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Farm to table movement takes hold in Greater Lansing

By MEGAN WESTERS

The farm to table concept seems pretty intuitive: You eat what's close because it's easy, it's affordable and it's healthy. So it's no surprise that in the last decade it's become a fullblown social movement. In fact, the wholehearted "eat local" and "downhome feel" marketing has taken on nearly religious overtones in some homes and restaurants.

Although farm to table is the oldest way of doing things, the counterculture movement of the '60s and '70s is what really reenergized the movement. Chefs like Jerry Traunfeld from Herbfarm in Metro Seattle and Alice Waters from Chez Panisse in Berkeley, Calif., set the stage for the nationwide farm to table craze to come.

This craze has certainly hit in Greater Lansing — a welcome advance in a region that, for many years, was sorely lacking in fine or even trendy dining options. Lansing in the early 2000s was desolate when it came to interesting places to eat. Now, the area is home to a multitude of restaurants like Gracie's Contemporary Bistro in Williamston, Bridge Street Social in DeWitt and Red Haven in Okemos, all of whom utilize local producers as much as possible.

Although the farm to table concept seems simple, it's not an easy thing to pull off. Farm to table restaurants face many challenges that others don't. They have to deal with the unpredictable Michigan weather and its effects on the crops, find produce during the winter months, find farmers to supply the restaurant's demand and navigate the legal issues around using local foods.

Nina Santucci, co-owner and front of house manager of Red Haven, said that the biggest challenge is working with whatever products they have or don't have any given day. "Right now, for example, its warm and great outside, meaning that if it stays this way for a few days and then we get a freeze, there might not be as much fruit for the year — maybe none at all, it just depends," Santucci said. "My husband does all the ordering, and he spends a great deal of time on the phone with farmers, talking to them about things like this. It's a lot of work, but very rewarding in the end."

Sarah Kops, chef at the State Room, agreed, saying that the challenges in Michigan are seasonality, including the shorter growing season and the need to supplement in the off-season.

"Finding farms or multiple farms to get enough products to supply the demand can be difficult," Kops said.

And while chefs like Kops are concerned that they can't get enough product, farmers like Phil Throop, owner of Wildflower Eco Farm in Bath, are worried that there aren't enough restaurants that will buy their products.

"The thing is, restaurants don't typically use that much produce." Throop said. "There are those few that are actually buying locally and preparing it, but there aren't that many out there. It's a fairly small market."

Throop explained that large commercial produce farms grow vast quantities of a few crops. While Throop's farm is quite small, only 3 acres in size, his strategy is to grow a variety of crops in smaller batches.

"What helps us is growing lots of variety, so I can grow more on selling 20 types of veggies rather than three," he said. "Diversity is key for small farms like this. It allows us to be flexible and thorough on our crops."

Wildflower Eco Farm, which has provided produce for such Lansing area favorites as Soup Spoon Café and Red Haven, grows approximately 60 types of fruits and vegetables, includ-

Farm to table

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ing Asian pears, apples, radishes, greens, herbs and a variety of heirloom tomatoes.

Despite these challenges, local chefs and farmers seem optimistic that farm to table's pros far outweigh the cons, both economically and in taste.

Red Haven's menu, for example, boasts an interesting array of dishes made with an wide variety of uncommon ingredients. A recent scallop dish, for example, was made with sweet potato, blood orange, savory fennel and saffron. Other offerings from executive chef Anthony Maiale include butternut squash shooters made with bananas and bourbon.

Longtime Greater Lansing favorites like Dusty's Cellar, the State Room and Soup Spoon Café have followed suit in the local food department, broadening their ingredient repertoire and, in turn, their menus. Soup Spoon, for example, features cage-free eggs in its dishes, as well as housemade deli meats from Soup Spoon owner Nick Gavrilides'



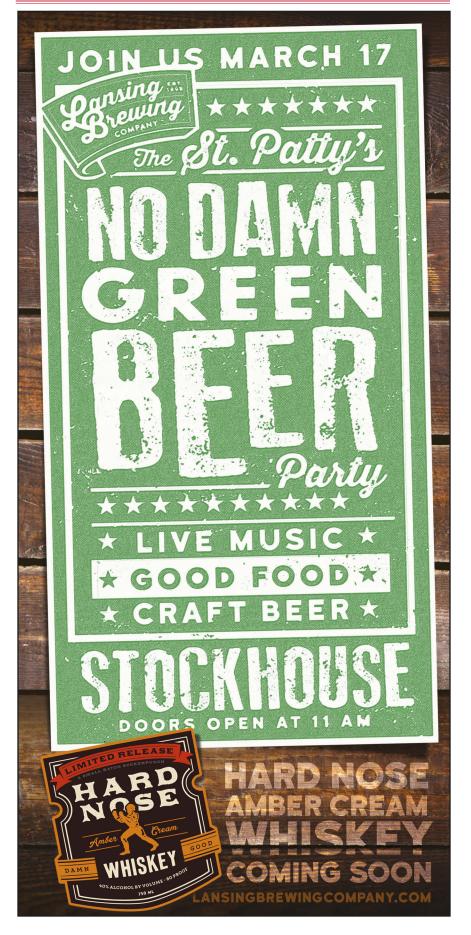
Monday-Friday: 7:00am - 4:00pm Saturday: 8:00-4:00pm • Sunday: 9:00-3:00pm start-up project, Wolfe Meats. Tannin in Okemos, makes all of its pasta in house. The local producers it has partnered with for other ingredients have their own section on the menu.

The State Room uses a lot of products from MSU assets, as well as Michigan farms like Otto's Chicken from Middleville. Dusty's Cellar is riding the "locavore" train, featuring entrees like half-roasted duck from Maple Leaf Farms in Falmouth.

The trend will likely continue to grow as Greater Lansing becomes home to more great eateries. EnVie, the long-anticipated French-American restaurant, for example, is slated to open downtown this year. Owners James Cheskaty and Lance Davis plan to source as much local produce and product as possible.

"I think people have become more connected with their food," Santucci said. "I think we got to this point where food was so processed, and people have gotten much more educated on what food can do for your body. We're much more educated consumers now than we were in the past."





TOP FIVE DINING GUIDE

Based on reader votes in City Pulse's 2016 Top of the Town contest, we've assembled a guide to favorite Lansing-area eateries. Bon appétit!

Voting for 2017's Top of the Town contest begins March 22. This year's categories can be seen in that week's edition of City Pulse. You can nominate and vote for your favorite Greater Lansing businesses, people and places online at lansingcitypulse. com. Winners are announced June 7. The Top of the Town contest determines our year-round Top Five Dining Guide, which highlights the best restaurants and bars as chosen by you, our readers.

TOP FOUR ASIAN BUFFET

1 ASIAN BUFFET (OKEMOS)

4920 Marsh Road, Okemos (517) 381-8388 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

#2 HIBACHI GRILL & SUSHI BUFFET

5837 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing (517) 886-9999 hibachigrillansing.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday.

#3 XIAO

3415 E. Saginaw St., Okemos
(517) 580-3720, xiaochinagrille.com
11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11
a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-9 p.m. Sunday

#4 WORLD BUFFET

5003 W. Saginaw Highway, #3, Lansing (517) 327-6688 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday.

TOP FIVE BAKERY

#1 BAKE N' CAKES

"Butter makes it better" at this bakery, known for its cupcakes and specialty desserts 3003 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing (517) 337-2253, bakencakes.com 6:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

#2 ROMA BAKERY

City Pulse readers love its baked goods, especially the cannolis 428 N. Cedar St., Lansing (517) 485-9466, romabakerydeli.com 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

#3 GLAZED & CONFUSED

Specializing in donuts, this bakery offers unique flavors (517) 253-7147 glazedandconfusedbakery.net 107 S. Washington Square, Lansing 6:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday; 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday.

#4 SWEETIE-LICIOUS BAKERY CAFE

This bakery, which specializes in pies, encourages patrons to "eat pie, love life." 108 N. Bridge Street, Dewitt (517) 669-9300, sweetie-licious.com 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday.

#5 GROOVY DONUTS

This bakery bills itself as an old-school and retro donut and coffee shop. 313 W. Grand River Ave., Williamston. (517) 996-6300 Closed Monday; 6:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday; 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday.

TOP FIVE BBQ

#1 MEAT

Old Town barbecue stop known for its smoked meats and house-made sauces 1224 E. Turner St., Lansing (517) 580-4400, meatbbq.com 11 a.m.–9 p.m. Tuesday–Saturday; noon-7 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday

#2 SADDLEBACK BBQ

Craft barbecue joint located in Lansing's REO Town 1147 S. Washington Ave., Lansing (517) 253-7556, saddlebackbbq.com 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday; closed Sunday

#3 FAMOUS DAVE'S

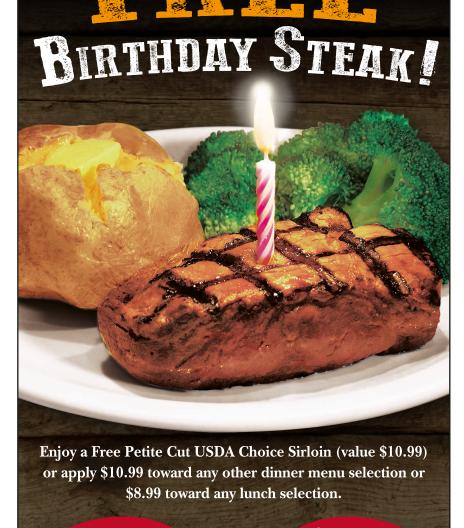
Chain restaurant known for its generous portions 2457 N. Cedar Road, Holt (517) 694-1200, famousdaves.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

#4 SMOKEY BONES

City Pulse readers love the barbecue ribs and wings at this chain restaurant 2401 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing (517) 316-9973, smokeybones.com 11 a.m.-2 a.m. daily

#5 CROSSROADS BBQ

Grand Ledge barbecue joint that has its roots as a successful food truck



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221 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge (517) 627-0555, crossroadsbbqmich.com 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday; closed Monday

TOP 5 BREAKFAST

#1 GOLDEN HARVEST

Legendary Old Town diner known for loud music, off-kilter decor and creative breakfast offerings 1625 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 485-3663 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

#2 SOUP SPOON CAFE

City Pulse readers love Soup Spoon's breakfast options, soups and sandwiches 1419 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing (517) 316-2377, soupspooncafe.com 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 7 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday; 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

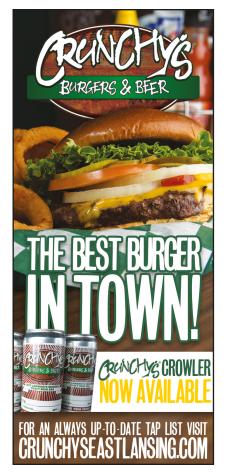
#3 FLEETWOOD DINER

Twenty-four hour diner famous for its Hippie Hash 2211 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 267-7606, thefleetwooddiner.com Open 24 hours Sunday-Thursday; 6 a.m.-

midnight Friday-Saturday

#4 CREOLE COFFEE CO

Sister-restaurant to The Creole that specializes in breakfast, lunch and Sunday brunch.



1216 Turner St., Lansing (517) 371-1361 thecreolelansing.com/creole-coffee-co 8 a.m.-2 p.m. dăily

#5 GOOD TRUCKIN' DINER

REO Town diner known for its breakfast omelets and burritos and specialty burgers 1107 S. Washington Ave., Lansing (517) 253-7961 7 a.m.-2 p.m. daily.

TOP FIVE BURGER

#1 CRUNCHY'S

Bar known for its burgers and craft beer selection

254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing (517) 351-2506, crunchyseastlansing.com 11 a.m.-2 a.m. daily

#2 FIVE GUYS BURGERS & FRIES

Chain known for its made-to-order burger options and free peanuts 623 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing (517) 332-3483, fiveguys.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily

#3 DAGWOOD'S

City Pulse readers love Dagwood's delicious (and cheap) burgers and bar food 2803 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing (517) 374-0390, dagwoodstavern.com 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.- 2 a.m. Friday; 11 a.m.- 1 a.m. Saturday; noon- midnight, Sunday





#1 BEST BBQ 2013, 2014, 2015 AND 2016

580-4400 | MEATBBQ.COM 1224 TURNER ST. OLD TOWN, LANSING



#4 PEANUT BARREI

East Lansing institution known for its juicy 521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing (517) 351-0608, peanutbarrel.com 11 a.m.-1:30 a.m. daily, kitchen closes at midnight

#5 RED ROBIN GOURMET BURGERS Chain restaurant famous for its specialty burgers and boozy shakes 6524 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing (517) 886-7440, redrobin.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily

TOP FIVE CHINESE

#1P.F. CHANG'S

#/r.r. Changes
Family-friendly chain offering creative takes on Chinese fare in a striking space
Eastwood Towne Center, 2425 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing
(517) 267-3833, pfchangs.com
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday

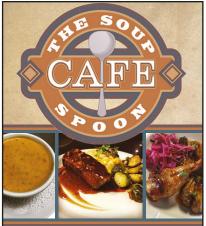
#2 CHEN'S RESTAURANT

Chinese eatery offering long menu of clas-Sic dishes in a simple setting
600 E Thomas St., Lansing
(517) 372-7292, lansingchens.com
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11
a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Noon-10 p.m. Sunday

#3 CHARLIE KANG'S RESTAURANT

Compact Chinese & Korean eatery serves up traditional entrees

127 East Grand River Ave., East Lansing



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Catering

1419 E Michigan Ave., Lansing

(517) 332-4696, charliekangs.com 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Noon-9:30 p.m. Sunday

#4HOUSE OF HSU

Grand Ledge restaurant offering modern interpretation of classic dishes 639 W Saginaw Hwy, Grand Ledge (517) 627-4232 houseofhsugrandledge.com 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday, Noon-10 p.m. Saturday; Noon-9 p.m. Sunday

TOP FIVE COCKTAILS

#1 ZOOBIE'S OLD TOWN TAVERN Tavern in Old Town that offers both classic and unique cocktails 611 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing (517) 483-2737 zoobiesoldtowntavern.com 3 p.m.-midnight Sunday-Thursday; 3 p.m.-2 a.m. Friday-Saturday

#2 HOULIHAN'S

Chain eatery and bar located in the Lansing Mall 5732 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing (517) 323-3550, houlihans.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Tuesday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday; 11 a.m.midnight Friday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

#3 AMERICAN FIFTH SPIRITS

Voltage distillery offering handcrafted vodka, gin and whiskey 112 N. Larch St., Lansing (517) 999-2631, americanfifthspirits.com 4-11 p.m. Monday-Wednesday; 4 p.m.-midnight Thursday-Friday; noon-midnight Saturday; closed Sunday

#4 SOUP SPOON CAFE

Cozy local cafe serving up soups and cocktails (517) 316-2377, soupspooncafe.com 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday, Noon-10 p.m. Saturday; Noon-9 p.m. Sunday

#5 THE CREOLE

The Creole specializes in classic cocktails with old-school preparation styles 1218 Turner St., Lansing (517) 371-1361, thecreolelansing.com Brunch hours: 8 a.m.–2 p.m. daily

TOP FOUR CRAFT BEER SELECTION

#1 HOPCAT

When it comes to craft beer selection, it's hard to beat HopCat's 100 drafts. 300 Grove St, East Lansing (517) 816-4300, hopcat.com 11 a.m.- midnight Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Friday-Saturday; 10 a.m.-midnight Sunday

#2 LANSING BREWING CO.

#2 LANSING BHE WING CU. One of Lansing's newest pubs offers craft beers including the "Angry Mayor IPA" 518 E Shiawassee St, Lansing (517) 371-2600, lansingbrewingco.com 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Friday-Saturday; Noon-10 p.m. Sunday

#3 CRUNCHY'S

Known for burgers and karaoke, this East Lansing bar's craft beer selection was not forgotten by voters

(517) 351-2506, crunchyseastlansing.com 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Monday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Thursday-Sunday

#4 ZOOBIE'S

Tavern in Old Town that offers both classic and unique cocktails and beers

611 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing (517) 483-2737, zoobiesoldtowntavern.

com´ 3 p.m.-midnight Sunday-Thursday; 3 p.m.-2 a.m. Friday-Saturday

TOP FIVE DESSERTS

#/ MSU DAIRY STORE Big Ten-themed ice cream offerings include Buckeye Blitz and Badger Berry Cheesecake

474 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing (517) 353-9988, dairystore.msu.edu 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday; noon-8 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

#2 GRAND TRAVERSE PIE CO.

Michigan-based chain known for its dessert pies and savory pot pies (517) 316-0900, gtpie.com 200 S. Washington Square, Lansing 6:30 a.m.- 7 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

#3 BAKE N' CAKES

"Butter makes it better" at this bakery, known for its cupcakes and specialty desserts

3003 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing (517) 337-2253, bakencakes.com 6:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

#4 SUGAR SHACK

City Pulse readers love Sugar Shack's (517) 316-2009, sugarshackshop.com
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 11
a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

#5 WHIPPED

City Pulse readers praise Whipped's cake decorating, cupcakes and cookies 216 S. Washington Square, Lansing (517) 483-2653 whippedbakerylansing.com 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

TOP FIVE DINER

#1 GOLDEN HARVEST music, off-kilter decor and creative break-fast offerings 1625 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 485-3663 7 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday Erida C a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday



#2 FLEETWOOD DINER

Twenty-four hour diner famous for its Hippie Hash 2211 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 267-7606, thefleetwooddiner.com Open 24 hours Monday-Friday, 5 a.m.-mid-night Saturday-Sunday.

#3 GOOD TRUCKIN' DINER

REO Town diner known for its breakfast omelets and burritos and specialty burgers 1107 S. Washington Ave., Lansing (517) 253-7961 7 a.m.-3 p.m. daily.

#4 ZEUS' CONEY ISLAND

City Pulse readers love its Greek special-(517) 272-7900, greecianisland.com
7 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday

#5 THEIO'S RESTAURANT

City Pulse readers appreciate the tastiness and convenience of this 24-hour diner 2650 E Michigan Ave, Lansing (517) 487-3955 Open 24 hours, Monday-Sunday

TOP FIVE FISH FRY

#1 EASTSIDE FISH FRY

City Pulse readers rave about the variety of fresh fish and deep-fried treats 2417 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing (517) 993-5988, eastsidefishfry.com 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-



midnight Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday.

#2 CLADDAGH IRISH PUB

City Pulse readers love the fish and chips at this Irish-themed restaurant 2900 Towne Center Blvd., Lansing (517) 484-2523, claddaghirishpubs.com 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday.

#3 FRESH FISH MARKET

South Lansing joint known for its catfish nuggets and "Crack Chicken Wings" 3140 S. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd., Lansing (517) 882-7007 10 a.m.-midnight Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-2 a.m. Friday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday

#4 BLUE GILL GRILL

Nautical-themed pub known for its fried fish 1591 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett (517) 339-4900, bluegillgrill.com 11 a.m.–2 a.m. Monday-Saturday, noon-2 p.m. Sunday

#5 HARRY'S PLACE

Popular neighborhood pub known for its fried fish and pub fare 404 N. Verlinden Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-9661 10 a.m.-midnight Monday-Saturday; Closed Sunday

TOP FIVE FRIES

#1HOPCAT

HopCat's signature menu item, Crack Fries, won the hearts of City Puls readers this year. 300 Grove St, East Lansing (517) 816-4300, hopcat.com 11 a.m.- midnight Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Friday-Saturday; 10 a.m.-midnight Sunday

#2 FIVE GUYS BURGERS & FRIES Burger chain known for its made-to-order burger options and free peanuts 623 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing (517) 332-3483, fiveguys.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. daily

#3 COSMOS

Old Town pizzeria known for its adventurous pizzas and duck fat fries 611 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing (517) 897-3563, thecosmoslansing.com 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-10 p.m. Sunday

#4DAGWOOD'S

City Pulse readers love Dagwood's delicious (and cheap) burgers and bar food 2803 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing (517) 374-0390, dagwoodstavern.com 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Friday; 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Saturday; 9 a.m.-noon Sunday

#5 RED ROBIN

Chain restaurant famous for its specialty 6524 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing (517) 886-7440, redrobin.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

TOP FIVE GREEK

#1 LOU AND HARRY'S (DOWNTOWN) Sandwich shop known for its gyros and Greek specialties 119 S. Washington Square, Lansing (517) 708-7212 facebook.com/louhaslansing 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

#2 OLGA'S KITCHEN

featuring Chain restaurant Mediterranean-accented menu including gyros and a Greek salad 354 Frandor Ave., Lansing. (517) 332-2500, olgas.com 10:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

#3 ZEUS' CONEY ISLAND

City Pulse readers love its Greek specialties, coney dogs and diner fare (517) 272-7900, greecianisland.com 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday

#4 BELL'S PIZZA

East Lansing pizza joint known for its Greek and Mediterranean specialties 1135 E. Grand River, East Lansing. (517) 332-0858, thebellspizza.com 10 a.m.-4 a.m. daily

#5 ATHENA'S DINER

City Pulse readers recommend the spin-

ach pie with tzatziki sauce 3109 S. Cedar St., Lansing (517) 394-0072, athenasdiner.com 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday

TOP FIVE ICE CREAM SHOP

#1 MSU DAIRY STORE Big Ten-themed_ice cream offerings include Buckeye Blitz and Badger Berry Cheesecake 474 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing (517) 355-8466, dairystore.msu.edu 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday; noon-8 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

#2 TASTY TWIST

Counter serve offering classic and soft serve ice cream flavors and toppings 1137 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing (517) 332-2677 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Monday-Saturday; noon-11 p.m. Sunday

#3 COLDSTONE CREAMERY

Ice cream parlor chain that also offers cakes 200 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing (517) 337-9550, coldstonecreamery.com Noon-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; Noon-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

#4 ARCTIC CORNER

Old Town ice cream shop in operation since 1953 314 E Grand River Ave., Lansing

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351-0608 • PEANUTBARREL.COM



(517) 285-2578 Currently closed for the winter.

#5 DAIRY DAN

Locally-owned ice cream shop with drivethrough service 7035 S Cedar St., Lansing (517) 699-7002 Currently closed for the winter.

TOP FIVE ITALIAN

#1 DELUCA'S RESTAURANT AND PIZZERIA

Family-owned Italian restaurant famous 2006 W. Willow St., Lansing (517) 487-6087, delucaspizza.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday & Saturday; closed Sunday

#2 CUGINO'S

Grand Ledge eatery known for its classic Italian cuisine and generous portions 306 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge (517) 627-4048, cuginosmenu.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday

#3 BRAVO! CUCINA ITALIANA

Upscale-casual chain restaurant known for its more take on Italian classics 2970 Towne Center Blvd., Lansing (517) 485-3779, bravoitalian.com 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m. Monday–Thursday; 11:30 a.m.–11 p.m. Friday–Saturday; 11:30 a.m.–9 p.m. Sunday



#4 CARRABBA'S ITALIAN GRILL

Casual dining chain known for it's classic Italian fare
6540 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing
(517) 323-8055, carrabbas.com
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11
a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

#5 OLIVE GARDEN

Family-friendly chain with Italian stan-dards and a full bar. (517) 349-0330, olivegarden.com (517) 349-0330, olivegarden.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

TOP 5 MEDITERRANEAN

#1 WOODY'S OASIS

City Pulse readers love Woody's fast-food take on Mediterranean cuisine 1050 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing (517) 351-2280, woodysoasis.com 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday–Friday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday

#2 ZAYTOON MEDITERRANEAN GRILL City Pulse readers love the fresh, wellprepared food and Mediterranean ambiance

940 Elmwood Road, Lansing (517) 203-5728, zaytoonlansing.com 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday; closed Sunday

3 ALADDIN'S RESTAURANT

City Pulse readers recommend the chicken schwarma and Mediterranean salad 300 N. Clippert St., Lansing (517) 333-8710, aladdinslansing.com 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday

#4 SULTAN'S MEDITERRANEAN

Known for its authentic Mediterranean fare and bright, welcoming dining room (517) 333-4444 sultansmediterranean.com 4790 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday

#5 TABOOLI MEDITERRANEAN

Contemporary eatery for create-your-own rice bowls, wrap sandwiches and more. 1620 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing (517) 253-0250, tabooli4u.com 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday

TOP 5 MEXICAN

#1EL AZTECO (EAST LANSING)

City Pulse readers recommend the enchiladas suizas and the margaritas 225 Ann St., East Lansing (517) 351-9111, elazeast.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

#2 CANCUN MEXICAN GRILL

Okemos eatery serves up delicious Mexican staples 1754 Central Park Drive, Okemos (517) 347-8114, cancungl.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-10:45 Friday; 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

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City Pulse Dining Guide

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CHOUPLI

4411 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing| 517.708.0404 **10% OFF ENTIRE PURCHASE** Expires March 22, 2017

CRUNCHY'S

254 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing | 517.351.2506 1/2 off drinks for Hospitality workers on Mondays

FOR CREPE'S SAKE

221 S. Washington Sq., Lansing| 517.374.0401 Buy one crepe at full price with purchase of a drink and receive a crepe of equal or lesser value for free. Disclaimer: Offer cannot be combined with any other discounts or offers. Expires April 1, 2017

LA SENORITA

2706 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing | 517.485.0166

\$5 off purchase of \$25 or more

Not good with any other offer. Expires March 22, 2017

SOUP SPOON CAFE

1419 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing 517.316.2377 Like Us On Facebook! Or Check Out Our Daily Specials at: soupspoon.com

ZOOBIE'S OLD TOWN TAVERN

611 E. Grand River Ave., | 517.897.3563 **10% OFF FOOD PURCHASE** Expires March 22, 2017

Continued from page 14

3 EL OASIS FOOD TRUCK

City Pulse readers love this food truck's Mexican staples 2501 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing (517) 882-2100 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday

#4LOS TRES AMIGOS (DOWNTOWN)

Michigan-based chain of restaurants known for its Mexican cuisine and housemade salsas and sauces (See web site for three more Greater Lansing locations) 107-109 E. Allegan St., Lansing. (517) 316-0066 lostresamigonsonline.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

#5 PABLO'S OLD TOWN

Famous for its tortas and other Mexican

COACH'S PUB AND GRILL

36201 Bishop Road, Lansing | 517.882.2013 Buy One, Get 50% Off (Offer good on entrees of equal or lesser value. Must purchase 2 drinks.) Expires 4/30/2017

EASTSIDE FISH FRY

2417 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing| 517.993.5988 Buy one get one 50% chicken or fish dinner Expires June 2, 2017

JERSEY GIANT

See jgsubs.com for Greater Lansing locations **15% OFF ENTIRE PURCHASE** Deadline March 22, 2017

PEANUT BARREL

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing| 517.351.0608 **10% OFF ENTIRE PURCHASE** Expires March 22, 2017

WROUGHT IRON GRILL

317 S. Elm St., Suitet 201 | 989.472.9025 **10% OFF ENTIRE PURCHASE** Expires March 31, 2017



specialties 311 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing (517) 372-0887, pablosoldtown.com 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday

TOP 5 NEW RESTAURANT

#/ LANSING BREWING CO. Home of the Angry Mayor IPA, Lansing Brewing Co. has become a downtown Lansing hotspot. 518 E Shiawassee St., Lansing (517) 371-2600 lansingbrewingcompany.com 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Friday-Saturday; Noon-10 p.m. Sunday.

#2 THE CREOLE

The Creole specializes in classic cocktails with old-school preparation styles 1218 Turner St., Lansing

(517) 371-1361, thecreolelansing.com 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-10 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-2 p.m. and 4-10 p.m. Saturday-Sunday.

#3 SADDLEBACK BBQ

Craft barbecue joint located in Lansing's REO Town 5660 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing (517) 323-7320 tequilacowboy.com/lansing 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday; closed Sunday

#4 TEQUILA COWBOY

Country Western joint with frequent concerts located in the Lansing Mall. 107-109 E. Allegan St., Lansing. (517) 316-0066 lostresamigonsonline.com 11 a.m.-midnight Monday-Tuesday; 11

a.m.-2 a.m. Thursday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

#5 OLD NATION BREWING COMPANY

A Williamston brewery and brewpub offering craft beers and food 1500 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston (517) 655-1301, oldnationbrewing.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-midnight Friday; 9 a.m.-midnight Saturday; 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday

TOP 4 PIZZA

#1 DELUCA'S RESTAURANT AND PIZZERIA

Family-owned Italian restaurant famous for its pizza 2006 W. Willow St., Lansing (517) 487-6087, delucaspizza.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11

a.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday & Saturday; closed Sunday

#2 COSMOS

Old Town pizzeria known for its adventurous pizzas and duck fat fries 611 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing (517) 897-3563, thecosmoslansing.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-10 p.m. Sunday

#3 PIZZA HOUSE

Restaurant specializing in deep dish pizzas, with other Italian fare as well 4790 S Hagadorn Road, Suites 114-116, East Lansing (517) 336-0033, pizzahouse.com 10:30 a.m.-4 a.m. daily

#4 CUGINO'S

Grand Ledge eatery known for its classic Italian cuisine and generous portions 306 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge (517) 627-4048, cuginosmenu.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday- Thursday; 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; closed Sunday

TOP FIVE SANDWICH

#1 JERSEY GIANT

Lansing-based chain specializing in giant sub sandwiches (See web site for more locations) 3700 W. Saginaw St., Lansing (517) 323-6800, jerseygiantsubs.com 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday

#2 SOUP SPOON CAFE

City Pulse readers love Soup Spoon's breakfast options, soups and sandwiches 1419 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing (517) 316-2377, soupspooncafe.com 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 7 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday; 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

#3 JIMMY JOHNS

Sandwich chain known for its "freaky fast" service and delivery (See web site for more locations) 134 S. Washington Square, Lansing (517) 485-3300, jimmyjohns.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Thursday-Saturday

#4 SAMUEL MANCINO'S ITALIAN EATERY

Sandwich shop known for its baked grinders

(517) X. Clippert St., Suite B, Lansing (517) 351-7492, mancinosoffrandor.com 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; closed Sunday

#5 FRANDOR DELI

Deli with large selection of subs that also serves Mexican food and pizza 300 N Clippert St #8, Lansing, (517) 351-9342, Frandordelilansingmi. com 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday; closed Sunday

TOP FIVE SEAFOOD

#1 MITCHELL'S FISH MARKET

City Pulse readers love its fresh fish, flown in daily 2975 Preyde Blvd., Lansing.

(517) 482-3474 mitchellsfishmarket.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday

#2 RED LOBSTER

Chain restaurant known for its seafood options and Cheddar Bay Biscuits 3130 E. Saginaw St., Lansing (517) 351-0610 redlobster.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

#3 MARU SUSHI & GRILL (OKEMOS)

High quality sushi, upscale atmosphere 5100 Marsh Road, Okemos (517) 349-7500 marurestaurant.com 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. & 4-9:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday; 11:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

#4 CAPITAL PRIME

Upscale surf and turf restaurant with contemporary ambiance 2324 Showtime Drive, Lansing. (517) 377-7463 capitalprimelansing.com 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11:30 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday; 2-9 p.m. Sunday

#5 SOUP SPOON CAFE

City Pulse readers love Soup Spoon's breakfast options, soups and sandwiches 1419 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

(517) 316-2377 soupspooncafe.com 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 7 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday; 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

TOP FIVE STEAK

#1 CAPITAL PRIME

Upscale surf and turf restaurant with contemporary ambiance 2324 Showtime Drive, Lansing. (517) 377-7463 capitalprimelansing.com 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11:30 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday; 2-9 p.m. Sunday

#2 TEXAS ROADHOUSE

City Pulse readers love the steaks and service at this casual steakhouse 280 E. Edgewood Blvd, Lansing (517) 887-8181 texasroadhouse.com 4 p.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 4 p.m.-11 p.m. Friday; 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday; 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday

#3 KNIGHT CAP

One of Lansing's oldest restaurants, re-opened last year with revamped menu and upscale interior 320 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

(517) 484-7676

knightcap.com

4 p.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 4 p.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; closed Sunday



#4 OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE

Australian-themed steakhouse famous for its Bloomin' Onion 707 Brookside, Lansing (517) 321-3100 outback.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-9p.m. Sunday

#5 LONGHORN STEAKHOUSE

City Pulse readers recommend the baconwrapped sirloin and parmesan-crusted asparagus at this chain steakhouse 5796 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing (517) 703-9041 longhornsteakhouse.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

TOP FIVE SUSHI

#1 MARU SUSHI AND GRILL High quality sushi, upscale atmosphere 5100 Marsh Road, Okemos (517) 349-7500, marurestaurant.com 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. & 4-9:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday; 11:30 a.m-9:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

City Pulse readers love Sansu's value, serving quality sushi at good prices 4750 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing (517) 333-1933, sansu-sushi.com 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. & 4:30–10 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 3-10 p.m. Sunday



#3UKAI (WEST LANSING) Sushi bar and hibachi grill, known for Susin bar and mbach ghin, known for entertaining hibachi chefs
754 Delta Commerce Drive, Lansing
(517) 853-8888, iloveukai.com
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. & 4-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 4-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-9 p.m. Sunday

#4 AI FUSION

Known for creative sushi rolls and good service

2827 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing (517) 853-3700, ai-fusion.com 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; noon-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; noon-11 p.m. Sunday

#5 SUSHI MOTO

Cozy west side restaurant known for its fresh sushi 436 Elmwood Road, Lansing (517) 580-4321, sushimoto.us 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday; Noon-

9 p.m. Sunday

TOP FIVE UPSCALE DINING

#/CAPITAL PRIME

Upscale surf and turf restaurant with contemporary ambiance

(517) 377-7463, capitalprimelansing.com 4-10 p.m. Monday-Friday; 2-11 p.m. Saturday; 2-9 p.m. Sunday

#2 ENGLISH INN

Fine dining restaurant known for its gor-





Tony M's has been serving the Lansing area with fantastic Italian and American food since 1981. Come in and enjoy a nice family atmosphere for breakfast, lunch or dinner. We also have a 160-seat banquet room that is available at no additional charge for large parties or groups - call to reserve.

Open 7 days a week! 3420 S. Creyts Rd., Lansing (517) 332-2068 tonyms.com facebook.com/TonyMsRestaurant

geous location on the Grand River 677 S. Michigan Road, Eaton Rapids (517) 663-2500, englishinn.com 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. & 5-8:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. & 5-10 p.m. Friday; 5-9:30 p.m. Saturday; 1-7 p.m. Sunday

#3 SOUP SPOON CAFE

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#4 CREOLE

The Creole specializes in classic cock-The Greeie specializes in Gassic Cock-tails with old-school preparation styles 1218 Turner St., Lansing (517) 371-1361, thecreolelansing.com 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5-10 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5-10 p.m. Saturday-Sunday Saturday-Sunday.

#5 DUSTY'S CELLAR

Known for its gourmet options and extensive wine list 1839 Grand River Ave., Okemos. (517) 349-8680, dustyscellar.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

TOP FIVE VEGAN/VEGETARIAN/GLUTEN FREE

#1 SOUP SPOON CAFE

City Pulse readers love Soup Spoon's breakfast options, soups and sandwiches 1419 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing (517) 316-2377 soupspooncafe.com 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 7 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday; 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday

#2 RED HAVEN

Upscale farm-to-table restaurant featuring adventurous cuisine and sleek design 4480 Hagadorn Road, Suite 103 (517) 679-6309, eatredhaven.com 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. & 5 p.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. & 5 p.m.-10 p.m. Friday; 5-10 p.m. Saturday; 5-8:30 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday

#3 BETTER HEALTH

Grocery store with wide selection of organic and gluten -free products and a cafe. 305 N. Clippert St., Lansing (517) 332-6892, thebetterhealthstore.com 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday

#4 ALTU'S ETHIOPIAN CUISINE

Low-key, independently owned outpost for traditional Ethiopian fare & combo meals, plus smoothies. 1312 Michigan Ave., East Lansing (517) 333-6295, eatataltus.com 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 4:30-9 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, closed Sunday-Monday.

#5 ALADDIN'S RESTAURANT

City Pulse readers recommend the chicken schwarma and Mediterranean salad 300 N. Clippert St., Lansing (517) 333-8710, aladdinslansing.com 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday



4411 W. SAGINAW HIGHWAY LANSING, MI 48917

517 | 708 0404 www.choupli.com

HOURS: MON. - SAT. 11AM - 9PM



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