

A newspaper for the rest of us.

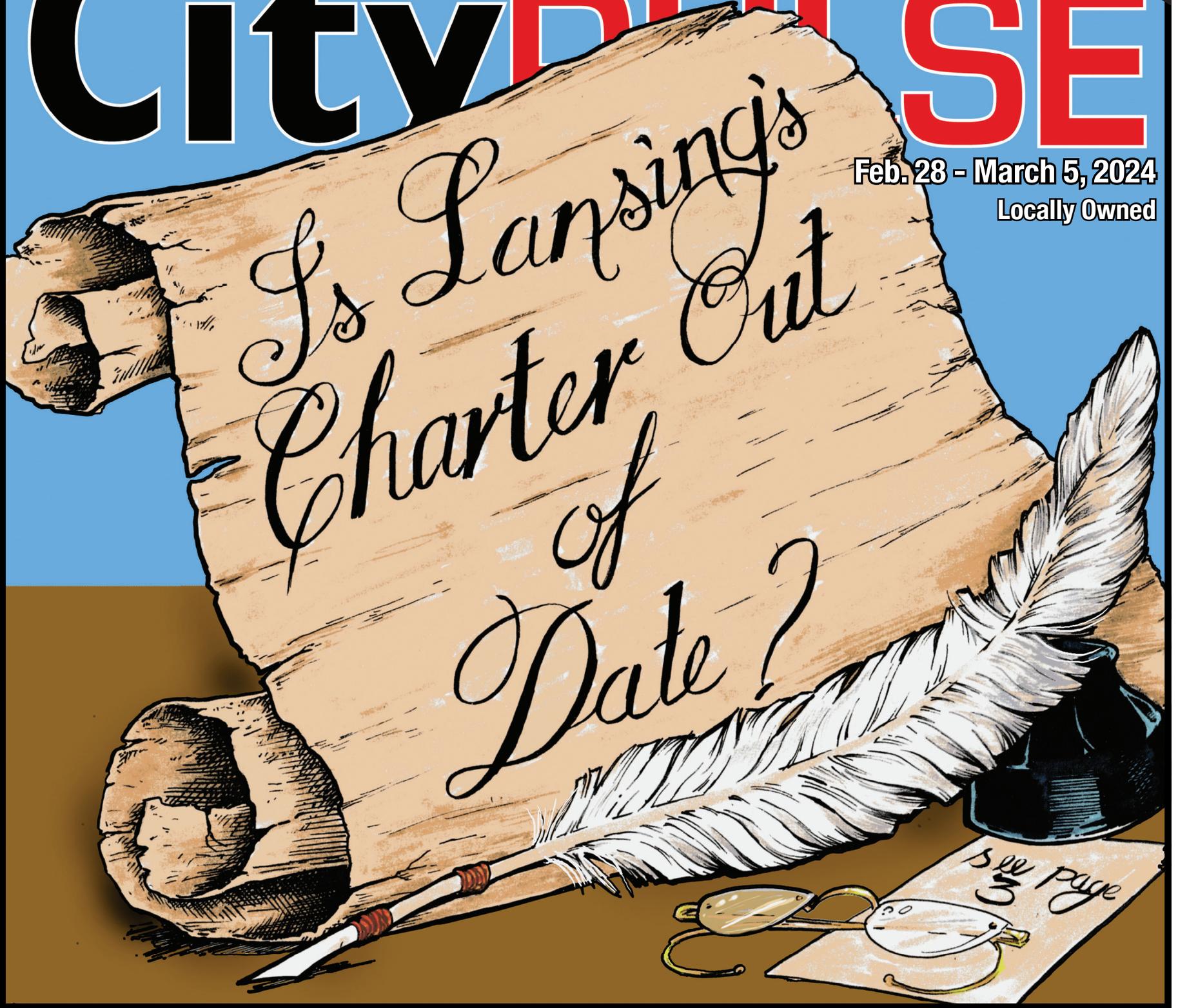
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FREE

# CityPULSE

Feb. 28 - March 5, 2024

Locally Owned



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# Our City Pulse mission ... and you

## An Open Letter to the City Pulse and Greater Lansing community

Dear Readers,

**When we published our first issue, back on August 15, 2001,** we boldly declared our mission to this community, reaching out with open arms and hoping for a warm embrace in return:

*"To provide a journal of news and opinion on civic, social and political issues as well as arts and entertainment in Greater Lansing."*

You'll also notice on the front of every issue the statements: *"A newspaper for the rest of us"* and *"Locally owned."*

**More than two decades later, that mission and those statements haven't changed, and we take them as seriously as ever.** Finding that balance each week between sharing the news stories that make a difference in our lives on one hand, and the ever-growing and changing arts, entertainment and dining offerings that enrich our lives on the other, is a challenge we welcome and strive always to achieve.

"Locally owned" matters, too, because that elevates the extent to which we are invested in this community and care about continuing to develop what we can provide to you. That goes hand in hand with the "rest of us" idea, because that encompasses the vast majority of us who aren't always served by media that are owned by national corporations, as is so often the case now.

**We've also continued to commit to providing City Pulse to you free because we believe everyone should have access, regardless of income.** We stay free and widely available, both in print and online, maintaining a thread that runs throughout the community.

But that doesn't mean that we don't need your help. How our future unfolds, this decade and beyond, will depend increasingly on community support. Many of you have been very generous in your giving, and we are very grateful.

**As our product continues to grow digitally, and as we strive to maintain a print presence, we encourage your businesses to advertise with us, invite you to subscribe to our newsletters and ask for your kind support.** All of that enables us to continue to bring you the stories that you care about, across the full spectrum of what's going on in Greater Lansing.

**Won't you please help us continue to grow?** We invite you to consider one of the options below:

- Donate online at [lansingcitypulse.com/donate](https://lansingcitypulse.com/donate)
- Donate by mailing a check to City Pulse at 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912.
- Donate by calling (517) 999-6704

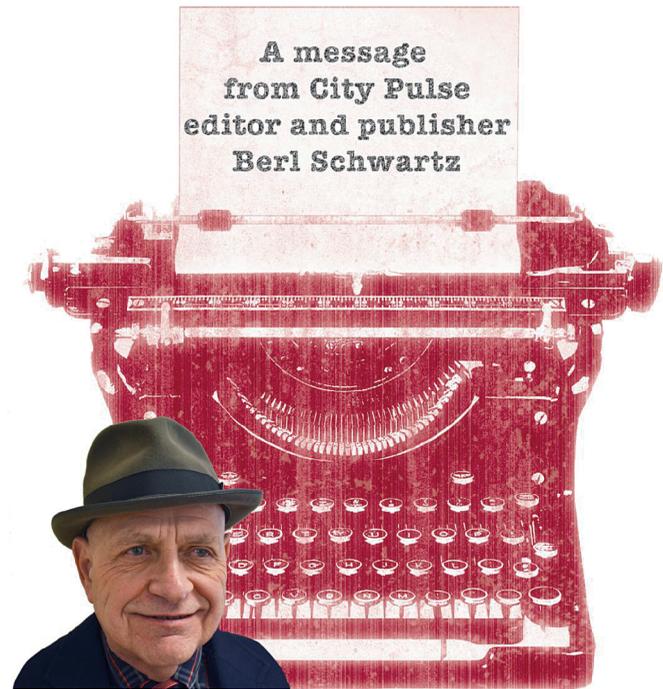
Thank you very much to those who already support us. And thank you to those who join them.

Yours truly,

**Berl Schwartz**

**Editor & publisher**

[publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:publisher@lansingcitypulse.com)



# PULSE

# NEWS & OPINION

## Mayor vs. city manager among issues a Charter Commission may debate

How can Lansing's city government best serve the people?

That question has been floated, discussed and debated ever since the city was incorporated in 1859, but with 51.6% of voters approving a Charter Commission last November, it may be more compelling now than ever.

The nine-member commission, whom voters will elect on May 7 from 36 candidates (see Page 5), could opt to shift powers away from a strong, elected mayor system in favor of a professional city manager who could be hired and fired at the discretion of the City Council. It could also rewrite the composition of the City Council itself by creating more wards, eliminating some or all of the city's four at-large seats, or both.

"The charter is a big deal," said Chris Johnson of the Michigan Municipal League. "It kind of goes back to a constitutional convention, just at the city level."

Throughout his career, including 28 years as the mayor of Northville, Johnson has seen the city manager system take off. According to the League's most recent data, 212 of 281 state municipalities have some version of the city manager form.

That system started in the 1890s "as a kind of reform to government," Johnson said. In it, the City Council selects a member as mayor who leads the Council, which hires a city manager and delegates responsibility to that person for operating the city. East Lansing is an example.

"The idea is to get professionals professionals who know about finance on finance, sewer systems, water systems, etc. They're supposed to be experts who know something about city government instead of the person who got the most votes in the last election," Johnson said.

In Lansing's current format, voters elect the mayor to run the executive branch, appoint department heads and a few other posts, subject to Council approval, and maintain veto powers.

"The advantage of council-manager is that it diffuses power. It's intended to be more managerial and technical," said Liz Gerber, a public policy profes-

sor at the University of Michigan. She has researched "how arrangements like the council-manager and strong-mayor forms of government affect public policies."

She said she doesn't know of any instances in Michigan where a municipality has given up its strong-mayor format, as some in Lansing have suggested.

"I would imagine that in a place like Lansing, the idea is: 'We don't need the politics so much right now.' They may feel they need somebody who knows how to drive the ship, how to balance the budget and how to write grants to qualify for funding. And those are all technical skills," Gerber said.

There are also some downsides to removing mayoral powers, she said.

"When the city is entering into negotiations like with the state or with the private sector over a new manufacturing plant or something, that's when you might want to have a mayor who can speak for the city more directly," Gerber said.

The distinction isn't always as clear cut, however.

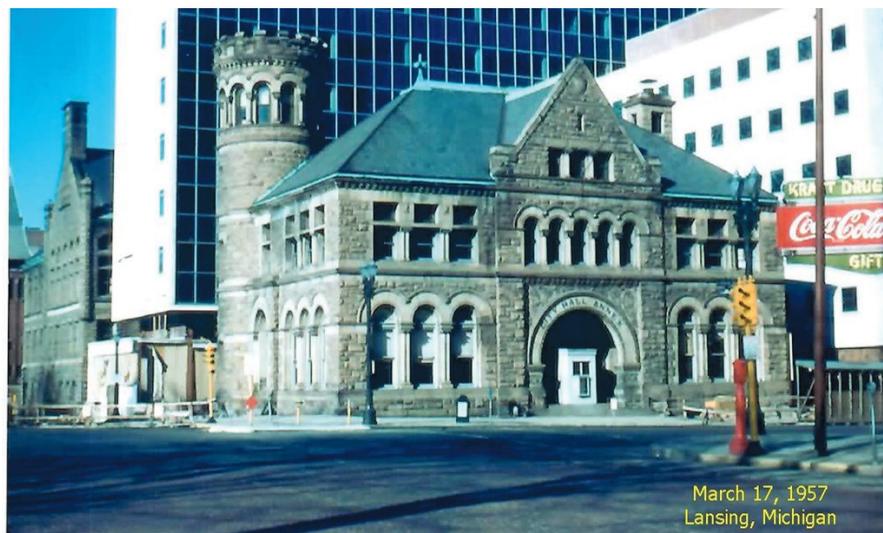
"In Ann Arbor, even though we have a city-manager form, it's more of a hybrid because the mayor has some powers that a strong mayor would have. He'll make appointments, for example, and I think he also proposes the budget, which is another important power."

Eric Luper, president of the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, cites the city-manager form as "probably a best practice that even major cities outside of Michigan have adopted."

He added that a change of that magnitude in Lansing would be a significant undertaking, which is why it's rarely done.

"All cities with strong mayors have tended to stick with a strong mayor, but you can do that and still provide more checks and balances," he said.

Lansing's commission could very well rewrite only some mayoral powers. It could revise how appointments are made and approved, for example. It could also look at removing key powers like the veto, which Gerber said "is at the very, very top of the strongest powers for a mayor."



Lansing's old Post Office, built in 1894 and demolished in 1958, from a 1957 photo found by Lansing history buff Timothy Bowman. It sat on the corner of Michigan and Capitol avenues on what is now the plaza in front of City Hall. After the new downtown Post Office was opened in 1934, the old one was turned into an annex for the old City Hall, which is in the photo behind the current City Hall.

"Nothing can get through if they don't approve, and, of course, that's a serious power," Gerber said, although the Council can override a veto with enough votes.

The second most prominent talking point behind the charter revision process in Lansing involves how residents are represented on the Council. Under Lansing's active charter, written in 1978, the City Council comprises representatives of four wards plus four more members elected citywide.

Some have suggested replacing the at-large seats with more wards, citing the spending required to win citywide. Others, including Council Vice President Adam Hussein, have mentioned expanding the Council to nine seats to discourage deadlock.

Luper said having an even number of seats might need to be updated.

"About 60 years ago, there was this idea that having an even number of members on a city council or commission would force people to come together and work through issues," Luper said.

"In retrospect, we might say that was sort of a pollyannish perspective," he added. "We've become more and more partisan and divided. So, for the most

part, we've given up on the idea that we can build an even number of seats and get good results from that."

Gerber also said that at-large seats "tend to dilute the minority vote."

But, she said, "The disadvantage to that is you get more colloquial," she said. "It could be harder to speak for the city's interests as a whole, especially if you're moving away from a mayor simultaneously."

Dearborn's commission looked last year at establishing nine wards after the city authorized a review in 2021. The commission voted 5-4 against.

Commission Chair Hassan Abdallah offered some advice to Lansing's incoming commission members.

"I would challenge them to make the extra effort to ensure they are reviewing a methodology that is publicly accessible and welcomes the engagement of the community," Abdallah said.

Luper agreed, adding that the voters could reject any changes when all is said and done.

"You rarely see a revised city charter changing anything in major ways because anything that seems like radical change becomes threatening and harder to sell," he said.

— TYLER SCHNEIDER

# CityPULSE

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Haslett-made short film to screen at Lake Michigan Film Festival



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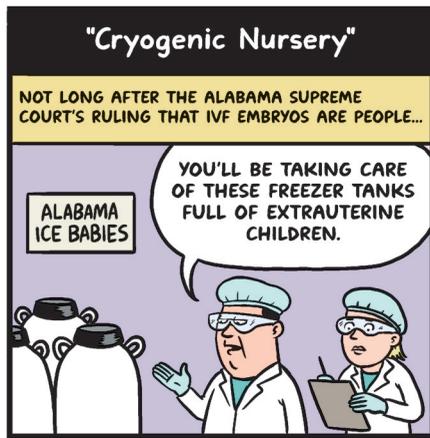
Marianne Williamson talks politics and love at Everybody Reads



**PAGE 21**

Vegan chili steals the show at Bobcat Bonnie's

Cover illustration by Nevin Speerbrecker



### "Cryogenic Nursery"

NOT LONG AFTER THE ALABAMA SUPREME COURT'S RULING THAT IVF EMBRYOS ARE PEOPLE...

YOU'LL BE TAKING CARE OF THESE FREEZER TANKS FULL OF EXTRAUTERINE CHILDREN.



THESE AREN'T TEST TUBES—THEY'RE CRYO-CRIBS.

EVERY NIGHT WE SING A SOOTHING LULLABY, "HUSH LITTLE BLASTOMERE."



THEY GET THE VERY BEST PRE-PRE-PRESCHOOL, INCLUDING DAILY BIBLE STUDY. OF COURSE, THEY DON'T HAVE EARS OR BRAINS YET.



WOW, YOU REALLY SEEM TO CARE ABOUT THEM.

WELL, NOW THAT WE'RE FINALLY DOING AWAY WITH CHILD LABOR LAWS, WE CAN PUT THESE KIDS TO WORK!

AS SOON AS THEY HAVE HANDS.

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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

**TOMORROW'S NEWS TODAY**

**DISPATCHES FROM THE VERY NEAR FUTURE**

1) BIDEN RESPONDS PUBLICLY TO THE SHOCKING DEATH TOLL AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN GAZA-- WITH A FIRMLY WORDED TWEET ON 'X'!

The United States strongly disapproves of certain things that are happening, and fervently wishes someone would do something about them!

TAKE THAT, BIBI!

2) WHEN A KEY WITNESS IN THE G.O.P. IMPEACHMENT EFFORT IS DISCREDITED, REPUBLICANS QUICKLY SHIFT GEARS!

IF HE WAS LYING, THE ONLY QUESTION NOW IS--HOW DID HUNTER BIDEN MANAGE TO MASTERMIND THIS INSIDIOUS DECEPTION?

WE WILL BE LAUNCHING A NEW INVESTIGATION INTO THIS LATEST BIDEN CRIME FAMILY CONSPIRACY!

3) AFTER AN ALABAMA JUDGE RULES THAT FROZEN EMBRYOS ARE LEGALLY CHILDREN, THE STATE REQUIRES THEM TO ATTEND SCHOOL!

GOOD MORNING, LEGALLY RECOGNIZED CHILDREN! TODAY WE'LL BE DISCUSSING ALABAMA'S DEEP REVERENCE FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE! AND ALSO WHY NITROGEN GAS ASPHYXIATION IS AN ACCEPTABLE METHOD OF EXECUTING CRIMINALS.

DID EVERYONE DO THEIR HOME-WORK?

4) DONALD TRUMP ANNOUNCES FURTHER PLANS FOR HIS SECOND TERM.

I'LL DECLARE MARTIAL LAW! AND ANOINT MYSELF EMPEROR FOR LIFE! I'M NOT KIDDING! THIS IS MY ACTUAL PLAN! STEPHEN MILLER HAS A BATTALION OF LOYAL TROOPS JUST WAITING FOR DEPLOYMENT!

OH THAT'S JUST TRUMP BEING TRUMP!

WHAT KIND OF CRINGE LIB WOULD TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY?

5) PUNDITS CONTINUE TO SPECULATE ENDLESSLY ABOUT THINGS THAT AREN'T EVER GOING TO HAPPEN.

WHAT IF THE DEMOCRATS HELD AN OPEN CONVENTION?

WHAT IF TRUMP GOES TO PRISON BUT TUNNELS HIS WAY OUT IN A DARING ESCAPE?

WHAT IF BIDEN DISCOVERS A SWIMMING POOL WITH ALIEN COCOONS THAT RESTORE HIS YOUTH?

SO MANY POSSIBILITIES!

OUR WORK IS NEVER DONE!

TOM TOMORROW © 2024-02-26 ... JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: [thismodernworld.com/subscriptions](http://thismodernworld.com/subscriptions)

# A look at the 36 Lansing Charter Commission candidates

Lansing voters will decide on May 7 which nine of 36 candidates will serve on the Charter Revision Commission. Absentee ballots will be mailed starting March 28. Here is a look at the candidates who responded to a City Pulse questionnaire. (The five-digit numbers after candidates' ages represent their ZIP codes.)



**Jazmin Anderson, 32, 48912, equitable economic development director at LEAP. Former event manager for Downtown Lansing Inc. Founder of Stay Rooted, an online plant shop. Lansing native.**

"I'm deeply rooted in Lansing and passionate about our community's future. With a strong foundation in community engagement and economic development, I'm eager to bring a fresh perspective to the table. My experience at LEAP and Downtown Lansing Inc. has equipped me with the tools to navigate complex challenges and foster positive change. I aim to bring fresh

perspectives to optimize governance, provide strategic oversight and ensure inclusive engagement. Together, we can build a charter that reflects everyone's needs and fosters a thriving, responsive Lansing."



**Layna Anderson, 37, 48912, digital communications manager at Michigan State University since 2019; former communications and marketing manager at Downtown Lansing Inc. for five years.**

"I spent five years working for Downtown Lansing Inc., a quasi-governmental organization for the City of Lansing. During my tenure with DLLI, I encountered the charter from a municipal employee perspective. Having encountered the city charter as both an employee and a resident, I have a unique viewpoint. I enjoy my current role working in communications at Michigan State University but have been missing being more involved with the city. This commission opportunity

called to me. Review and revision of the charter can catapult Lansing into the future and help the city become an equitable, accessible, and efficient municipality."



**Dedria Humphries Barker, 71, 48912, writer, author and educator, City Pulse columnist.**

Lansing resident since 2005.

"Dedria Humphries Barker will use her leadership and communication skills to work collaboratively to guarantee a framework for good decision-making, digital performance, excellent follow-through, and adequate taxation to support a budget that protects the public interest, the public peace, health and safety. She will bring her presence and energy, talents and gifts, to ensure that the Commission's work is clear and understandable to the people who govern and live according to the Charter of this

great city, the anchor of Mid-Michigan, the state Capitol."



**Joan Bauer, 74, 48910, 68th District Democratic member of the Michigan House of Representatives, 2007 to 2012. At-large City Council member, 1995-2006. Former director of volunteer services, Ingham Regional Medical Center. Lansing native.**

"The charter commission provides the opportunity to thoughtfully review the current charter and recommend any changes that could better serve our residents and strengthen our city. It is important that commission members give thoughtful consideration to all the issues, keep an open mind, seek public input, and research models of governance both in Michigan and nationally. I am a longtime Lansing resident who

See Candidates, Page 6

**DELTA CHARTER TOWNSHIP**  
7710 W. Saginaw Highway  
Lansing, Michigan 48917  
517-323-8520

**BOARD OF REVIEW 2024 MEETING DATES**

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

The Board of Review will meet in organizational session and is presented the 2024 Assessment Roll to review. This meeting is not for public protest of property assessments. The Board of Review of said Township will meet in Public Meeting Room "B" of the Delta Administration Building 7710 W. Saginaw Hwy. Lansing, MI 48917 on the following:

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 8 am

The Board of Review meets for the purpose of reviewing the 2024 Assessment Roll and hearing objections in the Public Meeting Room "B" of the Delta Administration Building located at 7710 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917 on the following:

Monday, March 11, 2024 9 am – 12 pm & 1 pm – 4 pm  
Tuesday, March 12, 2024 2 pm – 5 pm & 6 pm – 9 pm

Appointments must be scheduled by calling the Assessor's office at (517) 323-8520. Questions pertaining to valuation can also be answered prior to the meeting of the Board of Review by calling the Assessor's Office.

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

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

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF DELTA  
MARY R. CLARK, TOWNSHIP CLERK

CP#24-369

**CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED STATE AND FEDERAL APPLICATIONS FOR OPERATING, CAPITAL ASSISTANCE AND PUBLIC HEARING**

All citizens are advised that CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY ("CATA") has prepared an application for State of Michigan ("State") financial assistance for fiscal year 2025 as required under Act 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as amended, and for federal assistance as required under the federal transit laws, as amended, as follows:

State Operating Assistance	\$	21,923,006
FTA/State Urban Capital Program (Section 5307)	\$	9,926,079
State Specialized Services	\$	49,926
FTA Rural Operating Assistance (Section 5311)	\$	753,879
FTA/State Bus and Bus Facilities (Section 5339)	\$	1,062,045
FTA/State Enhanced Mobility (Section 5310)	\$	397,889
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>34,112,824</b>

Operating and capital funds listed above include both urban and rural funds. Capital projects to be funded include the purchase of large and small buses, paratransit vehicles for transporting customers, support vehicles, preventive maintenance, technology systems, planning, maintenance equipment, bus replacement parts, safety and security equipment, customer enhancements and facility improvements. This notice meets the Federal Transit Administration 5307 public notification requirement. The above program will be the final program, unless amended.

CATA ensures that the level and quality of transportation service are provided without regard to race, color or national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information regarding our Title VI program and the procedure for filing a complaint, contact CATA Customer Experience at 517-394-1100. You may also complete the CATA Title VI complaint form online at cata.org, email titlevi@cata.org or visit our administrative offices at 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910.

The proposed application is on file at CATA, 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI, and may be reviewed during a 30-day period (Feb. 25, 2024 – March 26, 2024), Monday – Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Written comments regarding the application and/or written requests for a public hearing to review the application must be received by 5 p.m. March 26, 2024. If a hearing is requested, notice of the scheduled date, time and location will be provided at least 10 days in advance.

Submittals should be sent to CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, FY 2025 Grant Application, Attn: Planning and Development Department, 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910 or via email to: marketing@cata.org.

CP#24-385

# Candidates

from page 5

loves our city and is committed to public service. I am running because I feel my past experiences as a Lansing City Council member and state representative would be of value to the commission.”



**Elizabeth Driscoll Boyd, 72, 48911, former press secretary for Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm and public information officer for former secretaries of state, Candice Miller and. Richard Austin. Founded a public relations agency in 2012. Lansing native.**

“The city charter will guide Lansing’s future, and that is why commissioners must conduct a review that is thorough, thoughtful, transparent and without regard for special interests. I am a life-long resident of Lansing with degrees from Michigan State University and decision-making experience based on having worked with statewide elected officials of both political parties. While I have often wanted to seek public office, my professional and personal commitments have stood in the way. I now have the time to serve and that is why I am seeking election to the charter commission.”

**Ben Dowd, 41, 48906, associate director, Community Economic Development Association of Michigan. Former banker for 15 years. Served eight**



**years with the Old Town Commercial Association, five as president. Resident for nine years.**

“My goal of serving on the commission is to ensure

there’s an open voice for all citizens and for the elected group to not get held up on areas of dissatisfaction that the charter has no affiliation with. Many folks have very specific special interests and motives to be elected. Mine is to use my knowledge and skills to effectively work through a process and assist the community with creating the charter that best represents Lansing’s needs. I’m interested in ensuring that the charter is within accordance with state and federal laws and that it is inclusive in language.”



**Randy Dykhuis, 67, 48933, retired CEO of Michigan Library Consortium and executive director of Midwest Collaborative for Library Services.**

**Founder of Capital Area Friends of the Environment. Resident since 2008.**

“I am passionate about good governance and making local government more transparent, just, and democratic. As a seasoned nonprofit leader, I bring strong leadership skills and a commitment to collaboration. In short, I listen well and pay attention, which makes me an ideal choice for the charter commission. I believe the

Lansing charter is basically sound but needs a few tweaks. First, the appointment process for boards and commissions should be more transparent and give city council a stronger role. Second, we should look at the number of wards and whether at-large seats on city council serve residents well.”



**Michele K Fickes, 58, 48912, Lansing native with professional experience in real estate, communications and events. Formerly banking marketing**

**director.**

“I have the passion and skills to make Lansing government more efficient, accessible, transparent, and responsive. I will keep what’s right and fix what’s wrong. I am an entrepreneur who was born and raised in Lansing, and a third-generation eastsider who loves Lansing. I am well qualified for the commission by having a MBA from Northwood University. I know research and am data-driven. I will offer my abilities to this community, contributing immeasurable ideas to its structure and working to shape Lansing’s future.”

**Britt Houze — no response.**

**Monte Jackson II, 30, 48933, commercial real estate appraiser and attorney. Lansing Planning Commission member, 2020 to present Board**



**of Zoning Appeals since 2023. Lansing native.**

“My decision to run reflects my commitment to being an active participant in shaping the

future of Lansing. I seek to streamline bureaucratic processes and enhance local democracy through charter revision. This endeavor allows me to take part in tailoring solutions to contemporary issues, fostering transparency and accountability in municipal affairs. I aim to modernize structures where appropriate, aligning them with evolving community values, while also preserving the aspects of the city charter that have been effective.”



**Brian Jeffries, 69, 48911, lead attorney for Michigan State University’s Student Legal Services program for over 40 years. City Council member,**

**2003 to 2013, twice as president. Ingham County commissioner, 1983 to 1992. Lansing Community College trustee, 1997 to 2003. Resident for 46 years.**

“We have a personal responsibility to improve our community. I exercised that responsibility serving

See Candidates, Page 7

### CITY OF GRAND LEDGE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City Council will hold a public hearing during its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m., on Monday, 11 March 2024, to consider and receive public input on a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) for the Grand Ledge Ball Park Phase II development project. The grant application is available for review on the City’s website at [www.cityofgrandledge.com](http://www.cityofgrandledge.com) and at the City Clerk’s office, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge, Michigan, between 8:00 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge MI 48837, in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, as amended, and will also be livestreamed via Zoom for informational purposes only. The online stream can be accessed at <https://www.zoom.us> with the Meeting ID: 851 5957 6530, or by calling +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC), +1 305 224 1968 US, +1 309 205 3325 US, +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), +1 646 876 9923 US (New York), +1 646 931 3860 US, +1 507 473 4847 US, +1 564 217 2000 US, +1 669 444 9171 US, +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose), +1 689 278 1000 US, +1 719 359 4580 US, +1 253 205 0468 US, +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma), +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston), +1 360 209 5623 US, +1 386 347 5053 US, +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose), with Meeting ID: 851 5957 6530.

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

Gregory Newman, City Clerk

CP#24-412

### WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP 2024 March Board of Review Notice

Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 am (Organizational Meeting)

The Williamstown Township Board of Review for 2024 will be hearing assessment appeals at the Williamstown Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Rd, on the following dates by appointment:

**\*Monday, March 11: 9:00am-12:00pm, 1:00-4:00pm, & 6:00-9:00pm (Assessment Appeals)**

**\*Tuesday, March 12: 6:00pm-9:00pm (Assessment Appeals)  
Contact: 655-3193 for an appointment.**

Residents unable to attend may protest by letter, provided protest letter is received at the Williamstown Township office by 4:00 pm Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 5 days’ notice - please call 655-3193.

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

#### Williamstown TWP Tentative Ratios 2024

Agriculture	Commercial	Industrial	Residential
41.39	48.41	48.69	46.16

CP#24-382

# Candidates

from page 6

Lansing as county commissioner, community college trustee and City Council member. Knowledge and experience gained through community and neighborhood service, practicing law and hands-on understanding of how local governments operate and govern make me uniquely qualified. This is an incredible opportunity to serve the people of Lansing and shape the city's future. My goal: produce a charter that moves Lansing forward as a welcoming city for all individuals; maintains a strong workforce; prioritizes public health and safety; and is well secured financially."



**Samuel Klahn, 27, 48912, masters in social work student at Michigan State University. Korea native, Lansing resident since early childhood. Eastern High School valedictorian, 2015**

"The city charter — like all documents — eventually runs into problems. No one can predict the future. It's critical that the people on this commission have two things. Firstly, a commitment to represent the people of Lansing with integrity. Secondly, professional skills and experiences to create a document that thoroughly addresses every issue of city government in order to allow Lansing residents to live,

work, play, and raise families with dignity."



**Tim Knowlton, 70, 48915, retired attorney of 40 years. Everett High School and Michigan State University graduate. Resident since 2000.**

"Lansing is my hometown, and I would like the charter to improve the city's governance structure and be more democratic. I support a nine-member City Council with at least five wards, with no firm view on the division of Council between ward and at-large members. I support ranked-choice voting of elected city officials, which I think the state Legislature can be persuaded to authorize. I am inclined to support the continuation of the current strong mayor system. I will work cooperatively with other commissioners."



**Jesse Lasorda, 64, 48910, retired Lansing School District employee of 23 years. Former vice chair, Ingham County Historical Commission, and Historical Society of Greater Lansing board member. Resident for seven years.**

"My purpose for running is to be laser-focused on quality-of-life issues that have been ignored for decades. As a neighborhood advocate, I have

seen and heard from Lansing citizens in regard to crumbling infrastructure (which includes governmental bodies). My goal is to have a more adaptive city government that doesn't move at a snail's pace regarding change, and most importantly accountability."



**Guillermo Lopez, 74, 48910, retired employee, Lansing Human Relations Department, 1984 to 2014. Lansing School District Board of Education member since 2000.**

"I am passionate about giving the community the best service possible. I want to have a review of each of the chapters on the City Charter so as not to leave any part of the charter unevaluated. The most important, in my view, are the strong mayor's position to a weak mayor/strong Council position and evaluating the current ward and at large positions on City Council. I come with an open mind, ears and eyes on these matters. I want a chance to come up with the best possible recommendations for changes or to keep as is."



**Heath Lowry, 31, 48915, staff attorney, Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence. Legislative director for former 8th House District Rep. Sherry Gay-Dagnogo, 2017 to 2019. Westside Neighborhood Association board member.**

"I am in this race because it is a chance to build a Lansing that listens. I have the expertise to deliver a Lansing that lifts all its residents. That vision starts with building a community-driven and responsive government in our foundation, the city charter. In Indigenous circles, we often discuss the Haudenosaunee Seventh Generation Principle, which guides decision-makers to build solutions that provide for the next seven generations. I live by this philosophy and will bring that to the commission. With that informing my way, I will advocate for a process and revisions that are community-centered, transparent, and future-focused."

See Candidates, Page 8

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT, INGHAM COUNTY, NOTICE TO CREDITORS, Decedent's Estate, File No. 24-132-DE, Hon. Shauna Dunnings, Estate of Kenneth Roland Weaver – Date of Birth: 01/02/1930. NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Kenneth Roland Weaver, died 11/20/2023. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Rebecca C. Day, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 West Kalamazoo Ave., Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-6300, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 02/28/2024. Attorney Robert L. Refior II, Bar no. P43374, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Ste. 5, Lansing MI 48910, 517-374-8890. Personal representative: Rebecca C. Day, 121 N. Lansing St., Mason MI, 48854, 517-515-0015.

**CP#24-414**

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

The City Council will hold a public hearing during its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m., on Monday, 11 March 2024, to consider and receive public input on a grant application to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), to support the development of an ADA Observation Platform at Jaycee Park. The grant application is available for review on the City's website at [www.cityofgrandledge.com](http://www.cityofgrandledge.com) and at the City Clerk's office, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge, Michigan, between 8:00 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge MI 48837, in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, as amended, and will also be livestreamed via Zoom for informational purposes only. The online stream can be accessed at <https://www.zoom.us> with the Meeting ID: 851 5957 6530, or by calling +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC), +1 305 224 1968 US, +1 309 205 3325 US, +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), +1 646 876 9923 US (New York), +1 646 931 3860 US, +1 507 473 4847 US, +1 564 217 2000 US, +1 669 444 9171 US, +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose), +1 689 278 1000 US, +1 719 359 4580 US, +1 253 205 0468 US, +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma), +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston), +1 360 209 5623 US, +1 386 347 5053 US, +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose), with Meeting ID: 851 5957 6530.

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

Gregory Newman, City Clerk

**CP#24-413**

 **CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY  
LEGAL AD NOTICE: VARIANCE REQUEST 24-01  
3689 VAN ATTA RD.  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024**

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
LEGAL NOTICE  
VARIANCE REQUEST 24-01  
3689 VAN ATTA ROAD  
PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517.853.4560) to hear all persons interested in a variance request from Steven L. Drayer. The applicant is proposing to create three lots from one existing lot. The proposed lots do not meet the minimum lot width requirement at 3689 Van Atta Road. The subject site is zoned RR (Rural Residential).

Information may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to [chapman@meridian.mi.us](mailto:chapman@meridian.mi.us), or at the public hearing.

Deborah Guthrie  
Township Clerk

**CP#24-416**

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meridian.mi.us

# Candidates

from page 7

**Erica Lynn** — no response.



**Derek Melot, 58, 48910, former editor, Lansing State Journal, Bridge Michigan. Communications director, Michigan Association of Counties.**

**Resident since 2002.**

“A governing document requires periodic review and potentially alterations. The charter is overdue for such a comprehensive review. Should I be elected to the commission, my three principles would be: transparency, responsibility and accountability. A major factor in the disengagement of many city voters – as reflected by municipal election turnout rates – is they do not see who is responsible for city action (or inaction) and do not think they can hold anyone accountable. The goal in the coming year should be to answer questions: Who is responsible? How are they held accountable?”



**Douglas VanBuren Mulkey, 48912, general manager at the People’s Kitchen since 2021.**

Through conversations with community leaders, neighbors and friends, I decided to seek a seat on this

commission to serve the community I love! As a lifelong resident of the greater Lansing area, I hold deep roots to the community and am invested in seeing us thrive.

Alongside my fellow commissioners, I look forward to researching and debating revisions to the charter and intend to build consensus to improve the charter for residents of Lansing.

My work as a board member with Michigan Pride and a Managing Partner of The People’s Kitchen both highlight my leadership values, charitable fundraising, dedication to community development, and small business values, which all will be an asset to the commission’s objectives.



**Jerry Norris, 57, 48910, CEO and founder of the Fledge.**

“As the CEO of the Fledge, I’ve demonstrated my ability to lead an organization that serves a broad spectrum of the community, addressing not just entrepreneurial needs but also social and cultural ones. This role has honed my leadership skills and my ability to listen to and work with diverse groups, qualities that are imperative for a member of the City Charter Commission. If elected, I would bring these qualifications to bear, ensuring that the city’s charter serves as a foundation for a governance system that is innovative, inclusive and reflective of our community’s values and needs.



**Ted O’Dell, 58, 48915, former legislative aide for state Sen. Don Koivisto, 1993 to 1999; House legislative assistant from 1989 to 1992.**

**Served as Beaverton’s city administrator in 2000. Former UniServ director for the Michigan Education Association. Resident for 17 years.**

“My goal is to construct a City Charter that will put citizens first. It is important that we, as the capital city, lead by example and become a model-modern city that views itself as more than a post-industrial community of government workers. I want to create a city that embraces future technologies in a way that will attract new businesses while supporting those that exist and to create a community of inclusion, diversity and place-making. Lansing may be the seat of state government, but we must work to build a future where we are also the crown jewel of Michigan.”

**Stephen Purchase, 40, 48910, communications director, Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights. Former executive and president, H Inc. Urban Development.**



**Legislative director for House District 20 Rep. Marc Corriveau, 2007 to 2009. Resident since 2006.**

“Lansing has been my chosen city for 18 years. I’ve been fortunate to serve our community in many volunteer roles, including as chair of the Lansing Fire Commission and Lansing School’s Parent Advisory Committee and on the City Council’s Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity. The Charter Commission is a great opportunity to wrestle with essential questions about how our city government is best structured to serve and be accountable to Lansing residents. I’m ready to bring my experience as a collaborative consensus builder to help the commission propose a charter that will stand the test of time.”

**Muhammad A. Qawwee II, 56, 48906, U.S. Army veteran; a pharmacy technician at Sparrow Health, 30 years. President, Sparrow’s UAW Local 4911, 2019 to present.**

“I am running for the Lansing City

See Candidates, Page 9

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT, INGHAM COUNTY, NOTICE TO CREDITORS, Decedent’s Estate, File No. 16-000-266-CA-P33, Judge Richard J. Garcia, Estate of Thomas Ralston – Date of Birth: 04/13/1954. NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Thomas Ralston, died 02/14/2023. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Billie Ralston, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 West Kalamazoo Ave., Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-6300, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 02/28/2024. Personal representative: Billie Ralston, 1422 Meadow Rue St., East Lansing, MI 48823, 517-897-1245. CP#24-415

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY**  
**LEGAL AD NOTICE: VARIANCE REQUEST 24-02**  
 5867 BOIS ILE DRIVE  
 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**  
**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST 24-02**  
 5867 BOIS ILE DRIVE  
**PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517.853.4560) to hear all persons interested in a variance request from Keri and Brandon Lardie. The applicants are proposing to reconstruct an existing deck that does not meet the side yard setback requirement. The subject site is zoned RA, One-Family, Medium Density Residential.

Information may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to chapman@meridian.mi.us, or at the public hearing.

Deborah Guthrie  
 Township Clerk

**CP#24-417**

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY**  
**LEGAL AD NOTICE: VARIANCE REQUEST 24-03**  
 2120 EAST SAGINAW  
 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024

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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**  
**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**VARIANCE REQUEST 24-03**  
 2120 EAST SAGINAW  
**PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517.853.4560) to hear all persons interested in a variance request from 2120 Saginaw, LLC. The applicant is proposing to build a new patio area for outdoor seating at the restaurant, which would reduce the number of parking spaces on site below the minimum required. The subject site is zoned C-2, Commercial.

Information may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to chapman@meridian.mi.us, or at the public hearing.

Deborah Guthrie  
 Township Clerk

**CP#24-418**

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# Candidates

from page 8



**Charter Commission** to ensure that our charter reflects the values, aspirations, and needs of our diverse and dynamic community. My motivation to run is to be a vital part of enhancing the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of our local government. By being elected, I hope to be an invaluable part, along with the other board members, to shape the upward direction of our city and local government.”



**Mitch Rice, 66, retired mental health and addictions counselor, former Coldwater City Council member. Lansing Board of Zoning Appeals member, 10 years. Resident, 12 years.**

“I care about my city. I see it as a way to contribute to help the City of Lansing review its governmental structure and processes to meet residents’ needs in the next 15 to 20 years. The charter is 46 years old and our community and society have changed. Key areas to consider include: unsheltered people, LBGTQ, community involvement, affordable housing, retaining a skilled workforce, to name a few. I hope the promote better cooperation with elected officials, professional governmental workers, citizens and the nine-member Charter Commission.”



**Justin Sheehan, 42, 48910, executive director, Lansing Promise, 2015-present. Former legal and policy program manager, Michigan Community Resources, six years. MSU graduate.**

“Lansing is my hometown. It’s where my wife and I are raising our babies. And it’s best days are still ahead. Getting this Charter right provides us a clear path toward effective decision-making, allows us to see accountability as a tool for innovation rather than a weapon, and clarifies the roles and responsibilities of those we rely on to lead. Getting this Charter right means that we as a City have a stronger foundation upon which to build for future generations. Belief, listening and trust will be the currency of this process. Time to get this right — together.”

**Stan Shuck -- no response**



**Lori Adams Simon, 55, 48910, chief of staff, 10th House District Rep. Nelson W. Saunders, 1990 to 1997. Former DEI director, at Sparrow Health. Contract and control specialist, Michigan Department of Community Health, 15 years. Lansing Board of Ethics member, 13 years, twice as president. Founded SimonSez Consulting, a DEI coaching firm, in 2020.**

“My purpose has always been service

to my community, and I decided to run for the Charter

Commission because of my immense desire to make a positive difference in my community.

I am an independent thinker, and I will approach the review process with an open mind while fostering collaboration, respect, and transparency. My goal will be to educate Lansing residents about the charter so they can constructively contribute to the process, and to ensure that the process is transparent to create a governance structure that is reflective of the desired aspirations of city residents and is equitable for all.”



**Corwin Smidt, 44, 48911, associate professor, American politics and research methods, Michigan State University. Resident since 2008.**

“I am a political scientist at MSU who believes that charter revisions provide a great opportunity to strengthen Lansing government and help our elected leaders and civil servants become more effective at serving its residents. I am passionate about Lansing and want to see it flourish. I also approach reforms with healthy scientific skepticism, and I remain cautious in supporting unproven reforms or too many changes at once. Institutional changes do not work without the buy-in of our civil servants and, most importantly, the public. The City of Lansing needs a tune-up, not a tear-down!”

**Miranda Swartz – no response.**



**Simon Terhaar, 30, 48910, software developer in security for insurance companies. Lifelong Michigander, and resident, four years.**

“As a younger progressive candidate for the Charter Commission, I look to shift Lansing and those in public office into more transparency in the decisions they make. I am looking to deal with our housing problems in ethical ways with strong policies that positively affect individual citizens. Finally, structuring our city to increase social supports is much needed. I am looking forward to changing Lansing for the better in a collaborative and evidence-focused manner.”

**Julie Vandenboom, 49, 48906, program reengineering specialist, Mich-**



**igan Health and Human Services Department, 15 years. Lansing resident since 2000.**

“Lansing can be a city for all of us. I’ve lived in the Lansing area since the third grade, and in the city’s working-class neighborhoods since 2000. My son came up through Lansing schools, graduating from Eastern in 2019. My current professional focus is on building and implementing processes to meaningfully include traditionally under-represented populations in policy-making. This skill set will allow me to serve Lansing’s community through the charter revision process. Our city is rich with diverse voices. I will ensure that all residents are heard and represented, regardless of background or circumstance.” (94w)

**Jody Washington — no response.**

**Jason Wilkes — no response.**

**Keith Williams — no response.**



**Ross Yednock, 49, 48906, legislative liaison for the Michigan Insurance and Financial Services Department and a former MEIC director at the**

**Community Economic Development Association of Michigan. Greater Lansing resident since 2003.**

“Lansing voters are frustrated. That’s why after 40 years they voted to form this commission. If special interests or personal agendas win out, then fair, effective and equitable change will lose. Commissioners must intentionally engage Lansing residents, focus on the issues sewing distrust in the current charter and explore options that can create a framework to revitalize our neighborhoods and communities, especially those neglected for far too long. I may not be your first choice, or even in your top five, but vote for Ross4Lansing.com with one of your nine votes and I’ll make sure your voice is heard!”

**Nick Zande, 22, 48910, Lansing native, City Council “regular,” early advocate of charter revision commission. Unsuccessful Council candidate, 2023.**



No statement.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Budget Public Hearing (Truth in Taxation) Notice Williamstown Township 2024-2025 Budget Public Hearing

The Williamstown Township Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on the Williamstown Township Cemetery, Police, and Capital Project Budgets and the Police Assessment Roll proposed for fiscal year 2024-2025 at a meeting on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

#### Location

**Williamstown Township Hall  
4990 Zimmer Rd., Williamston, MI**

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the Township Hall during regular business hours and on the Township website at [www.williamstownmi.gov](http://www.williamstownmi.gov).

A copy of the Police Assessment Roll is available for public inspection at the Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Rd., Williamston, MI, during regular business hours.

*The Williamstown Township Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon five (5) day notice to the Williamstown Township Board. Individuals with disabilities requiring special aids or services to fully participate in the meeting should contact the Township Clerk at (517) 655- 3193 or [clerk@williamstowntownship.com](mailto:clerk@williamstowntownship.com) to request assistance.*

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

CP#24-410

# City Council stalls \$228 million downtown Lansing housing plan

The fate of a \$228 million downtown Lansing housing development is uncertain after Lansing City Council President Adam Hussain raised questions about using a \$40 million state grant for that purpose.

The Council shelved a resolution to accept the grant that the developers, led by Gentilozzi Real Estate, were hoping the city would pass on to them for their proposed 460-unit New Vision Lansing project that comprises three buildings, including a 25-story high rise on the Grand River.

The Council also delayed action on accepting another \$40 million state grant — this one to fund moving City Hall to the old Masonic Temple on

Capital Avenue.

The Council voted to set aside resolutions to accept both grants after City Attorney Jim Smiertka advised the Council that it had to appropriate the grants at the same time it accepted the money from the state. The two resolutions only sought to accept the grants without determining how the money would be spent.

The next opportunity to accept the funds will be when the Council meets again on March 11.

In the meantime, the questions raised by Hussain will remain important considerations as the body determines how to proceed.

Developers Paul and John Genti-

lozzi presented revised designs for New Vision Lansing to the Council at Monday's Committee of the Whole meeting, after which the Council was scheduled to consider the measure to accept the state grant.

Hussain, who chairs the Council's Development and Planning Committee, asked why the developers hadn't provided a financial breakdown for each of the project's three properties. "I have to believe you have that information," Hussain said. "Can that be conveyed to Council?"

Paul Gentilozzi said they hadn't included those breakdowns because the development team has entered into "some confidential situations" with the Michigan Economic Development Corp., one of the state outlets that would oversee the project's use of the state's funds.

"We're still going through that process, but if you want to sign an NDA, which is an uncomfortable thing, I'm more than happy to let any Council person sit down and look at every detail of the financial," Paul Gentilozzi said, adding that they'd recently sent an email to Council explaining that arrangement.

Hussain confirmed that he responded to that email indicating that he wasn't interested in doing so.

"I want to see everything that you want me to sign an NDA for," Hussain said. "I'd prefer to have the conversation as part of this presentation. But you're telling me that I absolutely can't?"

"I'm not allowed to. The MEDC doesn't work that way," Paul Gentilozzi replied.

"My understanding is you have to be able to prove transformational economic impact for the city that the project has to be positively impactful in terms of the state's fiscal position," Hussain said. "You're taking calculated risks, so I'm assuming that we're leaning on some type of market analysis when you made the case to the state. Do you have those studies? What did you lean on?"

"We had a number of sources, but one of them was certainly the study that DLI (Downtown Lansing, Inc.) had done," John Gentilozzi replied.

Hussain asked if they'd commissioned or utilized any economic impact studies during their planning process, to which Paul Gentilozzi said they hadn't.

"We can debate the merits of that. But I think that is important. When we're talking about this type of invest-

ment by the taxpayers of the city and the state, I would want to see an economic impact study," Hussain said.

In Hussain's mind, he said, "Some of this still seems a little half-baked."

"When you went to the state, it sounded like to me you made a heck of a case — and it sounds like you leaned on our study — that we need housing, and that it can be transformational for the city. It sounds like the state agreed. But also, the way that they wrote this line item in the budget was very generic," Hussain said.

He was referring to a sentence in the 2024-'25 state budget legislation that said the Michigan State Housing Development Authority grant is to "increase new affordable or workforce housing units or implement corridor improvement activities."

"I'm just curious," he added. "How did we get here with this developer on this development? Why would we not go through a potential bidding process? The reason I asked that is I'm not certain that the Legislature contemplated us actually giving these dollars to this particular developer."

Mayor Andy Schor replied that he believes "the intention" was for the funds to go to New Vision Lansing, adding that the Legislature couldn't make that clear because it can't "write it specifically to one person."

"As recently as this weekend, I was told by Rep. Witwer where the intention of the dollars was for this project," Schor said, referring to Angela Witwer, D-Delta Township, who chairs the House Appropriations Committee.

"Sen. Anthony has told me that if anything were to happen where we weren't to go through that project, she would want to know about it in advance," added Schor, talking about Sarah Anthony, D-Lansing, who heads Senate Appropriations.

"Should it not be approved, we would try to find something else to do with the \$40 million before it expires," Schor said, saying in that case the city would seek bids for how to use the funds.

Later, in the formal meeting, the Council unanimously approved Hussain's motion to place both resolutions on file, meaning they won't be acted on in their current form. Instead, the Council will need to write new versions designating the money's use before the grants can officially be accepted.

— BERL SCHWARTZ and TYLER SCHNEIDER

## NOTICE

THE CITY OF LANSING BOARD OF REVIEW WILL HOLD AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024, AT 2:00 PM.

THE BOARD OF REVIEW OF THE CITY OF LANSING WILL MEET IN REGULAR SESSION TO HEAR APPEALS ON:

MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024, 9AM TO 12 PM & 1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM;  
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024 - 9AM TO 12 PM & 1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM;  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024 - 1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM AND 6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM;  
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024, 1:30 PM TO 4:30 PM

AT LANSING CITY HALL, 124 W MICHIGAN AVE, 3RD FLOOR.  
IF YOU WISH TO APPEAL YOUR ASSESSMENT OR SIMPLY WANT MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE ASSESSING OFFICE AT 517 483-7624. APPOINTMENTS ARE NOT REQUIRED BUT STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TO AVOID EXCESSIVE WAIT TIMES. TAXPAYERS MAY SUBMIT AN APPEAL IN WRITING. ALL WRITTEN APPEALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR FORMS AND INFORMATION AT WWW.LANSINGMI.GOV

### 2024 Ratios and Tentative Multipliers

Clinton County		
Property Class	Ratio	Tentative Multiplier
Agricultural	43.83	1.1408
Commercial	48.92	1.0221
Industrial	47.32	1.0566
Residential	N/C	
Timber Cutover	N/C	
Developmental	N/C	

### Eaton County

Property Class	Ratio	Tentative Multiplier
Agricultural	N/C	
Commercial	47.85	1.0449
Industrial	47.65	1.0493
Residential	45	1.1111
Timber Cutover	N/C	
Developmental	N/C	

### Ingham County

Property Class	Ratio	Tentative Multiplier
Agricultural	N/C	
Commercial	49.05	1.0194
Industrial	45.9	1.0893
Residential	44.03	1.1356
Timber Cutover	N/C	
Developmental	N/C	

CP#24-424



# Job and Internship Fair

2 – 5 p.m. • March 20 • Downtown Campus • 70+ employers attending!

Register at [lcc.edu/jobfair](http://lcc.edu/jobfair).

LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION/EMPLOYER.

# REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



**Krystal Davis-Dunn** claimed in a federal lawsuit that her former supervisors at the Ingham County Health Department used racial slurs, including calling her “Aunt Jemina,” and that officials were unresponsive to her complaints. She also alleged the county did not accommodate her neurodevelopmental disability, which can make it difficult to process certain audio and visual information.

Davis-Dunn is also pursuing a Circuit Court lawsuit in Ingham County that alleges sexual harassment by a supervisor. She worked for the county from 2016 to 2023.



westside residents are concerned about the disappearance of green space and navigating five lanes of nonstop traffic.

**Kenneth Mazur**, a former Eaton Rapids High School teacher and coach, has been ordered to stand trial on two counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct with a student starting in 1997. The alleged relationship began when the student was 15 and a member of Mazur’s volleyball team and continued until she graduated. Authorities said she came forward in 2002, but then-Eaton County Prosecutor Jeffrey Sauter declined to authorize criminal charges, determining at the time that the girl was 16, the age of legal consent.



**Thomas Olson**, 35, of Grand Blanc Township, was convicted by a 29th Circuit Court jury of second-degree murder and felony firearm possession charges in the 2018 Bath Township killing of Chong Yang, 68, of Lansing. Both were hunting at the state’s Rose Lake complex during firearm deer season. The jury had deliberated about 18 hours over three days. Judge Shannon Schlegel scheduled sentencing for April 8.

East Lansing was named the second-best college town in the Midwest in a market insight report from RentCafe, which analyzed how affordability, livability and education factors influence prospective students when they make their college choice. In its nationwide rankings, East Lansing was 13th. Athens Ohio, home of Ohio University, was ranked #1 in the Midwest, while Bozeman, Mont. topped the national rankings.



**Mason Public Schools Superintendent Gary Kinzer** is one of five finalists for the same position at Forest Hills Public Schools in Grand Rapids.

### Public safety:

Two Mason teenagers and a Holt man were hospitalized Sunday after a two-vehicle crash north of Mason. ... Lansing police are seeking individuals connected to a shots-fired complaint Tuesday after the suspects escaped officers after a short vehicle chase in southwest Lansing. Officers determined no one was hit with the shots. ... MSU police and public safety officers are asking for community help in identifying a vehicle that struck a pedestrian on Jan. 22 on Kalamazoo Street in front of Jenison Fieldhouse.



The Lansing school board has made Juneteenth (June 19) an official district holiday. The date typically falls outside the school year, but school staff and those in summer school and education programs will have the day off “to reflect, enjoy, and celebrate the holiday outside of a school setting,” officials said.

This decision by the Board of Education reflects our commitment to honoring and celebrating the importance of Juneteenth in American history.” Juneteenth marks the day in 1865 that Black Americans in Texas were freed — the last state to do so. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer made Juneteenth an official state holiday last year.

The Lansing School District graduated 76 percent of its seniors in 2022-’23, according to MISchoolData, the highest rate achieved since 2013.

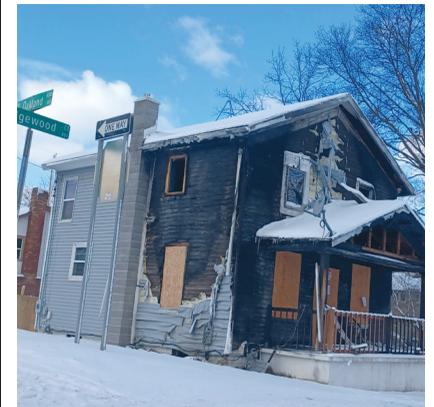


The rate of students dropping out declined from 24 percent in 2014 to 8 percent last year. “All our hard work together to improve graduation rates has resulted in a historic change for the better, and the new numbers are really something all our school district families can be proud of,” Superintendent Ben Shuldiner said.



Police are investigating the theft of eight new Cadillacs Tuesday from a General Motors storage lot on Davis Highway in Bath Township, two of which have been recovered. The specific models stolen were not released, but the Lansing Grand River plant makes the CT4s and CT5s. The two found were abandoned on eastbound I-69 near Webster Road.

The city of Lansing plans to remove the tree-covered islands on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard between Ionia and Lenawee streets, if the proposal is approved by the Michigan Department of Transportation. It’s part of a \$3.3 million, state-funded project to make downtown streets two ways. The city says the removal is necessary to accommodate changes on Ottawa and Allegan, which run perpendicular to MLK, and to “optimize traffic flow,” but some



805 Edgewood Court, Lansing

On Sept. 19, 2022, this three-bedroom, one-bath house on the corner of Oakland Avenue and Edgewood Court in west Lansing caught fire, and the smoke could reportedly be seen downtown. Luckily, it was unoccupied at the time and still is. But work to repair it seems to have hit a few snags since then. The owners, Hama Property Management LLC, still owed the city \$1,412.50 in fees as of Tuesday. These accumulating charges most recently included a board-up fee on Feb. 5, plus a \$475 enforcement fee issued the next day for construction work that was being done without a permit. As a result, the city issued a demolition order for the 1,232-square-foot home on Feb. 13. Built in 1904, this property only has one sale listed by the city assessor, which came when the current ownership group purchased it from Anna and Nicholas Burns for \$6,000 in 2016. It’s currently listed at a value of \$35,400. Efforts to reach the East Lansing-based Hama Property Management LLC were unsuccessful.

TYLER SCHNEIDER

“Eyesore of the Week” is our weekly look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates with Public Art, by Bill Castanier. Have a suggestion? Email [eye@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call in a nomination at 517-999-5061.



# Lottery overplays its hand in Michigan School Aid Fund

By **DEDRIA HUMPHRIES BARKER**

Returning from spring break, my student told me that their parents planned a family vacation to Hawaii for her younger sibling's spring school break. Could she go?

She was asking me for permission? Was she gambling that I forgot her sketchy attendance to my class and that she was one class away from getting dropped? Was she betting I would react impulsively and say, Yes, that's wonderful; I'm so happy for you!

She should be so lucky. I said, one more absence and I will drop you from my class.

People often have high expectations for the seemingly impossible and sometimes gamble to make their dreams come true. Like when President Joe Biden made a 2020 campaign promise to forgive student loans for college, all \$400 billion worth. He was able to temporarily delay student loan payments for the duration of the COVID-19 shutdown, but a U.S. Supreme Court ruling prevented that from becoming permanent.

He did not give up. Last week, Biden announced the SAVE plan that forgives \$1.2 billion of student loans for 150,000 Americans. That was the work of an educated staff that studied the laws and found a group eligible for forgiveness.

That was not Biden's luck. It was a wager that unburdening young people from high debt payments would enable them to contribute to our society.

People complain about the cost of quality schools and college, but the cost of poorly educated people is much higher in prison budgets. A good education at all levels is still the best way to secure a better future for individuals and communities. It is something to invest in.

The Michigan Department of Education is advocating for sustained investment in education and not folding that hand after two years of back-to-back record-high government spending. In January, the department reported a royal flush of investment by the governor and Legislature in sectors of public education, such as mental health services, meals served at school and teacher workforce programs like Proud Michigan Educator.

Gambling should not be a major part of the equation of public education financing. That's a poor way to finance education.

For instance, the Michigan Lottery raises a lot of money — \$1.3 billion in FY2023 — for the Michigan School Aid Fund. This fund for K-12 public education comprises state tax dollars, federal money and lottery proceeds. The lottery gets the money from people who play instant scratch-off games, daily games and the two multi-state games, Power-Ball and Mega Millions.

The Michigan Lottery is rightly proud of its School Aid Fund contribution. So proud that in 2014 it established the Excellence in Education program. The Lottery recognizes a school employee each month and one each year.

Stay in your lane, Michigan Lottery. Regulate legal gambling in our state and give the proceeds to the educators so they can do their job.

Michigan should not rely on gambling

to fund education. Parents with the financial resources/income save to pay tuition at private schools. Parents who do not have that private tuition money or who prefer public education rely on the state to make sure their children can go to good schools.

While people have been gambling consistently for over 2,000 years, sometimes people are urged by the Lottery to gamble by this saying, "You can't win, if you don't play."

The current version of that is on the Lottery's website. It says "Where the money goes: When you play, Students WIN!"



Opinion

What naturally follows from that is, "When you don't play, students lose."

I doubt most people who play the lottery are playing so they can fund schools. I don't. I play to win the money. When

I think about funding schools, I look at my tax bill, my assessment on my house, my kids'

teachers, their report cards and transcripts, and how they make a living.

Gambling is playing a game for money. A photo of a Black boy appears in the Lottery's promotional ad. But for African Americans, school is not a game. It is a solid foundation yielding great results and progress for them and all Americans.

This Black History Month, I observed a Black woman using her power in education.

The Michigan Department of Education recognized Matinga Ragatz as the Michigan Teacher of the Year for 2010-11. She won that while a teacher at Grand Ledge High School, in Eaton County. In 2017, she was inducted into the National Teacher Hall of Fame. I met her at Lansing Eastern High School's Future Proud Michigan Educators program.

Ragatz is an action figure. That term is rarely used to describe people who hold doctorate degrees; rather, they are thought to study problems for too long. But Ragatz was at the Lansing Eastern program to network support for her problem-based learning approach to education. She did not rely on luck. She made her case to a representative of Michigan House Speaker Joe Tate.

Her success involved luck, the type that is defined as preparation meeting opportunity. Her prep was an invest-

ment in her education. I support the Michigan Department of Education's call for "adequate and equitable school funding." Rather than hope that the numbers fall our way, continued investment in public education ensures the re-establishment and maintenance of good schools in Michigan.

*(Dedria Humphries Barker is the author of "Mother of Orphans: The True and Curious Story of Irish Alice, A Colored Man's Widow." Her column appears on the last Wednesday of each month. She can be reached through FB, Twitter @dedria\_hb and InstaGram at dedriahb.)*

Auction set for 3/8/24 at  
1425 Rensen St Lansing MI 48910  
NO phone calls

08 Durango 7636	85 Toyota Camper 8903	12 Zhejiang	96 F250 8770
11 Cruze 5163	16 Patriot 1534	Zingyue 4135	14 53ft trailer 4820
2004 Audi A4 9731	08 Tahoe 6954	07 Hensim	15 Infiniti Q50 0702
20 Challenger 4957	10 Fusion 1935	Motorcycle 7630	04 Sierra 1689
09 Commander 1239	10 Rato 8648	14 Charger 8701	

**CP#24-421**

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

February 15, 2024, at 6 pm - Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Trustee Strahle, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee M. Hoppes and 27 citizens.

Board Actions:

- 1) Approved bills for February 2024.
- 2) Approved not placing a Lansing City Pulse box at the Township Hall at this time.
- 3) Approved FY 23-24 base audit cost of \$6,300 without a verbal report.
- 4) Approved Escrow Fee Schedule for Planning and Zoning.
- 5) Adopted Land Division Ordinance Amendment 01-2024.
- 6) Adopted Moratorium Resolution 02-15-2024-05.
- 7) Approved meeting payment amounts for the Zoning Board of Appeals members.
- 8) Approved assessor At-Will Employment agreement through March 31, 2028.
- 9) Approved no increase to Board member salaries for FY 2024-2025.
- 10) Approved EMS budget amendments.
- 11) Approved Treasurer to invest money in CDARs at Independent Bank.
- 12) Approved Supervisor laptop repair.
- 13) Approved Maner Costerisan agreement for accounting and consulting services.
- 14) Approved a budget amendment increase for Professional Services.
- 15) Approved the Clerk and Treasurer working with Maner Costerisan up to the budgeted amount for Professional Services.
- 16) Approved updating the Eagle Township website and email to a .gov domain.
- 17) Approved quotes and evaluation of the basement of Eagle Township Hall.
- 18) Approved purchase of a new laptop for Trustee M. Hoppes.
- 19) Approved commitment to Clinton County for purchase of road gravel.

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk. Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is March 21, 2024, at 6 pm at Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan St, Eagle, MI. See [www.eagletownship.org](http://www.eagletownship.org) for latest updates.

Prepared by: Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Eagle Township Clerk  
Approved by: Troy Stroud, Eagle Township Supervisor

**CP#24-420**

**WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Williamstown Township Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) hereby gives notice that they will convene on **Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 6:30pm** at the Williamstown Township Hall, 4990 N. Zimmer Road, Williamston, MI, (517) 655-3193, to consider the following application:

Parcel #: 33-03-03-36-251-001  
Applicant: Kathleen Sheathelm for Carolan Lightfoot Trust  
Address: 3840 Vanneter Rd., Williamston, MI 48895  
Request for a variance from Section 28.02 of the Zoning Ordinance, to allow a sideyard setback less than the required 30 foot setback in the RR District.

Handicapped individuals needing special services to fully participate in the meeting may contact the Township Office at 655-3193 at least 5 days in advance of the meeting to request the necessary assistance.

Written comments may be directed to: Williamstown Township ZBA, 4990 N. Zimmer Road, Williamston, MI 48895, through 4:00pm, March 20, 2024.

**CP#24-411**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY  
LEGAL AD NOTICE: ORDINANCE #24-02  
5681 SHAW STREET REZONING**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
LEGAL NOTICE  
ORDINANCE #24-02 (5681 SHAW STREET)**

The Township Board at its regular meeting on February 20, 2024 approved for introduction and subsequent adoption Ordinance #24-02, a request to rezone an approximately 0.4-acre parcel located at 5681 Shaw Street, north of Haslett Road, from PO, Professional Office, to RN, Village of Nemoka Mixed Residential District. The parcel identification number for the property that is rezoned is #33-02-02-10-428-007.

Materials related to the rezoning request may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198 (517.853.4560) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

Deborah Guthrie  
Township Clerk

**CP#24-419**

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## Republicans in driver's seat to regain the state House

It's the subject Democrats don't want to hear, but with Tuesday's presidential primary in the rearview mirror, it's the subject they can't afford not to make a top priority.

As it stands today, the Michigan House of Representatives is likely to shift back to the Republicans after the 2024 election.

This means no more "Democratic trifecta." Turning back the clock on eight years of Gov. Rick Snyder will come to a permanent halt. And Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's wildly eventful eight years in office will peter out to two more years of legislative paralysis.

Why do I say this? A few reasons, but let's start with how the Democrats won a majority in the first place.

Everything broke the Democrats' way in 2022 when they won the state House, 56 seats to 54. The repeal of Roe v. Wade ignited young, professional women to vote in numbers never before seen, allowing Democratic candidates in suburban Macomb County, Wayne County and Kent County to experience unexpected successes.

As much as the Democrats want to make abortion THE topic of 2024, the polling shows that's not the case. Michigan has made the right to abortion care a CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT.

There's no way to make abortion any more permanently legal in Michigan than the adoption of Proposal 3 of 2022.

Even if Donald Trump finds a way to win the White House in 2024, he'll never have the Republican numbers in the U.S. Senate to pull off a national abortion ban — even if he wanted one.

The issue of the day is immigration. People from all over the place are flooding across the nation's southern border in historic numbers. It's raising issues about cost, potential crime and the possibility that they could snatch up jobs from those who arrived in the country legally.

President Joe Biden is in office. If he can do something about it, he hasn't figured it out yet.

Regardless of whether he has willing partners in the U.S. House, it's his problem.

Next, Trump gets voters out in key areas. I'm not saying Trump will win reelection in November, but I am

saying that he drives turnout Downriver, and the parts of Macomb County north of Warren. The people north of M-10 love the guy, too, which means a high turnout for Republicans.

Theoretically, Democrats have a shot at picking up a seat or two in Oakland County, but they have already won the seats that were in doubt in 2022. In 2024, they are mostly playing defense.

They swept all four suburban Kent County districts in 2022. No realistic pickups there. The Dems won this crazy-shaped new Lakeshore district that stretched from Saugatuck to Benton Harbor. No pickup there. Suburban Kalamazoo and Ann Arbor are already Dem. Rural Genesee County and the Tri-City area love Trump, too.

As I've warned you about in a prior column, the Republican Party's contentious split is fun palace intrigue, but the vast majority of Republican voters don't know who the state chair is, and even fewer care. I'd argue the impact of the Karamo debacle on House elections is negligible.

Trump has supporters ready to roll. Republicans likely will pick Mike Rogers as a U.S. Senate nominee, giving them a highly competent standard bearer to drive turnout.

Polling already shows him running neck-and-neck with likely Democratic nominee Elissa Slotkin.

Also, former Gov. Snyder has been raising money for this caucus for months. Snyder has Republicans competitive with House Democrats, even while being in the minority. That's hard to do.

There's one final piece to consider, too. Those Michigan Republicans who have money want the state House more than anything else on the ballot.

For them, Rogers in the U.S. Senate would be nice. They'd rather have Trump than Biden. But the state House is where it's at for them. The Democratic trifecta in Lansing is quickly rolling back the reforms the business community and its allies won with Snyder & Co.

They're putting their money on the R's to regain the House.

If I were betting on the possibility, I'd also put my money on it.

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



POLITICS

KYLE MELINN

Opinion

### WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP Township Board Meeting February 14, 2024 Synopsis

The Williamstown Township Board of Trustees held a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 7:00 PM with Supervisor Bloomquist, Clerk Cleveland, Trustee Creagh, Trustee Duffy, Trustee Eyester, and Trustee Steinberg present. The Board approved the following:

- Consent Agenda
- Budget Amendments
- Poverty Guidelines Resolution #97-2024
- Resolution for Charitable Gaming License for Williamston Baseball Boosters
- Contract with McKenna Associates to update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Call for a Public Hearing on the 2024-2025 Budget and Police Assessment Roll for March 6, 2024
- Adoption of the Capital Improvement Plan for 2024-2029
- Contract with the Ingham County Road Department for road repairs/improvements
- Contract with Cleary Fence Company for fence repairs at the South baseball diamond in the Township Park

The next regular Board meeting will be at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 13, 2023 in the Community Room of the Township office, located at 4990 Zimmer Rd., Williamston. Review the Township website ([williamstownmi.gov](http://williamstownmi.gov)) for latest agenda, documents, and updates. Phone (517) 655-3193.

Robin A. Cleveland, Township Clerk

CP#24-409

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# ARTS & CULTURE ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## ‘Salamander’ comes home

**After traveling to festivals around the state, short film made at Haslett’s Mayfair Bar screens Saturday at Studio C!**

By **CHELSEA LAKE ROBERTS**

When Paul Rothman was in high school, he created a short film that made it into the East Lansing Film Festival. That early success led him to enroll in the film program at Lansing Community College, but he didn’t finish film school.

“I was young,” he said. “You know, I probably thought I knew everything.”

He ended up pursuing a career outside the arts, as well as a family. He eventually became a mortgage banker and was elevated to a leadership position.

“I had become a director, which was what I always wanted. But it wasn’t the type of directing I thought I would be doing,” he said.

In summer 2022, Rothman returned to filmmaking for the first time in nearly 20 years, citing his daughter as his inspiration.

“She’s going to be at the age where she’ll ask why I did certain things or didn’t do other things,” he said.

His short film “Salamander” was pulled together with a budget of \$500 and edited using free software. The movie was shot on an iPhone at the Mayfair Bar in Haslett and features Mayfair employees both in front of the camera and behind the scenes. It will screen 8:45 p.m. Saturday (March 2) at Studio C! in Okemos as part of the Lake Michigan Film Festival, which runs Thursday (Feb. 29) through Sunday (March 3).

Rothman wrote and directed the film, and he also plays one of the lead characters.

“It’s such a narcissistic thing when you write and direct your own thing, and then you star in it,” he said. “But at the end of the day, you’re like, ‘What am I going to do?’ I want to get my movie made. And I’m cheap. Actually, I’m free. You just have to do it yourself.”

The film also stars Mike Nelson and Brett Elstro. Nelson is a local theater actor who has appeared at the Lebowsky Center in Owosso and with Homegrown Productions in St. Johns, and Elstro is a cook at Mayfair. Behind



Courtesy of Paul Rothman

Brett Elstro (left) and Andy North behind the scenes of “Salamander” at the Mayfair Bar in Haslett.

the scenes, Mayfair’s kitchen manager, Andy North, worked as an assistant director, and bar manager Keli Williams Johnson was the producer.

Rothman’s production company is called Elevator Pictures, which he said is based on the ethos of elevating those around you. He’s been delighted to see Mayfair celebrate the movie because its staff played such an important role.

We didn’t discuss the script during our interview because the cast and crew didn’t want to give anything away.

“It’s a slow burn,” Williams Johnson said, “but if I tell you what it’s about, you’ll know the whole movie. We should keep it mysterious.”

Johnson has worked at Mayfair for 23 years. She allowed the crew to film after her shifts on Sundays and acted as a consultant for Rothman on all things related to bartending.

“She helped us understand how a bartender would react to things, and she made us a lot of fake Jameson,” Rothman said.

Mayfair is a historic bar located right next to Lake Lansing. It’s the kind of place where everybody knows everybody. During our interview, a regular called out, “Hey, Keli!” as he overheard our conversation.

According to Williams Johnson, the establishment has one of the oldest liquor licenses in the area, acquired in 1934.



Chelsea Roberts for City Pulse

From left: “Salamander” assistant director Andy North; director, writer and co-star Paul Rothman; and producer Keli Williams Johnson set up shop at a booth at the Mayfair Bar to discuss the film, which screens 8:45 p.m. Saturday at Studio C! in Okemos.

“We’re totally a Michigan State University bar, too,” she said. “There’s so much history here.”

North said he had “zero” experience with filmmaking, but he was responsible for filming when Rothman was in front of the camera, as well as recording sound. Although he and Rothman have been friends since middle school, this is their first film together.

“It’s always been movies and shows with us,” North said before turning to Rothman and asking, “Was it supposed to be funny?”

Rothman responded, “If I try to make a script serious, it ends up funny. If I try to make something funny, it just comes off as creepy.” The group laughed.

Rothman said the feedback the film has received at other festivals has been positive.

“I’ve been asked where I studied acting. That was a nice compliment, I hope. A lot of people have said, ‘I actually know a person who is exactly like that.’ I don’t spell it out, but I hope it’s clear that I’m not glorifying the character,” he said.

“Salamander” has been screening at small festivals around the state since September 2023, including the Soo Film Festival, the Flint Short Film Freakout, the Jackson Festival for the Arts and the Saugatuck Film Fest, where it took third place in the Shorts category. Rothman said the experience has been a departure from the instant success of his youth.

“We’ve been turned down a few times, but we just had to break into that first festival, and now it’s getting

accepted,” he said.

He’s especially looking forward to Saturday night’s screening in Okemos.

“A lot of people are going to see it because Brett is in it. They’re going out of curiosity, but they’re not necessarily seeking out a film festival. I’ll feel great if it plays well here. But you have to see humor in everything. If it bombs and everyone walks out, that would be funny, too,” he laughed. “We’re going to do our best.”

The cast and crew plan on a good turnout, especially from the local bar crowd. Mayfair has posted two Facebook updates about the screening since Feb. 13, mentioning that tickets are available at the bar and on the Studio C! website. According to Rothman, 40 tickets have already been sold.

“After the movie, a lot of people ask about the \$2 whiskey, so we’re doing a thing where if you bring in your stub, you can get a \$2 whiskey at Mayfair.” Rothman continued, “But most people say, ‘That was decent, what are you doing next?’ Anyone can make one good short film.”

He said his next project is already mapped out. It’s another 15-minute short, and his goal is to make it with a budget of \$1,000. He also has a feature-length “stalker movie” that he thinks he can get made for \$15,000.

“It’s all about scaling up,” he said. “I’m going to keep making movies until someone notices. You know, you hate it during the editing process, but then it plays well, and you think, ‘Hey, I might just be the best ever.’”

### Lake Michigan Film Festival

Thursday, Feb. 29

7 p.m.

Hannah Community Center  
819 Abbot Road, East Lansing

March 1-3

Studio C! Meridian Mall  
1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos

Visit [elfff.com](http://elfff.com) for full schedule

### “Salamander” screening

Saturday, March 2

8:45 p.m.

Studio C! Meridian Mall  
[celebrationcinema.com/Films/detail/Shorts-Dark](http://celebrationcinema.com/Films/detail/Shorts-Dark)

# Beirut Kitchen's Lebanese street food completes diverse Lansing Shuffle lineup

By TYLER SCHNEIDER

Husband and wife Rae Suboh and Rodina Kasti have been running their Okemos restaurant, Bread Bites Mediterranean, since late 2019. For them and their extended relatives, the restaurant business is a family affair. One of Kasti's sisters owns Aladdin's Restaurant in the Frandor Shopping Center, while her brother owns Sahara Delight in downtown Lansing.



## Beirut Kitchen

325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing  
11 a.m.-10 p.m.  
Tuesday-Sunday  
(517) 481-3568  
bklansing.com

So, when another of Kasti's sisters, Khadija Al-Kasti, and her brother-in-law Hussein Sawan moved from Lebanon to Greater Lansing in 2022, it seemed only

natural that they would join in on the tradition. They began working at Bread Bites, continuing to do so for a year and a half.

"They came over here with their three boys, and they had no jobs, no house, nothing. So, we helped them out, we supported them through it," Kasti said.

Sawan was a manager at a restaurant back in Lebanon, and it quickly became apparent to Kasti that he had the skills to run the second location that she and Suboh were thinking about opening at the time.

"I said, 'Oh my gosh, he has really good experience.' Plus, he added some nice twists to our food. After that, we decided to open another restaurant and let them run it," Kasti said.

As those plans developed, however, Kasti and Suboh were approached by a representative for Lansing Shuffle to see if they'd be interested in becoming a tenant. The couple, alongside Al-Kasti and Sawan, opted to open a new concept instead: Beirut Kitchen, named after Lebanon's capital city, which became the final of seven restaurants to open at Lansing Shuffle on Feb. 13.

"It's based on the street food back home. Like, if you were walking to get some coffee and you felt hungry, you'd stop at a kiosk that has Lebanese food. That's what we're doing



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

Beirut Kitchen co-owner Hussein Sawan (left) manned the grill while his son Ahmad worked the counter during the lunch rush at Lansing Shuffle last Saturday (Feb. 24).

now. We're serving it with the same presentation, just like the way we do it back home. These dishes have a lot of protein, carbohydrates, olive oil and vegetable oil," Kasti said.

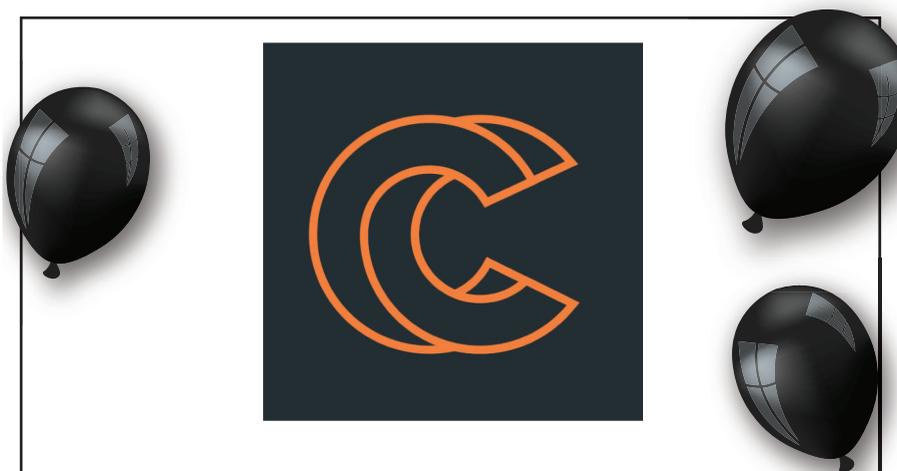
The menu features Mediterranean staples like chicken shawarma, beef and chicken kebabs and gyros as well as plant-based options like falafel, samosas, deep-fried cauliflower and three salad options.

Kasti said a popular menu item so far has been the Golden Sojuk Bowl, an Armenian-inspired dish made from ground beef and a special spice blend.

"This plate tastes really good, and I don't think anyone else has it, because I looked at all the Mediterranean food here in Lansing and couldn't find another place that serves it," she said.

Keeping with the family tradition, two of Sawan and Al-Kasti's children, Ahmad Sawan, 14, and Ali Sawan, 13, have stepped up to help their parents work the register on weekends. Kasti said they've become an endearing part of the experience for visitors.

"They're very comfortable speaking to people. Even though they're young, they're very bright and talk like they're 35 years old," she said. "Customers have been very, very excited to see them when they come in."



**The Creative Collective, Mason**  
Encourages Community Engagement and Advocacy for purposeful dialogue, giving artist's and community members the platform for significant change

# Black BALLOON DAY

**MARCH 6**



**On March 6**, across the United States families and loved ones remember and celebrate the lives lost to overdose. This day has become known as **Black Balloon Day**.

Since our inception we have provided training and naloxone kits to professionals, students, and community members for Black Balloon Day. This year we are training businesses, and community service groups. We offer discrete friend/family at home training and education. Harm reduction kits and resources are available as well.

Our goal is to prevent opioid overdose deaths by empowering community members to respond appropriately to opioid overdose situations.

Email us for training  
**TheCCMasonMi@gmail.com**

# Williamson teases potential return to presidential race at Everybody Reads

By **BILL CASTANIER**

It's been a long and winding road for Marianne Williamson, a noted lecturer, self-help author, former spiritual director of a megachurch in Warren and two-time former presidential candidate. She also admits to hitting the road as a young woman in pursuit of happiness, which led her to "bad boys and good dope."

Last Thursday (Feb. 22), the winding road led her to a podium at Everybody Reads on East Michigan Avenue. Her decades of addressing audiences have turned her into a dynamic speaker. She didn't stumble like other political candidates, and she used no notes during her 45-minute talk in front of close to 50 avid fans.

She took the opportunity to roar through her political platform of abortion rights, reparations, renewable energy and other climate change responses, vaccinations and ending the war on drugs.

She also mentioned that she may rejoin the 2024 presidential race after suspending her campaign earlier this month. Whatever path she chooses, she can always fall back on her writing career, having published 15 books, four of which hit No. 1 on The New York Times' best-sellers' list, according to her campaign website.

During the talk, Williamson stepped into the audience after a young Black veteran told an emotional story of being terrified at a



Bill Castanier for City Pulse

Lecturer, author and two-time former presidential candidate Marianne Williamson made her way into the audience to address a young Black veteran during her appearance at Everybody Reads bookstore last Thursday (Feb. 22).

local park by another parkgoer who addressed him with his hand on his sidearm. Williamson provided counseling for the veteran while reinforcing his point of view. It was a moving moment and an unscripted jolt of humanity.

Williamson has a lot of experience in responding to moments like this, and she's able to pull quotes of support from her books seemingly at will. Her first book, "A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of 'A Course in Miracles,'" set the tone for those that would follow, using simple religious and spiritual tracts to underline the use of love in establishing a saner worldview and a more peaceful relationship among citizens. Here are a few of those

lines, which often find a place in her speeches:

"Each of us has a unique part to play in the healing of the world."

"Only do what you feel called in your heart to do, and then give all of yourself to the task."

"Love is the essential reality and our purpose on Earth. Meaning does not lie in things. Meaning lies in us."

"Our key to transforming anything lies in our ability to reframe it."

"Joy is what happens to us when we allow ourselves to recognize how good things really are."

These types of quotes resonate with her devoted readers, but they apparently haven't been catchy

enough to capture voters. Perhaps she needs to be more mean and less meaningful.

But last week, for a single day at a quiet bookstore in Lansing, a group of Williamson's supporters cheered quietly as she talked about poverty, unfair incarceration, reparations and a host of other hot-button topics.

Even if Williamson does revive her run for the presidency, it appears she may be a voice crying in the wilderness of reality. But that doesn't keep her from rattling the cages of the establishment, which she began doing about five minutes into her presentation at Everybody Reads when she took on the CEO of cereal company Kellogg's for a comment he made about eating cereal for dinner.

"That's insane. Hunger shouldn't be someone else's business model," she said.

She further railed against modern capitalism, saying, "Short-term profits for corporations take precedence."

She also said her two presidential campaigns faced "efforts to muzzle her candidacy" and that "only those with big money have a chance to win."

She did acknowledge that despite suspending her campaign, she is still on the ballot in Michigan, and individuals could still "choose to vote for me if they feel moved to do that."

"If I unsuspend my campaign, I could continue to get enough votes to get delegates and have a voice," she said.

Despite the challenges of the campaign, she still believes that "you pray in the morning and kick ass in the afternoon."

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## ART BY NEVIN

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 ArtByNevin
  Art\_By\_Nevin

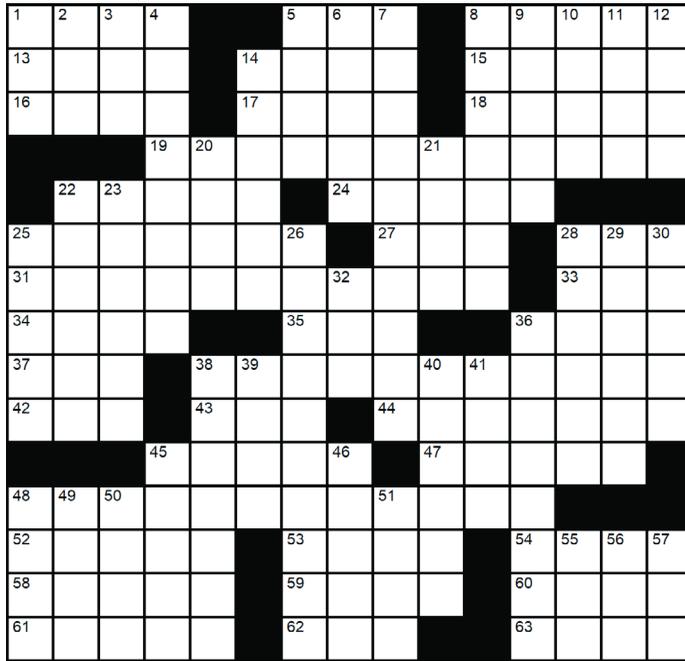
# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Full-Bodied" -- there's an extra part in the theme.  
by Matt Jones  
© 2024 Matt Jones

**ACROSS**

- 1. Serene
- 5. Ride back to the hotel, perhaps
- 8. Astronomer Tycho
- 13. Two-tone snack
- 14. 1993 Texas standoff city
- 15. "Star Wars" director
- 16. Mae or Jerry
- 17. Peas, to a peashooter
- 18. In the dark
- 19. Bean for baseball's Bryce?
- 22. Pass, as time
- 24. Travels by boat
- 25. "This could be the \_\_\_"
- 27. "CSI" material
- 28. Family-friendly film ratings
- 31. Cabbage salad served at universities?
- 33. Actress Lucy
- 34. Stylized
- 35. Reno-to-Spokane dir.
- 36. "Knights of Cydonia" band
- 37. "La \_\_\_" (Debussy composition)
- 38. Just heated up?
- 42. "Gangnam Style" performer
- 43. Letter from Homer
- 44. Walk like a zombie
- 45. Some DVD players
- 47. "And Still \_\_\_" (Maya Angelou book)
- 48. Like home renovation shows that overdo the wood siding?
- 52. Video game character with his own Maker
- 53. Prefix with



- dextrous
- 54. Proton's place
- 58. Signing off on
- 59. Overwhelming victory
- 60. Donated
- 61. Talkative, slangily
- 62. \_\_\_Tiki (Heyerdahl craft)
- 63. Shiraz location
- DOWN**
- 1. Nursery rhyme jumper
- 2. "... but few \_\_\_ chosen"
- 3. "\_\_\_ Mis rables"
- 4. Like some instincts
- 5. Use a tent
- 6. High points
- 7. With "The," '90s British alt-rock band named for an American novel character
- 8. Sunday shopping restriction
- 9. Ladder components
- 10. "Because Freedom Can't Protect Itself" org.
- 11. "Days Are Gone" band
- 12. Italian family related to the Borgias
- 14. Battle-trained canine
- 20. Poker starter
- 21. Chinese tennis star with a very short name in English
- 22. Mall units
- 23. Meager
- 25. Playful rascal
- 26. Home of the Boston Red Sox
- 28. Examines, as depths
- 29. Brazilian supermodel B nchén
- 30. Napped material
- 32. Pete Davidson's show, once
- 36. Mentor in "The Karate Kid"
- 38. Vocabulary coinage, e.g.
- 39. 10,900-foot European peak
- 40. "Try to detect it! It's not too late!" song
- 41. Publisher of Modern Maturity
- 45. They're earned on "Press Your Luck"
- 46. "Li'l Abner" creature that looks like a white blob with a mustache
- 48. Air purifier
- 49. Maori dance popularized by some New Zealand rugby teams
- 50. Part of the eye around the pupil
- 51. Have \_\_\_ in the oven
- 55. Viscous goo
- 56. Eggs in labs
- 57. "\_\_\_ Behaving Badly"

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Answers on page 22

# SUDOKU

# Beginner

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

## Fun By The Numbers

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

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

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

February 28-March 5, 2024

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** In my astrological estimation, the coming weeks will be an ideal time for you to declare amnesty, negotiate truces and shed long-simmering resentments. Other recommended activities: Find ways to joke about embarrassing memories, break a bad habit just because it's fun to do so and throw away outdated stuff you no longer need. Just do the best you can as you carry out these challenging assignments. You don't have to be perfect. For inspiration, read these wise words from poet David Whyte: "When you forgive others, they may not notice, but you will heal. Forgiveness is not something we do for others; it is a gift to ourselves."

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Many of you Tauruses have a robust capacity for doing diligent, effective work. Many of you also have a robust capacity for pursuing sensual delights and cultivating healing beauty. When your mental health is functioning at peak levels, these two drives to enjoy life are complementary; they don't get in each other's way. If you ever fall out of your healthy rhythm, these two drives may conflict. My wish for you in the coming months is that they will be in synergistic harmony, humming along with grace.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Many people choose wealthy entertainers and celebrity athletes for their heroes. It doesn't bother me if they do. Why should it? But the superstars who provoke my adoration are more likely to be artists and activists. Author Rebecca Solnit. Potawatomi botanist and author Robin Wall Kimmerer. The four musicians in the Ukrainian band DakhBrakha. Poet Rita Dove and novelist Haruki Murakami. My capacity to be inspired by these maestros seems inexhaustible. What about you, Gemini? Who are the heroes who move you and shake you in all the best ways? Now is a time to be extra proactive in learning from your heroes — and rounding up new heroes to be influenced by.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Your homework assignment is to work on coordinating two issues that are key to your life's purpose. The first of these issues is your fervent longing to make your distinctive mark on this crazy, chaotic world. The second issue is your need to cultivate sweet privacy and protective self-care. These themes may sometimes seem to be opposed. But with even just a little ingenious effort, you can get them to weave together beautifully. Now is a good time to cultivate this healing magic.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** If you don't recognize the face in the mirror right now, that's a good thing. If you feel unfamiliar feelings rising up in you or find yourself entertaining unusual longings, those are also good things. The voice of reason may say you should be worried about such phenomena. But as the voice of mischievous sagacity, I urge you to be curious and receptive. You are being invited to explore fertile possibilities that have previously been unavailable or off-limits. Fate is offering you the chance to discover more about your future potential. At least for now, power can come from being unpredictable and investigating taboos.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** I invite you to study the fine art of sacred intimacy in the coming weeks. Life's rhythms will redound in your favor as you enjoy playing tenderly and freely with the special people you care for. To aid you in your efforts, here are three questions to ponder: 1. What aspects of togetherness might flourish if you approach them with less solemnity and more fun? 2. Could you give more of yourself to your relationships in ways that are purely enjoyable, not done mostly out of duty? 3. Would you be willing to explore the possibility that the two of you could educate and ripen each other's dark sides?

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Creativity teacher Roger von Oech tells how bandleader Count Basie asked a club owner to fix his piano. It was always out of tune. A few weeks later, the owner called Basie to say everything was good. But when Basie arrived to play, the piano still had sour notes. "I thought you

said you fixed it!" Basie complained. The owner said, "I did. I painted it." The moral of the story for the rest of us, concludes von Oech, is that we've got to solve the right problems. I want you Libras to do that in the coming weeks. Make sure you identify what really needs changing, not some distracting minor glitch.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Most of us have received an inadequate or downright poor education about love and intimate togetherness. Given how much misinformation and trivializing propaganda we have absorbed, it's amazing any of us have figured out how to create healthy, vigorous relationships. That's the bad news, Scorpio. The good news is that you are cruising through a sustained phase of your astrological cycle when you're far more likely than usual to acquire vibrant teachings about this essential part of your life. I urge you to draw up a plan for how to take maximum advantage of the cosmic opportunity. For inspiration, here's poet Rainer Maria Rilke: "For one human being to love another human being: That is perhaps the most difficult task entrusted to us, the ultimate task, the final test and proof, the work for which all other work is merely preparation." (Translation by Stephen Mitchell.)

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** The myths and legends of many cultures postulate the existence of spirits who are mischievous but not malevolent. They play harmless pranks. Their main purpose may be to remind us that another world, a less material realm, overlaps with ours. And sometimes, the intention of these ethereal tricksters seems to be downright benevolent. They nudge us out of our staid rhythms, mystifying us with freaky phenomena that suggest reality is not as solid and predictable as we might imagine. I suspect you may soon have encounters with some of these characters: friendly poltergeists, fairies, ghosts, sprites or elves. My sense is that they will bring you odd but genuine blessings.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Some studies suggest that less than half of us have best friends. Men are even less likely to have beloved buddies than the other genders. If you are one of these people, the coming weeks and months will be an excellent time to remedy the deficiency. Your ability to attract and bond with interesting allies will be higher than usual. If you do have best friends, I suggest you intensify your appreciation for and devotion to them. You need and deserve companions who respect you deeply, know you intimately and listen well. But you've got to remember that relationships like these require deep thought, hard work and honest expressions of feelings!

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Among all the zodiac signs, you Aquarians are among the best at enjoying a bird's-eye perspective on the world. Soaring high above the mad chatter and clatter is your birthright and specialty. I love that about you, which is why I hardly ever shout up in your direction, "Get your ass back down to earth!" However, I now suspect you are overdue to spend some quality time here on the ground level. At least temporarily, I advise you to trade the bird's-eye view for a worm's-eye view. Don't fret. It's only for a short time. You'll be aloft again soon.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** In old Hawaii, the people loved their deities but also demanded productive results. If a god stopped providing worshippers with what they wanted, they might dismiss him and adopt a replacement. I love that! And I invite you to experiment with a similar approach in the coming weeks. Are your divine helpers doing a good job? Are they supplying you with steady streams of inspiration, love and fulfillment? If not, fire them and scout around for substitutes. If they are performing well, pour out your soul in gratitude.

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

# OUT on the TOWN

## Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

### Wednesday, Feb. 28

**2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition** - An inclusive survey of work produced by MSU faculty. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](https://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**2024 Drainage Design Workshop** - Learn from university specialists and drainage industry professionals. 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Farrall Agricultural Engineering Hall, 524 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. [canr.msu.edu/events/2024-drainage-design-workshop](https://canr.msu.edu/events/2024-drainage-design-workshop).

**"A Course of Love," Facilitated by Lucille Olson & Bill Dietrich** - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. [unitylansing.org](https://unitylansing.org).

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

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

**ART/5 Exhibition** - On view during performances of "Maytag Virgin." To see the art show, you must attend a performance. 2 p.m. 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. [williamstontheatre.org](https://williamstontheatre.org).

**CharLit Adult Book Club** - A monthly adult book club. 6:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. [charlottelibrary.org](https://charlottelibrary.org).

**Cocktail Class at Lansing Shuffle** - Tickets available at the bar or online. 6:30 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. [lansingshuffle.com](https://lansingshuffle.com).

**"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [meridian50plus.com](https://meridian50plus.com).

**How Did We Get Here? Panel Discussion** - 6:30 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2420. [elpl.org](https://elpl.org).

**Improv Acting Class** - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Jazz Dance Class** - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp** - Ten-week program. Ages 7-12. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. [lansingrollerderby.com](https://lansingrollerderby.com).

**Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle** - 9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. [lansingshuffle.com](https://lansingshuffle.com).

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

**MASH — REACH Open Studio** - Use REACH's space and tools for your creative endeavors. Bring your own supplies, as available materials vary from time to time. 6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. [reachstudioart.org](https://reachstudioart.org).

**"Maytag Virgin"** - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. [williamstontheatre.org](https://williamstontheatre.org).

**Mindfulness Meditation in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition** - All are welcome to join our weekly practice! 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. MLK Jr. Blvd., Lansing. [lamc.info](https://lamc.info).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Member Art Show: "Love is in the Air"** - 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Bestsellers Books and Coffee Co., 360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. [facebook.com/MidMichiganArtGuild](https://facebook.com/MidMichiganArtGuild).

**Mixed-media art display by Cindy Mielock** - Hours subject to change as the Bookend Gallery is staffed by volunteers. Noon-4 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett](https://cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett).

**Open Mic, Hosted by Rick Hansel** - Family-friendly, welcomes singers and musicians. No cover, all ages welcome. 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. [urbanbeatevents.com](https://urbanbeatevents.com).

**Praying Through Lent** - Join us to learn about centering prayer, which employs prayer to quiet the mind and open it to God's presence. 6 p.m. St. Katherine's Episcopal Church, 4650 N. Meridian Road, Williamston. 517-349-4120. [stkatherines.org](https://stkatherines.org).

**Tap II Class** - 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Weaving the Web: Invocation** - Join us online or in person for discussions, rituals, meditations and more! 6 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. [weaversoftheweb.org](https://weaversoftheweb.org).

### Thursday, Feb. 29

**2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition** - An inclusive survey of work produced by MSU faculty. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](https://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**2024 Drainage Design Workshop** - Learn from university specialists and drainage industry professionals. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Farrall Agricultural Engineering Hall, 524 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. [canr.msu.edu/events/2024-drainage-design-workshop](https://canr.msu.edu/events/2024-drainage-design-workshop).

**"A Course in Miracles," Facilitated by Lisa Schmidt** - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. [unitylansing.org](https://unitylansing.org).

**Acting 101 Class** - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Acting Ensemble Class** - 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**ART/5 Exhibition** - On view during performances of "Maytag Virgin." To see the art show, you must attend a performance. 8 p.m. 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. [williamstontheatre.org](https://williamstontheatre.org).

**Beginning Cha-Cha Group Dance Class** - A lively and energetic ballroom dance. Seven-week class. Registration req. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 517-364-8888. [sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club](https://sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club).

**Beginning West Coast Swing Group Dance Class** - Partner dance with roots in Lindy Hop. Seven-week class. Registration req. 7 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 517-364-8888. [sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club](https://sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club).

**Crafty Vibes** - Bring your knitting, crochet or any other portable craft project and immerse yourself in an evening of creativity, conversation and community.

### How Did We Get Here? panel discussion Wednesday, Feb. 28 6:30-8 p.m. East Lansing Public Library 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing

To close out Black History Month, representatives from churches and other organizations that have made reparations payments to the Justice League of Greater Lansing will participate in a panel discussion 6:30 p.m. Wednesday (Feb. 28) at the East Lansing Public Library.

The Justice League, a Black-led nonprofit that was founded in 2021, has collected more than \$400,000 in reparations payments to address the racial wealth gap in Greater Lansing. The funds support home ownership, education and entrepreneurship for African Americans.

"Those who have made financial reparations have been intentional in seeking a better understanding of the impact of centuries of human rights violations against African Americans," said Willye Bryan, founder and vice president of the Justice League. "We hope this event will inspire people to learn about the ways most white families could build generational wealth that were not available to African Americans. This includes the GI Bill, property appreciation due to redlining by banks, access to capital for businesses and many other forms of racial discrimination."

The event is free, but reservations are recommended at [justiceleagueglm.org](https://justiceleagueglm.org).

5 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. [weaversoftheweb.org](https://weaversoftheweb.org).

**Jazz/Hip Hop II class** - Ages 9-13. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Karaoke Thursday** - 8 p.m.-midnight. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. [greendoorlive.com](https://greendoorlive.com).

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

**Lake Michigan Film Festival Opening Night Film: "That's Funny"** - Director Alex Grossman and co-star Nicole Forrester will be in attendance. 7 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. [elff.com](https://elff.com).

**"Maytag Virgin"** - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. [williamstontheatre.org](https://williamstontheatre.org).

**Mixed-media art display by Cindy Mielock** - Hours subject to change as the Bookend Gallery is staffed by volunteers. Noon-6 p.m. CADL - Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. 517-339-2324. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett](https://cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Member Art Show: "Love is in the Air"** - 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Bestsellers Books and Coffee Co., 360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. [facebook.com/MidMichiganArtGuild](https://facebook.com/MidMichiganArtGuild).

**Ruhala Broadway Ensemble** - Learn to excel equally in singing, acting and dance. 5:30 p.m. 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Solitary Shorts** - A series of short documentaries about solitary confinement and a panel discussion

**JL**  
**JUSTICE LEAGUE**  
**OF GREATER LANSING**  
REPAIRING THE BREACH

on humane solutions. 6:30 p.m. Virtual — register at [bit.ly/SolitaryShortsVIRTUAL](https://bit.ly/SolitaryShortsVIRTUAL). [micpr.org](https://micpr.org).

**Switch Gaming** - We'll play "Super Smash Bros." tournament style! Feel free to bring your Switch to play between turns. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](https://gladl.org).

**Teen Night** - Unleash your imagination, connect with fellow artists and craft something extraordinary. Free for Lansing residents. 6-8 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. [reachstudioart.org](https://reachstudioart.org).

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

**Walter Blanding Presents: Cypress & the Music of Jackie McClean** - 7:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. [urbanbeatevents.com](https://urbanbeatevents.com).

### Friday, March 1

**2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition** - An inclusive survey of work produced by MSU faculty. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](https://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**"A Windfall of Linocuts" Art Show** - The Lino Ladies, more formally known as the Lansing Area Printmakers' Collective, is a group of artists who use the linocut as a common point of departure. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [framersedge.net](https://framersedge.net).

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# 'The Thanksgiving Play' is a hilarious satire of white wokeness

By **MARY CUSACK**

Lansing Community College's production of "The Thanksgiving Play" might not be seasonal, but it is incredibly timely. As debates rage nationwide about the silencing of various groups' voices, the show revisits the atrocities committed against the Indigenous peoples of what became North America, who have long been silenced. If that sounds grim, rest assured that this is a comedy — and a hilarious one at that.

Logan (Ashley Weinbrecht-Morris) is a theater teacher on the brink of losing her job after staging an elementary school production of "The Iceman Cometh." Though the parents are petitioning for her dismissal, she hopes to save her job by producing an original play about Thanksgiving that represents the Native American experience to highlight National Native American Heritage Month.

Logan forges a creative team that includes her partner, street actor and yogi Jaxton (Chris Chamberlain), and local history teacher Caden (Chris Pongracz). Using funds from a Native American culture grant, Logan hires a Native actress to provide cultural

guidance. Unfortunately, Alicia (Keara Hayes), who's not actually Native, cannot provide the counsel Logan requires.

Playwright Larissa FastHorse has crafted a fantastic satire of white wokeness that focuses on the idea that representation matters. Logan, Jaxton and Caden have good intentions that become increasingly misguided. They realize they don't know any Native Americans and, therefore, cannot incorporate an authentic voice into the play. Rather than admit defeat, they plunge forward and think, overthink, rationalize and re-rationalize as they try to represent the Native American experience without actually representing it.

The script pokes fun at the theatrical creative process, and the troupe's earnest belief that they can produce a quality play without the participation of a Native American is the pinnacle of woke hubris. Their final product brings a whole new meaning to the idea of "holding space" for an underrepresented group.

The cast is solid, but the standout is Hayes as the pretty but pretty vacant actress Alicia. In addition to having a beautiful singing voice, Hayes embraces the body language and expressions of a woman whose main talent she describes as "I know how to make people stare at me and not look away."



Review

## "The Thanksgiving Play"

LCC Performing Arts  
March 1-2  
8 p.m.  
LCC Black Box  
Theatre  
411 N. Grand Ave.,  
Lansing  
(517) 483-1122  
lcc.edu/showinfo



Photo by Kevin Fowler

From left: Keara Hayes as Alicia, Ashley Weinbrecht-Morris as Logan, Chris Chamberlain as Jaxton and Chris Pongracz as Caden in Lansing Community College's production of "The Thanksgiving Play," by Larissa FastHorse.

The play incorporates interludes of real songs that demonstrate how children in the United States are indoctrinated into the mythology of Thanksgiving. The show opens with the song "The Nine Days of Thanksgiving," a play on "The Twelve Days of Christmas," setting the tone of cringiness as the cast members list stereotypical gifts from the first Thanksgiving celebration, including Native headdresses, Native tipis, bows and arrows and woven blankets.

There is a danger in a script that is such a brilliant sendup of "enlightened white allies." FastHorse intended

for the piece to highlight the necessity of Indigenous voices in telling the history of America, and to highlight the lack of representation in the arts and society in general. But the characters are ridiculous caricatures, and portraying them as this inept and self-absorbed could ostracize those who really believe themselves to be allies.

Then again, if an ally is thin-skinned enough to let a play change their attitudes, are they really a committed ally at all? Thus begins the somewhat maddening debate that makes "The Thanksgiving Play" relevant, revelatory and wickedly fun.

## Events

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**All About My Body** - Children ages 2-4 and their caregivers can explore science through hands-on, inquisitive learning in a responsive, playful, exploratory environment. 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**"Anastasia"** - 7:30 p.m. Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts, 122 E. Main St., Owosso. 989-723-4003. [lebowskycenter.com](http://lebowskycenter.com).

**ART/5 Exhibition** - On view during performances of "Maytag Virgin." To see the art show, you must attend a performance. 8 p.m. 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. [williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org).

**Cloudhoppers at Mash Bar** - 10 p.m. 212 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-858-2100. [mashbar.net](http://mashbar.net).

**Cooper Johnson at the Peanut Barrel** - 8 p.m. 521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0608. [peanutbarrel.com](http://peanutbarrel.com).

**Craft Club Jr.** - Make a leprechaun trap! Grades 1-3. Registration req. 4:15 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. [charlottelibrary.org](http://charlottelibrary.org).

**Cristo Rey Church Fish Fry** - Fried cod, fries, mac and cheese, coleslaw and a roll. 50/50 raffle. All-you-can-eat \$20, 3-piece meal \$15, kids' 2-piece meal \$8, toddler 1-piece meal free. 5-7 p.m. 201 W. Miller Road, Lansing. 517-394-4639. [cristoreychurch.org](http://cristoreychurch.org).

**Darin Lerner Jr. at Harrison Roadhouse** - 6 p.m. 720 E. Michigan Ave., East Lansing. 517-337-0200. [harrisonroadhouse.com](http://harrisonroadhouse.com).

**Euchre with the Kiwanis Club and Unity** - Potluck at 6:30 p.m., Euchre at 7. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. [unitylansing.org](http://unitylansing.org).

**Fish Fry** - Three pieces of fried cod (limited baked cod available), steak fries, mac and cheese and coleslaw. Dine in or take out. \$15, kids 14 and under \$10. 4:30-7 p.m. Columbus Hall, 5300 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-321-2209.

**"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

**Lake Michigan Film Festival** - Featuring films made in or by filmmakers from the states surrounding Lake Michigan. 6:15 p.m. Studio C! Meridian Mall, 1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos. [elff.com](http://elff.com).

**Live Music with Shelby & Jake at LBC** - 7 p.m. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. 517-371-2600. [lansingbrewingcompany.com](http://lansingbrewingcompany.com).

**"Maytag Virgin"** - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. [williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org).

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Member Art Show: "Love is in the Air"** - 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Bestsellers Books and Coffee Co., 360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. [facebook.com/MidMichiganArtGuild](http://facebook.com/MidMichiganArtGuild).

**Ixion Ensemble Theatre Presents: "Pipeline," by Dominique Morisseau** - 8 p.m. Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. [our.show/ixionpipeline](http://our.show/ixionpipeline).

**River Walk Trash Cleanup** - Pick up the trash on the Lansing River Trail and around our building. We'll walk for about 30 minutes. 11 a.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

**Seth Bernard and Jordan Hamilton** - Two friends and members of Michigan's Earthwork Music collective share an evening of songs and reflection. 7:30 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. [tenpoundfiddle.org](http://tenpoundfiddle.org).

**"The Thanksgiving Play"** - 8 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. [lcc.edu/showinfo](http://lcc.edu/showinfo).

**Travelogue: Scotland** - Carol Densmore shares photos, stories and items from her recent trip to Shetland, where she learned about the archipelago's rich history and culture. 7 p.m. Foster Community Center, Room 213, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4233.

## Saturday, March 2

**2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition** - An inclusive survey of work produced by MSU faculty. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broad-museum.msu.edu](http://broad-museum.msu.edu).

**"A Windfall of Linocuts" Art Show** - The Lino Ladies, more formally known as the Lansing Area Printmakers' Collective, is a group of artists who use the linocut as a common point of departure. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net).

**"Anastasia"** - 2 and 7:30 p.m. Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts, 122 E. Main St., Owosso. 989-723-4003. [lebowskycenter.com](http://lebowskycenter.com).

**ART/5 Exhibition** - On view during performances of "Maytag Virgin." To see the art show, you must attend a performance. 2 and 8 p.m. 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. [williamstontheatre.org](http://williamstontheatre.org).

**Children's Cultural Concert Series: Kevin Devine** - Children's entertainer, songwriter and recording artist specializing in participatory concerts full of sing-alongs and dancing. Storytime 10 a.m., concert 11 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-319-6823. [cityofeastlansing.com](http://cityofeastlansing.com).

**Contra & Square Dance** - All dances taught. No partner needed. Come at 6:30 for a quick workshop on easy contra dance moves. 7 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. 517-614-5858. [tenpoundfiddle.org](http://tenpoundfiddle.org).

**Intermediate Ballet class** - 11 a.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](http://ruhalacenter.com).

**Ixion Ensemble Theatre Presents: "Pipeline," by Dominique Morisseau** - 8 p.m. Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. [our.show/ixionpipeline](http://our.show/ixionpipeline).

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## Events

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**Lake Michigan Film Festival** - Featuring films made in or by filmmakers from the states surrounding Lake Michigan. 1 p.m. Studio C! Meridian Mall, 1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos. elff.com.

**LEGO Palooza** - Registration includes over 20 LEGO-themed activities, plus general science center admission. All proceeds support Impression 5 Science Center. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

**"Maytag Virgin"** - 2 and 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

**Meridian Township Farmers Market** - Find our winter market in the JCPenney wing of the Meridian Mall. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian.mi.us.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Member Art Show: "Love is in the Air"** - 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Bestsellers Books and Coffee Co., 360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. facebook.com/MidMichiganArtGuild.

**Powerlight Band** - Experience the sounds of Motown, funk and R&B with the amazing Powerlight Band. 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

**"The Thanksgiving Play"** - 8 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

**Tiger and Dragon Kenpo Martial Arts Training** - Based on a variety of martial arts systems, Tiger and Dragon Kenpo is designed to develop self-confidence in the warrior. 1 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

### Sunday, March 3

**2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition** - An inclusive survey of work produced by MSU faculty. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**"A Course in Miracles," Facilitated by Dan and Carol Maynard** - Noon. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

**"Anastasia"** - 2 p.m. Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts, 122 E. Main St., Owosso. 989-723-4003. lebowskycenter.com.

**ART/5 Exhibition** - On view during performances of "Maytag Virgin." To see the art show, you must attend a performance. 2 p.m. 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

**Bottle and Can Collection for Eastern Ingham Farmers Market** - 11 a.m.-1 p.m. McCormick Park, 123 High St., Williamston. 517-618-1630. easterninghamfarmersmarket.org.

**GLAD Drum Circle** - All ages and experience levels welcome. 2-4 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-803-2392. facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers.

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

**Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp** - Ten-week program. Ages 7-12. 5-7 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

**Lake Michigan Film Festival** - Featuring films made in or by filmmakers from the states surrounding Lake Michigan. 1 p.m. Studio C! Meridian Mall, 1999 Central Park Drive, Okemos. elff.com.

**LEGO Palooza** - Registration includes over 20 LEGO-themed activities, plus general science center admission. All proceeds support Impression

5 Science Center. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

**"Maytag Virgin"** - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

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

**Sunday Brunch** - Visit lookingglassbrewingcompany.com for menu. Noon-5 p.m. Looking Glass Brewing Co., 115 N. Bridge St., Dewitt. 517-668-6004.

### Monday, March 4

**"A Windfall of Linocuts" Art Show** - The Lino Ladies, more formally known as the Lansing Area Printmakers' Collective, is a group of artists who use the linocut as a common point of departure. Noon-5:30 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

**Ballet II for kids** - Ages 9-13. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Burger Night** - Choice of hamburger, cheeseburger or olive burger, plus fries. Dine in or take out. \$8. 5-7 p.m. Columbus Hall, 5300 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-321-2209.

**Finance Committee** - 6 p.m. Laingsburg City Hall, 114 Woodhull St., Laingsburg. laingsburg.us.

**"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

**Gloss Mondays Open Floor** - Aspiring drag performers showcase their talent. 8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

**Improv Acting Class** - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Jazz Dance Class** - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Jump Into Reading** - Join Ms. Erin for stories, songs, activities and therapy dogs. Ages 0-5 with caregivers. 11 a.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

**"Letting Go: The Pathway of Surrender" Book Study** - A guide to helping to remove the obstacles that keep us from living a more conscious life. 1:30 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Member Art Show: "Love is in the Air"** - 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Bestsellers Books and Coffee Co., 360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. facebook.com/MidMichiganArtGuild.

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

**Ruhala Broadway Ensemble** - Learn to excel equally in singing, acting and dance. 5:30 p.m. 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

### Tuesday, March 5

**"A Windfall of Linocuts" Art Show** - The Lino Ladies, more formally known as the Lansing Area Printmakers' Collective, is a group of artists who use the linocut as a common point of departure. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

**Acting 101 Class** - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Acting Ensemble Class** - 8 p.m. Ruhala Per-

## 'Golden Girls: The Laughs Continue'

Tuesday, March 5  
7:30 p.m.

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



The Golden Girls will bring their lovable hijinks to the Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall Tuesday evening (March 5), but they may look a little different from the quartet fans remember. Based on the award-winning NBC sitcom that ran from 1985 to 1992, "Golden Girls: The Laughs Continue" stars an all-male cast in drag. The show was written by Robert Leleux, author of "The Memoirs of a Beautiful Boy" and "The Living End," and is directed by Eric Swanson, who was the co-founder and executive director of the Detroit Actor's Theatre Co. before it disbanded in 2021.

"Golden Girls: The Laughs Continue" brings Miami's sassiest seniors to stages around the country for one more hurrah. We find Sophia out on bail after being busted by the DEA for running a drug ring for retirees. Blanche and Rose have founded 'CreakN,' a thriving sex app for seniors. And Dorothy is trying to hold it all together with help from a (much) younger sex-crazed lover," the show's website reads.

Tickets start at \$40 and can be purchased at the Wharton Center Ticket Office, whartoncenter.com or by calling (517) 432-2000. For more information on the show, visit goldengirlstour.com.

forming Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Adult Clay (A)** - Explore or hone skills in wheel throwing, hand-building and glazing. 6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

**Intro to Acting/Improv for Kids** - Ages 5-12. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**LAGE Game Night East** - 6:30-11 p.m. The Junction, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. meetup.com/lansing/events.

**LAGE Game Night West** - 6:30-11 p.m. Frank's Press Box, 7216 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. meetup.com/lansing/events.

**Level I Dance Class** - Introduction to theater dance using ballet, tap and jazz. Ages 5-8. 4:45 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Mid-Michigan Art Guild Member Art Show: "Love is in the Air"** - 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Bestsellers Books and Coffee Co., 360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. facebook.com/MidMichiganArtGuild.

**Preschool Family Storytime** - Join us for stories and literacy-enhancing activities, including songs and rhymes. Ages 1-6. 11 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

**Preteen Reads Book Club** - Chat, eat snacks and have book-related fun. Grades 4-6. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

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

**StressBusters: Positive Mental Health for Kids** - 3 p.m. session for ages 3-6 and caregivers, 4 p.m. sessions for ages 7-10 and 11-14. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-346-8094. gladl.org.

**Trivia at Lansing Shuffle with DJ Trivia** - 7:30-9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

### Wednesday, March 6

**2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition** - An inclusive survey of work produced by MSU faculty. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**"A Course of Love," Facilitated by Lucille Olson & Bill Dietrich** - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

**"A Windfall of Linocuts" Art Show** - The Lino Ladies, more formally known as the Lansing Area Printmakers' Collective, is a group of artists who use the linocut as a common point of departure. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers' Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

**Accordion Sketchpads** - Make an accordion-style sketchpad. Grades 4-12. Registration req. 4 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

**Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids** - Ages 5-12. 4:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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

**ART/5 Exhibition** - On view during performances of "Maytag Virgin." To see the art show, you must attend a performance. 2 p.m. 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

**"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

**Improv Acting Class** - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**It's Elementary - The Big Bloom: Why Do Flowers Exist?** - Discover science in the world around you with experiments, crafts, activities and more. Grades 3-6. Registration req. 2:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

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# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### Binging on beef at Bobcat Bonnie's

By NICOLE NOECHEL

My boyfriend and I frequently travel around the state for concerts, and every time I tell my mom we're going to Ferndale, Grand Rapids or Kalamazoo, she excitedly suggests we should stop at Bobcat Bonnie's for its array of options that suit both of our diets. We haven't made it out to any of those locations yet since we're usually running behind and opt to pick up something quicker instead, but now that the Michigan chain has a location in Lansing, we could finally determine if the food is as good as my mom has hyped it up to be.

The restaurant's menu is eclectic, aiming to provide "upscale" food at a "good value," owner Matt Buskard told City Pulse in January. As I perused the appetizers, sandwiches, salads, burgers and

entrees, my head started to spin. I wanted to try everything because it all sounded so delicious, but neither my stomach nor wallet could afford that. After some difficult contemplation, I settled on the Bobcat burger and a cup of vegan chili.

I would have liked to dine at the restaurant, which is housed in the old Union Depot train station, but I had spent the day walking around playing "Pokémon Go" and just wanted to sit on my couch and relax. However, because I had exerted myself so much, I didn't feel guilty at all about finishing my half-pound burger, which was topped with even more artery-clogging accouterments like bacon, cheddar cheese and a sizable onion ring. The two quarter-pound patties, despite being cooked to medium-well, a touch more well-done than I typically

prefer, were juicy and flavorful, and the bacon was obviously high quality, providing another level of meaty flavor and a nice crunch. The onion ring and cheese imparted even more savoriness, but the barbecue sauce drizzled on the top bun pulled everything together with its tangy sweetness.

The burger came with a choice of either fries or tater tots, and since tots have their own section on the menu, I decided to go with those. I made the right choice — my boyfriend's fries were well seasoned but a bit soggy, likely because they weren't made to order. My tots, however, were golden on the outside, fluffy on the inside and coated in a seasoning blend that had something special beyond just salt and pepper — maybe onion powder, but I can't say for sure. I was reminded of the episode of "Glee" where one of the characters goes on a tirade to get tots back on the school's menu after they're banned for being unhealthy. If they were the tots from Bobcat Bonnie's, I would go on a ti-

rade, too.

After my meat-and-potatoes binge, I turned my attention to the chili, which ended up being the star of the show. An Impossible burger is \$15, but you can get almost a pint of chili for \$4, and it's mostly Impossible meat. Sure, there are some beans and a hint of tomato, plus a sprinkling of vegan cheese and green onions on top, but the "beef" dominates. I'd estimate there's at least one Impossible burger's worth of meat, if not more. Whether you're vegan or not, if you like chili, this is an incredible deal, and the hearty stew could fill you up on its own.

Buskard said the winter 2023 menu is probably the chain's best yet, and even though I haven't been able to try the other iterations, I wouldn't doubt that. I loved everything I tried, and I still have so much more to explore. The thought alone sends hunger pangs shooting through me. In the end, my mom was right. Maybe mothers really do know best.



**Bobcat burger**  
\$16

**Cup of vegan chili**  
\$4

**Bobcat Bonnie's**  
637 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday  
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday  
4-11 p.m. Saturday  
4-9 p.m. Sunday  
(517) 657-7522  
bobcatbonnies.com



#### TOP 5 DELIS

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2023 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!

##### 1. Babe's Corner

Ice cream and hoagie shop with plentiful vegetarian and vegan options  
800 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
517-939-9598  
facebook.com/babescornerlansing  
Noon-7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday

##### 2. Horrocks Farm Market

Family-owned grocery with a full-service deli, beer garden and tavern  
7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing  
517-323-3782  
shophorrocks.com  
7 a.m.-10 p.m. daily

##### 3. McAlister's Deli

Counter-service chain known for its sandwiches, stuffed baked potatoes and sweet tea  
2129 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing  
517-507-5081  
mcalistersdeli.com  
10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. daily

##### 4. Sidestreets Deli & Bakery

New York-style deli and bakery with fresh-made bread, bagels, desserts and more  
116 S. Cochran Ave., Charlotte  
517-543-7243  
sidestreetsdeli.com  
9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday  
10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday

##### 5. Stateside Deli & Restaurant

Breakfast and lunch spot specializing in deli classics like corned beef and pastrami sandwiches  
3552 Meridian Crossing Drive, Okemos  
517-853-1100  
statesidedeli.com  
8 a.m.-4 p.m. daily

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# Whole lemon cookery

By **ARI LEVAUX**

Using a lemon only for its juice is a big waste. The whole fruit is edible, including the nutritious pith and the pulp, rich in fiber. Lemon zest is worth its weight in gold, and when I think about how much zest gets tossed, it makes me sad. How many meals could have been brightened? How many cookies pushed over the edge to greatness? I wouldn't fault anyone for straining out the seeds or cutting off the tips of the stem and blossom ends. But I've been putting everything else in the blender. The result is a foamy lemon emulsion that solves culinary problems I didn't even know I had.

Blended lemon is like an enhanced form of lemon juice. It's thicker, with a broader spectrum of lemon flavor. Like lemon juice, this lemon foam is equally at home in savory and sweet contexts. Mixed with enough sugar, the bitter notes are sedated, the sour notes are activated, and the zest is elevated. Lately, I've been messing around with lemony no-bake treats

like a lemon foam whipped cream that seems to disappear as fast as I can make it.

Did you know that you can make whipped cream in a Mason jar? I fill a pint-sized jar a quarter full with heavy cream and shake it for about three minutes until it's whipped, stiff peaks and all. I then add a teaspoon of lemon foam — already sweetened to the point where I can't stop eating it — and shake some more. It gets even thicker, while the bitter, sour, zesty and sweet flavors are softly embraced and absorbed by the cream, making for a thick treat straight off the spoon.

I've discovered that one of the best uses of blended lemon foam is as a marinade. The lemon oil penetrates and flavors deeply, making any meat, even a lusty elk steak, taste curiously white. So, it's no surprise that chicken, the whitest of white meats, excels the most in my citrus emulsion. I like to marinate chunks of chicken overnight in lemon foam, garlic, olive oil and seasonings. The next day, I fry the chicken on high heat with parsley and onion.



Courtesy of Ari Levaux

Ari LeVaux says his blended-lemon chicken will “inspire expletives of joy as the glorious cubes of chicken explode nonviolently in your mouth.”

I chose my chicken seasonings based on the contents of a jar of spicy preserved lemons that was gifted to me by my friend Nifer. Those lemons are also whole, including all the guts and skin that are normally tossed. I can taste that whole-lemon flavor in the preserved lemons, underneath Nifer's array of spices. I tried to copy those spices for my chicken marinade.

I came up with coriander, cinnamon and sesame seeds. I don't know if this is the same mixture that's in that unmarked jar of lemons, but it's a good mix, nonetheless.

This dish will inspire expletives of joy as the glorious cubes of chicken explode nonviolently in your mouth. My

See Flash, Page 23

## Events

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**Jane Bunnell, mezzo-soprano; Marc Embree, bass-baritone; Elden Little, piano** - Performing duet and solo works by Schubert, Brahms, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Ives and Carpenter. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

**Jazz Dance Class** - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp** - Ten-week program. Ages 7-12. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

**Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle** - 9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

**LBCA Meeting** - 7:30 a.m. Pine Hills Golf Course, 6603 Woodbury Road, Laingsburg.

**“Maytag Virgin”** - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

**Meridian Historical Village Speaker Series: The Role of Marines in the Civil War, with Michael E. Unsworth** - 10 a.m. Meridian Historical Village Chapel, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. 517-347-7300. meridianhistoricalvillage.org.

**Mindfulness Meditation in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition** - All are welcome to join our weekly practice! 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. MLK Jr. Blvd., Lansing. lamc.info.

**Open Mic, Hosted by Rick Hansel** - Family-friendly, welcomes singers and musicians. No cover, all ages welcome. 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

**Praying through Lent** - Please join us to learn about

Ignatian prayer, which uses the imagination and senses to lead to a fuller experience of God. 6 p.m. St. Katherine's Episcopal Church, 4650 N. Meridian Road, Williamston. 517-349-4120. stkatherines.org.

**Tap II Class** - 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Two Faced Wilson at the Graduate Rock Bar** - 8 p.m. 133 Evergreen Ave., East Lansing. 517-348-0900. facebook.com/graduaterockbar.

**Weaving the Web: Meditation** - Join us online or in person for discussions, rituals, meditations and more! 6 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

### Thursday, March 7

**2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition** - An inclusive survey of work produced by MSU faculty. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**“A Course in Miracles,” Facilitated by Lisa Schmidt** - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

**“A Windfall of Linocuts” Art Show** - The Lino Ladies, more formally known as the Lansing Area Printmakers' Collective, is a group of artists who use the linocut as a common point of departure. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framer's Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

**Acting 101 Class** - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**Acting Ensemble Class** - 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**ART/5 Exhibition** - On view during performanc-

es of “Maytag Virgin.” To see the art show, you must attend a performance. 8 p.m. 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

**Crafty Vibes** - Bring your knitting, crochet or any other portable craft project and immerse yourself in an evening of creativity, conversation and community. 5 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

**Great North American Eclipse Presentation** - Richard Bell of the Kalamazoo Astronomical Society presents information about the total eclipse on April 8, including how to view it safely. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

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

**Karaoke Thursday** - 8 p.m.-midnight. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

**Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club** - Join other adult women for fun, exercise, friendship and skating practice. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. ladiesilverblades.org.

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

**“Maytag Virgin”** - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

**Ruhala Broadway Ensemble** - Learn to excel equally in singing, acting and dance. 5:30 p.m. 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 17

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**SUDOKU SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 17

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

# Flash

from page 22

kids' praise for blended-lemon chicken is through the roof. It has inspired enthusiastic displays of interpretive dance and is officially better than hot dogs or mac and cheese — with more fruits and vegetables.

## Blended-lemon chicken

You'll need a lightweight omelet pan with a long handle and a tight-fitting lid. If you don't have one, you should get one anyway. Don't be afraid to add lots of parsley. It will probably all get eaten.

- 1 pound of chicken breast (about two breasts)
  - 3 lemons
  - 4 tablespoons olive oil
  - 2 cloves garlic, grated, mashed or pressed
  - 1 teaspoon salt
  - 1 teaspoon black pepper
  - 1 tablespoon sugar
  - 2 teaspoons whole coriander seeds
  - 1 teaspoon cinnamon
  - 1 tablespoon sesame seeds
  - 1 bunch parsley, chopped
  - 1 medium onion, chopped
- Wash the lemons. Remove the brown nubs at the stem ends, then slice the lemons into quarters. Squeeze the slices through a

strainer to remove the seeds, then add the juice to a blender, along with the squeezed lemon slices. Add up to a cup of water if necessary to get the blender to properly vortex. Congratulations on your blended lemon foam.

Cut the chicken into 1-inch cubes and add them to a bowl with a tablespoon or two of blended lemon, along with half of the olive oil, garlic, salt, pepper, sugar, coriander, cinnamon and sesame seeds. Marinate for a few hours or overnight.

Add the remaining oil to an omelet pan set on medium-high heat. When the oil is hot enough to sputter, add the chicken cubes

one by one, spaced out so they aren't touching each other. Put the lid on to contain the splatter. (If you have a kitchen hood, turn it on high.)

Let the chicken cook like that for two or so minutes. You shouldn't smell burning. If you do, proceed immediately to the next step.

With your hands on the lid and handle, shake the chicken around. Pause. Add the parsley. Cover and shake again. Finally, add the onion, which will immediately release moisture. Cover, shake and cook for another minute. Turn off the heat while the onions still have some body. Serve with all the tasty bits from the pan.

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