consider Z-2-2020. This is a request by Steve Hanks to rezone the west, approximately 2/3 of the property at 5528 S. M.L. King Jr. Blvd. from “D-1” Professional Office district to “F” Commercial district. The east, approximately 1/3 of the property is currently zoned “F” Commercial.

Note: Michigan Director of Health and Human Services Robert Gordon’s Order of October 9, 2020 regarding Gather Prohibition and Face Covering, as well as states of emergency declared by the Mayor and approved by City Council have led to a closure of City Hall to public at this time due to COVID-19. Public observation and participation may be facilitated electronically in accordance with the Open Meetings Act in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public.

Members of the public wishing to observe or participate in the meeting may do so by logging into or calling into the meetings using the website <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87149618641> (Note: this option requires downloading Zoom software. If you have not already installed the software, this may take a few minutes) or by calling (301) 715 8592 and entering Meeting ID: 871 4961 8641.

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).

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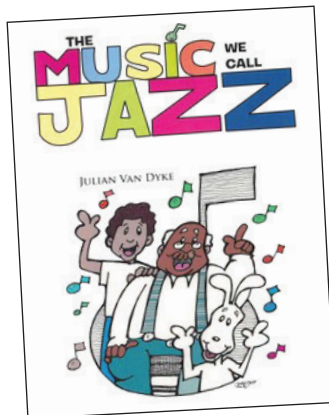
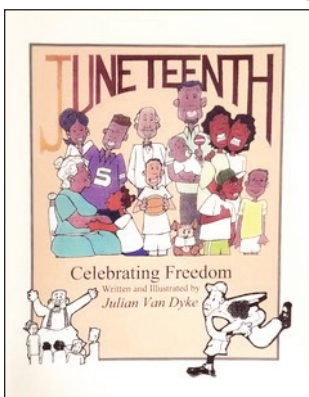
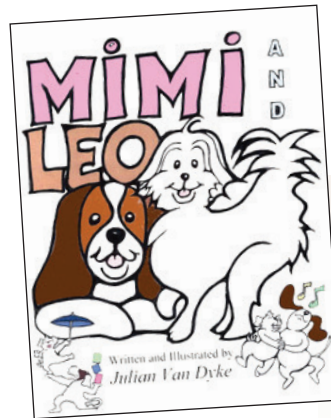
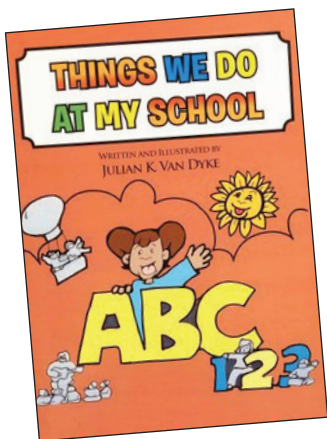
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- **Turner-Dodge House**

Learn more about their “Buy a Brick” Fundraising Campaign:  
[lansingmi.gov/1036/Friends-of-Turner-Dodge](https://lansingmi.gov/1036/Friends-of-Turner-Dodge)

- **Great Lakes Artworks**

To donate: [glagoldtown.com](https://glagoldtown.com)

- **Women’s Center of Greater Lansing**

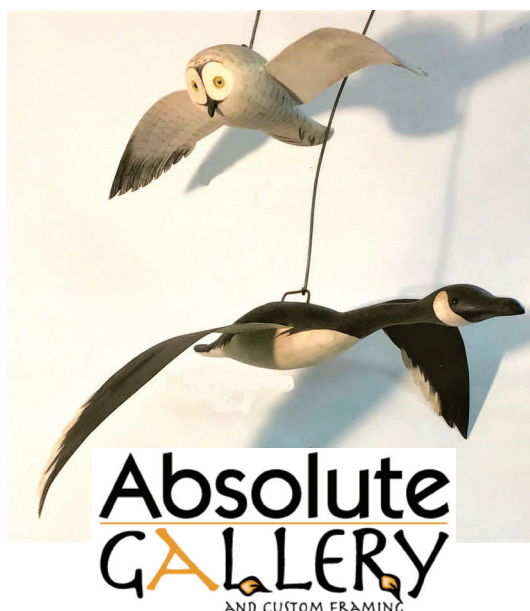
To donate: [womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org/donations-2](https://womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org/donations-2)

- **Red Nose Ruckus**

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## YouTube talk show dissects Lansing theater scene

BY SKYLER ASHLEY

Lansing theater stalwart Doak Bloss said he hasn't experienced anything like the coronavirus pandemic in his several decades' long career that has seen him act in countless productions.

"The only thing in my life that compares is the impact of the AIDS epidemic, which cost us a number of people on the national and local stage," Bloss said. "It is like having a major

### House Left with Doak Bloss

Viewable on YouTube. Search "House Left Doak Bloss" to find the current episodes.

part of your life just ripped away." While many actors and actresses are sidelined thanks to the pandemic, which has disrupted performances and upended many group's entire seasons, Bloss is helping keep the theater community stimulated with his new YouTube interview series, "House Left." The series features Bloss and a rotating panel of guests plucked from the Lansing theater scene. Bloss sets a topic of discussion and the panel goes off — revealing fascinating viewpoints

on theater's role in socially and politically tumultuous times.

"It seemed like a nice way to emulate the phenomenon of a cast of people of different ages and backgrounds talking together — like you do after a rehearsal or in a green room," Bloss said.

Bloss said he was not interested in hosting one-on-one interviews. He believes the roundtable format is more conducive with the very idea of theater and is more representative of the energy formed between a production's cast and its audience.

One of the most fascinating episodes recorded of "House Left," so far, is the fifth episode, which features Mary Job, Rose Jangmi Cooper, Connor Kelly, Leanore Helder and Jeffry Wilson. The panel discussed a hypothetical production that tackles the cultural tension that has defined 2020. Bloss believes that when theater can return to some form of normalcy, productions that tackle tough questions will draw more interest than escapist entertainment.

"Participants in my dialogues have said, 'When we do get back, I have no



Courtesy

A screenshot from "House Left," a YouTube talk show hosted by Doak Bloss.

interest in doing flakey entertainment shows. I want to do something that relates to what we are experiencing now," Bloss said. "I really think that will provoke new avenues of creativity. I think an audience will be there, and hopefully it will be an even larger one than in the past."

Bloss plans for future episodes of "House Left" to continue to feature diverse panels and further address challenging subjects. One idea Bloss is currently developing focuses on dis-

cussions with devout Christians and how they see themselves fitting into a creative industry that is often highly critical of Christian society. Bloss also wants to produce an episode that features only African-American women panelists to discuss racial inequity.

"I think their perspective is really important right now. For that one, I think I would take myself off the screen, so they can have a conversation without a white guy sitting in the middle of it," Bloss said.

## New acupuncture practice opens in Williamston

BY SKYLER ASHLEY

If you're interested in indulging in the ancient practice of acupuncture, there is a new spot in Meridian Township that has your back — literally. Elemental Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine is a practice opened by longtime Lansing acupuncturist Annie Haas. Haas previously worked for a larger acupuncture office, but sweeping changes

onset by the coronavirus pandemic led to her setting off on her own.

"I had been looking for a way out for years, I felt trapped. When COVID hit and I was laid off from my job, I realized that this was my opportunity to break away, so I opened my own practice," Haas said.

Acupuncture is a popular form of alternative medicine (treatments not backed by concrete scientific research and knowledge) that has its origins in traditional Chinese medicine. Thin needles are placed into the skin across the body to help with conditions such as joint and lower back pain. Haas also considers acupuncture to be a unique form of expression.

"Every practitioner has a different way of addressing a concern with a patient. In traditional Chinese medi-

cine, we address the whole body. We look at the mind, body and spirit," Haas said.

Haas interviews her patients about their health concerns and tries to discover what she calls "the root and the branch," or the underlying cause of the condition they are seeking to treat. "We look at their chief complaint and we look at the underlying causes, so we can address the whole situation instead of just putting a Band-Aid on it," Haas said.

She said headaches and migraines are common ailments that bring patients to her practice. Haas also fre-

quently works with people who seek treatment and relief from anxiety and stress. "I tell people that acupuncture has been around for a thousand years, and like any other medicine I think we excel in certain areas," Haas said.

Haas said she made it a point to make Elemental Acupuncture pandemic-friendly. She said all equipment and furniture is regularly thoroughly sanitized and patients must wear masks and pass a health screening. The space also has upgraded air filtration.

For now, Elemental Acupuncture is a solo operation run by Haas. She said as she grows, she might expand to hire other staff such as a receptionist.

"I love what I do and it shows in the way I interact with my patients," Haas said.

### Elemental Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine

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Haas

# ***Favorite Things*** **Ariel Rogers and her late brother's T-shirt collection**

*Ariel Rogers is a rock 'n' roll aficionado who played bass in a group known as Girl Band, graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in journalism and interned with City Pulse. Her favorite thing is a collection of T-shirts that belonged to her musician brother, Pierce Rogers, who died in 2018 and left many in the Lansing music scene in mourning. Adding to the collection of shirts is one of the ways she keeps the spirit of her brother alive.*



It's a bunch of various shirts — band shirts and other stupid shirts that Pierce collected throughout the years that I've hung onto. Even after he wanted to get rid of them, I still hung onto some of them because they're so much fun. I'm just glad I've got them now, it's another piece of him I think I'm hanging onto. It's nostalgic. There are also tie-dye shirts he made himself that are special.

I like his Hunter S. Thompson shirt. I love his shirt from an animal farm that says "I Got Slimed" and it has a picture of a yak — or something — on it drooling. The bands on these shirts include Andrew WK, Iron Maiden, Mac DeMarco, The Black Lips, The Ramones and Trash Talk. All of them, except for The Ramones, he got from the actual shows. If he didn't get his shirts from concerts, he liked to thrift them. He was always getting cool ones from Goodwill and garage sales. He also had a couple of Grateful Dead shirts he bought from artists on Instagram.

He was super involved with the Lansing music scene, everybody knew who he was. He played with Cosmic Priest, a stoner-doom metal band, and then he was in Stop Bobby Hatch with Troy Burris — they were a little psychedelic and

kind of folksy. They had a lot of fans and a lot of people have reached out to me — people I didn't even know — since he died and told me how much his music meant to them. I still feel his presence in my life. It was fun playing with Pierce in Girl Band. He helped me out a lot even if he didn't want to necessarily. He was always down to be the good guy and help his sister out. His energy at shows was really contagious. He'd always pick up the musicians and tell them, "That was the best show ever!"

I still wear these shirts. It makes feel closer to him. It's really cool. He was my baby brother and the coolest guy I think I'll ever know. He was super kind to everybody he met. He never treated anybody poorly and he would always show interest in the things you were interested in. He'd always have something to talk about and he'd be your friend. It makes me sad that his collection won't be growing, but I will keep it up. If I see a silly, fun shirt — I'll pick it up and carry on the tradition because I miss him.

*Interview edited and condensed by Skyler Ashley. If you have suggestions for Favorite Things, please email Skyler@LansingCityPulse.com*



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- Participating in Democracy
- and Making me your next Circuit Court Judge



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*Thanks again, Carol Koenig*



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# Idris Goodwin: The conversation starter

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Idris Goodwin is an American poet, rapper, essayist, lecturer, professor, author and playwright. He is offering five of his “Short Plays for an Anti-Racist Tomorrow” to theaters and communities everywhere to perform for free.

“My work has been screaming ‘Black Lives Matter’ for a long time, now,” Goodwin said. “These plays are my invitation to spark conversation.”

During the month of November, Riverwalk Theatre is presenting the five plays virtually. Goodwin’s “Nothing Rhymes with Juneteenth,” “Black Flag,” and “Act Three” can be viewed by going to the theater’s website and Facebook and YouTube pages.

On Nov. 23, “Water Gun Song,” directed by Janell Hall is Riverwalk’s next Goodwin show. On Nov. 30, “#MATTER,” directed by Rose Jangmi Cooper, will be shown. Both are at 7 p.m. and can be streamed afterward.

Goodwin has no target audience for his plays. They are meant for “every-



Goodwin

one and anyone,” he said. “I write for humans.”

The response to the play quintet has been overwhelmingly positive. “It’s been downloaded over 10,000 times in six months,” Goodwin said. “People from all over the world have checked the plays out.” Fifteen different organizations from theaters to universities and other community organizations have created digital

presentations.

The five plays are intentionally, distinctly different. “I am trying to provide a variety of entry points for different readers,” he said. “Black Flag” and “#MATTER” are more debate-driven and oppositional. “Nothing Rhymes with Juneteenth” was meant to be more celebratory and accessible and “Act Free” is a tragic comedy.

“‘Water Gun Song’ is bittersweet and has already prompted some very powerful responses from parents,” Goodwin said. That play earned the most positive feedback. “Folks of all backgrounds have said, ‘That’s the rule in our house!’ or ‘My mom wouldn’t let me have water guns,’” Goodwin said.

Of the five plays, he has no favorite. “I love all my children equally,” Goodwin said. “Each has something unique that I like.”

“It all started with ‘#MATTER’ back in 2016,” he said. “That’s my oldest sibling.”

Riverwalk is presenting that play as a Zoom webinar. From a link on Riverwalk’s website and Facebook page, guests will be able to participate in “#MATTER” live. The other four Monday plays were pre-recorded.

“Black Flag” was also written in 2016. The other three were written in June of 2020 — just after George Floyd’s police murder in Minneapolis on May 25.

“Racism is awful and messy and completely illogical,” Goodwin said. “It is something that has been diagnosed centuries ago that the country refuses to permanently cure.”

“We have to move forward and we can only do that if we get some solidarity,” he said. “We can only get solidarity if we get some understanding. This is where the artists come in,” Goodwin said. “We tell the stories and we stimulate the mind.”

“I’ve been telling stories damn near my whole life,” he said. In the past 20 years, Goodwin has written over 50 plays. “I got full-length, three acts. I got plays for youth; I got shorts. I got two-acts, history plays, Zoom plays, comedies,” he said. “I do this for real.”

Goodwin might be best known for plays such as “And in this Corner ... Cassius Clay” and “HYPE MAN” — a break beat play that won some 540 submissions and earned the Elliot Norton Award for Best New Play of

## “Short Plays for an Anti-Racist Tomorrow”

Each broadcast live at 7 p.m. and hosted indefinitely at [riverwalktheatre.com](http://riverwalktheatre.com) and [facebook.com/riverwalktheatre](https://www.facebook.com/riverwalktheatre)  
 Nov. 9: “Black Flag,” directed by Rico Bruce Wade  
 Nov. 16: “Act Free” directed by Julian Van Dyke  
 Nov. 23: “Water Gun Song,” directed by Janell Hall  
 Nov. 30: “#MATTER,” directed by Rose Jangmi Cooper

2018.

In Goodwin’s 2010 album, “Break Beat Poems,” he coined the term, “Break Beat Poetry.” Goodwin is also famous for leading a “I Like to Rhyme” song on “Sesame Street.” In the past eight years, the song netted over 30,000 views on YouTube. His channel also has popular recordings of original musical raps and spoken poems.

Goodwin was born in Detroit. He received a B.A. in film, video and screenwriting at Columbia College Chicago. Goodwin received a MFA in creative writing at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and his graduate work was at the University of Iowa Playwright Workshop.

Goodwin has lectured at schools and colleges throughout the United States. Between 2012 and 2018, he was an assistant professor in theater and dance at Colorado College.

He left to become the artistic director of StageOne Family Theatre in Louisville. In May, he returned to become director of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College.

“I am the vision guy,” Goodwin said. “But right now, because of COVID-19, we are doing mostly virtual content and planning for the future.”

As for the future of the country, he is conditionally optimistic. To reach real equality and justice, “erasure and denial don’t work,” Goodwin said. “Only policy change and, education and disruption have moved us further.”

## INTERSTATES OF MIND



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# New book breaks curses, finds lifelong romance in Tuscany

By **BILL CASTANIER**

When the April 20 rollout of Lori Nelson Spielman's new book, "The Star-Crossed Sisters of Tuscany," was delayed until this November due to the pandemic, the local author was understandably disappointed. At the beginning of the pandemic, publishers across the board delayed publication dates with the hope that by later in the year, COVID-19 would have run its course and authors would be able to

**"The Star-Crossed Sisters of Tuscany" Zoom event**

with author Lori Nelson Spielman  
Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m.  
Free registration via Schuler Books:  
[schulerbooks.com/event/evening-lori-nelson-spielman](https://schulerbooks.com/event/evening-lori-nelson-spielman)

go on promotional tours. You could say her book was "star-crossed" — thwarted by an unseen force.

"At the time, we didn't realize that the worst surge was yet to come," Spielman said in a phone interview from her Lansing home.

Keeping with her fairy-tale approach to writing her novels, "The Star-Crossed Sisters of Tuscany" revolves around a 200-year-old Fontana family curse that says the second daughter will not find true love and marry.

Twenty-nine-year-old Emelia Antonelli is happy working at her grandmother's Brooklyn bakery when out of the blue she gets a letter of invitation from her Aunt Poppy to join her on a trip to Tuscany. Poppy, who is also a second-born daughter and unmarried, wants Emelia and her cousin Lucy, another second-born daughter, to join her on the steps of the Ravenna Cathedral, where the 80-year-old Poppy will marry the love of her life. Poppy springs for the eight-day trip with proceeds from her savvy investments, including buying Apple stock at \$22 a share.

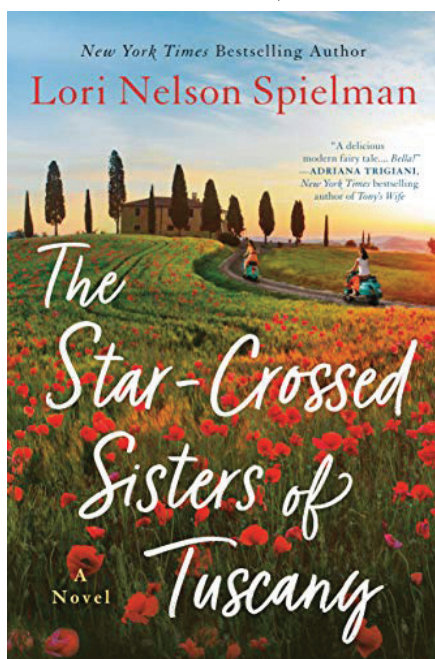
The road trip is on and it takes the three family members on the trip of their lives to Venice, Tuscany and the Amalfi Coast in search of love.

Spielman said she personally visited all the locations in the book and fell in love with them.

"I owed it to the readers to visit those areas. I took lots of photographs, ate lots of pasta and drank a lot of local wines," she said.

Many readers of Spielman's new book will be reminded of the popular books "An Affair to Remember" and "Under the Tuscan Sun."

And since we are again under an



international lockdown — making it impossible to visit Italy — the book is an entertaining alternative for armchair travelers.

The story of Poppy and her former lover, Rico, also known as Erich, is that of two star-crossed lovers. It is deeply sad but inspirational as they seek to meet once again after nearly 60 years. Both Emelia and Lucy learn from Poppy that the "curse" is poppycock, and if you open your heart to possibilities love will find you.

"There will be surprises. I learned early from an agent that a book needs something to surprise the reader," Spielman said.

The book is filled with colorful details of the sites, sounds and smells of Tuscany, but Spielman said writing details is hard for her.

"I'd rather write dialogue, but my editor kept pushing for more details. I had to immerse the reader in Italy,"

she said.

"I took photographs to help me see exactly how a gondolier looked and other scenes in Italy," Spielman said.

Spielman said the inspiration for the book comes from her days working as a guidance counselor at Eastern High School.

"Young women would visit me heartbroken over a teenage boy. I told them, 'You have so much time ahead of you.' I thought what if the opposite were true and you wouldn't find authentic life," she said. "The easiest thing to write was Poppy — she's a little old lady full of life, forgiveness and joy."

Part of the authenticity for the book comes from a friendship she developed with a German reader, Dieter "Dieter" Kretzschmar, who was the inspiration for Rico, Poppy's love of her life. After reading one of her earlier books, he shared with Spielman what she calls his own "bittersweet memories."

She also gained insight into the "essence of a big Italian family" from her close friends Joe and Elaine Natoli.

Spielman said the new book was first published in 2018 in Germany, which has a totally different ending than the United States version.

The author said she is well into her next book, which is about a professional sports agent and is partially set in Northern Michigan.

Even though Spielman has had to wait for seven months for her book to be published, some good things happened in the meantime.

The book was selected for the November Book of the Month Club and is a Library Reads and Indie Next selection. It has also gotten buzz online thanks to pop culture websites PopSugar.com and Frolic.media.

## SCHULER BOOKS

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### TALK ALL THINGS PLANTS

With Rick Vuyst  
November 12 • 7pm

Have you found yourself talking to your plants? Or maybe you've been telling yourself, just one more plant baby? Well, Rick Vuyst doesn't think those are bad things during a pandemic, in fact he believes plants are helping to save the day in 2020. Join us as we discuss this and more with Rick on Facebook LIVE.

### AN EVENING WITH LORI NELSON SPIELMAN

Virtual Author Talk  
November 17 • 7pm

Travel to Tuscany with New York Times bestseller Lori Nelson Spielman, author of The Life List, when she joins us virtually to talk about her new release, *The Star-Crossed Sisters of Tuscany*.  
[spielman.eventbrite.com](https://spielman.eventbrite.com)

### RURAL VOICES

Virtual Author Panel  
November 19 • 7pm

Editor and Moderator Nora Shalaway Carpenter will be joined by several contributing authors to discuss the anthology *Rural Voices*. From a mountain town in New Mexico to the gorges of New York to the arctic tundra of Alaska, you'll find yourself visiting parts of this country you might not know existed—and meet characters whose lives might be surprisingly similar to your own.  
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# Liquid THC: Clear distillate darts and a sugary cannabis concoction

Cannabis distillate — with 96% THC — offers hard-hitting but sterile high

By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

Bazonzoes — which opened last month across the street from Deluca’s Restaurant — is still among the newest medical and recreational pot shops on Lansing’s ever-blooming cannabis market. And as its inventory expands, the retailer is quickly becoming a Capital City mainstay.

**Raise Buds — Clear Distillate Dart**

Price — \$45

THC content — 95.69%

It doesn’t get much more potent or pure than cannabis distillate. The process, though much more refined in recent years, has been around for centuries. And it’s all about breaking down, processing and separating raw plant materials until you’re left with an ultra-concentrated oil.

Distillate, unlike other waxes or other dab-able concentrates, is also incredibly versatile.

Because it has been stripped down into a solitary carbonylated canna-



**Lansterdam in Review:**  
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binoid, the sticky oil can be used for dabs, in vaporizers, rolled into a joint or packed into a bowl — or simply swallowed. I squeezed some on top of a cookie and mixed a dash of the sticky ooze into a cup of coffee.

Heads up: This glass dart doesn’t offer much leverage for the fingers. And because the distillate inside was about three times thicker than maple syrup, it was a serious pain to squeeze out. I’d recommend first heating it up with your hands or dunking the glass tip into a hot beverage.

Remember: At 96% THC, this dart has about 960 mg of THC. That’s like 10 brownies. Even seasoned smokers should consider taking it (way) easy on cannabis distillate, if only because of its unmatched potency. Anything stronger than 100mg is usually just gravy to me anyway.

About 20 minutes after I picked the



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

**Muru Cannamixer and Raise Buds Clear Distillate Dart.**

last stubborn piece of distillate off my front tooth, the high was setting in. And though the mind-numbing effects were obvious as I slouched back into my chair, I also found them to be terribly boring. No creativity. No energy. Just total zombie mode.

If you’re turning to cannabis purely as a medicinal painkiller or to ease insomnia or another medical ailment, this might be the best thing on the market. It’s direct, potent and versatile. But if you’re into exploring new flavor profiles and terpene interactions, this might not be for you.

It was, however, a great pairing with four straight hours of video games and a full night’s rest.

Distillate might be chemically potent, but the complex extraction process isn’t without criticism. Along with impurities, the distillation in this blend also appears to have removed all of the terpenes — which would normally provide various tastes and smells, and contribute to the “entourage effect” that makes each individual cannabis strain a

unique and complex experience.

For \$45, however, it’s not possible to find much more bang for your buck in terms of THC alone. I’d pick it up again, but only to amplify the effects of some of my favorite sativa or hybrid blends.

**Muru — Cannamixer (Gandy Apple)**

Price — \$27

THC content — 200 mg

Finally! A drink mixer that doesn’t seem to leave an oily layer on the top of my beverage! Muru is an Oregon-based company that offers a variety of drink blends, including “cannabucha” and something called “highwater” that I haven’t yet been able to get my hands on in Michigan.

This cannamixer is a sugary-flavored — and highly concentrated — drink mix that was actually water soluble. For that reason alone, I was happy to add it to the collection. Other varieties on the market have advertised themselves as drink mixers, only to leave oily bubbles in my cup.

I have yet to use enough to get baked from the drink mix alone, but I’ve definitely noticed some uplifting effects when pairing a lightly flavored drink with a joint or two. The syrupy flavor is similar to a Five Hour Energy shot and was a bit too overwhelming for more than a few drops.

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

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Ele's Place provides peer-to-peer grief support groups for children, teens and young adults – at no cost to families. Support groups are currently virtual and include at-home activities to encourage participants to talk about their person who died and to help them process their grief. Ele's Place also partners with local schools to provide grief support groups to students. These are currently virtual, too.

November is Children's Grief Awareness Month and the kick-off of our 30th anniversary. We have helped 30,000 individuals since we opened in 1991. Current statistics show that one in 13 children will experience the death of a parent or sibling by the age of 18. Our vision is that no child in Michigan should ever grieve alone.

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# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Going Dim"--turn down for what?

by Matt Jones

**Across**

- 1 Actress Anna who left "Mom" after season 7
- 6 Carry through the air
- 10 Lose it
- 14 The "fifth taste"
- 15 Penne \_\_\_ vodka
- 16 Cuban greeting
- 17 Yoda, for one
- 19 Caught in \_\_\_ (trapped)
- 20 Letter opener, for short?
- 21 Grub
- 22 Language that gave us "robot" and "howitzer"
- 23 Not out of the question
- 25 Written companion to a Twitch stream
- 26 It might obscure identity
- 31 Lithe

- 34 "Frozen 2" character
- 35 Sorento maker
- 36 Francis's title
- 37 Nonstick brand
- 38 TV Batman Adam
- 39 Kentucky-born boxer
- 40 Chancellor Helmut
- 42 Team that won the World Series in the 2010s
- 44 Creator of another crater, maybe
- 47 Got out quick
- 48 "Cocoon" Oscar winner Don
- 51 Part of a black suit
- 53 Insightful
- 55 Tony of "Veep"
- 57 Overly formal
- 58 Question from someone who just resurfaced (like me after running "best of" puzzles?)
- 60 Carbonated drink
- 61 Israeli Golda

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
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51	52					53	54			55		56
57						58				59		
60						61				62		
63						64				65		

- 62 "\_\_\_ Dragon" (2016 Disney remake)
- 63 One "A" of AAA
- 64 Just say no
- 65 Flavoring for Greek cookies
- Down**
- 1 Apple variety from Japan
- 2 "FoxTrot" cartoonist Bill
- 3 "On the Media" medium
- 4 Worthy of copying
- 5 \_\_\_ City (classic computer game)
- 6 Nut and bolt spacer
- 7 Part of SATB
- 8 Went quickly
- 9 Goo in a prehistoric pit
- 10 2019 Zachary Levi film
- 11 Reply to "No offense"
- 12 Jim's counterpart in recent "SNL" cold opens
- 13 Garden route
- 18 "Get \_\_\_" (GSN show of 2020)
- 22 Kitschy plant from the mint family
- 24 Diner staple letters
- 25 Items stuck in some car changers
- 27 Kingdom
- 28 Nightmarish street
- 29 Central idea
- 30 Uber \_\_\_ (delivery service)
- 31 Luxury resorts (remember those?)
- 32 Lemminglike rodent
- 33 Entertaining displays of ineptitude
- 37 Symbol of the golden ratio
- 38 Emmy-winning 2019 HBO miniseries
- 40 One of an elephant's four
- 41 Like one
- 42 Took advantage of, as a system
- 43 It may get crushed
- 45 Gary who's 13 days younger than Gary Numan
- 46 Danish, for example
- 49 Dominican Republic neighbor
- 50 "It's nobody \_\_\_ business"
- 51 Adoption agcy.
- 52 They do it for a living
- 53 "This is exciting"
- 54 Comedian and "Love Island" narrator Stirling
- 56 Caesar's "to be"
- 58 Target of early-2000s U.N. inspections
- 59 Drink with a high IBU

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Answers Page 29

## SUDOKU

	7		1		2			
		6			3	7		
	5		7	4			1	
		8					3	
						5		9
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## 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 29

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

November 11-17, 2020

**ARIES (March 21–April 19):** "Love can't always do work," wrote novelist Iris Murdoch. "Sometimes it just has to look into the darkness." From what I can tell, you've been doing that recently: looking into the darkness for love's sake. That's a good thing! You have been the beneficiary of the blessings that come through the contemplation of mysteries and enigmas. You've been recalibrating your capacity to feel love and tenderness in the midst of uncertainty. I suspect that it will soon be time to shift course, however. You're almost ready to engage in the intimate work that has been made possible by your time looking into the darkness.

**TAURUS (April 20–May 20):** Author Barbara Kingsolver says, "Don't try to figure out what other people want to hear from you; figure out what you have to say." That's always valuable advice, but it'll be especially useful to keep in mind during the coming weeks. You're probably going to feel more pressure than usual to tell others what they wish you would tell them; you may experience some guilt or worry about being different from their expectations of you. Here's the good news: I'm pretty certain you can be true to yourself without seeming like a jerk to anyone or damaging your long-term interests. So you might as well say and do exactly what's real and genuine.

**GEMINI (May 21–June 20):** "The violets in the mountains have broken the rocks," wrote playwright Tennessee Williams. I think that's a poetic but accurate description of the feat you've been working on lately, Gemini. You're gently smashing through stony obstructions. You've been calling on your irrepressible will to enjoy life as you have outsmarted the rugged, jagged difficulties. You're relying on beauty and love to power your efforts to escape a seemingly no-win situation. Congratulations! Keep up the good work!

**CANCER (June 21–July 22):** Cancerian rapper Vince Staples says, "I feel like it's impossible to be completely yourself." Why? Because ideally we're always outgrowing who we have become; we're moving beyond the successes we have already achieved. There is no final, whole, ideal "self" to inhabit and express—only more and more of our selfness to create. Staples suggests we'd get bored if we reached a mythical point where we had figured out exactly who we are and embodied it with utter purity. We always have a mandate to transform into a new version of our mystery. Sounds like fun! Everything I just said, Cancerian, is an empowering meditation for you right now.

**LEO (July 23–Aug. 22):** "I am my own sanctuary and I can be reborn as many times as I choose throughout my life." Singer-songwriter Lady Gaga said that, and now I offer it to you to use as your motto. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, it's a fabulous time to be your own sanctuary. I invite you to rebirth yourself at least twice between now and the end of November. What's the first step you'll take to get started?

**VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22):** The National Football League is a giant socialist enterprise. It earns billions of dollars of revenue, and shares it equally with each of its 32 teams. So the team in Green Bay, Wisconsin, population 105,000, receives the same payout as the team in Chicago, population 2.7 million. I advocate a comparable approach for you in the coming weeks. Just for now, distribute your blessings and attention and favors as evenly as possible, showing no favoritism toward a particular child or friend or pet or loved one or influence. Be an impartial observer, as well. Try to restrain biases and preferential treatment as you act with even-handed fair-mindedness. Don't worry: You can eventually go back to being a subjective partisan if you want. For the foreseeable future, your well-being requires cordial neutrality.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22):** "Who is to decide between 'Let it be' and 'Force it?'" asked Libran author Katherine Mansfield. I mention this because you're now hanging out in the limbo zone between "Let it be" and "Force it." But very soon—I'm sure you'll have a clear intuition about when—you'll

figure out how to make a decisive move that synthesizes the two. You will find a way to include elements of both "Let it be" and "Force it."

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21):** "I hold a beast, an angel, and a madman in me," wrote Scorpio poet Dylan Thomas (1914–1953) in a letter to a friend. That sounds like a lot of energy to manage! And he didn't always do a good job at it—although he did at times tap into his primal wellspring to create some interesting poetry. I'm going to use Thomas's words in your horoscope, because I think that in the coming weeks you can be a subtle, refined, and mature blend of a beast, angel, and madperson. Be your wisest wild self, dear Scorpio!

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21):** Activist and author Rebecca Solnit writes, "The grounds of my hope have always been that history is wilder than our imagination of it and that the unexpected shows up far more regularly than we ever dream." In my astrological estimation, her grounds for hope should also be yours in the coming weeks. The future is more wide-open than you might think. The apparent limitations of the past are at least temporarily suspended and irrelevant. Your fate is purged of some of your old conditioning and the inertia of tradition. I encourage you to make a break for freedom. Head in the direction of the Beautiful Unknown.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19):** The famous Leaning Tower of Pisa doesn't stand straight, but tilts at an angle. Why? The soil it was built on is soft on one side. So the marble-and-limestone structure began to tip even before it was finished. That's the weird news. The good news is that the tower has remained standing for more than eight centuries—and has stayed intact even though four major earthquakes have rolled through the area. Why? A research team of engineers determined it's because of the soft foundation soil, which prevents the tower from resonating violently with the temblors. So the very factor that makes it odd is what keeps it strong. Is there a comparable phenomenon in your life? I believe there is. Now is a good time to acknowledge this blessing—and enhance your use of it.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18):** Even if you tend to pay more attention to what's going wrong than what's going right, I ask you to change your attitude for the next three weeks. Even if you believe that cynicism is an intelligent perspective and a positive attitude is a wasteful indulgence, I encourage you to suspend those beliefs. As an experiment—and in accordance with astrological potentials—I invite you to adopt the words of activist Helen Keller as your keynote: "Every optimist moves along with progress and hastens it, while every pessimist would keep the world at a standstill. The consequence of pessimism in the life of a nation is the same as in the life of the individual. Pessimism kills the instinct that urges people to struggle against poverty, ignorance and crime, and dries up all the fountains of joy in the world."

**PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20):** Researchers in the UK found that 62 percent of the adult population brags that they've read classic books that they have not in fact read. Why? Mostly to impress others. George Orwell's 1984 is the top-rated book for fake claims, followed by Tolstoy's War and Peace, James Joyce's Ulysses, and the Bible. I hope you won't engage in anything like that type of behavior during the weeks ahead. In my opinion, it's even more crucial than usual for you to be honest and authentic about who you are and what you do. Lying about it might seem to be to your advantage in the short run, but I guarantee it won't be.



# TURN IT DOWN!

“Loud dispatches from Lansing’s music scene”

BY RICH TUPICA

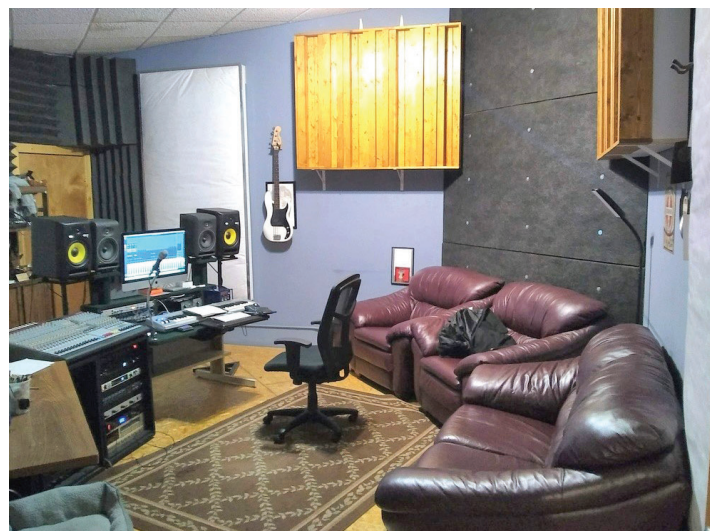
## GIANT LUNGS DEBUT DELIVERS EPICALLY BLEAK SOUNDS



Giant Lungs is Corey DeRushia (left) and Ryan Andrews. (Courtesy Photo)



The Giant Lungs EP is out now via Madlantis Records. Artwork by Phillip Clark



The control room at Troubadour Recording Studios, where the new Giant Lungs EP was produced.

### New EP features Ryan Andrews of Red Teeth and Corey DeRushia of Troubadour Recording Studios

With a long discography that includes the heavy sounds of Red Teeth, Dr. Device, BerT and No Skull, Ryan Andrews is always working on a new batch of recordings. Back in August, the Lansing-scene vet unveiled Giant Lungs, his latest duo that flawlessly shifts between dramatically wistful sounds into ominously bleak sonic ethers.

Along for the cosmic ride is his bandmate, producer Corey DeRushia, the sound wizard behind Troubadour Recording Studios in Lansing. Both play multiple instruments on this remarkable self-titled release and the results are epic.

Over the course of five songs, this debut EP hypnotically blends psychedelic resonances with winding, yet hooky jams. While most of the vocals are only there to add texture and ambiance, the eerie instrumentation delivers a

hauntingly bittersweet listening experience. This EP has a cinematic quality and could easily be the score to a trippy arthouse film.

“I prefer the vocals to be so far back they are hard to make out,” Andrews admits. “It reminds me of how live vocals usually end up sounding to me. You can hear the melody and make out some words, but a lot of it’s just a blur of noise.”

Andrews, who often releases his music via his own imprint, Madlantis Records, co-formed Giant Lungs two years ago with DeRushia. While it started as just a simple guitar/drums duo, the outfit soon developed into an abstract auditory voyage.

“We discussed a few different directional ideas before playing, mostly our mutual love for sprawling prog music like King Crimson,” DeRushia explained. “For me, I also really enjoy long, evolving post-rock instrumental stuff like Mogwai and Godspeed! You Black Emperor.”

“And not to speak for Ryan, but I think he brings the stoner-rock elements,” DeRushia added. “He’s into Sleep, Earth and The Melvins, those types of bands. He brings all that to the table.”

Giant Lungs was able to expand into a colossal sounding prog-rock record due, in part, to the duo’s ample access to the top-notch gear at Troubadour.

Afterhours at the studio, the pair composed a myriad of experimental melodies on the fly.

“We kept elaborating and adding over the next year or so any time we could get together,” Andrews said. “Almost everything is an improv regardless of when it was recorded. On most of the bass tracks, we just hooked up two basses and jammed along with the track together and then picked the parts we liked.”

DeRushia agrees, it was a pairing down process that led to the final product — along with ample use of synthesizers and effects.

“Mostly we just played it, edited down for length, and that became the ‘song’ structures,” DeRushia said. “From there, we improvised a variety of soundscapes. I also built up some Mellotron string arrangements and vocal layers. Things just organically assembled themselves. This was a two-year, slow chip away of a project, so it felt good to get it out in the world after sitting on it for so long.”

At a glance, the album credits show both band members playing multiple instruments, but Andrews said they both had their comfort zones.

“We both played just about every instrument, essentially, but Corey is on drums and I’m on guitar,” he said. “Most of the syncs are Corey and a good por-

tion of the bass is me. It took us about a year of fiddling, adding layers and editing before we got to the final result.

“For the song ‘Welcome Giant Lungs: Here’s Your Acid’ we decided we wanted it to crescendo with some vocals for the ending,” Andrews added. “I had a poem called ‘Giant Lungs’ that I’d written probably 15 years ago. I had been saving it for the right piece of music. We obviously also decided to use the poem title as our band name, too.”

Like many other musicians across the world, the Giant Lungs record was nearly finished when the entire world came to a halt.

“Just as we were getting ready to lay the vocal tracks, what would be the finishing touch to the album, the COVID-19 lockdown came into effect,” Andrews said. “I ended up doing the vocals on a cassette four-track at home and dropping the tracks off in the mail box to Corey. After that, there was a little more mixing and that was that.”

Being a full-time sound engineer and producer, DeRushia said personal recordings like this don’t happen often, but he’s glad when they do.

“I don’t do a ton of personal projects like this, but I do play on a lot of records for people and engineer a lot of projects,” he said. “So it was fun to be able to stretch out and get creative with the weirdness on this one.”

#### STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF INGHAM NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate File No. 20-766-DE

Estate of Richard Melvin Hilmoie.  
Date of birth: 03/26/1935.  
TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE  
TO CREDITORS: The decedent,  
Richard Melvin Hilmoie, died  
05/22/2020. Creditors of the  
decedent are notified that all  
claims against the estate will  
be forever barred unless presented  
to Pamela L. Clark, personal  
representative, or to both the  
probate court at 353 Clark Street  
Grass Lake, MI 49240 and the  
personal representative within  
4 months after the date of this  
notice.

Date: 11/10/2020

Kimberly L. Savage P68267  
1483 Haslett Road  
Haslett, MI (517) 515-5000

Pamela L. Clark  
353 Clark Street  
Grass Lake, MI 49240  
(517) 812-2319

CP#20-286

# 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, November 11

**Allen Farmers Market** - 2:30-6 p.m. in atrium of Hot Water Works and outside. 2100 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

**Special Collections Look Club:** Our theme this week is Conflict! 2-2:45 p.m. MSU Libraries, East Lansing. [bookings.lib.msu.edu](http://bookings.lib.msu.edu).

**Veterans Day** - All Military and Their Families Get FREE Admission - Thank you to all of our veterans and military members! 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4222. [potterparkzoo.org](http://potterparkzoo.org).

## Thursday, November 12

**MSU Signature Lecture Series (Virtual)** - The MSU College of Arts & Letters is pleased to announce Claudia Rankine-poet, essayist, playwright lecture. 7-8 p.m. Register at: [calendar.cal.msu.edu](http://calendar.cal.msu.edu)

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

**Studio (in)Process at Home** 9-10 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. [broad.msu.edu](http://broad.msu.edu)

## Friday, November 13

**National Diabetes Prevention Program** - preventing type 2 diabetes. [canr.msu.edu](http://canr.msu.edu) for link

**Printmaking Workshop (Virtual):** Block Printed Totes 7-10 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum. Register: [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

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

## Saturday, November 14

**Free Job Skills Life Class** - Free to all young ladies ages 12-18. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Ever After Opportunities, 5330 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing. 517-885-5646.

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 10:30-11:30 [facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing](http://facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing)

## Sunday, November 15

**Community Open Call: Art Telephone Launch Event** - Remember Telephone, that game you used to play as a child? 2-3 p.m. Broad Art Museum. Register: [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Free Comedy Open Mic Night** - with our host Ashley Stommen! 6 p.m. Ellison Brewery + Spirits, 4903 Dawn Ave, East Lansing.

**Industry Night** - Part of the restaurant/bar industry? Stop by 12pm-9pm and cash in on your hard work! Ellison Brewery + Spirits, 4903 Dawn Ave, East Lansing.

**Artist Faculty Spotlight Series** - (online) Mozart Piano Concertos, Bach Cello Suite, Saxophone Sonatas, Gershwin and Gorney Arias, and more. 3 p.m. [music.msu.edu](http://music.msu.edu).

## Monday, November 16

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

## Tuesday, November 17

**People's Law School** - 7-8 p.m. Virtual - Zoom. 616-238-7249. [sinasdramis.com](http://sinasdramis.com) for link.

**SUDOKU SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 27

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

**Special Collections Virtual Pop-up:** Back to the 1990s! 1-2 p.m. Online, MSU Libraries, East Lansing. [bookings.lib.msu.edu](http://bookings.lib.msu.edu).

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 27

F	A	R	I	S	W	A	F	T	S	N	A	P
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A	S	S	N	D	E	N	Y	A	N	I	S	E

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# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### Ugly Pop from Sapporo Ramen & Noodle Bar

By SKYLER ASHLEY

What is an Ugly Pop? Don't let that — in retrospect somewhat unappetizing — name fool you. This is a tasty little dish that might become the new object of your late-night cravings. It consists of perfectly fried chicken, which is served over rice and mixed

vegetables and then topped with fried gyoza dumplings. Further enhancing the dish is a well-proportioned drizzle of spicy mayonnaise and teriyaki sauce. This particular combination of flavors is a total knockout and makes for a delicious Asian food bowl that is leagues above the fare you can

#### Sapporo Ramen & Noodle Bar

Open for dine-in, delivery and takeout Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, noon to 8 p.m. 317 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing (517) 580-4251, sappororamen.com



find from, say, Panda Express.

At \$9, which I believe to be a fair price, this is a perfectly hearty and filling item for a takeout order. The blend of spicy mayonnaise and teriyaki sauce might at first seem unorthodox, but I'd challenge that any lover of spice and zing will find it to be a winning combination. If you're like me, you might also begin to ponder what it would taste like on other meaty dishes.



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

Sapporo Ramen & Noodle Bar's Ugly Pop.

### Birds: It's for the stuffing

By ARI LeVAUX

Thanksgiving, as we observe it today, doesn't have much in common with the original feast of 1621. The temperature of the vibe between the Pilgrims and Wampanoag was above comfort level at the dinner table, with some participants arriving ready to rumble. Come to think of it, maybe today's Thanksgiving table hasn't strayed too far, being notable for bringing together people from warring political tribes to break bread together, with notoriously mixed results. And this election year, especially, it seems like only social distancing measures might be able to keep apart drunk family members ready to get angry and sloppy.

There was no pumpkin pie, because butter and flour were unheard of or sorely missed, depending on one's affiliation, but wild fowl was likely on the menu, which leads me, among others, to conclude there was stuffing. Historians point to their evidence, while I point to the simple fact that



both Pilgrims and Indians are human beings, and human beings know how to cook. And cooks don't let an empty body cavity go unstuffed, especially during a 3-day feast.

Unfortunately, we seem to take this for granted in today's America, where we think nothing of passing around side dishes filled with savory bread pudding called "stuffing" that has never seen the inside of a bird. That's the fight I'll pick this year.

Technically, this never stuffed material is "dressing," not "stuffing." The reason this distinction is important is

because the stuff that comes out of the bird is so much better than the side pan, even if the same went into both vessels. The juices from a baked bird impart an unmistakable, irreplaceable joy to the stuffing.

On the East Coast, the local diet was heavy on seafood like clams, scallops, seaweed, oysters, mussels, eels and fish. I grew up in coastal Massachusetts, where we would sometimes dig a hole in the beach and fill it with ingredients like those above, and hot rocks, and have a clambake.

Somewhere along the way, in my Thanksgiving ruminations and experiments, I decided it would be a good idea to stage a clambake inside a bird. In order to make it taste more like stuffing, I add breadcrumbs, herbs, lemon and aromatic veggies: onions, carrots and celery.

This recipe depends on a diversity of quality seafood. It's good to have at least one with the shell on, like clams or mussels, because that makes it seem more like a real clambake. Scallops and shrimp work great too. I must have a jar of oysters, like you can get at the seafood counter of many stores. And I really like imitation crab,

like what you get in a California roll. It soaks up the juices like a thirsty sponge.

Chickens, ducks and turkeys all work fantastic. Rabbit tastes like chicken, so that should work too. But whatever bird you are able to stuff, large or small, you might find yourself with more stuffing than you can possibly cram into your bird.

The easiest thing to do is to stuff it around the bird, along with the potatoes, and let it melt in the pan juices. Although not literally stuffed, it sucks up enough of the juices to potentially rule out gravy, and tastes like all the flavor and fat it absorbs.

Another option for too much stuffing: pull the skin away from the bird and stuff it on up between the skin and bird. If basted properly, this layer of stuffing can help keep the bird moist. The skin might split, especially if you cram shells up there, but the crusted stuffing becomes a new skin, absorbing as many basting as you care to pour.

And finally, we can do the almost unthinkable: bake that excess stuffing in a side pan. Put it in a pan as if you

# Flash

from page 36

are making a dish of dressing. Put a bunch of chicken wings on top, and cook it until they melt into the dressing. And just like that, after all of my huffing and puffing, I have figured out a way to make it taste like stuffing.

But my favorite part of this fishy bird dish is the clam juice brine. You've probably heard of clam juice as a mixer, adding deep umami notes from earth and sea to your Bloody Mary. And we can thank James Beard for nationalizing the idea that you should brine a chicken before baking it, because the salt gets in the meat, and salty meat absorbs more water than non-salty meat, so it stays moist.

My salty clam brine combines the two concepts and brings them deep into the meat. It flavors the stuffing via the fat, and adds delicious authenticity to the feast. It may not dissolve the animosity at the table, but perhaps it will at least help keep everyone's mouths too stuffed with food to talk. And that, my friends, is the true point of Thanksgiving.

## The Right Stuffings

Since chicken tastes good with lemon, and seafood tastes good with lemon, I add a lot of lemon.

Some clam juice is salty, some isn't. Sometimes the salty ones don't mention salt in the ingredients, but it will show up in the RDA values for sodium. I've seen it with zero grams, 40 grams and 100 grams of added sodium, with different bottle sizes. So the salt can be a little tricky. Taste your clam juice, and if it's really salty, reduce the added salt by a teaspoon or two.

Serves 6

- 1 4-pound bird
- 1 10-oz bottle clam juice
- 6 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 cups minced onion
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 cup chopped carrots
- 1 apple, red or green, chopped
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh sage
- 2 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh rosemary
- 2 pounds seafood (for example; 1 pound mussels or clams on the shell, 1 10-oz tub of oysters and the juice, 6 ounces scallops, 6-oz imitation crab)
- 1/2 cup white wine



Courtesy photo

LeVaux's seafood stuffing, cranberry sauce and turkey.

- 1 cup crouton-sized breadcrumbs
- 3 lemons, cut into quarters
- 4 potatoes, cut into quarters, to surround the bird

Rinse the bird, take out any giblets stashed in the cavity, and brine the bird in the clam juice with the salt and two cups of water.

Push down on the bird hard, so the body cavity fills with brine. Turn it occasionally, and marinate for at least four hours in the fridge.

Rinse the bird, pat it dry, and put it in a roasting pan. Add the oil to a fry pan and saute the onions, garlic, carrots, celery and apple with the black pepper, thyme, rosemary and sage on medium heat. After 10 minutes, add

the seafood, wine and lemon juice and squeezed lemons, and cook a few minutes longer, but don't try to cook all the seafood. Add the breadcrumbs, stir it all together and stuff it into the

bird. Place the potatoes around the bird, along with extra stuffing if you go that route.

Cover with foil and place in the oven preheated to 350. After 90 minutes remove the foil. The skin of an extra-stuffed bird will have receded like the tide, leaving a bunch of mussels clinging to the bird like it's a beach rock. The stuffing on top, including the seafood, will hold the baste like a sponge. Turn the oven down to 300. Baste every 15 minutes until done. After about an hour, use a meat thermometer to make sure the bird's internal temp is at least 165. Rest, serve and eat.

*Flash in the Pan is food writer Ari LeVaux's weekly recipe column. It runs in about 100 newspapers nationwide, nourishing food sections large and small with complete protein for the belly brain.*

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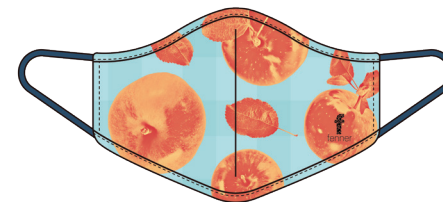
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For more information, visit our website [mynaturecenter.org/maskask](http://mynaturecenter.org/maskask)

**Fenner Nature Center | 2020 E Mount Hope Avenue, Lansing, MI 48910 | 517-483-4224**



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For more information, visit our website [thedaviesproject.org](http://thedaviesproject.org)

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For more information, visit [lansingpromise.org](http://lansingpromise.org)

**Lansing Promise | 200 North Foster Avenue, Lansing, MI 48912 | 517-512-3616**



**Donate to The Potter Park Zoological Society**

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For more information, visit our website [potterparkzoo.org](http://potterparkzoo.org)

**Potter Park Zoo | 1301 South Pennsylvania Avenue, Lansing, MI 48912 | 517-483-4222**



**Donate to REACH Studio Art Center**

REACH Studio Art Center is a nonprofit neighborhood space for arts education and civic engagement. Financial contributions are an essential part of keeping REACH Studio open and operating.

REACH programs are dedicated to mentoring youth, urban revitalization, and strengthening community. REACH connects artists with local residents, brings diverse individuals and groups together, and creates an atmosphere of shared pride and creative problem solving.

For more information, visit our website [reachstudioart.org](http://reachstudioart.org)

**REACH Studio Art Center | 1804 South Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48910 | 517-999-3643**