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# cityPULSE

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## Pets, people and Rick Preuss

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VJ

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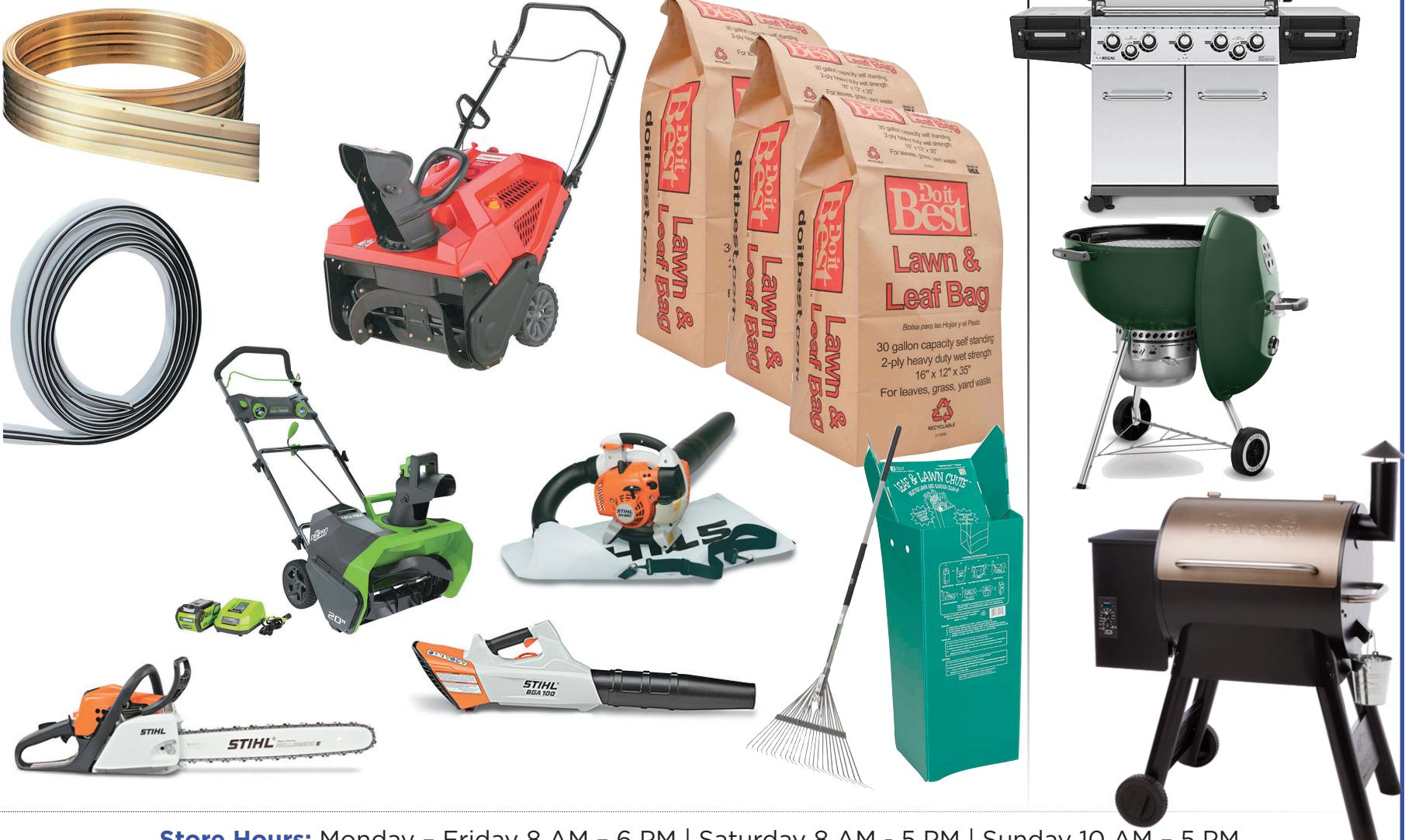
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Cover  
Art

Illustration by Vince Joy

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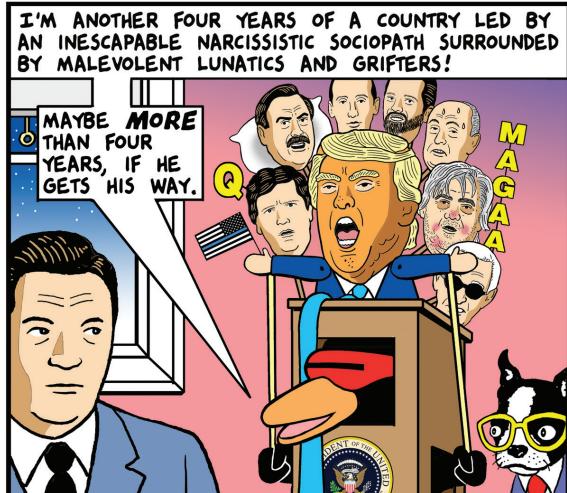
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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



# PULSE

# NEWS & OPINION

## Two ‘friends’ face off for Council in Lansing’s 4th Ward

Brian Jackson isn’t just running for a second term on the Lansing City Council. He’s sprinting.

**ANALYSIS**  
“It’s not over until it’s over,” Jackson told this reporter on a cloudy Thursday this month while he literally ran between homes, knocking on doors and passing out campaign literature along Ionia, Bartlett and Carey streets. “That’s why it’s so important to stay out here talking with folks.”

With about two weeks left until Election Day, both Jackson and his challenger, Elvin Caldwell, allowed me to tag on the campaign trail this month while they canvassed across the 4th Ward.

Jackson, 37, hit the west side in gym shorts and a t-shirt, zigzagging back and forth across side streets, cutting across front lawns and knocking on more than two dozen doors in about an hour, even as a light drizzle turned to a steady downpour. I quickly realized what he meant when he told me I could come — as long as I could “keep up.” I could hardly match his pace in my Crocs.

Caldwell, 32, knocked doors on the north side, albeit at a bit of a slower pace than Jackson’s street campaign triathlon. He hardly knocked on a dozen doors in an hour as he strategically plucked addresses from a printed list of registered voters, always taking time for residents to slowly answer the door. Some conversations dragged on for as long as 10 minutes while Caldwell smiled and nodded politely, occasionally jotting notes in the margin of his voter lists.

He even stopped for a few minutes to talk with a pair of middle school students — who certainly weren’t old enough to vote — about how the city might be able to help reduce homicide rates. Both kids still walked away with a few Caldwell fliers, some for them and some for their parents.

My immediate takeaway: This race is playing out a bit like the tortoise and the hare. Jackson hardly waited for people to come to the porch before he dropped a flier and ran off to the next address. Caldwell, for better or worse,

simply spent far more time covering much less ground.

Most people didn’t come out to chat. Others politely took a flier and quickly went back inside.

Voters who did answer their door brought up the same few issues to both candidates: Gun violence is spiraling out of control. Police officers need to be held accountable for misconduct. Reckless drivers are everywhere. There’s a massive pothole or two on Saginaw Highway.

Neither candidate offered local residents any immediate solutions at their doorsteps. Jackson often nodded on knowingly, telling some that he would try to learn more about the issues. Caldwell often did the same, emphasizing how he would “look into” their concerns if elected.

The 4th Ward encompasses an economically diverse swath of mostly northwest Lansing, including the Capital Region International Airport and much of the Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard corridor, including the Comstock Park, Old Oakland and Westside neighborhoods.

It also dips south of I496 into northern portions of southwest Lansing, including the Moores Park neighborhood and the Country Club. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer also lives in the 4th Ward.

That ward — specifically the Westside neighborhood — also has a reputation for being a bit more politically active than other portions of the city. In 2017, the 4th Ward tracked a general election voter turnout rate of about 25.3% while the rest of the city tracked a rate of only 21.4%. Back then, Jackson also trampled his opponent, Jim McClurken, 3,366 to 1,600 votes, carrying about 68% of the 4th Ward vote.

After nearly four years on the Council, Jackson seemed to already know most of the people who stopped to chat. Several people greeted him enthusiastically at the doorway: “Brian! You already have



Jackson



Caldwell

my vote.” Other conversations focused mostly on complaints over speeding drivers and potholes. Jackson was polite but brief. He had some major ground to cover, he explained while he ticked off a virtual

list of voters deemed “most likely” to come out to the polls in November.

“It’s mostly things tied to public safety — sometimes just more speed bumps and sometimes police reform,” Jackson said while he picked out a home exclusively for its “Black Lives Matter” sign. “This house isn’t on the list but I do love the sign. We have to stop here for a minute.”

No conversation lasted longer than a minute or two before Jackson ran on to knock on another door. Jackson told me that he felt confident ahead of next month’s matchup against Caldwell — someone he proudly declares a “friend,” even as the two go head to head in the Fourth Ward.

But Jackson also recognizes that he faces a bit of an uphill climb for a second term.

“It is what it is,” Jackson said. “I’m not totally surprised to see some of these endorsements. I’m not catering to any special interests on the Council. I’m just here to stand up for the residents.”

Caldwell, 32, is a Flint transplant who has lived in downtown Lansing for the last eight years. He’s a former school teacher and licensed real estate agent, as well as an outreach coordinator and legislative consultant at Fraser Consulting, a subsidiary of the law firm of Fraser Trebilcock.

And he has also collected endorsements from quite a few local political heavyweights, including political action committees representing the Greater Lansing Association of Realtors, the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce and labor unions for local electrical workers. Even the Ingham County Democratic Party opted to endorse Caldwell over Jackson this

November.

“I didn’t expect to earn endorsements from the business and property owner elite class because my advocacy tends to lean toward the underrepresented and marginalized,” Jackson said. “I’m also not surprised about IBEW because of my strong opposition to BWL’s new gas plant.”

Jackson’s campaign is centered on two issues: criminal justice reform and environmental protection. He led the charge to repeal several ordinances — like a prohibition on drug paraphernalia — which can often carry a disproportionate impact on vulnerable residents. He also wants the city to explore new ways to reduce its carbon footprint to prevent climate change.

“Science tells us that new gas plants are not what we need,” Jackson explained. “The irony is that (the local electrical workers’ union) thinks that I am trying to take their jobs and livelihoods, but the reality is that shifting toward renewable energy will help to create many new jobs.”

With two weeks to go before Election Day, Jackson isn’t letting every key endorsement go to his challenger this year. He said he has since secured support from the UAW, the Greater Lansing Labor Council, State Rep. Sarah Anthony and Ingham County Commissioner Victor Celentino.

“I am proud to run a clean campaign based on my record, ideals and things that I still want to accomplish,” Jackson said, also noting that he has long considered Caldwell to be a “friend.”

Caldwell’s political platform includes several broad societal concepts like enhancing safety and economic development while promoting more vibrant neighborhoods, more regional collaboration and a higher quality of life for residents and employees. He didn’t take much of a personal stance on any key issues with voters at the doors. But that’s intentional, he explained. “Some people want more police and some people want more police accountability. Some people want both. Either way, I always take the time to hear them out. It’s definitely about striking a balance,”

# East Lansing schools brush off backlash over canceling Halloween

**Superintendent: 'Some school decisions should be made by professionals'**

Despite a firestorm of recent criticism on social media over the highly controversial decision to cancel Halloween and Valentine's Day celebrations at four elementary schools in East Lansing, district officials said they plan to stick to their guns and call off the annual festivities indefinitely.

After all, these types of decisions are best left to educational professionals rather than the whims of an often "intense and emotional" community that's quick to lash out on social media, East Lansing Public Schools Superintendent Dori Leyko explained to City Pulse on Monday.

"The community was not part of this decision," Leyko said in an emailed statement following the district's decision Wednesday to indefinitely cancel both holidays for elementary students.

"As you have likely seen on social media, many of the responses we have received from the community have been intense and emotional. I believe that some school decisions should be made by the professionals in our buildings who observe the experiences of these students, whether or not their parents are providing feedback to us," Leyko said in response to questions.

A letter to parents from the "principal

team" at Donley, Marble, Whitehills and Robert L. Green elementary schools cited concerns over equity and inclusion, as well as "unintended consequences" of festivities.

"Along with the fun of Halloween parties and parades, we also have students whose families do not celebrate or feel comfortable with their children participating in festivities. We have young children who become overwhelmed and sometimes frightened of the costumes and others who come to school with no costume at all," it reads. "We also have families who either keep their children home or pick them up early from school on Halloween day. Lastly, it is often difficult for children to concentrate and learn on Halloween, making it challenging for teachers to teach."

Some families and students also don't feel comfortable with "the idea of boys and girls exchanging valentines or participating in a celebration that focuses on love," the letter reads, noting that the holiday tradition can also sometimes lead to "classroom drama and teasing."

"For these reasons and more," the ELPS administration has decided not to celebrate Halloween or Valentine's Day in our elementary schools. While this may be a disappointment and/or an adjustment for some of our students/families at first, we promise to continue to offer alternative days throughout the school year that are full of fun and learning, for everyone," the letter reads.

City Pulse broke that story Wednesday. Hundreds of comments followed on Facebook. Some readers were concerned that the district was kowtowing to only a few concerned parents. Others said the move, a result of political correctness run amok, would only "ruin childhoods."

District officials, however, aren't budging. Leyko said the concept of banning the celebrations in elementary buildings originated from principals and has been discussed "for at least a few years." It was also vetted by ELPS' "Social Justice Teams," which also focus on racial equity.

"We are examining our current practices and are committed to providing experiences for our students that are inclusive," she said. "These parties are two examples of events that highlighted the disparities of our students — from those who don't have costumes and are unable to contribute snacks to those who don't have a parent or caregiver at the party."

Leyko also noted that the school board was not involved in the decision. It only sets goals for the administration, not implement specific operational procedures, she said. But that doesn't mean that the move to call off the two holidays hasn't garnered board support.

Trustee Kath Edsall said that "huge disparities" in income and wealth across the school district can also lead to "huge disparities" in a family's ability

to participate in the holidays. Some families, for instance, cannot afford costumes or Valentine's Day cards to distribute.

"The unintended consequence is children blatantly are reminded who are the haves and have nots. Leaving those children whose parents can't afford a costume or cannot take time off from work feeling less than or even ashamed. While we cannot protect the children once they leave school, we can do our best to prevent harm while in our care," Edsall emailed City Pulse. "As our district continues to do the hard work around creating an equitable learning environment for all students, there will be push back. Change is hard."

The other board members did not respond to messages.

Mayor Jessy Gregg said the city is also exploring ways to become more inclusive to residents who practice religions other than Christianity and would prefer less of a regular emphasis on holidays — like Christmas — with origins heavily centered on evangelical beliefs.

She said that seasonal programs could possibly be "more welcoming" without the usual annual festivities like pictures with Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny, which are tied to religious tradition.

Gregg said those discussions will continue, but for now, no city events have been canceled.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

## 4th Ward

from page 5

Caldwell explained. "I want to find some common ground that works for everyone."

Caldwell's biggest selling point, however, is that he thinks he can provide more "responsive representation" within the Fourth Ward. His mailers proudly list his phone number, noting that he is "just a phone call away." Ironically, that number was not connecting Monday afternoon.

"I'm feeling good, but where I'm from, we don't take anything for granted," Caldwell said last Thursday while he strolled down Chicago Avenue toward the Comstock Park neighborhood.

"I'm happy to have the support, but Brian Jackson also has some deep ties in this community."

Caldwell's door knocking may be slower, but it's also more prolific. He



Fourth Ward Councilman Brian Jackson stops at a house with a "Black Lives Matter" sign while canvassing in the Westside Neighborhood on Oct. 7.

said he has been knocking on doors every day since the summer, largely to introduce himself to Lansing.

"A lot of people might know me out here, but they don't know me as a Council candidate. Even for the people who said they're going to vote for me,

I've been going back to be sure," he said.

Like Jackson, Caldwell also proudly labeled his opponent as a personal friend. But that hasn't stopped him from slamming Jackson for his shoddy attendance record from over the last year. Mailers set to be sent out this week criticize Jackson for missing 11 out of 12 meetings of the Ways and Means Committee in 2020 — in part because he said he "forgot" his assignments. Records also showed that Jackson missed five of nine Committee on Public Safety meetings, two Council meetings and all 12 Tri-County Regional Planning Commission meetings in 2020.

"We're friends, but I also have to take advantage of this situation," Caldwell said. "It's all fair game. I think there are two ways to evaluate a candidate, and that's on whether they attended their meetings and whether they voted my way on issues. You can't vote if

you don't attend."

Jackson, for his part, has repeatedly apologized. His attendance record has also improved.

"I am embarrassed that I did not realize that I was missing meetings," he said. "I am glad that my absence did not hold up any city business. For the other ones, I should have called in for an excused absence instead of waiting until the last minute to see if my work schedule cleared."

Since neither Jackson or Caldwell competed in the primary election like the other candidates listed on the ballot next month, neither of them has been required to file campaign finance reports that show how the splintered support in the city's Fourth Ward may have also affected their pocketbooks. Each of them will be required to file those reports for the first time this week.

Visit lansingcitypulse.com for previous and continued coverage on election season in Lansing.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

# CMU washes hands of Vanguard affair through its report

After a several-month investigation, Central Michigan University concluded there was no evidence to support employee participation in a potential pipeline between the university and Lansing-based Vanguard Public Affairs, the site of numerous sexual harassment claims.

At an expense of \$550,000, the university called on the Honigman law firm to explore allegations surrounding Student Media Adviser Dave Clark, CMU journalism instructor Steve Coon and journalism internship Professor Jim Wojcik.

Comments suggested the faculty members were aware of Vanguard furnishing a “toxic” and “uncomfortable” work environment but continued to allow students and recent graduates to pursue career opportunities with the firm.

“Our analysis began with a straightforward question: What did any CMU employee know about the mistreatment of CMU student interns at Vanguard, and when did they know it?” the report reads. “We found no evidence that anyone at CMU knowingly encouraged a CMU graduate to work in a hostile, dangerous, or sexually harassing environment at Vanguard.”

The political public relations firm was run by CMU alumnus TJ Bucholz, who in Spring 2021 became the source of troubling sexual harassment claims. The events retold included requesting female workers to touch his handgun “in a sexual innuendo way” and inviting them to have a threesome with him and his wife.

Additional stories featured one of Bucholz gifting a female contractor with jewelry and lingerie, explaining her dress code would consist of “lots of cleavage — little clothes in the summer” and expressing his desire to have sex with her.

Honigman zoomed in on four CMU students who interned at Vanguard from 2016 to 2019. No student participated in a Vanguard internship after November 2019.

In total, Honigman interviewed 53 witnesses — including former CMU students who interned at Vanguard or later became Vanguard employees — and assessed 42,000 electronic documents, such as email and text messages.

In or around October 2019, a Vanguard employee and CMU graduate had shared with Clark that Bucholz was temperamental, facilitated shoddy business practices and was a “creep” or

“creeper.” She explained Bucholz would request her to drive him around in his car, regardless of deadlines, and would occasionally keep a handgun in his vehicle or his office.

The graduate described Bucholz as a “jerk” and a thrower of “temper tantrums but didn’t illustrate incidents that were sexual in nature or violent.

Clark had a similar conversation with an intern afterward — also not featuring experiences of harassment or discrimination. The young woman said she would ride with Bucholz in his car, which Clark considered “weird,” while emphasizing her internship was a waste and a “disaster,” according to the report.

Coon served under Bucholz from May 2014 to June 2017 as the director of creative services for Vanguard, but Honigman “found no evidence to support a conclusion that Coon knew about Bucholz’s mistreatment of women at Vanguard until the time of Coon’s leave of absence in March of 2021.”

As for Wojcik, WCMU Public Radio published a story on March 31 highlighting a story from 2016 Vanguard intern Tess Francke, who cried in Wojcik’s office and expressed, “I’m very uncomfortable in this internship.”

Francke would later tell MLive that Bucholz had asked her to “call him daddy and to only refer to him as daddy” and that he commemorated Vanguard as the “Hooters” of PR agencies. However, in her conversation with Wojcik, she did not use the words “sexual harassment” while disclosing her tales of discomfort and workplace toxicity.

She said Wojcik advised her to “stick it out. You need it to graduate. T.J.’s a great guy, he will give you a good grade, it will all work out.”

“The student did not tell Wojcik information amounting to sexual harassment, a hostile work environment, or workplace violence,” the report reads. “We likewise found no evidence that Wojcik was put on notice of Bucholz’s sexual harassment or mistreatment of CMU students or alumni as defined by relevant laws or CMU policies, or that he failed to report it.”

In a letter, CMU President Robert Davies illustrated the investigation as a “necessary expense,” as the case involved “serious” allegations related to sexual harassment and trafficking.

“This was a challenging situation for our community. Now it provides an opportunity to closely review many

of our processes and practices, and to identify areas for growth and improvement,” the letter reads, adding the university will work to better equip

employees for identifying misconduct and eliminate barriers when it comes to reporting sexual misconduct.

— MIRS

## CITY OF EAST LANSING NOTICE OF ELECTION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021

To the qualified electors of the City of East Lansing, please take notice that a General Election will be held in the City of East Lansing, Ingham and Clinton Counties, Michigan, on Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

### For the purposes of electing the following non-partisan offices:

City Council – Two (2) Full Terms

City Council – One (1) Partial Term

**Polls at said election will be open at 7 am and will remain open until 8 pm.**

### Photo Identification OR Affidavit Required to Vote:

Under Michigan law upheld by the Michigan Supreme Court, ALL voters will be asked to show photo identification to vote at the polls. Voters without identification will be required to fill out and sign an affidavit in order to receive a ballot.

### LIST OF POLLING LOCATIONS:

- Pct. 1 - Brody Hall, MSU
- Pct. 2 - Martin Luther Chapel, 444 Abbot Road
- Pct. 3 - East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road
- Pct. 4 - Capital City Vineyard Church, 1635 Coolidge Road
- Pct. 5 - Shaarey Zedek Congregation, 1924 Coolidge Road
- Pct. 6 - Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 1315 Abbot Road
- Pct. 7 - St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3383 Lake Lansing Road
- Pct. 8 - University Reformed Church, 841 Timberlane Street
- Pct. 9 - Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road
- Pct. 10 - Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road
- Pct. 11 - Burcham Hills Retirement Community, 2700 Burcham Drive
- Pct. 12 - Union Bldg., MSU
- Pct. 13 - IM Sports East, MSU
- Pct. 14 - IM Sports East, MSU
- Pct. 15 - IM Sports West, MSU
- Pct. 16 - Wesley Foundation, 1118 S. Harrison Road
- Pct. 17 - Shaarey Zedek Congregation, 1924 Coolidge Road

All polling places are accessible and voting instructions are available in alternative formats of audio and Braille.

In addition to regular business hours, the East Lansing City Clerk’s Offices will be open on October 26 and 27 from 5 pm-8 pm and October 31 from 9 am-5 pm to register voters, issue and accept absentee ballots for qualified electors.

**The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the East Lansing City Clerk’s Office is October 18, 2021. After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector must register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the following locations and times:**

East Lansing City Clerk – City Hall 410 Abbot Road, Room 100 East Lansing, MI 48823	<b>Regular Business Hours:</b> Monday-Friday from 8 am-5 pm <b>Additional Hours:</b> October 26 & 27 from 5 pm-8 pm October 31 from 9 am-5 pm
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City Clerk Satellite Office Brody Hall, MSU 241 Brody Service Road East Lansing, MI 48823
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<b>Starting on Monday, October 4, 2021</b> <b>Regular Business Hours:</b> Monday-Friday from 9 am-4 pm <b>Additional Hours:</b> October 26 & 27 from 5 pm-8 pm October 31 from 9 am-5 pm
---

**To register to vote, check your voter registration information, find your polling location, or view your sample ballot check the Secretary of State Voter Information website at [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote)**

### ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS:

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

The East Lansing City Clerk’s Office must have a signed application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. You may apply online at [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote) or at the East Lansing City Clerk’s Office.

November 1, 2021 at 4 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot except for those who register to vote on Election Day. Ballots issued on November 1, 2021 must be requested and voted in person at the East Lansing City Clerk’s Office.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, November 2, 2021, are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the East Lansing City Clerk’s Office.

Jennifer Shuster  
East Lansing City Clerk

CP#21-236



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## CITY OF LANSING PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST FOR THE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021 ELECTION

**Notice is hereby given** that the public test of the program, which will be used for tabulating the results of the Election to be held Tuesday, November 2, 2021 in the City of Lansing, will be conducted at the Lansing City Clerk's Election Unit located at the South Washington Office Complex at 2500 South Washington Avenue on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

The public accuracy test is conducted to determine that the program used to tabulate the results of the election counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

### ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS

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

We must have a signed application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. Applications are available at [www.lansingvotes.com](http://www.lansingvotes.com) or by calling 517-483-4131.

The Lansing City Clerk's Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave., 9th Floor, will be open Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to register and issue absentee ballots to qualified electors.

The Lansing City Clerk's Election Unit, 2500 S. Washington Ave (rear entrance), will be open:

- Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
- Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Saturday, October 30, 2021 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Sunday, October 31, 2021 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

to register voters and to issue absentee ballots to qualified electors.

Monday, November 1, 2021 at 4:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot except for those who register to vote on Election Day. Ballots issued on Monday, November 1, 2021 must be requested and voted in person at the Lansing City Clerk's Office or the Lansing City Clerk's Election Unit.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 2, 2021 are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the Lansing City Clerk's Office or the Lansing City Clerk's Election Unit.

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

CP#21-237

### NOTICE OF HEARING

#### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE 2021 POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

**TO THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LANSING, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN**, the owners of the land described below within the 2021 Police and Fire Protection Special Assessment District, and any other interested persons:

All lots and parcels of land within Lansing Township

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Township Supervisor, or a designee thereof, has reported to the Township Board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll related to all properties within the 2021 Police and Fire Protection Special Assessment District, and that are benefited by the proposed police, fire, and emergency services improvement project generally described as follows:

one or more ambulances; fire engines/vehicles/apparatus; building/facility upgrades, improvements and/or repairs; computer hardware, software, and related technology and equipment; police patrol vehicles and related equipment; cameras, recording equipment, and related police and/or fire equipment; police and/or fire operating costs; and other police and/or fire equipment, apparatus, and operation costs (the "Project")

The special assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the costs of Project within the 2021 Police and Fire Protection Special Assessment District, as more particularly shown on the plans and estimates of costs and expenses for the Project that are on file and available for public examination with the Township Clerk at the Township Administration Building, 3209 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan. The total annual assessment is \$1,522,415.01.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Township Board will meet on Wednesday, the 27th day of October, 2021, at 7:00 o'clock, p.m., at the Township Administration Building, 3209 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48917, for the purpose of reviewing the proposed special assessment roll and the proposed distribution of the special assessment levy, and hearing any objections thereto. The proposed special assessment roll may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular business days until the time of the hearing and may further be examined at the hearing.

Appearance and protest at the hearing, in person or in writing, are required in order to appeal the action of the Township Board in approving the police, fire, and emergency services improvement special assessment project, the special assessment roll, and/or the amount of an assessment to the state tax tribunal. A property owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment proceedings or may file his or her appearance and protest by letter and his or her personal appearance will not be required. The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of a special assessment with the state tax tribunal within 35 days after the date the special assessment roll is confirmed by the Township Board.

Dated: October 7, 2021

Maggie Sanders, Township Clerk

CP#21-227

#### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING 2022 BUDGET HEARING FOR THE GENERAL FUND AND SPECIAL FUND BUDGETS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Budget Hearing for the 2022 General Fund Budget and for any Special Funds will be held on Tuesday, October 26, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

**The Property Tax Millage Rate of 8.2634 Mills which is proposed to be levied for 2022 General Fund as well as .4857 Mills for the repair and maintenance of sidewalks and roads will be the subject of this Budget Hearing and will support the proposed 2022 Budget.**

This hearing will afford citizens the right to present oral and written comments and to ask questions on the proposed uses.

A copy of the 2022 proposed budgets will be available to the public for inspection during office hours from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Mondays thru Fridays in the office of the Township Clerk, beginning October 18, 2021.

Maggie Sanders, Clerk  
Charter Township of Lansing

CP#21-233

#### CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1294

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing adding Chapter 266, Sections 266.01-266.03, to establish an Arts and Culture Commission in and for the City of Lansing including membership, duties, and meetings.

Effective date: November 10, 2021

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

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

CP#21-234

# Why Coontz Law?

Confession\* time: I took out a full-page ad to tell you to vote for my law firm and me as Top of the Town without having any idea of how best to do that. I'm kind of impulsive in that way. An essay probably isn't it, but I'm at my best when advocating for something I believe in, especially in writing.

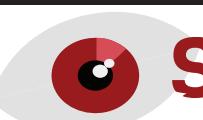
And I believe in Coontz Law. Easy for me to say, right? But I really do. We're building something special here: a client-centered law firm focused on doing things the right way. We live and breathe our core values of **Veritas**, **Audacity**, **Liberty**, **Ownership**, and **Results**. We embrace technology and outsourced labor to keep overhead down and legal fees reasonable. We are always improving. We charge one flat fee for a case so our clients aren't nickel-and-dimed as their case drags on. We treat prosecutors and courts with respect, but not submissiveness. If you think I'm full of because I'm a lawyer, (1) understandable, but (2) check out our Google reviews to see what others have to say about us.

That's why you should vote for Coontz Law as best law firm. As for best attorney? If I'm being honest, that award doesn't mean as much to me. Don't get me wrong: I want to win and think it's well deserved, but it's just so much more important to me that my whole team share in the award than bringing home any sort of individual accolade. Vote for me if you want, don't if you don't, but please make Coontz Law Top of the Town.

*Dustyn K. Coontz*

\*Please contact us before making any confessions of your own! [coontzlaw.com](http://coontzlaw.com) • (517) 940-8004




**SORE**  
OF THE WEEK

**4511 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.,  
Lansing**

It doesn't get much worse than this week's featured property. Fortunately for nearby neighbors, the Lansing City Council ordered the owner last week to make repairs within 60 days or face demolition — and the five-figure bills from the city of Lansing that routinely come along with it.

Ingham County records show the dilapidated home is owned by Alan Investments III LLC, a real estate investment firm based in South Carolina that doesn't identify its owners in state records. Multiple phone numbers found for the company and its registered agent, Todd Merson, were dead. City officials, like City Pulse, also haven't had much luck contacting the owners, they said.

Nobody representing the property attended multiple committee and City Council meetings over the last few months on whether the city should demolish the building. The owners now have under two months to voice an objection and prove they have the ability to fix up the place or the city intends to bulldoze the house to the ground — likely when the weather warms in spring.

Councilman Jeremy Garza said the home requires an estimated \$61,000 in repairs before it would ever pass inspection from code enforcement. He also noted that the basement is filled with water and that the home's front yard has long been the "site of many illegal dumpings."

We spotted a shopping cart next to a battered garage in the backyard. The gravel driveway has been almost entirely swallowed by overgrown grass. The doors and windows are boarded up.

Photos filed in city records show the rear of the home is missing nearly all of its exterior siding.

The inside isn't much better. Drywall has been stripped from the walls. Trash has been scattered throughout. It's unclear from the pictures whether the home is fire damaged or just majorly filthy.

And this one has been a long time coming: The original red tag notice on the door is from 2018.

The bright spot: Unless the property owners step forward (for the first time in years) to take responsibility for their property, it doesn't seem we'll be forced to see this mess for much longer.

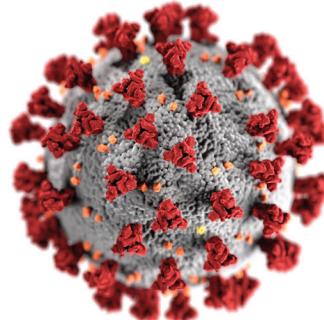
— KYLE KAMINSKI

"Eyesore of the Week" is our look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eye Candy of the Week and Eye for Design. Have a suggestion? Email eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call it in at 517-999-6715.

# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

By KYLE KAMINSKI



### Local cat catches coronavirus — a Michigan first

A domestic shorthair cat from Ingham County was confirmed Tuesday to have SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 in humans, said state officials. While pets have tested positive for the virus worldwide, this case is the first in Michigan. The cat had close contact with its owners, who were confirmed to have COVID-19 about a week before the cat became ill. The cat was tested after it began to sneeze and has since recovered. There's no evidence to suggest animals play a significant role in spreading the virus.

### Lansing mourns Lady Margaret Groves

Lady Margaret Groves — billed as a "pioneer" in the Lansing School District — has died. Groves worked at the school district for 35 years in many capacities and is credited for diversifying the district by personally recruiting teachers of color for jobs in local schools. Groves received an Everyday Heroine Award from the Ingham County Women's Commission.

### Lansing cops silent on recent crime

With two weeks left before the election, the usual stream of press releases on recent crimes from the Lansing Police Department has slowed to a drip. Arrest logs made public at the request of City Pulse show that 43 arrests, mostly of Black men, were conducted in Lansing for felony charges like drunk driving causing death, kidnapping, cocaine and heroin sales, intimidation, burglary and assault between Oct. 11 and Monday (Oct. 18). Details regarding those arrests, however, have not been publicized by the Lansing Police Department.

### Gun violence program back out for bids

A request for proposals reissued by Ingham County seeks to recruit a local community-based nonprofit organization by Nov. 15 that can help work directly on the frontlines of recent retaliatory gun violence to help curb record-breaking homicide rates in Lansing. The program — called Advance Peace — is two months behind schedule and is now set to launch by January.

*Read more at lansingcitypulse.com.*

### Lansing orders repairs at Rivershell Apartments

The city plastered pink tags on the doors of every building at the seven-building southside apartment complex last month, noting that just about every unit had twice failed rental inspections and subsequently lost their rental certificates. As a result, vacant units there cannot be leased and the management team was given until Friday (Oct.

22) to complete repairs. If the maintenance issues persist, a judge could order the apartment complex shuttered altogether. *Read more at lansingcitypulse.com.*

### Bernero settles sexual harassment suit

A lawsuit filed this summer by Liz Hart, a former intern of former Mayor Virg Bernero, was settled after Bernero agreed to pay Hart \$4,500 and write her a three-sentence apology note. The suit contended that Bernero subjected Hart to several late-night phone calls and unwanted sexual comments. He was also accused of sexually assaulting Hart by stroking her foot. In an emailed statement, Hart said the settlement helped achieve "a form" of justice and closure, but it still did not hold Bernero accountable for his actions. His apology was only to himself, she said.

*Read more at lansingcitypulse.com.*

### Cahill fills county commission vacancy

East Lansing Democrat Irene Cahill was unanimously voted in to fill a vacancy on the Ingham County Board of Commissioners for the 9th District, which includes part of East Lansing. Recently elected Commissioner Erin Graham resigned from the post last month (after less than nine months on the job). Her only public explanation: "Personal reasons."

### East Lansing: Stay safe on scooters

The East Lansing Police Department is urging students to stay safe on Bird and Spin scooters near Michigan State University. A PSA released last week warns drivers of a 10 mph speed limit on downtown sidewalks. However fun, it's also illegal to operate scooters while intoxicated. They also can't be parked in a way that obstructs the sidewalks, bike lanes or parking spaces.

### Nonprofits net \$1.24 million in grant cash

A total of 83 Ingham County nonprofit organizations were awarded a total of \$1.24 million in grant funding through the county's Sunrise Small Business Grants Program. That's in addition to \$3.2 million doled out last month, for a total of \$4.4 million in grants to date. Relief grants in other categories (including sole proprietors, new businesses and restaurants) are coming. A round of \$2 million in grant funding in Clinton County is also available for small businesses negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications are due back by Oct. 31. Visit purelansing.com for more information.

### County clerk slams 'anti-voter' petition

Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum opposes the "Secure MI Vote" ballot initiative petition drive. Byrum said the initiative only seeks to implement anti-voter provisions that are being passed by Republicans in the State Legislature and have been vetoed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. Byrum said state elections are already "the safest and most secure."

### Lansing chamber pushes back against Biden

The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce joined a coalition of several other chambers and statewide labor groups in asking President Joe Biden to "reconsider" a forthcoming mandate that employers require vaccinations or conduct regular COVID-19 tests for their staff. The "Listen to MI Business" coalition asserts that the vaccine mandate "will have a devastating impact on employers, employees, jobs and our economy," according to the coalition's website.

# Leave cannabis caregivers alone

Just when we thought Michigan's maturing cannabis industry had more or less reached a stable plateau, where the rules of the road are well established and well understood, along comes a new round of saber-rattling by a consortium of the largest commercial cannabis operators, who are looking to shake things up by taking down licensed medical marijuana caregivers. You may recall that caregivers are the folks who grow small quantities of weed to provide medicine for up to five patients each, as they've been allowed to do under the state's medical marijuana law for the past decade.

Big Cannabis doesn't like the competition, and it's pulling out the big guns in an effort to crush the caregiving industry by pressuring the Michigan Legislature to impose onerous rules on small growers. Its primary argument seems to be that caregivers are producing "unsafe" weed because it isn't subjected to the same rigorous quality testing as cannabis produced by large-scale commercial growers. It also claims that caregivers are flooding the market with "illicit" weed — which, of course, competes with its commercial products available through licensed dispensaries.

The wholly unproven proposition that caregiver weed is a nefarious health hazard isn't new. In fact, two years ago, Green Peak Innovations, one of the largest commercial cannabis growers in the state (since rebranded as Skymint), launched a short-lived campaign against "untested and unsafe" caregiver weed, replete with a rally at the State Capitol attended mostly by their own employees and a handful of caregiver-friendly protestors. The effort went nowhere, but the issue has been simmering ever since.

This time around, led by the Michigan Cannabis Manufacturers Association, the heavyweights of the commercial cannabis industry have learned that to effectively play the game under the Capitol dome, you need to hire professional influence peddlers to carry your message to key lawmakers. The MCMA found that person in Steve Linder, a longtime fixture on Lansing's lobbying scene who recently was named executive director of the organization.

Last week, Linder himself was the target of a pro-caregiver ad campaign that featured his head pasted on the body of Dr. Evil, the diminutive villain of the Austin Powers film series. The sardonic salvo provided a rare moment of levity in an otherwise dull legislative session, but it probably didn't do much to advance the cause of caregivers, whose advocates would have better spent their time and resources making the case



## The CP Edit

### Opinion

for why caregiver weed is no more dangerous than the marijuana people have been growing and smoking for centuries. As for caregivers supplying the unregulated and still illegal black market for cannabis, we have no doubt it's true, but how is it really hurting anyone?

We also note that MCMA recently installed Shelly Edgerton of the powerful Dykema Gossett law firm to chair its board of directors. Edgerton just happens to be the former director of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, which oversees the state's cannabis industry. In that capacity, she led the promulgation of state rules that said caregivers could sell their overage — the excess cannabis they grow above and beyond what their patients need — to retail dispensaries, even though it is untested. The caregiver weed would have to be labeled as such, but it could be sold right next to the tested products stocked by the

dispensary. Apparently, the safety of caregiver weed wasn't a big concern for Edgerton at the time.

Now that she's running point for the very folks she used to oversee — another example of Michigan's unseemly revolving door between former state policymakers and the industries they once regulated — her tune has changed and caregiver weed is right up there with the coronavirus as a clear and present danger to cannabis consumers across the state. We're not sure if it's best described as irony or hypocrisy, but it highlights the axiom that in politics, where you stand depends on where you sit — and who is buttering your bread.

Thankfully, the commercial cannabis industry has a second trade group, the Michigan Cannabis Industry Association, which is taking a much more reasonable posture toward caregivers and their products. MCIA, led by Executive Director Robin Schneider, represents more than 300 commercial cannabis firms across the state. Schneider recently called the MCMA-aligned companies "idiots" for going after caregivers and for "spending a bunch of money and trying to ruin other people's lives." We agree with her assessment.

We're also concerned about the collateral damage that would result from cracking down on Michigan's 30,000 licensed caregivers. One is the economic harm it would bring to the significant number of retail stores that sell growing equipment and other supplies to caregivers. It's a direct assault on these small employers and the people who work for them.

Another falls under the law of unintended consequences. If MCIA is concerned about competition from the black market, it should be careful what it wishes for: Imposing complicated and expensive new rules on caregivers is likely to expand the black market rather than constrain it. And forcing caregivers underground — effectively recriminalizing cannabis — is exactly the opposite of what Michigan voters intended when they overwhelmingly approved adult medical and recreational marijuana use.

Rather than deploying a fleet of lobbyists to work behind the scenes to jam through new laws that would circumscribe the ability of caregivers to take care of their patients, we think a more productive strategy would be to bring all stakeholders to the table to discuss the issues and look for reasonable solutions. We hope cooler heads at the State Capitol, assuming there are any, will adopt this approach rather than letting BigCanna muscle out their caregiver competition.

**Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages? Now you have two ways to sound off:**

**1.) Write a letter to the editor:** E-mail: [letters@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:letters@lansingcitypulse.com) or mail: City Pulse 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912

Fax: (517) 371-5800 • [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com)

**2.) Write a guest column:** Contact Berl Schwartz for more information [publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:publisher@lansingcitypulse.com) or (517) 999-5061.

(Please include your name, address and telephone number so we can reach you. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.)



# EQUALITY MICHIGAN IS HERE FOR YOU.

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## Redistricting panel pushing luck with its districts for minorities

Michigan's largest city, Detroit, could have none of its residents sitting in the state Legislature.

Under the draft maps the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission have out for

**OPINION** public comment, it's theoretically possible. Not probable, but possible. Actually, it's possible Lansing could, too.

These Holiday Inn Express map-drawers found a way to not draw a single state Senate or state House map that is completely encased within a city of 674,841 people. Not one.

But that's not the biggest issue with the commission's first pass at drawing Michigan's next legislative maps.

That's reserved for its unnecessary testing of a legal theory that could prompt a judge to throw out its maps and draw them instead. This experiment in Michigan of having your average Joe and Jane draw redistricting lines would be a failure.

It could happen, and he's why.

Back when Lyndon Johnson was president in the 1960s, the U.S. Voting Rights Act was crafted to prevent Blacks (or any other racial minority) from being screwed out of representation. A term "majority-minority districts" was coined.

It means that minorities must have an opportunity to elect one of their own to the Legislature or Congress. Traditionally in Michigan, that's meant districts made up of at least 50% plus one of a certain minority.

If a state House district has roughly 90,000 people, 45,001 must be of the same racial minority.

The redistricting commission isn't rolling that way. Its advisers tell them if a district has as few as 40% in a racial minority and there's a high likelihood a minority will be elected in a district, that's good enough.

Michigan has two congressional, five state Senate and 12 state House majority-minority districts. To prevent regression, the 2021 maps should have the same breakdown. Instead, using the 50%-plus-one standard, there's zero congressional, zero state Senate and two state House majority minority districts.

Using the 40% standard, there's up to 15 majority minority districts.

That's causing a problem in MoTown. Detroiters are seeing their legislative districts start in Detroit and end in



Birmingham or Farmington Hills or Taylor or Warren.

Elections expert Ed Sarpolis said if these maps are approved, Black voters in Detroit would have a "legitimate" legal challenge.

A pair of Michigan State University redistricting experts raised questions this week about the maps, as well.

Economics Professor Jon Eguia said even if the commission is right on its theory, it doesn't have enough evidence to prove a Metro Detroit district with a 40% Black population would be more likely to elect a Black legislator.

"This is an unusual approach," he said, adding that the commission is putting "a lot of confidence" in an "untested" theory based on the "weak evidence" of one prior primary election, as opposed to numerous past elections.

Proposal 2 of 2018 also required the commission to put heavy emphasis on keeping together "communities of interest." This fairly nebulous term hasn't been defined, but various other racial groups are being kept together under the "COI" banner.

Whether it's the Bangladeshi population, the Hispanic population in Detroit, the Arab population in Dearborn or the Asian Americans in Troy, communities have been kept together.

When it comes to keeping Blacks together in Detroit, however ... the same vigilance hasn't been taken, Eguia said.

What does Voters Not Politicians, the group that gave us the redistricting commission, think of all this? Complying with the Voting Rights Act is No. 2 on its list of criteria it had passed into the state Constitution after making sure each district has roughly the same number of people.

Following "communities of interest" was No. 3 on the list.

Voters Not Politicians is pushing the boundaries of its credibility by urging the commission to skip to No. 4 on the list of criteria they created. It wants the commission to focus on "partisan fairness."

Interestingly, Eguia said the maps "are in the ballpark of what you would expect" on partisan fairness.

I think we all figured the commission's final process would go down in court. What's surprising is how easy the commission is making it to do that.

(*Kyle Melinn, of the Capitol news service MIRS, can be emailed at melinnky@gmail.com.*)



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# The father of our nation believed in inoculation

By DUSTY HORWITT

## OPINION

(Dusty Horwitt is an environmental consultant who lives in Lansing.)

Republicans such as Michigan Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey who oppose mandatory vaccinations for Covid-19 as an infringement on personal freedom should learn more about George Washington. Shirkey commented last month about President Joe Biden's Covid-19 vaccine mandates that "it is about control when the government dictates the private health decisions of its citizens." Yet during the American Revolution, Washington ordered mandatory vaccination of his troops, and his decision may have helped win our nation's freedom from Britain.

According to Alexis Coe's biography of Washington published last year,

"You Never Forget Your First," in 1776 Washington was commander in chief of the Continental Army fighting the British when he faced an epidemic of the virus smallpox, one of history's deadliest diseases.

Like Covid-19, smallpox spread from person to person. It typically caused a fever, rash and sores among other symptoms. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, it killed 30 percent of those who were infected.

An early vaccination technique was available to Washington. It was called "variolation" in honor of smallpox's scientific name, variola virus. It involved extracting material



Horwitt

from smallpox sores and exposing it to people who had not caught the virus. Recipients typically developed mild cases and survived, immunized against reinfection. But patients could be incapacitated for weeks, writes Coe. Washington Post reporter Gillian Brockwell wrote in August that they sometimes died.

"The Virginia legislature," Coe writes, "worried that inoculation would spread rather than contain the disease, made inoculation illegal. But the epidemic, which Washington called 'this most dangerous enemy,' threatened to defeat the patriots; by 1776, 20 percent of his army had suffered or died from smallpox." Despite the risks of variolation, Coe reports, "Washington decided to move ahead with compulsory mass inoculations."

Ron Chernow recounts in his Pulitzer Prize-winning biography, "Washington: A Life," that in 1777, when Washington made the decision to vaccinate his troops, he wrote that "necessity not only authorizes but seems to require the measure...for should the disorder infect the army in the natural way and rage with its usual virulence, we should have more to dread from it than the sword of the enemy."

Despite the risks, Washington's order was a success. Coe writes that "smallpox-related fatalities of soldiers and recruits dropped by 17 percent as soon as inoculation was introduced; by the end of the war, it had reached 1 percent."

"This enlightened decision," Chernow concludes, "was as important as any military measure Washington adopted during the war."

What this history means is that mandatory vaccination has been



part of the fabric of our nation from George Washington's policy to current requirements that students in Michigan schools be vaccinated against diphtheria, meningococcal conjugate, tetanus, polio, pertussis, and unless immunity can be documented, hepatitis B, measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (chicken pox). Vaccine mandates for Covid-19 are another part of this American tradition that helped eradicate smallpox, ensure our health and arguably, our freedom.

With more than 700,000 Americans dead from Covid-19 including more than 21,000 Michiganders and with a vaccine that is safe, effective, and free, it's time to support mandatory vaccination. I think George Washington would agree.

## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES LOCATED AT 3209 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Sanders  
Trustees: Harris, Broughton, Ruiz  
Treasurer McKenzie, Trustee Brewer  
ALSO PRESENT: Mike Gresens, Attorney

### ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.  
Approved minutes of meetings held on September 14, 2021 as presented.  
Agenda approved as amended.  
Adopted Resolution 21-17: Resolution to Set Public Hearing for Police and Fire Protection Special Assessment.  
Adopted Resolution 21-18: Resolution to Set Public Hearing for Street Light Special Assessment District.  
Adopted Resolution 21-19: Resolution to Set Public Hearing for General Fund and Special Fund Budgets and Authorize Clerk to Publish Notice of Annual Budget Hearing.  
Adopted Resolution 21-20: Resolution to Certify Millage for 2021 Tax Rolls.  
Approved claims as presented.  
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor  
Maggie Sanders, Clerk

CP#21-232

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

Request from Alan & Rebecca Ross to establish two existing Class B multiple family dwellings as fraternities, one located at 312 N. Harrison Road, and one located at 710 Oak Street. The dwellings are proposed to be the new home of the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity. Both properties are zoned RM-32 (City Center Multiple Family).

The public may attend and participate at all Planning Commission meetings in person and electronically. Please contact the Planning and Zoning Administrator or visit the City's public meeting portal for electronic meeting access information:

Peter Menser – Planning and Zoning Administrator  
410 Abbot Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
517.319.6861 or pmenser@cityofeastlansing.com  
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

For more information on the request please contact Planning and Zoning Administrator Peter

Menser at the contact info above. Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City's website located at [www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications). Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Planning Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to [coelplanningcommission@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:coelplanningcommission@cityofeastlansing.com).

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6920 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at [nmostel@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:nmostel@cityofeastlansing.com).

**This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and published in compliance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, 2006 P.A. 110.**

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk East

Dated: October 1, 2021  
Lansing, MI 48823

CP#21-241

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**CITY OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 8, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider the adoption of a form-based code (FBC) and zoning map to replace and repeal the existing zoning ordinance and map, being Part 12, Title 6 of the City of Lansing Codified Ordinances, except for Chapter 1300 – Marijuana Operations. The FBC incorporates placemaking into a zoning ordinance to more effectively implement the recommendations of the Design Lansing Comprehensive Plan.

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

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

CP#21-235



**Public Hearing**  
1-3:30 p.m. and 5-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 21  
Lansing Center  
333 E Michigan Ave  
Lansing

For more information, please visit [www.Michigan.gov/MICRC](http://www.Michigan.gov/MICRC) or call 1-833-You-Draw, that's 1-833-968-3729.

**Public Notice**

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting Bids for a Development Opportunity on 10.56 acres in the Willow-Walnut-Comstock Park area. The Request for Proposal Packet is available October 20, 2021 at the Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner Street, Lansing, Michigan, 48906, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday or at [www.inghamlandbank.org](http://www.inghamlandbank.org). Responses are due by 5pm on November 24, 2021. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.

CP#21-239

**CITY OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF ELECTION  
FOR THE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021 ELECTION**

To the qualified electors of the City of Lansing:

Please take notice that the City of Lansing will hold an Election on Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

**For the purpose of electing candidates to the following offices:**

City: Mayor, City Clerk, Council Member At Large (2), Council Member Ward 2, Council Member Ward 4

**Voting Precincts and Polling Places are:**

**Lansing Ward 1**

Pct. 1 – Gier Park Community Center  
Pct. 2 – Grand River Head Start  
Pct. 3 – Post Oak School  
Pct. 4 – Pattengill School  
Pct. 5 – Foster Community Center  
Pct. 6 – Pilgrim Congregational Church  
Pct. 7 – Pilgrim Congregational Church  
Pct. 8 – Bethlehem Temple Church  
Pct. 9 – Board of Water and Light  
Pct. 10 – South Washington Office Cplx.  
Pct. 45 – Foster Community Center

**Lansing Ward 2**

Pct. 11 – South Washington Office Cplx.  
Pct. 12 – Lyons School  
Pct. 13 – Cavanaugh School  
Pct. 14 – Gardner School  
Pct. 15 – Mt. Hope School  
Pct. 16 – Parker Memorial Baptist Church  
Pct. 17 – Kendon School  
Pct. 18 – Gardner School  
Pct. 19 – Gardner School  
Pct. 20 – Gardner School  
Pct. 21 – Forest View School

**Lansing Ward 3**

Pct. 22 – Southside Community Center  
Pct. 23 – Woodcreek School  
Pct. 24 – Attwood School  
Pct. 25 – Attwood School  
Pct. 26 – Southside Community Center  
Pct. 27 – Pleasant View School  
Pct. 28 – Dwight Rich School  
Pct. 29 – Tabernacle of David Church  
Pct. 30 – Tabernacle of David Church  
Pct. 31 – Dwight Rich School

**Lansing Ward 4**

Pct. 32 – Elmhurst School  
Pct. 33 – Lewton School  
Pct. 34 – South Washington Office Cplx.  
Pct. 35 – First Presbyterian Church  
Pct. 36 – Letts Community Center  
Pct. 37 – Letts Community Center  
Pct. 38 – Willow School  
Pct. 39 – Emanuel First Lutheran Church  
Pct. 40 – Willow School  
Pct. 41 – Cumberland School  
Pct. 42 – Transitions North  
Pct. 43 – St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
Pct. 44 – St. Casimir Catholic Church

To comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), voting instructions will be available in audio format and in Braille. Arrangements for obtaining the instructions in these alternative formats can be made by contacting the Clerk's Office in advance of the election. All polling locations are accessible for voters with disabilities.

**To see if you are registered or to find your polling location, check the Secretary of State Voter Information web site at [www.lansingvotes.com](http://www.lansingvotes.com)**

**Photo Identification OR Affidavit Required to Vote:**

Under a Michigan law upheld by the Michigan Supreme Court, ALL voters will be asked to show photo identification to vote at the polls. Voters without identification will be required to fill out and sign an affidavit in order to receive a ballot.

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

Location	Address	Regular Business Hours
Lansing City Clerk – City Hall	124 W. Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933	Mon – Fri 8am - 5pm
Lansing City Clerk – Election Unit	2500 S Washington Ave. Lansing, MI 48910	Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm  Wednesdays 8am - 7pm

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

Location	Address	Additional Hours
Lansing City Clerk – City Hall	124 W. Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933	Election Day November 2 7am - 8pm
Lansing City Clerk – Election Unit	2500 S Washington Ave. Lansing, MI 48910	Saturday October 30 11am - 7pm  Sunday October 31 11am – 4pm  Election Day November 2 7am – 8pm

**ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS**

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

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

Monday, November 1, 2021 at 4:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot except for those who register to vote on Election Day. Ballots issued on Monday, November 1, 2021 must be requested and voted in person at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, locations referenced in the above table.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 2, 2021, are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, locations referenced in the above table.

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

CP#21-238



# Preuss looks back on 40 years of ‘magic’ between people and pets

Lansing pet store owner receives international lifetime achievement award

**By TODD HEYWOOD**

At the corner of Caesar Chavez Avenue and Cedar Street in Lansing's Old Town stands a brightly painted edifice that invites folks into the land of Preuss Pets. There's a towering waterfall display and a rainforest facade painted on the outside wall, a mural from a local artist.

Inside, a panoply of pets ranging from saltwater fish and corals to reptiles and exotic birds of all sizes are on display in the Caribbean island-themed store. It's a destination for families looking to introduce their children to extraordinary animals and pilgrimage location for hardcore pet enthusiasts, including some who drive to the store from nearby states to shop the saltwater section of the store.

The pet shop is the culmination of more than four decades in the pet industry for the multigenerational Preuss family, including Rick and his wife, Debbie. Their daughter, Kirby, is also being groomed to eventually take over the store. She has been a key asset in connecting the store into the social fabric of the community. The store stages fundraisers for various charities and often hosts small groups of young people for education — all from Kirby's work.

And the iconic shop also represents decades



A young Rick Preuss.

bond between a human and a pet.

The story of Rick Preuss, his family and Preuss Pets is also a story about love. And not just the love of animals — although there's certainly a lot of that there — but the love for people as well.

"My dad regularly speaks to classes at MSU," Kirby said. "At the end of his speeches he always asks the group what they think his favorite animal is. There are lots of guesses, from guinea pigs to saltwater fish. But that's not it. It's human beings. They are his favorite animals in the world."

In August, the World Pet Association honored Rick Preuss and the store for a lifetime of advancing the industry. The store was named pet retailer of the year for a full-line pet store,

of a family commitment to the philosophy of love, Jean Preuss, Rick's mother, told The Towne Courier in the late '90s before she died of cancer.

At the time, Jean Preuss said the driving idea behind the pet industry was simple: It's about love. And nothing was more pure, more healing, than the

meaning they offer not only animals for pets but all the equipment and food to support them in healthy ways.

"It doesn't excite me to say simply we're a successful pet store and here's the number," Preuss said. "We're a successful pet store, and the evidence is in the smiles of the people coming in the door and the return customer and the customer who says, 'I was failing and you helped me out.'"

Preuss himself was also honored with a lifetime achievement award for more than 40 years in the industry. And this week, the state honored him as well in a resolution issued by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

One of his earliest memories is standing beside his mother, a force in her own right, as she sold fish from a 300-square-foot fish shop in Pennsylvania, where the family grew up. He said there was a "magic" in the connection between people and the animals that fascinated him.

Preuss excelled in school as a kid, but he also had a secret. He struggles with a reading disability.

That disability prevents him from quickly reading and comprehending what he has just read. And while he hasn't been formally diagnosed with any specific condition, Preuss said he's always open about his struggle with his diverse team of employees.

**See Preuss, Page 17**



# Preuss

from page 16

It's an irony of sorts, as Preuss' struggle has also served to foster a deep listening capacity and memory that helps drive his learning and passion to pass that information on to his clients. He can explain the complex biochemical reactions building or harming a reef system or whip off the information about the bacteria that help stabilize and keep a freshwater aquarium healthy.

"How I compensate is I can multitask and process things coming at me from different angles," he said. "It provides me with a strong sense of empathy for everybody around me."

His focus and attention to those details has lifted him into a leader in creating a greening of the industry. His retail outlet was one of the first to be certified as a sustainable retailer when it came to saltwater fish — many of which still cannot reproduce in aquariums. The certification means that from the wild reef to an aquarium in his store, Preuss and his team can document the humane care and collection of the animal, assuring consumers the animals were harvested in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way.

In the early 1990s, when it was discovered that Lake Victoria in Africa was facing an environmental disaster as the result of the release of a non-native predator, Preuss worked with scientists at Michigan State University to create a system to save the biodiversity of the lake in aquariums across the country. Dozens of species of fish, found only in Lake Victoria, are now plentiful in the pet industry. Hobbyists continue to breed them to retain the genetic diversity.

In 1988, when fish from larger breeding ponds in Florida and southeast Asia — like swordtails, mollies and other livebearing fish and mainstays

of the aquarium trade — continued to come in sick because of a parasite for which there is no treatment, Rick worked with a Cuban immigrant, Antonio Comas, to develop a breeding program at the store. Comas was able to create new color variations. His new strains have won awards locally, statewide and across the country.

Preuss is also still a highly sought speaker at big-time pet industry conferences, major universities and fish clubs across the country. To this day, he also has a deep love for guinea pigs — an animal that he raised while a child working at his family's store in Pennsylvania.

When the family packed up and moved to Lansing, it was a return to their roots. The Preuss family has a long history in Lansing. An ancestor, Frank J. Preuss Jr., served on the City Council in the '50s and '60s. He owned a store in Old Town, and his father, Frank Sr., opened a butcher and grocery store in 1900 in Old Town. Another family member, Harold, also had a store in Old Town. Three buildings in Old Town also have the name Preuss engraved on the facade, memorializing the family's investment into the former center of Lansing's economic activity.

The pet store hosts about 14,000 square feet of retail space, and thousands more for storage and fish husbandry behind the scenes. That building also had a tie to the family. Wife Debbie has a direct lineage connection to the former car dealership that once operated at the building.

And transforming an old car dealership into

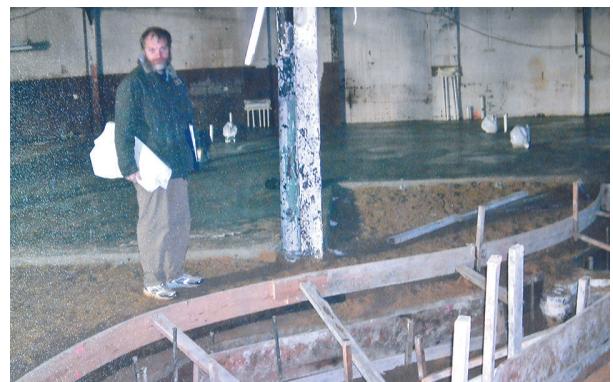
**See Preuss, Page 18**

Courtesy photos

(Top) Rick Preuss inside Preuss Pets during its construction.

(Middle) The Preuss Pets school bus before it was renovated and placed in the store.

(Bottom) Rob Preuss (left) and Mike Wendt pause while constructing the waterfall feature in front of Preuss Pets in Old Town.



# Preuss

from page 17

a piece of tropical paradise in Lansing was not easy.

"I remember standing there looking at this empty building and thinking: How are we going to do this?" Preuss said, looking back to when bought the current Old Town store location in 2005. He renovated it with the help of the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, the city and tax incentives.

Rick provided the design ideas, while his brother Rob Preuss served as project manager and did the interior work — taking out walls, finishing floors and creating the river that runs through the middle of the store. He's also responsible for the large waterfall in front of the store.

Rob Preuss also carved up the festively painted bus that now hosts small animals like ferrets, rats and gerbils. Instead of an engine in the former hood area of the large bus, there are guinea pigs.

Getting there was a struggle. When the family decided to open a pet store in Haslett in 1982, it was strapped for cash. He said an investor had cut them a check to pay the rent for the first month at their store in Haslett — but that check bounced.

Though the store had years of difficulties, Rick thought the store was destined to succeed.

"I talked about how hard it was, but also I want to make sure it is clear they understand that it was always going to happen," Rick Preuss said in a recent interview. "It was always going to work out."

Preuss said he and his family initially reinvested all of the earnings back into the store, constantly increasing its size and offerings. The store also grew with people, attracting a loyal following of eclectic employees — some with brightly colored hair, body modifications and larger-than-life personalities that kept the store filled with infectious laughter. He said he is always



Courtesy

Rick Preuss poses with a guinea pig during his radio show on WILS.



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Visit [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com) to view a full video interview with Rick Preuss.

looking for people with compassion for people and a passion for the pets they will be "representing."

"Just look at people for the heart that they have beating, and look at the person in front of you," he said. "The last thing you can do is pre-judge how they are dressed, the color of their skin, their sex, their sexual orientation — you better just throw that way out otherwise your pool will be too small."

He laughed, adding: "That's kind of how the sausage is made, as they say."

One of those employees was a quiet woman with an extraordinary ability to bond with birds. Debbie caught Rick's eye, and eventually they were married. Their only child, Kirby, followed. By then, Preuss Pets had outgrown its Haslett shopping plaza and needed space. The dream of a Lansing location was born in 2004. Preuss said he and his family surveyed several locations throughout the city of Lansing before landing in Old Town — a spot that drew some initial hesitation from some. Back then, that particular block wasn't quite the bustling, high-end artists' enclave like it is today.

At the time, there were few retailers in the small area, and the late Robert Busby was laboring to expand the offerings with anchor stores. The "mayor of Old Town" was a cheerleader for the relocation.

They bought the building in 2005. When the store opened in 2006, animals were in by police escort — lights flashing — all the way from Haslett to Lansing, which created quite a stir.

Preuss compared the origin story of Preuss Pets to a Bob Ross painting, where you start with selecting a base color and then fill in the rest of the canvas with a landscape of your choice.

**See Preuss, Page 20**



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

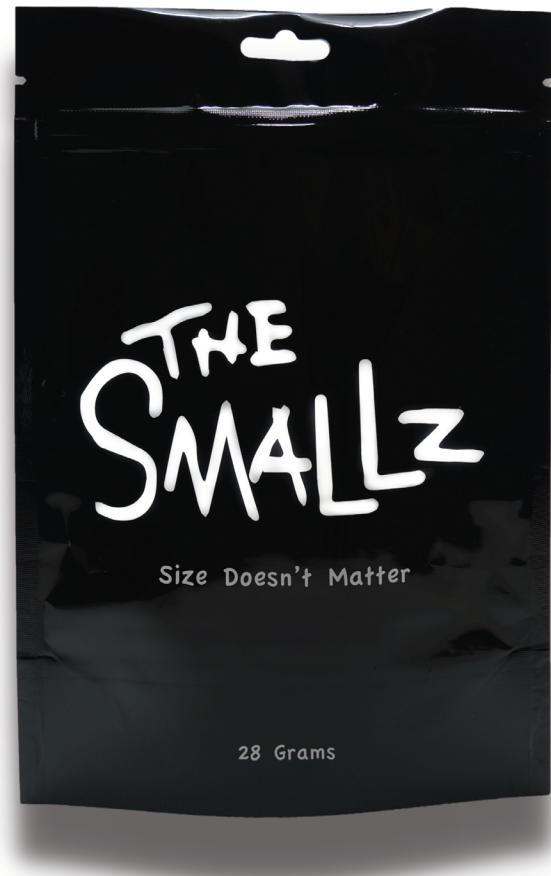
(Top) A customer checks out a reptile display at Preuss Pets.  
(Middle) Debbie Preuss with her Congo African grey parrot.  
(Bottom) Kirby Preuss feeds the catfish at the miniature river installation inside Preuss Pets.

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# Preuss

from page 18

"Historically, the backdrop color when we were painting, it has to do with love, but it has to do with compassion of people," Preuss said. "Who people are, what they are about, what makes them tick and how pets are interrelated to that."

Preuss' greatest teacher has been understanding his failures. That was something he learned as aquarium science was still only just being established and understood. He called that period the "pioneering days" of the industry, which often included many more failures than successes at that time, not because people weren't trying but because the industry was so new.

As a result, Preuss ensures that his customers walk out of his store prepared for success with a new pet. He pointed to his wife's ability to work with those interested in large birds as an example. She's known to spend hours working with customers before the purchase.

It's vitally important for new bird owners to first understand the personality of their future pets, to connect their behavior in ways for people to



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

Rick Preuss and Emily Schaefer inspecting a fish tank at Preuss Pets.

understand the bird's wants and needs and ultimately foster a real bond. The result is a powerful connection that lasts a lifetime for the bird, the client — and often with the Preuss employees and family members, Preuss explained.

"There's a lot more energy that goes into a situation when you want to absorb the energy of that other person," he said. "To simply ask three questions to figure out where we need to go, that's pretty simple. But to look the customer in the eyes and have a sense of compas-

sion and interest and understanding where they're at or where they're not, that's kind of what makes that match-making work."

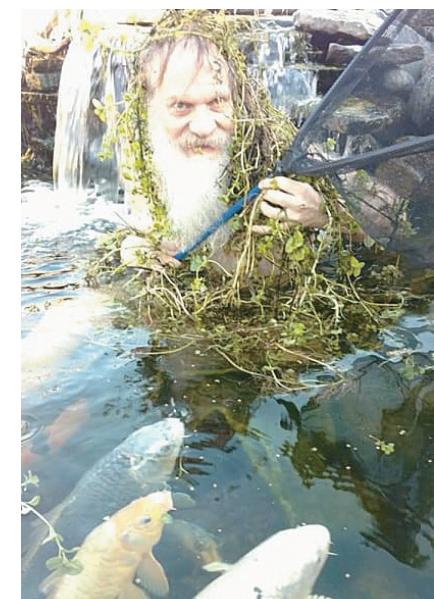
And that is a philosophy Preuss imbues in all of his team members in every department.

"We have to be masters of our art," he said, noting that the underlying connection between people and pets, that compassion and love, is the base color of the painting that is Preuss Pets.



Courtesy

Rick Preuss poses with former employee Jen Platz. Preuss said the store's success would not have been possible without the contributions of the hundreds of people he's employed over the years.



Courtesy

Rick Preuss in an ornamental Koi pond in the store's pond area.



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# ARTS & CULTURE



ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## Capital City Film Festival hosts weekend drive-in film event

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Though it is still unable to make a return in its full-scale glory, Capital City Film Festival is still valiantly hosting the coolest events it possibly can. The eclectic indie film screening party is putting together another weekend drive-in and walk-up shindig in downtown Lansing at the northwest corner of Capitol Avenue and Washtenaw Street across the street from the Knapp's Centre.

### CCFF Weekend Drive-in Event

Thursday, Oct. 21, to Sunday, Oct. 24  
Downtown Lansing  
Corner of Capitol Avenue and Washtenaw Street by the Knapp's Centre  
Full schedule available at: [Capitallcityfilmfest.com](http://Capitallcityfilmfest.com)

This time around, attendees have four double bill shows that are being screened Thursday through Sunday to choose from. There are two free screenings each night at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. The parking lot has approximately 50 spaces for cars and attendees are also invited to watch the films outside of a vehicle on lawn chairs.

The original 10th anniversary of Capital City Film Festival was initially



scheduled for April 2020 and has since gone through several pushbacks due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. It would've been the festival's biggest event to date, with a proposed lineup of more than 100 films for attendees to choose from and several concerts booked at Mac's Bar and The Avenue Café that featured national headlining talent across several genres.

Though not quite as massive, Capital City Film Festival co-found-

er and organizer Dominic Cochran believes an extended weekend of eight drive-in and walk-up film screenings at a downtown parking lot should still easily prove to be a fun time.

"The interesting thing about this lineup is that it's even more curated than our typical festival. Our acceptance rate is already pretty competitive: We get 300 or 400 film submissions every year and we trim them down to the best," Cochran said.

"When we have 10 days and several venues, we have a lot of film blocks. This one is truly the best of the best because we only have eight blocks. We really worked it down with the selection committee. We're really excited about these films."

The eight films on the lineup tackle a variety of styles, from the multi-generational familial drama present in "The Lion Rock" to the bombastic musical comedy of "Electric Jesus," which happens to star Brian Baumgartner — best known for his role as Kevin in "The Office."

A handful of anthologies will also be present this weekend. Thursday's 7 p.m. show is the "Drive-in Episodic Program," a mixtape of episodic pilots and programs that "breakout from the tropes and molds of modern American television." A playlist of short films, the "Drive-in Short Block," will be screened at 9:30 p.m. Friday. Capping off the mini-festival at 9:30 p.m. Sunday is a collection of music videos and animations, "Drive-in Music Videos and Animations."

## MSU Theater satire skewers American marriage culture

By MARY CUSACK

Count on MSU Theatre Department's Rob Roznowski to skillfully direct a perfect play that captures the zeitgeist of America.

### Review

As the nation remains divided by traditional versus liberal values, "A Contemporary American's Guide to A Successful Marriage © 1959" captures and skewers post-World War II

segments from the Narrator (Christopher Eastland), and onstage appearances by the Narrator, the play centers on two couples entering into wedded bliss in 1959. The plot traces the development of the couples' relationships over five years and finds that the gender politics of the early-'60s pushes the marriages toward the "for worse" end of the spectrum.

Abby (Andie Nash) and Mason (Stefon Funderburke) are high school sweethearts who follow the expected pathway of marrying after high school. The virginal couple are innocent and naive and have not learned to communicate beyond a superficial level. Nash is at first annoying in her airheaded complacency, but as she becomes self-actualized through the span of the play, Nash imbues Abby with confidence and gravitas.

The other couple is a scandalous mismatch. Dan (Sebastian Barnett) is a wunderkind 16-year-old college

freshman when he meets 23-year-old grad student Ruth (Joie Raymond). Ruth takes Dan's virginity, gets pregnant, and spends the next few years emasculating and imprisoning him in a role-reversed marriage.

Keeping with MSU's COVID policy, the actors perform in masks. Surprisingly, this is a minimal distraction. Nash, Barnett and Raymond in particular are strong enough performers that the emotions they display transcend the masks. Occasionally a line is lost when an actor spoke too quickly or softly, or turned away from the audience, but this was rare in the Saturday night performance. Enduring this "new normal" was an acceptable tradeoff to being able to see live theater again.

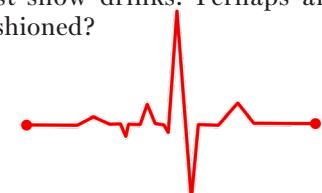
Robert Bastron's script is sharp and funny, but Roznowski's choices as the director and the excellent production values elevate the source material. The prerecorded segments that media

designer Alison Dobbins created with the Narrator seamlessly match the style of media clips from the '50s. Kasee Arnett's set design and Eamon Moriarty's props are chic, fun and functional. Costume designer Zech Saenz employs a neat trick with the costumes that reinforces the theme of becoming a self-actualized individual.

One of the most powerful statements about the social change taking place occurs in the final scene, and a seemingly small directorial choice sends a huge message. As a hint to avoid a spoiler, audience members should pay attention to the Narrator's physical placement in the final scene, and discuss as they unwind over post-show drinks. Perhaps an Old-Fashioned?

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# Fall weed snack guide: Pumpkin spice and pumpkin spice

And a few other cannabis snacks for the fall season

By KYLE KAMINSKI

It's no secret in the City Pulse office that I'm obsessed with fall-inspired flavors: Pumpkin spice lattes, cinnamon and hazelnut pastries, maple syrup and salted caramels, spiced apple ciders and donuts, toasted marshmallows and a shot or two of bourbon to help stay warm by the fire.

I also love cannabis. So, it only made sense to drop about \$100 at Jars Cannabis on Cedar Street and assemble this penultimate seasonal stoner guidebook for autumn-flavored edibles.

Enjoy your snacks, white girls.

**Detroit Edibles –**

**Cinnamon Toast Crispy**

**Price – \$15**

**THC – 100 mg**

These delightful little squares were a real personal throwback. Back in college, I thought I was a real culinary genius for using Cinnamon Toast Crunch (among other cereals) to make my own cannabis-infused edibles while my friends kept it simple with brownies



and Rice Krispy treats.

And I must admit: These are far better — and probably much stronger — than the dormitory brand creations that I spent about four years developing while at Central Michigan University.

Sticky and layered with cinnamon, these cereal-inspired treats were deliciously soft and gooey and kept me in a state of pure tranquility throughout

most of Saturday morning and afternoon.

**UBaked –**

**Spiced Apple Cider Chewables**

**Price – \$12**

**THC – 100 mg**

These limited edition, autumn-inspired gummies have been flying off the shelves at Jars. One customer bought a bag and returned less than an hour later for another order, the staff told me. And I can see why. Each package is filled with five tart and brightly flavored squares that taste just like a cup of spiced apple cider. Unlike other gummies, they also didn't stick together, come out of the package in one giant blob or leave a sticky layer of sugary residue on my teeth. With only 20 mg of THC per gummy, they're great for newbies who need to slowly find a perfect dose.

**Detroit Edibles –**

**Pumpkin Spice Fudge**

**Price – \$12**

**THC – 100 mg**

This might be the most sinful edible on the market in Greater Lansing. It's rich, creamy and oh-so-dense with the perfect amount of cinnamon, sugar and spice — like a much more caloric version of pumpkin pie. Unlike the last two, I also couldn't taste the slightest hint of cannabis.

But it was definitely there. About 90 minutes after I gobbled down this decadent slice of fudge, I lost all motivation to do anything other than lounge around the house with half-opened eyes.

**Mojo –**

**Hazelnut Chocolate Bites**

**Price – \$9.60**

**THC – 100 mg**

Jars has one of the more expansive edible menus in Greater Lansing, and

these individually wrapped chocolates were definitely among the best bargains on the shelves last week. The creamy milk chocolate was clearly made with high-quality ingredients; the mild hazelnut notes also provided just the right amount of cover to drown out any residual cannabis plant flavors.

The best part: These are infused with an energetic and uplifting sativa blend. I split them up with friends at a wedding and still had enough enthusiasm to stay out on the dance floor for hours.

**Covert Cups –**

**S'Mores Cups**

**Price – \$12**

**THC – 100 mg**

These little bites are the perfect combination of creamy chocolate, marshmallow chunks and bits of graham cracker crust. And at 50 mg of THC a piece, they're way too tasty to be this potent. I ate one after breakfast on Sunday morning and enjoyed a mild euphoric buzz that lasted about four hours — just in time to sample the last remaining snack in my fall grab bag from Friday.

**Proper Balm –**

**Extra Strength Lip Balm**

**Price – \$10**

**THC – 60 mg**

With colder weather approaching, it's important to take protective measures to prevent chapped lips. Why not get high at the same time? This lip balm is infused with a 1:1 ratio of CBD and THC and has a cooling, minty tingle after application. With only 60 mg in the whole container, however, it's unlikely you'll feel any effects unless you're a total newbie or you eat the whole jar.

**Bud bargain**

This column recently featured a listing of the cheapest ounces available in Greater Lansing. And the bidding wars are still underway this week with a new official record holder this month for the cheapest weed in town. Pinnacle has recreational ounces listed at \$99 beginning on Thursday, Oct. 21 while supplies last. First Class Cannabis Co. also has a few ounces listed for \$100, as well as dank promotion on a wide array of vaporizer cartridges — four for \$100. Stock up soon!

*Kyle Kaminski is a City Pulse staff writer and cannabis enthusiast who has been smoking marijuana just about every day for the last decade. Every week, Kaminski samples some of the best cannabis products available in Greater Lansing, gets real high and writes about them.*

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# HALLOWEEN EVENTS GUIDE

Now that October is well into the groove, spooky season has entered full swing. There's still all sorts of gothic attractions and events for you to check out across the Greater Lansing area. Here's a handy guide to get you started as we approach Halloween and all its nightmarish festivities.

## **Spooky Events:**

### **Oct. 20: Souls to the Polls Trunk-or-Treat Kickoff**

Drive through with your car and receive candy and fun items from participating organizations in a fun, family-friendly, nonpartisan and socially distanced event that promotes voter participation and citizen engagement.

Wednesday, Oct. 20, 11:30 a.m.

South Washington Election Unit  
2500 S. Washington Ave., Lansing

### **Oct. 23, 24: Potter Park Fall Zoo-Tacular**

Potter Park's annual autumn celebration is full of colors, costumes, candy and more. Put on a Halloween get-up and take a seasonal stroll through the zoo.

Zoo hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing  
Potterparkzoo.org

### **Oct. 23: Trick or Truck at Royal Scot**

Royal Scot Golf & Bowl is hosting a kid-friendly Halloween party featuring haunted golf cart rides, trick of treats, games, music, food and a costume contest.

Saturday, Oct. 23, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

4722 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing  
Facebook.com/RoyalScotGolfAndBowl

### **Oct. 24: East Lansing Great Pumpkin Walk**

Families are invited to bring their children to downtown East Lansing in full costume to receive free door-to-door treats from participating downtown businesses. The Great Pumpkin Walk also feature live entertainment in Ann Street Plaza, pumpkin painting and superheroes and princesses handing out candy.

Sunday, Oct. 24, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Downtown East Lansing  
Cityofeastlansing.com/Halloween

### **Oct. 29: Halloween Blues Cruise**

Legendary Lansing blues band Root Doctor continues its yearlong string of farewell shows with a haunted Halloween cruise on the Michigan Princess. There will be a costume contest and a full buffet dinner with prime rib.

Friday, Oct. 29, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Michigan Princess  
3004 W. Main St., Lansing  
Facebook.com/PrincessRiverboat

### **Oct. 29: Smoothie Queen Spooktacular Halloween Mixer**

Smoothie Queen is hosting a Halloween party and costume contest with a \$25 entry fee featuring karaoke, giveaways, great food and all sorts of spooky fun.

Friday, Oct. 29, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Lansing City Market  
325 City Market Dr., Lansing  
Facebook.com/SmoothieQueenLansing

### **Oct. 30: Rocky's Halloween Party**

Headband will rock out at Rocky's Roadhouse Bar & Grill. There is also a costume contest featuring several categories — including best male, best female, best group and most creative.

Saturday, Oct. 30, 7 p.m.

Rocky's Roadhouse Bar & Grill  
2470 N. Cedar St., Holt  
Facebook.com/Rockyshot

### **Oct. 30: Dr. Esophagus Presents: Pumpkin to Talk About**

A Halloween concert is coming to The Fledge featuring frightening artists Lake Gonzo, Tangelo, The War Balloons, Vincie D and, of course, macabre headliners Dr. Esophagus and the Scoundrels.

Saturday, Oct. 30, 7 p.m.  
1300 Eureka St., Lansing  
TheFledge.com

### **Oct. 30: Drive-Thru Halloween**

Join the Lansing Parks and Recreation Department for Drive-Thru Halloween and Trick-or-Treating. Vendors will be set up along the driving route giving out candy and other resources. Please note that traffic will be directed one way on the driving route.

Saturday, Oct. 30, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Frances Park  
2701 Moores River Dr., Lansing  
Parksonline.lansingmi.gov

### **Oct. 30-31: How-To Halloween**

How-To Halloween is a family-friendly festival that features an exhibit hall packed with theatrical displays, interactive games, unique vendors and fun live entertainment.

Saturday, Oct. 30, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 31, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Lansing Center  
333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
How-ToHalloween.com

### **Oct. 31: Audio Air Force Halloween Show**

Audio Air Force is returning to the

stage at The Robin Theatre for a performance of the radio versions of the classic Hollywood era horror films "The Birds" and "The House on the Haunted Hill."

Sunday, Oct. 31, 4:30 p.m.  
1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing  
Facebook.com/Audioairforce

### **Oct. 31: Arachno-Broadia!**

The Broad is hosting a spooky afternoon of eight-legged fun for all ages. Arachno-Broadia is inspired by artwork from the museum's vast archive and collection and will feature creepy insects from the MSU Bug House.

Sunday, Oct. 31, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
547 E. Circle Dr., East Lansing  
broadmuseum.msu.edu

### **Oct. 31: Drag Brunch at Ellison Halloween**

Ellison Brewery's REO Town location is hosting a Halloween-themed drag show featuring Alicia Moore, Bentley James, September Murphy, Cali Blaq and several others. Brunch will also be served.

Sunday, Oct. 31, 11 a.m.  
1314 S. Washington Ave., Lansing  
Ellisonbrewing.com

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# Favorite Things

## Jesse Gonzales and his Virgen de Guadalupe collection

*Jesse Gonzales is a photographer who graduated from Michigan State University in 1971 and worked at the university until his retirement. Together with his wife, Juana, he amassed a grand collection of Virgen De Guadalupe statues, figurines and ephemera.*

I started this collection sometime after 1976. I probably couldn't point out the first one, but it probably came from one of my trips to Mexico. I'd buy one or two there and take pictures of all the murals and artwork around the cities. I got more every time my wife, Juana, and I visited a different city or different locale, including Mexico City, Oaxaca and all along the Southwest border and Pacific side of Mexico. We were collecting things that were different than what we'd normally find in Michigan.

I've purchased them all over the U.S. — Ann Arbor, Chicago, Texas, all over the Southwest — the Virgen de



Guadalupe is the patron saint of the Americas. Every time I went somewhere new, I found something different. I probably didn't see it as a collection early on, but when I'd put them all together, I started to notice what I had. I said, "This is a really nice collection!" To see the artistry in some of these things is just astounding.

We can look at these and say, "Where did this come from?" Then

it brings memories of where we went. It's like when you take a snapshot of somewhere you traveled, which I also do. These just add to those memories. I never thought of them in total until I got all of them on the mantelpiece. It's not too far off from my collection of Homies vending machine toys and several other collections of Hispanic-related materials — Mexican in particular, or what you would consider Chicano.

I've amassed quite a few books and other types of items — photographs, magazines and newspapers. The first collection I had of that type of material, I donated it to the Michigan State University Library's Cesar E. Chavez Collection.

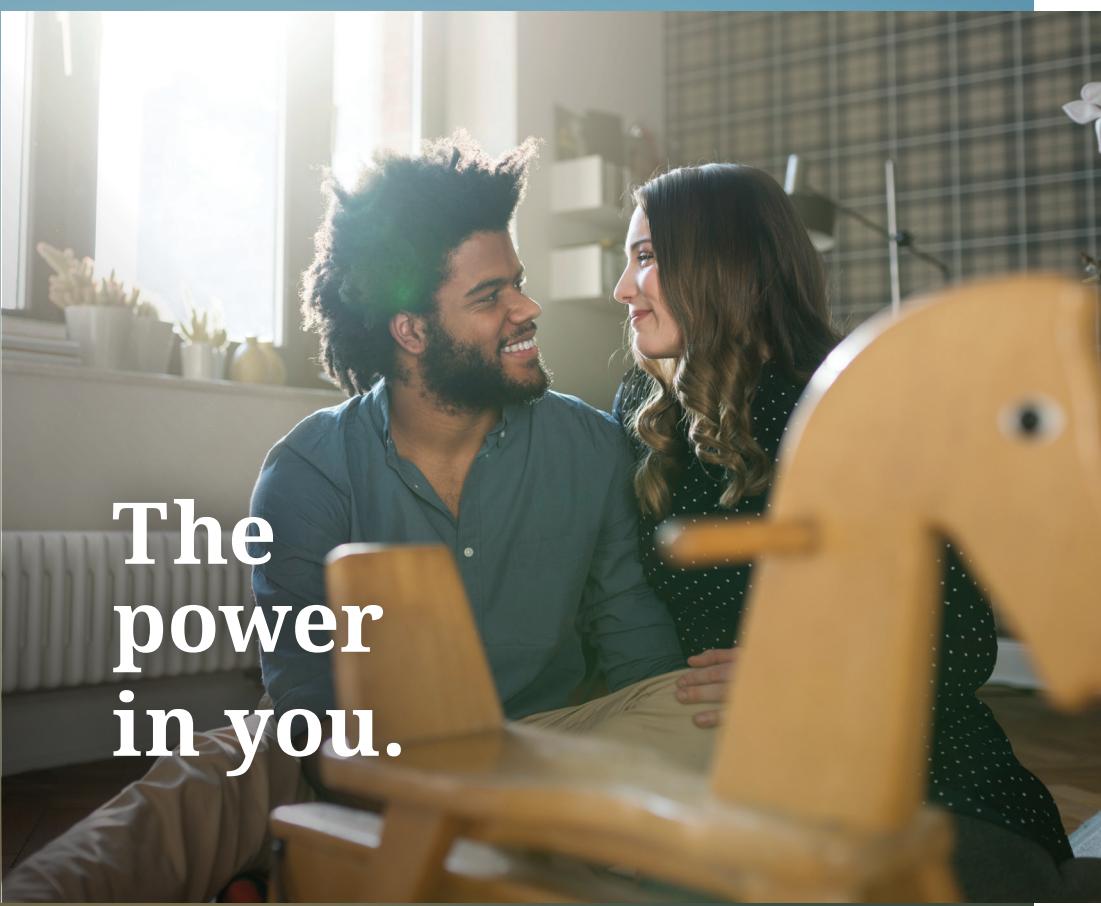
I feel an immediate personal con-

nnection to the Virgen de Guadalupe because my father's name is Lupe — people in the city where I grew up would call him Don Lupito. My older brother, who is also named Lupe, was a large part of me growing up. I also grew up Catholic, and everybody where we grew up had a picture of John F. Kennedy and the Virgen de Guadalupe in their house.

The Virgen de Guadalupe is part of my upbringing. Even now, images of the Virgen De Guadalupe are still so prevalent, particularly with the United Farm Workers. That's always going to be with me, and I hope to enlarge my collection a little bit more. I will likely donate it when I'm done collecting. I'll hand it over to a museum or something like that.

*Interview edited and condensed by Skyler Ashley. If you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, please email Skyler@Lansingcitypulse.com*

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# The Lebowsky Center's 'Evita' has flash and star power

**By DAVID WINKELSTERN**

I believe the Lebowsky Center for the Performing Arts could take an odd, sometimes dull and mostly forgettable musical and make it a must-see show.

**Review** Its production of "Evita" is proof.

The complicated and sometimes dissonant Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice musical doesn't have a lot

of memorable songs besides "Don't Cry For Me Argentina" and "Another Suitcase in Another Hall." This "Evita" — with nearly continuous

singing — is more a grandiose opera than a musical with splashy numbers. "Evita" has few lead roles and no spectacular finale.

Ah, but in the hands of those like director Garrett Bradley, conductor Jillian Boots, set designers Dirk Rennick and Dan Wenzlick and choreographers Erica Duffield and Taylor Engel, the tricky "Evita" becomes a local production worthy of a stage in a city much bigger than Owosso.

Bradley skillfully keeps a 21-member ensemble (four from Lansing) energetically adapting to multiple roles. The brilliant, seven-piece band sounds more like a full orchestra. The detailed, functional, two-story set with splendid balconies inside the



David Winkelstern/City Pulse

"Evita" headlines the flashy marquee at the Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts in Owosso.

Lebowsky Center is magnificent. The tango-influenced dances are flashy and well executed.

Powerhouse singers like Megan Meyer as Evita Peron and Diego Perez as Che Guevara make Lebowsky's "Evita" nigh impossible to neglect. Meyer sings mightily through almost the entire show, which runs for about two hours and includes an intermission. She plays the famous Argentine first lady with striking diva qualities of her own. Meyer's monumental voice and performance left me star-struck.

As a narrator, Perez also wails forcefully during most of the performance. His character, Guevara — who, like

Evita, is also a fictionalized version of an historical figure — helps explain what can be a confusing series of historical events that reveal Evita's rise to power from the poor, rural fringes of Buenos Aires.

Adam Gordon's lighting design adds atmosphere and style to an already grand production. Numerous costumes by Alissa Britten — including a stunning ball gown — enhance the authenticity of a story set in a time period that stretches from the '30s to the '50s. Brandon Hook's sound effects and sound quality are superb.

The opening night performance, played to a just about full house, was nearly flawless — except for the squeaky wheels of a casket cart. When the stage was filled with the ensemble's majestic harmonies, or with only Meyer's colossal voice, the impact was compelling. And with so much to look and marvel at, I will remember Lebowsky's "Evita" — even if I won't recall much of the script.

It should be noted that the Lebowsky Center requires all patrons to wear a mask. The cast and ushers are vaccinated. No concessions are sold and any meet and greets of the performers have been suspended.

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# Michigan-centric books to check out this fall

By BILL CASTANIER

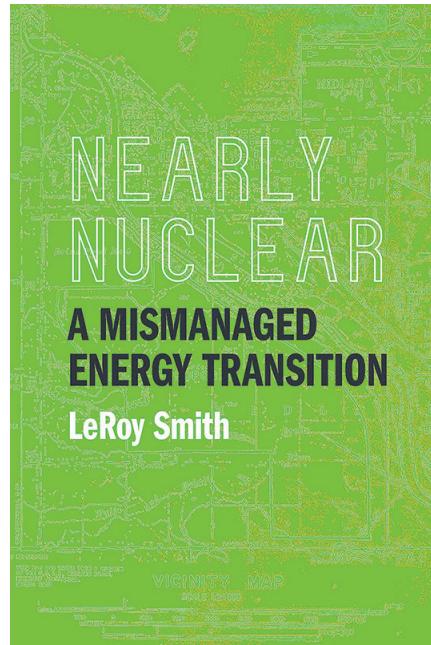
Here in Mid-Michigan the leaves may still be a couple of weeks from turning into spectacular works of natural art, but that's not stopping Michigan State University Press and Wayne State University Press from publishing some important works of poetry, essays and history. In the next few weeks watch for interviews with the authors in City Pulse.

MSU and Wayne State have long been noted for publishing the poetry of Michigan authors, and this year's entries should be at the top of every poetry lover's list.

Jim Daniels' newest collection of poetry, "Gun/Shy," published by Wayne State, has Daniels at his best with his more than 50 poems covering topics as varied as his mother's "hamburger surprise" to race, privilege and factory work. Daniels' work has always been autobiographical in nature. All I can say about this collection of poetry is that it will bite you in the ass with its frankness.

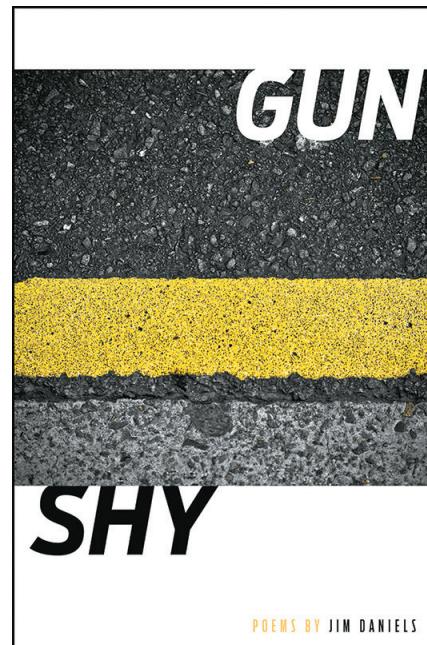
MSU Press has a number of new poetry books for you to devour this fall by a roaring fire. Laura Apol, MSU professor and former Lansing poet laureate, explores therapeutic writing in her new book, "A Fine Yellow Dust," which examines the unbearable loss of her daughter Hanna to suicide. She allows readers into her own life and the intimate grief she faced in the first year after her daughter's death.

Derek Sheffield's newest work of poetry, "Not for Luck," also published by MSU Press and its special imprint Wheelbarrow Books, details not only the natural world, but also the ordinary passages of time of fatherhood and other familial relationships.



An extraordinary book that won't be out until later this year is "Jim Harrison: Complete Collection," which is being issued as a limited edition by his longtime publisher Copper Canyon Press. The collection includes every published poem of Harrison's 50-year career. Publisher's Weekly, the bible of publishing, called him a "renegade genius." Preorder this book soon or you will be on sidelines as it sells out.

Other books published by MSU Press that will attract Michigan-centric readers are "Nearly Nuclear," by LeRoy Smith, about the never completed nuclear power facility in Midland, and "Architectural Missionary," by Steven C. Brisson, about Fred Charlton, the most prolific architect in the Upper Peninsula. Charlton's designs, which can be seen across the Upper Peninsula. They include Newberry State Hospital, the Marquette County Courthouse and



POEMS BY JIM DANIELS



POEMS BY LAURA APOL

numerous baronial private residences. Also exciting is "The Accidental Reef," by Lynne Heasley, which illuminates the underwater world of the Great Lakes.

MSU Press has also published one of the most important history books this year, "Tempting All the Gods: Joseph P. Kennedy Ambassador to Britain," by MSU History Professor Emeritus Jane Karoline Vieth, who spent more than 40 years researching and writing this detailed study of Kennedy as ambassador to the Court of St. James from 1938 to 1940. The book provides tremendous insight into the highs and the lows of his stint as ambassador before being recalled for being soft on Adolf Hitler and Germany's rise to power and World War II.

Readers will delight in the stories of the Kennedy family as they relocate to England with great hope, but over-

nights with queen and king of England soon turn to diplomatic bungling. The book is also an interesting look at the senior Kennedy's relationship with President Franklin Roosevelt, Neville Chamberlain and Winston Churchill. I laughed out loud, and so will you, when I read the passage about Roosevelt asking Kennedy to "drop his pants."

"Tempting All the Gods" provides great insight into not only the years leading up to World War II, but also all the travails the Kennedy family faced.

Finally, another important poetry book is "Schema Geometrica: Poems," by Lansing's first poet laureate, Dennis Hinrichsen. It is the author's ninth full-length collection of poetry. In addition to poetry, the book is illustrated by Marnie Galloway, a Chicago cartoonist, and Lansing's own Julian Van Dyke, who is a muralist and children's author.

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"Every leaf  
speaks bliss to me,  
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from the Autumn tree."

- Emily Bronte

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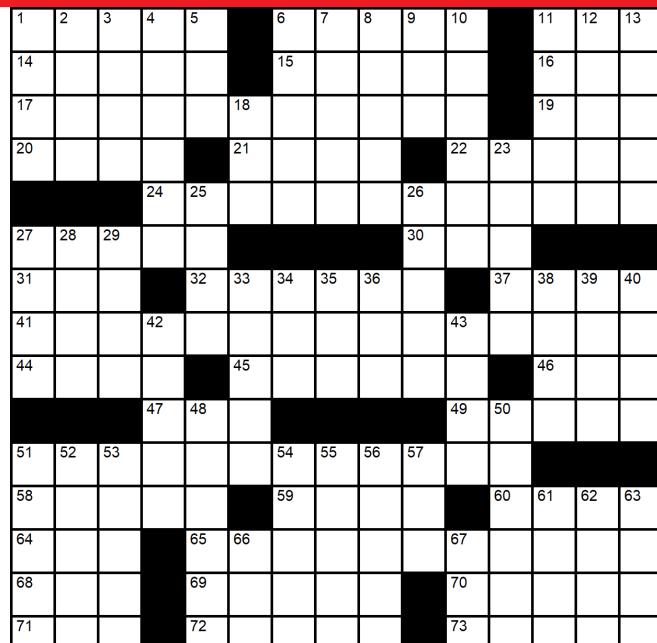
**Jonesin' Crossword**

By Matt Jones

"It's Time to Get Things Started"--this is what we call these characters.

by Matt Jones  
Across

- 1 Jousting weapon
- 6 Subjects that get "buried"
- 11 "Cribs" network
- 14 Bend (down)
- 15 Herb similar to black licorice
- 16 Paranormalist Geller
- 17 In-N-Out Burger "secret menu" order
- 19 Peccadillo
- 20 Ripped up
- 21 Land west of Wales
- 22 Express a viewpoint
- 24 Science lab container that could be corrosive if spilled
- 27 Lingers on
- 30 "One-of-a-kind" digital asset sometimes labelled a "crypto-collectible"
- 31 MSNBC host Melber
- 32 "Empire" star \_\_\_ P. Henson
- 37 Jacob's Old Testament twin
- 41 Genre associated with Hunter S. Thompson
- 44 Texas Hold 'em stake
- 45 Boat or plane
- 46 It may touch the same-named part of a cup
- 47 Airport near the U.S. Open site
- 49 Celebratory events
- 51 It's typically made with apples, walnuts, and mayo
- 58 Homer classic
- 59 Highway subdivision
- 60 Actor Alan of whom Bill Hader does a good impression
- 64 Defensive tennis shot
- 65 Chocolate-dipped cookie desserts



supposedly named after Phil Rizzuto

68 Venezuelan's "very"

69 Muscat resident, for one

70 Newspaper pieces

71 Programming language named for Lord Byron's daughter

72 Evenings in ads

73 Astronaut's pressurized outfit

**Down**

1 Aspiring atty's exam

2 "\_\_\_ extra cost"

3 Bleak crime fiction genre

4 Acquire

5 DDT-banning org.

6 Corrective eye surgery

7 "\_\_\_ Nous" (1983 film)

8 Someone performing home repairs, e.g.

9 Night school class, for short

10 Accompany to the airport, maybe

11 Madonna #1 title that's

... self-descriptive

12 "If I Had a Hammer" singer Lopez

13 Covered with ivy

18 Actress Salonga

23 "Slumdog Millionaire" actor Dev

25 "Que es \_\_\_?" ("What's this?")

26 Cat-\_\_\_-tails

27 Long story (not short)

28 "\_\_\_: Legacy" (2010 sci-fi sequel)

29 Contraction and perpetual bane of grammar purists

33 Eastern European relish made with red pepper, eggplant, and chilis

34 Fish eggs

35 Airport for SXSW attendees

36 Eleventh graders, for short

38 Spot for a houseplant

39 It comprises 11 time zones

40 Diamond deciders

42 Nintendo franchise, familiarly

43 Aquarium growth

48 Brooklyn or Romeo Beckham, to Sir Elton John

50 Adjusts to something new

51 Name yelled at the end of "The Flintstones"

52 How some things are read

53 Nation that's mostly Sahara Desert

54 It may consist of a soft drink with soft serve

55 It joins the Rhone at Lyon

56 "No" voters

57 "Stagger \_\_\_" (African-American folk song)

61 "In \_\_\_ of gifts ..."

62 "Unforgettable" singer Lovato

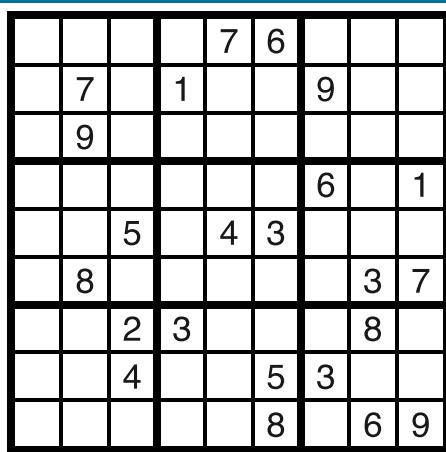
63 Kind of prof. or D.A.

66 901, to Nero

67 Fix, as in gambling

Answers on page 34

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**SUDOKU****Advanced****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 34

**Free Will Astrology** By Rob Brezsny

.October 20-26, 2021

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Even the wisest among us are susceptible to being fascinated by our emotional pain. Even those of us who do a lot of inner work may be captivated and entranced by frustrations and vexations and irritants. Our knotty problems make us interesting, even attractive! They shape our self-image. No wonder we are sometimes "intensely, even passionately, attached to suffering," in the words of author Fyodor Dostoevsky. That's the bad news. The good news, Aries, is that in the coming weeks, you will have extra power to divest yourself of sadness and distress and anxiety that you no longer need. I recommend you choose a few outmoded sources of unhappiness and enact a ritual to purge them.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** In Norway, you don't call your romantic partner "boyfriend" or "girlfriend." You say \*kjaereste\*, which is gender neutral and is translated as "dearest." In Sweden, you refer to your lover as \*älskling\*, meaning "my beloved one." How about Finland? One term the Finns use for the person they love is \*kulta\*, which means gold. I hope you'll be inspired by these words to experiment with new nicknames and titles for the allies you care for. It's a favorable time to reinvent the images you project onto each other. I hope you will refine your assumptions about each other and upgrade your hopes for each other. Be playful and have fun as you enhance your empathy.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** The band Creedence Clearwater Revival, led by Gemini musician John Fogerty, achieved tremendous success with their rollicking sound and socially conscious lyrics. They sold 33 million records worldwide. In 1970, they were the best-selling band on the planet, exceeding even the Beatles. And yet, the band endured for just over four years. I foresee the possibility of a comparable phenomenon in your life during the coming months. Something that may not last forever will ultimately generate potent, long-term benefits. What might it be? Meditate on the possibility. Be alert for its coming. Create the conditions necessary for it to thrive.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Cancerian philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau wrote, "I am unlike anyone I have ever met. I will even venture to say that I am like no one in the whole world. I may be no better, but at least I am different." I urge you to make that your own affirmation in the coming weeks. It's high time to boldly claim how utterly unique you are—to be full of reasonable pride about the fact that you have special qualities that no one in history has ever had. Bonus: The cosmos is also granting you permission to brag more than usual about your humility and sensitivity, as well as about your other fine qualities.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Nigerian poet Ijeoma Umebinyuo writes, "I will always want myself. Always. Darling, I wrote myself a love poem two nights ago. I am a woman who grows flowers between her teeth. I dance myself out of pain. This wanting of myself gets stronger with age. I host myself to myself. I am whole." I recommend you adopt Umebinyuo's attitude as you upgrade your relationship with yourself during the coming weeks. It's time for you to pledge to give yourself everything you wish a lover would offer you. You're ready to claim more of your birthright as an ingenious, diligent self-nurturer.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** As author David Brooks reminds us, "Exposure to genius has the power to expand your consciousness. If you spend a lot of time with genius, your mind will end up bigger and broader than if you spend your time only with run-of-the-mill stuff." I hope this strategy will be at the top of your priority list during the next four weeks. You will have abundant opportunities to put a lot of "excellent stuff into your brain," as Brooks suggests. Uncoincidentally, you are also likely to be a rich source of inspiration and illumination yourself. I suspect people will recognize—even more than they usually do—that being around you will make them smarter. I suggest you help them realize that fact.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Self-help author James Clear describes a scenario I urge you to keep in mind. He speaks of "a stonecutter hammering away at his rock, perhaps a hundred times without as much as a crack showing in it. Yet at the hundred and first blow, it will split in two." Clear adds that "it was not that last blow that did it—but all that had gone before." You'll thrive by cultivating that same patience and determination in the coming weeks, Libra. Proceed with dogged certainty that your sustained small efforts will eventually yield potent results.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Nobel Prize-winning poet Odysseus Elytis was speaking like a consummate Scorpio when he said, "What I love is always being born. What I love is beginning always." Like most Scorpions, he knew an essential secret about how to ensure he could enjoy that intense rhythm. He had to be skilled in the art of metaphorical death. How else could he be born again and again? Every time he rose up anew into the world like a beginner, it was because he had shed old ideas, past obsessions, and worn-out tricks. I trust you've been attending to this transformative work in the past few weeks, Scorpio. Ready to be born again? Ready to begin anew? To achieve maximum renaissance, get rid of a few more things.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** "I haven't had enough sleep for years," author Franz Kafka (1883-1924) once confessed to a friend. It showed in his work, which was brilliant but gaunt and haunted. He wrote stories that would be written by a person who was not only sleep-deprived but dream-deprived. The anxiety he might have purged from his system through sleep instead spilled out into the writing he did in waking life. Anyway, I'm hoping you will make Kafka your anti-role model as you catch up on the sleep you've missed out on. The coming weeks will be a fantastic time to fall in love with the odd, unpredictable, regenerative stories that well up from your subconscious depths while you're in bed at night. They will refresh your imagination in all the right ways.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** "The reason life works at all is that not everyone in your tribe is nuts on the same day," writes author Anne Lamott. I will add that on rare occasions, virtually everyone in your tribe is functioning at high levels of competency and confidence. According to my analysis, now is one of those times. That's why I encourage you to take extraordinary measures to marshal your tribe's creative, constructive efforts. I believe that together you can collaborate to generate wonders and marvels that aren't normally achievable. Group synergy is potentially at a peak—and will be fully activated if you help lead the way.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** I believe your plan for the rest of 2021 should borrow from the mini-manifesto that Aquarian author Virginia Woolf formulated at age 51: "I will go on adventuring, changing, opening my mind and my eyes, refusing to be stamped and stereotyped. The thing is to free one's self: to let it find its dimensions, not be impeded." Does that sound like fun, Aquarius? It should be—although it may require you to overcome temptations to retreat into excess comfort and inertia.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** "Anyone who isn't embarrassed of who they were last year probably isn't learning enough," writes author and philosopher Alain de Botton. That's too extreme a statement for my taste. But I agree with the gist of his comment. If we are not constantly outgrowing who we are, we are not sufficiently alert and alive. Luckily for you, Pisces, you are now in a phase of rapid ripening. At least you should be. The cosmos is conspiring to help you learn how to become a more vibrant and authentic version of yourself. Please cooperate! Seek all available updates.

# TURN IT DOWN!

**Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene**

BY RICH TUPICA

## WHO'S PLAYING 'THE FIDDLE'?



(courtesy photos)

### A quick look at upcoming Ten Pound Fiddle Shows

The Ten Pound Fiddle has been bringing in world-class folk music and dance events to East Lansing since 1975, is still going as strong as ever. It's always an assorted mix of amazingly talented national, international and local folkies.

Just last week, Michigan's own May Erlewine (a regular on the series) performed a Fiddle set. As for the rest of the month, they have a diverse roster of musicians performing at University United Methodist Church (UUMC). Here's a quick look at what's in store over the next couple weeks. Be sure to check [tenpoundfiddle.org](http://tenpoundfiddle.org) for the Fiddle's COVID policy.

**Jake Blount and His Band**  
University United Methodist Church  
Thursday, Oct. 21, 7:30 pm  
\$20, \$18 Fiddle Members, \$5  
Students

Praised by The Guardian as a "brilliant banjoist, fiddle player and singer," Jake Blount might play old-time music, but he is newly rising star. The Providence, R.I.-based banjoist, fiddler, singer and ethnomusicologist is also half of Tui, an emerging, and internationally touring, Americana duo. Thursday, Blount performs with his band at a Ten Pound Fiddle show set for the University United Methodist Church. Fans of similar artists like Rhiannon Gibbons or Amythyst Kiah might want to catch Blount in this inti-

mate venue.

Blount, who's appeared on Radiolab, Soundcheck and NPR's Weekend Edition, is not only a musician, but also a teacher of the craft. He often instructs fiddle and banjo at festivals, including the Midwest Banjo Camp. He has also shared his music and research at the Newport Folk Festival, the Smithsonian Institution and Yale University, to only name a few. Beyond that, he is a two-time winner, and many-time finalist, of the Appalachian String Band Music Festival, also known as Clifftop. Coming from the old-time string band tradition, Blount melds blues, bluegrass and spirituals into his own distinct sound.

To preview his sound, check out his debut LP, "Spider Tales," which is out now on Free Dirt Records & Service Co. The album debuted at No. 2 on the Billboard Bluegrass Chart and received praise from the likes of Rolling Stone and Billboard.

**Low Lily, featuring Lissa Schneckenburger**  
University United Methodist Church  
Friday, Oct. 22, 7:30 pm  
\$20, \$18 Fiddle Members, \$5  
Students

With a couple of decades of performances behind them, Low Lily is known for its seamless blend of traditional folk and pop melodies. It's rooted in tradition but as sounds fresh as ever.

This upcoming Fiddle show catches the Brattleboro, Vermont-based trio on a rare Midwest tour. The outfit interprets songs from various genres with Lissa Schneckenburger on fiddle, Liz Simmons on guitar and Flynn Cohen on both guitar and mandolin. All three members share vocal duties, and deliver exceptionally matched vocal harmonies. Add in some perfect picking to that equation and the result is a joyously superb ensemble.

Over the years, Low Lily has performed upbeat gigs throughout North America and the United Kingdom, and, along the way, have earned two No. 1 songs on international folk radio and two Independent Music Award wins.

For a taste of what they can do, back in December, Low Lily released a remix of "Dark Skies Again," a song written by Sarah Yanni and originally recorded for the trio's 2018 album, "10,000 Days Like These." The dreamy single was accompanied by an animated video, which is streamed at [lowlily.com](https://lowlily.com).

**Joel Mabus**  
University United Methodist Church  
Friday, Oct. 29, 7:30 pm  
\$20, \$18 Fiddle Members, \$5  
Students

Closing out the month of October is Joel Mabus, a Fiddle vet and Midwest folk legend. Born in 1953, Mabus was raised by family of old-time country performers. The family likely started

playing for fun on their porch, but by the 1930s, during the Great Depression, became a traveling "Hillbilly" troupe for Chicago's WLS, home of the famed "National Barn Dance" radio show.

Mabus' father, a champion fiddler, would pick while his mom accompanied him on vocals, banjo and accordion. Sadly, she was widowed when Joel was only 2-years old. From there, in a small Southern Illinois town, his mother raised her still budding family on meagre social security survivor-benefit checks and some additional income from accordion lessons and other odd jobs.

All of that laid the groundwork for Mabus' authentic musical journey. While he's toured major folk clubs and festivals across the country, he remains firmly centered in the Midwest. For decades now, he's been widely known as a risk-taking multi-instrumentalist with a welltravelled voice (check out 2019's "Time and Truth" LP for proof of that). Perhaps "Musichound Folk: The Essential Album Guide" book said it best: "It's hard to imagine another artist on the folk scene who combines the same concise, deceptively understated, lyrical insight and sometimes devastating wit with such world-class instrumental prowess."

For tickets, visit [tenpoundfiddle.org](http://tenpoundfiddle.org).

# FALL SPECIALS

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# OUT on the TOWN

**Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week**

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com). Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Suzi at (517) 999-6704.



## Hallobean Party at Soldan's Pet Supplies

South Lansing Soldan's Pet Supplies

Saturday, Noon to 4 p.m.

5016 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing

[Facebook.com/SoldansPetSupplies](https://www.facebook.com/SoldansPetSupplies)

Love dogs? Love cats? And do you love Halloween, costumes and candy? Well, of course you do! You also obviously know that the only thing better than enjoying all those things, is enjoying them all at the same time.

Against All Odds Cat Rescue is pairing up with Soldan's Pet Supplies on South Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard for a special one-day holiday event that will include trunk-or-treating, cat and dog adoptions, shopping, raffles, food, games, barbecue and pumpkin and dog treat decorating. You are invited to bring your favorite pet along with you and are highly encouraged to dress it up in a cute or spooky Halloween costume. You can wear your favorite costume too — might we suggest going with your pet as a couple?

### Wednesday, October 20

**Allen Farmers Market** - Allen Farmers Market from 3-6:30 p.m. at 2100 E Michigan Ave. 517-999-3911.

**Full Moon Ritual** - Join us in person or online. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Weavers of the Web, ATC, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**Pumpkin Decorating Party** - Registration Required! 6-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

**Wednesday Workdays at CCBS** - 9 a.m.-12. Capital City Bird Sanctuary, 6001 Delta River Dr., Lansing. [michiganaudubon.org](http://michiganaudubon.org).

### Thursday, October 21

**Bath Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St, Bath. [shopbfm.org](http://shopbfm.org).

**Dimondale Farmers' Market** - 3-7 p.m. 136 N Bridge St, Dimondale. [villageofdimondale.org](http://villageofdimondale.org).

**Jake Blount and His Band** - 7:30-10 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing. [tenpoundfiddle.org](http://tenpoundfiddle.org).

**Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club** - 9:30-11:30 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Info: [ladiessilverblades.org](http://ladiessilverblades.org).

**Pumpkin Wine Glass Craft** - 5:30-7 p.m. Playground of Dreams, 100 Howe Dr., Eaton Rapids. [eradl.org](http://eradl.org).

**Reach Virtual Meet-up:** Arts Incubator for Young People - Sara Gothard. 4-5 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington, Lansing. 517-999-3643. [reachstudioart.org](http://reachstudioart.org).

**Sara/Eli @ Reach** - 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington, Lansing. 517-999-3643. [reachstudioart.org](http://reachstudioart.org).

**South Lansing Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. 800 W. Barnes Ave. 517-374-5700.

**Stitch 'N Bitch** - Bring your yarn or thread for a casual evening of fiber arts and chit-chat. 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540.

**Working Women Artists (WWA) 50.50.50 Art Show** - Thru Oct. 27. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framer's Edge and Gallery, 1856 W. Grand River Ave, Okemos. [framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net).

### Friday, October 22

**The Friends of the Haslett Library Fall Used Book Sale** - Members only pre-sale. 5-7 p.m. Haslett Branch Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett.

**Gait Augmentation Seminar** - Did you know your walk is a reliable bio-tracker? 2-3:30 p.m. Stem and Learning Building,

MSU. Must register at [museum.msu.edu](http://museum.msu.edu)

**Howl at the Moon** - guided walk. Dogs must be on a leash. Meet in parking lot. 7-8 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos. 517-349-3866. [meridian.mi.us](http://meridian.mi.us).

**Jr. Doctors** - 9:45 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Low Lily, featuring Lissa**

**Schneckenburger** - 7:30-10 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing. [tenpoundfiddle.org](http://tenpoundfiddle.org).

**Nowhere to Hide Presented in collaboration with the Broad**

**Underground Film Series** - J 7-9 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu)

**Spartan Upcycle Fridays:** Macrame Plant Hangers - 12-6 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu)

**TGIF Dance Party** - all welcome! 7:11:59 p.m. Hawk Hollow Golf Banquet Center, 15101 Chandler Rd., Bath. [tgifdance.com](http://tgifdance.com).

### Saturday, October 23

**3-D Workshop: Fall Leaf Dishes** - Immerse yourself in the splendor of campus! 1-3 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand

River Ave., East Lansing. [/broadmuseum.msu.edu/artlab](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu/artlab)

**Cristo Rey's 9th Annual Run for Giving 5K** - 9 a.m.-12 p.m. 216 E. Grand River Rd., Lansing. [cristoreycommunity.org](http://cristoreycommunity.org)

**A Ghostly Night at Turner-Dodge House** - Tours start at 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Turner-Dodge House, 100 E North St, Lansing. 517-483-4220.

**Archaeology Day at the Michigan History Center** - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Michigan History Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St, Lansing. 517-335-2573. [michigan.gov/mhc](http://michigan.gov/mhc)

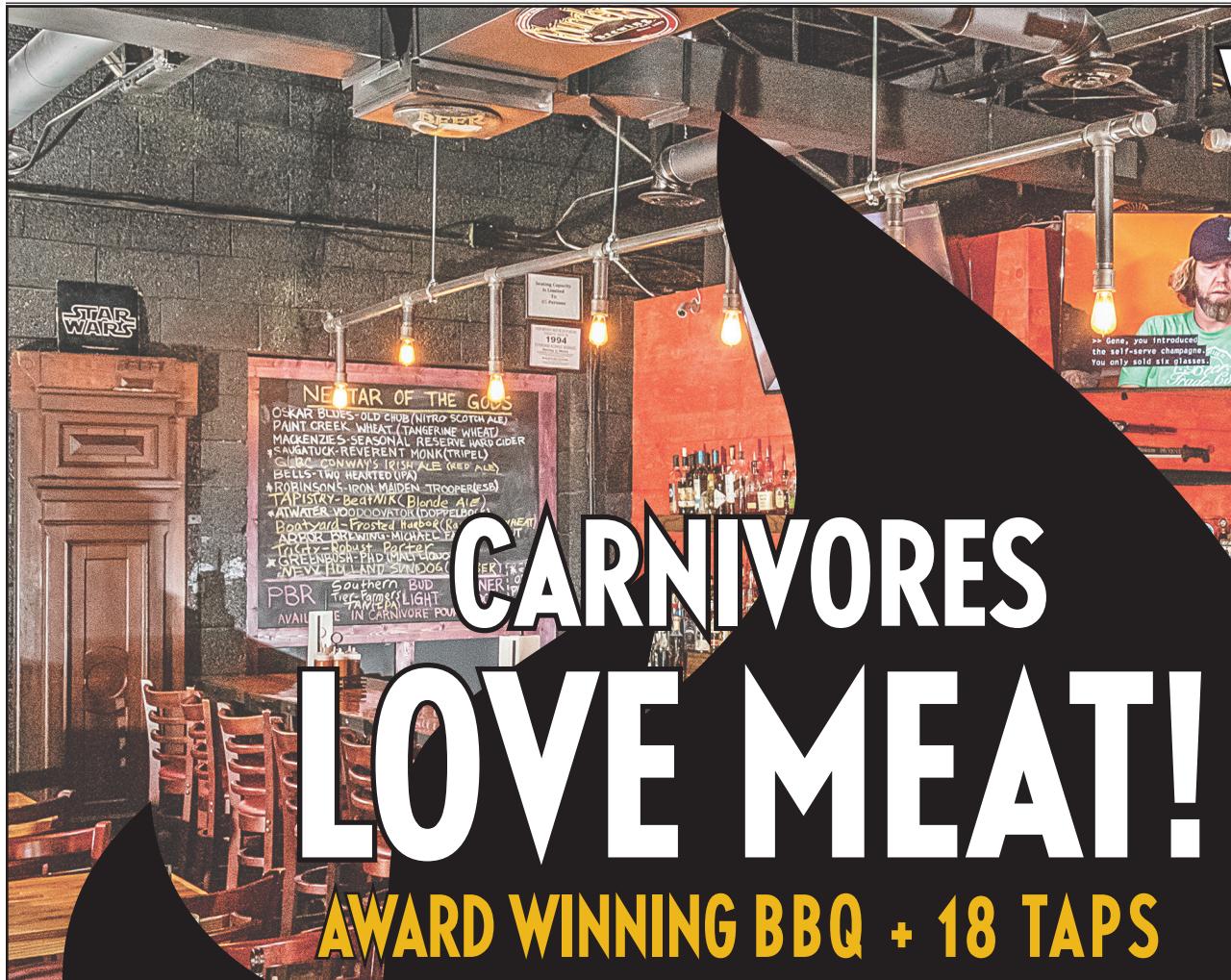
**Drum Circle** - Bring your drums and rattles, instruments or even dancing feet for some rhythmic fun! 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540.

**Fall Zoo-tacular** - Oct. 23-24, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. [potterparkzoo.org](http://potterparkzoo.org).

**The Friends of the Haslett Library Fall Used Book Sale** - 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Haslett Branch Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett.

**Intentional Living Course** - 2-4 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster, Lansing. 517-483-4290. [intendedbeing.com](http://intendedbeing.com).

**See Events, Page 36**



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**CITY PULSE** **FOX 47 NEWS**



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- Signature Dish
- Wings
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# Events

from page 34

**Jr. Doctors** - 9:45 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

**Lansing Public Media Center Production 101** - 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Lansing Public Media Center, 2500 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. Must register at lansingmi.gov

**SAE x Pike Pink the Rink** - Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Pi Kappa Alpha compete in a Hockey Fights Cancer charity ice hockey

game. 6-8 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Rd., East Lansing. 517-353-4698.

## Sunday, October 24

**3-D Workshop: Fall Leaf Dishes** - 1-3 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Ave. broadmuseum.msu.edu/artlab

**Community Drum Circle at Lake Lansing North** - 2-4 p.m. 6260 E Lake Dr., Haslett.

**East Lansing Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 31



## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 31

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



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**Jump Into Reading** - Join Ms. Anna at the Playground of Dreams for stories, songs, and activities. 11-11:30 a.m. 100 Howe Dr., Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

**Small Town Secrets with Author Jenn Carpenter** - Is Grand Ledge haunted? 6:30-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St, Grand Ledge. gladl.org

## Tuesday, October 26

**Board Game Meet Up** - Ages 18 & up. Everyone welcome! 6:30 - 10:30 p.m. Spare Time Bowling Alley, 3101 E Grand River, Lansing.

**Preschool Family Storytime** - for 1-6 year olds with their young siblings, parents or caregivers. 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St.

**Sporcle Live! Trivia** - Are you a trivia buff? 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.

**Toastmasters Open House** - Want to improve your speaking skills? Want to develop leadership abilities? 6:30-7:30 p.m. Downtown Lansing Branch Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. 517-367-6350.

## Monday, October 25

**Comedy Night** - 9-11:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.

**Intentional Living** - Join us for a six session course on intentional living. 6-8 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N Foster Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4290. IntendedBeing.com.

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# FOOD & DRINK

## Good Truckin' Diner and Detroit Frankie's make a wonderful combo

By GABRIELLE LAWRENCE

The first thing you need to know is that this is a take-out only establishment. There are some small tables where you can hang around while you wait for your food to be prepared, but you need to plan to hit the road after that. The next thing to be aware of is that you need to allow for extra time when you order pizza. I do not begrudge a busy oven at all, but a 50-minute prep time left me recently scrambling to come up with an alternative weeknight dinner.

In any event, the mashup of Good Truckin' and Detroit Frankie's is the most recent thing to lure me to parts south of Mt. Hope Avenue. The minds behind Good Truckin' have cracked the codes on how to run an efficient, small diner (information that I think could be helpful to another certain locally famous diner north of Old Town), and its vegan offerings have always been incredibly inspired and unique.

Five long years ago, Mr. She Ate and I decided to have food trucks line the street in front of the Old Town Marquee in order to feed our wedding guests. Two of those vendors were Frank Tignarelli and Nick Sinicropi, and these proprietors have teamed up at the new location on South Pennsylvania Avenue. On my first visit, I ordered a large pizza with pepperoni and an order of pesto squares. My toddler gobbled down the pesto squares. Her older brother helped himself to a slice of "red pepper pizza," as he calls it, and had fun eating it crust-first like the lovable little weirdo that he is. His father and I polished off the rest and remarked that it was good, as is most pizza, but that the other location of Detroit Frankie's offers wood-fired pizza, which is better.

After perusing the shelves while I waited for my order, I also brought home a premade ball of pizza dough and a bottle of balsamic vinaigrette dressing. The shop has a full line of Detroit Frankie's branded condiments, pickles and dressings, which all sound delicious. The salad dressing is perfectly balanced, and now I know where to grab more flour for our home pizza oven. Good Truckin' has stocked the cooler shelves with "take and



Lawrence

bakes," various desserts and entrees that can be, as the name implies, taken home and baked fresh.

On my next visit, I called ahead and ordered two dozen "bonuts" to take to the office. Good Truckin' has morphed biscuit dough into bite-sized nuggets reminiscent of donut holes, but as my colleagues learned, they are best eaten warm and fresh. The dozen or so dipping sauces are the star of this show, and my favorites were the peanut butter cream cheese and raspberry jam.

A few days later, I returned for Good Truckin' lunch. For myself, I chose three tacos: the Baja, the Bacon me Crazy and the Elote. The Bacon me Crazy was my favorite, but with bacon, cheddar, avocado, tomato, garlic poblano aioli and arugula, how could it not be? The level of flavor bursting out of the slightly crispy corn tortilla was outrageous. Mr. She Ate had the Spicy Pig Wrap, with fried chicken, bacon, waffle fries, buffalo sauce, ranch and pico de gallo served in a grilled tortilla. The wrap was delicious, but his favorite part of lunch was the side of "Rando Fries," which was entire-



Good Truckin' Diner's key lime "bonut." Flavors of bonut change each week.

ly unexpected and delightful. A variety of potato products: regular fries, waffle fries, smiley face potato circles, wedges and other little nuggets, are all tossed together and served up like a much less healthy version of fruit salad.

This mashup is like nothing I've seen before, and I am hopeful that as staffing and supply chain issues smooth out, the shelves can be stocked with even more products to take home. I'd love to see take and bake trays of cinnamon rolls and parbaked pizza. If Oprah taught me, anything, it's that manifesting it into the universe makes things happen.

By BRYAN BEVERLY

Two cutting-edge local culinary stars partner on a new venture, sharing space and bringing new food options to a part of town that could use a flavor boost. I'm here for it, and the concept sounds exciting.

Detroit Frankie's Pizza and Deli, which has served wood-fired pizza fare in various locations for several years, and Good Truckin' Diner, which started tickling palates literally as a truck and then as a diner in REO Town, are partners in

yum.

These two Lansing favorites have now added a location on South Pennsylvania Avenue that also includes a small market with mostly locally sourced products. There's a lot to take in. Detroit Frankie's is on your left, but Good Truckin' is kind of behind it with menus on television screens. Good Truckin' is also in front of you, behind a wall, and waitresses will pop out to take your order. The market is on your far right, just beyond a few stand-up tables. Tucked in the back corner are Good Truckin's take-n-bake options.

When I walked in the first time, the cashier from Detroit Frankie's was welcoming. He asked, "Is it your first time here?" And then shared the lay of the land, which I appreciated. I ordered from both partners, then perused the four aisles of Michigan-based products. The assortment of condiments, salad dressings, pickled vegetables and pasta provisions will both excite your taste buds and fill your grocery basket.

**What's really good?**

Good Truckin' brought the yum early and often. The Pumpkin Pancakes were fluffy with a nostalgic pumpkin flavor, like a taste of fall in all the best ways. They're served with nuts and a thick berry compote, the perfect reward for a youth soccer game player. The handheld game was very strong. The Jerk Chicken Taco had a Caribbean flavor and grilled pineapple with a spice that was spot on.



Beverly

The Big Kahuna Hoagie had steak and bacon — pair that with more grilled pineapple and jalapeno cream cheese — what more could you ask for in a sandwich?

The Sweet Heat Sliders featured delicious cayenne maple syrup and a perfectly fried egg, but it probably could have benefitted from something acidic rather than the candied jalapeños to balance the flavor.

Detroit Frankie's in-house crust and fresh ingredients didn't disappoint. The Olive Oil pizza — goat cheese, bacon and Brussel sprouts — offered a great combination of toppings and had perfectly crisp crust.

**What's just OK?**

Good Truckin's Elote tacos. I wanted to love these so bad, but the corn tortillas were a bit undercooked and limp. Out of the eight bites it took me to eat these, I only got actual corn in about two of them. The queso fresco sauce was tasty but overwhelmed each bite.

The "bonuts." I first attempted to get donuts for my office, but none were available due to a still-unperfected batter. On my second attempt at the bonuts — a cross between donut holes and biscuits — I ordered three delicious icings: maple, lemon, and peanut butter cream cheese. The bonuts themselves were borderline burnt and more blah than I wanted them to be. I'll still try them again someday soon.

Detroit Frankie's Cuban Pizza. With ham, roast pork, pickles and mustard, this pie was strangely runny in the middle and inconsistent with what I've grown accustomed to from Detroit Frankie's, but the flavor profile matched that of the traditional sandwich.

The best bite overall was a tie between Good Truckin's previously mentioned Pumpkin Pancakes and Detroit Frankie's Swanky Frankie's. They come wrapped in a buttery garlic blanket of bread, and the very first bite was a hot, juicy, cheesy moment not to be forgotten. Think of your favorite pizzeria garlic knot wrapped around a ballpark Frank stuffed with cheddar cheese.

The honorable mention goes to Detroit Frankie's Buffalo Blue Cheese Dip. I found it in the market, and it was a true hit on a football Saturday. It has just enough heat and a wonderful smokiness that melds with the hints of blue cheese.

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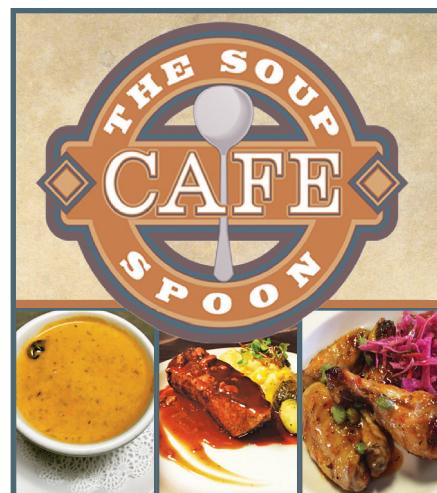
# Squash spaghetti

By ARI LEVAUX

This grumpy farmer who lives in the foothills south of town brings the most amazing produce to market. I call him Mr. Sunshine. His blustery attitude practically dares market-goers to buy his vegetables each Saturday. But his regular customers chuckle at the vibes and focus on the produce, which is usually much more inviting than his attitude and so cheap that the other farmers grumble. Everyone, customers and grumblers alike, marvels at his productivity, and wonders how it is that he can coax such a gorgeous bounty from the Earth, all by himself.

The only people whom Mr. Sunshine appears to tolerate are my two boys, eight and 11. He showers them with books, toys and junk food while he ignores his actual paying customers. I often leave the boys in this free childcare area while I do the rounds, gathering the few items I can't get from Mr. Sunshine himself.

Toward the end of a recent market, Mr. Sunshine made a business proposition to the boys. He'd grown more winter squash than he could handle.



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Amazingly, he invited them to his secret magic farm to come harvest a truckload of squash. The boys would sell it in front of our house at a homemade farm stand, where passersby could self-serve. He and the boys split the proceeds 50/25/25. Being their driver, Mr. Sunshine grudgingly invited me too — after I swore that I would not take photos.

The farm was smaller than I had expected and dense with bounty. Since the first frost had already hit, and a harder frost was imminent, the squash were in danger of rotting if they weren't collected immediately. And there was more squash than even Mr. Sunshine could sell in the last few blustery markets of autumn.

The boys and I hit the squash patch, where we loaded boxes of the colorful, hard-shelled fruits. They have whimsical names: "Butter Baby" butternuts, "Bonbon" buttercups, "Jester" delicatas and a new breed of red kuri squash called Steph Kuri. That's right, Steph Kuri. Available now at my family farm stand.

We also filled boxes of spaghetti squash, which I don't like. I don't like the flavor or the stringiness. But a lot of people do because they sure sell. But aside from the novelty, spaghetti squash is just not that useful. It's like a Weird Al Yankovic song that's funny once but hardly something you want to rock out to every day. And we loaded many, many varieties of kabocha, including Winter Sweet, Speckled Hound, Speckled Pup and Sunshine, which is many people's

favorite kabocha squash.

Picking, packing and even selling those squash went smoothly. There are wads of cash all over the house and squash seeds all over the kitchen. But getting my own kids to eat the squash wasn't quite as easy.

With just plain butter, squash can quickly grow old. Add some maple syrup and vanilla and it will never get old, but it will feel like cheating. Squash is already on the edge of being cloyingly sweet, and I've got little interest in pushing further in that direction — unless, of course, we are talking about pumpkin pie, which I cannot resist.

But savory squash is tricky because of that sweetness, or at least it seems like it should be tricky. But the truth is you can put squash in almost anything and get away with it. The other week, I added some leftover, very soft baked buttercup to a spaghetti sauce. It fell apart and basically disappeared into the marinara, causing it to thicken. The children gobbled it up without even noticing the squash.

A few days later I made squash pasta again, but this time I briefly steamed the Winter Sweet kabocha. It wasn't as soft, and you could see the slices in the marinara. Again, the children wolfed it down. I did too. I may not be a fan of spaghetti squash, but sign me up for squash spaghetti sauce.

## Squash Spaghetti

In essence, it's your favorite spaghetti recipe, plus squash. And if you don't have a favorite spaghetti recipe, or know how to cook a squash, read on.

### Ingredients:

- 1 Winter Squash
- 1 pound spaghetti (or capellini)
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- Meatballs, or Italian sausages cut into inch-lengths
- 1 medium onion, chopped

See Flash, Page 42

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Ari LeVaux

Spaghetti and meatballs infused with a helping of squash is a delicious pasta suitable for autumn.

## Flash

from page 40

Splash of red wine

3 cups marinara sauce

1 clove garlic, minced

Grated Romano or Parmesan

With a heavy knife, carefully cut the squash into quarters. Scoop out the seeds and steam it for about 15 minutes, until it gets soft but not mushy. When the squash is done, heat the pasta water.

While the pasta water heats, fry the sausage or meatballs in the oil on medium heat. When nicely browned add the

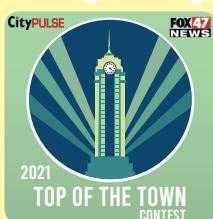
onions and wine. When the onions are translucent add about a half-pound of the squash, each quarter having been cut into slices. Add the marinara, along with a cup of pasta water and simmer for about 10 minutes until the squash is fully cooked. But don't let it get mushy!

When the noodles are done, toss them in olive oil and garlic. Stir these dressed noodles into the sauce, garnish with shredded cheese and serve.

(*Flash in the Pan* is food writer Ari LeVaux's weekly recipe column. It runs in about 100 newspapers nationwide, nourishing food sections large and small with complete protein for the belly brain.)



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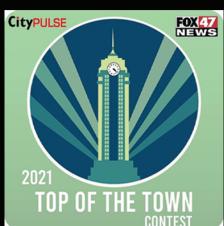
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