

FREE

May 6 - 12, 2020

# CityPULSE

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## These people are flattening the curve — but not everyone is

See Page 9



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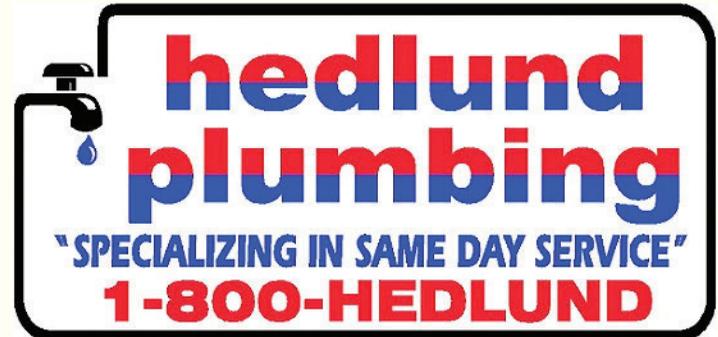
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# *Favorite Things*

## Mandy Waltz and her nutcrackers

*Drummer Mandy Waltz, 28, is a Waterford native living on Lansing's east side. Over the past few years, she's become a familiar face in the local music scene, as she keeps mighty busy. Her main band, Rodeo Boys, dropped its debut LP "Cherry" last year while Waltz also moonlighted in other bands like Blaine & His Keyboard, Crystal Drive and Mic & Dykes. While her public persona may scream punk rock, her favorite thing is a bit jollier.*



When I'm not doing music, I'm probably teaching music or working or reading. I've been getting into gardening, or trying to. Making meals and going on trips with my girlfriend. I love astrology and history shows and books, too.

But I'd have to say my favorite thing is my nutcracker collection. I realized I don't have too much of a connection to tangible things, I guess, except for this godforsaken nearly 100-piece collection that has followed me around since I was 6.

Talking about it publicly is a "coming out" of sorts because all my close friends know, but in general, I try not to talk about it lest I creep anyone out (laughs).

The collection started when I saw "The Nutcracker" on a class trip when I was in first grade at Sandburg Elementary in Waterford, Michigan. I was just completely enraptured and have been obsessed ever since. I asked for a nutcracker for Christmas that year and now I get at least one a year from my Dad, but also usually a few spread out between friends and family.

The collection spans from plastic mini-sets from CVS to the gigantic handmade wooden ones that go up to your hip. I have quite a variety. A pirate, a skater, a cowboy, a cymbal player and a few snare players — giv-

en to me surely during my drumline years. Just a ton. I would've had more but I've lost some throughout the many years and moves and I think I left a box in Mt. Pleasant after I graduated.

All of these come to me from other people. I do not usually buy them unless I feel a strong connection to one. This is a big reason why I can't get rid of it or recycle the wood or something—almost every one is a gift. Even if it's annoying to move them from house to house, or put 100 things away after Christmas, I feel like a part of the person who gave them to me is in each one.

And yes, they all come out around Christmas. It's quite a horrifying spectacle. Some old roommates have explained that having 100 eyes following you around the room is unnerving. I welcome the attention!

Plus, I usually feel weird around the holidays, but the nutcrackers never elicit any bad emotions from me at all. Oh, one last thing: If anyone is thinking of giving me one as a gift, I don't need any more!

*(This interview was edited and condensed by Rich Tupica. If you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, email rich@lansingcitypulse.com.)*

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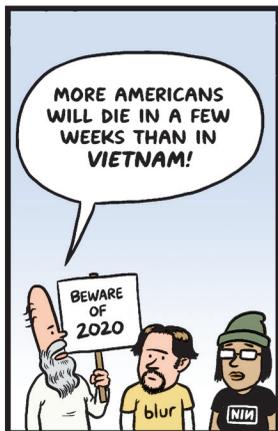
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# CityPULSE

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Masks and social distancing around Lansing



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Lansing Art Gallery takes annual events online and outside



**PAGE 18**

The Dish: Art Pub's spicy mozzarella sticks



**Cover Art**

Photos taken by City Pulse staff

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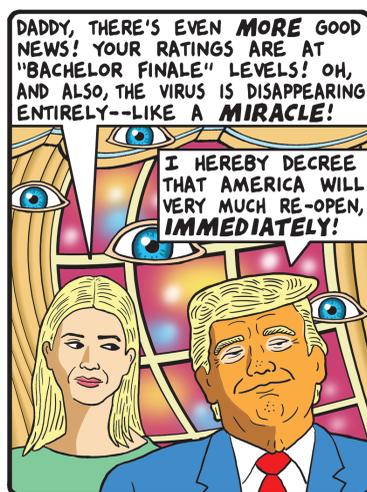
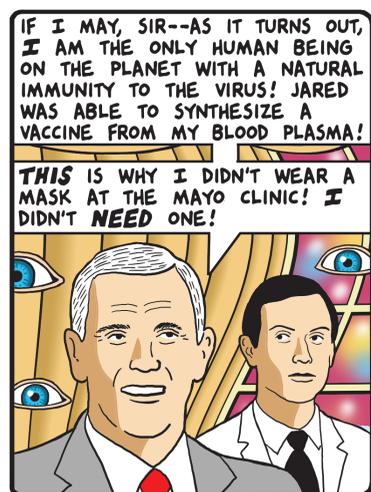
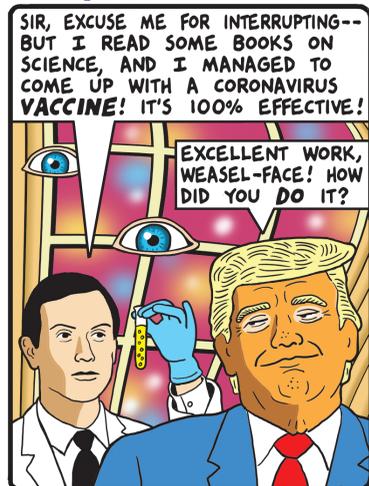
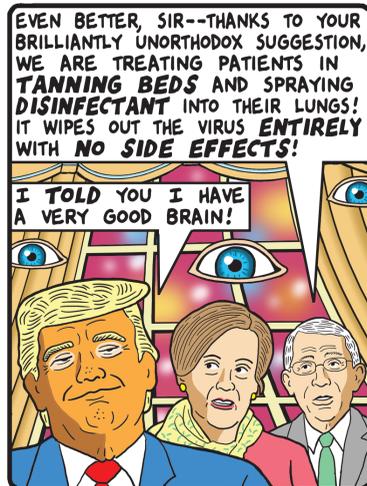
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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



TOM TOMORROW © 2020

# Reckless

If Michigan's independent voters need a compelling argument for which party they should support in the November elections, last week's debacle at the State Capitol made an emphatic case for voting Democratic. As political theater goes, the so-called American Patriot Rally, spurred and supported by state Republican party leaders and President Donald Trump, was a revolting act of reckless endangerment that unnecessarily put at risk the health and lives of Michigan State Police officers, legislative staff, lawmakers and the demonstrators themselves. Angry protesters crowded the entrance to the House chambers in proud defiance of the governor's orders to stay at home and stay at least six feet away from other people, ironically proving once again why the orders are necessary: Too many people are too reckless, too ignorant, or both to responsibly self-regulate their behavior.

While Republican leaders huddled behind closed doors in their caucus lounge, undoubtedly chortling about the unqualified success of their anti-Whitmer machinations, their Democratic colleagues were shouted down by heavily armed paramilitary kooks in the gallery above the legislative chambers. More than one lawmaker reportedly donned a bulletproof vest, understandably unnerved by the notion that all it takes is one trigger-happy, pissed-off wacko to turn the legislative gathering place into a death chamber.

Trump-loving Republicans across the state must have been delighted by the national news coverage of the fiasco that highlighted assault weapon toting thugs dressed like ISIS terrorists lining the halls of our State Capitol, while their maskless, COVID-spewing brethren bravely barked at the stone-faced police officers and sergeants-at-arms who wisely wouldn't let them storm the floor of the House.

Abandoning the old public relations trope that there is no such thing as bad press, legislative leaders who spent the last few weeks purposefully stoking the protesters' anger suddenly realized that the optics of the rebellion they incited were actually undermining their cause. Sensing a public relations train wreck with their names written all over it, the party's top leaders quickly backtracked and turned against their own spawn. Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey referred to some of the protesters as "jackasses" — an understatement of significant proportions — while Speaker of the House Lee Chatfield, famous for attempting to carry a loaded pistol onto an airplane, opined that some of the conduct was "un-Ameri-



## The CP Edit

### Opinion

can." Chickens, meet roost.

Meanwhile, lawmakers ramped up their own marginally more civilized protest against the governor, refusing to extend her emergency declarations and vowing to file a lawsuit in an effort to rein in her authority. Evidently it is a "power grab" for Whitmer to exercise the statutory authority that every Michigan governor has held since at least 1945. Who knew? The Republicans' politically driven lawsuit turns on such thin legal gruel that their attorneys may well risk court sanctions for filing frivolous claims.

Last week's ruling by the Michigan Court of Claims upholding Whitmer's authority was on point, noting that the

temporary infringement of the protesters' constitutional rights is necessary to protect the interests of the public at large. None other than Chief Judge Christopher Murray, former deputy legal counsel to Republican Gov. John Engler and a card-carrying member of the Federalist Society, wrote that "our fellow citizens ... have an interest to remain unharmed by a highly communicable and deadly virus, and since the state entered the Union in 1837, it has had the broad power to act for the public health of the entire state when faced with a public crisis." The court's decision foreshadows the all but certain judicial rejection of similar claims.

On a positive note, the scene at the Capitol was so ugly that some Republicans were finally shocked into rethinking the wisdom of allowing armed protesters into the Capitol building, a notion that should have occurred to them 16 years ago when a shotgun-toting lunatic stormed the Illinois Capitol and murdered a security guard. Like most states, Illinois now uses metal detectors to screen visitors to their capitol building. When confronted by reporters, state Republican mouthpieces scurried to rationalize the Michigan Capitol's open door, open carry policy as part and parcel of making the building accessible to everyone. Of course, banning weapons from the Capitol literally has nothing to do with making it accessible to the public and everything to do with appeasing the party's gun-crazed right wingers, who demand fealty to the Second Amendment over protecting the safety of the general public.

Normally we would call on Republican leaders to abandon their reckless partisan gamesmanship and do the right thing. Rather than beat a dead horse, we instead reiterate our unequivocal support for Governor Whitmer, who should continue to make the science-based, data-driven decisions necessary to keep Michigan residents safe and continue to ignore the mindless mavens of mendacity who purposefully misconstrue the voices of a tiny, radical minority of Michigan citizens as representing the interests of us all.

In the end, we do have one bit of advice for the Party of Trump: Before Michigan voters pass judgment on who has handled the COVID crisis appropriately and who has not, state Republicans might consider pivoting to a new strategy that salvages whatever shreds of credibility they still possess. Promptly enacting a ban on firearms in the Capitol building would be an excellent place to start.

**Send letters to the editor on this editorial or any other topic to [letters@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:letters@lansingcitypulse.com). Please limit them to 250 words.**



# Why does one ZIP code far outpace any other for coronavirus cases in Ingham County?

## Zip code 48911 tracks at least 25% of Ingham County's COVID-19 cases

A large swath of south Lansing is the statistical epicenter for coronavirus in Ingham County.

Data released this week by the Ingham County Health Department shows that more coronavirus cases have been detected in zip code 48911 than anywhere else in the county. The latest official count there tallies 131 to 140 cases, or at least 25% of the county's 521 confirmed cases.

But why? Does something make south Lansing residents more susceptible to the virus? Is the region just more densely populated than other areas of the county? Are they taking more risks?

The short answer: Nobody quite knows. But county officials are searching for answers.

"I do think that there's more data that we need to know," explained Debbie Odokpolo, a deputy health officer for the county. "It's disproportionately affected, but the reason? We don't know all of that yet. I do think there's some more data we probably need to find, like where are some of those folks interacting with COVID-19? What access do they have to different things there?"

Odokpolo, who heads up the county Health Department's "special populations" operations, expected additional demographic data to shed some light on the problem over the coming weeks.

In the meantime, Health Officer Linda Vail has a hunch about what's causing the trend.

Zip code 48911 has an estimated population of about 40,000 people — or about a third of Lansing's 118,000 residents. It would only make sense that some of the more heavily populated areas of the county would also have a higher number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, Vail said.

Additionally, Vail said residents in that portion of the capital city — a chunk of mostly south Lansing including portions of Delta and Delhi townships — are also heavily African American. And as state statistics show, this virus has had a



disproportionate impact on black residents.

"Living as a person of color undergirds all of the other health issues that disproportionately impact that population like diabetes and high blood pressure and things like that," Vail added. "We also need to consider that staying home is the right thing to do, but it's also a privilege."

Health differences between racial groups are often due to economic and social conditions that are more common among some racial minorities than whites. In public health emergencies, these conditions can also isolate people from the resources they need to prepare for outbreaks.

Vail estimates that about 27% of residents living in zip code 48911 are black, compared to just 22% across the rest of the city. That section of the city is also filled more heavily with apartment buildings and hundreds of businesses that remain open throughout the pandemic.

"Social distancing in itself is a privilege," Vail said. "We have restaurant employees doing curbside pick-up, grocery stores, places like Lowe's

and Home Depot that are still open. Those employees still see a lot of people and tend to be low-income residents and people of color."

Across Michigan, white people are 79% of the population while blacks are 14%. Yet white people account for 34% of cases and 49% of deaths, while African Americans compose 32% of cases and 41% of deaths.

The state has launched a task force to address the disparities with Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist leading it. Dr. Renee Branch Canady, the CEO of the Michigan Public Health Institute, is on that team.

"Race is not a risk factor," Canady said. "There is nothing scientific about the fact that people of color are having higher rates of this particular disease. We believe that race is really more of a measure of a social condition, not just a personal characteristic. One of the things we're clear about is that the COVID-19 numbers demonstrate that inequality and powerlessness can make us sick."

Canady said a variety of factors can



Several people correctly identified the Eye for Design detail published April 8 as the East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road; however, it was Jill Horn who was the first to answer and thus wins the Eye for Design mug.

This month's detail (seen below) is likely from the same era and can also be found in East Lansing. Some people call it breezeblock, others say concrete screen block. The fad was kickstarted in the 1950s by architect Edward Durell Stone. It is now enjoying a resurgence with books published in the last few years by the Palm Springs Preservation Foundation and Sam Marshall (on Instagram as @breezeblockhead).

If you know where this detail can be found, send me an email at [carriesampson@micourthistory.org](mailto:carriesampson@micourthistory.org).

— CARRIE SAMPSON



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

# 48911

from page 6

cause one geographic area to have more cases than another, like access to health care and testing, poverty levels and the type of employment and housing. Unfortunately, regions that struggle in those areas tend to include more people of color, she said.

Gilchrist also said the task force will create relationships with doctors who can help people of color not only during the crisis but afterward, when they need help with underlying conditions. Odokpolo and Vail are mirroring those same sorts of efforts at the county Health Department.

“Those are some things we should look at as we come out of this,” Odokpolo added. “How do we bet-

Ingham County zip codes with the most COVID-19 cases	
48911	131-141 cases
48910	61-70 cases
48823	51-60 cases
48854	41-50 cases
48864	
48842	31-40 cases
48906	
48912	21-30 cases
48906	
48917	11-20 cases

Source: Ingham County Health Department

ter support families and individuals in that area? As a person of color, I don't like it either.”

Zip code 48911 is bordered near Waverly Road to the west, Willoughby Road to the south, Aurelius Road to the east and Jolly Road to the north. An outlying western portion also dips north of Jolly Road, extending

north toward Mt. Hope Road to include Moores River Drive.

City Councilman Adam Hussain lives within its boundaries.

“We have to acknowledge that it is most certainly a symptom of poverty and the adverse environmental circumstances plaguing our most impoverished neighborhoods,” Hussain said.

“Our most impoverished neighborhoods are deficient when it comes to these resources and, consequently, our people disproportionately suffer from the underlying health conditions that make one susceptible to severe illness due to COVID-19,” Hussain added, noting

studies have proven that health outcomes are inextricably linked to factors like housing and public safety.

Hussain said the scarcity of healthy restaurant options and fast-food joints in south Lansing is a problem, as well as the general lack of investment and economic development in the area. Dense, low-income housing paired with predatory landlords continue to tilt the playing field.

“I sincerely hope it has been a wakeup call for everyone charged with supporting our citizens and the next time we are faced with a pandemic, we have facilitated the necessary change that reduces the risk of exposure and severity of illness associated with the pathogen,” Hussain said.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

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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 26, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing:

A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1480, an ordinance to rezone Albert Avenue right-of-way and City Parking Lot #4 from C, Community Facilities, to B3, City Center Commercial District.

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 1-800-649-377.

Note: This hearing is currently scheduled to occur as a regular public hearing at the meeting. If, at the time of this hearing meetings are still not permitted under an Executive Order of the Governor and an Executive Order permitting meetings electronically allows for an electronic meeting, this hearing will occur electronically and a notice of the means of participation in that hearing will be published in compliance with the Open Meetings Act and any relevant Executive Orders.

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

**CP#20-109**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING  
SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES**

**A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD VIA A ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING UNDER THE GOVERNOR OF MICHIGAN'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS 2020-15 AND 2020-21 ON TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Aten, Treasurer Rodgers  
Trustees: Broughton, Harris, McKenzie, Bankson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Michael Gresens, Attorney

**ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:**

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.

Approved minutes of the meeting held on March 31, 2020.

Agenda approved.

Approved Board of Trustees Compensation and Benefit Policy.

Approved budget amendment.

Approved Supplemental Agreement #13 to Water Service Agreement between LCT and BWL for Towneplace Suites on Wood Street.

Approved Claims.

Executive Session held to discuss attorney-client privileged communication.

Board returned to regular session.

Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor  
Susan L. Aten, Clerk

**CP#20-107**

# ‘Patriots’ antics hurt their sellable cause

They call themselves Patriots. Like the revolutionaries who took up arms against the British in 1776.

They’re the latest iteration of a fringe conservative spectrum who fear government overreach will trample on the personal liberties that sparked the nation’s birth. Like the Michigan Militia of early 1990s, they feel they’re democracy’s last line of defense.

It’s no surprise the Patriots emerged last Thursday. Maybe the surprise is they didn’t come out earlier.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s one-person decrees on what people can and can’t do has “oppressive autocracy” written all over it for rural Michiganders who feel the cure for COVID-19 is much worse than the disease. Even prominent Republicans like Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey used the word “dictator” to describe Whitmer.

The table was set for Patriots to swing public opinion their way. Who isn’t tired of staying home? Look at the plateauing COVID-19 case numbers. Cover your face, stay six feet away from a stranger, hand sanitize and you



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

should be good to go, right?

The message is an easy sell.

Instead, the Patriots couldn’t self-police a handful of loose nuts who took the argument a few steps too far. Now, even likely sympathizers are against them.

Shirkey used the word “jackasses.” House Speaker Lee Chatfield used the word “disgraceful.” Even FOX conservative commentator Sean Hannity got into the mix. He called militia standing guard over the Michigan Senate balcony with menacing-looking long guns in hand “dangerous.”

The tactics deployed outside the Capitol distracted so far from their message that the decision to organize may have mortally hurt the cause instead of advancing it. Democrats, in general, and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, in particular, now look courageous in the face of intimidation.

Let’s recap the low points:

— I took photo from the Capitol steps capturing hundreds of revelers crammed together in the rain. Maybe a dozen wore face covering. Two of them are State Police officers making sure order is maintained.

While I sat in the Senate gallery later in the evening, a mother and her

two children took a seat on the bench of front of me. She had three medical masks. They were sitting on top of her purse, flat as pancakes.

It’s hard for the governor to feel comfortable reopening segments of the economy if she sees people unwilling to take basic, well-established safety precautions.

— Somebody, somewhere thought bringing a noose to the party was a good idea. One noose being publicly displayed is one too many. It’s a sign of intimidation, with racial undertones, that can bring criminal charges when displayed in certain settings.

A caricature of Whitmer resembling Adolph Hitler returned, first appearing at the Operation Gridlock traffic jam. Comparing Hitler -- personally responsible for 11 to 12 million noncombatant deaths -- to anybody outside of dictators who kill lots of people like Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong or Pol Pot fails. Every. Single. Time.

Painting the toothbrush moustache under Whitmer’s nose isn’t creative. It’s an immediate turnoff. To just about everybody.

— Flying a confederate battle flag doesn’t make you a rebel. Maybe it did when Bo and Luke Duke were launching the General Lee over busted Hazzard County bridges, but that show went off the air 25 years ago.

Right or wrong, confederate flags are not the historical symbol of bucking the system. It’s morphed into a

dog-whistle symbol of racial oppression that African-Americans particularly find offensive. Ask Sen. Dale Zorn, R-Ida, who wore a Confederate flag-looking mask in the chamber last week.

— I don’t know guns, but I do know the gun that guy brought into the Senate gallery Thursday could take out a lot of people very quickly. Clearly, Sen. Sylvia Santana, D-Detroit, thought so, too, which is why she put on a bullet proof vest.

Open carry day at the Capitol is one thing. Pretending that the Capitol was being occupied is something completely different. Now, legislators are clamoring for banning open carry in the building.

— Protestors chanting ‘Let Us In’ outside the House chambers. And what if they had? We talking third-world county takeover? Come on.

The Republican-led House was ON THEIR SIDE. The governor is in Romney Building across Capitol Street, guys.

It was all theatrics. Every bit of it. The guns, noose and Hitler sign were nothing more than props. Nobody was looking to cause any real trouble.

But it was all so far over the top, the point was lost and in the eye of the public, these “Patriots” were easily reclassified as “kooks.”

(Kyle Melinn, of the Capitol newsletter MIRS, is at melinnky@gmail.com.)

## Attorney: Legislature in charge of allowing guns in Capitol

(MIRS) The Michigan Capitol Commission’s attorney notified members Tuesday that it does not have the authority to limit any guns — open carry or concealed carry — in the Capitol building.

It would be up to the Legislature to pass legislation to ban firearms from coming inside the building, and the current Republican-led leadership doesn’t seem interested in making the change.

Earlier this week, John Truscott, vice chairman of the Michigan Capitol Commission, said at the request of legislators he asked lawyers about whether the body has the authority to ban the ability to openly carry firearms into the Capitol.

The subject was to be discussed at next week’s commission meeting.

Truscott told Dave Akerly on 1320-AM WILS Tuesday morning that concealed carry inside the Capitol is allowed under the law. Open carry is legal in Michigan, but he was still waiting for the perimeters under which the

Capitol can limit firearms.

The question emerged after several “patriot” protesters showed up in the Senate chambers with their long guns. Several Democratic senators, in particular, found the display unnerving and intimidating. Truscott said, as a gun owner, he didn’t like what he saw.

Sen. Dayna Polehanki, D-Canton, noted a widely circulated Twitter picture of the patriot protesters that she’d never been so glad to have sergeants at arms in the Senate building. Sen. Sylvia Santana, D-Detroit, sat at her desk wearing a bulletproof vest.

“Everybody is disturbed, including me, about what we saw last week,” Truscott said. “99.9% of the people in Michigan do the right thing, and it just takes a couple to upset it for everybody else, and that’s what happened here.”

However, by the afternoon, Truscott got his answer. The five-member Capitol Commission — charged with overseeing the daily goings-on at the Capitol — can ban signs from coming

into the building out of concern that the sticks will chip the building’s expensive interior decorative paint.

But firearms are a completely different matter.

“We do not have the authority,” Truscott said. “As a commission, we can’t alter state law. That’s the advice we’re getting Monday. It is really something that will need to be done by the Legislature.”

And don’t look for this crop of legislators to be doing anything on this front anytime soon.

House Speaker Lee Chatfield, R-Levering, told the podcast MIRS Monday this week the Capitol is the “people’s house” and they have the right to exercise their constitutional right to bear arms in a responsible way.

“You have to be very careful before you say, ‘You can exercise one constitutional right by coming and protesting, but you can’t exercise another,’” Chatfield said

— KYLE MELINN, MIRS



Kyle Melinn/MIRS

Hundreds of protesters, some armed with rifles, crammed into the Capitol Thursday to protest Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s shutdown orders.

# Spring fever — and shortness of breath

One day in the life of pandemic culture in Lansing

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

If you want to distance yourself from other people in the heart of Lansing, there's no better place than the weedy parking lot of General Motors' former Oldsmobile headquarters.

On a sunny Friday afternoon, with acres of asphalt at his back and nobody around, Bill Stephenson, 65, felt safe enough to pull up his cloth mask and take a pull on a cigarette. A bag of sanitary wipes was packed in the pouch of his sweatshirt.

He glanced guiltily at the cigarette. "I know I shouldn't be doing this," he admitted.

On the first warm Friday in early spring, people all over Lansing emerged from lockdown by the hundreds. They did smart things and stupid things. Many kept their distance from each other and wore masks. And many did not.

Friday afternoon, City Pulse sent a team of reporters around town to take a snapshot of an unprecedented social and epidemiological experiment following from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive orders that require masks under some circumstances and encourage in others.

What we saw was a chaotic mix of carefulness and carelessness.

"Too many people are taking this easy," Stephenson said. "It's scary to me. I don't take it as a joke at all. It's very serious. We're in a lot of trouble right now, especially if you're older."

As if deadly contagion weren't enough, the seeds of a new cultural divide are starting to sprout. Scenes like the following are breaking out on an untold scale: At the Apple Market on Oakland Avenue, a 20-something man rushed out of the store with a small purchase in a paper bag. Without noticing, he brushed past a 60-something man in a mask who was trundling slowly in the opposite direction.

The older man took half a step backward, stopped in his tracks and swiveled his head.

"Dude, social distancing," he cried out angrily. The younger man was already in his car.

## Knocking on the door

Stephenson, our parking lot smoker, had good reason to hide out at the old GM lot. He's a retired corrections officer from Jackson's Parnall facility and lives a block away from the plant, in a crowded high-rise apartment complex on Washington Avenue, just south of downtown.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Bill Stephenson, a retired corrections officer, doesn't think people are taking the COVID-19 pandemic seriously enough. He retreated to the former Oldsmobile headquarters parking lot to keep his social distance Friday.

"Two friends of mine, that I work with — they just came off ventilators," he said. At Parnall, 10 percent of inmates and 21 percent of the staff have tested positive for COVID-19 — a higher infection rate the New York City jails and Cook County jail in Chicago.

"And yet a lot of people aren't taking this thing seriously," he said. "When you have friends that have caught it — and you know what it's doing to a lot of my friends down there now — and I know nurses that have gotten sick too. It's no joke."

He only leaves and re-enters his REO Town apartment at certain times, to dodge people who are going to, or coming from, work.

"There's two small elevators, about five by eight," he said. "They're coming in and out of there without masks. The elevators are old, no exhaust. You smell perfume, cologne, B.O. from the person who was in there

before. One sick person coughs in there and everybody else that goes in there after that person is hit."

What Stephenson saw when he emerged from quarantine Friday didn't reassure him. Knots of people congregated and jostled on the nearby Lansing River Trail.

Many of them stopped to chat, causing blockages of six to eight people or more, kids and dogs not included.

"It don't make no sense to me at all," Stephenson said. "Especially young people. Selfish, you know?"

Even before the spring weather broke, the split between those who take COVID-19 precautions seriously and those who do not was lining up nicely with the nation's existing political divide. The day before Friday's outing, Stephenson was disturbed by images of protesters gathering in the state Capitol and on the surrounding lawn for a second

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time in two weeks.

“These people that go on protests and defy everything, I’m not impressed with all that,” he said. “They’re idiots, and I think they need to stay out of Lansing. It’s just like everything else. Everybody ignores it until it’s knocking on your front door.”

## ‘We’re not the police’

Fanning out over the Lansing area Friday, our reporters found a varied smorgasbord of pandemic culture.

At the Bath Township Meijer, one reporter found that most people were wearing masks, but about 20 shoppers were not, and about 12 people waiting in checkout lanes weren’t masked. The reporter asked a cashier if the mask rule was enforced there.

“No, but I wish they would,” the cashier said. “I wear mine all day. It’s hard to breathe in it, but I wear it.”

The reporter stopped a store manager and asked about enforcement.

“There’s a rule,” the manager said. “It’s posted on the door. The problem is, we’re not the police. We can’t police all of these people. It’s impossible.”

Gov. Whitmer has encouraged business to turn away customers that aren’t wearing appropriate face coverings, though it’s not criminally enforceable.

If any store owners were planning to tighten enforcement, tragic news from Flint is bound to give them pause. Friday, a Family Dollar security

guard there was fatally shot after turning away a customer for not wearing a facemask.

The week before, authorities in the small town of Stillwater, Oklahoma, rescinded a mandate to wear face masks in stores and restaurants, in the face of violent threats against store employees.

Unsurprisingly, store owners are dealing with the guidelines according to their own lights — or their stomach for potential conflict.

A Friday afternoon stroll down Michigan Avenue, beginning at the Stadium District and heading west, showed a city in the throes of adjustment, to put it mildly.

At the Family Dollar, plexiglass is up at the register, but the clerk had a mask dangling off his face. Most shoppers also didn’t wear a mask inside. “It’s none of your business,” explained one shopper. “I only came in to buy some smokes. If they had a problem in there, they would’ve told me about it.”

At the Speedway gas station, signs were posted on the door, reading “No entry without a mask.” But the cashier there — like the cashier at Family Dollar — had her mask pushed below her mouth and nose. And while most customers wore masks, some still walked in unprotected. One woman wore kept her mask below her mouth and sipped a fountain drink in line.

Both staff and most customers at Quality Dairy on Michigan Avenue wore masks. Clear markings on the floor noted appropriate social distancing, which most customers had no trouble following. Two masked strollers in Old Town Friday afternoon had the impression that most people were taking the guidelines seriously. Rick Wyble, who works at the MichiGrain distillery, said most people coming in for hand sanitizer at MichiGrain are wearing masks. He and his companion, Amber Shinn, said they had just been to the Meijer on Lansing’s south side and about “90 percent” of the people there had masks on.

## Stir crazy

Unsurprisingly, Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail has higher priority items on her list than tracking public compliance with health guidelines, but she’s hearing a lot of stories and reading a lot of irate Facebook posts.

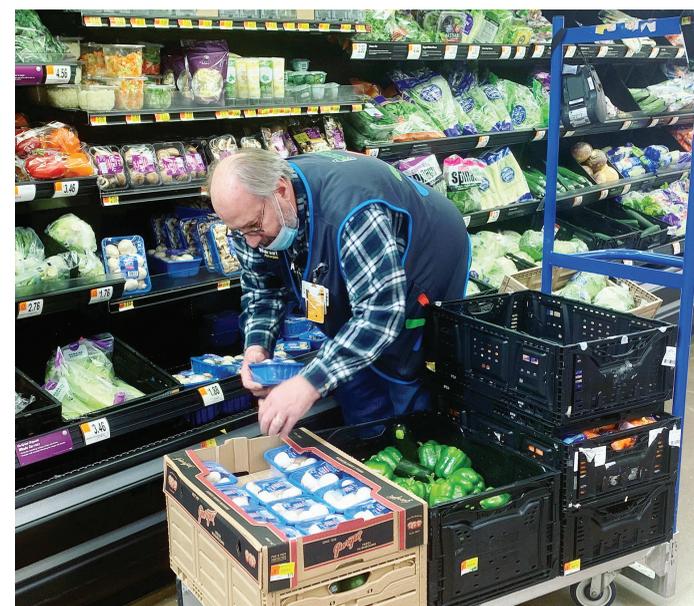
“People are stir crazy and ready to get outside,” Vail said. “They’re just starting to grow weary of this whole thing. I’m over it now, I’m just going to do my thing.”

There is no way to measure how effectively the guidelines are being followed now — until late May and early June, when infection and death statistics come in.

“It’s all anecdotal right now, and it’s a mixed bag,” Vail said. “As you might guess, of all the things I need to measure right now, going to Meijer, Home Depot and wherever, to see whether people are distancing or wearing masks is not my most pressing priority.”

But Vail isn’t surprised at the spotty compliance, and even the outbreaks of conflict, over masks.

“I could see it brewing,” she said. “I have friends



Photos by Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Top: Masked customers picking out their groceries at the West Saginaw Highway Meijer.

Middle: A worker at the Delta Township Marketplace Walmart places produce with his mask not concealing his nose and only partially covering his mouth.

Bottom: A masked couple shops for produce at Horrocks.

### Masks and social distance:

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s April 24 rules and guidelines

#### Masks:

Anyone who is able to “medically tolerate” a covering over the nose and mouth must wear one when in an enclosed public space, particularly in grocery stores, pharmacies and convenience stores.

All businesses and operations whose workers perform in-person work must, at minimum, provide non-medical grade face coverings to their workers. This includes checkout employees.

#### Distance:

When outdoors, people must remain at least six feet from others outside their household.

Businesses and agencies that are open for in-person work must keep patrons and workers who are on premises at least six feet from one another “to the maximum extent possible.”

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on Facebook who get really, really angry when they go out to a store and everybody's not wearing a mask. That's one of my concerns. Anger and rage are going to come out and threats and violence are going to break out as a result of it."

Vail said that of all the tools available to avoid COVID-19, a mask is the one she would "give up first."

Hand washing and not touching the face, along with social distancing, are still the most effective measures, she said, while masks offer "limited but additional" protection.

"As much as we talk about distancing and masks, the vast majority of infections — upwards of 90 percent — actually come from contaminated surfaces, dirty hands and touching your face," Vail said. "The interaction it takes to catch it via droplets usually requires some fairly prolonged and sustained contact. Incidental passing by is usually not enough to cause a problem."

But MSU epidemiologist Nigel Paneth said this is the wrong time to ease up on social distancing.

"Outside of massive testing, social distancing is the most effective tool we have," Paneth said. "In a situation like this, where there's no good evidence, it's good to do multiple things to keep yourself away from people. Hand washing is good, but if someone sneezes or coughs at you or talks to you, hand washing is not going to help. My own thoughts are, predominantly, that the stray virus is usually spread through aerosolized particles."

Vail predicted that as more businesses open, and require that employees wear masks indoors, the practice of wearing masks will become more "normalized"

here, as it has for years in many Far Eastern countries.

"Mask wearing is just not something that we've ever done as a culture in the United States," Vail said. It's important to remember, she added, that people with asthma, COPD and other conditions cannot wear masks.

"People should absolutely follow recommendations to wear masks, but I don't think getting angry is going to accomplish anything," Vail said. "If you see people without, just move along."

## COVID-19 Utopia

The reporter we dispatched to East Lansing and Meridian Township found the most widespread compliance with social distancing and mask guidelines any of our Friday afternoon scouts observed.

A sign outside the Marathon gas station at the corner of Abbot Road and Saginaw Street warned visitors: no lottery sales until further notice. A piece of printer paper was taped to the door, featuring a bright yellow, mask-wearing emoji, asking customers to wear face coverings. Employee safety and hygiene guidelines were posted on the front door. Even the customers pumping gas outside were wearing masks, whether or not they had to enter the station.

Our reporter described the Whole Foods market on Grand River Avenue as "a COVID-19 utopia." Everyone stood at least six feet apart from one another and wore face coverings. Not a single person — both staff and customers — was without a face mask. Wide aisles helped shoppers maintain a safe distance. At the entrance, an attendant pointed shoppers toward sanitized carts.

The nearby Oriental Market was a revelation. The store was packed with customers loading up on meats, rice, snacks and other goods, but the hygiene regimen was strict and the atmosphere was upbeat. A hand-scrawled sign posted on the door warned people not to enter unless they were wearing a mask. Inside, everyone respectfully followed this rule. Despite the narrow aisles, shoppers tried diligently to maintain distance.

At the checkout, cashiers kept rolls of paper towel and bottles of hand sanitizer handy. The reporters' groceries were



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

Despite the pandemic, weekend day parties persevere in East Lansing, as this photo from Saturday attests.

wiped down. Cashiers bagged everything behind sheets of plastic, wearing masks and gloves. Despite the intense adherence to current safety and hygiene guidelines, the vibe in the store was cheery.

Shoppers stood in long lines, keeping apart, guided by pieces of black tape, chatting with each other.

The mix of heartening bustle and strict hygiene suggested that it might be possible to sustain a small business successfully as the pandemic enters an uncertain phase.

At Horrocks Market on Lansing's west side Friday, nearly everyone had a mask on, but social distancing did not seem to be a priority for most shoppers, especially in view of the narrow labyrinth of aisles there. At Lowes in Delta Township, about half the shoppers were without masks, but the wider aisles made distancing easier. At Walmart in Delta Township, our reporter saw a constant flow of people — kids, elderly people and entire families — parade through the store unmasked and seemingly unconcerned. Even a store employee was found placing produce with his mask tugged down.

## Parking alone

Sheltering in place is not only done in homes. There were very few people fishing or picnicking at Moores Park Friday afternoon, in the shadow of the hulking Eckert Power Station, but the

parking lot was nearly full. What was up? A closer look revealed a new pandemic trend: the cars were parked a space apart, and a single occupant was inside nearly all of them, despite the warm weather, enjoying the air through a rolled-down window (or the smoke of a marijuana cigarette). The scene was similar at the riverside parking lot near Francis Park.

At other area parks, knots of people coagulated and dissolved throughout the day, but none of our reporters observed dense parties. (That weekend, however, several frontyard gatherings were observed in East Lansing, near MSU.)

The pavilions at Hawk Island County Park smelled of barbecue, as they usually do on warm afternoons, but there were only a handful of people under the eaves, no more than two at a table.

Masks have become a quiet avenue for self-expression as well as pandemic consciousness. Among the strollers at Hawk Island were Amanda Blackwell and her companion, Austin Karlzen, along with their dog, Luna. Blackwell spent Thursday evening sewing masks, including her own, which was decorated with a lively kokopelli motif of dancing figures from Native American folklore. She was still working on a mask for Karlzen. His mask will be decorated with a hunting motif of deer and trees.

Blackwell's employer, Neogen,



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

The riverside parking lot near Francis Park and adjoining trail were busy on the first warm Friday of spring.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Many people parked their cars but stayed inside to take the air Friday at Lansing area parks, including Moores Park.

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requires a mask. Karlzen works as a welder in Mason. Both jobs are essential and are still keeping them busy. Friday, while waiting for Blackwell to finish a custom mask for him, he wore a mask from work, with a reed valve that allows air to go out but not back in.

“For the most part, my place of work hasn’t been taking the legislation as seriously as hers,” Karlzen said.

Pent-up wanderlust made the River Trail a crowded strip of asphalt for much of its length Friday, but most of the parks and other stops along the way offered plenty of distancing room.

Even downtown’s Rotary Park, deliberately designed to attract and hold large groups of people to the riverfront, was occupied mostly by scattered couples and lone strollers. One table of six people pushed the envelope a bit, although their chairs were pushed well away from each other.

Just north of Rotary Park, throbs of techno music pulsated from the arched plaza under the Shiawassee Street Bridge. The source was a lone dancer, undulating athletically to the beats pounding from a portable, suitcase-style speaker.

Three or four small knots of spectators, dispersed far from each other, watched from yards away.

## Conclusions

Everyone seemed to make their own informal conclusions from what they saw Friday, ranging from “everything’s

going to be all right” to “we’re doomed.”

“People feel the whole world is dangerous and they need to be terrified,” Linda Vail said. “I don’t know how to strike the balance. We have to be cautious about it, but I do have faith that we can gradually re-open safely. I’m glad a lot of people are taking the recommendations seriously and doing what they need to do.”

Nigel Paneth spends a part of his afternoon quarantine walks counting the cars going by along Saginaw Highway near his East Lansing home. As an epidemiologist, he can’t help seeing dotted lines of infection invisibly extending in all directions.

“I do an experiment,” he said. “It’s usually 60, 70 cars going by in three minutes. That’s a lot of people moving around. Are these all essential workers, or are they going to the pharmacy?”

When Paneth walked his dog, he looked around and figured about 3 to 4% of people in his neighborhood are wearing a mask.

His informal conclusion is this: On a scale from zero, meaning business as usual, and 100, meaning everyone is staying indoors, “we’re not much more than 40 or 50, closer to normal than a complete shutdown.”

“I’m absorbing the fact that social distancing, mask wearing, is adhered to lightly,” he said. “Outdoors is obviously less problematic than indoors, in confined places, but it’s almost impossible to calculate the impact. One thing we do know is that this virus is very contagious.”

He expects there will be 100,000 U.S. deaths by Memorial Day.

(*Kyle Kaminski, Cole Tunningley, Skyler Ashley, Rich Tupica and Dawn Parker contributed reporting to this story.*)

**B/20/100 BRIEFCAM PROJECT** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept electronic bid submittals on MITN, or sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING, PURCHASING OFFICE, at 124 W Michigan Ave. 8th Floor, Lansing MI 48933 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **MAY 19, 2020** at which time bids will be read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at [stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov](mailto:stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov) or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info).** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#20-111

### RE-ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

#### MONTGOMERY DRAIN MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT DIVISION II – RANNEY PARK, 2020

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that I, Patrick Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, being Chair of the Montgomery Drain Chapter 20 Drainage Board, will receive bids until **Friday, May 15, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Social Distancing protocols are being implemented for this Project by conducting a Virtual Bid Letting only and will only accept bids submitted through the QuestCDN website, unless further advised via Addendum. Bids relative to Division II will then be publicly opened and announced on Friday, May 15, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. and, after a meeting of the Montgomery Drain Drainage Board, will be publicly awarded for work to be undertaken in connection with a drain known and designated as the “Montgomery Drain.” The format of the bid opening will be via a Zoom web conference available through the following link or telephone conference number:

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/98517972972?pwd=UddQZk1V2xYaDZ0NmRSQ1RDVmlDUT09>  
Or Dial  
+1 646 558 8656  
Meeting ID: 985 1797 2972  
Password: 031728

*The major items of work in connection with construction of the Montgomery Drain and coordination of work for other permitted activities within Division II include the following:*

- 1 Lump Sum for On-Site Grading & Excavation work of approximately 31,000 CYD’s of material.
- 1 Lump Sum for Grading & Excavation work of approximately 65,000 CYD’s of material for off-site haul off.
- 1 Lump Sum of Underground Detention and Storage System.
- 10,000 Square Yards of Compacted Clay Liner.
- 150 linear feet of 8-inch PVC storm sewer, 160 linear feet of 12-inch RCP storm sewer, 224 linear feet of 24-inch RCP storm sewer, 170 linear feet of 42-inch RCP storm sewer, 76 linear feet of 48-inch RCP storm sewer and other minor amounts (50 linear feet or less) of RCP and HP storm sewer.
- Also includes all site features, SESC, restoration, removals and various stormwater facilities.

All quantities listed are approximate and final payment will be made on measured quantities.

One contract is being let for this work, which will include all material necessary to perform same. This contract will be let in accordance with the Contract Documents and bids will be made and received in accordance with these documents.

Since this is a re-bid, bidders wishing to download the Plans and Specifications may do so at no cost (\$0) by downloading digital project bidding documents by entering Quest Project Number **7060078** on the website’s project search page, or by using this link: [https://gap.questcdn.com/gap/projects/prj\\_browse/ipp\\_browse\\_grid.html?projType=all&provider=6901061&group=6901061](https://gap.questcdn.com/gap/projects/prj_browse/ipp_browse_grid.html?projType=all&provider=6901061&group=6901061).

Please contact QuestCDN Customer Support at (952) 233-1632 or [info@questcdn.com](mailto:info@questcdn.com) for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with the digital project information. Bidding documents are also available at [www.geiconsultants.com](http://www.geiconsultants.com) (click on the “GEI Bidding” link). There will also be no cost for submitting a bid on the project through Quest.

Bid security in the amount of 5%, for and subject to the conditions provided in the Instruction to Bidders, must be submitted through the QuestCDN site with each Bid. Bids may not be withdrawn for a period of 90 days after the actual date of opening thereof. This time period may be extended by mutual agreement of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner and any Bidders.

**There will be no pre-bid conference. Please contact Project Engineers Kyle Smith or Brian Cenci with any questions at [ksmith@geiconsultants.com](mailto:ksmith@geiconsultants.com) or [bcenci@geiconsultants.com](mailto:bcenci@geiconsultants.com).**

All prospective bidders will be required to submit a certification of compliance with Public Act 517 of 2012 prior to bid award. The Engineer will transmit to all prospective Bidders of record such Addenda as the Engineer considers necessary in response to questions. Oral statements may not be relied upon and will not be binding or legally effective. Use the Bid Form on QuestCDN for submittal of bids. **You must download the Contract Documents from QuestCDN to bid on the project, to be included on the plan holders list, and to receive Addenda.** The Contractor is responsible for ensuring all addenda have been received and acknowledged prior to submittal of the bid.

Contracts will be entered into with the successful bidder giving adequate security for the performance of the work and meeting all conditions represented in the Instructions to Bidders. The Montgomery Drain Chapter 20 Drainage Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids, award the Contract to any bidder for any reason, and to adjourn the letting to such time and place as it shall publicly announce.

Bidders shall comply with the Ingham County policies regarding the payment of Prevailing Wages, and Equal Opportunity/Nondiscrimination, as set forth in Ingham County Board of Commissioners Resolutions #02-263 and #02-283, respectively. The work must be substantially complete by September 30, 2020.

CP#20-110

# ARTS & CULTURE

## ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

### Outside the box

Lansing Art Gallery sticks to its mission, online and out of doors

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Two years ago, skeptics thought it was a gamble to place major works of temporary art in a highly trafficked, graffiti-prone stretch of the Lansing River Trail from downtown to Cedar Street.

**Lansing Art Gallery**  
Art Scholarship Alert High School Exhibition  
Michigan Collegiate Art Exhibition  
Virtual Tours:  
lansingartgallery.org/  
michigan-collegiate-art-exhibition

In 2020, with art galleries closed down and a cloistered public thirsting for culture, the Lansing Art Gallery's

ArtPath project — about to enter its third year — seems almost prophetic.

A juried exhibit of outdoor sculpture and murals by the area's top artists, with plenty of room for social distance, is one of several ways the gallery plans to stick to its mission.

"People suspect that maybe we are laying low, but we are not," Lansing Art Gallery executive director Barb Whitney declared.

Anyone who has followed Whitney's passionate push to keep art at the heart of the community knows she is not the cloistered type.

"The thought of closing our doors to the community was difficult, emotionally, for me," she said. "I'm gradually letting that go and I'm helping lead our team toward new ways of engagement."

Until ArtPath goes up in a few weeks, art lovers can enjoy two vivid online salvos of creative student art at the Lansing Art Gallery's web site.

Quarantine couldn't stop the gallery from going ahead with two staples of its yearly calendar and linchpins of its year-round commitment to art education. The winners even got cash prizes this year, thanks to museum donors who appreciate the competition's stimulating ripple effect on art education in mid-Michigan.

The high school competition, Art Scholarship Alert, is a vivid bouquet of portraiture, abstraction, humor, hor-



Courtesy Lansing Art Gallery

ror, whimsy and all-around weirdness, a juried exhibition of art by 9th-12th graders from nine central Michigan counties. The exhibit also features the coolest ceramic cake dish you ever saw.

Art Scholarship Alert is impressive enough in conventional 2-D, but the collegiate exhibit adds another dimension - literally. The virtual tour swoops the viewer into a 3-D representation of the gallery, with stops at every work of art. It's a fun way to revisit the gallery's familiar walls and nooks and a chance to observe sculptures and other 3-D artworks in ways 2-D images couldn't capture.

A stunning variety of artistic approaches, subjects, themes and personalities pop off the virtual walls. This year's exhibit is blessed with more than its fair share of rich and absorbing self-portraits.

"The work we see in the collegiate exhibition is often some of the most poignant and potentially confrontational that we see through out the year," Whitney said.

A tour through a shuttered gallery is impressive enough, but for its next trick, the Lansing Art Gallery plans to take its mission outside, as plans move forward for ArtPath.

Anyone who made the pilgrimage to ArtPath in the past two years knows that a display of anodyne outdoor decor is not in the cards. Past shows have included ringing, interactive metal sculptures, fluttering fabric art, an installation of plastic bottles responding to the Flint water crisis, a glowing

eyeball on a stalk and a stunning mural by Isaiah Lattimore, still visible near the Pennsylvania Avenue bridge, that combines fine art imagery with graffiti-like flourishes.

When the gallery shut down in March for the pandemic, ArtPath suddenly seemed less like a summer desert to the gallery season and more like a crucial main course. Whitney said the project is a way for the community to engage in "inspired activity that's health conscious."

But an exhibit this substantial, and public, takes time and money to mount, not to mention buy-in and guidance from city officials.

"We weren't sure, at first, whether we'd have the amount of interest from our community, from our artists," Whitney said.

She needn't have worried. Artists have already submitted a pile of proposals. Two big ArtPath sponsors, Rathbun Agency and AutoOwners Insurance, signed on two weeks ago. The city of Lansing is already working on approval of the jury-selected artwork.

In a month or so, three miles of the Lansing River Trail will be dotted with about 20 major art works.

"It is going to happen, and we are thrilled," Whitney said.

That left Whitney with one more big worry.

Art education has been drastically cut back in schools all over the state, including greater Lansing. One of the Lansing Art Gallery's core missions, as

Far left: "Girl with Pink Lansing Refugee" by Portfolio Award winner Ashlyn K. of Lansing Christian School, from Lansing Art Gallery's current online exhibit of art by mid-Michigan 9th to 12th graders.

Left: "Green Euphoria" by Hannah Dombroski, from the Lansing Art Gallery's current online exhibit of high school student art.

Whitney sees it, is to help take up the slack. Working with the Lansing School District, the gallery offers hands-on art classes to elementary and middle school students, many of whom would otherwise not get the chance to create art with a professional teacher. Youth camps, adult classes and other services all seemed threatened by this spring's economic uncertainty.

Whitney wasn't even sure the gallery could draw up a budget and plan for its educational programming for 2020-21.

Again, major past funders came through and it looks like the gallery will be ready when school re-opens.

"I can't tell you how relieved I was," Whitney said.

Whitney has high praise for Keith Rouse, the Lansing Art Gallery's board president, for helping to shepherd the gallery through a strange and difficult process.

Whitney said she and Rouse have had plenty of "cathartic" conversations about navigating the financial aid, grants and other obstacles that erupted from the earth in March.

"Having a leader who's in regular contact, who is listening and engaging and leading our board of directors in a time of crisis has been invaluable," she said.

Anyone who cares to support the Lansing Art Gallery's various projects can designate the gallery as a charity on Amazon Smile, take advantage of the coronavirus relief act's \$300 tax deductible incentive, or sponsor an ArtPath 2020 sites.

# New book combats culture of malicious misinformation

By **BILL CASTANIER**

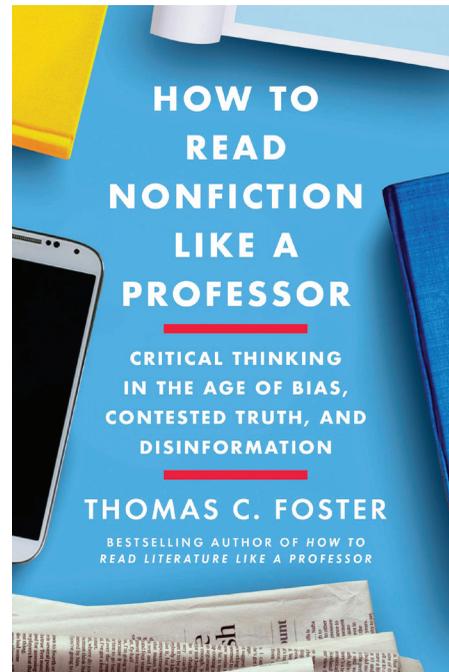
Should we or shouldn't we do shots of bleach? Is a doctor named Fauci telling us the facts, or is the coronavirus "just the flu?"

Thomas C. Foster's new book, "How to Read Nonfiction Like a Professor: A Smart, Irreverent Guide to Biography, History, Journalism, Blogs, and Everything in Between," is arriving just in time to save us from the never-ending assault of information in this time of quarantine.

Everything from books to blogs to biographies are exploding in the era of 24-7 news, and Foster's new book is the antidote to knowing what to believe and when to be skeptical about information.

Foster, just like he did in his other four best-selling books on how to bring the discipline and rigor of a college literature professor to reading, helps us understand why it is important to know writers' biases, how to analyze complex arguments, know when a bot is buffaloning you, have a feel for attribution and even what you can learn from a prologue and index.

One take-away from the book that



Foster stresses is a reader can be too cynical and skeptical.

"It's not easy being a discerning reader in these days. There is so much 'fake news' that we begin to believe everyone else is a liar too," Foster said.

He writes: "Let's suppose that the

worst thing you can do when reading nonfiction is to believe everything you read is true. What's the second worst? Not believing any of it ... One possible outcome of such a revelation is cynicism; having our eye blackened once, that every outstretched hand will clench and punch us. Every book is either false or manipulative. That there is no truth to be found."

Foster makes the subject entertaining as well as educational, mainly due to his experience standing in front of college students teaching literature and writing at University of Michigan-Flint.

While preparing to write the book, he read scores of nonfiction books to analyze the techniques, the flaws and the strengths of great nonfiction writers.

He bluntly says, "This isn't the book I set out to write. That would've been boring."

He said the recent eruption of political books required him to write "On the Stump," a chapter on how to read political writing with a wary eye. Foster cites two examples of political nonfiction books providing the greatest contrast.

First is Bob Woodward's "Fear," an exposition of President Trump's presidency told with explicit fact-checking and substantive direct quotes from sources. As a contrast, he uses Michael Wolff's "Fire and Fury," which is devoid of both.

With a nod to history, he uses the many books written about George Armstrong Custer and the Battle of Little Big Horn to illustrate his point.

"There are many books written about him that are practically worshipful. In reality, he was not a good guy," Foster said.

Foster also spends time in the book about "Eyewitness Testimony" and analyzes the New Journalism style of writing of Tom Wolfe, Joan Didion and Hunter S. Thompson, which proliferated in the mid-'60s while he was still in college.

He writes: "It doesn't change even if the telling is experimental and out-of-kilter. The 'new' part had only to do with the manner of the telling, such as using techniques from fiction."

The stream of consciousness technique is "an attempt to capture the thoughts of the character would use if she had enough access to her deep consciousness to be able to articulate those thoughts," according to Foster.

In his book, Foster lays out exactly what is an opinion piece, what is news, what is satire and how to tell the differences.

"It's a problem a lot of readers have — individuals don't understand what they are reading," he said.

He also points out that if you are reading online you should be aware if you are hearing from a brand-new source. "You want to check it out. There is no way to be inoculated against it," he said.

His conclusion: "It's not easy being a discerning reader in these days."

A recent Pew Research Center survey found made up news is believed to be a bigger problem than other key issues such as violent crime and racism. The study also found that Americans believe made up news, which causes "significant harm to the nation" and "needs to be stopped."

Some 78 percent of those polled say made-up news and information "greatly impacts American's confidence in government institutions."

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# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"In Storage"-walk-ins accepted.

By Matt Jones

### Across

- 1 NATO Phonetic Alphabet vowel
- 5 Socially distance from
- 10 Kind of D.A.
- 14 Hawaiian party
- 15 Cape \_\_\_\_\_ (westernmost African point)
- 16 Tea-based drink
- 17 \_\_\_\_\_ Blanc (highest peak in the Alps)
- 18 About 1% of the Earth's atmosphere
- 19 Prefix for "medicine" seen more often recently
- 20 Heart charts, briefly
- 21 Is a huge fan of, slangily

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21					22			
23			24						25	26		
27	28			29					30	31		
32	33				34				35		36	37
38					39				40			
41				42				43	44			
45	46					47	48					
49	50	51			52		53			54	55	56
57					58	59			60			
61				62				63	64			
65					66				67			
68					69				70			

- 7-Down helps keep
- 53 See 49-Across
- 57 "First Blood" protagonist
- 58 France on the new "Queer Eye"
- 60 "A Fish Called Wanda" Oscar winner Kevin
- 61 Sicilian mountain
- 62 Madcap
- 64 Americana lithographer
- 65 Punxsutawney notable
- 66 Multiple-choice choice, sometimes
- 67 Infamous fiddling emperor
- 68 Blue-green shade
- 69 Showtime series set in Agrestic Township
- 70 Spring up
- 8 "Meh, whatever"
- 9 Packed
- 10 Does something
- 11 \*Product's freshness period
- 12 "Cheers!" in France
- 13 '70s supermodel Cheryl
- 24 Really irk
- 25 "Live With Kelly and Ryan" cohost
- 28 \*Steph Curry's sport
- 31 \*\*"The Twilight Zone" creator
- 32 Forty winks
- 33 "Dutch" actress Meyers
- 36 The briny
- 37 "Jellied" British fish
- 42 Lead-in to lude
- 43 "Your Moment of \_\_\_\_\_" ("The Daily Show" feature)
- 46 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 48 Panda Express vessel
- 49 Crawled cautiously
- 50 Wood shop equipment
- 51 "\_\_\_\_\_ vincit amor"
- 52 Texas, for one
- 53 Did some comic book work
- 54 Coral reef visitor
- 55 Start of el aDo nuevo
- 56 Implant again
- 59 Dull pain
- 62 "That's great"
- 63 '19 and '20, e.g.

- ### Down
- 1 Fudd who bugs Bugs
  - 2 Actress Kaley of "The Big

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Answers Page 19

# SUDOKU

# Intermediate

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

## 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 19

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

May 6-12, 2020

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** According to Aries author and mythologist Joseph Campbell, "The quest for fire occurred not because anyone knew what the practical uses for fire would be, but because it was fascinating." He was referring to our early human ancestors, and how they stumbled upon a valuable addition to their culture because they were curious about a powerful phenomenon, not because they knew it would ultimately be so valuable. I invite you to be guided by a similar principle in the coming weeks, Aries. Unforeseen benefits may emerge during your investigation into flows and bursts that captivate your imagination.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** "The future belongs to those who see possibilities before they become obvious," says businessperson and entrepreneur John Sculley. You Tauruses aren't renowned for such foresight. It's more likely to belong to Aries and Sagittarius people. Your tribe is more likely to specialize in doing the good work that turns others' bright visions into practical realities. But this Year of the Coronavirus could be an exception to the general rule. In the past three months as well as in the next six months, many of you Bulls have been and will continue to be catching glimpses of interesting possibilities before they become obvious. Give yourself credit for this knack. Be alert for what it reveals.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** For 148 uninterrupted years, American militias and the American army waged a series of wars against the native peoples who lived on the continent before Europeans came. There were more than 70 conflicts that lasted from 1776 until 1924. If there is any long-term struggle or strife that even mildly resembles that situation in your own personal life, our Global Healing Crisis is a favorable time to call a truce and cultivate peace. Start now! It's a ripe and propitious time to end hostilities that have gone on too long.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Novelist Marcel Proust was a sensitive, dreamy, emotional, self-protective, creative Cancerian. That may explain why he wasn't a good soldier. During his service in the French army, he was ranked 73rd in a squad of 74. On the other hand, his majestically intricate seven-volume novel *In Search of Lost Time* is a masterpiece—one of the 20th century's most influential literary works. In evaluating his success as a human being, should we emphasize his poor military performance and downplay his literary output? Of course not! Likewise, Cancerian, in the coming weeks I'd like to see you devote vigorous energy to appreciating what you do best and no energy at all to worrying about your inadequacies.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** "Fortune resists half-hearted prayers," wrote the poet Ovid more than 2,000 years ago. I will add that Fortune also resists poorly formulated intentions, feeble vows, and sketchy plans—especially now, during a historical turning point when the world is undergoing massive transformations. Luckily, I don't see those lapses being problems for you in the coming weeks, Leo. According to my analysis, you're primed to be clear and precise. Your willpower should be working with lucid grace. You'll have an enhanced ability to assess your assets and make smart plans for how to use them.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Last year the Baltimore Museum of Art announced it would acquire works exclusively from women artists in 2020. A male art critic complained, "That's unfair to male artists." Here's my reply: Among major permanent art collections in the U.S. and Europe, the work of women makes up five percent of the total. So what the Baltimore Museum did is a righteous attempt to rectify the existing excess. It's a just and fair way to address an unhealthy imbalance. In accordance with current omens and necessities, Virgo, I encourage you to perform a comparable correction in your personal sphere.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** In the course of my life, I've met many sharp thinkers with advanced degrees from fine universities—who are nonetheless stunted in their emotional intelligence.

They may quote Shakespeare and discourse on quantum physics and explain the difference between the philosophies of Kant and Hegel, and yet have less skill in understanding the inner workings of human beings or in creating vibrant intimate relationships. Yet most of these folks are not extreme outliers. I've found that virtually all of us are smarter in our heads than we are in our hearts. The good news, Libra, is that our current Global Healing Crisis is an excellent time for you to play catch up. Do what poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti suggests: "Make your mind learn its way around the heart."

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Aphorist Aaron Haspel writes, "The less you are contradicted, the stupider you become. The more powerful you become, the less you are contradicted." Let's discuss how this counsel might be useful to you in the coming weeks. First of all, I suspect you will be countered and challenged more than usual, which will offer you rich opportunities to become smarter. Secondly, I believe you will become more powerful as long as you don't try to stop or discourage the influences that contradict you. In other words, you'll grow your personal authority and influence to the degree that you welcome opinions and perspectives that are not identical to yours.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** "It's always too early to quit," wrote author Norman Vincent Peale. We should put his words into perspective, though. He preached "the power of positive thinking." He was relentless in his insistence that we can and should transcend discouragement and disappointment. So we should consider the possibility that he was overly enthusiastic in his implication that we should NEVER give up. What do you think, Sagittarius? I'm guessing this will be an important question for you to consider in the coming weeks. It may be time to re-evaluate your previous thoughts on the matter and come up with a fresh perspective. For example, maybe it's right to give up on one project if it enables you to persevere in another.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** The 16-century mystic nun Saint Teresa of Avila was renowned for being overcome with rapture during her spiritual devotions. At times she experienced such profound bliss through her union with God that she levitated off the ground. "Any real ecstasy is a sign you are moving in the right direction," she wrote. I hope that you will be periodically moving in that direction yourself during the coming weeks, Capricorn. Although it may seem odd advice to receive during our Global Healing Crisis, I really believe you should make appointments with euphoria, delight, and enchantment.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Grammy-winning musician and composer Pharrell Williams has expertise in the creative process. "If someone asks me what inspires me," he testifies, "I always say, 'That which is missing.'" According to my understanding of the astrological omens, you would benefit from making that your motto in the coming weeks. Our Global Healing Crisis is a favorable time to discover what's absent or empty or blank about your life, and then learn all you can from exploring it. I think you'll be glad to be shown what you didn't consciously realize was lost, omitted, or lacking.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** "I am doing my best to not become a museum of myself," declares poet Natalie Diaz. I think she means that she wants to avoid defining herself entirely by her past. She is exploring tricks that will help her keep from relying so much on her old accomplishments that she neglects to keep growing. Her goal is to be free of her history, not to be weighed down and limited by it. These would be worthy goals for you to work on in the coming weeks, Pisces. What would your first step be?

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

# TURN IT DOWN!

BY RICH TUPICA

## LOCALS PICK LOCALS VOL. VI

THE SIXTH INSTALLMENT OF LOCAL FOLKS DISCUSSING SOME OF THEIR FAVORITE LOCALLY MADE SONGS

Yet another week of no shows at music venues means Turn It Down! is once again dedicated to looking back on our area's endless discography of amazing tunes, picked by area crate diggers. Feel free to listen along on YouTube, or wherever you stream music. Also, be sure to reach out to The Record Lounge and Flat—, Black & Circular for your vinyl needs — both local record shops are offering mail-order sales.

**Ben Hassenger (Musician, solo, Frank and Earnest, Crystal Drive)**  
**Pick: Flatfoot's "Married" — 2012**  
 One positive element of the stay-at-home order is that it has forced me

to sort through my broken brain and dig out every relic of optimism I've buried. With so much uncertainty spiraling around us, more than anything right now, we need to hold onto every wave of hope that crashes into us.

To that effect, Flatfoot's "Married," from their "Blue Water" album, fills me with the promise of better days to come. This slow-burning alt-country masterpiece finds frontman Aaron Bales



crooning a sweet daydream of devotion and making the most of our limited days. This is the perfect soundtrack to a (hopefully) not-too-distant Sunday afternoon — where the weather is beautiful and our friends are on our porches declaring our love for life, each other and vowing to not take any more minutes for granted.

**Rich Tupica (Turn it Down! writer, "Inzane Michigan" co-host)**  
**Pick: The Beaux Jems "She Was Mine" — 1967**

Before The Beaux Jems disbanded in the summer of '68, this primal Grand Ledge outfit recorded a sultry yet explosive garage-classic, "She Was Mine." Released in 1967, the recorded was released on the Sound of the Scéen label — though, it was more of a "vanity label." The Scéen was a teen club the band performed at often to hundreds of dancing local high schoolers. The sporadic sharp screams and haunting organ has made this a favorite among rare '60s-music collectors. The track was even featured on Crypt Records' highly influential "Back from the Grave" compilation. Of course, today, the original 45 rpm sells for hundreds. Also, Beaux Jen Gordy Garris went on to join The Frost, a legendary Michigan rock band fronted by Dick Wagner.



A few years ago, I spoke with Toby Bates, the Beaux Jen's organ/coronet player. He recalled the band's humble genesis. "We didn't know shit," Bates said. "Tim Schram was the musical leader because he actually knew chords. At the beginning of the band we were still learning how to play. We were only 15 or 16 at the time."

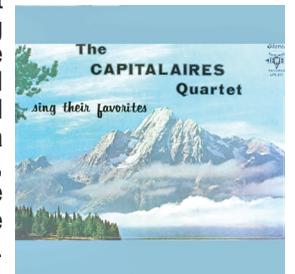
Perhaps these cats were still learning their scales, but that's why this single is perfect. It's both primitive and genius because it's free of over-thinking and superfluous noodling around. It cuts to the core of what true rock 'n' roll is and

should always be: raw and intense.

**John Olson aka Inzane Johnny (Musician, Wolf Eyes, "Inzane Michigan" co-host)**

**Pick: The Capitalaires "Sing Their Favorites" LP, 1970-something**

Holt's finest make a "big label" move to Jewel Records and lose nada of the gray, homemade joy they're known for. This is a productive unit that ran into the early '80s, with its finest work leaning on bass-heavy Gospel. This relic now peacefully haunts us via the Lansing thrift stores carrying used LPs. It's grim but hopeful, local and unique. Check the back of the vinyl sleeve for an inspiring note from the Rev. E. Dietrick, who writes (in part): "The songs have been selected with care and accompany a prayer that your hearts be blessed and your attention directed heavenward."



**Ozay Moore (hip-hop artist)**  
**Pick: James Gardin and Ess Be — coming soon**

Right now, I'm in music-making mode so I limit my listening for enjoyment in these seasons, but when I do plug in, I go to my audio comfort food: Golden era, mid-'80s and mid-'90s hip-hop. But, locally, there's some great hip-hop in the works. I know James Gardin is cooking up brilliant new stuff. I also have a copy of Ess Be's new project that hasn't been released yet, and I'm vibing on to that, too.



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# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

# El Oasis launches new food truck in East Lansing

By DAWN PARKER

Cinco de Mayo celebrants had to party at home this year — but at least fans of El Oasis had it a little easier: The popular food truck opened a fourth location in time for the high holiday.

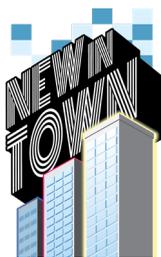
The popular food truck, whose most prominent location is at the corner of Michigan and Francis avenues, celebrates its 15th anniversary this year. The trucks have since multiplied, with the newest addition cropping up at 2778 E. Grand River Ave. — right where East Lansing blends into Meridian Township.

The lines are long at mealtimes and picnic table space is in short supply, especially in nice weather. The patient diner is rewarded with some of the freshest and most flavorful Mexican dishes in Greater Lansing.

The family-owned enterprise got

### El Oasis

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Delivery: Via GrubHub  
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New Location:  
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East Lansing  
eloasisfood.com  
(517) 648-7693



its start in 2005 with Alma Gutierrez at the helm. The original truck was parked in a lot at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Mt. Hope Road in Lansing. The move to the iconic Michigan Avenue location came “a year or two later,” son Ricardo Gutierrez said.

The East Lansing/Meridian Township location has been open for about a month.

Ricardo, 22, is shepherding the family occupation begun by his grandparents into a new generation.

“I think a food truck is more of a passion. To do something like a food truck, you have to do it because you love it,” he continued. “Everything has to be done with love, and that’s the way we like to think of it.”

The menu at El Oasis includes numerous classic Mexican dishes. Hoja de platano is pork tamale wrapped in a banana leaf, a dish from the state of Oaxaca.

Gutierrez said his family operated restaurants in Tamaulipas, Mexico, and many of his mother’s recipes at the foundation of El Oasis have been handed down.

“These are dishes that the family all ate together. Everything that we sell is pretty much what my mother grew up on,” he said.

Besides the new location, nestled between Advance Auto Parts and Tom’s Party Store, there are also

trucks set up at 1620 Haslett Road in Haslett — on the northeast corner of the Haslett Road and Marsh Road intersection — and at 6100 S. Cedar St. in Lansing.

As a pioneer among food trucks in Greater Lansing, the family is well placed to lead the continuing trend into the future. What that future might look like is anyone’s guess, Ricardo Gutierrez said.

“I have a lot of younger friends my age asking, ‘How did you start this?’ Or, ‘How are you guys doing?’” he continued. “I feel like it’s for those young people to try something new — or anyone who wants to try something new, get out there, learn new things and experience new ways.”

Gutierrez has friends with ideas for food trucks he said he’s never heard of, so the future appears to be trending in the right direction.

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<p><b>El Oasis</b> 2501 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing (517) 882-1777 eloasistruck.com</p>	<p><b>TRY THE CROWN JEWEL OF LANSING’S FOOD TRUCKS.</b> Serving the Lansing community for 13 years, we extend an invitation to all those to give us a try to find out why we were voted the best food truck in Lansing’s 2019 Top of The Town Contest.</p>
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# Mozzarella sticks from Art's Pub

By SKYLER ASHLEY

I am stubborn and seldom try new restaurants. Though Art's Pub has been reopened for quite awhile at this point, I am just getting around to trying them.

### Art's Pub

809 E. Kalamazoo St.  
Lansing  
Daily, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Carryout: Yes  
Delivery: No  
artspublansing.com  
(517) 977-1033

After just one look at the perfectly flaky and crispy mozzarella sticks I ordered for take-out, I knew I had made the correct decision. When something is already so appealing aesthetically, it's hard to imagine it tasting



bad.

Imagine the worst frozen mozzarella sticks you've gotten from the grocery store or a chain like TGI Friday's. Now imagine the exact opposite, and you've got the mozzarella sticks from Art's Pub. The consistency of the cheese was perfect and the level of spice in the breading had bite but wasn't overpowering.

These are an instant favorite I recommend to anyone who loves appetizer dishes.



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Spicy mozzarella sticks ordered from Art's Pub with a side of marinara sauce.

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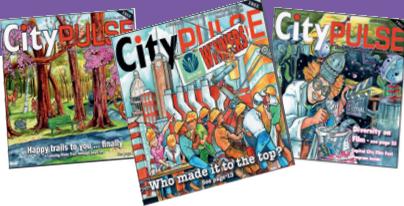
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**STUART R. SHAFER, P.C.**  
Former Assistant Prosecutor

**487-6603**  
1223 Turner St., Ste 333, Lansing  
[www.stushafer.com](http://www.stushafer.com)

## THE PULSIFIEDS

BACKPAGE CLASSIFIEDS

STELLAR COMPUTER REPAIR  
609 E Jolly Rd. Lansing, MI  
Call for service and product information.  
517-295-3361 StellarRepair.com

**Classified Rates**  
Rates start at \$24 for 4 lines.  
Each additional line is \$6.  
EXTRAS. Boldface Type: \$7 per line  
HEADLINE: \$11 per line  
Border: \$11  
LOGO: Space needed

Contract rates available, all rates net. Classified ads also appear online at no extra charge. Deadline for classifieds is 5 p.m. Monday for the upcoming Wednesday's issue. You can also submit your classified ad to Suzi Smith at 517-999-6704 or at [suzi@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:suzi@lansingcitypulse.com).

### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 15

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

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 15

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

# No News Is Bad News





In times of uncertainty, rest assured that as your community newspaper, we are working hard with official resources to keep you informed and up to date on the issues and developments that matter most to you.

**Keep the news coming by supporting City Pulse**

Please contribute to the City Pulse Fund for Community Journalism

To contribute by credit card, go to [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com) and click on the banner ad at the top of the page  
Call (517) 999-6704  
Mail a check made out to  
**City Pulse Fund**  
1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912  
All donations are tax deductible.



## CORONAVIRUS

# TIPS FOR PREVENTION

-  Stay home.
-  Wash your hands.
-  Frequently clean surfaces.
-  Wear a mask if you go out.
-  Stay 6 feet away from others in public.

Ingham County Health Department | [HD.INGHAM.ORG](http://HD.INGHAM.ORG) | 517-887-4517

# Spring is here!

## OPEN NOW!

### Call for Spring Clean-Up Quote



# Lansing Gardens

### We also have great services!

- Spring Clean Up • Mulching • Irrigation
- Landscaping • Lawn Care • Fertilizer
- TLC for the beautiful space of relaxation and enjoyment for the whole family
- Mulch, Soil and Stone Delivery Available

## 10% off Everything

Delivery Not Included, Must Present Coupon  
Excludes Floral Shop



## Vegetables & Annuals Arriving Soon!

Contact the office at **517-322-2671**  
for Outdoor Beautification Services

1434 E. Jolly Rd., Lansing, • Garden Center **517.882.3115**

