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# CityPULSE

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May 17-23, 2017

## YOU WANT A PIECE OF ME?

SOLAR ENERGY FLARES UP IN MID-MICHIGAN, PAGE 11

# ABOOD

LAW FIRM 1956

*For Every Wrong, There Is A Remedy.*

YOUR STORY DOESN'T HAVE TO  
END WITH A SPOUSE'S

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# Feedback

## Time to smell the pot flower

When are we going to collectively wake up as a nation and realize that the benefits of legalizing cannabis far outweigh any negatives associated with the flower.

We need look no further than Colorado and now Washington state as examples where legalization has helped to decrease serious crime while enhancing tax revenue, allowing for things that matter such as healthcare, schools, food and shelter. Study the ramifications in Spain, Amsterdam and now the first country to formally legalize marijuana in 2013, Uruguay.

From a personal standpoint, I can testify to the health benefits from my own experience. In June 2016 my medical doctor said she could not help me any longer and that I was dying from diabetes and kidney damage. Immediately, I went back to using cannabis full time and have since gone from 230 pounds to my ideal weight of 146, my kidneys are functioning properly and my mental state has cleared up to the stage where I've gone from taking 95 pills per week to one per day. Furthermore, my strict cbd (the other active ingredient, the one that does NOT get you high yet manages the pain) regimen has allowed me to dance and sing five nights a week after spending nearly three years flat on my back in bed.

As it says in Verse 12 of The Holy Bible, "And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

—Joe Heuer  
Lansing

## Act like a president, Mr. Trump

2020, the century mark of women's suffrage in the United States will not be proudly presided over by the first elected American woman President. Instead, there will be a smug, aged irrational bigoted male, using a phony voice and a moralizing prepared script. If he, Donald Trump, thinks he is President, why doesn't he act like one?

No matter how Republicans try to white-wash FBI Director James Comey's role in the public release of unfounded, startling information on Hillary Clinton, brief hours before the November 8, 2016 election, I find it undeniable that this act was deliberately timed and relished for its last minute shock values to weaken election results for Hillary Clinton. Cut the drama, Comey! You ain't got it. Grow up. You play, you pay.

Comedy reveals very little political integrity. Though he shows no regret, he must live

with his shameful deed. I hope he has no future political ambitions but, no doubt, having helped tilt the election scale to Trump, Comey would likely join other sycophants imbedded under the carpets of this multi-billionaire's mansions. Comey, and Trump, like too many others on our ballots, seem to have avoided civics lessons. Comey laid down on the job while Trump's family and supporters consistently linked arms with his disruptive Russian benefactors, promoting an international process of injecting fake news, ignoring of funding in other countries pro-Kremlin political campaigns and deadly interference in foreign conflicts. It has even been said that "blabby" Trump revealed (cleared?) the planned bombing attack on a Syrian airfield (in March 2017?) to Russia's intelligence which, in turn, enabled Syria's Assad to be forewarned and able to mostly pre-evacuate it. Ivanka, check your dad's medications. He is the longest nightmare I ever had.

Sadly, even our cowed religious and secular institutions fail to fault the moral laxity of many election operative for allowing destructive moneyed interests to claim elections. The arrogance of much of our populace toward having power by any means takes us to divisive factionalism and regionalism, greatly resulting in self-serving office holders. Election lovers may not like the voting (or lack of) outcome, and see corruption, but few citizens wish to, or actually will risk dedicating vital parts of their own lives or resources to affect change. Fortunately, a greater number of women are gaining confidence and opportunities to claim these public roles.

The least we can do is be involved. Learn, and stay aware of election proposals, candidates and issues. If your rights matter, voting matters. Vote responsibly and regularly. The Electoral College should not be making our choices. Request absentee ballots. They are easiest, and should be available to all legal voters.

—Lola Buckingham  
Okemos

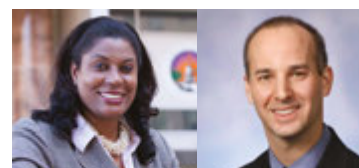
## Some modest proposals

I would like the people of the Great Lakes State through their elected representatives to give strong consideration to the following three ideas: 1) designate at least one interstate highway in Michigan as a toll road; 2) convert the bicameral legislature to a unicameral legislature; and 3) privatize the University of Michigan

# CityPULSE

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Schor/Brown Clarke: And the winner is ...



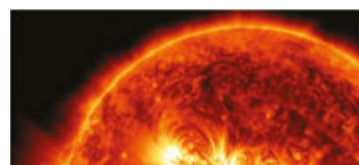
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Lansing Symphony takes a trip to the land of electronica



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David Olds photo exhibit looks back on 1970s Britain



COVER  
ART

PHOTO COURTESY OF NASA

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**NOW AT 10:30 A.M.**

**SATURDAYS ON**

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

**THE MAN-BABY PRESIDENT FEELS UNFAIRLY BESIEGED.**

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! WHY WON'T COMEY SHUT UP ABOUT RUSSIA?

IT IS A RIDDLE, TRUMPPOCHKA! BUT YOU MUST BE PATIENT AND STRATEGIC--

OR I COULD JUST FIRE HIM! LIKE ON MY OLD TV SHOW!

ER--YES, OR THAT.

SIGH.

**HIS ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS AN IDEA.**

I'LL HAVE THAT NEW GUY WRITE A MEMO EXPLAINING THAT COMEY SHOULD BE FIRED--BECAUSE OF HILLARY'S EMAILS!

THAT...SOUNDS LIKE A VERY PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION WHICH EVERYONE WILL DEFINITELY BELIEVE!

SHOULD BE THE END OF THE MATTER RIGHT THERE.

**SOON...**

Dear Director Comey:

Even though you said on three occasions that I am the greatest president of all time, who had a huge inauguration crowd and is absolutely not under investigation for anything, because, ha ha, why would I be, you are still fired.

I can't think of any way this could possibly backfire on me!

*Donald J. Trump*

**THEN IT'S TIME TO CLEVERLY STEER THE NEWS AWAY FROM RUSSIA AND COMPARISONS TO NIXON...BY MEETING WITH HIGH LEVEL RUSSIANS--**

WELCOME! MY HOUSE IS YOUR HOUSE!

AS! WE KNOW.

--AND WITH HENRY KISSINGER.

I KILLED SATIRE, HENRY. NOT YOU, ME.

**ANNNOYINGLY, THE STORY PERSISTS.**

WHY IS ANYONE STILL TALKING ABOUT COMEY? I SAID "YOU'RE FIRED!" THE EPISODE IS OVER! TIME TO ROLL CREDITS!

AND IT WAS TOTALLY BECAUSE OF THAT DUMB INVESTIGATION.

ER--UN--

**BEING PRESIDENT IS REALLY NOT AS MUCH FUN AS THE MAN-BABY HAD HOPED.**

GOTTA CONVINCE PEOPLE TO IGNORE ALL THIS FAKE NEWS! MAYBE SOME MORE TWEETS WILL HELP!

Comey better hope I haven't been secretly "recording" all my conversations! JUST SAYING!

THERE! THAT SHOULD DO IT!

TOM TOMORROW ©2017

See Letters, Page 6

# PULSE

# NEWS & OPINION

## Red Cedar rising?

Developer says 'agreement in principle' reached, announcement expected as soon as a week

After years of delays and false starts, a proposed \$380 million development on the city's former Red Cedar Golf Course on Michigan Avenue could be moving swiftly to the formal approval process with the city as soon as next week, says developer Joel Ferguson.

"Expect something to be announced within a week or so," Ferguson said Monday in a phone interview. "I would say we've come to an agreement in principle."

Details of that agreement, which would include the purchase price as well as how much the city could be on

the hook for infrastructure development, were not released.

An effusive, but evasive, Bob Trezise, president and CEO of the Lansing Area Economic Partnership, which has been working with the developer and the city on the project, would not confirm a deal had been reached.

"I will say we are finally making great and fairly rapid progress," he said by text message when asked if he could confirm an agreement had been reached.

When told Ferguson had confirmed a deal "in principle" had been struck, Trezise responded "Too funny."

His response is evidence of the ongoing struggle to bring the massive project to life. It's been hampered by negotiations over the value of the former golf course and how much and who will pay for infrastructure to

allow the development to move forward in a floodplain.

In order to develop the land, the developers are seeking public funding to build elevated platforms made of concrete on which to build. Ferguson and his development team want those platforms, called plinths, built using publicly financed bonds. They've sought bonds from the county, which rejected them, and have been seeking the bonds from the city. Those bonds could be for as much as \$35 million.

Without such infrastructure in place, Ferguson has argued the property itself has no value because it can't sustain any development. He softened that edge Monday, saying, "Of course the property has a value."

But what that value is Ferguson isn't saying. A land purchase and development

See Red Cedar, Page 6

## Our crumbling city

Picnic in the pavilion? Not at Moore's River Park

Visitors to the popular Moore's River Park Pavilion were greeted with a structured enclosed in plywood and bright orange warning signs last weekend.

The 61-year-old, two-story picnic shelter was structurally unsound, a periodic city inspection revealed. Brett Kaschinske, the parks and recreation director, said the May 5 inspection found that support columns "were in a state of shear failure" and that "substantial concrete was spalling off of a large surface area of the lower layer," which was "compromising the structural slab."

"It was for this reason that we made the decision to close the facility off until a more detailed inspection can be made to ascertain the overall safety of the structure (as a critical percentage of the design capacity been compromised), the severity of the failure and what can be done in the short term and long term to fortify this structure and understand their respective costs for both," Kaschinske explained by email.

He said the city had been aware of the decline of the building for years.

The pavilion, which was dedicated in 1956, was donated by Frances Moore, the wife of J.H. Moore, who gave the parkland to the city.

The park, which opened in the 1920s, is considered a model in the urban park move-



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Just in time for warm weather: The city has shut down the pavilion at historic Moore's River Park after a routine inspection found it is unsafe. Its fate is unknown.

ment. It features a pool designed by Wesley Brintz, a national figure who worked his creations into the existing landscape. The Moore's River Park pool is believed to be the oldest remaining example of his style. It too has struggled over the years with structural and mechanical issues.

A visual inspection of the outside of the

structure Sunday revealed large areas of concrete had broken off revealing the structural iron bars as well as a severely cracked support beam.

The Park Board, which advises the parks department, was formally notified of the closure of the facility on May 10 at

See Pavilion, Page 6



Property: 631 Lexington Ave.  
East Lansing

Aside from the obvious problem of unchecked plantings, the property exhibits a pronounced bow in the roof ridge and a large section of exterior finish is falling away from the north wall. Given the state of the home's structure, significant renovations will require significant effort and expense. If undertaken (see below), a simple bracketed extension to the existing eave would provide partial shelter over the porch.

However, if the current building is demolished, its replacement might continue the recent effort on the adjacent street in the Avondale Square neighborhood, to introduce Traditional Neighborhood Development details to this section of the block.

The property is for sale by owner, and the telephone number on the sign is (517) 515-2283. An effort to reach the owner was unsuccessful. A news report in 2016 said the city declared the home unlivable after two trees fell on it during a storm and ordered the owner, Daniel O'Connell, to vacate when he was unable to afford repairs. The city determined the house is too far gone from neglect to be saved and is awaiting a court order approving its demolition, an official said.

—Daniel E. Bollman, AIA



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

## Red Cedar

from page 5

agreement with Ferguson and Continental Lansing LLC filed with the City Clerk's Office on Nov. 10, 2014, however placed the value of the land at about \$7.14 million. Last year in an interview with City Pulse, Trezise declined to say how much the property purchase price would ultimately be, saying only, "I have a number in mind."

The project has not been without controversy. Leo and Chris Jerome, who had a development option on the land until 2013, sued Ferguson, Continental LLC, Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, and Trezise; alleging racketing and a pay for play scheme. In March, a federal judge ordered former Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox, who is representing the Jeromes, to rewrite and submit his brief against the defendants. That has been refiled, but Ferguson and others say the "writing is on the wall," that the suit will be dismissed.

Ferguson has called the allegations of pay for play "ridiculous," noting that he has not donated to Bernero or his campaigns in the past. Campaign finance records support this claim, while showing the Jeromes having given thousands to Bernero campaign committees as well as his 527 account.

If the project is approved, it would include retail space, boutique hotels, market-rate apartments and apartment units for students as well as public amenities, such as two amphitheaters. It would be the most substantial developments in Lansing since the redevelopment of the Ottawa Power Station in downtown that was completed in 2011.

"It will be transformative of Michigan Avenue," said Patrick Lindemann, the Ingham County drain commissioner. He is working on developing a new drain system which will include retention ponds in the former golf course. That project will include redeveloping Ranney Park with various ponds and other water features as well

as natural areas, installing of drain controls in the medians of Michigan Avenue and developing of the golf course. The goal of that project is to use nature's cleansing power to remove tons of non-source pollution that flows into the Red Cedar River.

When completed, Lindemann's project will restructure the entire drainage course for portions of Lansing, East Lansing, Lansing Township and US 127 and 496. The cost?

"I am telling people about \$30 million," he said. That could be higher than the actual cost, which he won't know until he can formally create bidding requirements for the project which would spell out exactly how many feet of drain lines and other construction needs would be required. He said he will seek 30-year bonds to finance the project, which will "make it affordable" for the municipalities that will have to pay for the upgrades.

He said the process of finishing up the final designs, on which all those bidding documents would be based, is about "65 or

70 percent done." Right now employees of the Drain Commissioner's Office are working with various utilities to identify buried utility services throughout the proposed drain are.

"We don't want to miss any of those," he said. "If we do, it adds time and money to the project. So this work on the front saves taxpayers money."

News that the development could be moving forward came as a surprise to Council members. Judi Brown Clarke, an at-large Councilwoman who chairs the development and planning committee, said she didn't have any specifics but "there's been a lot of talk."

Jody Washington, the 1st Ward Councilwoman representing that area, said she has not heard anything either.

"I know I have been hearing the same thing for five years: Shovels in the ground by October," she said Monday. "But talk is all I have seen. Well, and trees being cut down."

— TODD HEYWOOD

## Pavilion

from page 5

its regularly scheduled meeting, said its chairwoman, Veronica Gracia-Wing.

She said "spotty" inspections, age, the weather and "subpar maintenance all contributed to the pavilion's current condition."

"I hope that this situation sparks a more robust, proactive inspection plan by all departments charged with the care and maintenance of our park assets," Gracia-Wing said.

She said the department informed the board May 10 there was no immediate intention to raze the structure and that the board "expressed its desire that demolition of the pavilion be avoided at all reasonable costs."

That was echoed by Bill Castanier, president of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing.

"I hope this will serve as a wake up call," said Castanier. "I hope the next mayor with



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

One of the problems at the pavilion is apparent along the steps, where stones are falling out.

convene a citywide confab of every group interested in promoting preservation and Lansing and create a comprehensive plan which identifies the historic structures and lays out a plan to preserve them."

— TODD HEYWOOD

## Letters

from page 4

Michigan and Wisconsin are the only states that border the Great Lakes not to have a toll road! If you travel due south from Michigan, you reach the Indiana Toll Road. If you want to drive into the City of Chicago from the southeast, the quickest and easiest way is to get on the Chicago Skyway, a toll road! If you want to drive to Cleveland from Toledo, the quickest and easiest way is to drive on the James M. Schocknessy Ohio Turnpike, a toll road! If you drive north of Chicago toward Milwaukee, you reach the Illinois toll road! If you wish to drive to Boston after viewing Niagara Falls, you must drive on the New York Thruway and the Mass Pike in tandem, both toll roads! Recently, I experienced driving on Route 99 (northwest of Houston, TX) in a rental car. A beautiful road indeed. Within two weeks after that trip, I was charged \$30 for the privilege of driving on this Texas toll road. This one toll road must bring in much state revenue to the Lone Star State, a state without a state income tax! Instituting a toll road in Michigan (don't need toll booths anymore, check out Route 99 in TX) would increase state revenue!

The State of Nebraska's legislature is unicameral and non-partisan. In 1999, MN governor Jesse Ventura proposed a unicameral legislature. The idea was debated but not adopted. In 2009, the Maine House of Representatives voted

for a unicameral legislature, however, it did not pass the Senate. In 2009, Congressman Rick Lazio (a prospective candidate for governor) proposed that the State of New York adopt unicameralism. The U.S. Congress was unicameral when the Articles of Confederation were in effect (1781-1788). Do we really need the federal model of a house and senate at the state level? Eliminating either the House or Senate in Michigan could significantly reduce state expenditures.

U-M is considered an elite university as are many ivy league/private universities. The University of Pennsylvania and Ohio University are two privately funded institutions with their namesake that could serve as models for this proposal. Like Northwestern University, U-M could continue to compete in the Big Ten. This idea has the potential to significantly reduce state expenditures.

This modest proposal for the state legislature to consider identified one way to increase state revenue and two ways to decrease state expenditures. I envision a state that has enough money to rebuild its infrastructure while reducing the cost of government. If one or more of these ideas were to be adopted, who knows, this state might even have enough money to begin to consider a gradual lowering of tuition for state colleges and universities! When I attended a state college in the late 1960s, tuition was \$200 per year. The state's contribution toward undergraduate student tuition exceeded 75% in those days.

— Paul R. Loconto

# The mayoral race

Not much meat, but Brown Clarke has a good outing before Chamber

If there was a winner of the first big joint appearance by Lansing's two leading candidates for mayor, it was underdog Judi Brown Clarke.



**BERL SCHWARTZ**

Not that Andy Schor didn't present himself well before the large business audience assembled by the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce at the Kellogg Center last week.

But Brown Clarke matched him. And since she is far less known in those circles, she scored more points for being as good.

Good meant sounding thoughtful on difficult issues. Good also meant not going on the offensive, an important factor after nearly 12 years of incumbent Virg Bernero's bulldog approach. Many people, especially cautious business people, want a mayor who will lower the temperature.

How well either will do at attacking the city's challenges, though, didn't emerge at this event. The candidates answered open-ended questions by WILS-AM morning host Dave Ackerly, who didn't press for specifics. It was all very civilized but not very enlightening. The headline could be "Candidates say nothing but say it well."

Which is understandable to some extent before this crowd. Business people are not looking for bomb throwers. So, the candidates may have taken the safe road.

Or is it that neither one has one exciting, challenging idea to offer? That's possible, too.

They both came off as low-risk, consensus types on issue after issue.

For example, there's the city's biggest long-term issue, which is keeping out of bankruptcy over pension and healthcare legacy costs.

"We need to talk about the importance of addressing this issue head on and we need a plan," said Schor, a state representative who plugged his appointment to the governor's statewide task force on pension and healthcare. "We need to put this on the front burner."

"It is one of the priorities" the City Council is working on, said At-Large member Brown Clarke, citing a \$150,000 report expected soon on the topic.

Not exactly visionaries with a plan, either of them.

And, of course, "everything is on the

table" when it comes to solving the problem. Including selling the Lansing Board of Water & Light? Well, let's not get carried away.

Schor cited a poll that said 90 percent of Lansing opposes it, "so it's not something I want to do." Granted, he didn't say he wouldn't support it, and he declared himself "not worried about popularity." But neither did he show much open-mindedness toward the idea.

Brown Clarke, on the other hand, didn't qualify her "table" answer. The sale of the BWL is on it, period. Score one for the underdog for frankness, if not political correctness.

The biggest hot-button issue with voters is the deplorable condition of our roads and infrastructure. (Just today, City Pulse reported that the pavilion in Moores Park has been shut down as unsafe.) The reality is the city can't begin to solve that problem without the state, which doesn't have a solution either.

How to make a dent in a \$250 million city streets problem? Schor wants to go neighborhood by neighborhood to find out "what's the important streets that need to be fixed." (Answer: Mine.)

Brown Clarke scored another point by bringing up the need for a street bonds issue, as Bernero has proposed for the November ballot. "We've got political will," she asserted. "So now it's a matter of going to our citizens to determine if we can get those dollars." Schor was thoughtful in adding that "citizens have to be convinced" that the money would be spent on roads. But he stopped short of saying, "hell yes" on the bond issue. Maybe he thinks it's a given that he supports it. Maybe it's somewhere on his website. Where it needs to be front and present before an audience of business people. They needed to hear from Schor to stop complaining and start paying if you want this crippling problem fixed.

The debate missed some key issues, the foremost of which is marijuana. Pot for potholes is a legit idea on which the candidates need to be heard. The City Council is getting dangerously close to passing an ordinance that, if Bernero doesn't veto it, will

cripple the burgeoning medical marijuana business, costing jobs and property rentals, particularly on the south end, which is desperate for any kind of commerce.

More important, if we cave to reefer madness on medical marijuana, what's going to happen when the real cash cow comes along: recreational? The chances are good that legalization will be on the ballot next year with an initiative that would tax recreational pot 16 percent. That's going to result in hundreds of millions of dollars in new revenue, with municipalities getting a 15 percent cut from what's sold in their jurisdictions (and their counties getting another 15 percent).

That would fix a lot of roads and other problems that one or the other of these two candidates will be facing starting Jan. 1. They'd be wise to start convincing voters now that our city should embrace the new economy, not continue to shun it.



## Not so fast

Council nixes proposal to shift management of remaining golf course

The Lansing City Council has shot down the Bernero Administration's proposal to shift the city's remaining golf course from the parks department to the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority.

"We're not saying it can't happen next year," said Council Vice President Carol Wood, who presided over Monday's meeting, when the Council voted 5-2 to keep Groesbeck Golf Course in the parks department. President Patricia Spitzley was out of town. Wood said the Council wants more time to vet the plan.

Councilwomen Judi Brown Clarke, a candidate for mayor, and Tina Houghton cast the votes to change the management. Brown Clarke she wanted to try a new approach to managing the course,

which consumes 25 percent of the park millage every year.

"It was about creating equity and parity with the other parks by eventually freeing up that park millage money," she said.

The administration proposal to shift the management to LEPPFA came with no conversations with Council members. It also was not vetted by the Park Board, which is an advisory board overseeing the parks department, including spending.

Hampering the plan was the checkered history of LEPPFA in managing the City Market, said Wood and others on the Council. The agency had promised to make the market self sufficient, Wood said, but instead is seeking an \$80,000 subsidy for the underutilized facility.

"Right now it has three or four vendors," said Wood. "The biggest is a bar. I believe we are subsidizing a bar."

Kathie Dunbar, an At-Large Councilwoman who usually supports Mayor Virg Bernero, said she wanted to see a "business case" for the Groesbeck plan.

"I want to see the business case for moving it, with expenses and revenues (in numbers, not words) and how it will affect the park millage," she said by text.

The only other change to the budget was a \$30,000 shift from the fire department, which planned to use the money to purchase software, to two other budget items. Instead, \$15,000 would go into neighborhood grants and beautification programs, and \$15,000 would be made available for small business facade improvement grants.

Bernero has until Thursday to decide whether to veto the changes. If he does, the Council would have to garner six votes to override that veto.

— TODD HEYWOOD

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 22, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 622, Section 622.01 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances by excluding drug paraphernalia distributed by a Federal, State or Local government agency to prevent the transmission of infectious agents.

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

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)


[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](http://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

CP#17-134

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on Thursday, June 8, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held for the purpose of considering a request from Teresa Dunn and Derek Busch, for the property at 120 Cowley Avenue to modify the front porch.

**Call (517) 319-6930**, the Department of Planning, Building and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services should write or call the Planning Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. Phone: (517) 319-6930. TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777.

Marie E. Wicks  
City Clerk

**CP#17-140**

### CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1211

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Lansing Codified Ordinances by amending Chapter 294, Sections 294.02(a), 294.02(i), 294.02(k) and 294.02(r) to conform to the Police Officers' Pension Benefit changes contained in the Collective Bargaining Agreements between the City and Capitol City Labor Program, Inc. (CCLP) Local #141 Supervisory and Non-Supervisory Divisions, both ratified in 2015, by adding the definition of base wage; providing a minimum retirement age of 50 for new hired Police Officers; limiting pensions to 115% and 110% of a base wage; amending the Police Officer employee pension contribution; and reducing the pension benefit multiplier for new hired police officers.

Effective date: Upon publication

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

**Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk**  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)

[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

**CP#17-142**

### CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDINANCE No. 1410

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AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF THE SERIES 2017 REVENUE BOND AS AN ADDITIONAL BOND UNDER ORDINANCE NO. 1296; AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THE SERIES 2017 REVENUE BOND.

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. Definitions. Whenever used in this Ordinance, except when otherwise indicated by the context, the following terms when capitalized shall have the following meanings:

- (a) "Act 94" means Act 94, Public Acts of Michigan, 1933, as amended.
- (b) "Additional Revenue Bonds" means Revenue Bonds issued under Section 20 of Ordinance No. 1296, including Revenue Bonds of prior and senior or equal standing and priority of lien with the Series 2013 Bond, Series 2015 Bond, and Series 2017 Bond.
- (c) "Adjusted Net Revenues" means for any operating year the excess of revenues over expenses for the System determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, to which shall be added depreciation, amortization, interest expense on Bonds and payments to the City in lieu of taxes, to which may be made the following adjustments.
  - (i) Revenues may be augmented by the amount of any rate increases adopted prior to the issuance of Additional Revenue Bonds or to be placed into effect before the time principal or interest on the Additional Revenue Bonds becomes payable from Revenues as applied to quantities of service furnished during the operating year or portion thereof that the increased rates were not in effect.
  - (ii) Revenues may be augmented by amounts which may be derived from rates and charges to be paid by new customers of the System.
  - (iii) If there is a bond reserve account to be funded from the proceeds of Additional Revenue Bonds, then the Revenues may be augmented by an amount equal to the investment income representing interest on investments estimated to be received each operating year from the addition to the bond reserve account to be funded from the proceeds of the Additional Revenue Bonds being issued. The adjustment of revenues and expenses by the factors set forth in (i), (ii) and (iii) above shall be reported upon by professional engineers or certified public accountants or other experts not in the regular employment of the City.
- (d) "Authorized Officer" means the Finance Director of the City or, in her absence, the City Manager.
- (e) "Bonds" means any Bonds which may be issued by the City for the purpose of making repairs, extensions, enlargements and improvements to the System, for the payment of which the City intends to use Net Revenues.
- (f) "City" means the City of East Lansing, Counties of Ingham and Clinton, State of Michigan.
- (g) "MDEQ" means the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, or any successor agency.
- (h) "Ordinance" refers collectively to Ordinance No. 1296 adopted by the Council on February 19, 2013, Ordinance No. 1345 adopted by the Council on February 17, 2015, this ordinance, and any other ordinance amendatory to or supplemental to Ordinance No. 1296.
- (i) "Outstanding Revenue Bonds" means, as of any given date, the Series 2013 Bond, Series 2015 Bond, Series 2017 Bond, and any Additional Revenue Bonds of equal or prior standing hereafter issued and delivered under this Ordinance except:
  - (i) Bonds (or portions of Bonds) paid off at or prior to such date;
  - (ii) Bonds (or portions of Bonds) for the payment or redemption of which moneys or Sufficient Government Obligations equal to the principal amount or redemption price, as the case may be, with interest to the date of maturity or redemption date, shall be held in trust under this Ordinance and set aside for such payment or redemption (whether at or prior to the maturity or redemption date) provided that if such Bonds are to be redeemed, notice of such redemption shall have been given as provided in the Bond or provision shall have been made for the giving of such notice; and
  - (iii) Bonds in lieu of or in substitution for which other Bonds shall have been delivered.
- (j) "Revenue Bonds" means the Series 2013 Bond, Series 2015 Bond, Series 2017 Bond, and any Additional Revenue Bonds of equal or prior standing hereafter issued under this Ordinance.
- (k) "Revenues" and "Net Revenues" means the revenues and net revenues of the System and shall be construed as defined in Section 3 of Act 94, including with respect to "Revenues" the earnings derived from the investment of moneys in the various funds and accounts established by this Ordinance, and other revenues derived from or pledged to operation of the System.
- (l) "Series 2013 Bond" means the Sewage Disposal System Revenue Bond, Series 2013 authorized by Ordinance No. 1296.
- (m) "Series 2015 Bond" means the Sewage Disposal System Revenue Bond, Series 2015 authorized by Ordinance No. 1345.
- (n) "Series 2017 Bond" means the Sewage Disposal System Revenue Bond, Series 2017 authorized by this Ordinance
- (o) "Series 2017 Project" means the improvements to the water resource recovery facility of the System, including but not limited to the replacement of the headworks, screening and grit removal systems and the rehabilitation of the interceptors, together with any appurtenances and attachments and any related site improvements, and preparation of a computerized model of the combined sewer system and a biosolids master plan to evaluate future solids processing alternatives.
- (p) "Sufficient Government Obligations" means direct obligations of the United States of America or obligations the principal and interest on which is fully guaranteed by the United States of America, not redeemable at the option of the issuer, the principal and interest payments upon which, without reinvestment of the interest, come due at such times and in such amounts as to be fully sufficient to pay the interest as it comes due on Bonds and the principal and redemption premium, if any, on Bonds as it comes due whether on the stated maturity date or upon earlier redemption. Securities representing such obligations shall be placed in trust with a bank or trust company, and if any Bond is to be called for redemption prior to maturity, irrevocable instructions to call the Bond for redemption shall be given.
- (q) "System" means the entire sewage disposal system of the City, including such facilities as are now existing, the Series 2017 Project, and all enlargements, extensions, repairs and improvements thereto hereafter made.

SECTION 2. Necessity: Approval of Plans and Specifications. It is hereby determined to be a necessary public purpose of the City to acquire and construct the Series 2017 Project in accordance with the plans and specifications prepared by the City's consulting engineers, which plans and specifications are hereby approved.

SECTION 3. Costs: Useful Life. The cost of the Series 2017 Project is estimated to be not-to-exceed Thirty-One Million Dollars (\$31,000,000) including the payment of incidental expenses as specified in Section 4 of this Ordinance, which estimate of cost is hereby approved and confirmed, and the period of usefulness of the Series 2017 Project is estimated to be not less than twenty-five (25) years.

SECTION 4. Payment of Project Cost: Series 2017 Bond Authorized. Conditions Permitting Issuance of Additional Bonds. To pay the cost of acquiring and constructing the Series 2017 Project, including payment of legal, engineering, financial and other expenses incident thereto and incident to the issuance and sale of the Series 2017 Bond, the City shall borrow a sum of not-to-exceed Thirty-One Million Dollars (\$31,000,000), as finally determined by the Authorized Officer at the time of sale of the Series 2017 Bond, and issue its Series 2017 Bond pursuant to the provisions of Act 94. The remaining cost of the Series 2017 Project, if any, shall be defrayed from City funds on hand and legally available for such use.

The Council hereby determines that if the Series 2017 Bond is issued within the parameters of this Ordinance with a true interest cost of 2.50% or less, then during the preceding operating year (ending June 30, 2016) the Adjusted Net Revenues of the System shall be at least equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the maximum amount of principal and interest thereafter maturing in any operating year on the Outstanding Revenue Bonds (the Series 2013 Bond and Series 2015 Bond) and the Series 2017 Bond, as required by Section 20 subparagraph (b) of Ordinance No. 1296 for the issuance of Additional Bonds.

The Council hereby determines that the City is not in default in making its required payments to the Operation and Maintenance Fund or the Revenue Bond Redemption Fund established by Ordinance No. 1296. Therefore, Council hereby finds that the conditions of the Ordinance for the issuance of the Series 2017 Bond as an Additional Bond have been met.

SECTION 5. Issuance of Series 2017 Bond: Details. The Series 2017 Bond shall be designated as the "SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM REVENUE BOND, SERIES 2017." The Series 2017 Bond shall be



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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

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payable solely out of the Net Revenues and other moneys pledged under this Ordinance, and shall not be a general obligation of the City. The Series 2017 Bond shall constitute an Additional Bond as defined in the Ordinance and shall have equal standing and priority of lien as to the Net Revenues of the System with the outstanding Series 2013 Bond and Series 2015 Bond.

The Series 2017 Bond shall be issued in the form of one or more fully registered, nonconvertible bonds, dated as of the date of delivery, payable in annual principal installments in the amounts and on the dates as determined by the order of the MDEQ and approved by the Michigan Finance Authority and the Authorized Officer, provided that the final payment on the Series 2017 Bond shall occur within the period of usefulness of the Series 2017 Project as set forth in Section 3 of this Ordinance. Final determination of the Principal Amount and the payment dates and amounts of principal installments of the Series 2017 Bond shall be evidenced by execution of a Purchase Contract (the "Purchase Contract") between the City and the Michigan Finance Authority providing for sale of the Series 2017 Bond, and the Authorized Officer is authorized and directed to execute and deliver the Purchase Contract.

The Series 2017 Bond shall bear interest at a rate or rates to be determined by the Authorized Officer at the time of execution of the Purchase Contract, but in any event not exceeding the maximum amount permitted by law, payable semiannually on the dates as determined in the Purchase Contract. In addition, if required by the Michigan Finance Authority, the Series 2017 Bond will bear additional interest, under the terms required by Michigan Finance Authority, in the event of a default by the City in the payment of principal or interest on the Series 2017 Bond when due. The Series 2017 Bond principal amount is expected to be drawn down by the City periodically, and interest on each installment of the principal amount shall accrue from the date such principal installment is drawn down by the City. Principal installments of the Series 2017 Bond will be subject to prepayment prior to maturity as permitted by the Michigan Finance Authority and approved by the Authorized Officer.

The Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to execute the Series 2017 Bond by manual or facsimile signature. At least one signature on the Series 2017 Bond shall be a manual signature. The Series 2017 Bond may be transferred by the bondholder as provided in the Series 2017 Bond as executed.

**SECTION 6. Payment of Series 2017 Bond; Security.** The Series 2017 Bond and the interest thereon shall be payable solely and only from the Net Revenues, and to secure such payment, there is hereby created a statutory lien upon the whole of the Net Revenues which shall continue until payment in full of the principal of and interest on the Series 2017 Bond, or, until sufficient cash or Sufficient Government Obligations have been deposited in trust for payment in full of the principal of and interest on the Series 2017 Bond to maturity, or, if called for redemption, to the date fixed for redemption, together with the amount of the redemption premium, if any. Upon deposit of cash or Sufficient Government Obligations, as provided in the previous sentence, the statutory lien shall be terminated with respect to the Series 2017 Bond, the holder of the Series 2017 Bond shall have no further rights under this Ordinance except for payment from the deposited funds, and the Series 2017 Bond shall be considered to be defeased and shall no longer be considered to be outstanding under this Ordinance.

**SECTION 7. State Revenue Sharing Pledge.** If required by the Michigan Finance Authority, as additional security for repayment of the Series 2017 Bond, the City Council agrees to pledge the state revenue sharing payments that the City is eligible to receive from the State of Michigan under Act 140, Public Acts of Michigan, 1971, as amended, to the Michigan Finance Authority as purchaser and holder of the Series 2017 Bond. The Authorized Officer is authorized to execute and deliver a revenue sharing pledge agreement between the City and the Michigan Finance Authority.

**SECTION 8. Applicability of the Ordinances.** Except to the extent supplemented or otherwise provided in this ordinance, all of the provisions and covenants provided in Ordinance No. 1296 shall apply to the Series 2017 Bond issued pursuant to provisions of this ordinance, such provisions of the Ordinance being made applicable to the Series 2017 Bond herein authorized, the same as though the Series 2017 Bond was originally authorized and issued as a part of the Outstanding Revenue Bonds issued pursuant to Ordinance No. 1296.

**SECTION 9. Bond Proceeds.** The proceeds of the sale of the Series 2017 Bond as received by the City shall be deposited in an account separate from other money of the City and held in a bank or banks qualified to act as depository of the proceeds of sale under the provisions of Section 15 of Act 94 designated "2017 SRF PROJECT CONSTRUCTION FUND" (the "2017 Construction Fund"). Moneys in the 2017 Construction Fund shall be applied solely in payment of the cost of the Series 2017 Project including any engineering, legal and other expenses incident thereto and to the costs of issuance of the Series 2017 Bond. Any balance remaining in the 2017 Construction Fund after completion of the Series 2017 Project may be used for any other improvements to the System if such use is permitted by state law and will not cause the interest on the Series 2017 Bond to be included in gross income for federal income tax purposes within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code. Any remaining balance shall be paid into the Revenue Bond Redemption Fund and used as permitted by state law.

**SECTION 10. Revenue Bond Form.** The Series 2017 Bond shall be in substantially the following form subject to such changes, including references to additional security, as may be required by the Michigan Finance Authority:

[FORM OF BOND TO BE COMPLETED AFTER BOND SALE]  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTIES OF INGHAM AND CLINTON  
CITY OF EAST LANSING  
SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM REVENUE BOND, SERIES 2017

Registered Owner: Michigan Finance Authority  
Principal Amount: [amount]  
Date of Original Issue: [date]

The CITY OF EAST LANSING, Counties of Ingham and Clinton, State of Michigan (the "City" or the "Issuer"), for value received, acknowledges itself to owe, and for value received hereby promises to pay, but only out of the hereinafter described Net Revenues of the City's Sewage Disposal System (hereinafter defined), to the Michigan Finance Authority (the "Authority"), or registered assigns, the Principal Amount shown above (subject to any principal forgiveness as provided for in Schedule I), or such portion thereof as shall have been advanced to the City pursuant to a Purchase Contract between the City and the Authority and a Supplemental Agreement by and among the City, the Authority and the State of Michigan acting through the Department of Environmental Quality, in lawful money of the United States of America, unless prepaid prior thereto as hereinafter provided.

During the time the Principal Amount is being drawn down by the City under this bond, the Authority will periodically provide to the City a statement showing the amount of principal that has been advanced and the date of each advance, which statement shall constitute prima facie evidence of the reported information; provided that no failure on the part of the Authority to provide such a statement or to reflect a disbursement or the correct amount of a disbursement shall relieve the City of its obligation to repay the outstanding Principal Amount actually advanced (subject to any principal forgiveness as provided for in Schedule I), all accrued interest thereon, and any other amount payable with respect thereto in accordance with the terms of this bond.

The Principal Amount shall be payable on the dates and in the annual principal installment amounts set forth on Schedule I attached hereto and made a part hereof, as Schedule I may be adjusted if less than \$[amount] is disbursed to the City or if a portion of the Principal Amount is subject to any principal forgiveness or prepaid as provided below, with interest on the principal installments from the date each installment is delivered to the holder hereof until paid at the rate of 2.50% per annum. Interest is first payable on [date], and semiannually thereafter, and principal is payable on the first day of [month] commencing [date] and annually thereafter.

Principal installments of this bond are subject to prepayment by the City prior to maturity only with the prior written consent of the Authority and on such terms as may be required by the Authority. Notwithstanding any other provision of this bond, as long as the Authority is the owner of this bond, (a) this bond is payable as to principal, premium, if any, and interest at The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A., or at such other place as shall be designated in writing to the City by the Authority (the "Authority's Depository"); (b) the City agrees that it will deposit with the Authority's Depository payments of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on this bond in immediately available funds by 12:00 noon at least five business days prior to the date on which any such payment is due whether by maturity, redemption or otherwise; in the event that the Authority's Depository has not received the City's deposit by 12:00 Noon on the scheduled day, the City shall immediately pay to the Authority as invoiced by the Authority an amount to recover the Authority's administrative costs and lost investment earnings attributable to that late payment; and (c) written notice of any redemption of this bond shall be given by the City and received by the Authority's Depository at least 40 days prior to the date on which such redemption is to be made.

Additional Interest

In the event of a default in the payment of principal or interest hereon when due, whether at maturity, by redemption or otherwise, the amount of such default shall bear interest (the "additional interest") at a rate equal to the rate of interest which is two percent above the Authority's cost of providing funds (as determined by the Authority) to make payment on the bonds of the Authority issued to provide funds to purchase this bond but in no event in excess of the maximum rate of interest permitted by law. The additional interest shall continue to accrue until the Authority has been fully reimbursed for all costs incurred by the Authority (as determined by the Authority) as a consequence of the City's default. Such additional interest shall be payable on the interest payment date following demand of the Authority. In the event that (for reasons other than the default in the payment of any municipal obligation purchased by the Authority) the investment of amounts in the reserve account established by the Authority for the bonds of the Authority issued to provide funds to purchase this bond fails to provide sufficient available funds (together with any other funds which may be made available for such purpose) to pay the interest on outstanding bonds of the Authority issued to fund such account, the City shall and hereby agrees to pay on demand only the City's pro rata share (as determined by the Authority) of such deficiency as additional interest on this bond.

For prompt payment of principal and interest on this bond, the City has irrevocably pledged the revenues of its Sewage Disposal System, including all appurtenances, extensions and improvements thereto (the "System"), after provision has been made for reasonable and necessary expenses of operation, maintenance and administration (the "Net Revenues"), and a statutory lien thereon is hereby recognized and created. This bond is of equal standing and priority of lien as to the Net Revenues of the System with the City's Sewage Disposal System Revenue Bond, Series 2013 dated April 9, 2013 and Sewage Disposal System Revenue Bond, Series 2015 dated April 9, 2015.

This bond is a single, fully registered, non convertible bond issued in the Principal Amount pursuant to Ordinance No. 1296 and Ordinance No. [XX] duly adopted by the City Council of the City (the "Ordinance"), and under and in full compliance with the Constitution and statutes of the State of Michigan, including specifically Act 94, Public Acts of Michigan, 1933, as amended, for the purpose of paying the cost of acquiring and constructing improvements to the System.



# 'EMERGING' NO MORE

Solar energy comes to a full boil in mid-Michigan

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Icarus, the guy who flew too close to the sun and paid a painful premium, is ancient history.

From 60 acres of solar carports going up on the MSU campus to the Lansing Board of Water & Light's growing solar arrays to a 1,000-panel community solar "garden" in an East Lansing park, local Icari are brazenly sucking the hell out of the sun and making their toast with it.

Thanks to ever-cheaper photovoltaic solar panels, solar energy is being adopted on an unprecedented scale, even in notoriously cloudy mid-Michigan.

It takes a lot of upfront money and about 10 to 12 years for a solar investment to pay off, so most projects are being built by big players like utility companies or MSU. But as batteries get cheaper and people can store the power they harvest, solar energy has begun to spread into rural areas and has even inched into the cities and suburbs.

## LOTS OF ENERGY

Sitting in his glassy office at MSU's Administration Building last week, Physics Professor Wolfgang Bauer eyed a parking lot on north campus as it warmed up in the mid-May sun.

Bauer is working on a vast project to install carports carpeted with solar panels on parking lots covering 60 acres. The 10 MW array is expected to generate about 15,000 megawatt hours a year, about 5 percent of the electricity used on campus.

That's an area equal to every rooftop on MSU's campus combined. Bauer said that rooftops, bristling with equipment and scattered in a sea of trees, aren't the best places for solar panels at park-like places such as MSU.

"We didn't want to give up 60 acres of farmland for a solar farm," Bauer said. "But it's the optimum use when you're already using the land."

Private investors are paying the \$20 million for the project and selling the energy to MSU at a fixed price for 25 years. Bauer expects the first solar energy to flow this fall

and all of the carports to be finished by the end of the year.

Bauer said MSU expects to save about \$10 million over the next 25 years, relative to buying the same amount of energy off the grid, "even at the lower prices we get as a large consumer."

In the last decade, electricity prices have risen in Michigan by 3 percent a year. The Information Energy Agency of the U.S. Energy Department predicts that in the next couple of decades, electricity prices will rise by 2.3 percent a year.

That makes the fixed price of solar energy a big selling point, said James Clift, policy director of the Michigan Environmental Council.

"You don't have to worry about the uncertainties of fossil fuel prices, regulations and provides more rate stability," Clift said.

Clift said universities are classic examples of the benefit of long-term investments. "They're going to be around and they're going to use energy," he said. "They're not worried about moving in seven years."

## BETTER THAN NATURE

It's been an agonizingly slow sunrise for solar energy. John Kinch, director of Michigan Energy Options, joked that solar energy is "an emerging technology that's been emerging for 50 years."

So why is it taking off now?

Until about five years ago, the cost of solar technology went down at a fairly steady, but painfully slow, rate.

In 1976, President Jimmy Carter made a purely symbolic gesture by putting solar cells on top of the White House. Solar energy back then cost about 70 dollars per watt, according to Bauer. As recently as 2010, the price hovered at \$3 to \$5 per watt.

"But when the Chinese came in, everybody had to automate and follow suit," Bauer said. "By now, the price has fallen to below \$1 per watt— about 70 cents." He raised an eyebrow as he did the math. "Over 40 years, the price has decayed by about 100 times," he said. "That is not unusual in ultra-high-tech devices like computers."



Courtesy Photo

Rutgers University powers about 63 percent of its 540-acre Livingston campus with about 30,000 panels mounted on carports similar to the ones under construction at MSU.

Automation is the key factor driving down cost of solar panels. At factories like the First Solar plant in Toledo, tens of thousands of panels roll through robotic stations where etching and coding is done completely by machine.

The chief roles for humans in the solar industry field are in customer interaction and research and development.

Prices for panels have gotten so low that in the solar carports at MSU and other big installations, the supporting hardware will cost more than the solar panels.

And then there's the rising efficiency curve.

Scientists love to tell you that Mother Nature is better at almost everything than humans are, but Bauer is having none of that.

Bauer's office looks over a sea of green blanketing MSU's "sacred space" at the heart of campus. The trees and other plants are covered with leaves that convert solar radiation into energy — the original solar panels. You'd think millions of years of evolution would have gotten them to peak efficiency.

"Not really," Bauer said, letting Mother Nature down easy. "Evolution is a great engine for innovation, but it has to live within certain constraints."

Only 1 percent of the solar radiation hitting a leaf is turned into energy. Bauer has studied the physics of "energy crops" such as corn and grasses that are farmed and mashed into fuel. He found that even those crops produce energy at only about half a percent efficiency.

"With photovoltaic cells, that efficiency is 15 percent, about 30 times better," Bauer said.

The MSU solar cells are at about 18 percent. They will only lose about half a percent of efficiency per year and last from 30 to 50 years with zero maintenance, except for occasional washing.

Clift likes another thing about the MSU carports.

"Those parking lots are heat sinks, a bunch of concrete heating up all day long in summer," he said. "Reduce that effect and you can reduced cooling costs in your buildings."

## NO MOVING PARTS

Last Tuesday, the sun peeked from a cloud over the Cedar Street solar array in downtown Lansing, nudging a set of dials in a nearby utility box. BWL's general manager, Dick Peffley, registered the increase in solar energy by doffing his coat.

The Cedar Street array is modest, but it offsets 250 tons of carbon dioxide a year, equal to emissions from 45 cars.

Young as it is, the array is also a living museum of solar technology improvement. In the first phase, built in 2008, 432 Uni-Solar panels produced 54 KW of electricity. A newer set of 385 panels, laced with superhero-suit circuitry, was installed in 2015, almost tripling the output to 158 KW.

The BWL's planning director, George Stojic, said the second-phase panels produce twice the electricity, in less space, at one-third the cost of the earlier panels.

Compared to the boilers, turbines, pipes and wiring that stuff a power plant, there's not much happening on this grassy berm in the heart of downtown. A small bank of inverters about the size of a large suitcase flips the current from DC to AC. The current then goes through a transformer to "marry" with the system voltage. There's a modest bank of meters and breakers and that's about it.

"Pretty simple, no moving parts," Stojic said.

This conspicuous parcel of land is more showcase than workhorse, but with solar panels getting cheaper and cheaper, the BWL has much bigger arrays in the works.

The BWL is partnering with private investors to build a 20 MW solar farm in

# Solar

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Delta Township, one of the biggest under construction in the state.

“They’ve leased the land, started to clear it and they’re going through design right now,” Peffley said.

Even bigger arrays are being built across Michigan. In 2016, DTE Energy built one of the largest solar arrays in North America, a 50 MW solar farm near Lapeer, east of Flint, that can power about 9,000 homes.

Stojic marveled at how the projects are scaling up.

“When the first phase of this went in,” he said, waving at the Cedar Street panels, “it was 50 KW (one-half of one megawatt) and it was the largest array in Michigan.”

The advances in technology are relentless. The older (2008) panels at the BWL’s Cedar Street installation produce 120 watts per panel; the newer ones produce 270. At the BWL’s planned Delta array, panels will produce 330 watts and will tilt to track the sun.

The Michigan sun shines only about 20 percent of the time, while wind power is available about 40 percent of the time. Even so, Peffley said there is good reason to invest

in solar energy.

“Solar is there when you need it, on those 90-degree summer days,” Peffley said.

As the BWL’s power plants age out of service, Peffley said, solar arrays still need backup power — most likely from natural gas-fired plants — but he said solar energy will allow the utility to “scale back” the size of the plants.

For now, the biggest stumbling block to even bigger arrays is the state of battery technology.

“There’s no way to store energy large scale right now,” Peffley said. “When that comes around, it will be a game changer. We’re watching it.”

## SLAMMED

Last Thursday, Ken Zebarah did his interview for this story while driving from a solar installation at a self-storage company in Chelsea to another one at a manufacturing plant in Hillsdale. Zebarah is Michigan territory manager at Jackson-based Harvest Energy Solutions and he’s a very busy man this spring.

“We’re slammed,” Zebarah said. In all of 2016, Harvest Energy installed complete solar systems, from panels to batteries, at about 40 farms, businesses and homes in Michigan. By the end of April 2017, Harvest had equaled that number of installations,



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Lansing Board of Water & Light’s general manager Dick Peffley (left) and planning director George Stojic, inspect the BWL’s solar array on Cedar Street.

most of them bigger than last year’s jobs, but with a backlog of 15 contracts he hasn’t turned a shovel on yet.

Liesl Clark, president of the Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council and a principal at 5 Lakes Energy, said the business has “really picked up steam” this year. “Solar installers have done as much business in the first quarter as all of last year,” she said.

Zebarah said the cost of solar panels has “plateaued,” but “the big thing that’s getting quicker and cheaper very quickly is batteries and storage.”

Three or four years ago, getting completely off the grid, storing power with batteries, cost three to four times more than to use net metering. Now it’s only 50 percent more and going down, Zebarah said.

Within two years, Zebarah expects to be able to tell his customers they can either “get rid of their electric bill” for, say, \$100,000 — but still remain tied to the grid and pay metering fees — or “never talk to your power company again” for \$140,000.

“I know which one I would do,” Zebarah said.

To further nudge people off the grid, Michigan’s Public Service Commission is working out a comprehensive energy policy that is likely to include tariffs for net metering customers.

Zebarah said the utilities are “shooting themselves in the foot” by lobbying for the tariff. “As they push away from solar, the battery technology is getting more cost effective very quickly,” he said. “People are going to say, ‘Fine, I’ll just go off the grid and you’ll get nothing from me.’”

## THROUGH THE ROOF

When he’s not overseeing the BWL service area, Peffley likes to tinker in his yard. He looked at putting solar shingles on a shed near his house, but he recoiled at the

“sticker shock.”

“The cost will come down,” Peffley said. He pointed at the BWL panels from 2008. “This is probably about \$110 a kw to put in,” he said. “Our next ones will be about \$40.”

Between the utility-scale solar arrays and pricey residential solar panels lies a third model, embodied locally by East Lansing’s Community Solar project at Burcham Park.

For \$399, BWL is leasing its customers panel for 25 years and credits the lessee for the electricity generated by the panel. Two panels would cover the average cost of powering a refrigerator for a year, according to Michigan Energy Options statistics.

You would have to lease 29 panels, for \$11,571, to generate the annual electricity use of the average U.S. home. As with all solar projects, that’s a lot of money up front, but it will pay for itself in 10 to 12 years, depending on how much juice you use. If you divide that amount by the 25-year life of the lease, you get a pretty modest annual electric bill of \$462.84.

Clark expects community solar “gardens” to become more popular in the next few years. About 400 panels at the East Lansing project have already been sold. Ground will break when the number reaches 700.

“You get economies of scale with big installations,” Clark said. “That’s one of the neat things about the East Lansing project. People can buy in and not worry about what they can produce at their own homes.”

In the Upper Peninsula, where electricity rates have reached 24 cents an hour, the soaring cost of energy is driving an unprecedented solar boom. North of the Mackinac Bridge, solar installers are busier than ever. Some utilities in the U.P. have hit their state-mandated 1-percent cap on distributed generation, or power generated at a home or business.

See Solar, Page 13

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# Solar

from page 12

At most utilities in the state, Clift said, distributed generation is only about half a percent of the load.

Lansing's BWL reported a paltry 10 homes and four businesses participating in the net metering program, even with incentives of up to \$2,000. (Net metering allows ratepayers to generate their own electricity and sell the excess back to the utility.)

Part of the reason is that the BWL's rates are relatively low, about 12 cents a kilowatt hour.

As of the end of 2015, there were only about 2,200 "distributed generation" customers, most of them farms with wind turbines or solar panels, in Michigan.

"There's been an uptick, but it's still pretty low compared to other parts of the country," Clift said.

Back at MSU, Wolfgang Bauer said he is confident that solar energy will soon spread to homes and businesses.

"Private customers, pretty soon, will be able to have roof tiles that have solar cells integrated into them and that will last 50 years or so," Bauer said.

Two days after Bauer uttered those

words, on May 10, Tesla unveiled the details of its long-awaited residential solar roof system — a hefty investment of 21.85 a square foot that only pays off over decades, but then again — holy wah, it's a solar roof.

"It came in below where the analysts thought it would be," Clift said. "Especially with new homes, this is going to very quickly become standard."

Roofs, Kinch said, are only the beginning of "integrated solar" building technology that will turn cities and suburbs into vast, distributed power plants. MSU researchers have already developed "energy window glass" you can look through and opaque materials that double as walls, trim and door frames.

"In the future, you're going to have a building that's one big honking solar generator," Kinch said.

Kinch said that people are buying panels at East Lansing's community solar project for a variety of reasons. Alone among the experts I talked to for this story, he took a break from the relentless economics that dominate every discussion of solar energy and tugged at the underlying thrill of it all.

"This is a way to promote social, economic and environmental benefits in your community," he said. "If people care about climate change, this is a tangible way to at least do something yourself and not throw up your hands and give up."



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Wolfgang Bauer, an MSU physics professor, monitors parking lots on the south end of campus where carports covered with 60 acres of solar panels capable of handling 5 percent of the campus energy demand are being installed.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, May 23, 2017** at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following:

Ordinance No. 1409; an ordinance to consider adoption to amend sections 2-253 and 2-381 of Article IV - Boards and Commissions of Chapter 2-Administration - of the Code of the City of East Lansing to add a student commission member to the Commission on the Environment

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing, prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-3777.

Marie E. Wicks  
City Clerk

CP#17-143

### CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

### NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 1400

#### AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 50-814 OF CHAPTER 50 - ZONING - OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING TO REDUCE THE PARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL USES IN THE B-2 AND B-3 DISTRICTS AND ALLOW FOR FURTHER PARKING REDUCTIONS WHEN WARRANTED

Please take notice that Ordinance No.1400 was adopted by the East Lansing City Council at the regular meeting of the Council held on May 9, 2017, and will become effective 7 days after the publication of the following summary of ordinance.

#### SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 1400

#### THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Ordinance 1400 reduces parking requirements for residential uses in the B-2 and B-3 Districts and allows City Council to further reduce parking in all mixed-used developments where warranted.

A true copy of Ordinance No. 1400 can be inspected or obtained at the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan during normal business hours.

Marie E. Wicks  
City Clerk

CP#17-141

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES LOCATED AT 3209 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN ON TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Aten, Treasurer Rodgers  
Trustees: Harris, DeLay  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustees: Broughton, McKenzie

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:  
Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.  
Minutes of the meeting held on April 18, 2017 approved.  
Agenda approved.  
Tabled conditional rezoning request R-16-20.  
Resolution 17-10 GLRC storm water program memorandum agreement approved.  
Budget amendment approved.  
Claims approved.  
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor  
Susan L. Aten, Clerk

CP#17-136

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS 2017 LOCAL STREET PROGRAM CITY OF EAST LANSING 410 ABBOT ROAD EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN 48823

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of East Lansing at the Office of the Director of Public Works, up to 11:00 A.M., Monday, June 12, 2017, at which time and place proposals will be publicly opened and read for the furnishing of materials, labor and equipment for sidewalk ramp improvements, HMA cold milling and HMA paving on Hawksridge Court and Turtlecreek Circle. The project scope of work also includes spot HMA pavement repairs and cape sealing of existing HMA pavements on Abbey Road in the City of East Lansing. Proposals may either be mailed to the Director of Public Works at 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 or hand delivered to the Office of the Director of Public Works located at 1800 E. State Road, East Lansing, Michigan.

The Contract Documents, including Specifications, Plans and Bidding Forms may be obtained at the Director of Public Works' Office, located at 1800 E. State Road, East Lansing, Michigan, by paying a Thirty Dollar (\$30.00) non-refundable preparation fee.

Proposals must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond payable to the City of East Lansing, in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid amount, which shall be forfeited to the City of East Lansing if the bidder to whom the Contract is awarded fails to enter into a Contract within ten (10) days after the Contract is awarded. The unsuccessful bidders' checks or bid bonds will be returned upon final award of Contract, approved and executed.

The City will apply its Local Purchasing Preference Policy, Policy Resolution 2009-3, in making the award of this contract.

The City of East Lansing reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive defects in proposals, and to make the award in its own best interest.

CITY OF EAST LANSING

By: Marie Wicks  
City Clerk

CP#17-138

# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC • THEATER

## Please turn on all devices

Lisa Pegher, Lansing Symphony take a trip to the land of electronica

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The event horizon where technology and humanity merge is not a place where you usually find a symphony orchestra.

Hold your glockenspiel tight. Friday's Lansing Symphony Orchestra season finale pushes straight into the matrix with the world premiere of "Northern Nights," a new percussion concerto by Ann Arbor composer Paul Dooley.

Soloist Lisa Pegher, an athletic and electric percussionist who has played twice with the Lansing Symphony to wide acclaim, is taking her third outing way, way out.

Pegher's percussion battery will merge with a vast palette of electronic sounds, from bird calls and dance grooves to ineffable signals of infinity.

### Masterworks 6: Rhythm in Blue

Lansing Symphony Orchestra with Lisa Pegher, percussion  
8 p.m. Friday, May 19  
\$20-50  
Wharton Center  
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing  
(517) 432-2000,  
whartoncenter.com

"It's going to look like I'm Lisa the soloist, playing a bunch of drums at the front of the stage, but what's going to come out of my setup is another whole sound world that nobody's experienced before," Pegher said. "When I go to hit a drum or something, what you would think is going to come out of my setup is going to be completely mysterious, not anything you would expect."

Dooley and Pegher met at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music in Santa Cruz, Calif., a few years ago. They bonded almost instantly over their mutual desire to merge electronic dance music and a symphony orchestra.

"Our generation grew up with this music," Pegher said.

Dooley wrote "Northern Nights" after an over-stimulating sojourn at the good-vibey Northern Nights electronic dance music festival in the middle of California's redwoods. The project came to reality when Lansing Symphony conductor Timothy Muffitt got on board and the principals secured a second performance at New York's Lake George Music Festival in August.

Banking on Dooley's reputation as a meticulous musical craftsman and the wild success of Pegher's two previous Lansing appearances, Muffitt decided to slip a brand new concerto into the orchestra's season finale, between familiar servings of Tchaikovsky ("Romeo and Juliet"), Smetana (three dances from "The Bartered Bride") and a 1980s work by Michael Torke, "Bright Blue Music."

"It's been in the works for a long while and we're excited to bring it to life, especially in Lansing," Pegher said. "I feel like I got my start as a soloist there, and there's no better place to do it."



Courtesy Photo

Percussionist Lisa Pegher returns to the Lansing Symphony Friday to premiere "Northern Nights," an electronica-influenced percussion concerto by Ann Arbor composer Paul Dooley.

Muffitt was busy diving into the score last week, with the help of a sound file from Dooley containing some of the pre-recorded bits.

"There's a range of sounds, from things that the audience will recognize, like a rainstorm or thunder, to things that are completely synthesized," Muffitt said. "But only in my imagination can I see how this is going to work until we actually do it."

Classical music that combines electronic and acoustic sounds has been around for a long time. Muffitt cited the bird songs in Respighi's "Pines of Rome" as an early example.

"The performer has no control, except to start the recording. It fades out, and we follow along," he said.

Modern technology, he said, has changed that completely.

"I've done a handful of these, but this is the first piece I've done where the electronics have been integrated to this degree," Muffitt said.

The difference is like the one between the bossy computer that takes up a whole bunker in the 1970 movie "Colossus" and Alicia Vikander's artificial human slipping into the big city at the end of 2015's "Ex Machina."

"With technology today, all of the electronic sounds are totally under Lisa's control, with just a few exceptions," Muffitt said. "That's great, because it's simply an expansion of the concept of what percussion is. Along with drums and maracas and cymbals and all of that, the percussionist has this incredible variety of pre-composed sounds at her disposal."

Pegher agreed that it's a natural extension of her lifelong curiosity about dddds, pwams, booms and such. She has spent much of the past two years writing and performing pieces that combine electronic and acoustic patterns.

"As a percussionist — we are always looking for different sounds," she said. "We can make a sound out of anything."

Electronics open an infinite world.

"You can make up sounds you imagine, mix them, find them, enhance them, and make them more magical than you could do with an inanimate object."

Dooley's score, cut into pieces and strewn all over Pegher's studio, is an exploded soundscape of the tall trees, birds and meandering Eel River when Cooks Valley throbs with the color and music of the Northern Nights festival. The title of the last movement, "All the Lights," should clue you in that this is no stern Stockhausen strafing of the ears.

"What I'm working with here is really intense," Pegher said. "These electronic synth sounds that he put into my percussion setup — he's created some of the most interesting sounds that I could imagine, or anyone could imagine."

The theme of nature encountering technology, expressed in both acoustic and electronic sounds, makes for a neat mirror reflection of message and medium.

"It's kind of like our world," Pegher said. "It's where we are in society. Technology hasn't completely taken over, but it's definitely layered over almost everything we do."

"That's the really cool part of this piece," Muffitt said.



# CURTAIN CALL

## It's all geek to me

Ixion Theatre delights with collection of original plays

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

There's no need to call Best Buy's "Geek Squad" to figure out "Geeked." Even non-nerds can comprehend — and enjoy — Ixion Theatre's collection of geek culture plays.

Last year, Ixion founder and artistic director Jeff Croff called for original scripts with "Geeked" as their theme. He received nearly 50 submissions, and the five chosen for this production were all winners.

My favorites were the plays that bookended the set of one-act plays. The first, "The Physics of Now" starred Richard Kopitsch and Storm Boyer. The real-life couple played boyfriend and girlfriend on the brink of discovering the equation for time travel. Time after time, I found myself chuckling at Alex Dreman's novel script. When Steve Ledyard and Rebecca Williams appeared on the stage as the future version of the couple, my chuckles increased in a timely manner, so to speak.

The final mini-play to take the Robin Theatre stage, "What We Do," once again had roles for Kopitsch and Boyer — this time he as über-nerd Curtis and she as Goth-queen Julia. Both actors not only changed costumes for Terry Palczewski's play, they also dramatically changed their stage personalities.

What we did do during "What We Do" was laugh and ponder. Ralph, played with intensity by Ben Guenther, was the third character in the final performance. Besides

adding to its comedy, he added levels of emotion to the play about very different people in a tech company's waiting room. "What We Do" had gut-wrenching moments mixed with funny parts. To me, it was the most sophisticated of the five.

I found the second "Geeked" play, Scott Mullen's "Cow," to be the least ingenious of the collection. That is not to say "Cow" didn't have me repeatedly mooing in approval. Jennifer Lowe, as weird-geek Quinn, and Rebecca Williams, as wacky-geek Awesome Girl, played banana-eating ladies that were totally bananas. However, I found a few of their punch lines about as clever as slipping on a banana peel.

Playwright Jack Karp won the third spot with "Superiority Complex." Here, Kopitsch played Clark Kent/Superman and Ledyard was the therapist/bad guy, Dr. Feingold. Kopitsch was especially hilarious as the mellow, old hippie shrink who did Tai Chi moves while wearing ill-fitting clothes. "Superiority Complex" was filled with sexual references. It went in and out, in and out, and in and out with sexual innuendos.

"Superiority Complex" also had surprise character pop-ups and a surprise ending. These pleasant interjections made up for the play's minor faults, like when Superman incorrectly said "orthodontist" when referring to a periodontist's job or when the doctor looked at his watchless wrist to tell time.

In the fourth spot, John Weagly's "Betrayal Among the Grinning Gators" had geeky references to a fictional video game that non-gamers might not understand. As it was, the play was still mostly understandable.

In "Betrayal," Williams and Guenther were a twosome that shared a love for a video game that apparently involved alligators that smiled. The connected couple's comedic

game cravings facilitated content that kept the giggles and guffaws gushing — even after their conversation concluded. The last line of the play had the audience howling.

With set dressings no more complex than a couch, table and a couple of chairs, the "Geeked" compilation delighted. Everyone left with a smile — old, young, cool and geeky.

## Tryst and shout

Riverwalk's 'Fool for Love' brings sexual tension to black box stage

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

When the man and woman argued near the start of "Fool for Love," I wasn't sure if they were bickering lovers, a cheating couple or squabbling siblings. As it turned out, I was right, I was right and I was right.

Dale D. Hills played Eddie, a backwoods kind of character with a propensity for drinking and shouting. Raine Paul was May, a semi-disturbed lady with proclivity for insecurity and shouting. In fairness, the pair did have a lot to yell about. Their relationship was torturing them, both had outside partners and, yes, they were related.

Through the unfolding of Riverwalk Theatre's "Fool for Love," we learn that Eddie and May have had the hots for each other since high school. That made for a lot of heat on the black box stage — and a lot of door slamming. During the one-hour play, written by Sam Shepard, stage doors slammed fourteen times.

Martin, who shows up as May's movie date, was the only actor who consistently closed doors properly. Except for his out-of-character, combative entrance, Steve Lee played a restrained, cardboard character, a fellow who remained passive even after

learning his girlfriend was already attached to her half-brother, Eddie.

Off to the side of an unadorned motel room set, an old man pitched gently in a rocking chair. Tim Perry played the father to a son and daughter from different mothers. The "ghost" of dad sometimes interjected loony rants, either from his chair or while stepping onto the stage. When the old man came to life, May and Eddie sometimes remained motionless.

To this critic, those were the weakest moments in "Fool for Love." When Hills and Paul occupied the space and gave motion to their characters, the stage was alive with energy, conflict, steam and tension — lots of tension. The two leads, directed by Ronald Auther, made the disturbing mess of a story into a very watchable and engaging spectacle.

Paul quickly established the sexual heat of the play. The first spark was early in "Fool for Love," when she momentarily stripped down to her underwear. For most of the play, her body was covered by a super short, super clinging, bright red dress. It hid her figure about as much as a coat of paint would. Every part of her body — as well as her face — communicated believable emotion.

Hills was the perfect target of her teases and fiery insults. He convincingly kept his drawl and stayed in character, even during his violent outbursts. Hills realistically acted the part of a man affected by drinking repeatedly from a tequila bottle. (A small quibble: Would a guy with duck tape holding his boot together be able to afford Patron?) He had a way of making it likeable to watch an unlikeable guy.

As expected in a Black Box venue, Bob Nees' set was nothing more than simple, painted walls with a window and two doors to slam. The only special lighting, designed by Tom Ferris, was lights seen through the window shears that meekly simulated car lights and a fire.

But that was enough when the two figures occupying the plain set gave anything but plain performances. This fool might not be able to say I loved "Fool for Love," but I can say I came away with a strong affection for its leads.

### "Geeked"

Ixion Theatre  
8 p.m. Saturday  
May 20, 7 p.m.  
Sunday, May 21  
\$15/\$10 adv.  
Robin Theatre  
1105 S.  
Washington Ave.,  
Lansing  
(517) 775-4246,  
ixiontheatre.com

### Review

### "Geeked"

Riverwalk Theatre  
8 p.m. Friday, May  
19-Saturday, May  
20; 2 p.m. Sunday,  
May 21  
\$12/\$10 seniors,  
students and military  
Riverwalk Theatre  
228 Museum Drive,  
Lansing  
(517) 482-5700,  
riverwalktheatre.com

riverwalktheatre.com

## Taking it to the streets

East Lansing Art Festival helps artists make valuable connections

By TY FORQUER

Even in the Internet age, sometimes the best way to get noticed is to get out into the real world and get in front of people. The East Lansing Art Festival, which kicks off this weekend, offers artists a chance to connect with an audience of thousands over a two-day span.

"It's a big opportunity to sell your work, but also to help people hear about your work," said East Lansing-based fiber artist Susan Luks. "As nice as my webpage is, it doesn't get a lot of traffic."

And she should know. Luks works a day job as a computer programmer, then heads out on summer weekends to sell her

colorful coats, wraps and scarves at art fairs and festivals around the Midwest. For Luks, who exhibits at about a dozen events each year, a hometown show is a great way to kick off the season.

"It's where we work things out," she said. "It's better to realize you need something when you're only a few miles from home, rather than 600 miles away."

The festival, which features over 170 exhibiting artists, is a boon for participating artists, both in sales and in networking. The East Lansing Art Festival is the only outdoor art show that Lansing-based artist Ingrid Blixt participates in, but the connections she makes at the festival are important.

"It's a good time of the year, and it's great local exposure to me," she said. "I get invited to exhibit at other events, and I get a lot of commissions after the festival. It generates a lot of income for me for the whole year."

This year's festival draws artists from 19 states, including

participants from far-away states like California, and even one artist from Canada. Festival Director Michelle Carlson, who is gearing up for her 11th year working with the festival and her fourth as director, said that the East Lansing Art Festival has built a reputation as a great festival for artists. It was ranked No. 9 in Sunshine Artist's 2016 200 Best Fine Art and Design Shows, which is based on artist votes.

"When artists see that, they know it's good," she said. "We generally provide really good sales, and we have a community that is really knowledgeable and appreciative of art."

### East Lansing Art Festival

10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Saturday, May 20; 10  
a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday,  
March 21  
FREE  
Downtown East  
Lansing

### ELAFter Dark Concerts

7 p.m. Friday, May 19  
and Saturday, May 20  
FREE  
Ann Street Plaza,  
East Lansing  
(517) 319-6804,  
elartfest.com

# British invasion

New David Olds photo exhibit looks back on 1970s England, Wales

By **BILL CASTANIER**

The work of East Lansing photographer David Olds recalls a time when you could wander around, virtually invisible, with a camera around your neck, your pocket filled

## "The British Seen"

Opening reception  
5-8 p.m. Friday, May 19  
FREE, donations accepted  
Robin Theatre  
1105 S. Washington Ave.,  
Lansing  
(989) 878-1810,  
therobintheatre.com

with 35mm film cassettes and your mind's eye filled with whatever was in front of you.

Olds, 63, has spent much of his life behind a

camera. If you've lived in Lansing anytime in the last 40 years, you've likely seen his

images in the Lansing State Journal, on campaign brochures or at galleries.

But what you haven't seen are the black and white images in his upcoming gallery show, "The British Seen," which opens at the Robin Theatre Friday. Olds took the photos in London and Wales from 1973 to 1978 while on a journey to visit his girlfriend, who is now his wife, and while studying documentary photography in Wales with the noted Magnum Photos photographer David Hurn from 1975 to 1976.

While overseas, Olds wandered the countryside, capturing British people at leisure at horse and dog shows, flower shows, regattas, village festivals, at the seaside and in small villages.

"I'm an anthropologist," Olds said more than once as he finished mounting the exhibit of 25 prints carefully selected from thousands of negatives. "I wanted to show everyday stuff with no specific point of view or cause in mind."

A sense of invisibility is found in many of the photographs, as the subjects go about their business, sometimes even looking directly at him but not really seeing him.

"Blending in was my forte," he said as he described using his old, beat-up Leica M3 covered with black electrical tape.

Olds also pays close attention to framing, as in the symmetrical photograph "At the Sea," which records a day at the seaside town of Blackpool, England, or in a photograph of show dogs, all in a row, at the West of England Ladies Kennel Society Champion Dog Show in Malvern Wells.

"Even the dogs have personality," he said.

In another photograph, "The Winner," a young woman and her Afghan hound stare off in opposite directions, aloof from the scene.

"Black and white photographs are all about geometry and content," Olds said. "People will need to study them and take a little more time to discover what's in them."

He sees the photographs as a snapshot of society at a particular time, comparable



Courtesy Photo

Photographer David Olds opens a new exhibition, "The British Seen," at the Robin Theatre Friday. The exhibit features photos Olds took in England and Wales in the 1970s.

to books like "Suburbia" by American photographer Bill Owen, which shows suburban Californians at everything from Tupperware parties to Cub Scout meetings.

"All the photographs in the show are spontaneous," Olds said of his collection.

After shooting the thousands of photographs, Olds stuffed the black and white negatives in a shoe box until relatively recently, when he digitized and curated them for a book project. Some of the photographs are almost quaint in today's world, like one showing two British women taking tea from the trunk of their car.

"The photographs definitely have a 40-year-old vibe, with the dress and settings," Olds said. "If you went back today, everything would be different."

Then again, some things never seem to change. Another photograph shows an arcade at the Blackpool Pier with a sign reading "The Good Old Days."

Olds said doing this type of documentary photography today would be very difficult, if not impossible. He imagines shooting similar photos today and hearing subjects yell "Why are you taking my picture?" and or being confronted by the parents of the little girls in another picture.

"You are going to be accosted if you tried to shoot these photographs today," he said.

Olds said if he took on a documentary

project today, he'd go to Florida to shoot "pirates" — not literal pirates, but cultural outsiders. He added that he would like to shoot them in the style of legendary photographer Richard Avedon, whose minimalist celebrity portraits have graced magazines like Rolling Stone, Look, Life, Vogue and Harper's Bazar.

The Robin Theatre, with its bare-bones, New York gallery vibe, is a perfect backdrop for a small photo exhibition. The photos will be hung for several months, and they are for sale. Olds said he hopes to do a lecture on the history of British documentary photography at the theater.

For now, his book project, which includes more than 70 photographs, is on hold until he can find exactly the right printing company. He said he's gone through three prospective printers so far but has not been happy with the product. Until then fans will have to settle for a show catalog, which has reprints of several of the pieces in the show. The catalog includes Olds' favorite photo, "Above the Wall," which shows a member of the upper crust, complete with top hat and tails, watching the action on a raised viewing platform at Derby Day in Epworth while below him kids in jeans try to climb a wall to see. The catalog has a descriptive essay of Olds' work by Dean Brierly, editor of Black & White Magazine.

And many will love the photograph "The Poser," which shows a beagle on a chair looking warmly into the lens as his owners, their backs turned, are looking toward the arena and have seemingly forgotten him.

## SCHULER BOOKS

**Talk and Signing: Newbery Honor-Winning Author GARY D. SCHMIDT**

Wednesday, May 17 @ 7pm  
Meridian Mall location

Meet acclaimed Grand Rapids young adult author Gary D. Schmidt, celebrating the paperback release of his touching novel, *Orbiting Jupiter!* The novel earned starred reviews from School Library Journal, Publishers Weekly, Booklist and Kirkus Reviews, and was named an ALA Notable Book for Children in 2016 and cited in the YALSA 2017 Best Fiction for Young Adults list.

**NYT- bestselling Fantasy Author JACQUELINE CAREY**

Tuesday, May 23 @ 7pm  
Eastwood Towne Center location

Jacqueline's gorgeous new novel, *Miranda and Caliban*, is a retelling of *The Tempest* that earned starred reviews from Library Journal and Publishers Weekly.

**Acclaimed Literary Horror Novelist JOSH MALERMAN**

Wednesday, May 24 @ 7pm  
Eastwood Towne Center location

From the author of Michigan Notable book *Bird Box*, comes *Black Mad Wheel*, a chilling novel that's part *Heart of Darkness*, part *Lost*.

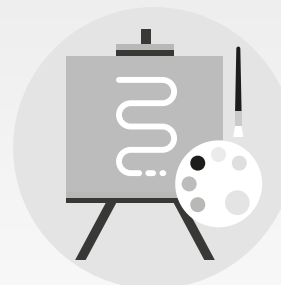
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Lansing's LGBT Connection!

Lansing Association for Human Rights

# The LGBT News

Michigan's oldest community based organization

March 2017: Published Monthly

## Why Lansing's Sanctuary City Status is Crucial to the LGBTQ Community

by Emily Dievendorf  
and Lydia Weiss

LGBTQ people are no strangers to the search for a new home. We understand and feel the depth and relief behind a word like "sanctuary." Sanctuary is what a home is supposed to be, but for many, it is not. Many LGBTQ people are kicked out of our homes while they're still young. Sometimes, after learning to love ourselves, we leave on our own. We find new families, "found family," "chosen family." We make new homes. And for thousands upon thousands of us, we even have to find brand new lands. When it is your life, it isn't a choice. It is a must.

Immigration Equality, the nation's leading LGBTQ immigrant rights organization, states that at this time it is either a crime or fundamentally unsafe to be LGBTQ in more than 80 countries. In many ways, conditions for LGBTQ people are deteriorating around the world.

Gay men in the Russian republic of Chechnya have been abducted and sent to camps where they are being tortured and killed. And according to the Williams Institute, there are approximately 267,000 undocumented immigrants in the United States who identify as LGBTQ. While the sanctuary they seek may include many things living without fear is paramount. Their fears are real, and they're complicated by the United Nations treaties that protect human rights regarding torture, but don't necessarily extend to persecution or other bodily violations. Dr. Debanuj DasGupta, Assistant Professor in the department of Geography and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of Connecticut, said this can disproportionately impact the lives of women and LGBTQ people. These treaties, although well-intentioned, can limit their

protections and their basic human rights.

This can make immigration an even thornier issue. LGBTQ immigrants deported from the United States may be returned to imprisonment, physical and sexual hate violence, and execution. That's why sanctuary cities can be so important. Dr. DasGupta said that

local level sanctuary cities have a large impact on human rights to be able to "live life freely." To live openly, as a queer person around the world remains a radical and courageous act.

But we cannot forget that a population that is vulnerable due to stigma and ignorance is vulnerable everywhere those biases exist. While queer immigrants and refugees may be safer in a nation like ours, LGBTQ people are still less safe overall. Racism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, and sexism pile on top of each other — regardless of borders — and the weight of these heavy intersections can be crushing when you are already sore from your fight.

Dr. DasGupta stresses that immigration bans are nothing new. In fact, in 1991 the U.S. had a national ban on HIV positive immigrants — negatively and disproportionately affecting the gay community. He also explained the "double bind" of queer migrants, stating that they often face homophobia and sexism in their community of origin and then also face discrimination in U.S. queer spaces. "They are neither here, nor there," he said.



Detention centers can create unique risks for queer people. Dr. DasGupta's particular area of research is on transgender detention. "There are layers of vulnerability for queer detainees," Dr. DasGupta said. "Transgender detainees are often put in the wrong gender detention and face a lot of sexual harassment in detention centers." And while being detained is traumatic for everyone, there is a specific re-traumatization for LGBTQ people because they often have to "relive their persecution in order to argue their asylum. When they are sent back to their country of origin, they can face persecution, harassment, even death. Many trans detainees would rather live in detention indefinitely than go back."

So what's the solution? Dr. DasGupta points to sanctuary cities: "A sanctuary city is the ultimate way of making America great again, of making the world beautiful again. We will become human in sharing our joys and pains rather than building walls against each other." He also recommends continuing to fight for gender equality. People in the U.S. can take a stand and argue to recognize persecution as a form of torture in order to expand UN protections,

especially for queer people. We have a role to play in protecting queer immigrants.

When asked if there was anything else he wanted to add, Dr. DasGupta said, "As a queer immigrant of color who has lived in detention, I want people to know that I am a fashionable, colorful, amazing person who comes from a long line of amazing, resilient people. I want us to fall in love with each other again."



JUNE MIXER

Wednesday, June 7th  
5:30-7:30 p.m.

The English Inn,  
677 S. Michigan Rd., Eaton Rapids

www.suitsandthecity.org

# The A-Spectrum

by C.J. Starry

If you were asked to define your sexuality, how would you do it? You might call yourself heterosexual, bisexual, pansexual, or homosexual. These words, among others, are commonly used to describe the people you feel attracted to. But the way we define ourselves is changing. With more descriptors comes more accuracy and a greater ability to relate. As our language evolves, we find ourselves able to describe not only who we are attracted to, but how we experience attraction.

The word “asexual” and the associated spectrum remains an abstract concept to many, but once explained, it is actually rather simple to understand. As we learn more about human behavior, we have begun to understand that how you experience attraction is just as important as who you experience it with.

Most of us understand that sexuality falls on a spectrum. But that spectrum extends not only to who you're attracted to, but also how you experience attraction. That is why there is a great amount of variability in preferences and behaviors of those who describe themselves as asexual or “ace.”

Generally speaking, when someone identifies as strictly asexual, this means they experience no sexual attraction. That feeling you get when you see someone aesthetically pleasing? (Think: “I’d tap that.”) Asexuals don’t get that feeling. This does NOT mean that they are celibate. It also does not mean that they can’t appreciate the attractiveness of a person. It simply means that the drive to have sex is not there.

Even among those who identify as asexual, there is still the matter of individual choice. Some asexuals may be sex repulsed or choose to be celibate out of lack of interest, while other asexuals may have sex for a variety of reasons. Oftentimes, people who are on the asexual spectrum may choose to have sex to connect with their partner or because they still derive some other sort of enjoyment from it. It is important to note that sexual attraction and libido can be entirely separate entities. Many people who experience no sexual attraction still have a libido and may pursue satisfaction either alone or with others.

From these differences in preference comes other terms that define markers on

the ace spectrum. For example, many people who experience occasional sexual attraction identify as gray-ace, or graysexual. As a play on the words grey and asexual, it implies that they fall in the “gray area” of sexuality.

Another common term is the word “demisexual,” which has two frequently understood meanings. First and most common is the interpretation that a demisexual person only feels sexual attraction to someone who they are very close to (often romantically) and trust. Occasionally, other people interpret demisexual as only being attracted to certain types of people or in certain circumstances.

Though it may seem daunting — and there are other terms that deal in more specifics — the basics are very easy! Asexual refers to a lack of sexual attraction, demisexual speaks to sexual attraction in a specific circumstance (particularly with a trusted partner), and graysexual is often used as a descriptor when someone falls on the spectrum without feeling that either of the prior labels describes them. As with any label, it can be personal to each individual. If you’d like to understand more about someone, the best course of action is always to ask!

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# OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com). Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Allison at (517) 999-5066.

## Wednesday, May 17

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Alcoholics Anonymous.** 6 p.m. Donation welcome. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing.

**Ballroom Dance: Waltz.** 8:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. \$21/\$42 couples. Jackson School of the Arts, 634 N. Mechanic St., Jackson. (517) 784-2389.

**Mindfulness.** 7-9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington, Lansing.

**Shamanic Education & Healing Clinic.** Learn about shamanism. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Willow Stick Ceremonies, W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. (517) 402-6727, [willowstickceremonies.com](http://willowstickceremonies.com).

**SMART Recovery.** 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing.

**Walk-In Wednesdays.** 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643.

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**MSU Creative Writing Center Group.** 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### MUSIC

**Sarah Brunner at Allen Farmers Market.** Sarah Brunner performs. 5-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E Kalamazoo St, Lansing. (517) 999-3911, [allenneighborhoodcenter.org](http://allenneighborhoodcenter.org).

**Tavern House Jazz Band.** 7:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m. Tavern and Tap, 101 S. Washington Square, Lansing.

### EVENTS

**After School Action Program.** 4-6 p.m. FREE. Eastside Community Action Center, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing.

**Allen Farmers Market.** Weekly market. 2:30-7 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911, [ow.ly/5dDq30bGIXa](http://ow.ly/5dDq30bGIXa).

**Chinese Meet Up Group.** 6-8:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos.

**First Presbyterian Church Salad Luncheon.** Take out available. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. \$8 suggested donation. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. (517) 483-4135.

**Pop Up Card Making Class.** Registration deadline May 15. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$5. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517)

706-5045, [meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com](http://meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com).

**Practice Your English.** 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### Stagetime.

Open Mic with featured artist. 7-10:11 p.m. FREE. Sir Pizza Grand Cafe, 201 E. Grand River, Lansing.

**Table Tennis.** 10 a.m.-noon FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos.

**Teen Make N Take: Fidget Spinner.** Program is for teens in 7th-12th grades. 4-5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, [elpl.org](http://elpl.org).

## Thursday, May 18

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**(TOPS) Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** At 6 p.m. First meeting FREE. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin, St. Haslett.

**A Course in Miracles.** 7-9 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes, Lansing. 517-371-3010.

**Capital Area Crisis Rugby Practice.** 6-8 p.m. FREE. St. Joseph Park, 2125 W. Hillsdale, Lansing.

**Celebrate Recovery.** At 6 p.m. Donations welcome. Trinity Church, 3355 Dunckel Road, Lansing.

**Doctor's Approach - Free Skin Cancer Screening.** Call to register. 5:30-6:30 p.m. FREE. Doctor's Approach Dermatology, 2685 Jolly Road, Okemos. (517) 993-5900, [drsapproach.com](http://drsapproach.com).

**Homespun Homeopathy.** Learn about homeopathic remedies. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. (517) 402-6727, [willowstickceremonies.com](http://willowstickceremonies.com).

**How to Protect Your "Stuff" in 3 Easy Steps!** Estate planning workshop. 2-4 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, [family-elder-law.com](http://family-elder-law.com).

**Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous.** At 5:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

**Money in Politics.** Discuss raising money for political office. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 624-9224, [lansing.mi.lvwnet.org](http://lansing.mi.lvwnet.org).

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**2017 Michigan Notable Book Author Visit - Feather Brained by Bob Tarte.** Author talk. 6-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, [elpl.org](http://elpl.org).

**Chipmunk Story Time: Inch by Inch.** Story time and nature activities. 10-11 a.m. \$3. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

### THEATRE

**The Orphan Train.** Eight story play. 7-8:15 p.m. FREE. 2/42 Community Building, 2630 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 339-2145, [mmft.org](http://mmft.org).

### EVENTS

**12-Step Meeting.** 12-1 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing.

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection.** 2-6 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Health Department, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing.

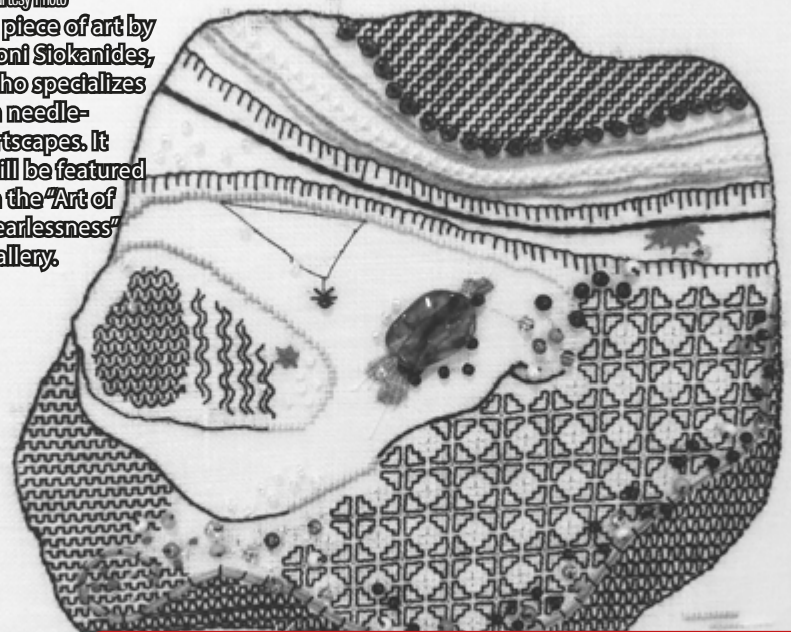
**Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club.** 9:30-11:20 a.m. \$5 and yearly dues fee. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing.

**Spanish Conversation Group.** 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

See Out on the Town, Page 20

## Overcoming fear

Courtesy Photo  
A piece of art by Roni Stokanides, who specializes in needle-artscaapes. It will be featured in the "Art of Fearlessness" gallery.



May 17-20

If you're an American, one of your biggest fears is probably corrupt government officials, terrorist attacks or financial insecurity. That's according to the 2016 Chapman University Survey of American Fears, which listed those as the top three nationwide. The Quakers are one religious community that is stepping forward to help people face their fears.

The national Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts is promoting a weeklong Art of Fearlessness project. This week, May 13 through 20, local congregations are encouraged to organize and host artistic events that address issues of fear. Local Quaker group Red Cedar Friends Meeting is hosting a gallery show and performance artists in conjunction with the project.

"I can't name anyone else's fears, I can only name my own," said Sandra L.C. Cade, Fellowship of Quakers in the Arts board member and curator of the Lansing events. "In this time, there are a lot of people that are afraid, and they don't know what to do with it, and it can be overwhelming. So, the fellowship of Quakers in the Arts decided to come up with a national project to allow us to think about how art helps us to deal with these kinds of things."

The Lansing events, which are open to the public, include both visual and performing arts. A gallery show features a variety of art from eight local artists. Saturday, the visual art will be accompanied by poetry, music and a "Readers Theatre."

"We're very excited about the Reader Theatre presentation of a play, 'Manifesto for Another World,'" Cade said. "That

presents the voices of some very famous people who have stood up when they needed to and some other people who we may not know at all."

Written by author Ariel Dorfman, "Manifesto for Another World" retells the story of 50 human rights activists, including luminaries like the Dalai Lama and author Elie Wiesel, as well as unsung heroes from around the world. Cade hopes that their voices can be a shining beacon of positivity and hope in fearful times.

One of the actors in Saturday's play is Lansing resident Peter Wood, who will be portraying Nobel Prize winners Muhammad Yunus and Kailash Satyarthi. Yunus was recognized for his work helping people in poverty, while Satyarthi advocated for the rights of child workers. Wood is not a professional thespian, but he is glad to be participating. He said he doesn't plan to emulate the people he is playing, but to get their message of positivity across.

"I'm not an actor — I'll just be reading it. But in a way, I hope that gets the meaning across without trying to play somebody from a different culture," Wood said. "It also puts me under personal pressure to be a better person in my own life."

— Eve Kucharski

### "Art of Fearlessness"

Gallery hours  
3-7 p.m.  
Wednesday, May  
17-Friday, May 19;  
5-7 p.m. Saturday,  
May 20

Performance art  
Saturday, May 20  
6 p.m. music and  
poetry, 7 p.m.  
Readers Theatre

FREE  
Red Cedar Friends  
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1400 Turner St.,  
Lansing  
(517) 371-1047,  
[redcedarfriends.org](http://redcedarfriends.org)

# Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICH TUPICA

## TYRANT PLAYS HOMECOMING SHOW AT MAC'S BAR

**Friday, May 19 @ Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 18+, \$12/\$10 adv., 7 p.m.**



FRI. APRIL  
19TH

Emerging Lansing-based thrash-metal outfit Tyrant wraps up its second tour, "The Take Over Tour," Friday at Mac's Bar. Opening the show is tour partner Cipher Six, as well as fellow heavy hitters the Revenant and Pestilent Age. Tyrant was formed in 2011 by brothers Philip (guitar/vocals) and Andrew Winters (drums) while they were still in high school. Since then, the band has issued a series of independent releases, including the 2012 "Jaws of Agony" demo and 2014's "Purge" EP. The four-piece has been making national noise in the metal community since its latest release, 2016's "Black Hand" EP. While the band has spent ample time on the road touring the East Coast and the Midwest, Tyrant has also been prepping material for its debut full-length album, due out early 2018.

## CORN POTATO STRING BAND, MICAH LING AT THE ROBIN THEATRE



THURS. MAY  
25TH

**Thursday, May 25 @ The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. \$15/\$10 adv., 6:30 p.m.**

The Corn Potato String Band has peddled its nostalgic brand of fiddle-fueled music across the globe, including stints in Europe, Mexico and India. The trio, best known for its country rags and Southern gospel tunes, performs everything from ballads to spirited hoedowns. May 25, the group headlines the Robin Theatre, sharing the stage with local songwriter and Earthwork Music artist Micah Ling. The members of Corn Potato — Lindsay McCaw, Aaron Jonah Lewis and Ben Belcher — are all vocalists and multi-instrumentalists echoing the rustic musical traditions of the Central and Southern United States. In addition to being champion fiddlers, they also play banjo, guitar, bass and mandolin, allowing for ample twin-fiddling ditties and double banjo duels.

## EVERY TIME I DIE AT THE LOFT



SAT. MAY  
20TH

**Saturday, May 20 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. All ages, \$20/\$18 adv., 6 p.m.**

Buffalo-based metalcore band Every Time I Die headlines Saturday at the Loft; sharing the heavy bill are its tour-openers, Wage War and '68. Every Time I Die, which has been on the road across the U.S. since April, wraps up its tour in Ohio one day after its Lansing gig. The group, which formed in 1998, released a string of records on the Ferret Music imprint before leaving the label in 2008. The band's latest release, "Low Teens," was released last year on Epitaph Records. Every Time I Die was founded by brothers Keith and Jordan Buckley but has seen multiple lineup shifts over the years. The band has also transitioned from emo-tinged hardcore to punk-influenced metal. All Music describes the band's vibe as "mixing alternative metal, Southern metal and screamo."

**UPCOMING SHOW?** CONTACT [ALLISON@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM](mailto:ALLISON@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM)

## LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	Open Mic. FREE 9 p.m.	Dark Arts	Karaoke
Black Cat Bistro, 115 Albert Ave.				
Buddies - Holt, 2040 N Aurelius Rd				
Classic Bar & Grill, 16219 Old US 27		Karaoke, 9 p.m.		Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Champions, 2440 N. Cedar St.				
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Live Music, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Rd				
Darb's Tavern, 117 S Cedar St				Blue Hair Betties
Eaton Rapids Craft Co., 204 N Main St.				
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.				
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 8 p.m.	Mike Skory & Friends, 8:30 p.m.	Showdown, 9:30 p.m.	Showdown, 9:30 p.m.
Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.	Stagetime Open Mic 7pm			
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze!!	Glamhammer	Stocksmile 8 p.m.
Harrison Roadhouse, 720 E. Michigan Ave.				
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.,				
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.		Dave Dyer, Greg Hahn 8 p.m. Sinhaven, 7 p.m.	Raelynn, 7 p.m. Tyrant, 7 p.m.	Every Time I Die, 6 p.m. Mr. Denton on Doomsday, 8 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9pm	Atomic Boogaloo, 9pm	James Reeser & the Back Seat Drivers 9pm	Kathleen & the Bridge St. Band 9pm
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road			The New Rule, 8 p.m.	The New Rule, 8 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Kyle's Open Mic Jam, 7-11 p.m.	Kathy Ford, 7:30 p.m.	Elkabong, 7 p.m.	
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.				
Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave.,			The British Seen by David Olds, 5-8 p.m.	
Ryan's Roadhouse, 902 E State St.				
Tavern & Tap, 101 S. Washington Square	Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m.			
Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy.		Kathy Ford Band, 5 p.m.	7 Bridges: The Ultimate Eagles Experience 5 p.m.	Hillbilly Way, 5 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.				
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.			Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.
Waterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr.				

# Out on the Town

from page 19

**Teen After-School Program.** 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

## Friday, May 19

### Classes and Seminars

**Mud & Mug.** 7-10 p.m. \$25. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643.

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**StoryTime.** 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### MUSIC

**The DJClarinet Combo Celebrating 100 Years of Recorded Jazz.** Tribute to clarinetists. 8-10 p.m. \$10. UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 331-8440, urbanbeatevents.com.

### THEATRE

**Phantom of the Universe.** 8-9 p.m. \$3-4. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4672.

**The Orphan Train.** Eight story play. 7-8:30 p.m. \$7/\$5 seniors and students. 2/42 Community Building, 2630 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 339-2145, mmft.org

## Saturday, May 20

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

C Division Advanced Speakers Toastmasters.

Public speaking club. 9:30-11:45 a.m. FREE. Dart Bank, Grand Ledge, 1020 Charlevoix Dr., Grand Ledge. (517) 896-4091.

**Lansing East Law of Attraction.** 12:30-2 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music (Lansing), 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 316-7495.

**Lean In Lansing.** 9-11 a.m. Grand Traverse Pie, 1403 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 203-3304.

**The Junior League Of Lansing's Kids in the Kitchen.** Learn snack preparation. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. FREE. Cavanaugh Elementary, 300 W. Cavanaugh Road, Lansing., ow.ly/dbti30bC6Cp.

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Business/entrepreneur book club.** 12-12 a.m. email for dates/locations. Biggby Coffee, 8741 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing.

**Children's Social Justice Reading Group.** Pre K-5th Grade. Environmental justice focus. 10:30 a.m.-noon FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### MUSIC

**An All School Recital.** Featuring student musicians. 3-5 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, cms.msu.edu.

**Gospel Music Show and CD Launching with Freddy Nyembwe and Tota Praise Music.** 6-7:30 p.m. \$25/\$20 in advance. First Assembly of God, 2717 West Road, East Lansing. 517-894-1208, freddynyembwe.com/may-event.

### THEATRE

**Geeked! World Premier.** 8-10 p.m. \$15/ \$10 at eventbrite.com. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington, Lansing.

**The Orphan Train.** Eight story play. 7-8:30 p.m. \$7 adults/\$5 seniors and students. 2/42 Community Building, 2630 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 339-2145.

### EVENTS

**Craft Show.** Spring craft show. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. FREE. Inner Ascended Masters Ministry, 5705 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 455-3902.

**Dinner Dance.** Dinner with dancing. 5:30-1:30 p.m. \$10.00 Dinner/\$4 children 11 and younger. \$6 Dance/FREE children 11 and younger. 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 882-6330

**Lansing Lids For Kids.** Bicycle safety event for kids and families. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. Marshall St. Fire Station, 815 N. Marshall St., Lansing. lidsforkidsmi.org.

**Lansing Lids For Kids Bike Helmet Giveaway.** Safety event for children and families. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. Fire Station #48, 815 Marshall St., Lansing.

lidsforkidsmi.org.

**Mid-Michigan Yard Sale.** 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. \$3 admission/\$50 space. Summit Sports and Ice Complex, 9410 Davis Hwy, Dimondale. ow.ly/ezKa30bC83T.

**FIND US at the East Lansing Arts Festival.** Custom art booth at East Lansing Arts Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. FREE. Downtown East Lansing, Grand River Avenue, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

## Sunday, May 21

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Charlotte Yoga Club.** 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. \$5 annually. ALIVE, 800 W Lawrence, Charlotte.

## SATURDAY, MAY 20 >> GERANIUM GIVEAWAY

The Friends of Lansing's Historic Cemeteries continues to protect and promote local cemeteries with its ninth annual Geranium Giveaway Saturday at Evergreen Cemetery. The group will have 150 geraniums to distribute on a first-come, first-serve basis. Each family will be able to take up to four free flowers, which were purchased by at a discount from Smith Floral and Greenhouse. Those who pick up flowers can plant them at loved ones' graves in the three city-owned cemeteries, Evergreen, Mt. Hope and North. Members of the group are available to help plant the flowers for those unable to do so. 10 a.m. FREE. Entrance of Evergreen Cemetery, 1709 E. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 648-5730, facebook.com/lansingcemeteries.

## SUNDAY, MAY 21>> BLUES BRAWL AT THE GREEN DOOR

Hard-hitting Michigan blues acts bring their A-game to the Green Door Sunday to play for a chance to win the 15th annual Blues Brawl competition. Winners of Blues Brawl, hosted by the Capital Area Blues Society, get the chance to play at the Michigan Blues Fest in Old Town and advance to the 2018 International Blues Challenge held in Memphis. 3 p.m. \$10. The Green Door Blues Bar and Grille, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-6376, greendoorlive.com.

See Out on the Town, Page 22

# standards

BY BERL SCHWARTZ

## Diana Krall turns it up on 'Turn Up the Quiet'

Off of the turntable comes "Ella Fitzgerald Sings the Rodgers and Hart Songbook," a 1977 Verve Records reissue of the 1956 double album, complete with lengthy liner notes across the double truck and a marvelous mural of Ella and Dizzy and other horn players I should recognize on the back.

On goes Diana Krall's sort of double vinyl album — three sides; who knew? — released this month called "Turn Up The Quiet." What better title from the queen of laid-back delivery? Here are 11 standards with fresh looks. It's album 13 for Krall and a lucky one for the smoky-voiced pianist, each cut a gem.

Krall starts out with the lesser known Van Heusen and Burke song

"Like Someone in Love," introduced by Dinah Shore in the even less known 1944 film "Belle of the Yukon." Here we get a trio extraordinaire: Krall, bassist Christian McBride and guitarist Russell Malone (both jazz artists in residence at MSU in the last two years). And who would have complained about an entire album of just that crew?

But from there, "Turn Up The Quiet" provides lush orchestrations of "Isn't It Romantic," "Night and Day," "Sway" and "Dream" with no fewer than 13 violins, four violas and four celli. Isn't it romantic is right.

The album features sexy photos of Krall, none more so than of her sprawled across the bed in a hot red dress, and her rendition of "Sway" is even hotter. Krall's smoldering delivery of this 1953 Rumba number invokes Peggy Lee. (And if anyone can point me to a recording by Lee of this song, please do.)

But wait. Like the opener, we get six more songs featuring jazz combos with various casts. Following string-heavy "Dream" (credited oddly

to John H. Mercer) is 1924's Gus Kahn/Isham Jones' "I'll See You in My Dreams," with a swinging fiddle solo by Stuart Duncan. And Krall pays a hip tribute to Nat King Cole with "L-O-V-E" ("L is for the way you look at me") with stellar support from John Clayton Jr. on bass, Jeff Hamilton on drums and Anthony Wilson on guitar.

The album ends with the orphan Side C with three numbers. The first two are accented with Duncan's fiddle: the up-tempo "I'm Confessin' (That I Love you)" and the ballad "Moonglow," with Tony Garnier on bass, Karriem Riggins on drums and Marc Ribot on guitar making up the rest of the ensemble, all orchestrated by Krall.

The closer brings back McBride and Malone for Irving Berlin's "Blue Skies."



Krall launches it in the simplest fashion possible, just short of a capella, befitting the classic simplicity of the lyrics: "Blue skies/Smiling at me/Nothing but blue skies/Do I see." Then she, McBride and Malone swing to perfection.

If only there was a side four.

# Out on the Town

from page 21

**Juggling.** 2-4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumphouse, 368 Orchard St. East Lansing.  
**Kendo Martial Art Class.** 10-11:30 a.m. \$5. Westside Community YMCA, 3700 Old Lansing Road Lansing.

## MUSIC

**Woldumar Bluegrass Jam.** Open mic and performances. 2-6 p.m. \$4 suggested donation/\$2 seniors/Kids FREE. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (517) 482-2382, re-news.net/mmb.

## THEATRE

**Fool For Love.** Love story. 2-4 p.m. \$12/\$10 seniors and students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

**The Orphan Train.** Eight story play. 3-4:30 p.m. \$7 adults/\$5.00 seniors and students. 2/42 Community Building, 2630 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 339-2145, (517) 349-3866.

## EVENTS

**Bird Watching in Our Parks.** Outdoor birdwatching led by Audubon volunteer. 8-9 a.m. FREE. North Meridian Road Park, 5191 North Meridian Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866.

**Hike/Bike for Hospice.** For remembrance and reflection. At 7:30 a.m. Granger Meadows Park, E. State Road & Wood Road, DeWitt. (517) 364-3632, SparrowFoundation.org/hikebikeforhospice.

## FRIDAY, MAY 19 >> DARK ARTS BIZARRE AT THE AVENUE

Greater Lansing's witches, warlocks and ghouls make their way to the Avenue Café Riday for the second annual Dark Arts Bizarre. The art show/concert will be packed full of spooky vendors selling hand-made art, including wall art, jewelry and accessories, home decor, toys, clothing, music and many other witchy items. The event also performances by Michigan bands Dagon, Centenary, and Scary Women. If that's not enough to creep you out, Rock Bottom Video will be showing its film, "Beyond the Valley of Belief," and the festivities continue into the night with a spooky afterparty. 8 p.m.-1 p.m. \$5. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 492-7403, avenuecafelansing.com

## FRIDAY, MAY 19 >> CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF RECORDED JAZZ AT URBANBEAT

The DJ Clarinet Combo celebrates the 100th anniversary of the first jazz recording with a look back at clarinetists who have contributed to the legacy of jazz. Friday's show at UrbanBeat Event Center covers two decades of tunes, spanning from 1917 to 1938. 8 p.m. \$10 UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 331-8440, urbanbeatevents.com.

## THURSDAY, MAY 18 >> BATH SCHOOL BOMBING REMEMBERED

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing and the Bath School Museum Committee team up to take a look back on the deadliest act of school violence in U.S. history. The Thursday night program, which looks back on the tragic Bath School Bombing of 1927, includes a tour of the Bath School Museum, a viewing of a 2011 documentary about the bombing and a panel discussion with three second-generation survivors moderated by retired archivist and local historian Geneva Wiskemann. 4 p.m. FREE. Bath Middle School, 13675 Webster Road, Bath Township. (517) 282-0671, lansinghistory.org.

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**Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance.** At 6 p.m. \$8 dance, \$10 dance & lesson. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 321-0933.  
**Wildflower Walkabout.** Myths and fact about wildflowers. 3-4 p.m. \$3 per person/\$7 per family. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866. [bit.ly/HNCprg](http://bit.ly/HNCprg).

## ARTS

**One Year Older; One Year Better.** Boyang Twins art show. Noon. FREE. The Arty Party Studio, 4661 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 381-3426, boyangtwins.com/index.html.

## Monday, May 22

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**A Course in Love.** 1-2 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes. Lansing. (517) 371-3010.  
**How to Protect Your "Stuff" in 3 Easy Steps!** Estate planning workshop. 6-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road. East Lansing. (517) 351-6222, family-elder-law.com  
**Support Group.** At 7:30 p.m. St. Davids Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road., Lansing. (517) 323-2272.

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**BabyTime.** 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**Book Club.** Books, cake and conversation. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseiorcenter.weebly.com.

**Graphic Novel Writing Club.** 4-6 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**Out of This World Book Club.** Crosstalk by Connie Willis. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music (Okemos), 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

## MUSIC

**New Horizons Community Band.** 6-8 p.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661.

## EVENTS

**Celebrate 20 Years of Harry Potter – Magnets.** Make upcycled magnets. 6-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**Chess, Cribbage, Hand & Foot.** 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos.

**French Club.** 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**Game Night at UrbanBeat.** 5-8 p.m. FREE.

UrbanBeat Event Center, 1213 Turner St., Lansing.  
**Monday Movie Matinee.** Hacksaw Ridge. R, 131 min. Popcorn available. 1 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**Multicultural Day.** Exchange student info session. 3-4 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseiorcenter.weebly.com.

**Social Bridge.** 1-4 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing.

## Tuesday, May 23

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Capital City Toastmasters Meeting.** At 7 p.m. FREE for visitors. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300.

**Healing Movements Stretch Class.** 6:30-7:30 p.m. \$8. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing.

**Lansing Central Law of Attraction.** 5:15-6:15 p.m. FREE. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing.

**Q&A Bach Flower Stress Relief.** Aromatherapy questions answered. 6:30-8 p.m. Donations accepted. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. (810) 938-2410

**SPEED NETWORKING.** Mingle with industry professionals. 5:15-7:30 p.m. \$20. Pre-Register online. Allen Market Place, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 798-2441, dr-kai.com.

**Starting a Business.** Course for entrepreneurs. Call to register. 9-11 a.m. FREE. 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, ow.ly/UHKM30789z2.

**Take off Pounds Sensibly.** At 6 p.m. FREE first visit. St. Therese Parish, 102 West Randolph Street, Lansing. (517) 487-3749.

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**ToddlerTime.** 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

## MUSIC

**Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's.** 7-10 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

## EVENTS

**Bingo, Bridge, and Euchre.** 1-4:30 p.m. Cost Varies. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos.

**Biology on Tap – May – Astrobiology on Tap.** Three speakers. 7:30-10 p.m. FREE. The Loft, (At Harem Urban Lounge) 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. [ow.ly/3gXP30bGrTD](http://ow.ly/3gXP30bGrTD).

**LCC West Toastmasters.** 5-6:30 p.m. LCC West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-1314.

**Overeaters Anonymous.** At 7 p.m. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road., Okemos. (517) 349-9536.

**Trending Topics.** 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

## Wednesday, May 24

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Empowerment Circle for Women with Big

See Out on the Town, Page 24

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## Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsny

May 17-23

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): "A two-year-old kid is like using a blender, but you don't have a top for it," said comedian Jerry Seinfeld. Would you like to avoid a scenario like that, Aries? Would you prefer not to see what happens if your life has resemblances to turning on a topless blender that's full of ingredients? Yes? Then please find the top and put it on! And if you can't locate the proper top, use a dinner plate or newspaper or pizza box. OK? It's not too late. Even if the blender is already spewing almond milk and banana fragments and protein powder all over the ceiling. Better late than never!

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): My pregnant friend Myrna is determined to avoid giving birth via Caesarean section. She believes that the best way for her son to enter the world is by him doing the hard work of squeezing through the narrow birth canal. That struggle will fortify his willpower and mobilize him to summon equally strenuous efforts in response to future challenges. It's an interesting theory. I suggest you consider it as you contemplate how you're going to get yourself reborn.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): I invite you to try the following meditation: Picture yourself filling garbage bags with stuff that reminds you of what you used to be and don't want to be any more. Add anything that feels like decrepit emotional baggage or that serves as a worn-out psychological crutch. When you've gathered up all the props and accessories that demoralize you, imagine yourself going to a beach where you build a big bonfire and hurl your mess into the flames. As you dance around the conflagration, exorcise the voices in your head that tell you boring stories about yourself. Sing songs that have as much power to relieve and release you as a spectacular orgasm.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): In normal times, your guardian animal ally might be the turtle, crab, seahorse, or manta ray. But in the next three weeks, it's the cockroach. This unfairly maligned creature is legendary for its power to thrive in virtually any environment, and I think you will have a similar resourcefulness. Like the cockroach, you will do more than merely cope with awkward adventures and complicated transitions; you will flourish. One caution: It's possible that your adaptability may bother people who are less flexible and enterprising than you. To keep that from being a problem, be empathetic as you help them adapt. (P.S. Your temporary animal ally is exceptionally well-groomed. Cockroaches clean themselves as much as cats do.)

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Lady Jane Grey was crowned Queen of England in July 1553, but she ruled for just nine days before being deposed. I invite you to think back to a time in your own past when victory was short-lived. Maybe you accomplished a gratifying feat after an arduous struggle, only to have it quickly eclipsed by a twist of fate. Perhaps you finally made it into the limelight but then lost your audience to a distracting brouhaha. But here's the good news: Whatever it was -- a temporary triumph? incomplete success? nullified conquest? -- you will soon have a chance to find redemption for it.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): While shopping at a funky yard sale, I found the torn-off cover of a book titled *You're a Genius and I Can Prove It*. Sadly, the rest of the book was not available. Later I searched for it in online bookstores, and found it was out of-print. That's unfortunate, because now would be an excellent time for you to peruse a text like this. Why? Because you need specific, detailed evidence of how unique and compelling you are -- concrete data that will provide an antidote to your habitual self-doubts and consecrate your growing sense of self-worth. Here's what I suggest you do: Write an essay entitled "I'm an Interesting Character and Here's the Proof."

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Leonardo da Vinci wrote a bestiary, an odd little book in which he drew moral conclusions from the behavior of animals.

One of his descriptions will be useful for you to contemplate in the near future. It was centered on what he called the "wild ass," which we might refer to as an undomesticated donkey. Leonardo said that this beast, "going to the fountain to drink and finding the water muddy, is never too thirsty to wait until it becomes clear before satisfying himself." That's a useful fable to contemplate, Libra. Be patient as you go in search of what's pure and clean and good for you. (The translation from the Italian is by Oliver Evans.)

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): My friend Allie works as a matchmaker. She has an instinctive skill at reading the potential chemistry between people. One of her key strategies is to urge her clients to write mission statements. "What would your ideal marriage look like?" she asks them. Once they have clarified what they want, the process of finding a mate seems to become easier and more fun. In accordance with the astrological omens, Scorpio, I suggest you try this exercise -- even if you are already in a committed relationship. It's an excellent time to get very specific about the inspired togetherness you're willing to work hard to create.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In ancient Greek myth, Tiresias was a prophet who could draw useful revelations by interpreting the singing of birds. Spirits of the dead helped him devise his prognostications, too. He was in constant demand for revelations about the future. But his greatest claim to fame was the fact that a goddess magically transformed him into a woman for seven years. After that, he could speak with authority about how both genders experienced the world. This enhanced his wisdom immeasurably, adding to his oracular power. Are you interested in a less drastic but highly educational lesson, Sagittarius? Would you like to see life from a very different perspective from the one you're accustomed to? It's available to you if you want it.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "You remind me of the parts of myself that I will never have a chance to meet," writes poet Mariah Gordon-Dyke, addressing a lover. Have you ever felt like saying that to a beloved ally, Capricorn? If so, I have good news: You now have an opportunity to meet and greet parts of yourself that have previously been hidden from you -- aspects of your deep soul that up until now you may only have caught glimpses of. Celebrate this homecoming!

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): I predict that you won't be bitten by a dog or embarrassed by a stain or pounced on by a lawyer. Nor will you lose your keys or get yelled at by a friend or oversleep for a big appointment. On the contrary! I think you'll be wise to expect the best. The following events are quite possible: You may be complimented by a person who's in a position to help you. You could be invited into a place that had previously been off-limits. While eavesdropping, you might pick up a useful clue, and while daydreaming you could recover an important memory you'd lost. Good luck like this is even more likely to sweep into your life if you work on ripening the most immature part of your personality.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Time out. It's intermission. Give yourself permission to be spacious and slow. Then, when you're sweetly empty -- this may take a few days -- seek out experiences that appeal primarily to your wild and tender heart as opposed to your wild and jumpy mind. Just forget about the theories you believe in and the ideas you regard as central to your philosophy of life. Instead, work on developing brisk new approaches to your relationship with your feelings. Like what? Become more conscious of them, for example. Express gratitude for what they teach you. Boost your trust for their power to reveal what your mind sometimes hides from you.

Go to [RealAstrology.com](http://RealAstrology.com) to check out Rob Breznsny'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.

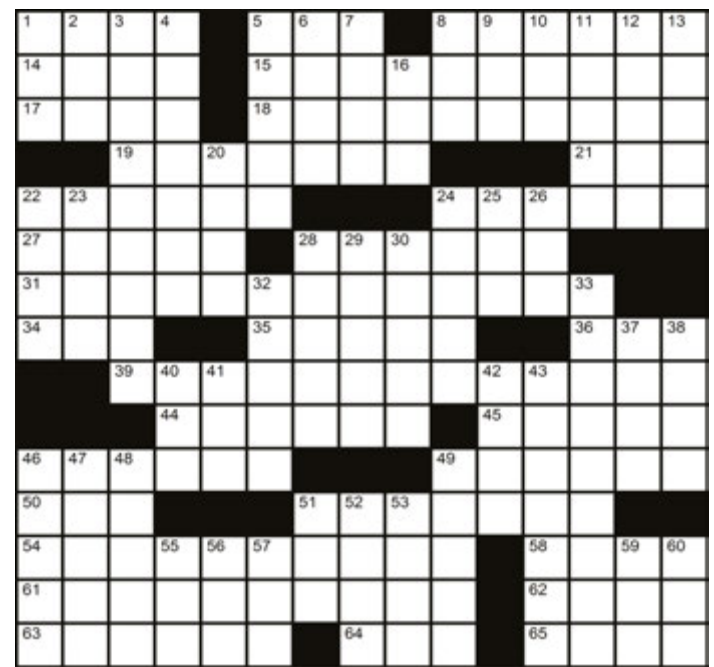
## Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Mystery Letter" - same letter, different means of wordplay.  
Matt Jones

### Across

- 1 Iranian leader until 1979
- 5 Resort with hot springs
- 8 Wacky, as antics
- 14 "... stay \_\_\_\_, and Wheat Chex stay floaty" (Shel Silverstein's "Cereal")
- 15 Thermometer scale
- 17 "In \_\_\_\_ of gifts ..."
- 18 Visually controlled tennis move? [go the opposite direction]
- 19 Keeps from leaving the house, at times
- 21 "Texas tea"
- 22 Like England in the Middle Ages
- 24 2016 Justin Timberlake movie
- 27 Org. that awards Oscars
- 28 Pageant contestants' accessories
- 31 Suddenly shut up when collecting pollen? [tilt uppercase on its side]
- 34 Summer on the Seine
- 35 Four-time Indy 500 winner Rick
- 36 Airport approximation, for short
- 39 Actor/sportscaster Bob and family, Stretch Armstrong-style? [flip over lowercase]
- 44 It's the "K" in K-Cups
- 45 Cosmetics purveyor Adrien
- 46 Drop out of the union
- 49 Slashes
- 50 The whole thing
- 51 "The Faerie Queene" poet Edmund
- 54 Annual reports, com-



- 10 Beats by \_\_\_\_
- 11 "Good King Wenceslas," e.g.
- 12 Tylenol rival
- 13 Plantain coverings
- 16 Only three-letter chemical element
- 20 Brewer's equipment
- 22 Rattle
- 23 Put forth
- 24 "One of \_\_\_\_ days ..."
- 25 Civil War soldier, for short
- 26 Buckeyes' initials
- 28 Rude expression
- 29 "Asteroids" game company
- 30 "I dunno" gesture
- 32 Infuse (with)
- 33 Applied intense cold to
- 37 "Why don't you make like a \_\_\_\_ and leave?"
- 38 Some broadband connections
- 40 Jake Shimabukuro

### Down

- 1 La preceder
- 2 "Bali \_\_\_\_" ("South Pacific" song)
- 3 Had an evening repast
- 4 Sonata automaker
- 5 Pissed-off expression
- 6 Energizes, with "up"
- 7 Dead set against
- 8 It may get dropped
- 9 Reno and Holder, briefly

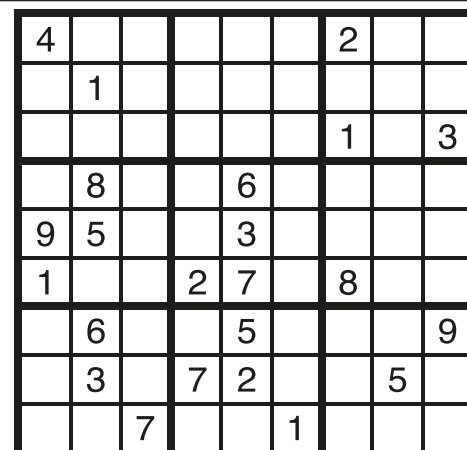
- 41 It may get covered in throw pillows
- 42 Pantry stock
- 43 Dr. \_\_\_\_ (sketchy scientist who's a supporting character on "Archer")
- 46 "\_\_\_\_ With Flowers"
- 47 Kagan of the Supreme Court
- 48 Metal-on-metal sound
- 49 Attacked in the groin, maybe
- 51 "\_\_\_\_ Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band"
- 52 Hawaiian foods
- 53 "Green-eyed monster"
- 55 Shad eggs
- 56 2022's Super Bowl
- 57 "\_\_\_\_ Can Cook" (former cooking show)
- 59 "\_\_\_\_ Gratia Artis" (MGM motto)
- 60 Body art piece lookalike

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Answers Page 24

## SUDOKU

## INTERMEDIATE



### TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 24



**LITTLE LIGHT BAKERY**

Courtesy Photo

Little Light Bakery debuts at the Allen Farmers Market today. The new bakery will launch with a dessert-only menu but may expand to include artisan breads and other bakery goods in coming months.

**By ALLAN I. ROSS**

After being cooped up inside the Allen Market Place since last fall, the Allen Farmers Market returns to its summertime setup today with its first outdoor market of the year. Held in the Allen Neighborhood Center's parking lot near the corner of Kalamazoo and Allen streets on Lansing's east side, this year's market will see a couple of notable changes. Prominently absent is **Sleepwalker Spirits & Ale**, which is prepping its new home in REO Town. Owner/brewmaster Jeremy Sprague launched Sleepwalker out of Allen Market Place three years ago before transitioning to an upcoming permanent space, due later this year. And this market-first-building-later business model is one that Pax Zetzer, the market's newest vendor, is hoping to duplicate with his new venture, **Little Light Bakery**.

"I'd love to have a (brick-and-mortar location) someday, but right now it's just about getting the word out and hoping people like our menu," Zetzer said. "I'm focusing on the items that I know are going to do well, but there's a lot of things I want to introduce as we settle in over the coming months."

Little Light will start with a dessert lineup, featuring a classic cheesecake (New York-style with graham cracker crust), a s'mores cheesecake (chocolate base topped with toasted meringue), and an Earl Grey lemon cheesecake with shortbread crust. There will also be a line of cookies, including chocolate chip, cherry oatmeal and snickerdoodle.

"These are the items that have already started wowing people, so it made sense to lead with them," Zetzer said. "They're not the kind of desserts

you can just find anywhere. I try to give them an artisan touch that gives them their own identity. You're not going to be able to find (any other dessert) like this in town."

Zetzer, a Lansing native, studied culinary management and baking and pastry at Oregon Culinary Institute in Portland before coming home to launch Little Light last fall. He's spent the last eight months working the sauté line at Dusty's Cellar in Okemos and tending bar at American Fifth Spirits in downtown Lansing, developing both his front-of-house and back-of-house skill in preparation for solo entrepreneurship.

"I've never run my own business before, but I think being a baker has helped me prepare for it," Zetzer said. "You spend a lot of time preparing, you go through the (protocols) very carefully and you build using the best materials available to you. If you work hard and are very careful, you succeed."

Zetzer said his goal with baking is to create the type of food that's communal. The bakery takes its name from the gospel song "This Little Light of Mine," which Zetzer said is an ode to his grandmother.

"She's the one who introduced me to baking, and we used to love singing that song while we worked, so I think it's fitting," Zetzer said. "Plus it sort of (exemplifies) what I'm doing with the bakery. This is food that's meant to be shared. I really hope it brings people together."

**Little Light Bakery**  
 (at Allen Farmers Market)  
 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing  
 3-6:30 p.m. Wednesdays  
[facebook.com/little.light.bakery](https://www.facebook.com/little.light.bakery)

# Out on the Town

from page 22

**Dreams.** Workshop. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE, thereafter \$25. Staybridge Suites, 3553 Meridian Crossings, Okemos. (517) 797-5351. [ow.ly/XHZA30bC4V0](http://ow.ly/XHZA30bC4V0).  
**Oracle Card Reading Workshop.** Learn to use oracle decks. 6:30-8 p.m. \$20. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. [willowstickceremonies.com](http://willowstickceremonies.com).

**MUSIC**

**Art Cameron at Allen Farmers Market.** Art Cameron performs. 5-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1629 E Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911. [allenneighborhoodcenter.org](http://allenneighborhoodcenter.org).

**EVENTS**

**Messages.** Scott Distel combines techniques. 10:30 a.m. - 2:50 \$12 members/\$14 non-member. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045. [meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com](http://meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com).

**St Luke Lutheran Salad Luncheon, Bake Sale, and Bazaar.** Takeout available. 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. \$8 Donations. St. Luke Lutheran Church, 5589 Van Atta Road, Haslett.

**Teen Movie: Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.** PG-13, 133 minutes. Popcorn while it lasts. 3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420. [elpl.org](http://elpl.org).

**The U.S. Constitution in the Current Political Climate.** Kary Moss presents. 5-8:30 p.m. Register online. Eagle Eye Banquet Center, 15500 S. Chandler Road, Bath. (517) 624-9224. [lansing.mi.lwvnet.org](http://lansing.mi.lwvnet.org).

**Wines of the Alps.** Try six wines and appetizers. 6:30-9 a.m. \$40/ plus tax and gratuity. Capital Vine, 2320 Showtime Drive, Lansing. [capitalvinelansing.com](http://capitalvinelansing.com).

**Scavenger Hunt Day (Age 8 & up)** Come in to follow the clues, collect the answers, win the prize. 4-5:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Arrea District Libraries Foster Branch, 200 N. Foster, Lansing.

**Drop-in Minecraft Event (Age 8 & up)** Get your game on with fellow Minecrafters. 3-5 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Dansville Branch, 1379 E. Mason St., Dansville.

**Read to Scout (Ages 6-18)** Practice your skills by reading to a visiting therapy dog. 3-3:45 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Leslie Branch, 201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie. 517-589-9400.

**ESOL Reading Group (Adults)** Practice your English reading and speaking skills. 12 - 1:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos.

**Toddler Storytime (Ages 1 and 1/2-3)** Stories, songs and activities for toddlers. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Foster Branch, 200 N. Foster, Lansing. 517-485-5185

**Preschool Storytime (Ages 3-6)** Stories, songs and activities to help children build early literacy skills. 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Aurelius Branch, 1939 S. Aurelius Road, Mason.

**Minecraft Game Night (Ages 8-15)** Get your game on with fellow Minecrafters. 6-7:15 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Leslie Branch, Leslie. 517-589-9400

**iPad & iPhone Basics (Adults)** The basics of iPads and iPhones, plus tips for customization. 5-6 p.m. Capital Area District Libraries Holt-Delhi Branch 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt. 517-694-9351

**Mid-day Movies (Adults)** Today: Star Wars--Rogue One (PG-13). 2-4:15 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Downtown Lansing Branch 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing.

**TED Talk® Tuesdays (Adults)** Watch a video from a TED Talk and then discuss the subject, facilitated by library staff. 1:30-2:30 p.m. FREE. Capital Area District Libraries Okemos Branch 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos.

**FRIDAY, MAY 19 >> DARK ARTS BIZARRE AT THE AVENUE**

Greater Lansing's witches, warlocks and ghouls make their way to the Avenue Café Friday for the second annual Dark Arts Bizarre. The art show/concert will be packed full of spooky vendors selling hand-made art, including wall art, jewelry and accessories, home decor, toys, clothing, music and many other witchy items. The event also performances by Michigan bands Dagon, Centenary, and Scary Women. If that's not enough to creep you out, Rock Bottom Video will be showing its film, "Beyond the Valley of Belief," and the festivities continue into the night with a spooky afterparty. 8 p.m.-1 p.m. \$5. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 492-7403, [avenuecafelansing.com](http://avenuecafelansing.com)

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

From Pg. 23

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**SUDOKU SOLUTION**

From Pg. 23

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**HE ATE**

**SHE ATE**



**Blue Gill Grill serves up bar fare from prime lakeside location**

**In the midst of history**

**Warm weather hotspot**



Courtesy Photo



Gabrielle Lawrence/City Pulse

Blue Gill Grill, located near Lake Lansing in Haslett, specializes in bar fare like fish and chips, shown here with steamed vegetables instead of fries.

The personal pizzas are a bright spot on the Blue Gill Grill's menu.

**By MARK NIXON**

Dear Blue,  
This is a first for me. I am writing a "get well" letter to a business — you. It may come off as churlish, but it's meant to be more like tough love. Frankly, given your surroundings, you could do so much better. And your surroundings, not to mention your customers, deserve better.  
Let's start with those surroundings. You're in the midst of history, Blue. That county park across the street? It used to be an amusement park. In the early part of the 20th century, folks from Lansing rode trolleys to the park, which was nestled against the shores of what was then called Pine Lake — Lake Lansing, nowadays.  
There was a rickety-looking rollercoaster called the Cyclone and an amazing carousel, whose figurines were considered a work of art. They still are. When the amusement park closed in the early 1970s, the carousel was purchased by Ohio's Cedar Point amusement park. It resided there for

many years before it was moved to a sister property, Dorney Park in Allentown, Pa., where it is still operating to this day.  
The lake itself boasted a Prohibition-era speakeasy, built on stilts right in the middle of the lake. Oh, and your next door neighbor, the Mayfair Bar, has been around since 1934, a year after Prohibition ended.  
Alright, Blue, the elephant in the room is your food. Based on two visits, the most charitable phrases I can find to describe the fare are "OK" and "not bad."  
The all-you-can-eat fried cod we had one Friday fell into the "not bad" category. At \$10.99, this was easily the best thing we tasted. There are probably a half-dozen local bar/restaurants that equal or excel your fried cod. But if one is looking for fried fish in Haslett, the cod here suffices.

See He Ate, Page 26

**By GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

I don't drink. I haven't for years. If you've been a regular reader of this column, you probably already know that. I'd much rather eat my calories than drink them. For someone my age, I'm certainly in the minority with that line of thought.  
I told you that to tell you this: If you're interested in a fine dining experience, the Blue Gill Grill probably isn't at the top of your list, and for good reason. But not everyone wants that fine dining experience every time they go out. Sometimes they want to go to the lake, play sand volleyball, have a picnic, get a tan and then have some frosty beverages before walking across the street to Cone Zone for a parfait. There's nothing wrong with that. And if that is the experience that you're after, the Blue Gill Grill is the place for you.  
Mr. She Ate was able to escape the

confines of his desk for lunch on two occasions last month, so he accompanied me to the Blue Gill Grill. If you're unfamiliar, the Blue Gill Grill is a bar/restaurant located right next to Lake Lansing in Haslett. It's a favorite of locals looking to grab some cold drinks with their BFFs on a hot day. On our first visit, we entered in the dining room door and took a seat in a booth against the exterior wall. We wanted a good seat to watch the rain fall on the gloomy spring day. As I've mentioned before in this very space, a seat-yourself strategy only works when the wait staff notices you come in. I'm not sure how they missed us, because when Mr. She Ate and I sat down, we literally doubled the number of people sitting on that side of the restaurant.  
After flagging down our waitress and ordering our customary waters — we like to live on the edge — my freshly anniversary-ed, looking for a bit of comfort food on a gloomy Monday, ordered the lobster mac

See She Ate, Page 26

**Blue Gill Grill**

11 a.m.-2 a.m.  
Monday-Saturday;  
noon-2 a.m. Sunday  
1591 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett  
(517) 339-4900,  
bluegillgrill.com

## He Ate

from page 34

There's a good reason the cod was not bad. The kitchen fried the cod in oil heated to the proper temperature. Alas, I wish I could say the same about the sweet potato fries and the onion rings, which we bought as an "upgrade" with our entrées. The fries and rings were flaccid and practically perspiring grease. These two items were not "not bad" or "OK," but miserably inedible.

The fisherman's platter (\$14.99) was OK in a cookie-cutter sort of way. It was deep-fried flounder, scallops and shrimp. I'm searching for new ways to say average ...

The olive burger (\$8.99) was not bad, though I ordered it cooked medium and it arrived well done and un-juicy. The French onion soup (\$4.59) also was not bad, and kudos to the cook who topped off the soup with a sturdy hunk of bread instead of wimpy croutons.

The plate of buffalo wings (8.99) was OK, and boy I am really getting bored with that word. The fisherman's stew, \$3.99 for a cup, should be banished from the menu until such time as someone in the kitchen can experiment with, and perfect, something approximating fisherman's stew. Note to the kitchen: Visit Lula's in Owosso and try the fisher-

man's stew. You'll see what I mean.

Blue, you have a few standout items, none of which, unfortunately, are on the dining menu.

1. You have an extensive list of draft beers, many brewed in Michigan. I tried a pint of Irish stout (\$5) and was not disappointed. It had the caramel and coffee notes I like in a stout. I would come back here just to sample some beers I've never tried.

2. Your decor pairs well with your name. The ceiling in particular is the scene-stealer, with an upturned canoe, old outboard motors and outsized fishing lures, to name just a few items. And what's that I see? Lampshades made of bait buckets? A fine, whimsical touch.

3. In addition to the water-themed decor, you have two neighboring allies, a park and a lake. No doubt in the warmer months, your rooftop dining plays to these assets, with views of the beach and the occasional sailboat from the nearby sailing club.

You have the look, the location, the local history and the beers. You just need a kitchen that cares, that wants to be something more than not bad and OK.

If and when that occurs, people will say that Blue Gill Grill has it all. Until then, all I can say is get well soon, Blue.

Yours sincerely,

Mark

## She Ate

from page 34

and cheese. When it arrived, he immediately regretted his decision. Tasteless liquid cheese and bits of what could charitably be called lobster adorned the platter, which, if it were any hotter, could have been glowing red. I can't spend much time on his because I HAVE to tell you about my food.

I'll cut to the chase. I ordered fish and chips (\$10.99) with a side salad and "steamed vegetables." What arrived was heavily breaded and deep fried fish and a few pieces of recently unfrozen broccoli that was just this side of puree, it was so mushy. No chips. Odd, right? So I inquired. Apparently, the broccoli and side salad I ordered — which, adorably to my husband and annoyingly to me, was garnished with Goldfish crackers — trumped the French fries that come with every other fish and chips entrée on planet earth, and presumably every other habitable planet in the physical universe.

A few days later, my 2M — like 2L, for all my law student homies — recalled from a previous trip to "the Grill" for a friend's birthday party that the pizza might be worth trying. Working off this premise, we took our seats on

the bar side of the restaurant. This side was abuzz with locals who had stopped in to eat, or possibly drink, lunch. Due to our constrained timeframe, I was pleased to meet our server at the table, who once again took our walk-on-the-wild-side drink orders.

Not wanting to break my streak of 100,328 meals with a vegetable, I took his advice and ordered the personal-size deluxe pizza (\$8.99), which came with exactly the same salad as the last one, right down to the Goldfish crackers suffocating at the top of the mound of iceberg. He, not wanting to waste his opportunity to order a burger at a bar, ordered the DW's Burger (\$8.99).

Don't tell him I told you this, but my husband was right. The pizza was pretty dang good. The toppings were tasty and plentiful, the cheese wasn't heavy or greasy and the crust, while probably of a frozen variety, was baked crispy and golden brown. There was no saving any for later; this thing didn't stand a chance.

The burger, flanked by a tater tot upgrade (\$1), impressed as well, resplendent in its pretzel bun and bacon. The real MVP was the honey mustard. It wouldn't be my first choice as a burger condiment, but the sweet tanginess of it balanced the savory meat and bacon beautifully.

A minor distraction occurred as the bar staff began hanging LED rope lights on the ceiling while we were eating. The crew positioned a ladder so close to our table that if the man on the top of the ladder took a bad step, he would have ended up as a topping on our pizza. I don't know the Blue Gill Grill's schedule, but it seems like that's a task that could have waited until after the lunch rush.

Almost as soon as we had finished our last bites, the waitress produced our check. As a workin' girl myself, I really appreciated her recognizing that we were on a schedule. My tip, as well as my words to her, reflected that.

If you're in the mood for upscale dining, you're probably going to want to head somewhere else. But if you're trying to catch a Tigers game after a day at the park or you're looking for a neighborhood hangout where the service is prompt and the drinks are cold, look no further than the Blue Gill Grill. We'll be back when the weather warms up — I'll just have to bring my own salad.

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## Hot Baked Potato — Sir Pizza Grand Café

I probably should not have been surprised when I ordered a hot baked potato at Old Town's Sir Pizza Grand Café that it was served like, well, a pizza. After all, it is a pizza joint. I must say, though, it was a welcome surprise.

I expected the typical large spud sliced open on a plate and garnished with the toppings I chose. Instead, the server delivered a 7-inch pie tin that looked more like a mini-pizza than a traditional baked potato. It bubbled with hot cheese and filled the container from end-to-end.

An Idaho potato was in there, but it had been flattened out and loaded with toppings. There were separate layers of cheeses, garnishes, e potato — and finally — the cooked peel.

### Sir Pizza Grand Café

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11 a.m.-1 a.m.  
Friday-Saturday;  
noon-midnight  
Sunday  
201 E. Grand River  
Ave., Lansing  
(517) 484-4825,  
sirpizza-mi.com

Except for pineapple, jalapeño and double dough, Sir Pizza offered the same choices for its hot baked potato as it does for pizzas — everything from pepperoni to banana peppers to broccoli.

But the spud selections has four unique items: blue cheese, provolone cheese, sour cream and brown gravy. I choose green peppers, black olives, mushrooms and cheddar and feta cheeses.

For a mere \$2.99, I added tasty garlic bread (two slices of thick toast) and a small dinner salad, which included fresh iceberg, romaine, and endive lettuce, tomatoes and a blend of provolone and mozzarella cheeses.

To be excited about the hot baked potato meal, I did not have to be baked.

— DAVID WINKELSTERN



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 <p><b>Capital Dank</b>              1202 S. Washington Ave.,              Lansing              (517) 657-7885              Hours:              11am-10pm daily</p>	<p><b>Lansing's #1 Premium Medical Provisioning Center.</b> Capital Dank is a medical marijuana dispensary with an enormous selection of high quality strains, concentrates, and infused products. We offer safe, well-appointed environments in which certified patients can get quality medical marijuana.</p>	 <p><b>Capital Wellness</b>              1825 E. Michigan, Lansing              (517) 708-7023              Hours: M-Th. 11am-10pm;              F-Sat: 11am-11pm;              Sun: Noon-9pm</p>	<p><b>Visit Capital Wellness for Lansing's largest selection of medibles!</b> We also have a huge selection of flower, concentrates and accessories. Check out our specials on Weedmaps and Leafly. Find us on Instagram at Capital_Wellness.</p>
 <p><b>KOLA</b>              1106 N. Larch., Lansing              (517) 999-0994              Hours:              M-Sat: Noon-7pm              Sun: Noon-5pm</p>	<p><b>Here at Kola, we have the highest quality, lab tested meds obtainable.</b> We strive to continually raise the bar, bettering the industry and community through excellent quality control, great service and education. You can expect an open, safe facility with professional, knowledgeable and friendly staff - stop by and let us show you what we have to offer!</p>	 <p><b>Cedar Street MMMP</b>              3205 S. Cedar St., Lansing              (517) 708-0577              Hours:              M-F: 8am-11 pm              Sat-Sun: 10 am-11 pm</p>	<p><b>Our mission is to ensure the highest standards of client relations,</b> make sure each patient feels comfortable, and informed. Come meet our friendly, knowledgeable staff for recommendations on our wide variety of flower, edibles, CBD products, concentrates, and more! Still need to get certified? Stop in and we'll help!</p>
 <p><b>Cannaisseur</b>              3200 N. East St. Lansing              (517) 580-6702              Hours:              M-Sat: 10am-9pm              Sun: 10am-6pm</p>	<p><b>Our mission at Cannaisseur is to provide MMMP patients with a safe, secure location to obtain high quality cannabis and cannabis products at a fair price from a compassionate, professional, knowledgeable staff.</b> We strive to make your experience great! Stop by today. All new patients receive a free strain specific preroll!</p>	 <p><b>Nature's Alternative</b>              2521 S. Cedar St, Lansing              (517) 253-7290              Hours-              M-Sat: 11am-8pm              Sun: Noon-5pm</p>	<p><b>Our mission at Nature's Alternative is to provide access to high quality, medical marijuana in a safe and professional environment.</b> We are committed to helping patients find the most effective relief for their qualifying ailments. A wide variety of lab tested medical marijuana flowers, edibles and extracts are always available.</p>
 <p><b>Superior Genetics</b>              1522 Turner St., Lansing              Hours:              M-Sat 10am-8pm              Sun. 10am-5pm</p>	<p><b>Conveniently Located in the Old Town District in North Lansing.</b> Just minutes from I496 and I69. We Offer ONLY Top Quality Medical Marijuana Strains, Medibles, and Alternative Medicines that are ALWAYS Lab tested. Check us out on the WEEDMAPS app, or stop in today!</p>	 <p><b>Spartan Meds</b>              1723 E. Michigan Ave.              Lansing              (517) 483-2226              Hours: Open 7 days a week              10am-10pm</p>	<p><b>Spartan Meds is a MMMP friendly location with all of your medical needs.</b> We guarantee to have the best prices in town without losing any quality. Come in today and ask about one of our many \$25 1/8's, along with our \$150 1/4 of house wax special!</p>
<p><b>Advertise your DISPENSARY here!</b></p>	 <p><b>420 Dank</b>              3301 Capitol City Blvd.              Lansing              (517) 708-0129              Hours: Open 7 days a week              10am-10pm</p>	<p><b>Stop in and see us right by the airport!</b> High quality and nothing over \$10 a gram for all your medical needs. We also have a convenient drive-through. Check us out on weedmaps!</p>	