

www.lansingcitypulse.com

March 27 - April 2 2024

# CityPULSE

A newspaper for the rest of us  
Locally owned

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE MASONIC TEMPLE?

See Page 12

## WHY IT SHOULD BE CITY HALL, BY ANDY SCHOR

See Page 10



# GREWAL LAW

*protecting your rights* PLLC

517.393.3000



PRESENTS

# 420 BLOCK PARTY

FREE ADMISSION  
CONSUMPTION EVENT

## SEAN KINGSTON

DESMOND JONES • LOCAL DJs

## SATURDAY APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>

125 N. CLIPPERT ST, LANSING MI  
PURE OPTIONS FRANDOR PARKING LOT

10AM - 7PM<sub>ISH</sub> • 21+



EUREKA Goldkine



bud & mary's

Higgs



VaptrApe

BLOOM

ARMADA CANNABIS CO.

Decadent

GHOST

**DISCLAIMER:** For use by individuals 21 years of age or older or registered qualifying patients only. Keep out of reach of children. It is illegal to drive a motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana. National Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222

**WARNING: USE BY PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING WOMEN, OR BY WOMEN PLANNING TO BECOME PREGNANT, MAY RESULT IN FETAL INJURY, PRETERM BIRTH, LOW BIRTH WEIGHT, OR DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS FOR THE CHILD.**



# It takes a special blend to whip up March Madness success

Deep into the late stages of **March Madness**, you need a **blend of talent** all over the court to create a recipe to get to the mountaintop.

**When you contribute to City Pulse**, that enables us to build our own "blend" of content to enhance your lives, from exploring important social and community issues in Greater Lansing to contributing to the region's culture and literature.

Allow us to introduce three more members of our team who make that blend so special:



**Bill Castanier, contributor:** *"In more than 1,200 interviews, I've been able to introduce City Pulse readers to some amazing authors and books. I hope it has been as interesting to the readers as it has been to me. I'm still looking for that 'one true sentence.'"*



**Dedria Humphries Barker, contributor:** *"I'm honored to serve the Lansing community as a writer to explore education issues that impact our lives and the vitality of this great city. I'm grateful that City Pulse has provided me with a platform to reach a special audience and engage our Greater Lansing community in transformative discourse around public education."*



**Joan Nelson, contributor:** *"After 25 years at Allen Neighborhood Center, I was delighted to be invited to address 'neighborhood-related' issues for the Pulse, a locally owned and independent paper with a long history of telling stories about 'neighborhood' as a key factor in community improvement."*

**Your donations enable us to work with Dedria, Joan and Bill** so we can enjoy and benefit from their rich blend of takes on our community and culture.

**Please consider one of the following options:**

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

As always, thank you very much to those who already support us.

And thank you to those who join them.

Yours truly,

The City Pulse team



# CityPULSE

**VOL. 23  
ISSUE 33**

(517) 371-5600 • Fax: (517) 999-6061 • 1905 E. Michigan Ave. • Lansing, MI 48912 • www.lansingcitypulse.com



**PAGE  
15**

MSU Jazz Studies hosts first-ever jazz organist and pianist



**PAGE  
21**

Author travels back in time to familiar 1960s Grand Rapids in new novel



**PAGE  
22**

Tips and tricks for making egg-in-a-nest ramen

Cover photo: Leavenworth Photography Collection, Archives of Michigan, courtesy of Capital Area District Libraries

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: (517) 999-5061  
or email [citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com)  
CLASSIFIEDS & OBITUARIES: (517) 999-6704

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER • Berl Schwartz  
[publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:publisher@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5061

GENERAL MANAGER • Steve Underwood  
[steve@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:steve@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-6704

ARTS & CULTURE/EVENTS EDITOR • Nicole Noechel  
[nicole@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:nicole@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5066

SENIOR STAFF WRITER • Lawrence Cosentino  
[lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5065

STAFF WRITER • Tyler Schneider  
[tyler@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:tyler@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5063

STAFF MEMBER • Chris Silva  
[chris@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:chris@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-6706

SALES EXECUTIVE • Lee Purdy  
[lee@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:lee@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5064

**Contributors:** Dedria Humphries Barker, Bryan Beverly, Taylor Blair, Rob Brezny, Capital News Service, Bill Castanier, Ryan Claytor, Mary C. Cusack, Lizy Ferguson, Roxanne Frith, Mark Gmazel, Ari LeVaux, Gabrielle Lawrence, Audrey Matusz, Kyle Melinn, Joan Nelson, Tessa Paneth-Pollak, Tom Perkins, Dennis Preston, Chelsea Lake Roberts, Jen Sorensen, Nevin Speerbrecker, Rich Tupica, David Winkelstern

**Delivery drivers:** Quill Blankenship, Cindy Heistand, Curtis Lauck, Terri Paine, Diane Scofield

**What can we do about a Supreme Court packed with corrupt extremists?**

**NOTHING. LIVE WITH THEM UNTIL BETTER JUSTICES CAN BE APPOINTED.**

CONS: DECADES OF DEGRADED RIGHTS, COURT MAY END DEMOCRACY IN MEANTIME

**IGNORE THE COURT, REFUSE TO OBEY FUTURE RIDICULOUS RULINGS**

CONS: CHAOS, CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

THE FREE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

AT LEAST I HAVE BIRTH CONTROL!

**WAIT UNTIL APOCALYPSE, THEN START OVER**

CONS: LOSS OF MOST OF HUMANITY, BIOSPHERE

HEY BABY, WANNA MAKE SOME NEW JUDGES WHO BELIEVE IN PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY?

**EXPAND THE COURT WITH QUALIFIED JUSTICES**

CONS: MANY DEMOCRATS WON'T EVEN TALK ABOUT IT

WE WOULD NEVER DREAM OF DOING SOMETHING SO DRAMATIC!

**NOTE: APOCALYPSE MUCH MORE LIKELY**

© 2024 Jen Sorensen - Be a subscriber! [jensorensen.com/subscribe](http://jensorensen.com/subscribe)

# CityPULSE

**GET THE DIGITAL EDITION IN YOUR INBOX FREE BY 6AM EVERY WEDNESDAY!**

**HELP PUT INK ON THE PAGE! CONTRIBUTE TO CITY PULSE.**

Use the QR code to donate by credit card or call (517) 999-6704.  
Checks may be mailed to City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48912.

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

★★★★★

### TRUMP 2024 CAMPAIGN SLOGANS

★★★★★

**JANUARY 6th WAS GOOD ACTUALLY**

EXTREMISM IN DEFENSE OF KEEPING ME IN POWER IS NO VICE! AND PROSECUTING ME FOR TRYING TO STEAL AN ELECTION IS NO VIRTUE!

I HAVE PRESIDENTIAL IMMUNITY! BUT NOT THE BAD KIND, WITH THE MICROCHIPS.

**TECHNICALLY NOT CONVICTED OF RAPE**

THE JURY ONLY FOUND ME LIABLE FOR A LITTLE SEXUAL ASSAULT! IN A CIVIL CASE! IT BARELY EVEN COUNTS!

ANYWAY SHE'S NOT EVEN MY TYPE!

**NO ONE HAS EVER BEEN TREATED SO UNFAIRLY**

I DIDN'T MEAN THERE WILL BE A LITERAL BLOODBATH IF I LOSE! I WAS TALKING ABOUT THE AUTO INDUSTRY!

ALSO THERE WILL TOTALLY BE A LITERAL BLOODBATH IF I LOSE.

**IT'S THE WHITE HOUSE OR THE BIG HOUSE**

VOTE FOR TRUMP SO I CAN PARDON MYSELF AND EXACT TERRIBLE VENGEANCE UPON ALL WHO HAVE DARED TO CHALLENGE ME!

AND IF THAT'S NOT A WINNING CAMPAIGN MESSAGE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS!

**BE AFRAID, BE VERY AFRAID**

THESE SUBHUMAN MIGRANT ANIMALS ARE POISONING THE BLOOD OF OUR NATION!

THE HERRENVOLK MUST REMAIN PURE TO SURVIVE, AS A WISE MAN WHOSE NAME ESCAPES ME ONCE TRIED TO POINT OUT!

**I'M RUBBER, JOE BIDEN'S GLUE**

SLEEPY JOE IS THE DERANGED AUTHORITARIAN ON THE VERGE OF BANKRUPTCY--NOT ME! ALSO HE'S THE ONE WITH ORANGE MAKEUP AND A WEIRD COMBOVER!

WHAT'S EVEN UP WITH THAT?

**ARE YOU BETTER OFF NOW THAN YOU WERE FOUR YEARS AGO**

YOU KNOW--BACK IN THE SPRING OF 2020! THE GOOD OLD DAYS!

MAYBE DON'T OVERTHINK THAT ONE.

TOM TOMORROW © 2024-03-25 ... JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: [thismodernworld.com/subscriptions](http://thismodernworld.com/subscriptions)



# PULSE

# NEWS & OPINION

## Schor, scorned developer at odds over city hall plans

The city of Lansing's journey to a new city hall has hit at least another speed bump.

Grand Rapids developer Granger Group has charged that the Schor administration is acting illegally in refusing to reconsider its proposal to build a new city hall on the site of the old Walter Neller Building at the corner of Grand Avenue and Allegan Street in downtown Lansing, which Granger owns. The city placed the building on the make-safe-or-demolish list in October after years of trying to get Granger to repair it.

Granger lost out to Boji Group when Lansing Mayor Andy Schor picked the Boji Group's plan to turn the old Masonic Temple, 217 S. Capitol Ave., into the new city hall with a \$40 million state grant that Boji won for the city after Schor asked both developers to come up with creative financing.

Schor responded strongly to Granger Group's allegation that the city was acting illegally.

"Mayor Schor acknowledges the interest of this Grand Rapids developer wanting to do work in the City of Lansing now that we have \$40 million from the state" for a new city hall, according to a statement issued Tuesday by city spokesperson Scott Bean.

"The fact remains that his one property downtown is a neglected, crumbling eye-sore that the City has ordered to be demolished because it is literally falling apart and is dangerous. This is next to a parking lot that was supposed to be redeveloped decades ago," the statement continued.

"His newest proposal would delay a new city hall, put the state dollars at risk, and lose the proposed hotel development for the current city hall. The time to offer a serious response to the RFP was 2 years ago, and no addendum was offered until the state gave the City \$40 million. Mr. Granger doesn't get to come in now at the last minute and try to kill a fully baked plan by proposing a plan that won't work, just because he wants \$35 million and wants the city to knock down his dilapidated property," Schor's statement said.

"We had hoped to work with him



Grand Rapids developer Gary Granger wants the city of Lansing to reconsider his unsuccessful bid to develop a new city hall on the site of the old Walter Neller Building at Grand Avenue and Allegan Street. Lansing Mayor Andy Schor rejected his request, pointing out that Granger has long ignored demands to clean up the building. The city placed it on the make-safe-or-demolish list in October.

here in Lansing, and this is very disappointing. We wish him well on his future endeavors."

At the center of Granger's complaint against the city is its claim that the administration asked only the Boji Group to revise its bid to reduce the size of the project after voters approved a bond issue that includes funds to build a public safety building. Police and the courts will be housed there instead of city hall, as they are now, dramatically reducing space needs in a new facility.

"Granger did not have the opportunity to provide alternatives to meet the City's needs" with a revised bid, Gary Granger, president and CEO of Group Group, a Wyoming, Michigan, development company, wrote Schor in a letter dated yesterday. "While it is clear that Boji was provided single-sourced opportunity to work with the City directly and allowed the chance to modify their proposal to the RFP, Granger was not afforded the same options."

"The Boji proposal was chosen because it was 1-out of-1 proposals provided the opportunity to work with the City, which is not within Lansing Law," Granger wrote.

That contradicts what Schor said Tuesday and Bean told City Pulse

Monday: Both Boji Group and Granger Group were asked to revise their bids after voters approved the \$175 million public safety bond issue in the November 2022 general election. Bean said that Boji responded, but Granger did not.

The Granger letter also calls for a new round of requests for proposals for a new city hall as a result of the \$40 million state grant the city has accepted for the project.

"Per Lansing Law, this should back into an RFP process to ensure that the City is receiving the best possible outcome, regardless of the pre-selected recipient, which is in line with both local and state law," Granger wrote.

Granger also claims that the Boji Group plan would cost \$53 million, \$13 million more than the state grant.

Granger's letter follows a written exchange between him and Schor in which Granger asked for reconsideration of Granger Group's plan and Schor's rejection.

Two weeks ago, the City Council approved accepting the \$40 million state grant. However, last week, on a 4-4 vote, the Council turned down Schor's request for \$3.65 million to purchase the Masonic Temple building from

Boji Group, the next step toward converting it into City Hall. The Council members who voted against it said they wanted more time to consider the plan. The Schor has to wait 30 days before it can seek approval again.

Meanwhile, Granger's son, Jason, addressed the Council during public comment last week in an effort to gain support for the Granger Group plan.

In an email to questions this morning, Jason Granger said, "This is not true," when asked if Bean was correct in saying the city had asked Granger Group to revise its bid after the city downsized its space needs.

Asked about how the Granger Group arrived at \$53 million as the cost of the Boji Group plan, Granger said in his email response, "Ancillary information that we cannot confirm because it has been in a closed-door process that is not available to the public or RFP respondents."

Asked how Granger Group arrived at \$40 million as the cost of its own revised plan, Granger emailed: "Inflation adjustment to our original budget, which takes into consideration our proposed land gift reduction, removal of finance/interest costs, and estimated for a variable change adjustment to the City's space plans, which have not been provided to us, but apparently has been provided to Boji only."

Reached yesterday on whether he intended to sue the city, Granger replied, "We have not taken it to Council yet." He confirmed he meant the City Council, not legal counsel, although he did not rule out legal action. He indicated the next step in his strategy was to persuade the Council to consider his plan.

Meanwhile, a source told City Pulse that Schor did not plan to reply directly to Granger's letter with the accusation of illegality.

"The mayor is still pretty mad that they are playing a game and lying to try and disrupt the process and sabotage the RFP process. It's the last communication he will have directly with them."

— BERL SCHWARTZ

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT, INGHAM COUNTY, NOTICE TO CREDITORS, Decedent's Estate, Case No. 24-000-269-DE-P33. Estate of James Lawrence Jablonski – Date of Birth: 11-03-1952. NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, James Lawrence Jablonski, died 02-07-2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Dennis G. Jablonski, 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, 03/27/2024. Personal representative: Dennis G. Jablonski, 1831 Nemoke Ct., Haslett, MI 48840, 517-347-7001.

**CP#24-450**

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT  
WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

Pursuant to Section 401 of Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, as amended (the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act), notice is hereby given that at a regular meeting held on March 13, 2024, the Williamstown Township Board of Trustees adopted amendments to Article 24.00 of the Zoning Ordinance.

The principal purpose of the amendments is to accommodate single-family residential subdivision or condominium development in the Green Zone Planned Development District. The Green Zone Planned Development District is located along the Grand River Avenue corridor, between Meridian Road and Zimmer Road.

A copy of the ordinance amendments may be obtained or inspected at the Williamstown Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Road, Williamston, MI 48895 during normal business hours. Pursuant to Section 401(6), the amendments shall take effect upon expiration of seven days after publication of this notice.

Robin A. Cleveland, Township Clerk

**CP#24-448**

In the matter of Alvin R. Spitzley, deceased: TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:\* and creditors (known and unknown) whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: TAKE NOTICE:\* The Settlor, Alvin R. Spitzley (dob 3-21-1940) who lived at 3592 W. Grand Ledge Highway, Mulliken, MI 48861 died February 20, 2024. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom letters of administration have been issued. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against The Living Trust of Alvin R. Spitzley dated August 10, 1987, as amended, will be forever barred unless presented to Rosemary K. Spitzley and/or Ronald Spitzley, Co-Trustees, of 3592 W. Grand Ledge Highway, Mulliken, MI 48861 within four months after the date of publication, 3/27/2024. Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it. Attorney: Benjamin L. Cwayna, #P70266, 11973 Sweetwater Dr., Grand Ledge, MI 48837, 517-622-1900. Petitioner: Rosemary K. Spitzley, 3592 W. Grand Ledge Highway, Mulliken, MI 48861, 517-231-6198.

**CP#24-454**

**CITY OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF REGISTRATION  
FOR THE TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024 ELECTION**

To the qualified electors of the City of Lansing:

Please take notice that the City of Lansing will hold an Election on Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

**For the purpose of electing candidates to the following offices:**  
**City:** Charter Commissioner (9)

**For the purpose of voting on the following proposals:**

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING  
BOND PROPOSAL**

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative office of East Lansing Public Schools, 509 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823, telephone: (517) 333-7420.

**HOLT PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOND PROPOSAL**

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Holt Public Schools, 5780 W. Holt Road, Holt, Michigan 48842-1197, telephone: (517) 694-0401.

**WAVERLY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
BOND PROPOSAL**

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Waverly Community Schools, 515 Snow Road, Lansing, Michigan 48917-4502, telephone: (517) 321-7265.

Any qualified elector who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of their local clerk, the office of their county clerk, a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms may be obtained at [www.Michigan.gov/vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/vote) and mailed to or dropped off at the office of the local clerk. Any qualified elector that has a Michigan Driver's License or Personal ID can also register to vote at [www.Michigan.gov/vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/vote). Voters who are already registered may update their voter registration at [www.Michigan.gov/vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/vote).

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the Lansing City Clerk's Office is **Monday, April 22, 2024**.

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the following locations and times:

Location	Address	Regular Business Hours March 28 – May 3
Lansing City Clerk – City Hall	124 W Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48933	Mon – Fri 8am – 5pm
Lansing City Clerk – Reo Elections Office	1221 Reo Rd. Lansing, MI 48910	Mon – Fri 8am – 5pm  Wednesdays 8am – 7pm

**Additional times outside of the above listed regular business hours are as follows:**

Location	Address	Additional Hours
Lansing City Clerk – City Hall	124 W Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48933	Monday May 6 8am – 4pm  Election Day May 7 7am – 8pm
Lansing City Clerk – Reo Elections Office	1221 Reo Rd. Lansing, MI 48910	Monday May 6 8am – 4pm  Saturday May 4 11am – 4pm  Sunday May 5 11am – 4pm  Election Day May 7 7am – 8pm

**ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS**

Any registered voter may request an Absent Voter Ballot. No reason required.

The Lansing City Clerk's Office must have an application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. Applications are available at the locations referenced in the above tables or by visiting our website at [lansingvotes.gov](http://lansingvotes.gov).

Friday, May 3, 2024 at 5:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot be mailed to you.

Monday, May 6, 2024 at 4:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot in person except for those who register to vote on Election Day.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, May 7, 2024, are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, locations referenced in the above table.

**Chris Swope, MMC/MiPMC**  
**Lansing City Clerk**  
**Phone: 517-483-4131**  
**Email: [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov)**  
**Website: [www.lansingvotes.gov](http://www.lansingvotes.gov)**  
**[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](http://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)**

**CP#24-449**



# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



**Lansing Township police are looking for a group of individuals who fired shots at an apartment building Saturday.** Police said when they arrived at 2920 Woodruff Ave., between North Homer Street and Chester Road, the suspects had fled, leaving behind rifle and handgun bullet casings. No one was reported injured, and no suspects have been identified. The vehicles have also not been identified, but a witness said one of them was a small SUV. The case is still under investigation.



**consider removing her, the Lansing State Journal reported.** Meanwhile, while the board waits for a decision from the governor, Vassar and Trustee Dennis Denno can attend board meetings and vote but have been stripped of committee assignments and will no longer be reimbursed for travel or receive free tickets to MSU sporting events.

**Scott Keith resigned March 20 from the Lansing Entertainment & Public Facilities Authority after 23 years with the organization, 14 as president and CEO.** He will become general manager of the North Charleston Coliseum, North Charleston Performing Arts Center and Charleston Area Convention Center in South Carolina with ASM Global. His departure is effective April 12. A nine-member board of commissioners and three ex-officio commissioners under the city of Lansing will search for his replacement.



**Rashad Trice pled guilty Friday to kidnapping and killing 2-year-old Wynter Cole-Smith last July after federal prosecutors and Trice's attorneys filed notice that they had reached a plea agreement.** He will be sentenced July 19 in Grand Rapids.

Trice also faces criminal charges in state court for the kidnapping that began in Lansing and ended in Detroit, where police found Cole-Smith's body. Trice admitted to taking her and strangling her with a cell phone cord, according to the plea agreement.

**MSU announced plans Friday to remove classrooms at Berkey Hall and the dining area at the Student Union where students were shot in last year's mass shooting.** The Berkey Hall classrooms will be converted into an open area, while the Union's former food court area will reopen in June without dining options, which may return in the future. Those directly impacted by the shooting were able to provide feedback on the plans. Construction at the Union, which will modernize the area while maintaining space for individuals to gather and socialize, began Monday. The Berkey renovation begins April 1. Details about the projects can be found at spartanstogether.msu.edu.



**Ingham County will not take action against fired Lansing Board of Water and Light internal auditor Frank Macciocca, Prosecutor John Dewane said Thursday.** He added assistant prosecutors found the dispute, concerning Macciocca's alleged misuse of a company credit card, was not "provable as a criminal charge." BWL said it's awaiting a decision on insurance coverage for the funds, but it will not result in a rate increase for customers. BWL hired a new internal auditor, Elisha Franco, in November.



**Breeze Airways announced Tuesday it will offer new twice-weekly service from the Capital Region International Airport to Orlando and Fort Myers, Florida, starting in early October.** The Orlando routes will be offered Wednesdays and Saturdays, while the Fort Meyers flights will be Thursdays and Sundays. The airline has been operating since May 2021. Travel + Leisure magazine ranked it second in 2022 and fourth in 2023 among domestic airlines.

**Michigan State University has settled a racial discrimination lawsuit with Crystal Perry, former human resources administrator with its Police and Public Safety department.** Perry claimed in a federal civil rights lawsuit that she was fired in retaliation for complaints she made of race and sex discrimination to MSU and state officials. MSU agreed to pay Perry \$25,000 to compensate for her claimed non-economic mental and emotional distress damages, as well as attorney fees and costs. Perry agreed to dismiss the lawsuit and not file another, according to the settlement, and is not able to work at the university again.

**Attorneys for MSU Trustee Rema Vassar have issued a response and summary that criticize the university's investigation into ethics and misconduct allegations that led to her censure and a recommendation that Gov. Gretchen Whitmer**



**519 Clifford St., Lansing**

Built in 1919, this three-bedroom, 936-square-foot home just east of Hunter Park has been designated by the city as unsafe since July 2017. Later that year in October, it was hit with a pair of board-up fees plus two damaged motor vehicle citations. Today, evidence of the wear and tear from over a decade of improper maintenance can be seen in the property's stained and chipped siding, cracked wooden fence and deteriorating front porch. The property is owned by AEC Real Estate LLC, which acquired it from the Ingham County Treasurer's Office in a 2020 tax auction for \$11,530. The company also owns three more homes throughout Lansing, including another red-tagged unit at 927 Pierce Road. All four were acquired between December 2019 and December 2020, and according to Ingham County Treasurer Alan Fox, each of them could be foreclosed on as soon as April 2 if the owner doesn't pay property taxes on them. For this home, assessed at \$38,200, AEC Real Estate still owes \$1,175 in fees connected to those 2017 enforcements. Efforts to contact the owner were unsuccessful.

— TYLER SCHNEIDER

### PUBLIC SAFETY

A 41-year-old Lansing woman was arraigned Monday in 54A District Court on charges of discharging a firearm at a building, fleeing and eluding, resisting and obstructing police and carrying a concealed weapon after a shooting Sunday at a home on Christiansen Road in south Lansing. No one was injured, and the woman was arrested after her vehicle was spotted and she was chased down. ... A 24-year-old man found Sunday at the Eldorado Event Center in south Lansing with a gunshot wound to the chest was hospitalized in stable condition. No arrests have been made, and an investigation is ongoing. ... A 23-year-old woman is in stable condition after showing up at a local hospital with a gunshot wound following a shooting on Dakin Street in Lansing Sunday. Both she and the accused shooter had left the scene when police arrived.



"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.



# Dear Ben Schuldiner: The message is Lansing Schools' strengths

By **DEDRIA HUMPHRIES BARKER**

Revision is an undeniable part of writing. It's when the writer sees what they have written and then sees it again. They rethink it. Ideas and purpose become clearer, and sometimes the message changes.

A changed message is what I wish for Lansing's public schools.

In a recent City Pulse story, Ben Schuldiner, Lansing Schools' superintendent since 2021, said that to foster significant academic improvement, the district first needs to focus on reversing plummeting enrollment, raising graduation rates and reducing the number of chronically absent students.

The district's message on an enrollment increase needs rethinking. Revise that to reverse plummeting enrollment by raising the graduation rate and reducing the dropout rate. The district has success on both. Emphasize that.

In 2023, the four-year graduation rate was 76.7 percent, meaning 514 of 673 high school seniors received diplo-

mas. That was an improvement from 68.16 percent.

The dropout rate was down last year, improving from 17.04 percent to 8.62 percent. The 10-year average dropout rate was 184 students per year. Last year, 58 students left without their diplomas.

More than 1,200 additional students will graduate over the next 10 years if the Lansing district holds the line at a 58-student loss per year. When the number is that small, you can almost see the faces. That's why it's important to focus on the students the district has.

Nino Rodriguez, a nearly 50-year member of the Lansing schools' community with teaching, administrative and Board of Education experience, said it like this, "Educate the ones we have."

That can also be revised to the title of a Stephen Stills song, "Love the One You're With."

It's perplexing that the superintendent is calling for increased enroll-

ment when the district has a teacher shortage. Class size will grow bigger if student numbers increase, but teacher numbers do not.

Just as in the fairy tale "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," class size should not be too small or too big but just right for student success.

A goal to increase enrollment, especially by getting back students who live in Lansing but go to another public district, is what the church calls sheep rustling. Even though Lansing schools got rustled first.

Don't call me naïve. I know big enrollment numbers affect the district budget because the state pays school districts for each student. Currently, each student brings a record-high estimated \$10,000 to the budget.

This system of funding public education, along with the state's schools of choice program, has destabilized public schools. Parents move their children around like checkers seeking that "good" school district. Don't blame them, but a district with a reputation for "good" schools can keep improving because, with increased enrollment, that district gets more money to work with. That is the reward of increased enrollment.

Each child not attending one's home district takes away a bit of the "good" of a school district. But parents should ask, what does "good" mean? What is "good" for some families may not be "good" for others. What is "good" for some students may not be "good" for others.

Sending a child to another district can accelerate a downward spiral for an entire community: Property loses value. Time spent in the car increases. Residents are less involved where they live.

Even when the school district and the city government are separate, public schools add expense for taxpayers.

For instance, the intersection of Jerome and Marshall streets, near my house, needs an expensive new traffic light, but Lansing city officials wonder if it's worth the expense. They proposed installing a four-way stop instead.

NO, said Eastfield Neighborhood at their February meeting. Motorists from two high schools, Eastern and Lansing Catholic Central, use the Mar-



shall and Jerome streets traffic light. Twice a day, five days a week, Marshall Street is jammed with cars that must be managed through the neighborhood.

The expense of public schools is real but worth it. Lansing Schools' legacy is producing leaders.

Everett High School grads include State Sen. Sarah Anthony, head of the powerful Appropriation Committee; Joel Ferguson, a businessman and developer who was a longtime MSU trustee; and Paula Cunningham, state director of the AARP who presided over Lansing Community College and was Capitol National Bank CEO.

Sexton graduate Samuel Duncan Jr., pastor of the Lansing Church of God in Christ, is also the bishop of the Michigan Southwest Third Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Church of God in Christ.

This is not history. Today's committed Lansing families value socioeconomic and international diversity. They value language immersion schools, like Lewton and Post Oak. They love Eastern Fields, the athletic complex on Pennsylvania Avenue where Lansing Schools built a state-of-the-art multi-purpose athletic events facility with tennis courts, practice fields, concessions, a baseball field and a synthetic turf soccer and football field surrounded by an eight-lane running track. Every year, they send Lansing grads to Michigan State University and the University of Michigan, the Harvard of the Midwest.

Revise the goal for Lansing schools, Mr. Schuldiner. Emphasize the improvements underway. Say Lansing Schools will use what it has to continue building on its legacy and strengths. And then do it.

*(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.)*



Opinion



**Thursday, April 11, 2024**  
**5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

**East Lansing Hannah Community Center,**  
**819 Abbot Road**

As part of our comprehensive plan update process, we're hosting an interactive workshop that will help participants find ways to build common ground and to identify & understand shared core values.

Find out more details at [www.cityofeastlansing.com/planupdate](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/planupdate).



Director of Investments & Planning. Waggoner Group Inc. (dba Waggoner Financial Inc.), Lansing, MI. Reqmts: Master's in finance or MBA, 1 yr exp as Financial Consultant or rtttd, Valid & active Series 7 license, Valid & active Series 66 (63/65) license. Qualified applicants' direct resumes to Eric Waggoner, 2400 Lake Lansing Rd, Ste C, Lansing, MI 48912.

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT, COUNTY OF INGHAM, NOTICE OF HEARING, FILE NO. 24-000262-GM-P33, In the matter of Na'Kerah C. Roper. TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on April 17, 2024 at 3:00 pm at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933 before Judge Carol N. Koenig for the following purpose: UNCONTESTED HEARING - PETITION TO APPOINT GUARDIAN. 3/7/2024. Petitioner name: Orianda Powers, 101 E. Jackson, Lansing, MI 48906. 517-326-0872. The persons interested in this proceeding are: Albert Roper, 4517 Ballard, Lansing, MI 48910, 517-214-5271, and Samella Stephens, (unknown) Kalamazoo, MI.

CP#24-455

**CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN**

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION  
ORDINANCE 1532**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF EAST LANSING YOUTH COMMISSION**

**THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:**

The City amends Article V, "Boards and Commissions," within Chapter 2 of the City Code, "Administration," and Division 14, "Youth Commission," to read as follows in its entirety:

**Section 2-510. Youth Commission Created**  
There is hereby created and established a City of East Lansing Youth Commission.

**Section 2-511. Purpose**  
The purpose of the Youth Commission is to obtain the viewpoint of young residents of East Lansing by actively involving them in the review of City legislation and other functions of City government. Either upon its own initiative or upon the specific request of the City Council, the Commission may conduct research and make recommendations directly to the Council regarding proposed or existing City Policy and Procedure.

**Section 2-512. Membership, Appointment, Qualifications, Term of Office**  
(a) The Youth Commission shall consist of 9 members appointed by the Mayor with the concurrence of Council.  
(b) The term of office for each member of the Youth Commission shall be one year commencing on September 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on August 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. A member appointed after the commencement of a yearly term shall have the appointment retroactively begin on September 1. A vacancy which develops shall be filled in the same manner as set out in (a), above.  
(c) Members of the Youth Commission shall be residents of the City, attend a public or private school or be school of choice students in East Lansing schools, and be 14 to 18 years of age when appointed.

**Section 2-513. Absences**  
The membership of any voting member on the Youth Commission shall be terminated if that person is absent without excuse from four consecutive regular meetings of the Commission during their one-year term of office.

**Section 2-514. Selection of Officers**  
Annually, at its second meeting after at least five members are appointed, the Commission shall organize by selecting one member to be Chair and one member to be Vice Chair. A vacancy in such offices shall be filled by a vote of the remaining members of the commission.

**Section 2-515. Staff Liaison**  
The City Manager shall appoint an employee of the City to act as staff liaison to the Commission. The staff liaison to the Commission or liaison designee shall act as secretary to the Commission and shall have the responsibility to provide notice of meetings and preparation of an agenda in consultation with the Chair of the Commission and the City Council liaison to the Commission.

**Section 2-516. Rules of Procedure, Quorum, Subject to Open Meetings Act**  
(a) The Youth Commission shall comply with Robert's Rules of order in the conduct of its meetings and shall keep a record of its proceedings as required by the Open Meetings Act.  
(b) Five members of the Youth Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**Section 2-517. Meetings**  
Meetings of the Youth Commission shall be held at least once a month. At its first meeting in September of each year, the Commission shall adopt a meeting schedule. Special Meetings may be called by the Chair.

**Section 2-518. Annual Report**  
The Youth Commission shall make a report of its work to the City Council annually on a date and at a time designated by City Council.

Marie Wicks  
City Clerk

CP#24-451

# A Slotkin vs. Rogers showdown for U.S. Senate looks imminent

We're still a month away from the deadline for candidates to file, but what once looked like a competitive U.S. Senate primary on both sides is now a fait accompli.

And a pair of political figures mid-Michigan knows well — 7th District U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin and former 8th District U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers — are the beneficiaries.

First, the Democrats: Slotkin smoked out any high-profile opponents early by announcing for U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow's seat early in 2023. The high-powered women's rights and pro-choice fundraising operation EMILYs List got on board shortly thereafter.

Garlin Gilchrist, Jocelyn Benson, Malory McMorrow and Haley Stevens all looked at what running against Slotkin would cost. They all took a hard pass.

Both Michigan State Board of Education President Pamela Pugh and former state Rep. Leslie Love got into the race. They watched Slotkin raise an average of \$1 million a month. They both got out by Feb. 1. Ann Arbor-based attorney Zach Burns was also in the race, then left quietly.

Remaining in the race are actor Hill Harper, driving in the progressive lane, and lightly known Southeast Michigan business executive Nasser Beydoun.

The latest polling done by Mitchell Research & Communications for MIRS News has Slotkin up 57% to Harper's 11% and Beydoun's 3%. This is not a competitive race.

Even if Slotkin didn't flip her 2024 calendar with \$6 million in the bank (which she did), it would be difficult for either Harper or Beydoun to significantly close that gap.

In truth, it's hard to see the Democrats wanting them to. Harper and Beydoun are too progressive for a general election population, anyway.

Harper has been strong on wanting a ceasefire in Gaza. Beydoun issued a statement this week calling on "more to be done to hold the Israeli government fully accountable" for its bulldozing of Gaza in its pursuit of Hamas leadership.

However, supporting Palestinians over Israel is a 4:1 loser in a general election.

If the Democrats nominate a progressive, the U.S. Senate race gets much more expensive for D.C. Democrats. They don't want that.

Michigan needs to be a lock for Chuck Schumer & Co. Anything spent in Michigan is money that can't be spent in Montana, West Virginia, Ohio and elsewhere to keep Democrats' slim chance at keeping the Senate alive.

With the Republicans, Rogers unofficially won this race the moment Donald Trump endorsed him.

When 288 Republican voters were polled on the GOP primary, a 27% plurality told Mitchell Research & Communications they supported Rogers. Once these same voters were told Trump supported Rogers, his support shot up to 67%.

Former U.S. Reps. Peter Meijer and Justin Amash had 5% each and business executive Sandy Pensler was at 1%.

The Republican grassroots are hopping mad. They have a few candidates — Dr. Sherry O'Donnell, J.D. Wilson, Jeff Wilson, Michael Hoover, etc. — who didn't criticize Trump on CNN or haven't been accused of some wild Benghazi coverup.

But Trump's endorsements are no longer based on who has parroted his rhetoric the longest. It's based on whom he needs. It's 100% transactional. Trump needs Rogers' campaign operation: the millions of dollars that he, the National Republican Senatorial Committee and outside interest groups will spend in this race.

All these lawsuits are costing Trump dollars that he can't put into the campaign. He needs to ride pro-Republican money wherever it happens to be.

Only Rogers has a network that can pull together 30,000 petition signatures in eight weeks. Also, Senate Republicans don't NEED Michigan to take the majority. They'd like Michigan, but there's about a half dozen other states they probably have a better shot at flipping than Michigan.

Trump likely needs Michigan to take the White House. He can't afford an unlikely general election candidate to win the primary only to watch D.C. Republicans bail. Also, he'd be embarrassed if Meijer (who voted for impeachment) or Amash (who left the GOP because of Trump) happened to win.

Meanwhile, Rogers needs the MAGA voter. Trump's endorsement gives him access to them.

The deal is cut, and the primary is over before it ever began.

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



KYLE MELINN

Opinion

POLITICS



# Moving Lansing's city hall to the Masonic Temple is a win-win-win strategy

By **ANDY SCHOR**

*(The writer is the mayor of Lansing.)*

Lansing needs a new city hall.

Since the 1990s, when Mayor David Hollister began exploring options, the city government has made several attempts to find a solution. Any real solution has to work for both the city government and taxpayers, and now we have that solution.

Now is the time to move city hall into downtown Lansing's historic former Masonic Temple building.

The current City Hall building, on the corner of Michigan and Capitol avenues, is a beautiful historic building in its own right. But it is in terrible shape, which City Pulse has documented.

Seven years ago, there was a great proposal to keep the current city hall building and redevelop it into a hotel. But that project was put on hold because the city could not afford it due to courts, lockup, and the police station needing to move with the rest of the city government at the time. (Longtime

readers of City Pulse will remember how extremely disappointed this paper was then.)

But now that Lansing voters approved a millage to build the new public safety complex that will move 54-A District Court, the police and lockup to South Washington Avenue, we have a workable plan that is a win-win for the city of Lansing.

Lansing has let too many buildings fall into disrepair and be knocked down. We lose too much of our history when we do this. The Masonic Temple building is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a beautiful structure downtown. Sadly, it has sat empty for too many years.

Recently, I sent a proposal to the City Council to revitalize that building and activate it again instead of seeing it vacant, blighted and possibly torn down. The city would use \$40 million appropriated by the state of Michigan solely for this purpose. Additionally, the proposal could be regional and have another government entity, like the school district, renting space in the building.



**Opinion**

That will result in efficiencies for both entities, and the rent will be dedicated to future upkeep to ensure the building doesn't fall into disrepair once again and risk demolition in the future.

The City Council considered this proposal at a recent meeting. While initially not approved, my administration submitted a new version after several Council members asked for additional time to ask questions and gather more information.

The proposal before the Council would also unlock the current City Hall. I am ready to finalize the plan to convert it into a hotel. Just about everyone agrees that this location is one of the prime spots for economic development in Lansing. We desperately need more hotel rooms for the business and visitors we attract, especially downtown where a new hotel would be a boon for the Lansing Center and others. Redeveloping this property into a hotel with a restaurant and other amenities will be a big part of reimagining downtown. It also ensures that this midcentury gem is not knocked down and we maintain the history in this important area of our downtown and city.

So, with this plan, we will save and renovate two historic structures that will be part of the more significant transformation of downtown. Lansing will do it using state dollars that otherwise would go to Detroit, Grand Rapids, or other areas for their development projects.

This proposal is separate from this needed economic development or the opportunity to save our history. Because some City Council members have asked for more time to review information, my administration and the developers will continue to answer all questions and provide the requested details. I am eager to get going for the downtown and the city to ensure costs don't go up and have a new hotel and new city hall ASAP for our citizens and city. I have created a website — [www.lansingmi.gov/cityhall](http://www.lansingmi.gov/cityhall) — which includes all the information requested for this plan. I hope the City Council will continue its due diligence and be ready to decide soon.

Lansing needs a new city hall, and this proposal will be a win-win for the city's past, present, and future! What more can we ask for?

## Quality Dairy

# MYSTERY DONUTS

**THIS YEAR'S RANDOM FLAVORS:**

- APRICOT
- ATOMIC FIREBALL
- BLACK PEPPER
- BLUEBERRY CHEESECAKE
- BUTTERSCOTCH
- CHAI TEA
- CUCUMBER SERANO PEPPER
- GUAVA
- JALAPENO PINEAPPLE
- MANGO
- MAPLE CREAM
- MUSTARD CUSTARD
- NACHO CHEESE DORITOS
- NERDS
- NOT SO COOL RANCH
- ROSEMARY & SAGE
- SMORES
- TAJIN
- TIRAMISU
- WASABI
- WASH YOUR MOUTH OUT (LAVENDAR HONEY)
- WATERMELON CANDY

**WE DARE YOU TO TRY OUR MYSTERY DONUTS!**

**& POST YOUR REACTION VIDEO EATING A QD MYSTERY DONUT TO QD'S SOCIAL MEDIA & TAG IT WITH #QDMYSTERYDONUTS24**



**ENTER TO WIN A DOZEN DONUTS EVERY MONTH FOR A YEAR!**

**ENJOY THE QD FUN ONLY UNTIL APRIL FOOL'S DAY!!**



**MORE CONTEST DETAILS AVAILABLE ON OUR QD FACEBOOK PAGE.**



**CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN  
NOTICE OF ADOPTION  
ORDINANCE 1533**

**ORDINANCE AMENDING EAST LANSING INDEPENDENT POLICE OVERSIGHT  
COMMISSION**

**THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:**

*DIVISION 12. POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION<sup>1</sup>*

**Sec. 2-472. Purpose.**

The purpose of this commission is to increase accountability of the East Lansing Police Department and to strengthen conditions leading to trust in the police department by the community that it is pledged to serve. Because the city council is committed to the goal of racial equity, the commission will give priority to addressing racial inequities as well as use of force in policing. The commission will enable members of the community to participate in reviewing and making recommendations about police department policies, practices, and procedures, and it will provide means for prompt, impartial, and fair review of complaints brought by individuals against police officers or the police department.

The commission's role is advisory. The commission does not possess or exercise administrative or supervisory authority over the East Lansing Police Department or its employees.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-473. Definitions.**

[The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this division, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:]

*Commission* means the Independent Community Police Oversight Commission.

*Complaint* means an allegation of excessive force, sexual abuse, racial, ethnic, religious, or gender discrimination, mishandling of evidence, or other abusive behavior, patterns or practices by the police department or a department employee.

*Confidential information* means records or information specifically described and exempted from disclosure by statute. For purposes of this division, "confidential information" does not include a permissible exemption that a public body is permitted to invoke under section 13(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, 1976 PA 442, as amended, MCL 15.243(1). "Confidential information" only includes mandatory exemptions from public disclosure that a state or federal statute or rule requires a public body to invoke.

*Corrective action plan* means a modification to or elimination of an existing ELPD policy, procedure, rule, regulation, or general order; or the addition of a new ELPD policy, procedure, rule, regulation, or general order. "Corrective action plan" shall not include any aspect of employee discipline.

*Criminal justice system* means law enforcement, including the police, courts, prosecution and defense lawyers, as well as agencies for detaining and supervising people, such as prisons, jails, lockups, and probation agencies.

*Disciplinary complaint* means a complaint that alleges employee misconduct.

*Individual in crisis* means a person who exhibits symptoms of known, suspected, or perceived behavioral or mental health conditions, including, but not limited to, mental illness, intellectual or developmental disabilities, or substance use disorders.

*Investigation or investigate* means searching for and collecting information and records, regardless whether a complaint is involved or contemplated.

*Policy complaint* means a complaint that alleges a deficiency or problem with a police department policy or practice.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-474. Commission members.**

- (a) East Lansing City Code, section 2-241 et seq., governs the commission except to the extent modified in this division.
- (b) The commission shall include 11 members.
- (c) Members shall serve three-year staggered terms. A member may serve no more than two consecutive full terms.
- (d) The city may remove a member who breaches the member's promise to protect confidential information.
- (e) At least two commission members shall be licensed social workers or psychologists professionally engaged in helping people experiencing crisis, homelessness, mental illness, substance use disorders, or domestic abuse.
- (f) The city council shall appoint people to the commission who reflect the city's diverse population and particularly segments of the community that are protected by the civil rights ordinance. These include diverse people based on race, ethnicity, national origin, income level, age, student status, gender, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression. People who are vulnerable and have been marginalized and who tend to have significant negative interactions with the police should be amply represented. Having an arrest or conviction record is not a disqualification for membership on the commission. Up to two members of the commission who

<sup>1</sup> Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 1327, adopted Feb. 18, 2014, repealed former div. 12, §§ 2-491 and 2-492, which pertained to the active living for adults advisory commission, and derived from Ord. No. 1249, adopted Sept. 21, 2010.

Subsequently, Ord. No. 1503, enacted a new Div. 12 to read as herein set out.

contribute to the desired composition of the commission as described above may be persons who are not residents of East Lansing.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-475. Independence.**

- (a) The commission's staff and offices shall be separate from the police department to the extent feasible.
- (b) The city shall not appoint a person to the commission if the person has, in the past two years, held a job that requires licensure by the Michigan commission on law enforcement standards.
- (c) No member may hold a job that requires licensure by the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards.
- (d) No member may be a candidate or applicant for employment in the police department.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-476. Commission duties.**

- (a) The scope of the commission is the criminal justice system in East Lansing, both within the police department and relating to the police department. The commission may investigate matters within its scope by collecting information from the city and other sources.
- (b) The commission may conduct an investigation on its own initiative or in response to a request from the city council or a member of the public.
- (c) If 20 residents of the city sign a petition on an issue of concern within the scope of the commission, the commission shall hold a special hearing for the purpose of inquiring into the petitioners' concern.
- (d) The commission will hold at least one meeting annually designed to receive input from the public.
- (e) The commission and members of the commission may participate in events, organize events, engage in public education, and listen to people in the Lansing Metropolitan Area concerning matters within the commission's scope.
- (f) The commission may make recommendations, file disciplinary and policy complaints, and refer matters to the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards or other agencies.
- (g) The commission may make recommendations to the city regarding policy and practice within the police department and relating to the police department.
- (h) The commission may investigate the 911 dispatch system and the availability of unarmed emergency response service agencies, such as social work agencies, trained and able to alleviate dangerous or threatening situations. The commission may make recommendations to the city and county regarding dispatch systems.
- (i) The commission may recommend that the city council make changes in policy regarding criminal charges under the city Code.
- (j) The commission may research and recommend grant opportunities to help improve the criminal justice system in East Lansing.
- (k) The commission may investigate the training that police officers and supervisors receive or access. The commission may investigate the training that is available to police officers and supervisors. The commission may make recommendations regarding training.
- (l) The commission may review the police department's accreditation status and make recommendations about how to implement accreditation standards in a way that best benefits the community.
- (m) The commission may investigate the police department's early intervention system and make recommendations regarding maximizing the effectiveness of that system.
- (n) The commission may collect and analyze data on matters within and relating to the police department. The commission may contract with a professional researcher to design and carry out research. The commission may issue reports and make policy recommendations based on research.
- (o) The commission may communicate with insurance industry risk management services available to the police department.
- (p) Given the limited time and resources available to the commission, and the enormity of its task, the commission may prioritize its work and shall report its priorities to the city council and the public.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-477. Staff.**

- (a) The city shall assign staff to perform functions for the commission pursuant to section 2-251 of the East Lansing City Code.
- (b) The city shall also assign staff to maintain a separate website and other social media platforms for the commission.
- (c) Staff members assigned to the commission shall not be employees of the police department.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-478. Panel of investigators.**

The city council or city manager shall prepare a list of professional investigators, licensed under the Professional Investigator Licensure Act, MCL 338.821 et seq., or possessing equivalent qualifications, and available to conduct investigations for the commission.

## CP#24-452 from Page 11

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-479. Education of commission members.**

- (a) The commission and members of the commission shall keep informed as to the latest practices in the field of police accountability and inaugurate new commission practices that appear to be of benefit to the commission's service and to the public.
- (b) The commission may facilitate training and other activities for commission members in cooperation with the police department. The police department shall allow members of the commission to participate in suitable training and activities. Members may choose to participate in those trainings and activities.
- (c) Members of the commission may join state or national organizations whose scope is similar to the commission's scope, pay dues and fees, and attend events and educational opportunities sponsored by those organizations.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-480. Free speech.**

The city recognizes the right of the commission and its members to speak freely on matters within the commission's scope, except for disclosure of protected confidential information. The city shall not retaliate against the commission or a commission member for exercising that right. Members of the commission must not represent that they are speaking on behalf of the city council, city manager, or police department.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-481. Budget.**

The commission shall prepare an itemized estimate of its expenditures for each coming year, pursuant to section 10.2 of the East Lansing City Charter, and the city manager shall include in the budget recommendation sufficient financial support for the commission's activities, including:

- (a) Investigations and complaints.
- (b) Research and evaluations.
- (c) Public outreach and recommendations.
- (d) Publication production, website and social media.
- (e) Commission member education.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-482. Adjustment for impact on the police department.**

If the commission makes a recommendation to the police department which has financial implications, and the department chooses to accept the recommendation, then the department may propose to the city manager a budget item to cover compliance with the recommendation.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-483. Evaluations.**

Every four years, the city council shall contract with a qualified agency, with experience in evaluating police oversight boards, to evaluate the commission and its work.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-484. Disorderly conduct and R&O charges.**

- (a) The commission may investigate police and court records and track criminal cases in which the city charges individuals with disorderly conduct under the East Lansing City Code, section 26-52.
- (b) The commission may investigate and track criminal cases in which the Ingham County prosecutor charges individuals with assaulting, battering, wounding, resisting, obstructing, opposing or endangering a police officer or other state authorized person or public official, charges commonly referred to as "resisting and obstructing" or "R&O", under MCL 750.81d.
- (c) When those disorderly conduct and R&O cases are finally adjudicated, the commission may publish summaries of the underlying facts and case dispositions.
- (d) The summaries shall describe behavior but not include the names of individuals.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-485. Use of force incident summaries.**

- (a) The police department shall provide a monthly report to the commission summarizing each incident involving use of force by a police officer against a person. The report shall include at a minimum, a brief description of the incident and the names and demographic data about the officers and members of the public involved in the incident. The report shall not include any information regarding the discipline, if any, that was issued to the officer(s) involved in the incident. The commission may choose to conduct additional investigation of an incident, but shall not make any recommendations regarding any aspect of employee discipline.
- (b) Annually, the commission shall publish summaries of use-of-force incidents based on the police department reports and the commission's investigations. Published summaries shall describe behavior but not include the names of individuals.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-486. Encounters with people experiencing homelessness.**

- (a) Every six months, the police department shall provide a report to the commission summarizing each incident where a police department employee transports, arrests, issues a citation to, or stops (based on reasonable suspicion) a person who is or appears to be experiencing homelessness, including at a minimum, a brief description of the incident. In the case of a citation, arrest, or stop, the report shall include names and demographic data about the officers involved in the incident and demographic data about the other people involved in the incident. The commission may choose to conduct additional investigation of an incident.
- (b) Annually, the commission shall publish summaries of police encounters with people experiencing homelessness based on the police department reports and the commission's investigations. Published summaries shall describe behavior but not include the names of individuals.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-486a. Encounters with individuals in crisis.**

- (a) Every six months, the police department shall provide a report to the commission summarizing each incident in which a police department employee transports, arrests, issues a citation to, or stops (based on reasonable suspicion) an individual in crisis. The report shall include, at a minimum, a brief description of the incident. In the case of a citation, arrest, or stop, the report shall include the names and demographic data about the officers and demographic data about the other people involved in the incident. The commission may choose to conduct additional investigation of an incident.
- (b) Annually, the commission shall publish summaries of police encounters with individuals in crisis based on the police department's reports and the commission's investigations. Published summaries shall describe behavior but not include the names of individuals.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-486b. Encounters with juveniles.**

- (a) Every six months, the police department shall provide a report to the commission summarizing each incident in which a police department employee transports, arrests, issues a citation to, or stops (based on reasonable suspicion) a juvenile. The report shall include, at a minimum, a brief description of the incident. In the case of a citation, arrest, or stop, the report shall include the names and demographic data about the officers and demographic data about the other people involved in the incident. The commission may choose to conduct additional investigation of an incident.
- (b) Annually, the commission shall publish summaries of police encounters with juveniles based on the police department's reports and the commission's investigations. Published summaries shall describe behavior but not include the names of individuals.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-487. Annual reports.**

- (a) In its annual report to the city council pursuant to section 2-252 of the East Lansing City Code, the commission shall include a summary of its work during the previous year and its work priorities for the coming year. The report shall be published or posted on the commission's website.
- (b) Annually, the commission shall publish or post on its website any summaries of significant encounters between civilians and the police that the commission has compiled in the past year regarding:
  - (1) Use-of-force incidents.
  - (2) Criminal cases involving charges of "disorderly conduct" and "resisting and obstructing."
  - (3) Incidents in which the police department transports, arrests, issues a citation to, or stops (based on reasonable suspicion) a person experiencing homelessness.
  - (4) Incidents in which the police department transports, arrests, issues a citation to, or stops (based on reasonable suspicion) an individual in crisis.
  - (5) Incidents in which the police department transports, arrests, issues a citation to, or stops (based on reasonable suspicion) a juvenile.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-488. Brady lists.**

- (a) The commission may investigate "Brady" or "Do Not Call" or similar lists maintained by the police, prosecutors, criminal defenders, and courts.
- (b) If a police department employee appears on such a list, the commission may refer that information to the police department or to the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards for their review.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

## CP#24-452 from Page 12

**Sec. 2-489. Summary of biased 911 calls.**

The police department shall provide to the commission notice of any instances in which the department has referred a matter for prosecution for making a 911 call based in significant part on a person's race, color or national origin, allegedly in violation of section 22-36a of the East Lansing City Code. The department shall file the notice with the commission when it refers the matter to the city attorney.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-490. Confidential information.**

- (a) If the commission asks for information from the police department and the information is confidential as described in subsection (b) or there is a compelling reason not to release the information to the public, then the commission and the department may agree to the procedure described in this section.
- (b) The police department may communicate the confidential information to the commission in a closed session at a meeting of the commission if a closed session is permissible under section 8 of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, Act 267 of 1976, MCL 15.261 et seq. The police department will not deliver written records of the confidential information to the commission, and the commission will not create public records that include the confidential information. The commission may, but is not required to, prepare a summary of the confidential information that it receives, and the summary is a public record. The summary shall include the following:

- (1) The statute or rule that renders the information confidential;
- (2) The source of the information;
- (3) The author or authors;
- (4) The date or dates when the information was produced or compiled; and
- (5) A description of the information as detailed as possible without revealing privileged or confidential content.

- (c) In responding to a person's request for information in the records of the commission, the city will not invoke any of the discretionary exemptions listed in section 13(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, 1976 PA 442, as amended, MCL 15.243(1). For purposes of this section, a "discretionary exemption" is an exemption that a public body may invoke, but is not required to invoke.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-490a. Redactions.**

- (a) If, in the course of a commission investigation, the police department or other department is obligated to disclose records to the commission, but the records contain confidential information that the department cannot by law release, or the department can demonstrate a compelling reason not to release the information, then the department may redact the confidential information in compliance with subsection (b). The oversight commission may appeal such a refusal to the city council. The city council's decision is final and is not subject to further appeal or judicial review.
- (b) The department shall produce a log that describes each particular redaction, including:
- (1) The statute or rule that renders the information confidential;
  - (2) The source of the information;
  - (3) The author or authors;
  - (4) The date or dates when the information was produced or compiled; and
  - (5) A description of the information as detailed as possible without revealing privileged or confidential content.

The commission may disclose that log to people outside the commission.

- (c) Staff planning in the police department with respect to multiple employees and job assignments in the police department shall not be treated as confidential personnel information.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-490b. Investigation resources and personnel.**

- (a) The commission may subscribe to fee-based information or investigation services that the commission deems necessary to investigate matters within its scope.
- (b) With the consent of the city council, the commission may retain a professional investigator to investigate a complaint alleging misconduct or unethical conduct, by the police department or a department employee, affecting a member of the public.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-490c. Cooperation.**

- (a) City employees and departments shall cooperate with the information requests submitted by the commission or a professional investigator retained by the commission.
- (b) City employees and departments shall provide the information requested by the commission unless disclosure is prohibited by statute. In responding to the commission's request for information directed to the police department, the city will not rely on any of the discretionary exemptions listed in MCL 15.243(1) and will provide all information subject to a discretionary exemption unless there is a compelling reason for non-disclosure. The oversight commission may appeal such a refusal to the city council.

- (c) For purposes of this section, "discretionary exemption" includes exemptions that a public body may invoke, but does not include exemptions that a public body is required to invoke.
- (d) The police department shall not require the commission to file a freedom of information request as a prerequisite to disclosure of information, charge the commission a fee, or assert a discretionary exemption under section 13(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, 1976 PA 442, as amended, MCL 15.243(1), as justification for denying the commission's information request.
- (e) The police department shall respond to an information request from the commission within 21 days unless the commission and the department agree to a different schedule.
- (f) The police department may not charge the commission a fee for responding to the commission's information requests, but if the commission's information requests, overall, create a significant financial burden for the department, the city shall provide financial resources to the department to account for that burden.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-490d. City council resolution resolving information conflicts.**

- (a) If a dispute arises between the commission and a city employee, official, or department regarding the disclosure of information requested by the commission, the city council shall hear the dispute and decide the matter by passing a formal resolution.
- (b) The city council shall give effect to statutes that render information confidential.
- (c) The city council is not bound by discretionary exemptions listed in the Freedom of Information Act but may invoke a discretionary exemption when there is a compelling reason to withhold the information. For purposes of this section, "discretionary exemption" includes an exemption that a public body may invoke, but does not include an exemption that a public body is required to invoke.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-490e. Freedom of Information Acts.**

- (a) The commission may file requests under the state or federal freedom of information acts to seek information from public bodies outside the city's jurisdiction.
- (b) If the commission deems it necessary, the commission may recommend that the city council pursue legal action to obtain the information under subsection (a).
- (c) The city shall not charge a fee for responding to freedom of information act requests for records in the possession of the commission.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-491. Who may file a complaint?**

Any person may file a complaint, including, but not limited to, residents, non-residents, city employees, police department employees, police department supervisors, and the commission.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-491a. Places where complaints may be filed.**

- (a) The following offices and persons are approved to accept complaints from the public.
- (1) Commission website or office.
  - (2) City clerk.
  - (3) City manager.
  - (4) Police department.
  - (5) Director of human resources.
  - (6) Diversity, equity, and inclusion administrator.
- (b) The commission may approve other offices or persons with whom complaints may be filed.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-491b. Police department complaint investigation.**

- (a) When a complaint is submitted at an approved location, the person accepting the complaint shall document receipt of the complaint, keep a copy of the complaint, and forward the complaint as soon as possible to the police department and the commission.
- (b) The police department shall investigate each complaint. The department shall attempt to complete the investigation within 90 days. If the police department cannot complete an investigation within 90 days, the department shall notify the commission and explain the circumstances.
- (c) If a complaint has taken longer than 90 days to complete, then every 30 days thereafter, the department shall send the commission a tracking report together with an explanation of the progress of the investigation.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

**Sec. 2-491c. Complaint forms.**

- (a) The commission may establish a standard complaint form for complaints submitted by members of the public. The form shall ask the complainant to explain what they



## CP#24-452 from Page 13

want to see happen as a result of the complaint, and it will ask whether the complainant wishes to engage in mediation. If the complaint is based on an incident, the form shall ask the complainant to explain what happened.

- (b) An office or person authorized to accept complaints shall accept a complaint even if the complainant fails to complete a standard complaint form. If a complaint is verbal, the person who accepts the complaint shall give the complainant an opportunity to complete the standard complaint form. If a complaint is verbal, and the complainant does not put it in writing, the person who accepts the complaint shall make a written memorial of the complaint.
- (c) A complaint may be accepted even if it is anonymous.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

#### Sec. 2-491d. Classifying complaints.

- (a) The police department shall develop and publish separate protocols for investigating disciplinary complaints, policy complaints, and internal complaints. An "internal complaint" is a disciplinary action initiated by the department that does not involve employee behavior that affects a member of the public. The commission may make recommendations regarding the protocols.
- (b) When the police department receives or initiates a complaint of any kind, the police chief shall determine whether to classify the complaint as a disciplinary, policy, or internal complaint, or a combination. The department shall initiate the appropriate protocol.
- (c) The commission may inquire about complaints of any kind that are being investigated by the police department. The commission may recommend that the department change the classification of a complaint or the protocol used to investigate it.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

#### Sec. 2-491e. Complaint tracking.

- (a) When the police department receives or initiates a complaint of any kind, the department shall assign a tracking number and develop a tracking report. The commission may specify the information to be included in tracking reports.
- (b) At a minimum, tracking reports shall include a brief description of the complaint. If a complaint involves an incident in which a member of the public is involved, the tracking report shall contain, at a minimum, a brief description of the incident and the names and demographic data about the department employees and members of the public involved in the incident.
- (c) Quarterly, the police department shall submit a tracking report to the commission for each pending complaint of any kind active in the department at any time during the quarter.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

#### Sec. 2-491f. Mediation of disciplinary complaints.

- (a) The commission may facilitate mediation of any disciplinary complaint filed with the commission or with the police department that involves a citizen and an individual police officer if both the citizen and the officer consent to mediation. If a complaint form is established under section 2-491c, the complaint form will ask whether the complainant wishes to engage in mediation.
- (b) If the police department and the involved individuals agree, investigation of the disciplinary complaint shall be suspended and the matter referred to mediation. When mediation is complete, the police department shall decide whether to close or resume investigation of the disciplinary complaint.
- (c) The commission shall develop a procedure for mediation.
- (d) The city shall cover the cost of mediation services.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

#### Sec. 2-492. Police department investigation findings.

When the police department completes its investigation, but before the police department determines a disposition for the case, the investigator shall make one or more of the following findings with respect to each disciplinary or policy complaint:

- (a) Sustained where the review discloses sufficient facts to prove the allegations made in the complaint.
- (b) Not sustained - where the review fails to disclose sufficient facts to prove or disprove the allegation made in the complaint.
- (c) Exonerated where the acts which provide the basis for the complaint occurred, but the review shows that such acts were proper.
- (d) Unfounded where the review shows that the act or acts complained of did not occur or were misconstrued.
- (e) Policy or practice - where there is a problem with department policy or practice. If this finding is made, the department shall produce a corrective action plan.
- (f) No finding - where, for example, the complainant failed to produce information to further the investigation; or where the investigation revealed that another agency was responsible, and the complaint or complainant has been referred to that agency; or where the complainant withdrew the complaint; or where the complainant is unavailable to clarify the complaint; or where the officer is no longer employed by the city.
- (g) Mediated where the complaint is resolved by mediation.

- (h) Criminal - where a criminal investigation has been opened.
- (i) Referred - where a complaint has been referred to another agency.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

#### Sec. 2-493. Commission investigation and recommendation.

- (a) Within ten days after the police department completes an investigation of a policy complaint or a disciplinary complaint involving behavior affecting a member of the public, the department shall send the complete investigation record to the commission, subject to any redactions of confidential information. The investigation record shall not include any information regarding the potential discipline, if any, to be issued to any police department employee involved in the complaint.
- (b) The commission shall make the investigation record it receives available to the public on request, subject to any promises to protect confidential information.
- (c) The commission shall give a complainant, a police department employee involved in a complaint, or other person who has information bearing on the complaint, an opportunity to provide information to the commission during a meeting. At the person's request, the meeting shall be in person if feasible.
- (d) The police department shall give the commission enough time to review the investigation record and conduct any investigation of its own before the police department takes final action. The commission shall complete its investigation as soon as possible, but no longer than 60 days, unless the police department agrees to a longer time.
- (e) The commission may recommend particular action, additional investigation on a specific issue, a change in the corrective action plan, or reclassification of the complaint and reinvestigation according to a different protocol.
- (f) The commission shall not make a recommendation regarding any aspect of a disciplinary complaint if the complaint does not involve employee behavior that affects a member of the public.
- (g) If the commission recommends additional investigation, and the police department does not agree with that recommendation, the commission may, with the consent of the city council, retain a professional investigator, who shall have the full force and authority of the city council to conduct an investigation under section 4.9 of the City Charter. The investigation shall be limited to the issue approved by the city council.
- (h) The commission may refer a matter to the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards for its review.
- (i) The commission shall not make any recommendation regarding the discipline to be issued, if any, to any police department employee involved in the complaint.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

#### Sec. 2-494. Police chief decision and commission appeal.

- (a) Final disposition of the complaint on behalf of the police department shall be made by the police chief. The police chief shall issue a written opinion and send a copy to the commission. The written opinion shall not include any information regarding the discipline, if any, that was issued to any police department employee involved in the complaint.
- (b) If the commission disagrees with the findings of the police chief, the commission may, within 30 days after receiving the police chief's decision, recommend that the city manager modify or reverse the police chief's action. The city manager shall issue a written opinion and send a copy to the commission and the city council.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

#### Sec. 2-495. Summaries of final action on complaints.

The commission shall publish a summary of the facts, as known to the commission, relating to each policy complaint and relating to each disciplinary complaint involving behavior affecting a member of the public. The summary shall include the underlying facts, a description of the steps and procedure used to decide the complaint, and the final decision. The summary shall not include any information regarding the discipline, if any, that was issued to any police department employee involved in the complaint. The commission shall publish the summary on its website within 60 days after receiving the police chief's opinion or the city manager's opinion, whichever comes later. A published summary shall not include the names of individuals.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

#### Sec. 2-496. Modification of existing policies.

- (a) Police department policies and procedures for processing mistreatment complaints shall not conflict with the procedures prescribed in this division.
- (b) The police department shall modify its existing procedures as necessary to conform to this division.

(Ord. No. 1503, 7-13-2021)

#### Secs. 2-497—2-500. Reserved.

Marie Wicks  
City Clerk

CP#24-452





# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## ‘Like a lion roaring’

### MSU jazz orchestras join forces with keyboardist Bobby Floyd

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Piano mastery and organ virtuosity are splendid things to witness, but Bobby Floyd only starts there. The distinguished guest artist at Michigan State University Jazz Studies this week, Floyd plugs into the keyboard with his whole body, pushing and pulling at the root, singing from deep inside and wincing at the sting when it's too sweet to bear.

“It's about the spirit of the music, the way it makes you feel,” he said.

Floyd is touring state high schools and music programs with MSU's jazz orchestras all week, sharing plenty of stories and lessons along the way. But for local music lovers, the real magic will come with Friday's (March 29) concert at the Fairchild Theatre, a rare chance to hear the jazz orchestras join forces with a rocking, cooking Hammond B-3 organ.

“I love that big organ sound,” Floyd said. “It's so soulful. It's almost like an animal, like a lion roaring, if you play it the right way.”

Although Floyd still considers the piano his main instrument, he relishes the jet-cockpit-level challenges of working pedals, drawbars, push tabs and all the other bells and whistles that come with organ mastery.

He has a juicy banquet of arrangements for the students to dig into this week, including two rarely heard treats from the book of master composer and arranger Gerald Wilson: the insinuating waltz “Blues for Yna Yna” and the classic organ cooker “You Better Believe It.” Both tunes were immortalized in early 1960s recordings by Wilson's stellar big band and organist Richard “Groove” Holmes.

Floyd's technical mastery of jazz, gospel, blues and funk is truly scary, but he's more concerned with what he calls “the feel.”

“So many young people are great musicians, and that's great, but I think we're starting to lose some of that true bluesy feeling,” he said.

In his view, “the feel” is what connects with audiences, not flash and virtuosity.



Courtesy photo

Bobby Floyd, this week's distinguished guest artist at Michigan State University Jazz Studies, began playing piano at age 2 and organ at age 10. His extensive career has included performances with Ray Charles, the Count Basie Orchestra, the Boston Pops, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Columbus Jazz Orchestra, his own trio and beyond.

“So many people, especially if they aren't familiar with jazz, you mention the word ‘jazz,’ and they just don't want to listen to it,” he said.

“We're starting to get too technical and mechanical with it and not focusing on the way it's supposed to make you feel.”

Floyd was born in Marion, Ohio, and now lives in Powell, near Columbus. He started playing piano at age 2 and learned that he had perfect pitch by age 5, but he got “the feel” from his mother.

“My mom played simple triads, easy chords, but she was good enough to play church services and obviously good enough to get me started,” he said. “I kind of took it from there as I grew up.”

That casual last sentence summarizes countless hours of daily lessons and practice, encouraged by his parents.

“My mom and dad, they knew I had a gift,” he said.

Floyd was playing in church by age 7. He longed to play organ as well as piano, but he had to wait until he was 10 and his feet could reach the pedals.

“Some of the greatest jazz musicians, singers, blues musicians got started playing in church, and they got that feeling by letting the spirit lead them,” he said.

He kept studying and playing through high school and college, even though acoustic jazz wasn't exactly in its heyday. Big ears and versatility helped him land a variety of gigs.

In 1984, Floyd joined Ray Charles for a tour that lasted about a year and a half.

“He was really tough. He was a perfectionist,” Floyd said.

Each night, Floyd would play a few tunes on piano before Charles took the stage, then move to the organ seat when the main show began.

“He had great ears and could hear

anything,” Floyd said. “But we hit it off. I had that feel, and that related to what he was all about. We were like two peas in a pod. He liked everything I played, and we had no problems at all.”

Floyd also played for six years with the Count Basie Orchestra. He sat at Basie's revered piano stool for the Grammy-nominated album “All About That Basie.” He still plays with the Basie outfit now and then, and he recently got the call to join them for a summer concert at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles.

Floyd encourages students to welcome all gigs, large and small. He enjoys performing with top U.S. orchestras like the Boston Pops and the Detroit Symphony, but he also loves playing the Columbus-area circuit with his own trio, featuring Reggie Jackson on drums and Derek DiCenzo on guitar and bass.

Floyd is also the featured pianist and organist with the Columbus Jazz Orchestra and frequently tours with its director, trumpeter Byron Stripling. In a long-running joke that sometimes seems to cut a bit close to the bone, Stripling complains that people come to their shows only to see Floyd.

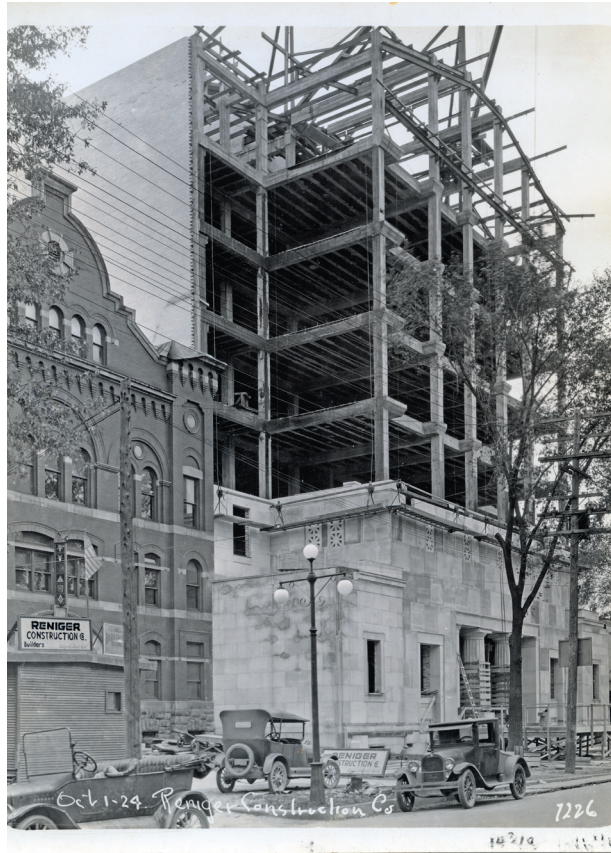
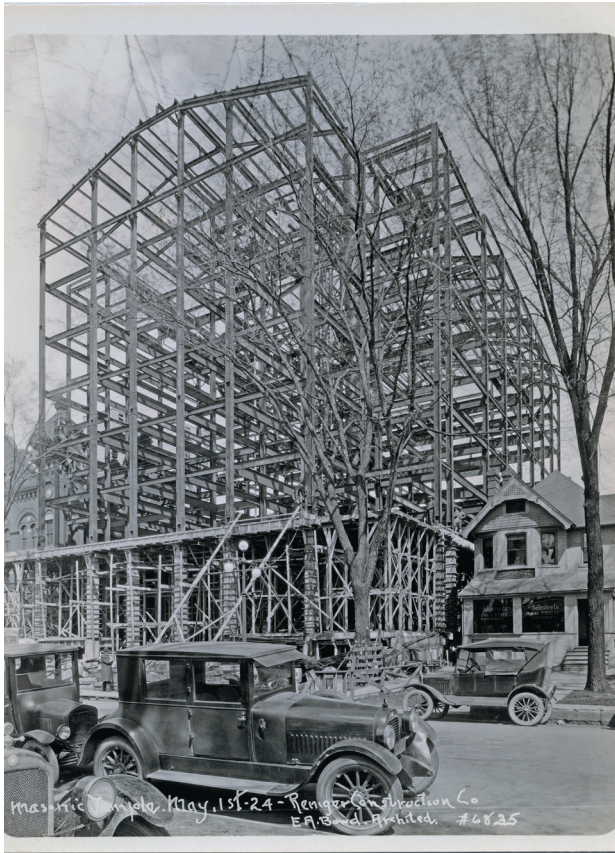
Despite his obvious discipline at the keyboard, Floyd is no jazz purist. His eclectic playing style affirms his reverence for piano greats like Erroll Garner, Thelonious Monk and Oscar Peterson, but his ears stretch much further. He nurtures an undying love for the soulful, expansive “horn bands” of the '70s, like Graham Central Station, Tower of Power, Kool & the Gang and Chicago.

“They all influenced the way I play. I used to take bass lines and horn lines from Earth, Wind & Fire and all those groups and play those lines in church,” he said. “I still feel that when I play today.”

For Floyd, it all comes down to a musician's individual approach and sound.

“We try to put it into categories, like jazz or blues or country, but even working with Ray Charles — he did a lot of country music, in his own way, but it was kind of like he was singing in church.”





Leavenworth Photography Collection, Archives of Michigan, courtesy of Capital Area District Library

This series of photos captures the construction of the Masonic Temple, 217 S. Capitol Ave., in progress 100 years ago.

# Masons and masonry

## A not-so-secret initiation into Lansing's former Masonic Temple

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

Lansing has more than its share of abandoned legacy buildings, from empty schools to old factories and cavernous K-Marts, but the 1924 Masonic Temple building at 217 S. Capitol Ave. downtown is in a class by itself.

Built in a gilded age when Masonic lodges were exploding in membership and rolling in dues, the 7-story proposed site for a relocated Lansing City Hall is no decaying ghost hulk. It's more like a stocky pit bull, pulling on its chain, waiting for the next bone.

The building's most recent occupant, Cooley Law School, kept it maintained and upgraded to the point where you could almost eat off of the floors. Cooley Law School used the Temple building for more than 30 years, beginning in 1974.

In 2021, the Lansing-based Boji Broup bought the temple and has maintained it with the same level of care. Last week, John Hindo, CEO of the Boji Group, took me on a tour of the building and pointed out its many amenities, from its fancy lobby to its terrazzo floors and heavy wood trim to oversized former classrooms that may someday house City Council chambers.

Whatever the outcome of the current negotiations over moving City Hall here, the Temple is a tough old dog that will wait quietly for its new master. This big boy is not going anywhere.

### Ballroom dancing

Masonic temples around the world reached Xanadu-like proportions in the order's heyday, at the turn of the 20th century. The House of the Temple in Washington, D.C., with its 17-ton sphinxes and fabulous ring of 33 Ionic columns, is modeled after the legendary Mausoleum in Heli-carnassus, in Turkey, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Closer to home, Detroit's Temple is the largest Masonic structure in the world, a 16-story colossus with 1,037 rooms.

By contrast, Lansing's temple sticks to basics. Its creamy limestone facade sweeps upward in crisp, clean lines, as if it's posing for a \$5 bill. The style is "Greek revival," "classical revival" or "Roman classical," depending on which source you consult —

ideal for banks, municipal buildings and the like.

"Even from the exterior, it just looks like a beautiful municipal office building that just stands the test of time," Hindo said.

But this is a sober grandeur, scaled to Lansing's modestly sized downtown. Here is a surprise quiz: Without looking at a photograph, specify how



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

The Masonic Temple today. Early renderings of plans to turn it into City Hall did not include the columns, but Boji Group President John Hindo said the columns will stay.

many columns the temple has in front. Most people say "six," "10" or even more, but there are only two — enough to make you feel secure, but not enough to intimidate you. Architect Edwyn Bowd,

designer of many Lansing-area landmarks, from Spartan Stadium to the Knapp's Office Center and Ottawa Street Power Station, was a master at suiting a building's scale and style to its purpose and surroundings.

Between the columns, it's a quick hop of only five steps from street level to front door. This is a public building, just slightly elevated, designed for people to enter, gather and feel at home.

The columns weren't even included in early renderings of the Boji Group's proposal for a relocated City Hall.

Hindo was quick to correct that omission.

"Those were old preliminary drawings," he said. "The historic columns will not be removed."

According to the Temple's 1980 entry in the National Register of Historic Places, the façade is topped by a triangular flourish (the entablature) with three decorative scallops at each corner. (They're called acroteria, if you want to get nerdy.) These, along with four discreetly etched Masonic emblems over the front entrance, are the only noticeable exterior frills.

Despite the temple's excellent overall condition, there are two holes in it, but they were cut on purpose.

Inside, on the sixth floor, workers made the holes to check out the condition of the drywall, the inside of the exterior masonry and the air ducts in between.

"We're trying to peel the onion back and see what's back there," Boji project manager Keith Kelly said. "It was structurally very, very overbuilt. That's why it looks so good today. It has been taken care of, but the way it was originally designed and built — they just don't do them like this anymore. No one does."

The temple's frame is made of steel, reinforced with concrete. Look through the holes the workers cut and you can see buff bricks the size of cinder-blocks — the exterior north wall, as solid as they come. They weren't called Masons for nothing.

Kelly is familiar with sturdy Masonic buildings, having worked on Flint's 1911 Masonic Temple, a close cousin to Lansing's but only three stories tall. Flint's is being upgraded into an event and entertainment venue with the help of a \$250,000



**Boji Group, which owns the Masonic Temple, is hosting an open house from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today (March 27).**

Prosperity Award from the Consumers Energy Foundation.

“They had a fire some years ago, and I was involved in redoing that after the fire,” Kelly said. “It’s built almost like this one — very, very, similar.”

The interior steps leading upward to the lobby of Lansing’s temple are lined with Tennessee pink granite.

“They used it in the Capitol,” Kelly said. “When they renovated the Capitol, they used the last of what is available, so this stone is no longer available.”

If the City Hall relocation plan comes to fruition, the first floor will be home to Mayor Andy Schor’s “one-stop shop” for residents and visitors to get information and transact city business.

The temple’s second floor is home to two ceremonial chambers, reconfigured for large Cooley Law School classes, that planners believe would be well suited to City Council meetings. The idea, Hindo said, is to put Council chambers where they would be accessible to the public, a floor up from ground level.

The third and fourth floors would house offices for the mayor, city attorney and other officials, along with departmental units such as human resources, planning and so on.

Throughout the building, residents, visitors and staffers would enjoy heavy wooden doors and wood trim, elegant fixtures and terrazzo floors that would be prohibitively expensive today.

Floors five, six and seven are “not spoken for,” Hindo said, but there is room for more city departments or space for other tenants. Hindo said the Lansing School District has expressed interest in using some of the space.

One of the building’s most interesting features is the ballroom on the sixth floor, used most recently for Cooley Law School graduation ceremonies.

The fancy fixtures in the ballroom throw off a spiky Art Deco light. The doors, trim and other fixtures are made of heavy, deeply grained hardwoods. Cornices and other fixtures are further adorned with gold leaf. Near the ballroom stage, workers have peeled back the carpet to reveal the original maple flooring.

“These are features we are hoping the city preserves,” Boji said.

In this cavernous ballroom, under the same octagonal gold light fixtures, Lansing Masons danced to the music of two orchestras to celebrate the building’s grand opening a century ago.

Whether the ballroom stays a ballroom or is modified to fit some other use depends on who occupies it.

While preparing preliminary plans for the City Hall relocation, the Boji Group examined four case studies of repurposed Masonic temples around the country.

One of these, a 9-story former Masonic Temple in Glendale, California, similar in scale to Lansing’s, had a ballroom that was converted to an “open workspace atrium,” with large workstations and open conference rooms.

Current plans for the Lansing temple are preliminary and flexible. “The two main focuses, if they can make it work right now, are either a consolidation of city departments in this building or a potential opportunity with the school district,” Hindo said.

In the basement, Kelly pointed out numerous upgrades made in the Cooley years to the electrical systems, hot water pumps, air handlers and generators.

“Cooley invested millions of dollars in the place,” Kelly said.

The rust, decay and obsolescence in evidence in

**Lansing Mayor Any Schor makes his case for acquiring the Masonic Temple as a new city hall. See P. 10.**



Courtesy photos

A 9-story, former Masonic Temple in Glendale, California, built in 1929 (above) closed in 1957, was renovated (right) into office space, an assembly hall and dining areas in 2015.



the bowels of the present City Hall are nowhere to be found.

But that doesn’t mean upgrades aren’t in order.

At the city’s request, the Boji Group has hired Synergy Engineers to evaluate the plumbing, mechanical and HVAC systems from top to bottom, according to Hindo.

“The goal is not just to make repairs today, but to make sure all the systems are upgraded as if they were new systems, to make them last long-term,” Hindo said.

**Boom and bust**

In addition to its structural solidity and noble classicism, Lansing’s Masonic Temple embodies multiple layers of local, U.S. and world history.

Inscribed above the columns on the Lansing temple is a letter “G,” inside a square and compass, along with other Masonic devices. The square and compass symbolize not only brick-and-mortar

masonry, but also the moral obligation to keep one’s behavior on the square.

Depending on the source you consult, the letter “G” can mean “God” or “Geometry” (or even “Great Architect of the Universe,” which neatly combines both concepts).

According to information from Michigan Masons, freemasonry dates back to the Middle Ages, when skilled masons had travel privileges to move from one country to another in Europe’s great age of cathedral building.

By 1717, when the first Grand Lodge was formed in England, the Masons morphed beyond a craftsman’s guild into a broader-based, often secret society devoted to fellowship, mutual aid and com-

See Temple, Page 18



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

The auditorium occupies the sixth floor. It and the fifth and seventh floors in the 7-story building are not included in the current plans for city hall offices, but Mayor Andry Schor says they could be rented, thus providing revenue for upkeep for the rest of the building.





## City Pulse needs a Delivery Driver.

Interested? Call 517-999-6704  
or email [steve@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:steve@lansingcitypulse.com)

**CityPULSE**

## Temple

from page 17

munity service, with its own moral teachings, rituals and customs.

The earliest documented Masonic lodge in Michigan formed in 1764, in Detroit. Early Michigan lodges formed along trading routes such as the St. Joseph River in southwestern Michigan.

By the mid-1850s, Lansing, tucked into the interior of the state, had its own Masonic lodge, No. 33 “Free and Accepted Masons,” near Washington Avenue in midtown.

In the late 19th and early 20th century, a menagerie of fraternal orders, with names like Elks, Moose and Eagles, comprised the social networks of the day, with the Odd Fellows and Freemasons among the most popular. By 1930, over 12 percent of adult men in the United States were Masons. The dues rolled in, and bigger and bigger halls — now dubbed “temples” — rose across the nation.

But the Masons’ heyday didn’t last. Beginning with the Great Depression and Second World War, an onslaught of 20th century setbacks contributed to a decline in membership. By the 1970s, many temples were consolidated, sold or converted to other uses.

Lansing’s temple, with its Roman-style design and many large interior spaces, made an ideal home for the growing Cooley Law School, beginning in 1974. The large ceremonial Temple rooms were converted into classrooms. Their gold nameplates, with names modeled after the Inns of the Court in London, still glimmer in the hallways. At its peak in 2010, the school had over 3,900 students, making it the largest law school in the United States by enrollment, but that number dwindled to about 500 by 2022. By 2000, the college had moved most of its operations to the 10-story Cooley Center at 300 S. Capitol Ave.

Bust followed boom, and the Temple was abandoned a second time.

In recent years, there has been speculation that local investors wanted to buy the former Temple and convert it to a boutique hotel. Dominic Cochran, the director of the Lansing Public Media Center, told City Pulse in 2021 that he and city officials also briefly pursued a partnership that could have brought a performing arts center to the building.

“We were super intrigued. It already had an auditorium space on the top floor. It had a lot of poten-



Boji Group President John Hindo in the lobby of the Masonic Temple building.

tial,” Cochran told City Pulse. “We had this old-school European opera house concept. It was a great idea, and it would’ve involved a massive feat of engineering to pull it all off.”

The idea was scrapped in 2019 when officials were informed that a costly freight elevator would be needed to haul equipment and scenery to the sixth-floor auditorium space.

But there are many ways to teach an old dog new tricks.

A 9-story former Masonic Temple in Glendale, California, built in 1929 and closed in 1957, similar in scale and size to Lansing’s, was renovated into office space, an assembly hall and dining areas in 2015.

The Glendale temple was one of four case studies the Boji group looked at as it developed its Lansing City Hall proposal. A former Masonic Temple in Danville, Pennsylvania, built in 1926, is now the city’s municipal building. A former temple in Rushville, Indiana, built in 1914 and used as a theater for 85 years, was renovated in 2017 and now houses City Hall and other tenants.

Across the country, dozens of temples large and small have been repurposed for the 21st century. Closer to home, the 120-year-old, 3-story Masonic Temple at the corner of South Cochran Avenue and Seminary Street in Charlotte, Michigan, was renovated into apartments in 2016. East Lansing’s foursquare Masonic Temple building at 314 M.A.C. Ave.,

completed in 1916, was sold by the lodge in 1985 and converted to residential and office use.

The outcome of negotiations in Lansing is yet unknown, and some unexpected fate may await the former Lansing Temple, but Hindo is optimistic about the City Hall project.

“It makes a lot of sense to take a phenomenal historical building and make it a municipal office,” he said. “A lot of these Masonic Temples — it’s all about historic preservation. These buildings have a lot of history, and you see that in the façade, in the lobby, the stairwells. You want to preserve all that.”



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

The stairs offer original woodwork and terrazzo floors.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

One of the many spaces that Cooley Law School had converted to classrooms, which in turn would offer amply space for City Council chambers.



# Lansing Symphony Orchestra nails Beethoven, oozes Wagner

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The Lansing Symphony Orchestra checked some bucket-list-level boxes at its ambitious MasterWorks concert Saturday night (March 23), including one of the biggest: Beethoven's thrilling violin concerto, featuring guest soloist Bella Hristova.

The concerto is a favorite of almost everybody (including Sherlock Holmes, as portrayed in the Granada Television version of "The Resident Patient"), and with good reason. It's really a full-on symphony, complete with romance, drama, an interlude of blissful serenity, good old Beethoven banging and a finale that exudes pure joy.

Some violinists muscle their way through it as if they juiced up and went to the gym. Hristova didn't try to overpower the audience, or the orchestra, but still saw to it that her sinuous, sweet tone was never swamped, no matter how much stern hammering went on around her. She swam around and between the big boulders like a vividly colored coral snake, impossible not to follow.

Kindly indulge me as I switch animal metaphors to describe her most impressive moments. Twice in the massive opening movement, it was her job to move the music from one lofty perch to the next. When she made the leap in a sudden flutter of gorgeous, fleeting notes, it was like being startled by a heron as it takes wing to command a higher branch.

In the pine-forest-pure slow movement, Hristova's tone took on a miraculous, weightless glide, especially in the middle and low registers. She played coloratura warbles like nobody's business, but she also shared with the orchestra an invaluable talent for sending one simple note, however fleeting, straight to the heart of the listener.

Conductor Timothy Muffitt and the orchestra were in a zone of confident mastery all night, juggling drastically different musical worlds like it was no big deal. The second half of the concert began with the prelude and final movement of Richard Wagner's "Tristan und Isolde," a tantric exercise in slow buildup and release that's about as far from Beethoven's rum-tum cadences as you can get. Muffitt and the orchestra pulled the titanic wad of taffy without letup, generating bigger and bigger rainbows of orchestral color, forcing you to submit to Wagner whether you wanted to or not. The mighty sound kept building

and building until the two heavy hitters stationed near the back wall, timpanist Sarah Christianson and principal tuba player Philip Sinder, picked up their weapons, and you knew you were in for the ultimate in Wagnerian splendor.

Next, as if to show off their collective versatility, all forces turned on a dime, schmucking their boots out of the viscous goo of "Tristan" and leaping straight into the fleet hijinks of Richard Strauss' "Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks." I feel obliged to confess that I've always hated this work, which somehow manages to be both too silly and not silly enough (at least for Bugs Bun-

**Review**

See LSO, Page 20



Photo by Olivia Beebe, courtesy of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra

Guest violinist Bella Hristova (left) brought a heartfelt intimacy to Beethoven's mighty violin concerto at Saturday's (March 23) Lansing Symphony Orchestra concert.



## UNIVERSITY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# JOIN US FOR EASTER

Sun., March 31 | 9:30 and 11AM

1120 S. Harrison Rd., E. Lansing

The church with the bell tower - at the corner of Trowbridge.

Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with us.

All are welcome here!

Kids - join us for an  
Easter Egg Hunt  
in between the  
services!

[www.uumc.church](http://www.uumc.church)





# 'Playing for Real' comedically portrays the realities of community theater

By **MARK GMAZEL**

Ixion Ensemble Theatre's production of "Playing for Real," by Ron Asher, presents a play within a play as a theater troupe attempts to impress a visiting producer with its new Shakespeare-inspired show. Increasingly, the efforts to stage the show run amok or are thwarted by outside events. This piece of meta-theater comments on the battle between artistic integrity and financial success and the role of compromise in creating new productions.

The play harkens back to the great works and authors of post-World War II absurdist theater. The script directly references Edward Albee's "The Zoo Story" and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf," two major works in the genre. The overall energy of the cast is superb, reminding me of an edgy and hip late-night comedy show.

Jonathan Hamilton (Bernie/"Peter") opens the show as an actor battling the light-board operator while performing the famous "to be or not to be" soliloquy from "Hamlet." Unfortunately, opening-night nerves led him to mangle some

key lines. Doubly unfortunately, he was performing in front of a critic who happened to know that speech much more intimately than the average theatergoer.

After the bumpiness of the opening, however, Hamilton went on to delight and entertain with style and skill. He brings a welcome breath of fresh energy to Lansing stages.



Review

## "Playing for Real"

March 29-30

8 p.m.

Stage One at Sycamore  
Creek Eastwood

2200 Lake Lansing Road,  
Lansing

(517) 775-4246

our.show/playingforreal

Following a solid showing as Billy Flynn in Evolve Theatrics' production of "Chicago," Ian Whipp (Danny/"Jerry") continues his remarkable season with detailed and specific work here playing an idealistic actor. Whipp also handles his stage combat very well — he's rapidly becoming a polished performer.

Molly Sullivan (Deborah/"Honey") performs one of the most visceral and realistic "Romeo and Juliet" death scenes I've ever seen. Sullivan is an eye-catching performer with a sharp sense of humor and seems destined for big things in the future.

Charles Hoogstraten is droll and compelling as playwright Mississippi Wells. Holly Sleight-Engler (Nicole



Courtesy of Ixion Ensemble Theatre

The cast of Ixion Ensemble Theatre's production of "Playing for Real" rehearses the show's hectic rehearsal scene.

Michaels) is robust, centered and believable. Samantha Hall-Leonhardt (Joan/"Martha") could work on slowing down more with her lines, but she definitely improved as the show continued. Greg Pratt (Real Producer) is efficient and realistic, adding gravitas to his cameo role. Local legend Quinn Kelly (Sammy Needalender) continues to light up

the stage wherever he goes, here as a humorous and painfully realistic producer.

I must give Lansing stage veteran Tim Lewis (Intruder) a final kudos. Lewis is threatening and fevered in his portrayal of the outsider, speaking clearly, acting with clear objectives and earning laughs with his comic interpretations of the role.

## HOLY WEEK

### UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">March 28</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0056b3;">7:00 PM</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0056b3;">Maundy Thursday Worship</p>
<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">March 29</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0056b3;">Noon-3:00 PM</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0056b3;">Good Friday Worship</p>
<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">March 31</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0056b3;">10:00 AM</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0056b3;">Easter Sunday Worship</p>

Join us for an  
Easter Egg Hunt  
after worship!

University Lutheran Church  
1020 S. Harrison Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
517-332-2559 [www.ulcel.org](http://www.ulcel.org)

## LSO

from page 19

ny). But damned if they didn't make it fun. Every little antic was etched with such verve and panache that there was no time to become bilious. Densely packed, delicious moments whizzed by one after another, highlighted by a nimble exchange between principal horn player Corbin Wagner and violinist (and concertmaster) Will Thain. Volleys of sudden, furious thunder from Christianson, one of two aspirants in the running for the orchestra's principal timpani chair, kept things extra lively.

After such a grand tour of Beethoven, Wagner and Strauss, the opening work on Saturday's slate began to seem like a distant memory, but it's a memory well worth jogging.

Despite their fancy and arbitrary-seeming titles, many contemporary works are just out to give you a cosmic thrill ride, beginning with wispy brush strokes and climaxing in a major-key supernova. (Not that there's anything wrong with that.) Sarah Gibson's "to make this mountain taller" proved to be a more nuanced, thoughtful statement. Inchoate hints

of melody swirled upward and abruptly disappeared, hinting at the nascent power of isolated individual voices trying to be heard.

In the wake of the United States Supreme Court's overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, Gibson was inspired to write the work after reading a Rupi Kaur poem invoking "the sacrifices of one million women before me." It's always dicey to connect too many dots between a composer's program notes and the notes you hear in a performance, but it's also fair to assume that Gibson made her thoughts known for a reason. Gradually, the wisps and hints started to get some traction and coalesced into a tremendous chord, as if a collective consciousness had formed and found a way to flex its power. That seemed to press a giant "reset" button. The music took on an organized, contrapuntal momentum, a sense of propulsion and purpose, with cellos zipping up and down the scale as if they were all playing Bach in furious lockstep.

The closing of orchestral ranks into a formidable, overwhelming force was awesome and inspiring, but it did not culminate in the customary blast of major-key ecstasy. The ending sounded more like a question — or a desperate hope for further action.



# Donald Lystra channels Salinger in new coming-of-age novel

## 'Searching for Van Gogh'

By Donald Lystra  
Omena Hills Press, 272 pages, \$17.99 (paperback)

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Donald Lystra is on a roll. His new book, "Searching for Van Gogh," continues his successful journey as a late-in-life writer who, after working a full career as an electrical engineer, began writing prose.

Lystra, 78, is the author of "Season of Water and Ice" and "Something That Feels Like Truth," which both won Michigan Notable Book awards, making his presence as an accomplished writer known.

"I was pleased to be honored. It was the high point of my literary career," he said.

I talked with Lystra from his home in Florida. He splits his time between Florida and northwest Michigan to escape "brutal winters."

His new novel is set in Grand Rapids in 1963. It follows an 18-year-old man and a young woman trying to discover who they are in that era of prosperity and calamity.

"For Americans, 1963 was the first real post-World War II societal shock for our generation and our country," Lystra said. "We were hopeful, energetic and at times prosperous. All of

a sudden, we were faced with turbulence from the civil rights upheaval, war and, of course, the assassination" of President John F. Kennedy.

Lystra throws two young adults into this milieu: Nathan, a recent high school graduate from Detroit who's working a factory job and looking for his path in life, and Audrey, another transplant who is in survival mode both emotionally and financially.

He thought about setting the story in a big city like Los Angeles or New York, but they didn't feel right, so he decided on Grand Rapids.

"I knew Grand Rapids very well. I spent the first 12 years of my life there.

In 1963, I returned to work at a Fisher Body plant as part of the General Motors Institute program," he said.

Nathan lives in a boarding house on Fulton Street across from John Ball Park, exactly where Lystra lived for six months in 1963. Audrey stays in a fleabag hotel, works at a lunch counter and gives visiting businessmen walking tours of historic Grand Rapids while shadowing classes at the Kendall College of Art and Design.

The sense of place that Lystra captures exemplifies his strength in storytelling. Sixty years ago, Grand Rapids wasn't the dynamic city we know today. It was right on the verge of urban decay, and that's the environment in which Nathan and Audrey meet on the bank of the Grand River, where Nathan, a rank beginner, is painting

an abandoned furniture factory. The pair's spontaneous meeting results in a friendship and a nascent love story as they go about their lives.

There are a couple of interesting and uneasy road trips shared by the pair where we learn about their tense family lives, which both have fled.

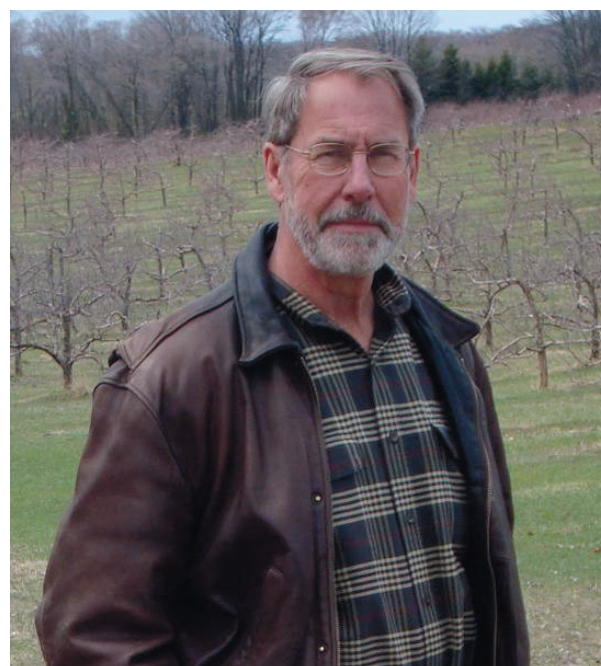
Audrey and Nathan's relationship is fraught with natural sexual tension and emotional baggage from their pasts, which we learn more about during the road trips. Despite their flaws, they support each other in the face of continuous disappointments.

"Searching for Van Gogh" is a story that J.D. Salinger would've written — one with an outcome that isn't totally satisfactory. Lystra likely wrote this novel for adults, but it will also resonate with today's youth, who are searching for their paths in a changing society.

My biggest question for Lystra was, "Why Van Gogh?" He gave a thoughtful answer I didn't expect.

"I was inspired by the arc of Van Gogh's life and how after a tragic life, years after his death, he became well known," he said. "I wanted my character to be inspired by that and the body of literature he left behind in his letters."

Lystra likes where he is in life. He had been a successful engineer and a



Courtesy photo

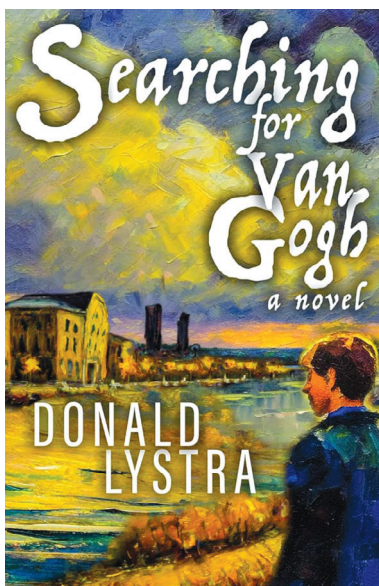
Electrical engineer turned late-in-life writer Donald Lystra, winner of two Michigan Notable Book awards, utilizes his intimate knowledge of 1960s Grand Rapids to create a vivid sense of place in his new book, "Searching for Van Gogh."

partner at a firm until a bout of severe illness, after which he sold his shares and went to work for the University of Michigan.

"The opportunity opened up my life, and I actually started to write," he said.

Lystra is about 200 pages into another novel about "a man who is middle-aged going through the travails of being middle-aged."

"I don't want to abandon it," he said.



**ART BY NEVIN**

As Seen On the Cover of CityPulse

Illustrations • Murals • Graphic Design  
Signs • Banners • T-Shirts • Logos

nevin@nevingraphics.com

**517-703-4655**

ArtByNevin Art\_By\_Nevin

**Curious Book Shop**

307 E. Grand River, E. Lansing  
Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun. 12-5  
332-0112 ♦ We validate parking  
curiousbooks.com

Find us on Facebook and Instagram!

We have books you always wanted but never knew existed!

Quality Used Books at Great Prices!

**DIVORCE FAMILY LAW**

Divorce  
Custody • Visitation  
Child Support  
Alimony  
Property Distribution  
Domestic Partnership Agreements / Separation

45 YEARS - AGGRESSIVE LITIGATION  
EFFECTIVE MEDIATION

LAW OFFICES OF  
**STUART R. SHAFER, P.C.**  
Former Assistant Prosecutor

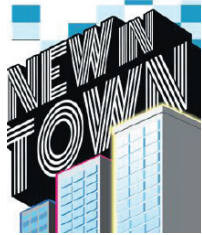
**487-6603**

1223 Turner St., Ste 333, Lansing  
www.stushafer.com



# Beloved festival soul food now available year-round at Lansing Mall

By TYLER SCHNEIDER



## The Carter's Family Owned Restaurant

5330 W. Saginaw Hwy.,  
Lansing  
11 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Friday-Saturday  
11 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Wednesday  
Noon-7 p.m. Sunday  
(517) 574-6715

After winning the people's choice vendor contest at the annual Michigan Chicken Wing Festival back-to-back in 2022 and 2023, Eldred and Kameron Carter decided last fall that the time had come to open a brick-and-mortar restaurant.

The festival, founded in 2015 by Eldred Carter's mother, Shirley Carter-Powell, was the catalyst for the couple's entry into the soul-food market. In addition to

wings, they began producing their own sauces and dry rubs to sell from their booth at the event each Labor Day weekend.

"We'd have so many people asking us where our restaurant was, but for three years, the only place you could

get our food anywhere was the Chicken Wing Festival," Eldred Carter said.

Less than a month after last year's festival, the couple started scouting out spaces.

"We decided we had to give our customers what they wanted, in a stand-alone location where they could come year-round," Carter said.

They settled on an empty booth in the Lansing Mall's food court, dubbing the new eatery The Carter's Family Owned Restaurant.

"We used to come here a lot when we were kids. Like most kids, the place we hung out was the food court area. It seemed natural to start here," Carter said.

The restaurant celebrated its grand opening on March 16. It operates five days a week, serving up healthy portions of soul-food standards like wings, rib tips, catfish, MaBell's sausage, cornbread, mac and cheese, collard greens and more.

The menu was inspired by the couple's Southern heritages. While they both grew up in Lansing, they've maintained familial ties to Alabama and Mississippi, where soul food is a way of life.

"Basically, you can taste the hard work and the love the person has cooked into the food. With soul food, you can learn a lot about a person's heritage from the way they cook," Carter said.

For those craving an authentic soul-food experience, many of the dishes can be made extra spicy. More adventurous customers can opt for the Soul Rolls, a soul-food take on traditional egg rolls that are filled with a choice of meat and two side dishes.

The duo's homemade sauces and dry rubs are also available at the new restaurant. Customers can try any of them on a sample spoon, just like at an ice cream parlor.

The couple are the only full-time employees, but they're often bolstered by family members who regularly come in to help. Carter said they're looking to hire additional help "in the near future."

If the restaurant does well, he said they could potentially expand into other culinary ventures in the future.

"This thought process is still very much up in the air, but The Carter's Family Owned Restaurant isn't going to be our only thing to bring food to



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

Eldred (left) and Kameron Carter, owners of The Carter's Family Owned Restaurant, have been serving up healthy portions of soul-food standards at the Lansing Mall since March 16.

the public," he said.

The food has been so popular that the kitchen regularly sells out before closing time. The couple expects this to change as they continue to settle in and find their rhythm.

## A WIN-WIN

The next pet adoption ad appears  
April 17th.

Call by April 11th to be included.

For 20 years, City Pulse has donated hundreds of dollars a year to the Ingham County Animal Shelter thanks to pet adoption ads sponsored by our readers. Thank you!

Won't you join them in 2024? An ad is \$35, and \$6 goes to the shelter so it can do its important work in placing dogs and cats in permanent homes.



Please help City Pulse help the Ingham County Animal Shelter. Call Publisher Berl Schwartz at (517) 999-5061 or email him at [publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:publisher@lansingcitypulse.com) with "pet adoption" in the subject line. You'll be helping City Pulse and the shelter at the same time.



# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Free Throw Line"  
-- it's themeless!  
by Matt Jones  
© 2024 Matt Jones

**ACROSS**

- 1. Chain store with a cat-and-dog logo
- 6. Archipelago nation in the Indian Ocean
- 13. Collectively
- 14. Animated movie based on a Neil Gaiman novel
- 15. Actor Kevin of "Grey's Anatomy" and "Trainspotting"
- 17. Added fuel to, as a fire
- 18. Style of jeans with extra space around the thigh
- 20. Cast out from the body
- 21. Mario Party item
- 22. Home of Benny Beaver
- 24. Subj. with lab work
- 27. Grazed
- 28. Small sample
- 29. Aykroyd of "Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire"
- 32. Played in turn
- 36. Advice to one holding tension
- 37. Library archives that may be in storage
- 38. Trout fishing lure
- 39. \_\_\_ loss
- 40. Super Bowl LIV halftime performer
- 41. "Animal Farm" structure
- 42. Gym classes, briefly
- 43. Dutch astronomer with a namesake
- 45. Sauce for crab cakes, maybe

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

- 49. Cereal brand with a High Protein version
  - 53. Hostess offering
  - 55. Skyhook Foundation founder, familiarly
  - 57. Focus of a Royal Canadian centennial on April 1, 2024
  - 58. Apres-ski setting
  - 59. Gets comfy
  - 60. Squirrel away
- DOWN**
- 1. "Mr. \_\_\_ Passes By" (A.A. Milne play)
  - 2. Env. stuffer
  - 3. Wild-caught octopus, in a sushi bar
  - 4. Awards in the ad biz
  - 5. Historic building in Baton Rouge, LA or Springfield, IL
  - 6. 1994 Eurodance hit based on an old American folk song
  - 7. Los Juegos Olimpicos prize
  - 8. TikTok offerings involving pencils, maybe
  - 9. Couturier Cassini
  - 10. Vehicle
  - 11. Unpleasant obligation
  - 12. Back-to-school mo.
  - 14. Series with a short-lived "Cyber" offshoot
  - 16. Manga featuring high school student Light Yagami and a mysterious black book
  - 19. What Project Gutenberg offers, in e-book formats
  - 23. When hands are up and down
  - 24. Gargamel's prey
  - 25. What extreme Dutch sportspeople try to jump with a pole
  - 26. 1967 Stevie Wonder title lyric that's followed by "If you leave me sad and blue"
  - 29. Places that may have a lot of kicks and trainers
  - 30. \_\_\_-garde
  - 31. Current events-related
  - 33. Letter after ka in Spanish
  - 34. Kraken org.
  - 35. 3-D screening
  - 44. What Balatro's "arcana packs" are themed around
  - 45. "I'm not \_\_\_"
  - 46. "Sweet," in Jamaica
  - 47. Shared mine?
  - 48. Shoe insert
  - 50. \_\_\_-Chee All Season Portfolio (retro school folder)
  - 51. "\_\_\_ and the Swan" (Yeats poem)
  - 52. Root beer dispensers
  - 54. Positional start?
  - 56. "I've seen better"

©2020 Jonesin' Crosswords (jonesincrosswords@gmail.com)

Answers on page 30

# SUDOKU

# Intermediate

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

## 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

March 27-April 2, 2024

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** In the coming days, your hunger will be so inexhaustible that you may feel driven to devour extravagant amounts of food and drink. It's possible you will gain 10 pounds in a very short time. Who knows? You might even enter an extreme eating contest and devour 46-dozen oysters in 10 minutes! APRIL FOOL! Although what I just said is remotely plausible, I foresee that you will sublimate your exorbitant hunger. You will realize it is spiritual in nature and can't be gratified by eating food. As you explore your voracious longings, you will hopefully discover a half-hidden psychological need you have been suppressing. And then you will liberate that need and feed it what it craves!

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Taurus novelist Lionel Shriver writes, "There's a freedom in apathy, a wild, dizzying liberation on which you can almost get drunk." In accordance with astrological omens, I recommend you experiment with Shriver's strategy in the coming weeks. APRIL FOOL! I lied. In fact, Shriver's comment is one of the dumbest thoughts I have ever heard. Why would anyone want the cheap, damaged liberation that comes from feeling indifferent, numb and passionless? Please do all you can to disrupt and dissolve any attraction you may have to that state, Taurus. In my opinion, you now have a sacred duty to cultivate extra helpings of enthusiasm, zeal, liveliness and ambition.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** At enormous cost and after years of study, I have finally figured out the meaning of life, at least as it applies to you Geminis. Unfortunately, I won't be able to reveal it to you unless you send me \$1,000 and a case of Veuve Clicquot champagne. I've got to recoup my investment, right?! APRIL FOOL! Most of what I just said was a dirty lie. It's true that I have worked hard to uncover the meaning of life for you Geminis. But I haven't found it yet. And even if I did, I would, of course, provide it to you free. Luckily, you are now in a prime position to make dramatic progress in deciphering the meaning of life for yourself.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** For a limited time only, you have permission from the cosmos to be a wildly charismatic egomaniac who brags incessantly and insists on getting your selfish needs met at all times and in all places. Please feel free to have maximum amounts of narcissistic fun, Cancerian! APRIL FOOL! I was exaggerating a bit, hoping to offer you medicinal encouragement so you will stop being so damn humble and self-effacing all the time. But the truth is, now is indeed an excellent time to assert your authority, expand your clout and flaunt your potency and sovereignty.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Michael Scott was a character in the TV sitcom "The Office." He was the boss of a paper company. Played by Leo actor Steve Carell, he was notoriously self-centered and obnoxious. However, there was one famous scene I will urge you to emulate. He was asked if he would rather be feared or loved. He replied, "Um, easy, both. I want people to be afraid of how much they love me." Be like Michael Scott, Leo! APRIL FOOL! I was half-kidding. It's true that I'm quite excited by the likelihood that you will receive floods of love in the coming weeks. It's also true that I think you should do everything possible to boost this likelihood. But I would rather that people be amazed and pleased at how much they love you, not afraid.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Now would be an excellent time for you to snag a Sugar Daddy or Sugar Momma or Sugar Nonbinary Nurturer. The astrological omens are telling me that life is expanding its willingness and capacity to provide you with help, support and maybe even extra cash. I dare you to dangle yourself as bait and sell your soul to the highest bidder. APRIL FOOL! I was half-kidding. While I do believe it's prime time to ask for and receive more help, support and extra cash, I don't believe you will have to

sell your soul to get any of it. Just be yourself!

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Happy unbirthday, Libra! It's that time halfway between your last birthday and your next. Here are the presents I plan to give you: a boost in your receptivity to be loved and needed; a constructive relationship with obsession; more power to accomplish the half-right thing when it's hard to do the totally right thing; the disposal of 85% of the psychic trash left over from the time between 2018 and 2023; and a provocative new invitation to transcend an outworn old taboo. APRIL FOOL! The truth is, I can't possibly supply every one of you with these fine offerings, so please bestow them on yourself. Luckily, the cosmic currents will conspire with you to make these things happen.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Now would be an excellent time to seek liposuction, a facelift, Botox, buttocks augmentation or hair transplants. Cosmic rhythms will be on your side if you change how you look. APRIL FOOL! Everything I just said was a lie. I've got nothing against cosmetic surgery, but now is not the right time to alter your appearance. Here's the correct oracle: Shed your disguises, stop hiding anything about who you really are and show how proud you are of your idiosyncrasies.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** I command you to love Jesus and Buddha! If you don't, you will burn in hell! APRIL FOOL! I was just kidding. I was being sensationalistic to grab your attention. Here's my real, true oracle for you: Love everybody, including Jesus and Buddha. And I mean love them all twice as strong and wild and tender. The cosmic powers ask it of you! The health of your immortal soul depends on it! Yes, Sagittarius, for your own selfish sake, you need to pour out more adoration and care and compassion than you ever have before. I'm not exaggerating! Be a lavish fountain of love!

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** If you gave me permission, I would cast a spell to arouse in you a case of ergophobia, or an aversion to work. I think you need to take a sweet sabbatical from doing business as usual. APRIL FOOL! I was just joking about casting a spell on you. But I do wish you would indulge in a lazy, do-nothing retreat. If you want your ambitions to thrive later, you will be wise to enjoy a brief period of delightful emptiness and relaxing dormancy. As Buddhist teacher Sylvia Boorstein recommends, "Don't just do something! Sit there!"

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** In accordance with current astrological omens, I suggest you get the book "Brain Surgery for Beginners," by Steve Parker and David West. You now have the power to learn and even master complex new skills, and this would be an excellent place to start. APRIL FOOL! I was half-kidding. I don't really think you should take a scalpel to the gray matter of your friends and family members — or yourself, for that matter. But I am quite certain that you currently have an enhanced power to learn and even master new skills. It's time to raise your educational ambitions to a higher octave. Find out what lessons and training you need most, then make plans to get them.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** In the religious beliefs of Louisiana Voodoo, one God presides over the universe but never meddles in the details of life. There are also many spirits who are always intervening and tinkering, intimately involved in the daily rhythm. They might do nice things for people or play tricks on them — and everything in between. In alignment with current astrological omens, I urge you to convert to the Louisiana Voodoo religion and try ingenious strategies to get the spirits to do your bidding. APRIL FOOL! I don't really think you should convert. However, I believe it would be fun and righteous for you to proceed as if spirits are everywhere — and assume that you have the power to harness them to work on your behalf.

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



# OUT on the TOWN

## Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

### Wednesday, March 27

**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](http://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](http://unitylansing.org).

**"A Windfall of Linocuts" Art Show** - 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. Framer's Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net).

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

**Balloon Animal Workshop with Mr. Greg** - Learn types of balloons to use, where to get them and how to inflate, twist and bend them to make fun creations. 11 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

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

**Celtic Woman** - This group will delight audiences with its blend of traditional and contemporary Irish music. 7 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. [whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.com).

**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](http://charlottelibrary.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](http://meridian50plus.com).

**Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp Orientation** - Ten-week program. Ages 12-17. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. [lansingrollerderby.com](http://lansingrollerderby.com).

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

**The Land Down Under** - Experience the continent of Australia! Learn about how marsupials are different from other mammals and explore the delicate ecosystem of the Great Barrier Reef. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Lansing Women's Art Collective mixed-media art display** - 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](http://cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett).

**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. [lancm.info](http://lancm.info).

**Movie Screening: "Below the Belt"** - March is endometriosis awareness month. Through the lens of endometriosis, a disease that affects 1 in 9 women, "Below the Belt" shows how women

are often dismissed, discounted and disbelieved. 5:30 p.m. Potter Park Zoo Safari Room, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. [northstardouglas.com](http://northstardouglas.com).

**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](http://urbanbeatevents.com).

**Percussion Ensemble** - Presenting a range of contemporary works performed by members of MSU's Percussion Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. [music.msu.edu](http://music.msu.edu).

**Spring Break: LEGO Masters** - Enjoy fun building challenges with LEGO bricks! Does your child have what it takes to be a LEGO master? 9 a.m.-noon. TinkrLAB, 2650 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-500-8687. [tinkrlab.com](http://tinkrlab.com).

**Spring Break: tinkrTABLE** - Kids will create their own inventions to take home and participate in various fun challenges. 1-4 p.m. TinkrLAB, 2650 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-500-8687. [tinkrlab.com](http://tinkrlab.com).

**Spring Break Scavenger Hunt at R.E. Olds Transportation Museum** - We'll have an easy version and one for hardcore hunters! Once complete, hand in your card for a treat. Regular admission prices apply. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. [reoldsmuseum.org](http://reoldsmuseum.org).

**Weaving the Web: Correspondences** - 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](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

### Thursday, March 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](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**"A Course in Miracles," facilitated by Lisa Schmidt** - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. [unitylansing.org](http://unitylansing.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](http://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](http://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. 5 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**Foster Parent/Adoption Information Session (Virtual Orientation)** - 5 p.m. To register, call Christina Redmond at 517-775-2693 or email [redmondc2@michigan.gov](mailto:redmondc2@michigan.gov).

**Foundations in Faith Christian Church Thursday Night Prophetic Prayer Gathering** - 6 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing.

### Bunny Hop on the Square Saturday, March 30 Noon-2 p.m. South Washington Square, downtown Lansing

In celebration of Easter on Sunday (March 31), Downtown Lansing Inc. will host its annual Bunny Hop on the Square noon to 2 p.m. Saturday (March 30), inviting Greater Lansing residents to collect free candy and treats from downtown businesses along South Washington Square. Many of the businesses will offer deals and promotions during the event.

"We are thrilled to once again bring the community together for Bunny Hop on the Square," said Cathleen Ederly, executive director of Downtown Lansing Inc. "It's a fantastic event that offers a great afternoon for families to enjoy the festive spirit of the season while exploring all downtown Lansing has to offer."

Prior to the Bunny Hop, JCI Lansing will host its 60th annual Easter Egg Hunt on the Capitol Lawn, featuring photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny and other mascots, live music by community street band Splendid Chaos, balloon twisting, face painting, crafts, games, raffles and more. The free event runs 10 to 11:30 a.m., with egg scrambles for ages 3 and under at 10:30, ages 4 to 6 at 10:45 and ages 7 and up at 11.

Following the Bunny Hop, the Capital City Market's One-Hop Shop, running 1 to 4 p.m., will offer free samples from several Michigan-based vendors and treats for kids 12 and under at each sample station.

For more information about each event, visit [downtownlansing.org/events](http://downtownlansing.org/events).



517-292-4093. [foundationsinfaith.church](http://foundationsinfaith.church).

**Glow-in-the-Dark Egg Hunt** - Venture into the darkened Children's Department to find three eggs per child, then trade the eggs in for an Easter treat. Ages 2-10. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

**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. [ladiessilverblades.org](http://ladiessilverblades.org).

**Lansing Women's Art Collective mixed-media art display** - 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](http://cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett).

**LSO at The Robin Theatre** - Join musicians of the Lansing Symphony for a unique, intimate concert of contemporary chamber music. 7:30 p.m. 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. [lansingsymphony.org](http://lansingsymphony.org).

**Maudy Thursday Service** - Join us in the sanctuary or online for worship. We gather around the table to be fed by the bread of life and the cup of salvation. 7 p.m. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. 517-349-9536. [okemospres.org](http://okemospres.org).

**Medieval Europe** - Journey on a quest to discover the science behind medieval technologies. Launch a trebuchet, design protective armor

and try your hand at alchemy! 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Spring Break: Sugar Rush** - Kids will learn how to make candy, decorate sweet treats and experiment with sugar. 9 a.m.-noon. TinkrLAB, 2650 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-500-8687. [tinkrlab.com](http://tinkrlab.com).

**Spring Break: Trash Fashion** - Kids will practice fashion sketches and create garments out of recycled materials. Camp will end with a fashion show, which parents are welcome to attend. 1-4 p.m. TinkrLAB, 2650 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-500-8687. [tinkrlab.com](http://tinkrlab.com).

**Spring Break Movie Day at the Sun Theatre** - Admission is free, soda and popcorn are \$1 each, and we'll be playing "The Super Mario Bros. Movie!" 2 p.m. 316 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. [grandledgesun.com](http://grandledgesun.com).

**Spring Break Scavenger Hunt at R.E. Olds Transportation Museum** - We'll have an easy version and one for hardcore hunters! Once complete, hand in your card for a treat. Regular admission prices apply. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. [reoldsmuseum.org](http://reoldsmuseum.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](http://facebook.com/HaslettTops).

See Events, Page 25



# Events

from page 24

**Walter Blanding Presents: The Music of Art Blakey, with special guest and master drummer Randy Gelispie** - Join us as we explore the exciting music of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers. 7:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeat-events.com.

**Young Hyun Cho Performs Beethoven, part 3** - Presenting Beethoven's Piano Sonatas No. 8 through 11. 7:30 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

## Friday, March 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.

**Amazonian Science** - Learn about the diverse species of plants and animals that live near the equator and find out how people have adapted to living high up in the Andes Mountains. 9 am.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. impression5.org.

**B3 at Harrison Roadhouse** - 6 p.m. 720 E. Michigan Ave., East Lansing. 517-337-0200. harrisonroadhouse.com.

**Ben Awrey at Mash Bar** - 7 p.m. 212 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-858-2100. mashbar.net.

**Broad Underground Film Series: Lorelei d'Andriole** - The "Midwestern VERY BAD ART SHOW" is an expanded

video performance by Lorelei d'Andriole, MSU assistant professor of electronic art & intermedia, and Lex Leto, musician and digital media artist. Performance will be followed by a Q&A. 7 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**Dan Dan Laird at the Peanut Barrel** - 8 p.m. 521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0608. peanutbarrel.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.

**Harp performance: Chansons de Paris** - 5:30 p.m. FRIB Laboratory Room 1300, 640 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-908-7573. frib.msu.edu.

**International Chamber Soloists, led by Dmitri Berlinsky** - Violinist Dmitri Berlinsky and the International Chamber Soloists perform a variety of works written for chamber strings. 8 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

**Jazz Orchestras with Bobby Floyd, keyboardist** - 8 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

**JP & the Energy at Mash Bar** - 10 p.m. 212 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-858-2100. mashbar.net.

**Knights of Columbus 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.

**Lansing Shuffle Live Presents: Lipstick Jodi w/ Ganja Girl** - Lipstick Jodi is a two-piece alternative-pop band composed of multi-instrumentalists K Morehouse and Andy Fettig. 9:30 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

**Live Music with Dylan Raymond** - Known for his baritone voice and high-energy performances, Dylan Raymond brings his own sound to country music. 7 p.m. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. 517-371-2600. lansingbrewingcompany.com.

See Events, Page 26

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN 2022 ORDER TO MAINTAIN SIDEWALK SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT #20

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO THE RECORD OWNERS OF, OR PARTIES IN INTEREST IN, THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY CONSTITUTING THE PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT:

**Briarwood:** Lot 7, 8 & 9 exc W 79'; 16, 21, 26, 41, 46 entire lot 47 exc N 74'. **Briarwood #3:** Lot 69, 72, 74, 76, 78, 88, 92, 95, 106, 108 exc beg at NW cor of Lot 108, S 82 deg 07'38" E 117.49' along N'yly ln of Lot 108 NE cor th due S 5.79' along E ln th N 79 deg 21'05" W 118.42' to POB also exc 30 ft. **Briarwood #4:** Lot 130, 131, 132, 142, 143, 159, 163, 167. **Briarwood #5:** Lot 194, 195, 196, 199, 212, 214, 228, 257; 268, 269, 270, 278 & S'yly 10' of Lot 277; 284, 290, 291, 293, Nature Park. **Briarwood #6:** Lot 294, 308, 309, 311, 318, 330, 334, 335, 343. **Briarwood #9:** Lot 372. **Briarwood #11:** Lot 397, 409, 418 exc beg @ the S'yly cor sd lot-NW'yly along the SW'yly lot ln 150 ft to the w'yly cor Lot 418-SE'yly to a pt on SE'yly lot ln 6.72' NE'yly of sd S'yly lot cor-SW'yly on SE'yly lot ln 6.72 ft to the POB. **Chippewa Woods #2:** Lot 53. **Ember Oaks:** Lot 9, 16. **Heritage Hills:** Lot 1, 7, 13 exc the W 11' thereof; 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 27, 28, 33, 41, 45, 51, 52. **Heritage Hills #2:** Lot 64, 67. **Heritage Hills #3:** Lot 75 & S'10' of Lot 76, also beg at SW cor sd Lot 75-W 10' along ext of S ln of sd Lot 75-N 95' pll with W ln of Lots 75 & 76-E 10' to W ln of sd Lot 76-S 95' to POB; 83, 94, 95, 105, 110, 118. **Heritage Hills #4:** Lot 133, 135, 149, 150, 195, 200, 212, 214, 218 exc S 2'; 229. **Hidden Valley:** Lot 5, 6, 11 exc 2 ft. **Hidden Valley #2:** Lot 34. **Hidden Valley #3:** Lot 36. **Hidden Valley #4:** Lot 60. **Hillbrook Park:** Lot 6, 9, 12, 16, 18, 21, 25, 28, 29, 41, 45, 48, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 58, 61, 67, 72, 78, 79, 84. **Hillbrook Park #1:** Lot 86. **Hillbrook Park #2:** Lot 95, 99, 101, 112, 122, 123, 124, 125, 128. **Kinawa View:** Lot 7, 9, 11, 16. **Kinawa View #2:** Lot 49, 63, 74, 75, 76, 83, 89. **Kinawa View #4:** Lot 124. **Okemos Square:** Lot 1 also a part of Lot 2 said sub desc as beg @ the NW cor Lot 2-N89 deg 41'31"E 134.16 ft on N lot ln - S 11 deg 26' 49" W 9.57 N86 deg 15' 21"W 132.57 ft to POB; 25 26, 28, 29, 47, 53, 63. **Sanctuary:** Lot 46. **Wood Valley:** Lot 46, which are located in Sections 8, 10, 11, 12, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34 and 35, of Meridian Township.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a special assessment roll for the 2022 Order to Maintain Sidewalk Special Assessment District #20 (maintain by removal and replacement of sidewalk in various locations in the Township) has been prepared and is on file in the Office of the Township Clerk for public examination.

Said special assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the cost of the above described public improvements to the property benefited therefrom. All questions and/or concerns should be directed to Meridian Township Department of Public Works & Engineering at (517) 853-4440.

**TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Township Board will meet on **Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198, for the purpose of reviewing said special assessment roll and hearing objections thereto.

An owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter with the Township Clerk before the close of this hearing, and his or her personal appearance is not required. The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll.

Deborah Guthrie, Township Clerk  
Charter Township of Meridian

CP#24-453

**Club Tabu** is an 18 & up adult alternative lounge in Lansing, Michigan.

We are located within **Fantasies Unlimited!**

We are **LGBTQ + friendly.**  
**Couples welcome!**

3208 S. MLK Blvd.  
Sunday - Thursday \ 11 A.M. - Midnight  
Friday - Saturday \ 11 A.M. - 2 A.M.

(517) 393.1159

clubtabu.info



## Events

from page 25

**Minecraft Club** - Join other kids and play Minecraft on the library's private server! Laptops provided. Grades 3 and up. Registration req. 2:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

**"Playing for Real"** - An acting troupe is desperate to impress a visiting producer, but their preparations get out of hand. 8 p.m. Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. our.show/playingforreal.

**"Refuge Recovery," A Buddhist Path to Recovering from Addiction** - Peer-led group meeting with a 20-minute meditation and a reading from the book "Refuge Recovery." 6:30 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

**Pouch-Sewing Clinic for Helping Women Period** - We'll provide some fabric and sewing machines, but bring materials along if you have them. All skill levels welcome. 6 p.m. Lansing Makers Network, 2730 Alpha Access St., Lansing. 517-234-4566. lansingmakersnetwork.org.

**Spring Break: Be an Inventor** - An afternoon of innovation! Kids will learn about different types of inventions, what it takes to be an inventor and how to turn ideas into physical inventions. 1-4 p.m. TinkrLAB, 2650 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-500-8687. tinkrclub.com.

**Spring Break: Edible Science** - Kids will participate in a variety of science projects and get to taste-test each one! 9 a.m.-noon. TinkrLAB, 2650 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-500-8687. tinkrclub.com.

**Spring Break Scavenger Hunt at R.E. Olds Transportation Museum** - We'll have an easy version and one for hardcore hunters! Once complete, hand in your card for a treat. Regular admission prices apply. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

**VFW Post 671 Fish Fry** - Fried pollock, fries, coleslaw and a dinner roll. All-you-can-eat \$15, children under 5 free. 4-7 p.m. 12250 Old US 27, DeWitt. 517-669-9251. vfw671.org.

## Saturday, March 30

**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.

**Ax and the Hatchmen, Pretty Jane & the Magazines, Pretoria** - 7:30 p.m. Grewal Hall at 224, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. grewalhall.com.

**Bunny Hop on the Square** - Free event inviting Greater Lansing residents to collect eggs and other goodies from downtown businesses. Noon-2 p.m. South Washington Square, downtown Lansing. downtownlansing.org.

**Easter Egg Hunt** - Egg hunt starts promptly at 1 p.m. Pony rides, petting zoo, visits with the Easter Bunny and face painting run 1-3 p.m. Valhalla Park, 2287 Pine Tree Road, Holt. delhitownshipmi.gov.

**Easter FamilyFest** - Registration starts at 3 p.m., egg hunts start at 4 p.m., and free food will be ready at 5 p.m. There will also be face painting, kids' crafts and a bounce house. 3-6 p.m. Lansing Area Church of Christ, 1000 Lincoln Ave., Lansing. 517-449-9787. lansingchurch.org.

**Emerge! Art Show** - A celebration of spring. Diverse assortment of mediums, genres and styles. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. The Artisan Alcove, 100 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. 517-485-6277.

**Heathen's Ball with DJ Whitney Who** - Whitney Who curates diabolical dance tunes to get you in touch with your inner demon. Fancy/fun dress encouraged but not required! 18+. 9 p.m.-midnight. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

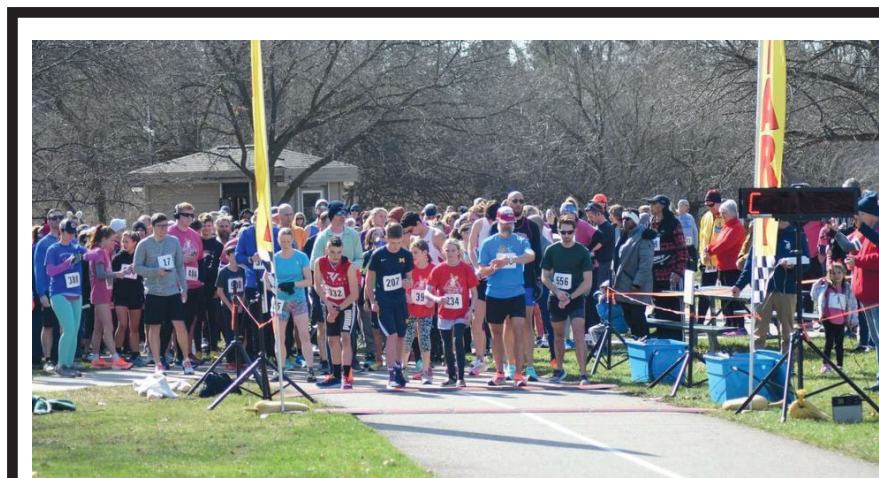
**Hippity Hop 5K and Easter Egg Hunt** - 5K run/walk, Easter egg hunt, children's activities and visits with the Easter Bunny. Registered participants receive free entry into zoo. 10:30 a.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. runsignup.com/Race/Events/MI/Lansing/HippityHop5K.

**JCI Lansing Easter Egg Hunt** - Hunt for Easter eggs on the Capitol lawn, plus enjoy photos with the Easter Bunny, raffles, face painting, balloon twisting, games and live music. 10-11:30 a.m. 100 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. jcilansing.org.

**Lions Easter Egg Hunt** - Pictures with the Easter Bunny start at 9 a.m., egg hunt starts at 10 a.m. Meet at the pavilion area at the south entrance to the park. McClintock Park, 299 McClintock St., Laingsburg. laingsburglions.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.

**"Playing for Real"** - An acting troupe is des-



## Hippity Hop 5K

Saturday, March 30

10:30 a.m.

Potter Park Zoo

1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing

The annual Hippity Hop 5K returns Saturday (March 30), kicking off near Potter Park Zoo's entrance and taking participants around the Lansing River Trail. Attendees can start any time between 11 and 11:15 a.m. There will also be a virtual option for those who can't make it in person. Participants will receive a finisher's medal, and the winners of each age division will receive a special award.

In addition to the 5K, children can enjoy an Easter egg hunt at 10:30 a.m., photos with the Easter Bunny and activities provided by the Capital Area District Libraries and Home Depot's Okemos location. Registered participants will also receive free same-day entry to the zoo.

Registration for the 5K is \$30 for adults and \$25 for children 12 and under, but those who register with three or more people will receive a \$3 discount per person. Registration for the egg hunt only is \$20. All proceeds will support the Child Benefit Fund, which assists at-risk families in Ingham County. Register by midnight Friday (March 29) at [runsignup.com/Race/MI/Lansing/HippityHop5K](https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Lansing/HippityHop5K).

perate to impress a visiting producer, but their preparations get out of hand. 8 p.m. Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. our.show/playingforreal.

**Spring Break Scavenger Hunt at R.E. Olds Transportation Museum** - We'll have an easy version and one for hardcore hunters! Once complete, hand in your card for a treat. Regular admission prices apply. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

## Sunday, March 31

**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.

**Easter Sunday Service** - Celebrate the empty tomb with special music from a brass quintet and the "Hallelujah" chorus. Service will be followed by an Easter brunch. 10 a.m. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. 517-349-9536. okemospres.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.

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

**Unity's 4th Annual Easter Egg Decorating, with CJ and DeShaun** - Learn some egg decorating skills from the artists. All you need to bring is your imagination. 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

## Monday, April 1

**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.

**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.

**Make Glittery Bouncy Balls** - Hear a story, learn the science behind chemical reactions and make a glittery bouncy ball to take home! 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

**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.

**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.

See Events, Page 27

New vision.  
New vibe.  
New website.



DOWNTOWNLANSING.ORG





## Events

from page 26

**Solarize Meridian** - Learn about solar electric systems, with the option of purchasing solar panels as a group to earn a discounted rate. 6 p.m. Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. [tinyurl.com/solarize-register](http://tinyurl.com/solarize-register).

### Tuesday, April 2

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

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

**Beginners' Clay — Eight-Week Class** - Get creative using pinching, texturing, rolling, modeling, sculpting and your imagination as you hand-build with ceramic clay. Ages 6-10. 4:30 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. [reachstudioart.org](http://reachstudioart.org).

**Fundamentals of Painting — Eight-Week Class** - Explore color harmonies and a variety of painting methods using watercolor, tempera and acrylic. Ages 10-13. 4:30 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. [reachstudioart.org](http://reachstudioart.org).

**Glass Etching Program** - Join us in the Spartan Room to try some glass etching! Available for adults. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. [charlottelibrary.org](http://charlottelibrary.org).

**Viridis and Campus Choir** - A wide-ranging program of historical and contemporary music from the soprano and alto repertory and music that echoes issues of our time. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. [music.msu.edu](http://music.msu.edu).

**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](http://ruhalacenter.com).

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

**"Moulin Rouge! The Musical"** - Baz Luhrmann's revolutionary film comes to life on stage, remixed in a new musical mashup extravaganza. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. [whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.com).

**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](http://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](http://charlottelibrary.org).

**The Savvy Caregiver Program** - Six-week workshop for caregivers of someone with dementia. 1:30 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. To register, call Tri-County Office on Aging at 517-887-1465 or email [histedc@coa.org](mailto:histedc@coa.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](http://gladl.org).

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

### Wednesday, April 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](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**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](http://ruhalacenter.com).

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

**An Evening with Holocaust Survivor Irene Miller** - Miller, an author, speaker and educator, will share a firsthand account of her family's attempt to escape Poland during the Holocaust. Registration req. 7 p.m. DeWitt City Hall Community Room, 414 E. Main Street, DeWitt. 517-669-3156. [dewitt.librarycalendar.com](http://dewitt.librarycalendar.com).

**Book Gardens** - Turn upcycled books into a garden scene! Grades 4-12. Registration req. 4 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. [eradl.org](http://eradl.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](http://meridian50plus.com).

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

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

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

**Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp** - Ten-week program. Ages 12-17. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. [lansingrollerderby.com](http://lansingrollerderby.com).

**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](http://lamc.info).

**"Moulin Rouge! The Musical"** - Baz Luhrmann's revolutionary film comes to life on stage, remixed in a new musical mashup extravaganza. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. [whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.com).

**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](http://urbanbeatevents.com).

**Solar Eclipse STEAM Science Night** - Create eclipse crafts, try different eclipse-viewing activities, learn more about the total solar eclipse coming April 8 and pick up a pair of FREE eclipse glasses. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

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

**Walk-in Wednesday: Paper Making** - Come get creative and make a work of art, then take it home! Free, all ages welcome. 4:30-6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. [reachstudioart.org](http://reachstudioart.org).

**Weaving the Web: Earth** - 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](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

## Celtic Woman

Wednesday, March 27  
7 p.m.

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

Celtic Woman, an all-female Irish music ensemble formed in 2004, will perform at the Wharton Center 7 p.m. Wednesday (March 27) as part of its 20th anniversary tour. While the Grammy-nominated quartet's composition has changed over the years, one former member is reprising her role for this tour: soprano Mairéad Carlin. Joining her are fellow soprano Muirgen O'Mahony, Irish harpist and fiddler Tara McNeill and the newest member of the group, vocalist and dancer Emma Warren.

Drawing from a robust setlist of originals as well as a blend of traditional and contemporary Irish favorites, the group will perform alongside a supporting cast of Irish dancers and bagpipers, plus a full band playing traditional Celtic instruments such as the bodhrán, tin whistle, bouzouki and uilleann pipes.

Tickets start at \$54.50 and can be purchased at the Wharton Center Ticket Office, at [whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.com) or by calling (517) 432-2000.



### Thursday, April 4

**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](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

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

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

**Artist Talk: Kayla Mattes** - Mattes discusses the intersection of analog and digital in her handmade weavings that unravel our digital addiction, prompting us to reconsider the impact of technology on our lives. 6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle

Drive, East Lansing. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

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

### City of Lansing NOTICE OF CLOSEOUT PUBLIC HEARING FOR MICHIGAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG-CV) FUNDING FOR THE SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT GRANT

The City of Lansing will conduct a closeout public hearing on Monday, April 15, 2024 at 7:00 pm at City Hall Council Chambers, located at 124 W. Michigan Avenue for the purpose of affording citizens an opportunity to submit comments and receive a final report on the completion of the Small Business Support CDBG-CV grant.

The CDBG grant provided grants in amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000 which supported eighteen small businesses located within the Principal Shopping District A central business district that were greatly impacted by the COVID\_19 Pandemic. The CDBG-CV project benefitted at least 51% low to moderate income persons; No persons were displaced as a result of the project.

Further information regarding this issue, Barb Kimmel, Development Manager, Economic Development and Planning, 316 N. Capitol Avenue, Suite D-1, Lansing, MI 48933, (517) 483-4053 or [barb.kimmel@lansingmi.gov](mailto:barb.kimmel@lansingmi.gov)

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

If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., April 10, 2017, at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov).

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

CP#24-447



# ACCELERATING MID-MICHIGAN BUSINESS SINCE 1992



Phone • Internet • Fiber



517.999.9999



sales@acd.net



1800 N Grand River Ave Lansing, MI



# FOOD & DRINK DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

## Pizza perfection in Old Town

BY NICOLE NOECHEL

There is an abundance of pizza options in the Lansing area, but there are just a handful of restaurants making wood-fired pizza, which is one of the best styles, in my opinion. The crisp, thin crust, though a textural delight, takes the backseat flavor-wise and really lets the toppings shine.

One restaurant doing wood-fired pizza right is The Cosmos, which I first visited after Lansing Pride last year. All the food vendors had closed, and the restaurants in the heart of Old Town were packed, but I drove a couple of blocks down Cesar E. Chavez Avenue and noticed that The Cosmos' parking lot was relatively empty. After seeing the restaurant pop up pretty frequently in the 2022 Top of the Town awards, I knew it was probably a safe bet.

We sat in Zoobie's,

which has an incredibly charming and eclectic vibe. The string lights on the ceiling, the funky wallpaper behind the bar and the wall-to-wall gallery of framed photos give it sort of a divey atmosphere, which is then elevated by the unique and elegant lighting fixtures that spotlight the bar and tables in the otherwise dim room.

The staff was authentically friendly, the service was speedy, and the food was excellent. As somewhat of a connoisseur of meat-lovers pizzas, I chose the Meat Lovers Classico and was elated with the quality and variety of the meats, some of which I had to search on Google. It was a step above any other meat pizzas I've tried in the area, and I've tried quite a few.

I made a return visit last week, finally ordering the raved-about duck-fat fries. Let me tell you, if you haven't been told dozens of times already: These

fries deserve every ounce of praise they receive. When I was looking at my notes to write this review, I realized I had written the word "perfect" three times. They're amazingly crispy — potentially the crispiest fries I've ever eaten — but they're so thick that the insides can retain that tender and lightweight texture. They're served hot but not so hot that they burn your mouth, with a sprinkling of sea salt to draw out the subtle flavor of the duck fat. I've tried precious few fries as good as this in my quarter of a century on this Earth, and I ate about half of the portion, meant to be shared among a table, before my pizza arrived.

The Sweet BBQ Pork pizza is loaded with mozzarella, smoked cheddar, pork, bacon, pickled onions, fried onions, roasted red peppers and finished with a drizzle of sweet barbecue sauce. It's a flavor explosion, akin to what I imagine a sandwich made by Scooby Doo or Shaggy would be like. The pork, bacon, cheddar and barbecue sauce impart levels of smokiness, and the bacon and fried onions give every bite a satisfying crunch. It's satisfyingly



Nicole Noechel/City Pulse

The myriad textures and flavors of The Cosmos' Sweet BBQ Pork pizza will lift you up into the atmosphere.

salty, with notes of sweetness from the barbecue sauce, acidity from the pickled onions and gooey richness from the cheese. My one note is that the red peppers don't really add anything to the pie, but they don't take away from it, either, with its loud and proud medley of ingredients.

When all was said and done, I had half a portion of fries and half a pizza left over. Two hefty, high-quality and handmade meals aren't a bad deal for \$24, plus tip. If you're a fan of wood-fired pizza, both the Top of the Town voters and I would contend that The Cosmos is a must-try.



**Sweet BBQ Pork pizza**  
\$17

**Duck-fat fries**  
\$7

**The Cosmos**  
1200 N. Larch St., Lansing  
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday  
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday  
Noon-11 p.m. Saturday  
Noon-10 p.m. Sunday  
(517) 897-3563  
thecosmoslansing.com



### TOP 5 DONUTS

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

#### 1. Country Mill Farms, Bakery, Orchard & Cider Mill

Cider mill, orchard, winery and farm market selling multiple flavors of cider donuts  
4648 Otto Road, Charlotte  
517-543-1019  
countrymillfarms.com  
Seasonal hours in summer and fall, plus special events

#### 2. Groovy Donuts

Handcrafted donuts and locally roasted coffee  
3054 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing

517-580-7302

groovydonuts.com

7 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday-Sunday

#### 3. Phillips Cider Bar and Market

Craft-made hard cider, plus donuts and more

3000 Vine St., Lansing

517-580-7851

phillipscidern.com

Noon-8 p.m. Monday

Noon-10 p.m. Tuesday-Friday

10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday

10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday

#### 4. Quality Dairy Store — all locations

Convenience stores with fresh donuts daily  
See qualitydairy.com for locations, hours and phone numbers

#### 5. Strange Matter Coffee

Coffee and espresso bar with house-made vegan treats  
2010 E. Michigan Ave., Suite 103, Lansing  
517-224-5495  
strangemattercoffee.com

7 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday

7 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

**Thank You For Voting Us The Best!**

voted #1 Top of the Town 2023

CityPULSE FOX47 NEWS

**Best BBQ**  
**Best BBQ Sauce**  
**Best Nachos**  
**Best Wings**  
**Best Catering Service**  
**Best Curbside Pickup**  
**Best Chef: Sean Johnson**

**Meat**  
SOUTHERN B.B.Q. & CARNIVORE CUISINE

**El Oasis**  
Antojitos Mexicanos  
(517) 648-7693  
Lansing - Haslett - South Side  
**WE CATER ALL EVENTS!**

voted #1 Top of the Town 2023

CityPULSE FOX47 NEWS

**Best Food Truck**  
**Family Owned & Operated**  
**eloasisfood.com**



# An egg in a nest for any time of day

By ARI LEVAUX

Most of us have had the standard breakfast version of egg in a nest, where a piece of bread represents the nest. This can be a great meal, but as any robin will attest, many different materials can make up a nest. As long as there's an egg, the nature of the nest is negotiable. An egg nest made of ramen noodles not only does the job but looks the part, and it can be enjoyed any time of day.

Sure, you've added egg to ramen before. But there are levels to this game. Getting the egg right is the hardest part of cooking ramen, and it's hard to monitor progress if you just drop it in because it hides under the noodles at the bottom of the pot.

I like to cook the egg until the white is solid and the yolk is runny but not broken. If you want to cook it to the consistency of rubber or stir it in because you broke the

yolk, that's your business. But if you want picture-perfect and satisfying egg-nest ramen, read on.

As far as I know, I'm the only one who poaches an egg on low heat atop a brick of ramen. The egg steams above the broth until it and the noodles cook enough to sink. Even then, the egg gets enough support from the noodles below to remain at broth level so you can monitor progress.

I make it sound easy, but the crux of this operation is keeping that frisky raw egg on top of the raft of noodles. It desperately wants to slide off and take a swim, but that will cause it to overcook, and it will break if you try to fish it out.

As with any dish, the road to success begins with high-quality ingredients. With egg-in-a-nest ramen, this means choosing the correct package of highly processed noodles and flavorings. With a dizzying array of options online and at Asian supermarkets, it can be tough to know which to choose.



Photo by Rosmarie Voegtl

When making an egg in a nest, as long as there's an egg, the nature of the nest is negotiable. A nest made of ramen noodles not only does the job but looks the part.

My favorite is the Nongshim brand from South Korea. (Another viable option is the venerable Japanese brand Sapporo Ichiban.)

Whatever package you choose,

follow its printed directions while incorporating the tricks below. In short order, you'll have a nest of woven noodles cradling a round, runny yolk.

## The road to ramen righteousness

In addition to the package of ramen, the only other ingredients you'll need are the egg and perhaps some chopped herbs like parsley, cilantro or basil.

Pre-crack your egg into a little bowl. This allows you to add the egg one-handed and eliminates the possibility of a broken yolk.

Add the noodles to a pot of boiling water and turn the heat down to low. Then, with a flick of the wrist, invert the bowl so the egg slides into the middle of the noodles. As the egg lands, use the spatula to control the noodles, raising them in front of wherever the egg tries to run, pinning them against the side of the pot if necessary and generally going to heroics to keep the

egg on top. After a moment, the noodles will sink, and the egg will solidify around the softening ramen and stop trying to escape.

As the egg approaches your preferred state of doneness, add the chopped herbs, if using, and turn off the heat. Cover the pot for a few minutes to steam the top of the egg, being careful not to overcook. When the egg is

perfect, gently pour the broth into a cup. This allows the noodles and egg to stop cooking while keeping the broth available for sipping.

Slide the noodles onto a plate with the quivering egg perched on top. Poke the yolk so the rich yellow cream anoints the noodles. That's what I do, at least. What you do with your egg in your nest is your business.

## Lamb takes center stage at Easter dinner

From METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

The consumption of lamb on Easter can be traced back to the first Passover Seder. However, Christians have also adopted lamb meals for their holy day, likely as a representation and remembrance of Jesus Christ's sacrifice and death on the cross. Jesus is often called the "Lamb of God." Sacrificial lambs were first referenced in the Old Testament, and Christ exemplified the ultimate sacrificial lamb when he

gave up his life for his people's sins.

Though lamb roasts are a common Easter dinner entrée, this year's hosts and hostesses may want to offer something slightly different. This recipe for American Lamb Chops with Rosemary and Pan-Roasted Lemony Asparagus, courtesy of Blue Bowl Recipes and the American Lamb Board, puts spring flavors on display for this special gathering.

See lamb dinner, Page 31

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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

### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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



# Lamb dinner

from page 30

## American Lamb Chops with Rosemary and Pan-Roasted Lemony Asparagus

*Serves eight*

### For the lemon-roasted asparagus:

- 2 pounds fresh asparagus
- 4 large cloves garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Generous sprinkle of black pepper
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 large lemons

### For the lamb chops:

- 8 medium-sized American lamb loin chops
- 6 large cloves garlic
- 6 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large lemon, juiced and zested
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Generous pinch of black pepper
- 1 1/2 tablespoons fresh rosemary, finely minced
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 2 tablespoons salted butter

### Preparation:

Mix all the lamb ingredients together in a large container. Add the lamb chops and rub with the marinade. Secure the lid and marinate in the fridge for at least one hour or up to overnight. Let the lamb sit at room temperature for five minutes before cooking.

### Roast the asparagus:

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Rinse, dry and trim the ends of the asparagus. Slice one of the lemons into thin slices. Toss the asparagus with all the asparagus ingredients and a squeeze of juice from the second lemon. Divide between two parchment-paper-lined baking sheets. Roast for eight to 13 minutes, depending on how tender you want the asparagus to be.

### Cook the lamb chops:

While the asparagus roasts, cook your lamb. Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add four of the lamb

chops at a time and cook for four to six minutes, until there's a dark crust on the bottom. Flip and repeat, using a meat thermometer to check for doneness. We're looking for 145 degrees for medium-rare chops, 160 for medium and 170 for well-done. Make sure to stick the meat thermometer halfway through the thickest part of the meat — don't let it touch any bones or the pan.

Once the lamb chops are done, set them aside on a clean plate and cover with foil for three minutes to keep warm.

Serve the lemony asparagus and lamb together over rice or couscous, if desired.



Metro Creative Connection

This dish of lamb chops with rosemary and lemon-roasted asparagus puts spring flavors on display for Easter gatherings.

# 40% OFF

## RETAIL

### ON ALL EARTH-FRIENDLY HOME ESSENTIALS

Includes all Laundry, Cleansers & Paper Products

## APRIL 9th-11th

Earth-Friendly Home Essentials Made With Plant-Based Ingredients And Recyclable Materials. Join us in our mission to transform the world into a healthy, sustainable, and equitable place for the future generations.

**BetterHealth**  
MARKET  
BetterHealthMarket.com

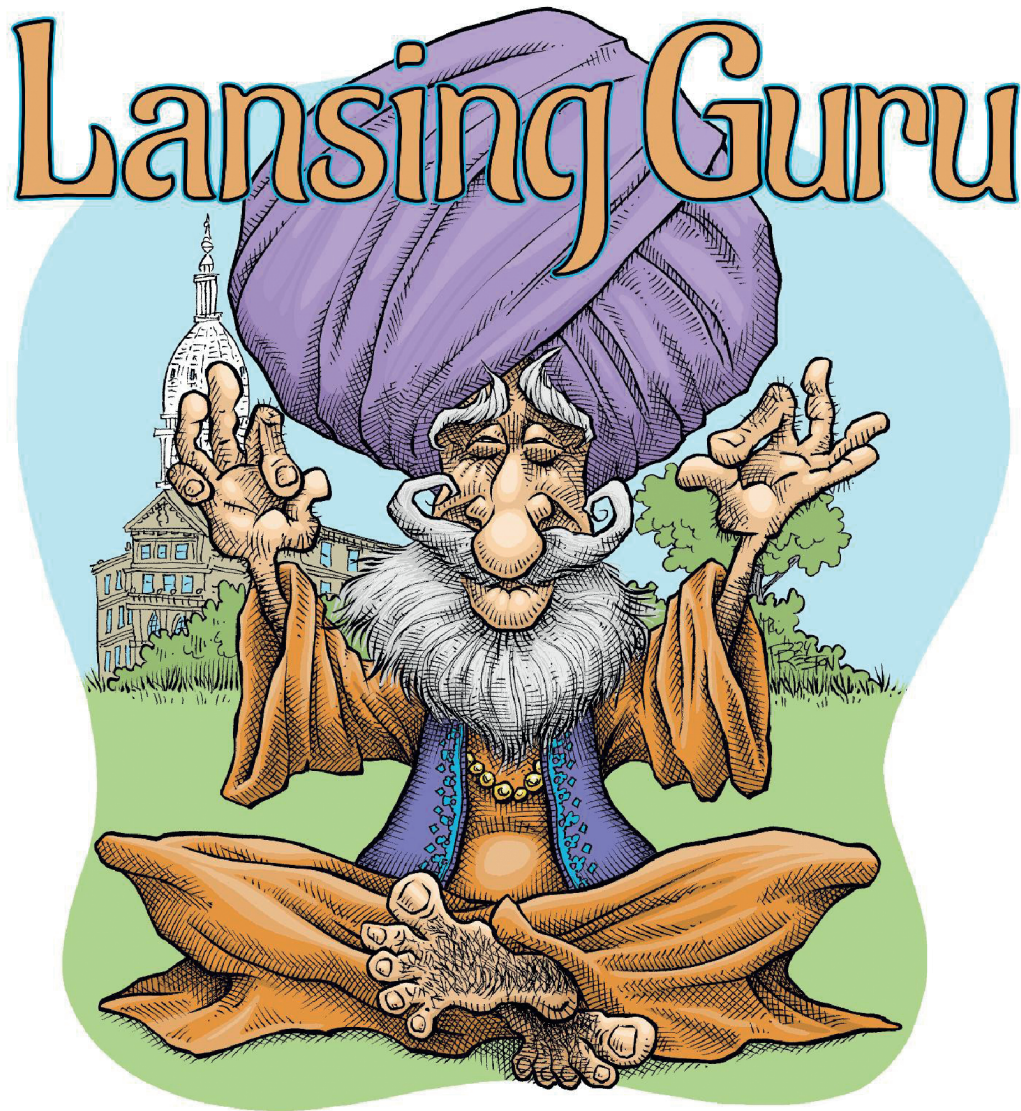
**EAST LANSING**  
(Frndor) Across from Frndor Mall  
305 N Clippert Ave  
517-332-6892  
Hours: Mon-Sat 8am-9pm  
Sun 10am-7pm

**LANSING**  
6235 West Saginaw Hwy  
517-323-9186  
Hours:  
Mon-Sat 9am-8pm  
Sun 11am-6pm



# Looking for Lansing's Best from Burger to Plumber to Record Store to Local Author? **Lansing Guru has it for you!**

Check the Guru at [LansingGuru.com](http://LansingGuru.com) for the Top Five Winners of the annual Top of the Town contest sponsored by City Pulse and Fox 47 News in nine categories:



**Bar**  
**Cannabis**  
**Dining**  
**Hangouts**  
**Local Arts**  
**People**  
**Services**  
**Shopping**  
**Whatever**

**CityPULSE**

Check out [LansingGuru.com](http://LansingGuru.com) Your source for Lansing's Best