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Sept. 14 - 20, 2022

# City PULSE

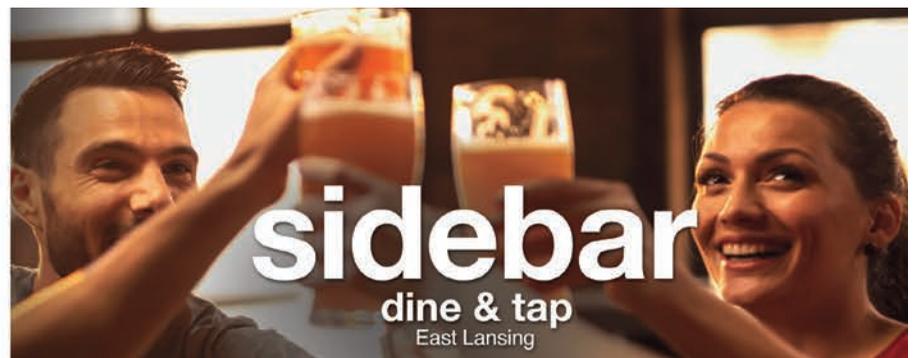
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Neva Lee's moves downtown

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Cover art by Dennis Preston

**Cover  
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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

**OUR STORY SO FAR**  
THE TWICE-IMPEACHED FORMER PRESIDENT WHO ATTEMPTED A LITERAL COUP CONTINUES TO UNDERMINE DEMOCRACY.

A MEME I SAW ON TRUTH SOCIAL PROVES THAT I AM THE REAL PRESIDENT AND SHOULD BE REINSTATED IMMEDIATELY!

OR ELSE WE SHOULD HAVE A DO-OVER ELECTION--LIKE IT SAYS IN THE CONSTITUTION!

YOU CAN TAKE MY WORD FOR IT.

(ALSO, HE APPEARS TO HAVE STOLEN A BUNCH OF TOP SECRET DOCUMENTS, FOR REASONS WHICH REMAIN UNCLEAR.)

BUT I DIDN'T LEAVE THEM LAYING AROUND ON THE FLOOR! THEY WERE NEATLY TUCKED AWAY IN MY DESK DRAWER!

THAT EVIDENCE PHOTO WAS CLEARLY AN ATTEMPT TO FRAME YOU, DAD--FOR SLOVENLINESS!

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AS IS OUR RIGHT UNDER THE SECOND HALF OF THE SECOND AMENDMENT!

LIBTARDS ARE SUCH WHINERS!

BIDEN STATES THE OBVIOUS, AND RIGHT WING MEDIA FREAK OUT.

TRUMP SUPPORTERS TRIED TO OVERTURN ONE LITTLE ELECTION, AND NOW THE SO-CALLED PRESIDENT SAYS MAGA IS A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY ITSELF?

WELL IF LOVING DONALD TRUMP IS WRONG, I DON'T WANT TO BE RIGHT!

YOU KNOW THE REAL HALLMARK OF FASCISM? SPEECHES WITH WEIRD BACKGROUND LIGHTING!

AND OF COURSE, BELTWAY PUNDITS CLUTCH THEIR PEARLS.

ONE SIDE IS EMBRACING FASCISM--WHILE THE OTHER SIDE DENOUNCES IT IN A MOST IMPOLITE MANNER!

THEY'RE EQUALLY TO BLAME! CAN'T THEY REACH ACROSS THE AISLE AND FIND COMMON GROUND?

HOW ABOUT A REASONABLE COMPROMISE--SUCH AS SLIGHTLY LESS FASCISM?

SUNDAY TALKING ABOUT STUFF SHOW

NEXT: IT GETS WORSE. IT ALWAYS GETS WORSE.

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# PULSE

# NEWS & OPINION

## A federal subsidy costs a tenant her East Lansing apartment

When COVID came sweeping through Ingham County, Maria Yokich-Grebner's job as a dental billing specialist stopped for a time. When the dental office reopened, it was slow. Patients were spaced out, and many would not come in for appointments out of fear of contracting COVID.

Her hours were cut. Then cut again. She was struggling to keep afloat with the bills and being the sole provider for her two children under the age of 7. She switched jobs, leaving a period where she had no income. She fretted about the pandemic, money, her kids' safety. But she didn't worry about housing at Woodbrook Village Apartments in East Lansing. She always had just enough money to scrape up her monthly rent.

When the state started offering COVID Emergency Rental Assistance funding, she applied, knowing it would make the difference between struggling to make ends meet and having a cushion. Her landlord, DTN Management, filled out the forms from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), which oversaw the federal dollars. By doing so, the state of Michigan sent her back rent payments directly to the landlord.

Life was settling into a new normal this spring. She was working full time. Her children were happy. And she was happy to stay in her apartment for another year. On June 10, she reached out to leasing manager Jessica Garcia to start the process of renewing her lease, which ended on July 22.

Garcia responded that her income qualifications were good and laid out various costs for the upcoming lease.

Then, for 19 days, there was silence.

Yokich-Grebner texted on June 29 asking when she could execute the new lease. Garcia's reply text was a shock from out of left field:

"I pushed super hard to get you renewed however DTN is no longer renewing anyone who received CERA," the leasing manager texted back. "I am super sorry! Let me know if there is anything I can do for you."

"I did not respond," Yokich-Grebner said in a phone interview. "It just was not expected. This was not the agreement. I mean, if I had known taking the

*The Human Relations Commission wants to know why DTN Management booted her*



Ingham County Commissioner Mark Grebner, who is also an attorney, in front of the rental sign at Woodbrook Village Apartments, a DTN Management property in East Lansing. Grebner's niece, Maria Yokich-Grebner, has filed a discrimination complaint against DTN after her lease was not renewed. Yokich-Grebner declined to be photographed.

money would have resulted in my lease being canceled, I would have found another way."

Yokich-Grebner working with her uncle, Mark Grebner — both an attorney and an Ingham County commissioner — filed a housing discrimination complaint in East Lansing against DTN Management on Aug. 22. Monday, the city's Human Rights Commission acted on the complaint, asking the city attorney to investigate and report back at its October meeting.

Both Yokich-Grebner and Grebner said that it is likely others who received the federal rental assistance faced similar renewal rejections. She said they observed other tenants moving out at about the same time as her lease was not renewed.

State records show millions of dollars were distributed to landlords and utility companies to pay past due rents or utility bills in Ingham County.

Katie Bach, a MSHDA spokesperson, said she could not immediately identify how much of that money went to DTN Management properties in the state or the county. DTN Management was also unable to immediately identify how much money it had received in CERA funding.

The state's CERA dashboard shows that 22,046 Ingham County residents applied for the federal dollars. Of those, 15,905 applications were approved. That resulted in nearly \$60 million in federal funds that was distributed in Ingham County. Of that, \$51.6 million was for rent, with the rest going for utilities.

Yokich-Grebner alleges as well that DTN was still charging her late fees for the months that were covered by her CERA funding. Grebner said that move would violate the agreement landlords make when filing paperwork to accept the federal funding.

"They agreed they were made whole, and that there was no arrearage," Grebner said. "That included waiving some or part of the late fees."

How many other DTN tenants, if any, may have had the same experience is unknown for now.

DTN marketing director Denise Todd said the management company with 8,000 rental units in Michigan and Florida had no policy of denying renters a lease based on CERA funding.

"If something happened like that, it would have been just a human error," Todd said.

Bach, the MSHDA spokesperson, said it was unclear if denying a lease renewal over CERA payments violated the program. She said the department would have to dig deeper into the legislation and agreements that provided the federal dollars to Michigan to determine if there was a violation. She encouraged Yokich-Grebner to consider filing a formal complaint with MSHDA.

The mother of two had already filed a complaint with the city of East Lansing. The complaint alleges that DTN Management violated the city's human rights ordinance by discriminating based on source of legal income.

Elaine Hardy, the city liaison to the Human Rights Commission, said having the city attorney conduct the investigation was best because the city attorney could issue investigative subpoenas, conduct interviews under oath and otherwise legal maneuvers with teeth to compel testimony and productions of documents.

The city's nondiscrimination ordinance empowers the Human Rights Commission to hold its own hearings, swear in witnesses, compel documents and engage in the same investigative techniques as the city attorney.

It would also speed up a resolution, she argued. The Commission only meets once a month.

If the investigation determines no discrimination occurred, the Commission must publicly dismiss the complaint it opened Monday night.

However, if DTN Management is found to have violated the city's nondiscrimination ordinance — specifically

See DTN, Page 6

# Remembering Jake's Plumbing

**'A vast unseen museum of toilets soon to be gone forever.'**

By **DAVE MUYLLE**

*(The writer is a longtime Lansing builder who has been restoring homes for four and a half decades.)*

Lansing residents of a certain age have fond memories of Jake's New & Used Plumbing, which was at 306 E. South St. Founded by Marshall "Jake" Keeler in 1955 and, after he died in 1999, operated by his son Kris until he died two years ago, Jake's was a Lansing institution. It was a classic father-and-son small business that reflected the personality of its sometimes cranky owners, but it was deeply loved by the Lansing community.

Patronized by plumbers of all skill levels as well as homeowners in distress, Jake and Kris solved our plumbing problems while treating us all with equal disdain or sympathetic understanding, depending on what we deserved.

In the course of my 45 years of old-house maintenance activities I was a Jake's regular. When I started dealing with Jake in the late 1970s, I was just another wannabe plumber and he treated me accordingly. I kept going back, though, and he kept giving me my plumbing repair education.

One day after I had established myself as not completely incompetent, a group of customers including myself came through the door at the same time. Jake considered the group and, looking at

me said, "I'll take you first, you usually know what you're doing." This was one of the greatest compliments I ever received.

For the last couple of years since the business closed, I have driven by the empty, deteriorating building on South Street longing for those hot summer days when I would walk into the store and find Kris shirtless, packing a pistol and about ready to throw the phone against the wall after talking to some unreasonable customer on the other end of the line. I also would wonder what was going to happen to the doomed building and its contents. I



Photo by Dave Muylle

Inside Jake's, now torn down after the death of 2020 of owner Kris Keeler, son of the founder, Marshall "Jake" Keeler, who died in 1999. Christman Constructors Inc., the next-door neighbor, purchased the property for storage in another building.



Photo by Austin Muylle

The writer of this reminiscence, builder Dave Muylle, outside at the old Jake's New & Used Plumbing on South Street in Lansing, amid thousands of toilet tanks and lids.

wished I could get inside just one more time to say goodbye. On a recent Thursday I got my wish.

Aug. 19 was sunny and mild, and for the heck of it, I stopped and got out of my truck to walk around the chain-link fence that is up to keep gawkers like me out. Curious, I eventually walked to the business next door to see if they knew anything about what was happening with Jake's building. I got lucky. Turns out they had bought the property and after hear-

ing my story a representative of the firm graciously granted me access to the site once I signed a "Release of Liability" form. He gave me a brief tour of the two 20-by-60-foot buildings where Jake's Plumbing had operated and explained that my timing was fortunate since one of the buildings was slated to come down soon. He said I could take as much time as I wanted if I would just lock up when I left. I was in a combined state of mourning and ecstasy.

In the east storage building, I found a Venetian pink 1940s-era American Standard toilet with a mismatched seat. I dragged it into the light of the doorway and sat on it to write this description of what I saw.

In the storage barn where I was sitting were hundreds of used toilets. Carefully stacked in the south end of the barn were the bowls and tanks. In the north end were the tank lids meticulously labeled and organized in custom shelving.

See Jakes, Page 7

## DTN

from page 5

related to housing discrimination — the Commission will act as a mediator in an attempt to resolve the conflict. If a resolution is not reached, the Commission has a wide range of options under the law. Among them are that it can refer the case to the city attorney for prosecution under the ordinance, which provides for a misdemeanor violation with a \$500 fine and up to 90 days in jail if a conviction is reached; order DTN to pay damages and attorney fees; require

DTN to publicly post nondiscrimination information; or refer the matter to the Michigan Department of Civil Rights for further action. In addition, because DTN Management properties are required to be inspected and licensed by the city, the licenses could be suspended or revoked.

The city could also add reporting requirements about nondiscrimination practices on the licenses as well.

Garcia, the leasing manager, is no

longer employed by DTN, Todd said. She was uncertain if that was linked to her text message about CERA.

As for Yokich-Grebner, she is still living in her apartment, albeit without a lease. DTN had offered her a month-to-month lease, but according to her complaint, she was given only six hours to sign the new agreement, a deadline which she said she could not make because of work. She has given notice that she will move by Oct. 1. Meanwhile, she

is subject to a \$150 a day holdover fee as stated in her expired lease.

The statement by Todd that DTN does not discriminate based on CERA funding was a surprise to Mark Grebner.

"Well, that's great!" he said. "But where is it in writing? Does that mean they are now going to stop? Funny they have not responded to any of our five letters about this."

— TODD HEYWOOD

# Jakes

from page 6

Every available storage spot was filled. It made me wonder if they had ever sold any of these used toilets. These toilets were all different models, brands and colors. There were hundreds more behind the building embedded in a tangle of overgrown weeds. It was a surreal sight indeed. The result of a lifetime of acquisition and organization. A vast unseen museum of toilets soon to be gone forever.

The creaky, old, wood front door was boarded up but still has its large window protected by a piece of industrial strength wire mesh. Rookie customers who came through that door and saw a sales counter with chest-high piles of broken plumbing parts and scraps of paper that looked like fallen leaves probably thought “hopeless chaos.”

On the east wall behind where the sales counter once stood were stapled several sales tax licenses dating from 1968 and notes written in Kris’ hand. Several signs that I remembered were still up. “If it weren’t for your plumber you would have no place to go” and “If we don’t have it you don’t need it —

Jake.” Reading those signs told the customer pretty much all they needed to know about Jake’s Plumbing.

Looking around I spotted another special item still hanging on the wall. Mounted on a dark-stained pine board was a clipping from the Lansing State Journal. It was a piece written by Mark Nixon in 1980 about Jake Keeler for the Onlooker column. It starts with “The legend of Jake the plumber is alive and well and living in Lansing.” Nixon described his experience with Jake and his own exasperation when Jake told him to “bring in all the parts”! Later in the article Nixon sized up Jake with this paragraph: “There are a lot of poor people in Lansing who owe thanks to Jake’s volunteer plumbing. His dealings with customers may have all the tact of a lead pipe but for the underprivileged his heart is as soft as plumber’s putty.” There was one more interesting thing about this item. Stuck on the bottom of this piece of pine is a sticker that reads “WARNING: High Stress Area.” Put there by Kris, no doubt.

The rest of the main entrance/showroom is now gutted and moldy. However, it was here that for 65 years Jake and Kris Keeler reigned as the kings of the used plumbing and repair business in



Photo by Dave Muylle

Toilets left behind after Jake’s closed in 2020.

Lansing.

Walking to the back of the building past the collapsing shelves and debris I saw cutting oil, tools, sinks, porcelain escutcheons, rows of catalogs, shower heads, bib washers, a sheet of lead,

shovels, and a shoe. I paused in front of a workbench where I imagined Jake and Kris standing for hours rebuilding a customer’s old Kohler faucet and making it as good as new.

See Jakes, Page 8

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Let’s say I robbed a bank 150 years ago and used the money to buy houses, cars, clothes, land, you name it, for myself and my family. Let’s say my children and my children’s children all lived pretty good off of it by building more wealth. They all knew it was stolen money. Wouldn’t they be responsible for paying it back? Of course they would. They had a huge benefit from it, and it wasn’t theirs or mine. They didn’t steal it, but they prospered from it. You didn’t enslave people? That’s great, but you’ve benefitted from it. Our govt owes that debt, it’s still unpaid. The govt DID give reparations to the people who previously enslaved people, but not those who were enslaved. That’s crazy, but it’s true. The racism and discrimination didn’t end with slavery, and apparently the ignorance has just gotten worse. I thought we were a nation of moral superiority? Let’s start by doing what should’ve been done long ago. Healing wounds heals hearts. The money is there, we’ve shown that by bailing out just about every industry, and flooding the department of defense who loses a trillion dollars from time to time and nobody bats an eye.

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# Jakes

from page 7

Returning to my pink writing station, it occurred to me that I was finally seeing the secret storage areas that I always wanted to peek into. Back in the day when I was at the counter and would show Jake or Kris the part I needed, they would say, "I'll be right back." I always wanted to say, "Can I go with you?" I wish they were here now to explain all this stuff.

One other amazing thing that I turned up was a photo dated 8/18/95 of Kris, Jake and another guy. Tucked way in the back of the east storage building where the smell of old toilets and mold was at its most pungent, I found a small table. On it was a stack of photos. All but one had been ruined by time and moisture. Maybe it was Kris, or maybe something more cosmic, that had placed this Polaroid photo of father and son in the place they had spent so much time together. It was a delicious

find for sure.

There will never be another Jake's Plumbing. It is important to remember Jake and Kris Keeler and to remember their efforts to make sure all Lansingites "have a place to go."

(Marshall "Jake" Keeler was born Aug. 8, 1915, and died in 1999, according to the writer. His son Kris died in 2020 at the age of 68.)



The building that once housed Jake's.

## ABANDONED VEHICLE SALE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN

Sealed bids marked **S/23/031, ABANDONED VEHICLES** will be accepted at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, 124 W Michigan Ave, 3rd FLR, Lansing Mi. 48933 until but no later than, **1:00 PM**, local time in effect **WED. SEPT 28, 2022**. Questions regarding this sale may be directed to Stephanie Robinson Buyer, at (517) 483-4128 or email: [stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov](mailto:stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov) - ALL VEHICLES MUST BE TOWED OUT.

Vehicles may be inspected **WED. SEPT. 28, 2022**, as follows:

SHROYER'S, 2740 EATON RAPIDS RD, LANSING, MI 48911 8:30 AM  
 PJ'S, 1425 RENSEN, LANSING, MI 10:00 AM  
 NORTHSIDE TOWING, 226 RUSSELL, LANSING, MI 48906 10:45 AM  
 H&H, 2818 E. KALAMAZOO, LANSING, M. 48912 11:30 AM

<b>NORTHSIDE</b>	2000	CHEVROLET	2016	CHRYSLER
2015	OTHER	2010	DODGE	1983
2011	GMC			2011
2000	BUICK	<b>PJS</b>		2019
2011	FORD	1972	CADILLAC	2010
2005	DODGE	2008	LINCOLN	2012
2012	GMC	2019	KIA	
2004	DODGE	2018	NISSAN	<b>H&amp;H</b>
2014	CHEVROLET	2012	CHEVROLET	2014
2011	DODGE	2018	KIA	2010
2016	FORD	2011	DODGE	2021
2004	GMC	2009	CHEVROLET	
2018	FORD	2016	OTHER	
2012	CHRYSLER			
2006	FORD	<b>SHROYERS</b>		
2013	CHEVROLET	2004	HONDA	
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**1703 Linval St., Lansing**

This 1920 single-story home in the Baker-Donora Neighborhood has seen better days. The outside is weathered, paint peeling off the sides of the home, as well as the garage. The garage is falling apart, and the back area of the home is also caved in. The former cement driveway plays home to a jungle of weeds, some waist high. Others are ground-level prickles, splayed out ready to jab anything that comes near. The lawn is not mowed and about 6 or 7 inches tall. Property records list the owner as William Ames. The property was red tagged April 25, 2021. Since the red tag, it has racked up three grass and weed notices and one unsafe conditions notice, according to city records. City records show summer and winter taxes in 2021 were paid, but \$953.03 in 2022 summer taxes are still outstanding. County records show \$1,194.97 in summer and winter taxes of 2019 are still outstanding.

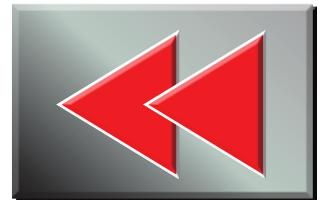
— TODD HEYWOOD

“Eyesore of the Week” is our weekly 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 Managing Editor Kyle Kaminski at eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call in a nomination at 517-999-6715

# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

BY DAWN PARKER



**Backers of annexing the Groesbeck portion of Lansing Township into the city of Lansing will now have to follow a more difficult process.** Ingham County Circuit Judge Clinton Canady III issued a permanent injunction Monday against Lansing’s proposal from appearing on the Nov. 8 ballot. Friday, the Michigan Court of Appeals upheld Canady’s issuance of a temporary restraining order. A three-judge panel dismissed the appeal, citing lack of merit.

**National Transportation and Safety Board said in a recent report that pilot error and an overloaded aircraft were to blame in a 2019 plane crash that killed five men in October 2019 and seriously injured a sixth man.**

The report, issued Wednesday, found the pilot failed to maintain airspeed on the final approach to Capital Region International Airport. Investigators also found the plane was more than 200 pounds overweight and that its cargo was too far back in the aircraft.



**Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Bridget McCormack announced Monday she is retiring no later than Dec. 31, but not before Nov. 22.** McCormack became the 108th justice — and the ninth woman — to join the Court when she was sworn in as an associate justice on Jan. 1, 2013. She has served as chief justice since January 2019 — only the sixth woman to do so. (See Kyle Melinn’s take on her announcement on P. 11.)



**One person is expected to recover after being shot in the early morning hours Sunday in downtown East Lansing.** Police said there was no active threat to the public. According to ELPD, reports of multiple gunshots in the 300 block of M.A.C. Avenue came into the department just before 1:30 a.m. When they arrived, police found one person with non-life-threatening injuries. Neither the person’s age nor their gender was released; however, police recovered 31 bullet casings at the scene. Police found one person with non-life-threatening injuries. First responders transported the individual to a local hospital for medical treatment. Police did not specify the age or gender of the person who was wounded. In an unrelated incident, MSU Police arrested a student’s visitor in Bailey Hall Sunday for carrying a taser.



**Jehovah’s Witnesses in the Lansing area have resumed their trademark door-to-door ministry after two and a half years away.** The marks the complete restoration of all pre-pandemic in-person activities for the 1.3 million Jehovah’s Witnesses in the 13,000 congregations in the United States. “We’re very excited,” said Chris Eberhard of Lansing. He said he and his wife, Beth, and their two teenage sons are eager to get back to knocking on doors right away. “We had some great conversations on the phone, but there’s just nothing like seeing people face to face, to see their facial expressions and body language. You can walk up to the front door and see their beautiful flowers and have a connection.”



**Members of the Michigan State University Board of Trustees are issuing conflicting statements regarding whether MSU President Samuel Stanley has been asked to step down over his handling of several internal investigations, including ones involving sexual misconduct allegations.** Among members countering a Detroit Free Press report that Stanley — MSU’s third president in the last four years — are board President Dianne Byrum and Trustee Melanie Foster. In other MSU news, the board postponed voting last week on a resolution seeking to restrain the activities of university vendors connected to “voter suppression” efforts. Had the resolution passed, legislators, including Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, R-Clarklake, threatened to pull state funding from the university.

**A man is in critical condition after police said he was intentionally struck by a vehicle in Eaton County in the early morning hours Saturday.** According to the Lansing State Journal, Eaton County Sheriff’s Office deputies responded to the 3800 block of Bostedor Road in Eaton Rapids Township about 4:45 a.m. and found a 49-year-old man who had been purposely run over by a vehicle, they said. A 46-year-old man fled the scene in his vehicle to the 8800 block of South Royston Road, where he then fled on foot, the Sheriff’s Office said in a statement.

**It looks like this Halloween season will be the last for Williamston’s Bestmaze corn maze, put on by Mark and Dolly Benjamin for close to 20 years.** They understand that neither child wants to follow in their footsteps. Look. He’s 56 years old. He’s a sixth-generation farmer in Williamston, 14 miles east of Lansing, with 650 acres south of Interstate 96. He’s dealt with bad weather, bad breaks and full-on bad years. And he’s actually OK with the knowledge that neither of his kids wants to be generation No. 7. Losing the corn maze hurts, though. He led a bit of a tour last week, showed the graph paper where he sketched out this year’s design and ran through some of his greatest hits since the first maze in 2001.



# A reckoning for reproductive rights

In the runup to the Nov. 8 General Election, abortion has suddenly and somewhat remarkably rocketed to the top of voter concerns in Michigan, eclipsing other matters of public import like inflation, gas prices, infrastructure and crime. It's the latest chapter in a seemingly endless religious culture war that's been tearing at the fabric of American society for generations.

For the past 50 years, though, an uneasy peace has prevailed, driven mostly by the U.S. Supreme Court's affirmation of a woman's right to choose in its landmark 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision. After *Roe*, there just wasn't much room for anti-abortion advocates to fight. That is, until the high court's deeply regrettable June vote to eviscerate *Roe*, creating a moment that will be remembered as a massive inflection point in American politics. Some indicators suggest it may also be a powerful call to action for millions of people across the nation who support reproductive rights. We'll see in about eight weeks if it generates an avalanche of incensed voters who nip in the bud a widely expected mid-term Red Tide.

All this tumult over what has been a long-settled question is, of course, one of the most consequential of the myriad disasters foisted on our nation by a certain former president, who in four short years managed to tip the scales of American justice by loading up the Supreme Court with conservative troglodytes bent on setting back our nation's progress by a half-century or more. Next on the wrong-wing hit parade: same-sex marriage and transgender rights.

It's important to note that the Court didn't prohibit abortion in the U.S.; it left the question to the states. In Michigan, that could have meant the resurrection of a Prohibition-era state ban on abortion that makes no exceptions but to preserve the life of the mother. Enforcement of the law would have made instant criminals out of women seeking an abortion and the doctors who perform them in Michigan.

In an ironic legal twist, Planned Parenthood of Michigan had to file a lawsuit against Attorney General Dana Nessel — a fierce advocate for reproductive rights but also the state's chief prosecutor — in a successful bid to prevent enforcement of the archaic law by any prosecutor in the state. Last week's permanent injunction issued by Court of Claims Judge Elizabeth Gleicher laid down a legal marker by ruling that infringing on a woman's bodily autonomy and right to choose violates the core tenets of Michigan's Constitution. Gleicher's decision may well be overturned on appeal, but there's also a remedy for that.

Enter the November ballot proposal that aims to permanently enshrine reproductive rights in the state Constitution. More than 750,000 Michiganders — a new record — signed

a petition to put the measure up for a vote. Last week the state Supreme Court rejected nit-picking criticisms of the petition's word spacing, deferring instead to the notion that the people's right to decide the question is paramount while ordering the proposal to appear on the November ballot.

We are impressed once again by the courage of Justice Elizabeth Clement, a Republican appointed by former Gov. Rick Snyder, who broke ranks with her partisan peers to side with the high court's four Democrats in placing the question on the ballot. It isn't the first time she's shown that her approach to jurisprudence is based not on party fealty but on reason and the rule of law.

With a Republican-dominated U.S. Supreme Court deferring abortion policy to the states, we note the irony of Michigan Republicans working so hard to deprive state voters of the ability to decide what's right for Michigan. Their respect for the rule of law and democracy itself is so corrupted that they have no qualms about opposing a ruling issued by a Court controlled by their own appointees or disenfranchising as many voters as they can muster as long as it serves their perverse, retrograde political agenda.

That we support the ballot measure doesn't mean we think it's perfect. Critics point to language that could be construed to mean abortion will be legal all the time, every time, right up until the moment of birth. Even if this is true, rather than opposing the amendment based on its potential flaws, we choose to err on the side of securing every woman's bodily autonomy and right to choose by enshrining these principles once and for all in our state's constitution. It's helpful to keep in mind that late-term abortions are vanishingly rare and that a future amendment could remedy whatever deficiencies may be identified.

With under two months remaining until the November vote, we're delighted to see Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and her allies relentlessly pounding Republican gubernatorial nominee Tudor Dixon on the airwaves, reminding voters of her opponent's truly radical views on abortion, which make no exception for cases of rape, incest or even the life of the mother. Dixon's hardline stance is music to the ears of her Republican base. But it is probably a death blow for her political aspirations in a state where a majority of voters support reproductive choice. Tudor, we hardly knew ye.

Voter turnout will be crucial to the success or failure of the ballot measure and perhaps the partisan balance in both the Michigan Legislature and the U.S. Congress. If ever there was a time to exercise your right to vote, this is it. And it's never been easier. Request an absentee ballot and vote from the comfort of home. Or head to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 8, to make your voice heard.



Photo by Dominique Robinson

## The CP Edit

### Opinion

### 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) • Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912  
• Fax: (517) 371-5800 • At [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.)

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Let's fix our emergency rooms

The wait times in the emergency rooms at Lansing area hospitals are unacceptable. Since the COVID pandemic, there has been an increase in the length of time that it takes for patients to be seen by providers.

On Aug. 26, 2022, the average wait time at Sparrow and McLaren Greater Lansing Emergency Rooms was 4 hours and 30 minutes.

If the wait times are so long, it will be extremely difficult for people like my grandparents to receive quality care in a reasonable period. They will be left sitting in the waiting room for many hours. Something must be done to correct this situation.

My father, who is a local ER doctor, says that a main reason for these long wait times is the shortage of nurses. Many nurses retired during the pandemic and the hospitals are not able to replace them. Some nurses are also opting to take high-paying travel nursing jobs in other states.

The hospitals in the Lansing area must provide increased nurse staffing to their ERs. They must also hike the pay of the local nurse positions so that the nurses will not relocate elsewhere. Increasing nurse staffing will help alleviate the wait times in the local ERs. Patients like my elderly grandparents must be given access to quality health care in a reasonable time. The hospitals need to act quickly before it is too late.

Daniel Gollapalli

**CITY OF EAST LANSING NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

On or about Thursday, September 29, 2022, the City of East Lansing will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93-383), as amended, to undertake a project known as the Emerson Park Improvement Project. The existing site will continue to serve as a public park. Proposed improvements to Emerson Park include: Installing a pavilion with picnic amenities and an electrical outlet for public use, installing a permanent cornhole set up and hammock poles, widening the park's main walkway in order to ensure ADA accessibility, adding ADA accessible walkways to the playground and drinking fountain, adding edging around the playground to decrease park maintenance needs, removal of three dilapidated, non-ADA accessible parking spots (the area where these spots are will be converted into green space), and adding a new ADA accessible on-street parking spot. These improvements will require the removal of three trees (one of which is invasive) and some green spaces areas in Emerson Park.

The proposed Emerson Park Improvement Project has total project funding of \$111,560.00. Emerson Park is located on Arbor Drive in East Lansing's Red Cedar Neighborhood (Parcel Number 33-20-01-24-119-003).

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

The City of East Lansing has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the City of East Lansing, City Hall located at 410 Abbot Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823. Files may be examined or copied weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of East Lansing Planning, Building, and Development Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. All comments can be addressed to Matt Apostle via email at [mapostle@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:mapostle@cityofeastlansing.com). All comments received by Thursday, September 29, 2022, will be considered by the City of East Lansing prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice the public is addressing.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION**

The City of East Lansing certifies to HUD that George Lahanas in his capacity of City Manager consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of East Lansing to use CDBG Program funds.

**OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of East Lansing's certification received by Friday, October 14, 2022, or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the City of East Lansing approved by HUD; (b) the City of East Lansing has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality (e) the City of East Lansing has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 55. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58 or 24 CFR Part 55) and shall be emailed to [CPD\\_COVID-19OEE-DET@hud.gov](mailto:CPD_COVID-19OEE-DET@hud.gov). Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

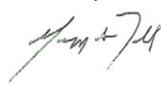
Date: September 14, 2022  
George Lahanas, City Manager  
City of East Lansing  
410 Abbot Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823

**CP#22-200**

**NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT TO INGHAM COUNTY PARKS AND ZOO RULES AND REGULATIONS ORDINANCE**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that at a meeting held on Tuesday, August 23, 2022, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners adopted amendments to the Ingham County Parks and Zoo Rules and Regulation to clarify the standards for criminal liability; expand upon the operational needs of the County Parks and Zoo Department; and update dated provisions in alignment with current Federal, State, and local laws and standards.

A copy of the Ordinance Amendment is available for public inspection in the office of the Ingham County Clerk.



Gregg A. Todd, County Controller

**CP#22-191**

# McCormack made the court better — but it is the right time to exit

Nobody has done more to restore confidence to the Michigan Supreme Court than Chief Justice Bridget McCormack.

Her sharp command of the law and engaging personality spurred thoughtful discussions that changed minds (including her own at times) on a previously balkanized court.

But now, 10 years after she came on the scene, McCormack has become a victim of her own success.

Her successes have helped install a Democratic-nominated majority that's becoming what McCormack sought to destroy when she came on the court in 2013 — another predictable, partisan body taking shots at one another.

To preserve her legacy, the chief justice needs to move on, and I'm glad to see she's doing exactly that, stepping down by year's end.

The Michigan Supreme Court before Bridget McCormack was political.

The tensions of the infamous "Engler Court" remained in 2012. Republican-nominated justices tended to stick together on controversial cases to advance a desired outcome. Democratic-nominated justices did the same.

And justices were less than congenial about it.

In one 4-3 decision dealing with charging deadbeat parents criminally, the majority Republicans wrote about how parents who couldn't pay were "irresponsible and selfish." Democratic Justice Marilyn Kelly wrote that Michigan has long put behind bars "the willful, the recalcitrant, the obdurate or deceitful. In light of the majority's holding we can now add to that list those who are unable to pay."

Pre-McCormack pot shots in opinion footnotes weren't uncommon. If the make-up of the split decisions weren't 100% predictable, most of the decisions were.

McCormack blew into the court almost like a celebrity. She was personable and engaging. The sister of actress Mary McCormack, McCormack has the unique gift of exuding her brilliance in a humble, non-condescending way.

Maybe, more importantly, she wasn't all that political.

After she won in 2012, McCormack struck up an instant rapport Justice Robert P. Young Jr., a Republican, whose legal genius too often had been shadowed by the court's political undertones. Starting in 2013, the court rulings started becoming more about debates

over the law as opposed to debates over how the law could be used to influence an outcome.

The rulings were smart and well thought-out. The divisions on cases became less predictable. McCormack sided with Young early on, which agitated Democrats. Then, eventually, McCormack won her arguments and Young sided with McCormack.

Minds were opened. Opinions were better thought out, the public benefited.

Success breeds success, even in the courts. In the shadow of McCormack's approach, more Democratic-nominated justices were elected. By 2021, the Supreme Court session started with a Democratic majority for the first time since the 1990s.

Meanwhile, the Dems haven't controlled the Legislature since the early 1980s. Outside of ballot proposals, they haven't been to pass public policy unless the Democratic governor negotiated something.

The pressure for change became too much for even McCormack to resist. This summer, the Supreme Court did through court rulings what a Republican-led Legislature had previously refused to do: Declaring that the Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act should cover the LGBTQ community. Allowing those accused of unemployment fraud to sue the state. There were a few more.

The Dem majority became an activist court. Also, the backbiting returned. McCormack, herself, took the rare step of writing a concurrence to her own opinion just to take another swing at conservative Justice Brian Zahra.

Then, this past week, the Supreme Court inflamed the Board of State Caversers' periodic partisan foolishness.

Instead of simply reminding the Caversers that their job is to count petition signatures, not block ballot access over perceived technical issues, the justices couldn't resist the urge to grandstand. McCormack led the parade.

"What a sad marker of the time," she wrote in addressing "a game of gotcha gone bad."

I don't want to remember McCormack this way. She's not a judicial activist.

Unlike Frodo and the one ring, McCormack is throwing her power into the fire before she's consumed by it, and I applaud her for that.

I prefer to remember McCormack as the person who turned around the Supreme Court, not someone who brought it around full circle.

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

POLITICS



KYLE MELINN

# THE PATH TO SUCCESS STARTS WITH LANSING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Candidate for Lansing School Board



**Dr. Rick Wendorf**  
DrRick1162@aol.com • 517-993-5169

*Paid for by the committee to elect Rick Wendorf*

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

Request from 3400 West Road LLC to rezone a 2.41-acre parcel located on the east side of West Road, north of Abbey Road (Parcel ID #33-20-01-02-226-021) from B-5 (Community Retail Sales Business District) to M-1 (Manufacturing District). The applicant for the rezoning has voluntarily offered to condition the rezoning on limiting the potential future uses on the parcel to exclude a contractor's storage yard, coal or building materials storage yard, kennel, radio and television towers, and medical or recreational marihuana grower facilities, processor facilities, secure transporter facilities, and that any future use of the parcel must abide by the performance standards established in Section 50-673(1) and (2) of the Code of Ordinances.

The public may attend and participate at all meetings in person. Members of the public may also participate virtually via Zoom. Please contact City Clerk Jennifer Shuster at 517.319.6914, jshuster@cityofeastlansing.com, (410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823) for additional information. Visit the City's public meeting portal at <https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/> for electronic access information.

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 City Council, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to [council@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:council@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 P.A. 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 **CP#22-202**

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT AVAILABLE

#### City of East Lansing Community Development Block Grant Program

The City of East Lansing has completed the PY 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report covering activities from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. This is to provide notice that the formal 15 calendar day comment period on the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report begins on September 14, 2022, and concludes on September 29, 2022. Individuals wishing to view this report may do so virtually at <https://cityofeastlansing.com/320/Community-Development-Block-Grant-Progra>. Upon request, this document may also be viewed in person at the City of East Lansing Department of Planning, Building, & Development Department, Room 217, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM.

The City of East Lansing will hold a public hearing on Monday, September 26, 2022, at 6:00PM at East Lansing City Hall (410 Abbot Road, East Lansing MI 48823) Room 209 (Conference Room A) to receive comments on CDBG program performance during the 2021 Program Year. Individuals and groups wishing to comment on the program performance are encouraged to attend the public hearing.

Written comments may also be submitted and should be addressed to the Planning, Building, and Development Department, C/O Matt Apostle, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823, or by email at [mapostle@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:mapostle@cityofeastlansing.com), no later than 5:00PM on September 29, 2022, or should be presented at the public hearing.

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 and services should write or call the Planning, Building, and Development Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. Phone: (517)319-6859.

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 **CP#22-203**

### STATE OF MICHIGAN OFFICE OF THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

In the Matter of: West Aurelius Drain

#### NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DETERMINATION

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** to you as a person liable for an assessment that the Board of Determination, composed of Paulette Hatchett, John Leonard, Dennis Williams, and Mary Pollock (Alternate), will meet on **Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at the Aurelius Township Hall, 1939 S. Aurelius Road, Mason, MI 48854**, to hear all interested persons and evidence and to determine whether the actions prayed for in a Petition dated April 26, 2022, for the maintenance and improvement of the West Aurelius Drain, located and established in Aurelius Township, is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience, or welfare in accordance with Sections 72 and 191 of Act No. 40, PA 1956, as amended.

Proceedings conducted at this public hearing will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. You are further notified that information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the Ingham County Drain Commissioner. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Ingham County Drain Commissioner at the number noted below (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 711 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance. Minutes of the meeting will be on file in the following office: Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854.

**YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED** that persons aggrieved by the decisions of the Board of Determination may seek judicial review in the Circuit Court for the County of Ingham within ten (10) days after the determination. If the actions prayed for in the Petition are determined to be necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience, or welfare, a special assessment may be levied against properties that benefit from the project. A landowner, or party of interest to property to be assessed, or their agent, may appear in person to comment on the necessity of the project.

Dated: September 8, 2022

Patrick E. Lindemann  
Ingham County Drain Commissioner  
Phone: (517) 676-8395 **#22-199**

**RFP/23/026 SALE OF CEMETERY PROPERTY** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept proposals at The City of Lansing, Purchasing Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave. 3rd Floor, Lansing, Michigan 48933 or electronically submitted thru MITN Site ([www.Mitn.info](http://www.Mitn.info)) until 2:00 pm local time in effect on OCT.13, 2022. Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by contacting @ [Stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov](mailto:Stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov) or at (517) 483-4128 or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info). The City of Lansing encourages proposals from All Vendors Including MBE/WBE Vendors and Lansing-Based Businesses. **CP#22-201**

# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## 'Just punch it'

### Lady Champagne and James Carter headline Michigan BluesFest

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The name “Lady Champagne” doesn’t begin to describe Lady Champagne. The Louisiana-born blues icon, a Detroit legend for over 30 years, does not tickle you with tiny bubbles.

It would take a salvo of more visceral fluids — Lady Magma, Lady Pure Himalaya Melt Water, Lady Kerosene, Lady Ambrosia — to do her justice.

In a rare meeting of two cyclonic forces, Lady Champagne headlines Michigan BluesFest in Old Town Saturday with her six-piece blues band and a formidable guest: Detroit-born baritone saxophone titan James Carter, one of the most powerful and versatile reed players on the planet.

Lady Champagne has sung gospel music and the blues all her life. She loves the soul-stirring gospel music of the Rev. James Cleveland, Andre Crouch and Vanessa Bell Armstrong, none of whom dabble in musical champagne.

“I love strong singers,” she said. “They really preach what they are talking about.”

It’s the same with the blues, she said.

“If you’re listening to B.B. King or Bobby Blue Bland, you can hear that same feeling,” she said. “You don’t just go, ‘the thrill is go-one, baby.’” The very idea of singing B.B. King’s signature tune half-heartedly made her stop and laugh. “You have to punch it and put it in their hearts.”

She proceeded to demonstrate over the phone.

“TheTHREEE-YEEE-YEEL,” she began, in a soaring alto that no orthography this side of the King James Bible,

illuminated by the seraphim and cherubim, could convey.

Suddenly, she cut off the thrill with one grim syllable: “is.”

“Gaw, aw, AWWNNN,” she went on, pulling the word out of her chest until the “n” dangled like a tag on a toe in a morgue.

The blues were a daily part of Lady Champagne’s youth in Louisiana. The youngest among her siblings and cousins, she spent many afternoons at backyard gatherings with the music of John Lee Hooker, B.B. King and other blues greats wafting in the air.

She started singing in choir and

glee club — “school stuff,” she called it, but still fun. “The glee club helped me to form my voice,” she said.

When she was 14, her family moved to Detroit’s west side. She dove into vocal and choral music, participating in talent shows and other events. “Everybody was doing Motown stuff — the Supremes, the Temptations, Marvin Gaye,” she recalled. She joined the New Bethel Baptist Church, close to her neighborhood, where the Rev. C. L. Franklin was pastor and his daughter Aretha Franklin sang.

“In school, in church, my focus was always on music,” she said. “To tell you the truth, I loved the B-3 organ he was playing in church, but then I listened to the words C.L. Franklin was preaching.”

She sang in the church choir and started going to blues

#### Lady Champagne with James Carter

#### Michigan BluesFest

Old Town Lansing  
10 p.m. Sat., Sept. 17  
South Turner Stage  
facebook.com/  
MichiganBluesFest



Courtesy photo

Detroit-born baritone saxophone titan James Carter.



Courtesy photo

Lady Champagne has been a fixture in the Detroit music scene for more than 30 years.

clubs in Detroit like Henry’s Palace, a regular home for touring blues royalty.

“I formed a gospel sound for the blues,” she said. “Every word that comes out of my mouth, you understand the story. I want everyone to feel what I’m singing, to touch the heart, the soul, the mind.”

In a long and full career, she has shared the stage with many blues greats, most often at her regular Saturday night blues jam at Bert’s in Detroit’s Eastern Market. KoKo Taylor, Johnny Bassett, Larry McCray, Alberta Adams and many more blues greats have sat in with her at Bert’s.

She is well into the phase of life when trophies and plaques accumulate on the shelf, but still shows no signs of slowing down.

“People wonder where I get all my energy,” she said. “If you love what you do, it gives you the energy. Doing something you don’t love wears you out.”

She was inducted into the Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame in 2019 and inducted into the Detroit Blues Hall of Fame in 2019.

She could rest on these and many other laurels, but she keeps up a full schedule,

including her weekly Bert’s gig.

“People don’t get a chance to hear the blues like they want to, and quite a few artists have passed away,” she said. “I’m steady, keeping it going, keeping the blues alive.”

A thick and juicy sound will roll under her vocals at BluesFest Saturday, with Lester “Hambone” Brown on guitar, Lorell Holton on drums, John Foley on bass, Sean McDonald on organ, and the horn duo of Alonzo Harrison on trumpet and John Calhoun on trombone.

The wild card is the booming, moaning, acrobatic baritone saxophone of James Carter.

Carter, born in Detroit, is a jaw-dropping poly-stylist who has worked with everyone from avant-garde jazz artists like Julius Hemphill to classical opera singers such as Kathleen Battle.

Lady Champagne considers Carter an “extraordinary friend.” Both artists, and members of their families, attended Detroit’s Northwestern High School. They’ve stayed close over the years, but they are both so busy

they seldom get the chance to work together onstage.

“This is very rare,” Lady Champagne said. “It’s an honor to catch up with him, tie him down, lock him in.”

Carter brings a gutsy, full-throated sound and febrile, unpredictable mind to everything he plays. Whether he’s playing straight-up jazz, adding his wicked undertow to a saxophone quartet or taking off in unexplored directions, the blues permeates everything he does. He was the clear choice to play the role of volcanic baritone saxophonist Ben Webster in Robert Altman’s 1996 film “Kansas City.”

Saturday, Carter will go back to the well of pure blues with Lady Champagne, and the combination promises to be both celebratory and combustible.

Lady Champagne plans to rehearse with the band but not with Carter.

“James can play anything he wants to,” she said. “He feels the vibe. If you’ve just heard him on recordings, you’ve never really heard him act up on his instrument. He does different noises. He can pop it like, ‘Pop, pop, pop.’ He just punches it in.”

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**WELCOME TO**

**TOP OF THE TOWN 2022**

**PRESENTED BY**

**FOX 47 NEWS**

**CityPULSE**

### THE RULES

Welcome to the 15th annual City Pulse Top of the Town, cosponsored once again by Fox 47 News.

If you're an old hand at TOTT, then jump right in. The only changes this year are that we added 12 categories (see the box on this page) and, unlike last year, we are not automatically nominating the Top Five winners from the previous year. All nominations will come from the voters. That's to place even more emphasis on the integrity of the contest. Yes, winners often place ads, which we assume results in more votes because of greater exposure. But it does not influence the results in any other way. This is truly the people's choice.

To get started, you must visit [LansingCityPulse.com/TOTT2022](http://LansingCityPulse.com/TOTT2022). There, you will find the contest's homepage and you'll be all set to vote. To begin voting, select any category. After you cast your first vote, enter your email address, name and ZIP code. Once you've done that, you will be able to continue voting.

Please note that all votes are submitted automatically. Once you've cast it — you're done. Don't worry about a second submission screen.

If you need to stop and come back to

your ballot or your internet browser was closed, you can return to the site and continue voting exactly where you left off. Remember that you can always log out by clicking on your email address on the top left. When you are ready to resume voting, you can log back in and get back to the contest.

As always, you can vote in as many (or as few) categories as your heart desires. Just remember to finish your ballot **by 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27**. That should give you plenty of time to make even the most hair-splitting of decisions. The winners will advance to the second round, which will be announced on **Wednesday, Oct. 19**.

Please be patient if your nomination is the first one for your choice. It will be submitted to the approval process — so we can verify it is in the right category, spelled correctly, etc., so it will not show

up immediately. However, if you do not see it after 24 hours, please contact John-Paul Murray at (517) 999-6707 or email him at [johnpaul@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:johnpaul@lansingcitypulse.com).

Also, if you're the first one to nominate your choice, you have an opportunity to comment. Please do! We want to use those comments in the next round — when the Top Five nominees are winnowed down to the winner and second and third place.

You can also send us your list of votes via snail mail to John-Paul Murray at City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing 48912. While you're on the City Pulse website, make sure you sign up for our new and improved newsletter, which has gone through a growth spurt even more dramatic than the irradiated lizard that became Godzilla. Not sure if you're signed up for it already? Enter your email address, and we will sort it out for you and ensure you only get it once.

See Top of the Town, Page 16

**VOTE AT LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM**



### NEW CATEGORIES

- DINING Baklava
- DINING Café
- FOOD Drive-Up location
- SERVICES Appliance Repair
- SERVICES Gutter Cleaning
- WHATEVER Staycation Hotel in Lansing
- PEOPLE Auto salesperson
- SHOPPING Automotive Dealership
- SHOPPING Metaphysical Store
- SERVICES Holistic Healing
- SERVICES COVID Best Place to get covid shot
- SERVICES COVID Worst Place to get covid shot

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from page 15

## DINING



- Bagels
- Bakery
- Baklava
- BBQ
- Breakfast
- Brunch
- Burger
- Café
- Chicken Strips/Tenders
- Chinese
- Cider
- Coney Dog
- Deli
- Dessert
- Diner
- Donuts
- Family Friendly Restaurant
- Fast Food
- Fish Fry
- Food Truck
- French Fries
- French Fries
- Greek Restaurant
- Hibachi
- Ice Cream
- Indian Restaurant

- Irish Restaurant
- Italian Restaurant
- Kids Eat Free Restaurant
- Late Night Food
- Mediterranean Restaurant
- Mexican Restaurant - chain
- Mexican Restaurant - non chain
- Nachos
- New Restaurant
- Olive Burger
- Pancakes
- Pho

- Pizza
- Prime Rib
- Ramen
- Ranch Dressing
- Restaurant Beer List
- Restaurant for Seniors
- Restaurant Wine List
- Reuben
- Salad/Salad Bar
- Seafood
- Signature Dish
- Sliders
- Soup
- Steak
- Sub Sandwich
- Sushi
- Tacos
- Thai
- Upscale Dining
- Vegetarian/Vegan/Gluten Free Restaurant
- Wings

## BAR

- Cocktails
- Dance Bar
- Dive Bar
- Food



- LGBTQ-friendly Bar
- Happy Hour
- Jam Night
- Karaoke
- Lansing Area Brewery
- Lansing Area Distillery
- Margarita
- Neighborhood Bar
- Open Mic Night
- Pub/Tavern
- Spartan Sports Hangout
- Sports Bar

## HANGOUTS



- Biggby
- Bowling Alley
- Capital Area District Library Branch
- Coffee Shop (non-Biggby)
- Comedy Night
- Corn Maze
- Dog Park
- Escape Room Venue
- Golf Course
- Hangout for Seniors
- Hangout for Students
- Hangout Solo
- Haunted Attraction
- Local Attraction for Kids
- Movie Theatre
- Music Venue
- Nature Center
- Non-Bar or Restaurant Date
- Patio
- Place of Worship
- Place to Play Pinball
- Place to Play Video Games
- Place to Shoot Pool
- Place to Sled
- Public Park
- Smoke Shop/Hookah Lounge
- Tabletop Gaming
- Trivia Night

See Top of the Town, Page 21

### VEGETARIAN/VEGAN/GLUTEN-FREE RESTAURANT

**Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine – Winner**  
**VEG-N - Second Place**  
**Soup Spoon Cafe - Runner Up**

**A LOOK BACK:**  
**2021 WINNER**

While there are more local plant-based options steadily popping up across Greater Lansing, last year's winner, Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine, will likely remain a local favorite for vegetarians for years to come.

Altu's vegetarian specials range from veggie combos suitable for one, or Group Dinner Feasts that serve up a little bit of everything: spicy lentils, yellow peas, spicy ground peas, lima beans and collard greens —served with rice or bread. Are there any new-to-Lansing plant-based dishes that deserve a nod? Be sure to vote for them in the 2022 contest!



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# MICHIGAN BLUESFEST



## WELCOME TO OLD TOWN!

We are so pleased to welcome **Michigan BluesFest** back to the streets of Old Town, Lansing. With over 30 different performances, we have a terrific line-up of artists who are as excited to get back in front of an audience as we are to hear them. There will be something for everyone—even the kids!

Enjoy a weekend of energy, excitement, music and coming together again as a community, where we can reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

### SPECIAL SONG PREMIERES

As an added benefit, each artist has agreed to premiere a song, composition or arrangement that they've never performed publicly before.

### BEVERAGE & FOOD STATION

There will be a beverage & food station in front of UrbanBeat with beer, wine, mixed drinks and food, each for only a \$5<sup>00</sup> ticket.

### ENJOY THE SOCIAL DISTRICT

Old Town's new designation as a Social District means festival goers can buy and consume and walk on the streets with appropriately labeled alcoholic beverages from sponsor UrbanBeat and other bars and restaurants, while seeing all that BluesFest has to offer.

### TICKET INFORMATION

Seating at BluesFest 2022 will be by ticket. Here's why: In the past, beverages sales covered production expenses. Now, a variety of restaurants and bars have flourished in Old Town. While we love this (and take a bit of credit for it) we don't make enough through beverage sales to pay for everything like we used to. Now ticket sales and donations are primarily how we pay for the musicians, production crew, tables, chairs, permits, insurances, etc. We've priced tickets to cover expenses only. As a non-profit organization, your donations to MICA beyond a ticket purchase are truly needed and greatly appreciated. And still, half of our performances will be free.

### FLY LANSING PROMO

Fly Lansing is giving away a \$300 flight coupon each day of the festival. Sign up at the entry for a chance to win!

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FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

**OLD TOWN  
2022 LANSING**

[micharts.org](http://micharts.org)

**SEPTEMBER 15-17**

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or at [micharts.org](http://micharts.org) or  
pick up at UrbanBeat  
1213 Turner St.  
Lansing, MI 48906



## THURS SEPT 15

### KICK OFF BENEFIT CONCERT

at UrbanBeat - Donation - Featuring

Tom Duffield • Clique Vocals • Asamu Johnson & the Associates of the Blues



Asamu Johnson  
& the Associates  
of the Blues

## FRI SEPT 16 • SAT SEPT 17

River, Turner & UrbanBeat Stages

General admission \$15\* | Premier seats \$25\*

\*good for both days, includes Turner & River stages

**AFTERGLOWS \$10** per night at UrbanBeat - limited seating

### VENUES

There will be four venues this year: the South and North Turner Street Stages, the River Stage (Premier seats) and the UrbanBeat Afterglow Stage. Turner Street and River Stages are open-air. The Afterglow Stage is indoors at UrbanBeat. See the map for details.

### BLUESFEST T-SHIRTS & POSTERS

We're excited to announce that our 2022 BluesFest t-shirts will be on sale Friday and Saturday at the festival for only \$15 - so get one for yourself or grab one for a friend! Vintage T-shirts & Posters also available. Artist Denny Preston will be signing Posters at the T-shirt & Poster booth near the Festival entry at 5pm to 8pm on Saturday.



### LIVESTREAM

Portions of the festival will be livestreamed at vimeo.

**vimeo** • LIVE

[bit.ly/bluesfestlivestream2022](http://bit.ly/bluesfestlivestream2022)

# BLUESFEST

THUR SEPT 15

## KICK OFF BENEFIT CONCERT

UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner • *Donation*



### TOM DUFFIELD • 6:00pm

Tom Duffield has been a key part of the blues scene for decades, with his amazing piano work and expansive repertoire. Duffield is a seasoned performer, he is a regular at music festivals in Michigan. Expect interpretations of the standards, as well as much of his own surprises.



### CLIQUE VOCALS • 7:00pm

This duo is composed of two seasoned musicians, Dan Templin and Kelly Sandula-Gruner, who love to perform. Clique Vocals can be found performing at local events, venues, and concerts, such as being featured vocalists in front of Lansing Concert Band's jazz big band.



### ASAMU JOHNSON & THE ASSOCIATES OF THE BLUES

8:00pm

From Grand Rapids, this band is keeping blues music alive today. Not only does the Asamu Johnson blues band play tunes you will recognize, they also have an array of original songs that can be heard on their CDs, *Bow Legs and Big Feet*, *Got To Go*, and *Blues You Can Use*.

FRI SEPT 16



### GINA GARNER

6:00pm | South Turner Stage

Soulful, sultry vocals that cross multiple genres can be anticipated from this performer. Gina is a powerhouse of blues music, bringing an energetic and funky style audiences will love.



### CROSSROADS RESSURECTION

7:00pm | River Stage

Crossroads Resurrection brings a funky, unique blend of blues, soul, and swamp grooves with an engaging stage show. Consisting of Eddie Lester, Dave Allemane, Charles Johnson, and Jeff Fernandez, the Kalamazoo-based band is a crowd pleaser and will make you want to dance.



### SCHOOL OF ROCK

7:00pm | North Turner Stage

House Band

School of Rock is proud to bring their talented student performers to this year's BluesFest. The revolutionary music program refines young musicians in many skills, who then blow away audiences at many notable live music venues.

### TOM DUFFIELD

7:30pm | UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner



### BROTHA EARTH

8:00pm | South Turner Stage

Get ready for a rare concert experience by Brotha Earth, the five-piece band currently working on a new tour called "A Rare Musical Tribute" that has collectively entertained audiences internationally for decades. Audiences can expect a truly high-powered concert from this group.



### TWYLA BIRDSONG

9:00pm | River Stage

Twyla Birdsong was raised on church choir, leading to her love for the blues music she performs now. She uses her music and platform to share her message to "whisper love in the air".



### SCHOOL OF ROCK

9:00pm | North Turner Stage

Adult Band

### TOM DUFFIELD

9:30pm | UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner



### KATHLEEN MURRAY & THE GROOVE COUNCIL

10:00pm | South Turner Stage

For funky horn-driven R&B with old school Detroit soul sound, don't miss this nine-piece band. Featuring four horns and lead singer Kathleen Murray, the band plays soul classics and new tunes with an old-school sound. Don't miss your chance to party with the council.



### JOHNNY D Blues Jam with special guest FREDDIE CUNNINGHAM

11:00pm | AFTERGLOW at UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner

Well-known in the community for his performances and the local blues jams he hosted for years, Johnny D is bringing straight-up blues to this year's festival. Johnny will be joined by Freddie Cunningham, an equally well-known and loved vocalist. Old Town won't want to miss their jams.

The band will perform from 11pm-12am, followed by a band-led jam session with other festival musicians until 1:30 am.

## PERFORMERS

**SAT SEPT 17**

**KIDZBEAT**

2:00pm | North Turner Stage  
Instrument Petting Zoo

**KIDZBEAT**

3:00pm | North Turner Stage  
Bryce Berry & Friends

**KIDZBEAT**

3:30pm | North Turner Stage  
Greater Lansing Ballet Company performs  
*Dancin' The Blues*

**SPECIAL GUEST**

3:30pm | UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner



**HILGER & DEVOS**

4:00pm | South Turner Stage

Steve Hilger and Dave Devos have been playing blues together for 14 years as The Steve Hilger band and as this duo. They have performed in the Midwest from Chicago to Alpena, West Michigan, the mid-south, and Southwest Florida, bringing an electric show with high energy, all-original eclectic blues. They are also winners of this year's CABS Blues challenge.



**SCHOOL OF ROCK**

5:00pm | North Turner Stage  
*House Band*



**AJAH MONTALVO**

5:30pm | UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner

Ajah is a Michigan native who has been performing since the age of nine. She has an old soul for music and has the ability to connect her audience emotionally with musical range and passion. Ajah has created a unique country-soul fusion style which is reminiscent of the sounds of her favorite artists.



**MIKE ESPY & YAKITY YAK**

6:00pm | South Turner Stage

"The Metro area is truly blessed with ultra-talented blues musicians," said Steve Allen, president of the Detroit Blues Society. "Mike Espy and Yakity Yak represent the very best of the very best."



**BIG B & THE ACTUAL PROOF**

7:00pm | River Stage

This year's winner of CABS Blues Challenge, Big B and the Actual Proof are an inspired fusion of modern blues, roots music and psychedelic rock. Their original music features powerful arrangements fueled by slick guitar, clear, convincing vocals, and a rhythm section that booms, rattles and shakes. Imagine Stevie Ray Vaughan covering Nick Cave, the Stray Cats doing Tom Waits, or Pink Floyd playing Screamin' Jay Hawkins.

**SCHOOL OF ROCK**

7:00pm | North Turner Stage

*Adult Band*

**AJAH MONTALVO**

7:30pm | UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner



**LADY SUNSHINE & THE X BAND**

8:00pm | South Turner Stage

Lady Sunshine, from Detroit, is true to the blues, having a deep soulful drive that is apparent in her heartfelt originals. Her authentic, steady groove rhythm section and her powerful horn players will have audiences pumping.

1st place Detroit Blues Challenge, Best Blues Band in Washtenaw County by Current Magazine, International Blues Challenge (Memphis, TN.) 2nd place winner, Detroit Music Awards Nominee "Best Rhythm & Blues/Soul Band."



**GRADY HALL & THE DISCIPLES OF FUNK**

9:00pm | River Stage

Grady Hall & The Disciples of Funk has cultivated their signature sound influenced by old school funk, soul and rock. The band is currently working on a new studio album due to release soon.

**AJAH MONTALVO**

9:30pm | UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner



**LADY CHAMPAGNE with special guest JAMES CARTER**

10:00pm | South Turner Stage

Lady Champagne, born in Louisiana, has been singing the blues in Detroit for over 30 years. Her band includes Lester Hambone (guitar) Brown, Lorell Holton (drums), Alonzo Harrison (trumpet), John Calhoun (trombone), Sean McDonald (keys). She's shared the stage with some of the greatest blues artists, from KoKo Taylor, Johnny Bassett, Alberta Adams, Chick Willis, writer of Mustang Sally Sir Mack Rice, Larry McCray, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Blues man Billy Davis, Jimmy Johnson, Nora Jean Brusco, Jimmy Burns, Bobby Rush and the late great Bobby Blue Bland.

In 2014, Lady Champagne was Inducted into the Detroit Blues Hall of Fame for best Blues artist award, for expressive singing and powerful voice.

James Carter was born in Detroit Michigan and learned to play under the tutelage of Donald Washington. Carter has won Downbeat magazine's Critics and Readers Choice award for baritone saxophone several years in a row. He has performed, toured and played on albums with Lester Bowie, Julius Hemphill, Frank Lowe & the Saxemble, Kathleen Battle, the World Saxophone Quartet, Cyrus Chestnut, Wynton Marsalis, Dee Dee Bridgewater and the Mingus Big Band.



**MIKE ESPY - YAKITY YAK/BLUES JAM**

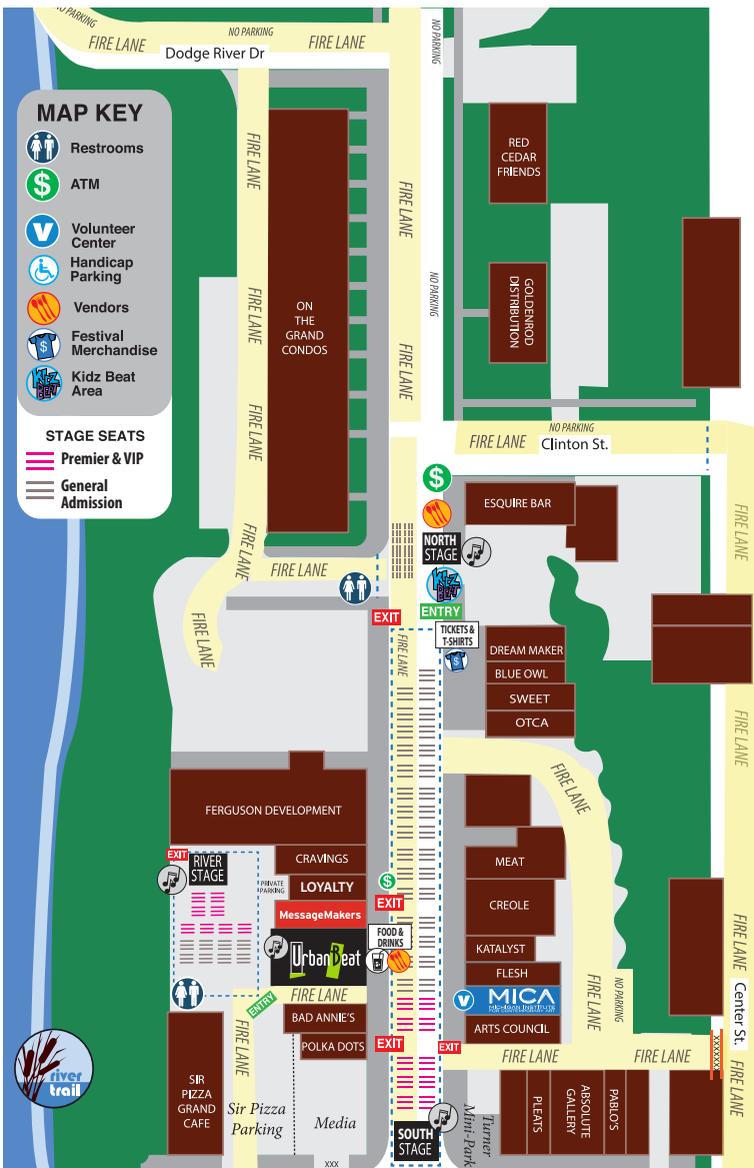
11:00pm | AFTERGLOW at UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner

The band will perform from 11pm-12am, followed by a band-led jam session with other festival musicians until 1:30 am.



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\* Map is subject to change

**ABOUT MICA**

The Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art's mission is to create open spaces where people can come together, meet old friends, make new friends, and in the context of the arts take action to bring about positive community transformation. MICA's exhibitions in the visual arts and programs in music, performance, film and literature provide opportunities to entertain, educate and inspire. For more, see [micharts.org](http://micharts.org).

**MICA Board**

- Terry Terry
- Tammy Slavik
- Tom Cathey
- David Barr
- Brandon Leathers
- Sarah Eyde

Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art (MICA) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that serves as a catalyst for community transformation through quality arts programming. Grants, donations, sponsorships and other revenues support art and artists.

**BEVERAGE STATION & FOOD**

There will be a beverage station in front of UrbanBeat with beer, wine, mixed drinks and food for only \$5<sup>00</sup>. Also, OZONE'S BREWHOUSE foodtruck and other vendors will be near the North Turner Stage.

**THURSDAY • SEPT 15**

	TICKETS	UrbanBeat STAGE
7:00pm Tom Duffield	Donation	1213 Turner
8:00pm Clique Vocals	Donation	1213 Turner
9:00pm Asamu Johnson & the Associates of the Blues	Donation	1213 Turner

**FRIDAY • SEPT 16**

	TICKETS	STAGES
5:00pm Tom Duffield	Free	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
6:00pm Gina Garner	GA & Premier	South Turner Stage
7:00pm Crossroads Ressurrection	Free	River Stage, behind UrbanBeat
7:00pm School of Rock • House Band	Free	North Turner Stage
7:30pm Tom Duffield	Free	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
8:00pm Brotha Earth	GA & Premier	South Turner Stage
9:00pm Twyla Birdsong	GA & Premier	River Stage, behind UrbanBeat
9:00pm School of Rock • Adult Band	Free	North Turner Stage
9:30pm Tom Duffield	Free	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
10:00pm Kathleen Murray & the Groove Council	GA & Premier	South Turner Stage
11:00pm Johnny D Blues Jam	Afterglow	AFTERGLOW at UrbanBeat Stage

**SATURDAY • SEPT 17**

	TICKETS	STAGES
2:00pm Instrument Petting Zoo • KidzBeat	Free	North Turner Stage
3:00pm Bryce Berry & Friends • KidzBeat	Free	North Turner Stage
3:30pm Greater Lansing Ballet Company performs Dancin' The Blues • KidzBeat	Free	North Turner Stage
3:30pm Special Guest	Free	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
4:00pm Hilger & Devos	Free	South Turner Stage
5:00pm School of Rock • House Band	Free	North Turner Stage
5:30pm Ajah Montalvo	Free	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
6:00pm Mike Espy & Yakity Yak	GA & Premier	South Turner Stage
7:00pm Big B & the Actual Proof	GA & Premier	River Stage, behind UrbanBeat
7:00pm School of Rock • Adult Band	Free	North Turner Stage
7:30pm Ajah Montalvo	Free	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
8:00pm Lady Sunshine Band	GA & Premier	South Turner Stage
9:00pm Grady Hall & the Disciples of Funk	GA & Premier	River Stage, behind UrbanBeat
9:30pm Ajah Montalvo	Free	UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner
10:00pm Lady Champagne with James Carter	GA & Premier	South Turner Stage
11:00pm Mike Espy - Yakity Yak & Jam	Afterglow	AFTERGLOW at UrbanBeat Stage, 1213 Turner

MICHIGAN BLUESFEST	Kickoff Concert \$25	(GA) General Admission \$15	Premier \$25	Afterglow \$10 per night
SOUTH TURNER STAGE		X	X	
NORTH TURNER STAGE		X	X	
RIVER STAGE		X	X	
URBANBEAT STAGE	X	X	X	X

(GA) General Admission & Premier - Good for both days





## PEOPLE



- Advocate/Activist
- Attorney
- Auto Salesperson
- Bartender (full name and bar)
- Brewer (full name and company)
- CATA Bus Driver (full name)
- Chef (full name and restaurant)
- College Instructor (full name and college)
- Comedian
- Cosmetic Surgeon
- Dance Instructor (full name and studio)
- Developer

- Esthetician/Cosmetologist (full name and company)
- Food Delivery Person (full name and company)
- Hair Stylist (full name and salon)
- Handyman
- High School Coach (full name and school)
- High School Teacher (full name and school)
- Insurance Agent (full name)
- Local TV News Personality (full name and station)
- Massage Therapist (full name and company) See Top of the Town, Page 25

## LOCAL ARTS



- Artist (first and last name)
- Choral Group
- Classical Musician
- Club DJ

- Country Artist/Band
- Cover Band
- Experimental Musical Act
- Folk Artist/Band
- Hip-Hop Artist/Group
- Jazz Musician/Group
- Local Theatre Group
- Pottery Studio
- Public Art/Sculpture
- Punk/Metal Group
- Rock Artist/Band

## MUSIC VENUE

**Green Door – Winner**  
**Avenue Café - Second Place**  
**Robin Theatre - Runner Up**

*A LOOK BACK:  
 2021 WINNER*

Since the pandemic, Lansing's music scene took a severe hit. The Loft, which hosted local bands and national acts, permanently closed its doors. Mac's Bar, another pillar in the community, remains closed for major renovations — a re-open date has yet to be announced. Luckily, a few of our venues pushed through the hard times. Last year, The Green Door, a fixture in the blues and roots scene, took the top spot. Another Michigan Ave. fixture, The Avenue Café — the go-to for alternative sounds — placed second, and The Robin Theatre in REO Town landed third. Who will take the No. 1 spot this year? Urban Beat in Old Town has kept busy. Perhaps a new venue on the block will win it all.

**Vote in the Top 5**  
**Dagwood's for:**

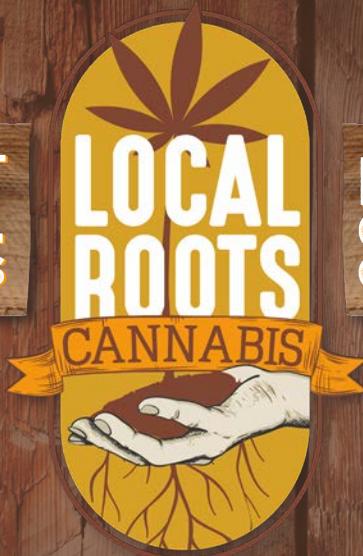
- **BEST** Neighborhood Bar
- **BEST** Sliders
- **BEST** Dive Bar
- **BEST** French Fries
- **BEST** Spartan Sports Hangout
- **BEST** Burger
- **BEST** Diner
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from page 21

- Personal Trainer (full name)
- Piercer (full name and company)
- Police Officer (full name and jurisdiction)
- Radio DJ (include station)
- Realtor/Agent (full name and realty company)
- Restaurant Waitstaff (full name and restaurant)
- Tattoo Artist (name and shop)
- Yoga Instructor (full name and studio)
- Best Local Politician
- Worst Local Politician
- Best State/National Politician
- Worst State/National Politician



## SERVICES

- Accountant/CPA
- Appliance repair
- Audiologist/Hearing Firm
- Bank
- Apartments
- Auto Body Repair Shop
- Auto Repair Shop
- Barber Shop
- Bicycle Shop

- Building Development
- Car Wash/Detailing Service
- Caterer/Catering Service
- Cemetery
- Chiropractic Office
- Cleaning Service
- Credit Union
- COVID - Best Place to get covid shot
- COVID - Worst Place to get covid shot
- COVID - Curbside Pickup
- COVID - online ordering (local business)
- Dance Studio
- Day Spa
- Dentist Office
- Dry Cleaners
- Financial Planner/Company
- Funeral Home
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See Top of the Town, Page 27

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from page 25

- Law Firm
- Massage Studio
- Most Trustworthy Business
- News Source
- Nail Salon
- Nonprofit Organization (local)
- Oil Change Shop
- Optometrist
- Pest Control Company
- Pet Grooming
- Pharmacy (locally owned) \*must include address
- Photography
- Post Office
- Public Relations Firm
- Property Management Company
- Radio Station
- Residential Remodeling Company
- Tanning
- Tailor/Seamstress Company
- Salon
- Senior Living
- Tattoo Parlor
- Therapy/Therapist Service
- Towing Company
- Veterinarian
- Wedding Services
- Yoga Studio
- Wifi/internet Service Provider

## SHOPPING



- Antique Shop
- Auto dealership
- Art Gallery
- Asian Market
- Beer Selection in F
- Bookstore (locally owned)
- Butcher
- Candy Store
- Cheese Department
- Clothing Store (locally owned)
- Comic Shop
- Consignment Shop
- Farmers Market
- Florist
- Furniture Store
- Gardening Center
- Gas Station
- Gift Shop
- Grocery Store (locally owned)
- Hardware Store
- Hot Tub/Pool/Sauna Store
- Jewelry Store
- Liquor Store
- Metaphysical Store
- Musical Instrument Store
- New Business
- Organic/Natural Market
- Outdoor/Camping Store
- Pet Store
- Place to buy Mums
- Quality Dairy
- Record/CD Store
- Secondhand Shop
- Sex Shop
- Thrift Store
- Tire Store
- Used Car Dealership
- Vape Shop
- Video Game Store
- Wine Shop

## WHATEVER

- Business with a Pet (include type of pet and name if known)
- Casino
- Category We Didn't Think of
- Cleanest Public Restroom
- Day Trip
- Eye Candy Building
- Facebook Group (local)
- High School
- Historical Place
- Instagram (local)
- Local Art Festival
- Local Event/Festival
- Outdoor Adventure
- Place to Work
- Podcast (local)
- Science Event
- Twitter (local)
- Urban Farm
- Wifi Spot
- Worst Eyesore
- Worst Pothole
- In Memoriam: Businesses Lost during COVID

See Top of the Town, Page 28

## PET STORE

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- Marijuana Provisioning Center - East Lansing
- Marijuana Provisioning Center
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CP#22-197

# Concerts and cannabis

The GOATS of Cannabis festival is a precursor to grand opening

By DEON GLADNEY

Combining live music and marijuana is a growing trend across the state. Last month, Adado Riverfront Park was packed thanks to the Smokers Ball. In

## Goats of Cannabis Festival

Starring Cheech Marin, Berner, Redman, others. Saturday, Sept. 17, 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. Cass County Fairgrounds, 590 N. O'Keefe St., Cassopolis \$20-\$100 Facebook.com/thegoatcanco

April, the second annual Lansing 420 Music Festival also went down. But this week, **Lansterdam** heads southwest of the Capital City for a visit to a new dispensary set to open in October. It is the Goat Cannabis Co. in Three Rivers, owned by Lanny Wagner, Drew Smith, JJ Smith and Tuck Kulish. The venture organically evolved when Wagner looked to expand into new business ventures.

Kulish started in 2019 as the first state operator in Battle Creek, while JJ Smith and Drew Smith were caregivers in Cassopolis.



I was treated to an exclusive walk-through of their new site on US 131. The Jay Mack spray-painted mural of 420-friendly celebrities will no doubt impress, along with the service counters and display cases made from hemp.

GCC has a plan centered on being a culture-based celebration of cannabis. "We have a mindset of the everyday

customer," JJ Smith said. "So, we want to be here for the people with the best smoke, on-demand and prepackaged."

Wagner added: "We all consume as well, so being locally operated combined with that family-owned vibe, we look forward to an exciting time in the business of cannabis."

But it's not all about packaging and product. GCC has big plans for promoting and marketing themselves — including an upcoming festival, The Goats of Cannabis, at the Cass County Fairgrounds, 590 N. O'Keefe St., Cassopolis.

"We were throwing a lot of parties; then we did our first state-licensed event," JJ Smith said. "Soon after, we got approval from Cass County Fairgrounds. So, for the next five years, we definitely will expand with music by having a can't-miss show with a great lineup, giving us that branding to drive traffic to our store."

The GOATS of Cannabis festival, Saturday (Sept. 17), is stacked with legendary performers,



Photo by Deon Gladney

Part of a mural of 420-friendly celebrities at the Goat Cannabis Co.

like Redman and Cheech Marin, along with Berner, Dreka Gates, OG Boobie Black and other special guests.

Attendees can visit vendor booths and witness live judging of cannabis from Great Lakes-based growers and brands. While GCC is busy with event promotion, the team isn't losing sight of the big picture — or the community as a whole.

"We intend to do business with a collective approach with different collaborators," Kulish said. "That way, we have an eclectic selection because we want to have the best product in the state — be the go-to place."



Redman



Cheech Marin



Photo by Deon Gladney

(Left to right) Lanny Wagner, JJ Smith, Tuck Kulish of The Goat Cannabis Co.

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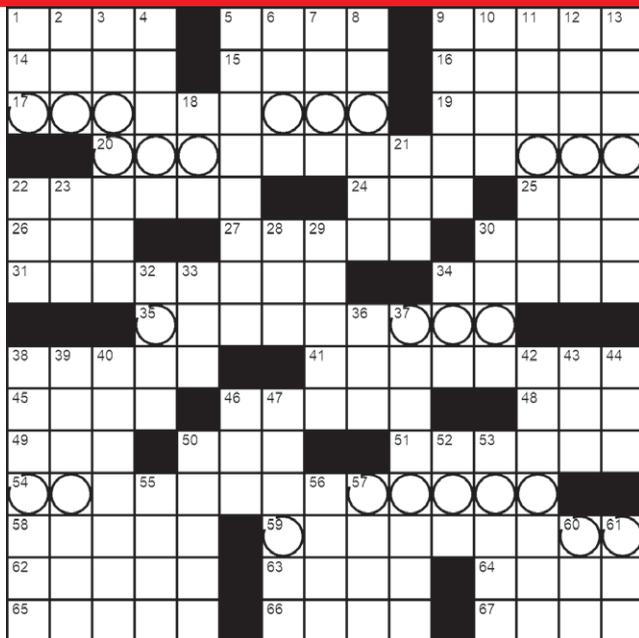
# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

**"Lettuce Wraps"—a low-carb approach.**  
by Matt Jones

**Across**

- 1. Mr. Burns's teddy bear on "The Simpsons"
- 5. Like some chocolate
- 9. Bogus customer
- 14. Frondy growth
- 15. Fisher of "The Great Gatsby"
- 16. "Pass Out" rapper \_\_\_ Tempah
- 17. Stewed meat dish with a French name
- 19. Getting grayer
- 20. Handheld flame starter
- 22. Braces (oneself)
- 24. Seething state
- 25. Suffix with Wisconsin
- 26. Broadcast
- 27. Main Street locales
- 30. Butler who voiced many Hanna-Barbera characters
- 31. Agrees, casually
- 34. Serf of old Sparta
- 35. "Stayin' Alive" singer
- 38. Antidote source
- 41. Alkaloid in tomatoes
- 45. Suffix with mega- or multi-
- 46. Expressive action in Fortnite
- 48. Blacktop material
- 49. Reply to a ques.
- 50. Late Beastie Boys member
- 51. Necklace parts
- 54. Northeastern U.S. locale known as an art colony
- 58. Quebec school
- 59. Typical offerings from compilation channels like "Aww Animals" and "Pets



Awesome"

- 62. "Meh" gesture
- 63. \_\_\_ Reader (eclectic magazine)
- 64. "No injury"
- 65. Overflows
- 66. Snippy comeback
- 67. 2022 award for Shohei Ohtani

**Down**

- 1. Very close pal
- 2. "\_\_\_ the ramparts we watched ..."
- 3. Illegal payment scheme
- 4. As scheduled
- 5. Fiasco
- 6. Part of NBA or NEA, e.g.
- 7. "Full Metal Jacket" actor \_\_\_ Ermey
- 8. Kato of O.J. Simpson trial fame
- 9. Play place
- 10. Elevated

- 11. Sign with letters?
- 12. Limerick segment that usually starts with "Who"
- 13. Part of some upscale theater seats
- 18. 2006 movie set in Georgia
- 21. 1040 issuers
- 22. Airline based near Stockholm
- 23. Carrere of 2022's "Easter Sunday"
- 28. Trireme propeller
- 29. "As a matter of fact, you're wrong"
- 30. Target of a 2022 government relief plan
- 32. PNW-based coffee chain, on the NYSE
- 33. Orangey tuber
- 34. "House of the Dragon" network
- 36. "Scram," in westerns
- 37. Glacial features
- 38. Least lavish
- 39. "\_\_\_ Sol" (Ron

- Carter song that's a poor translation of "The Night Sun")
- 40. Correct a game outcome, perhaps
- 42. "So, apparently ..."
- 43. Snooze for a bit
- 44. Some TV drama settings
- 46. Prefix with friendly or tourism
- 47. Political activist Garvey
- 50. Downloaded clips, often
- 52. Deck total for Caesar?
- 53. Bill's "Groundhog Day" costar
- 55. Vergara's "AGT" seatmate
- 56. "So long!"
- 57. Chain components, for short
- 60. "And I \_\_\_" (Jasmine Masters meme)
- 61. Planetarium view

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Answers on page 32

# SUDOKU

## Intermediate

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

**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 32

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

Sept 14 - Sept 20, 2022

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** My reader Monica Ballard has this advice for you Aries folks: "If you don't vividly ask for and eagerly welcome the gifts the Universe has in store for you, you may have to settle for trinkets and baubles. So never settle." That's always useful counsel for you Rams. And in the coming weeks, you will be wise to heed it with extra intensity. Here's a good metaphor to spur you on: Don't fill up on junk snacks or glitzy hors d'oeuvres. Instead, hold out for gourmet feasts featuring healthy, delectable entrées.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** I will remind you about a potential superpower that is your birthright to develop: You can help people to act in service to the deepest truths and strongest love. You can even teach them how to do it. Have you been ripening this talent in 2022? Have you been bringing it more to the forefront of your relationships? I hope so. The coming months will stir you to go further than ever before in expressing this gift. For best results, take a vow to nurture the deepest truths and strongest love in all your thoughts and dealings with others.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Your mind is sometimes a lush and beautiful maze that you get lost in. Is that a problem? Now and then it is, yes. But just as often, it's an entertaining blessing. As you wander around amidst the lavish finery, not quite sure of where you are or where you're going, you often make discoveries that rouse your half-dormant potentials. You luckily stumble into unforeseen insights you didn't realize you needed to know. I believe the description I just articulated fits your current ramble through the amazing maze. My advice: Don't be in a mad rush to escape. Allow this dizzying but dazzling expedition to offer you all its rich teachings.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** "Poetry is a life-cherishing force," said Pulitzer Prize-winner Mary Oliver, who published 33 volumes of poetry and read hundreds of other poets. Her statement isn't true for everyone, of course. To reach the point where reading poetry provides our souls with nourishment, we may have to work hard to learn how to appreciate it. Some of us don't have the leisure or temperament to do so. In any case, Cancerian, what are your life-cherishing forces? What influences inspire you to know and feel all that's most precious about your time on earth? Now would be an excellent time to ruminate on those treasures—and take steps to nurture them with tender ingenuity.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Please promise me you will respect and revere your glorious star power in the coming weeks. I feel it's important, both to you and those whose lives you touch, that you exalt and exult in your access to your magnificence. For everyone's benefit, you should play freely with the art of being majestic and regal and sovereign. To do this right, you must refrain from indulging in trivial wishes, passing fancies, and minor attractions. You must give yourself to what's stellar. You must serve your holiest longings, your riveting dreams, and your thrilling hopes.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** It's impossible to be perfect. It's neither healthy nor productive to obsess on perfectionism. You know these things. You understand you can't afford to get bogged down in overthinking and overreaching and overpolishing. And when you are at your best, you sublimate such manic urges. You transform them into the elegant intention to clarify and refine and refresh. With grace and care, you express useful beauty instead of aiming for hyper-immaculate precision. I believe that in the coming weeks, dear Virgo, you will be a master of these services—skilled at performing them for yourself and others.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** According to Libran poet T. S. Eliot, "What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make

a beginning. The end is where we start from." Those are your guiding thoughts for the coming days, Libra. You're almost ready to start fresh; you're on the verge of being able to start planning your launch date or grand opening. Now all you have to do is create a big crisp emptiness where the next phase will have plenty of room to germinate. The best way to do that is to finish the old process as completely as possible.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Now and then, you slip into phases when you're poised on the brink of either self-damage or self-discovery. You wobble and lurch on the borderline where self-undoing vies with self-creation. Whenever this situation arises, here are key questions to ask yourself: Is there a strategy you can implement to ensure that you glide into self-discovery and self-creation? Is there a homing thought that will lure you away from the perverse temptations of self-damage and self-undoing? The answers to these queries are always yes—if you regard love as your top priority and if you serve the cause of love over every other consideration.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** "Sometimes serendipity is just intention unmasked," said Sagittarian author Elizabeth Berg. I suspect her theory will be true for you in the coming weeks. You have done an adroit job of formulating your intentions and collecting the information you need to carry out your intentions. What may be best now is to relax your focus as you make room for life to respond to your diligent preparations. "I'm a great believer in luck," said my Uncle Ned. "I've found that the harder I work, the more luck I have." He was correct, but it's also true that luck sometimes surges your way when you've taken a break from your hard work.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Tips to get the most out of the next six weeks: 1. Be the cautiously optimistic voice of reason. Be the methodical motivator who prods and inspires. Organize as you uplift. Encourage others as you build efficiency. 2. Don't take other people's apparent stupidity or rudeness as personal affronts. Try to understand how the suffering they have endured may have led to their behavior. 3. Be your own father. Guide yourself as a wise and benevolent male elder would. 4. Seek new ways to experience euphoria and enchantment, with an emphasis on what pleasures will also make you healthier.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Aquarian author Richard Ford has advice for writers: "Find what causes a commotion in your heart. Find a way to write about that." I will amend his counsel to apply to all of you non-writers, as well. By my reckoning, the coming weeks will be prime time to be gleefully honest as you identify what causes commotions in your heart. Why should you do that? Because it will lead you to the good decisions you need to make in the coming months. As you attend to this holy homework, I suggest you direct the following invitation to the universe: "Beguile me, mystify me, delight me, fascinate me, and rouse me to feel deep, delicious feelings."

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** "I am lonely, yet not everybody will do," observed Piscean author Anais Nin. "Some people fill the gaps, and others emphasize my loneliness," she concluded. According to my reading of the astrological omens, Pisces, it's your task right now to identify which people intensify your loneliness and which really do fill the gaps. And then devote yourself with extra care to cultivating your connections with the gap-fillers. Loneliness is sometimes a good thing—a state that helps you renew and deepen your communion with your deep self. But I don't believe that's your assignment these days. Instead, you'll be wise to experience intimacy that enriches your sense of feeling at home in the world. You'll thrive by consorting with allies who sweeten your love of life.

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

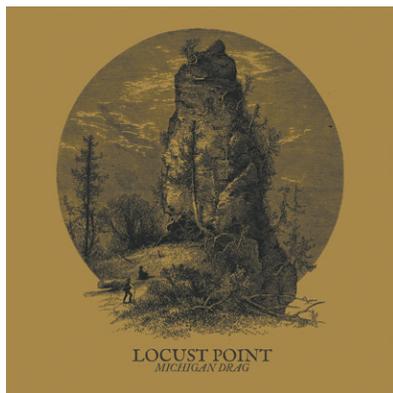
# TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene BY RICH TUPIGA

## LOCUST POINT RETURNS TO THE STAGE



Locust Point is (left to right) Phil Lynch (guitar, vocals), Dave Peterman (drums, guitar, vocals) and Albert LaRose (bass).



### Deadsurf, Edison Hollow open free, heavy show at The Avenue

While Locust Point hasn't played a live show since March, the band wasn't dormant. Back in June, the trio unleashed "Michigan Drag," its electrifying sophomore LP.

The disc is a follow-up to the band's 2018 self-titled debut. Both albums are fully stocked with powerful, Thin Lizzy-esque guitar riffs and remarkable rock 'n roll hooks. On Friday (Sept. 16), the band will finally perform those new

songs live at The Avenue Café. The free show includes sets from Deadsurf and Edison Hollow.

#### Locust Point

w/ Deadsurf, Edison Hollow  
Friday, Sept. 16  
The Avenue Café  
2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
FREE, 21+, 10 p.m.  
facebook.com/locustpointmi

Locust Point, which comprises Phil Lynch (guitar, vocals), Dave Peterman (drums, guitar, vocals) and Albert LaRose (bass), formed as a side project in late 2016 — but

quickly evolved from there. What transpired from those early sessions was a concoction of inspiration from their record collections — creating a distinct, seamless mixture of heavy sounds.

"It's riff-driven, punk-y, working-class rock 'n' roll with a lot of hooks," Lynch said. "We've all played in metal bands before, so that element bleeds through, too. Musically our album draws from groups like Thin Lizzy, '70s-era Aerosmith and ZZ Top. There's some Motörhead and Guns N' Roses in there, too.

"Beyond that, I hear some '80s punk like Black Flag and Agent Orange — even some '90s bands like Alice in Chains, Soundgarden and Nirvana," he added.

While writing their debut record, Lynch said life in Mid-Michigan leaked into the band's grim lyrics. Specifically, the sometimes-brutal Lansing weather offered up stimuli.

"We were influenced by the day-to-day drudgery of living and working in a city that's only nice about four months out of the year and the bad habits that spring up around that kind of malaise," Lynch said. "It's about music being one of the only healthy outlets for that kind of stuff. Playing music with your friends is definitely worth getting up in the morning for when you don't have much else to look forward to."

As for the new record, "Michigan Drag" was recorded in the spring and summer of 2021. The drum tracking was cut at Marshland studios in Lansing while the band finished guitars and vocals at their home jam space.

"Compared to our debut, it felt much less rushed," Lynch said. "We were able to take our time and give the material more breathing room this time around."

Once again, "Midwest malaise and drudgery," as Lynch puts it, seeped into the tracklist — becoming an unintentional "theme" of the album. But it's not all doom and gloom. There are plenty of sonically exhilarating jams across the 10-song LP.

"I think my favorite (on the new album) is 'The Chaser,'" Lynch said. "The song starts as this kind of Stax Records bass groove and just keeps building steam. It highlights the rhythm section, too — which I think is an underrated aspect of the band. Just a well-rounded, centerpiece track."

An almost-nine-minute track, "Texas Switch," dynamically closes out "Michigan Drag."

"It's very singer-songwriter-y," Lynch said. "Obviously, there's a heavy Dire Straits influence. We knew early on it would end the record. It felt right to let it just run on at the end."



# Live & Local CityPULSE

## The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Locust Point, Deadsurf, Edison Hollow**  
Fri., September 16, 9 p.m.



## B&I Bar

5247 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing  
**Rollin Brummette**  
Thurs., September 15, 7:30-10:30 p.m.



## Classic Pub & Grill

16219 Old U.S 27, Lansing  
**The New Rule**  
Fri., September 16, 8 p.m.  
Sat., September 17, 8 pm



## Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids  
**DJ E-Nyce**  
Thurs., September 15, 7-10 p.m.  
**Deacon Earl**  
Fri., September 16, 7-10 p.m.  
**Russ Holcomb**  
Sat., September 17, 7-10 p.m.



## Ellison Brewery and Spirits

4903 Dawn Ave, East Lansing  
**Tony Thompson**  
Sun., September 18, 5-7 p.m.



## The Exchange

314 E Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Smokey Bear Band**  
Fri., September 16, 9:30 p.m.  
**Off The Ledge**  
Sat., September 17, 9:30 p.m.



## The Green Door

5001 W Saginaw Hwy., Lansing  
**Be Kind Rewind**  
Fri., September 16, 9 p.m.  
**Atomic Annie**  
Sat., September 17, 9 p.m.



## One North Kitchen & Bar

2005 E Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Keith Minaya**  
Sat., September 17, 6:30-10:30 p.m.



# 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 9 a.m. Monday for the upcoming Wednesday edition. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Suzi at (517) 999-6704.

### Wednesday, September 14

**50 over Fitness** - Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group. 9-10 a.m. Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos. 517-853-4600. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

**Allen Farmers Market** - 2:30-7 p.m. Allen Market Place, 1611 E Kalamazoo, Lansing.

**Essays on Invisibility by Paloma Nunez-Regueiro** - through Sept. 11 a.m. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S. Washington #100, Lansing. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org).

**Food Frenzy** - 4-8 p.m. Holt Farmers' Market, 2150 Cedar St, Holt. [delhitownship.com](http://delhitownship.com).

**Ingham Conservation District Fall Tree Sale** - open online until Sept. 20. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 1031 W. Dexter Trl, Mason. [webstore.inghamconservation.com](http://webstore.inghamconservation.com).

**Meditation in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition** - All are welcome! 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. MLK Jr Blvd., Lansing

**Meridian Farmers Market** - 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos 3-7 p.m.

**Michigan - A Warm Embrace** - through Sept. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Framer's Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net).

**Pagan Community Night** - Online or in-person 6-8 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St. #7A, Lansing. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**PeaceQuest Greater Lansing 2022** - To celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace. Schedule at [peacequestgreaterlansing.org](http://peacequestgreaterlansing.org).

**Wine Wednesday** - Wine & cheese tasting 6 p.m. Wine & chocolate tasting 8:30 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

**Wings of Fire Book Club** - Participate in a dragon-themed activity each month. 5-6 p.m. 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. [eradl.org](http://eradl.org).

### Thursday, September 15

**Dimondale Farmers' Market** - 3-7 p.m. 136 N. Bridge St Dimondale. 517-230-0520.

**It's a Thursday Thing in St Johns** - Live music on the corner. 5-7 p.m. Downtown St. Johns, 300 N. Clinton Ave.

**Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club** - 9:30-11:20 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. [ladiessilverblades.org](http://ladiessilverblades.org)

**Lego Club at the Library (Ages 7-12)** - 9-5 p.m. CADL Mason Library, 145 W. Ash St. [business.masonchamber.org](http://business.masonchamber.org).

**MACC Courthouse Concert** - 8 p.m. The lawn in front of the Ingham County Courthouse. 315 S. Jefferson, Mason. [business.masonchamber.org](http://business.masonchamber.org).

**Starting a Business** - Seminar. 9-10 a.m. Capital Region Small Business Development Center, 309 N. Washington Sq, Lansing.

**Stitch 'n Bitch** - Come hang out with some fellow stitching witches! 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St. #7, Lansing. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

**Trivia** - 9-11 p.m. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E Michigan Ave. [avenuecafelansing.com](http://avenuecafelansing.com).

### Friday, September 16

**50 over Fitness** - Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group 9-10 a.m. Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

**The Cracked Pot Studio Tour** - Self-guided,

free tour to immerse into the unique experiences of visiting open artists' studios

Friday, 6 p.m.-10 p.m., Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Cracked Pot Studio Tour, 4411 Rodeo Trail, Williamston. [crackedpotstudiotour.com](http://crackedpotstudiotour.com).

**Cruise To** - Weekly cruise-ins at the Holt Farmers' Market 5-8 p.m. 2150 Cedar St. [delhitownship.com](http://delhitownship.com).

**Flint Is Family Opening Reception** - the opening of LaToya Ruby Frazier: Flint Is Family. 6-8 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**TGIF Dinner & Dance Party** - Everyone welcome! 7-11:59 p.m. Hawk Hollow, 15101 Chandler Rd. Bath, MI 48808. [tgifdance.com](http://tgifdance.com).

**Unity in the Community** - 4-7:30 p.m. Hawk Island County Park, 1601 E Cavanaugh Rd, Lansing.

### Saturday, September 17

**Brewtoberfest 2022** - 3-11 p.m. Lansing Brewing Company, 518 E Shiawassee St

**(B)road to Ten** - The MSU Broad Art Museum proudly celebrates our 10th anniversary year. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Dr, East Lansing. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Capital Pro Wrestling** - 3-6 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing.

**The Cracked Pot Studio Tour** - Self-Guided Tour of Ceramic Artists' Studios, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Self-Driving Tour, 4411 Rodeo Trail, Williamston. [crackedpotstudiotour.com](http://crackedpotstudiotour.com)

**Diving Into Math with Emmy Noether** - 7-8:05 p.m. Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, 640 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing

**Down Home Days Courthouse Show 2022** - 9 a.m. Ingham County Courthouse Square, Mason. [business.masonchamber.org](http://business.masonchamber.org).

**Family Fun Fest** - Fundraiser for the foster care program. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 1050 Independence Blvd, Charlotte.

**Free Brush Drop-off** - 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Recycle Center, 1418 Grovenburg Rd, Holt. [www.delhitownship.com](http://www.delhitownship.com).

**Game Night** - 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center Street, Suite 7A, Lansing. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

**Lansing Walk4CMT** - 9:30 a.m. Hawk Island County Park at the Kestrel Shelter, 1601 E. Cavanaugh Rd, Lansing. [cmtausa.org](http://cmtausa.org).

**MSU Horticulture Gardens Garden Day** - 8 a.m.-4 p.m. 1066 Bogue St, East Lansing. [carr.msu.edu](http://carr.msu.edu).

**Okemos Marching Band "Car Wash-A-Thon"** - 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Okemos High School, 2800 Jolly Rd., Okemos.

**Turtle Toast** - Bring your friends, a chair and a beverage (no glass) to the Harris Nature Center's Turtle Toast on Saturday, 7-10 p.m. 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos.

**Young Adult Book Club** - Enjoy coffee and discussion over the latest graphic novel sensation: Heartstopper! 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Mark's Place, 238 S Main, Eaton Rapids. [eradl.org](http://eradl.org).

### Sunday, September 18

**Capital City Dragon Boat Race** - 8 a.m. Jaycee Park, 525 E. River St, Grand Ledge. [viethconsulting.com](http://viethconsulting.com).

**East Lansing Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com](http://cityofeastlansing.com).

### Get dazzled at 'Kinky Boots'

Sept. 16-18

Lebowsky Center for the Performing Arts

122, E. Main Street, Owosso  
[lebowskycenter.com](http://lebowskycenter.com)



Looking for a quick road trip? The Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts in Owosso has just one more weekend for you to watch the unexpected friendship between Charlie Price and Lola, a drag performer. Price has inherited a dying shoe factory and Lola's need for sturdy high heels shifts the factory's trajectory. Price and Lola strike up an unlikely friendship as well. With songs by Grammy and Tony-winning pop icon Cyndi Lauper, this is a can't-miss show.

**International Red Panda Day Celebration** - 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing. [potterparkzoo.org](http://potterparkzoo.org).

**Knee High Hikers** - program geared towards explorers with little legs and BIG imaginations. 1-3 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E Mount Hope Ave, Lansing.

**Sunday School for Witches** - 3-4:30 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center Street, Suite 7A, Lansing. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

**Woldumar Folk & Bluegrass Jam & Performances** - Join us for performances and jam circles. 2-5 p.m. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Rd, Lansing. 517-322-0030.

### Monday, September 19

**50 over Fitness** - 9-10 a.m. Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos. 517-853-4600. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

**Family Board Game Night** - Choose a game from GLADL's collection to play! 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge.

**Karaoke** - 9 p.m.-1 a.m. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. [avenuecafelansing.com](http://avenuecafelansing.com).

**Meaningful Mondays** - 8-9 p.m. Self Realization Centre, Michigan, 7187 Drumheller Rd, Bath.

### Tuesday, September 20

**Special Collections Pop-up: Women Warriors!** - 12-2 p.m. MSU Libraries, 366 W Circle Dr, East Lansing.

**Author Visit - Norma Lewis** - will be presenting on her book **Wild Women of Michigan: A History of Spunk and Tenacity.** 6-7 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St. [charlottelibrary.org](http://charlottelibrary.org).

**Board Game Meet Up** - Ages 18+. Everyone welcome! 6:30 - 10:30 p.m. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Spare Time Bowling Alley, 3101 E. Grand River, Lansing.

**Parent Happy Hour** - Storytime for kids and wine flight specials for parents. 5-7 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-721-1330.

**Picture Scanning & Archiving** - Learn how to scan, touch up, and archive old photographs and documents. 4-5 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. [eradl.org](http://eradl.org).

**Preschool Family Storytime -Story Time for 1-6-year-olds.** 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St.

**Sporcle Live! Trivia** - Two games at 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. [crunchyseastlansing.com](http://crunchyseastlansing.com).

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 30

B	O	B	O		D	A	R	K		S	H	I	L	L
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### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 30

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

# Next level waffle

By **CHELSEA LAKE ROBERTS**

Good Truckin' Diner is known for creative twists on classic American diner food, plus tacos.



**Good Truckin' Diner**  
**Blueberry Waffle**

1107 S. Washington Ave.,  
Lansing  
Opens at 7 a.m. daily  
(517) 253-7961  
goodtruckin.com

They offer an array of interesting options like jackfruit, spicy maple syrup, arugula and vegan chorizo. The breakfasts range from meaty omelets to migas with punny names like "Jacked-Up" and

"Steak it Easy." While it's an adventurous eater's paradise, the diner also has choices for more conventional palettes. If hot chicken and pickles don't make your eyes widen, you can respectfully order eggs, toasts and meat. One thing is for sure, no one will judge you here.

I finally tried the vegan blueberry GF waffle with lemon glaze and powdered sugar. I'm using GF here to mean gluten-friendly instead of 100% gluten-free. I don't have celiac disease, but avoiding gluten for the past four years has improved my health and led to unending prosperity.

There are side effects: With my dietary restriction, I have largely become waffle-blind with breakfast orders. And this waffle is buried at the very bottom of the menu. Even then, I think of waf-

fles as being light on protein and heavy on carbs. They're usually kind of expensive and covered in whipped cream and syrupy fruits from a can. When I ate them as a kid, I'd be hungry again in two hours, not to mention positively zooted on the sugar. But, once piqued, my GF waffle curiosity had to be sated. It wasn't what I expected.

The vegan, GF blueberry waffle has big, juicy berries cooked into a buckwheat-colored batter. It comes from the waffle iron still steaming and is lightly coated in a white-ish lemon glaze with a bit of powdered sugar for added vibes. You first notice they're deliciously doughy, chewy and dense. The consis-

See The Dish, Page 34

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# The Dish

from page 33

tency is not crunchy, more like crisp. Next, the lemon flavor hits. It's pleasant and subtle, not overly sweet or tart.

The sides of potatoes and meat add saltiness to a sweet, savory and filling meal. This refreshingly regular American breakfast is a gift to the gluten-avoidant and vegan who are bored with always having to opt for that one "healthy" thing on the menu.

Most people go to Good Truckin' on the weekend. But if you can swing it, it opens at 7 a.m. daily. It's a great time to sit around with weekday regulars and see who pops in.

With a big, fresh cup of coffee, my meal cost \$16.54, plus the tip.



Photo by Chelsea Lake Roberts

Gluten-friendly waffle with potatoes and sausage.



Courtesy photo

## THE PULSIFIEDS

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### REAL ESTATE AUCTION

By Order of the County Treasurer of Ingham County  
Wednesday, October 19, 2022  
Registration at 8:30 AM -  
Auction Begins at 10 AM  
Auction Location: Lansing Center  
333 E. Michigan Avenue, Lansing MI.  
Detailed info on parcels and terms at  
[www.BippusUSA.com](http://www.BippusUSA.com)

Software & Machine Learning Engineer (East Lansing, MI). Handle the corresponding s/ware dvlpmt related to improving the services we offer to our clients. Master's deg in Electrical Engg, Comp Sci, or closely related major; Proficient in Python, Java, & SQL; College coursework in prgmg languages & natural language processing using computational models & comp algorithms & their applications in machine translation. Send resume to rick.deshon@coetichr.com or Strametrics, LLC dba Coetic c/o Rick DeShon, 700 Abbot Rd, East Lansing MI 48823.

### OFFICE MANAGER/ ADMIN. ASSISTANT

City Pulse has a rare full-time opening for an Office Manager and Administrative Assistant to the owner. Responsibilities range from basic bookkeeping and ordering supplies to dealing with customers, vendors and repair people. Are you a Jill or Jack of all trades who wants to be part of something special — the little newspaper that could? Salary in the low 30s to start. Contact Berl Schwartz at publisher@lansingcitypulse.com.

### Curious Book Shop

307 E. Grand River, E. Lansing  
Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun. 12-5  
332-0112 ♦ We validate parking  
[curiousbooks.com](http://curiousbooks.com)

### Archives Book Shop

519 W. Grand River, E. Lansing  
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**TRY THE CROWN JEWEL OF LANSING'S FOOD TRUCKS.** Serving the Lansing community for 13 years, we extend an invitation to all those to give us a try to find out why we were voted the best food truck in Lansing's 2019 Top of The Town Contest.



**Eastside Fish Fry**  
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Lansing  
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FB: @AirportTavernandSteakhouse

**WELCOME BACK!** For 50 years, Airport Tavern & Steakhouse has been a staple of Lansing's community. Full bar, daily lunch and dinner specials. Ribs, steak, burgers and salads are all crowd pleasers at this neighborhood establishment.



Courtesy photo

Good Truckin' Diner.

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# Neva Lee's grows, re-pots in new downtown location

By SARAH SPOHN

After opening their doors in their first space on July 8, 2021, at 123 E. Kalamazoo St., Neva Lee's owners, Faun Donald and Luke Trusnovec, have re-potted their plant business in its new digs.

Now located at 109 S. Washington Square, a former popcorn shop, Neva Lee's is all about making things, growing things and getting your hands dirty, said Donald, who named the business after her great aunt.

## Neva Lee's

109 S. Washington Sq.,  
Lansing  
nevalees.com  
Thursday-Friday:  
11 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Saturday:  
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

passed a few years ago, and I didn't want the memory of her to go away."

Neva Lee's began as an online plant store but expanded to a brick and mortar to allow more community connec-

tions with people who love plants and to fill a retail void.

"At that time, there weren't any house-plant specific shops in the area to purchase rare or uncommon plants," Donald recalled.

From there, things happened quickly, and within a few months its grand opening saw ample support from local plant enthusiasts. Continual community support led to Neva Lee's outgrowing its former location and further expanding to fit its budding inventory.

The store stocks plants, plant-related merchandise, pots, custom soil blends, gifts, art, paper goods and more.

"We offer plant repotting services, plant rentals for events, interiorscapes and plant placement in offices and businesses — including maintenance, moss walls, classes and workshops," Donald said. "We'll even come to your business or party to do classes and team-building make-and-takes."



Courtesy photo

Neva Lee's, a plant store, has moved to 109 S. Washington Square. Owners Faun Donald and Luke Trusnovec hope to ultimately add a coffee counter, lounge and arcade games.

Soon, they hope to add a coffee counter, lounge and more games in addition to their "Street Fighter" arcade game. The pair also plan to host events, workshops, pop-ups with local makers, vendor markets, and arts & crafts social hours.

For Donald, her love of plants carries over to playing matchmaker to custom-

ers and in search of their perfectly-paired plants. The small shop is uniquely personal, with only Donald and Trusnovec at the roots of the business.

"You get that accessibility and the one-on-one interaction," Donald said. "We remember you, your stories, your faces, your wish-list plants ... even the number of plants you've killed," she joked.

Donald said each day provides another opportunity for customers to walk in, get the "happy feels," and start or continue their plant journey.

"Our goal is to have a space for people to come and visit, shop, hang out and just be," Donald said. "We want plant people and non-plant people to feel they can wander in here without pressure or worry. They can chit chat, laugh, grab a coffee, ask questions or browse for the enjoyment of live greenery."

"Plants are beneficial to your mental health and uplift your mood," she added. "We invite you to come in and be around the plants. Your day will be better."

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OUT OF HIS HEAD

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