



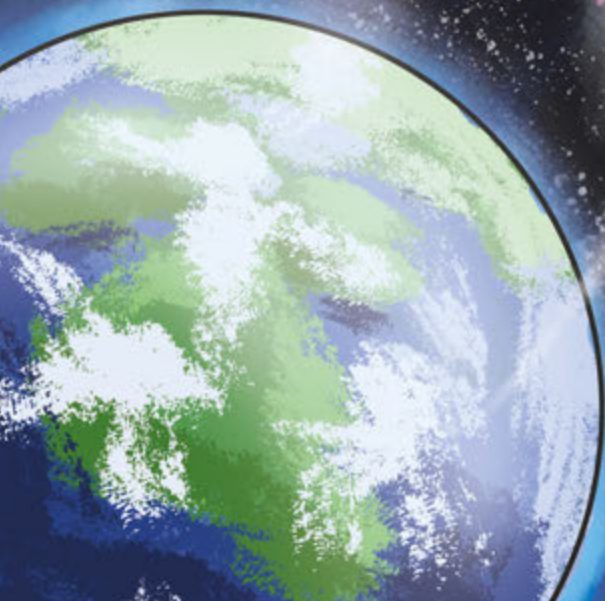
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September 7-13, 2016

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FACEBOOK: STOP CATA'S BRT



Bus Rapid
Transit
hits a Speedbump
See p.8



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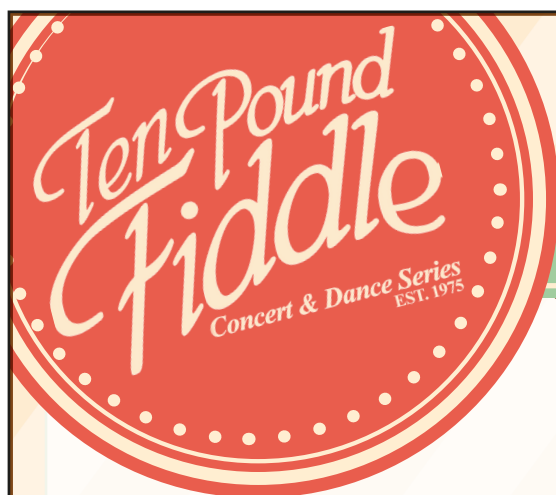
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www.singingfestival.com

- 1/20/17 Sally Rogers & Claudia Schmidt - CD Release
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 2/17/17 May Erlewine
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With Monday's Supper and a Pub Sing
 3/22/17 Jayme Stone's Lomax Project (Wednesday)
 3/31/17 The Ragbirds
 4/7/17 Melissa Ferrick
 4/21/17 The Chenille Sisters



Pat Donohue



Dar Williams



Cathie Ryan



James Hill & Anne Janelle



May Erlewine



Karen Casey



The Ragbirds



Melissa Ferrick

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CityPULSE

**VOL. 16
ISSUE 4**

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Hirten: Vacancies abound on Lansing's 'Main Street'

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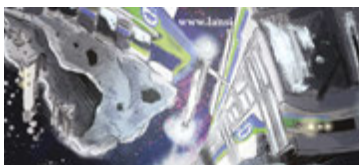
Suzanne de Passe looks back on impressive showbiz career

PAGE 12



Change of plans for Jeremy Denk, Lansing Symphony

PAGE 22



COVER ART

By JONATHAN GRIFFITH

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

21st CENTURY NEWS CYCLE

STEP ONE: CONTROVERSY ERUPTS ON TWITTER.
HASHTAG I-HATE-THAT-THING IS TRENDING!
EXCELLENT! CAUSE I HATE THAT THING!

STEP TWO: JOURNALISTS WHO SPEND ALL DAY ON TWITTER WRITE ARTICLES ABOUT CONTROVERSY.
The subset of Twitter users who hate the thing have made their opinions known -- and they are not happy!

STEP THREE: PEOPLE TWEET COMMENTS ABOUT ARTICLES ABOUT THING. THESE STUPID JOURNALISTS DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING ABOUT THE THING!
OR WHY WE HATE IT!

STEP FOUR: COLUMNISTS WRITE THINKPIECES ABOUT COMMENTS ABOUT ARTICLES ABOUT THE THING.
The reaction of the Twitter mob has been dreadfully uncivil, leaving many to despair for the future of polite discourse. And furthermore--

STEP FIVE: GO BACK TO START AND REPEAT PROCESS.
HASHTAG I-HATE-THIS-NEW-THING IS TRENDING!
IT'S ABOUT TIME! I REALLY HATE THAT THING!

TOM TOMORROW © 2016

Shapeshifting at SkyVue

Will young professionals rent in student-driven site?

The massive \$90 million SkyVue project under construction next to Frandor was approved by Lansing with the intent that it provide new and needed apartments for young professionals. Now it appears that the market for the development is primarily students.

The developer's marketing pitch and its pricing "by the bed" reflect the practices used by the region's large student housing providers. Each apartment comes fully furnished and renters are prohibited from bring their own furniture to the apartments.

"This is student housing," said Jody Washington, First Ward City Councilwoman and chairwoman of the Development and Planning Committee. "I don't care that it's students. Just be honest about it. This is about honesty and transparency. It's lacking."

But Bob Trezise, president and CEO of Lansing Economic Area Partners, LEAP, which helped broker the deal, defended the development. He said the project has "market rate apartments," which would be "marketed to young professionals." He said developers originally proposed a 100 percent student housing development, but LEAP officials convinced The Rise from Atlanta to make 144 to 146 one-bedroom apartments for young professionals, or about 43 percent of the 337 units under construction.

"We were excited to have turned this building from 100 percent student housing into mixed use," Trezise added.

Matt Marshall, vice president of The Rise, said Tuesday that the number of one bedrooms would be much smaller— more like 10 percent — if SkyVue was aimed only at students. "It's very odd to have that many one bedrooms" in a student complex, he added.

"When we started researching this market," he said, "we found something unusual to us: a larger number of

younger professionals living in student housing" in the Lansing market.

However, the company's website — LiveSkyVue.com — has nothing about young professionals. The lead information on the site calls the development "SkyVue Student Apartments near Michigan State University."

The Rise has also hired EdR, a Memphis, Tenn., company that bills itself as "a leader in the collegiate housing industry since 1964" on its website, EdRTrust.com.



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

The \$90 million SkyVue apartment building is still under construction, but developers are already offering leases to MSU students.

The company recently opened a leasing office on Grand River Avenue in East Lansing, across from the MSU campus.

Asked to cite any marketing aimed at non-students, Marshall said he didn't know of any off the top of his head.

But he added that even when a complex is aimed at students, "it doesn't stop non-students from leasing."

SkyVue leasing officials said the new development will have 143 one-bedroom units, 48 two-bedroom units and 146 four-bedroom units.

Katie Larner, manager for EdR's SkyVue leasing operations, said she had "823 beds" to rent, reflecting the leasing model found mostly in student housing. Under the current leasing model, EdR is offering private bedrooms and bathrooms in both the four-bedroom and two-bedroom models. The cost per

person ranges \$870 to \$900 for the two-bedroom units, and \$710 to \$729 per person for the four-bedroom apartments.

The four-bedroom units are renting for \$1.73 to \$2.15 per square foot, or \$2,840 to \$2,916 a unit. SkyVue's two-bedroom apartments will be renting for \$1,740 to \$1,800 a month, or \$1.80 to \$2.19 a square foot.

By comparison with a complex aimed at professionals, the Stadium District two-bedroom, two-bathroom units are renting for \$1,200 to \$1,550 a month, according to apartments.com. Some of the Stadium District Apartments are fetching as high as \$1,460 to \$1,900 a month, according to the website, or \$1.16 to \$1.70 per square foot.

One bedrooms at SkyVue are going for \$1,235 for 637 square foot unit. That's \$1.93 per square foot. At the Stadium District, a 597-square-foot bedroom is renting for \$1,010 to \$1,325, or \$1.69 to \$2.21 per square foot.

SkyVue has set strict limits on occupancy. Leasing officials told City Pulse that the apartment floor space is not large enough to allow three people to reside in the two-bedroom units, and that even if a couple

did want to lease a two-bedroom unit, they would be required to execute separate leases — one for each bedroom.

However, Marshall said Tuesday that if an individual or couple wanted to rent a two-bedroom, "I suppose we could do that."

The current plan's variance with the original proposal shows up in the 25-year, \$25 million Brownfield reimbursement deal, where the developer, Rise, promised apartments for young professionals "as well as student housing."

It stated: "The developer proposes to construct an approximately 9 story 667,062 ft commercial and residential complex with first floor retail space and 605-space parking deck," the agreement reads. "The building be uniquely urban in its design and significantly



Property: 1023 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Lansing

The passing of Labor Day hints of the approaching chilly football Saturdays and the heat of Election Day. Since most press is directed toward the national elections, we might be inclined to overlook local affairs, where the need for change is obvious. Letters to the editor are offered by people who are quick to find fault, although few are willing to bring about change, whether by seeking municipal office or serving on local boards and commissions.

The structures shown here are being sold through the Ingham County Land Bank. Although the interiors of the house and garage remain uncertain, their exterior compositions seem workable, once the exterior doors are replaced and the windows are repaired. The buildings are available at a reasonable price but, according to the Land Bank's website, interested parties must submit a renovation plan for the work.

It would be a shame if the lack of such a plan is discouraging redevelopment.

In the spirit of communal progress, we will assist interested buyers in establishing the required plan. Depending on the level of interest, this assistance will be extended to all future Eyesores, particularly those owned by the Land Bank. Fees associated with single-family, owner-occupied buildings will be waived. If you need assistance, please contact me at Daniel@eastarbor.com.

—Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

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

See SkyVue, Page 6

Washington Square woes Vacant storefronts tarnish Lansing's 'Main Street'

On a map it's Washington Square, but for Lansing it's really Main Street. Look at old



MICKEY HIRTEN

photos and its clear that this was where shopping and entertainment happened: Walgreen Drugs, Woolworth's, Richman's Clothes, Uncle Sam's Steak House, the Michigan Theatre.

All gone and never coming back. Washington Square has always transitioned, and lately it seems to be struggling. Not like downtown Flint, fortunately, but not as healthy as it was a few years ago.

Washington Square mostly serves a narrow niche market, lunch for some of the 34,000 people working downtown. But stretching much beyond that is a challenge, and a walk through this business district finds a worrisome number of vacant storefronts.

That's always the thing with the Washington Square corridor, promise and poten-

tial. But when and does it happen?

Three or four years ago, you could make the case that Washington Square was hitting its stride. The bar scene — for better or worse — was hopping and together with a stretch of Michigan Avenue opposite the Lansing Center, downtown was trending cool. Now, on Washington Square, it's simply cooling, even though some of the vacancies could be filled in coming weeks and months.

The abandoned Lansing State Journal building on Lenawee Street and the largely emptied Lake Trust building one block to the west has hollowed out the south end of Washington Square.

The nearby Palace of Jamaica has closed. Heading north, the spacious first floor of the spiffy Knapp's Center is mostly vacant (a 2,300 square-foot JB's Sarnie Shoppe — breakfast and sandwiches — opened on Tuesday). The Eyde Co., which has leased most of the office space in the historically renovated Streamline Moderne building, is waiting for the right major tenant for the big room: a high-quality restaurant.

It's the smart strategy and good for the long term. But for now it's just open space, as is the shuttered Hallmark store and the adjacent Secrets Nightclub. Also on the prime 200 block, the first floor that housed Lenny's Subs is vacant, as are Brannigan Brothers and the Black Rose, another bar. Just across the street is another big vacancy, Eden Rock. That's at least six empty storefronts right in the heart of "Main Street."

Head north and the Corner Market and Michael G's Hair are gone. Head south and

Mac and Chee has closed, though a new business is expected to open there soon.

Some of the decline has coincided with the troubles of Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School, whose Lansing footprint has shriveled. In 2011, it reported enrollment of 3,628 full-time (737) and part-time (2,891) students. For 2015, enrollment it reported was just 1,342: 174 full time and 1,168 part time. This is spread out on campuses in Michigan and Florida, but Lansing is the big school and the students, older and often living downtown, helped prime the Washington Square economy.

There's also been a decline in state workers downtown, which hurts as well.

Downtown Lansing Inc., one of the entities engaged in promoting and developing the city's business district, contends that overall, things are going well downtown.

Mindy Biladeau, the group's executive director, said the vacancy rate for downtown business — only some of which operates on Washington Street — is just under 10 percent. The district covers an area roughly bounded by Capitol Avenue on the west side, Larch Street on the east, I-496 on the south and Shiawassee Street on the north, with about 300 very-large-to-very-small businesses, Biladeau said.

Downtown Lansing Inc. President Terry Carella, Cooley's director of communications, illustrated the health of downtown business with a four-year snapshot: \$69.9 million in private investment, 46 new businesses, 200 new residential units. She added that between 2015/2016, Downtown

Lansing Inc. helped produce 33 events.

Among them are Common Ground, the Capital City River Run, Trick-or-Treat on the Square and Jazz on the Grand, all very nice for the big "downtown" district but not much focus on Washington Square. Events like car shows and after-work bands, once staged along the street, no longer happen. And they should.

In towns with more vibrant main streets, events are designed to attract shoppers, diners and partiers. For Holland, the city pivots on its 8th Street, five blocks of restaurants, bars, boutiques, specialty shops and offices.

"We have something in the summer every Thursday, street performers in different locations with different musicians, jugglers or clowns," said Jill Raywood, of the city's Downtown Development Authority. The vacancy rate in Holland's business district is less than a half percent, reflecting a private partnership that started in earnest in the mid-1980s just as a new mall was opening in the area, she said.

Officials with Downtown Lansing Inc. bristle at comparisons with cities like Holland and Kalamazoo, also supporting a vibrant downtown. Lansing is a different kind of city, where 34,000 workers arrive weekday mornings and race back home at the close of business.

But Washington Square is too important for Lansing to neglect. That some of downtown's sizzle has shifted to Michigan Avenue doesn't excuse the lack of focus on the city's "Main Street." Certainly the city can support both if it wants to.

STATE OF MICHIGAN IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF INGHAM

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
Case No.: 16-359-CH
Honorable William E. Collette

ERIC A. SCHERTZING, in His
official capacity as the Ingham
County Treasurer,
Plaintiff,

v

AHMED ASSAF, Individually,
WAIL A. HADAD, Individually,
and ALI ISMED IBRAHIM
MASHHADANI, Individually,
and/or their unknown heirs,
legatees, devisees, and assigns,
Defendants.

Charles A. Lawler (P65164)
Brian P. Lick (P71577)
CLARK HILL PLC
212 East Grand River Ave.
Lansing, Michigan 48906
(517) 318-3100
Attorneys for Plaintiff

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE is hereby given to
Defendants, AHMED ASSAF,
individually, and ALI ISMED
IBRAHIM MASHHADANI,
individually, that pursuant to
MCR 2.106(A)(B)(C) that, a
Motion and Order for Second
Summons, Second Summons,
Verified Complaint to Quiet
Title with Exhibits, and Order
Regarding Alternate Service
by Publication have been filed
with the Ingham County Circuit
Court in the above-captioned
matter. Defendants are required
to file an Answer in writing to the
Verified Complaint to Quiet Title
as follows:

1. A Verified Complaint has been
filed which attempts to enforce
a reverter clause in a deed for
property Defendants purchased
at Ingham County Treasurer's
Public Land Sale Auction. This
clause allows the property at
issue to revert back to Treasurer,
if property taxes are delinquent.
2. On or before 28 days after
the final publication of this
Notice in writing, said Answer
must be filed with the Ingham
County Circuit Court at 313
W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing,
Michigan 48933; and
3. If Defendants choose not
to answer or do not answer by
the deadline, a Default and/
or Judgment may be entered
against you.

Respectfully submitted,
CLARK HILL PLC

By:
Charles A. Lawler (P65164)
Brian P. Lick (P71577)
Lansing, Michigan Office:
212 East Grand River Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48906
(517) 318-3100
Attorneys for Plaintiff,
Ingham County Treasurer

Date: August 24, 2016

CP#16-198

SkyVue

from page 5

caters to market
rate seeking young

professionals as well as student housing. To capture the market rate seeking young professionals, a large portion of the 359 residential units will be one-bedroom units. The development will assist in the continued transformation of Lansing's Michigan Avenue."

"Oh I am definitely marketing to young professionals," said Lerner. "We are just getting started."

Currently, the company's website touts its roommate-matching service as well as other amenities like free wifi in what it promotes as "SkyVue Student Apartments near Michigan State University."

In the Lansing region, as in other college towns, the student housing market is lucrative. The most recent large multi-unit apartment developments in the region have been for student housing.

Still, the student-focused marketing is concerning to some on the City Council.

"To a degree, the development was framed as 'catering to market rate seeking young professionals as well as student housing,'"

said Council President Judi Brown Clarke. "It appears that the marketing efforts are more targeted on students, with less emphasis on young professionals."

Washington, Brown Clarke and Trezise do not believe housing students is a problem in itself.

"In this building, the city will enjoy a mix of MSU students and others. Good!" Trezise said. "The City of Lansing loves MSU students and loves them living in the city. Naturally, Rise's marketing materials will include sales to students. Why wouldn't it? But that isn't the total story of the building."

Trezise also points out that all the residents in the development will be subject to Lansing's 1 percent income tax, bringing in thousands of new dollars into the city's shrinking budget.

Said Browne Clark: "Overall, I am very pleased with the SkyVue development and its pace to completion. It will be a wonderful asset to the Greater Lansing community. I wished more local labor was used during its construction, and look forward to seeing more marketing efforts towards young professionals."

— Todd Heywood



PUBLIC NOTICES

CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT AVAILABLE AND PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE City of East Lansing CDBG Program

The City of East Lansing has completed the 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report covering activities from 7/1/15 through 6/30/16. This is to provide notice that the formal 15 calendar day comment period on the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report begins on September 8, 2016 and concludes on September 22, 2016. Individuals wishing to see and review the Performance Report may do so at the City's Planning, Building & Development Department located in Room 217, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The East Lansing Community Development Advisory Committee will hold a public hearing on Monday, September 26, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in Court Room 2, 54-B District Court, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing, to receive comments on the CDBG program performance during the 2015 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 CD Advisory Committee, in care of the East Lansing Planning, Building, Development Department no later than 5:00 p.m., on September 22, 2016 or should be presented to the Committee 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 or services should write or call the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. (517) 319-6930. TDD 1-800-649-3777.

For further information you may telephone the Department of Planning, Building, and Development Department at (517) 319-6930.

Marie Wicks, City Clerk

CP#16-201

Habitat's dilemma

Contradictions hobble plan to save Scott House

The future of a proposal to move the city-owned house at the center of the Scott Park controversy and convert it to condos is hazy at best

"For the record, we have not revoked our proposal," Vicki Hamilton-Allen, executive director of Habitat for Humanity Capital Region, told the Lansing City Council on Aug. 22. "It's not buttoned up. I won't lie to you. There are some funding issues that are of concern to me."

But Hamilton-Allen's statement contradicted an email she sent Jim Smiertka, Lansing's city attorney, on Aug. 8.

"Please be informed that Habitat for Humanity Capital Region will be withdrawing its interest in the Scott Center immediately," Hamilton-Allen wrote in the email.

Her remarks to the Council two weeks later walked that back, saying that the email was "not an official resolution. That was part of a dialog that was ongoing between the City, BWL and Habitat. There were some concerns and some changes in the original agreement that have since been addressed."

That email led Smiertka to rewrite a ballot proposal slated for approval by City Council that evening. The measure seeks permission from Lansing voters to sell the house, known

officially as the Scott Center but also called the Jenison or Scott house. Smiertka replaced the mention of the sale to Habitat with a general question on whether to sell the house.

In an email Tuesday, Hamilton-Allen didn't answer a series of questions, such as why Habitat apparently reversed itself. All she said was that Habitat is "doing its due diligence" in studying the project.

The Scott Center, formerly the home of Orien Jenison, would need to be torn down or moved if the Council approves a proposal by the BWL to build a power substation in Scott Park, at Malcolm X and Washington avenues.

BWL officials agreed to spend up to \$100,000 to move the home to a new location for a qualified bidder.


In late May, BWL, city and Habitat leaders announced the old home — mothballed for years — would get a new life at another city-owned location on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, between Lenawee and Hillsdale streets. The plan calls for it to be remodeled into four affordable condos, which would then anchor the development of 18 to 20 more condos.

Habitat offered the city \$1 for the home and \$1 for the lot where the organization wants to build the condo development. In May, Hamilton-Allen announced the organization would put \$300,000 into the project and seek grants from the city.

— Todd Heywood 

JEFF DAVIS JOEL MURRAY RYAN STILES GREG PROOPS

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One Book, One Community



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AUTHOR BEN RAWLENCE
CITY OF THORNS

COMMUNITY EVENT

Wednesday, September 14, 2016 • 7 p.m.
 East Lansing Public Library
 950 Abbot Road • FREE

The theme of the 2016 One Book, One Community program is "Faces of Migration: The Human Experience." This year's program focuses on the emotions and personal experiences of individuals on migration journeys. The 2016 book selections include "City of Thorns," by author Ben Rawlence, and "Enrique's Journey," by Sonia Nazario. Rawlence will speak about his book at the Sept. 14 community event.

Community members can find a complete list of 2016 events at www.onebookeastlansing.com.

Presented by:



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www.onebookeastlansing.com



Last week, I randomly collared 22 people waiting for a bus at three stops along Route 1, the Lansing metro area's main drag along Michigan and Grand River avenues, and asked them if they knew what Bus Rapid Transit, or BRT, was.

Only two of them did. Both were MSU students, sitting in the Meijer stop with a stack of pillows, hangers, laundry detergent and supplies to schlep to the dorm room for Welcome Week.

They knew about it because their hometown, Guatemala City, has had a BRT system since 2007.

"It's OK," one of the students shrugged as he boarded the bus. "It's faster, less traffic."

Nobody I talked with that day knew a \$133 million BRT was in the works for Lansing.

But they will, and soon.

The Capital Area Transportation Agency, or CATA, is getting closer to an end-to-end overhaul of Route 1, paid for mostly by federal dollars. The huge project has been on the drawing board since 2011, and isn't expected to get underway until next year at the earliest. But it's peeping over the horizon, exciting some people and alarming others.

There isn't a lot of middle ground on BRT. Depending on whom you ask, it's either crazy to do it or crazy not to do it.

CATA officials, regional planners and a youthful subset of area business owners

and developers say the BRT is more than a time-saver. To them, it's a godsend, the next leap forward for greater Lansing, a spur to connectivity and economic development, an affordable way for a corridor exploding with growth to build capacity for more, mostly on Uncle Sam's dime.

To opponents, BRT is not a godsend, it's Godzilla — a boondoggle, a waste of money and a business-killer, both in its construction phase and afterwards. A brushfire of opposition among dozens of businesses in Meridian Township, at the eastern end of Route 1, led to the township board's August resolution not to support the project. Last month, the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce announced that it, too, did not support CATA's "current plan" for the BRT after polling its members and finding 66 percent opposed.

Bob Trezise, president and CEO of the Lansing Area Economic Partnership, has been a vocal supporter of BRT for months, but Monday Trezise said LEAP is not taking a position on the project.

Bicyclists and people with disabilities have their own issues with CATA's preliminary design for the BRT, discussed in detail in two companion stories.

CATA spokeswoman Laurie Robison noted that the Lansing Chamber formerly supported the BRT as part of a "shared vi-

sion" for change that would keep graduating MSU students and other millennials living in greater Lansing's "urban core."

"When it's critically important for the same leaders to take action and make this vision a reality, some are backing down," Robison lamented.

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero has not backed down on his support of the BRT. Bernero's spokesman, Randy Hannan, cautioned that "cracks in the conversation" over the project might hurt CATA's chances of getting federal money, but mayoral warnings aren't likely to mollify worried business owners in the project's path.

Hurrying to pave the cracks, CATA is reminding all parties that the engineering is only at 30 percent and the plan is still flexible.

Looking for a problem

The basics of BRT can be counted on one hand. A fleet of new, double-length buses will travel in dedicated lanes along most of Route 1, shared only by emergency vehicles and police. To save time, riders will pre-pay fares and board from 27 glassy, sheltered, light-rail-style stations 90 feet long, with raised platforms at bus level. Buses will have signal priority, the ability to stretch a green light a few more seconds (but not to turn a red light green).

The bells and whistles vary, but all these features are in the federal guidelines for BRT systems, along with "separate and consistent brand identity to stations and vehicles," as seen along Cleveland's Healthline or the Emerald Express in Eugene, Ore. — an overall spiffiness meant to upgrade the image of public transportation and lure "choice" riders who don't have to use public transportation.

CATA is applying for \$99 million, just under the \$100 million ceiling set by the federal Small Starts program. The rest of the money is expected to come from a state match and a patchwork of road improvement money, most of it from federal and state programs administered locally (see accompanying table).

On Michigan Avenue, from Grand Avenue downtown to Detroit Street on the far east side, there would be one lane in each direction for autos and one in each direction for buses. (CATA says traffic counts don't support the need for two lanes in each direction.) Beyond I-127 all the way to the end of the line at Meijer, there would be two lanes in each direction for autos.

CATA predicts that with the BRT in place, buses will arrive every six minutes and travel time from one end of the route to another would be cut by 7 to 12 minutes from the present time of 45 minutes. CATA also predicts that traffic will be considerably calmer, as stop-and-go buses no longer jostle in the same lane with cars.

At peak hours, some stops along Route 1 are starting to become overcrowded, with buses refusing passengers, according to CATA. But the pitch to the feds for grant money has more to do with the future than the present. When opponents say BRT is "a solution looking for a problem," CATA and regional planners think they've found one: the next 20 years.

"If capacity isn't added in this corridor, congestion will lead to significant delays for automobiles and buses by 2035, particularly during peak hours," CATA regional project manager Debbie Alexander said.



Alexander

An estimated \$300 billion to \$500 billion worth of development is either happening or about to happen along the Route 1 corridor, from mixed-use developments going up on

Lansing's East Side to the giant Skyvue apartment block next to Frandor and two slow-starting but inevitable behemoths, East Lansing's City Center and the Red Cedar Renaissance.

Building for anticipated growth is a strategy rewarded by the federal Small Starts project that would mainly fund the BRT. The language in the grant application is explicit: "Some projects are designed to address and accommodate future growth more so than current congestion problems."

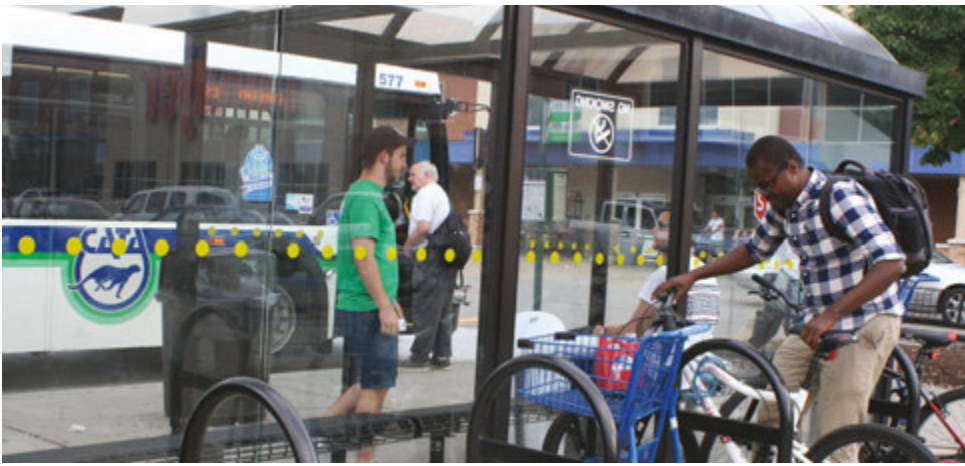
Light rail lite

Compared to subways, light rail and the venerable streetcar, BRT's are latecomers to the world's cities. But as civic budgets shrink and mega-projects become less feasible, "light rail lite" has caught on around the world. (Many estimates put the cost of BRTs at about one-fourth that of light rail.) The number of cities with BRTs has grown from a handful in the early 1970s to about 170 in 2013, about 120 of which have been built since 2002, according to the most comprehensive recent study of BRTs, sponsored by the World Resources Institute.

In the United States, the gold standard is Cleveland's HealthLine, widely credited with transforming the Euclid Avenue corridor, boosting ridership along the line by more

FINANCIAL PLAN FOR BRT CONSTRUCTION

Small Starts (Federal)	\$99M
State Match to Small Starts	\$25M
City of Lansing Surface Transportation (STP) funds & Match	\$3M
MDOT Grand River Resurfacing	\$3M
Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (Federal, state)	\$2M
Non-Motorized funds (federal, state)	\$1 M
Total	\$133M



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Moving the Route 1 Okemos Meijer stop from its current spot near the door (above) closer to Grand River Avenue is one of the proposed BRT features that worries people with disabilities.

MIXED SIGNALS

People with disabilities worry about navigating the BRT

CATA's proposed Bus Rapid Transit system for the Michigan Avenue-Grand River Avenue corridor has many features meant to make transportation safer for people with disabilities, including platforms that are level with the bus and crosswalk signals with audio tones and other features.

However, Fred Wurtzel, secretary of the National Federation of the Blind's Michigan chapter, has drafted a letter to CATA declaring that the group's members "are opposed to the BRT on a number of fronts."

Among Wurtzel's biggest worries are the proposed elimination of Route 1's Frandor stop and moving the Meridian Township Meijer stop from its present location, about 20 feet from the store entrance, closer to Grand River Avenue by about the length of a football field.

"Frandor Kroger and Okemos Meijer are essential grocery shopping venues for many of our members," Wurtzel wrote in his letter to CATA.

Responding to questions raised at an Aug. 16 community meeting, spokeswoman Laurie Robinson said CATA will continue to "work with these businesses to find the best location for the stations as well as safe access to all businesses," but she added a reminder that "the Americans With Disabilities Act does not require private businesses to provide public transportation" to their doors.

Wurtzel is also concerned about the BRT's proposal to build new stations in a center median along Michigan and Grand River avenues, replacing the old curbside stops.

"It will decrease the number of riders who will not risk crossing active traffic lanes to reach the bus stop," Wurtzel said.

Pat Cannon, a former CATA board member who retired four years ago as director of the Michigan Commission for the Blind, has never driven a car. He was legally blind

by the time he reached his teens and lost his remaining vision in his 30s.

Cannon was on the CATA board for almost 25 years. He stepped down last year after moving to East Lansing.

"I am absolutely optimistic that the facility in Lansing with the BRT will be safer than anything we have in the community now," Cannon said.

As an eight-year appointee by President Bill Clinton to the U.S. Access Board, recently re-appointed to the board by President Barack Obama, Cannon helps writes guidelines for the Americans with Disabilities Act. In 1997 and 1998, with Cannon as chairman, the board set down guidelines for public rights of way, including intersections, traffic signals and pedestrian crossings.

Cannon is satisfied with CATA's plans to install Accessible Pedestrian Signals, or APS, wherever there is a boarding platform in the center of the road. The signals will be turned on at the push of a button, providing audible and tactile cues notifying when it is safe to cross.

Cannon said the whole community, including the disabled, will be better off with BRT than without it. "I've always counseled young blind folks to consider residing and working in a community such as Lansing that has good public transportation, because transportation is the key to independence for us," he said.

Donna Rose, a retired social worker who lives in East Lansing and is blind, said the loss of the Frandor stop would be "a real hardship" for her and isn't comforted much by the planned APS signals. She dreads crosswalks so much that she takes Route 1 to its eastern end, at Meridian Mall, where the bus turns around, rather than crossing Grand River Avenue, and is alarmed by the proposed shift from curbside boarding to stations in the median. Navigating crosswalks, with or without APS, has only gotten more dangerous in recent years, she said. "People are texting, talking on phones, not even looking," Rose said. "APS is not a panacea." CATA said designs for the BRT are preliminary and more curbside boarding is under consideration.

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BRT

from page 8

than 50 percent and generating nearly \$6 billion in “transit oriented development,” or about \$115 for each dollar spent on the project, according to a study by the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy.

A Lansing delegation, including Mayor Virg Bernero, took a spin on the Cleveland HealthLine last year.

“The density along the route, the new investments in medical facilities, restaurants, housing density was impressive,” Randy Hannan, Bernero’s spokesman, said.

Post-BRT ridership gains from 20 to 30 percent were reported in Pittsburgh, Houston, and Los Angeles, according to the Transportation Research Board, but BRTs are popping up in smaller cities as well.

In June 2016, the feds awarded Columbus, Ohio, \$37 million for a BRT in a city with a capitol-to-campus corridor often compared to the Lansing—East Lansing route.

The EmX (Emerald Express) in Eugene, Ore. — slightly larger than Lansing in population — started in 2007 with a four-mile link from downtown Eugene to neighboring Springfield. The Federal Highway Administration tracked a spike in ridership from 2,700 to 4,700 in the Emerald Express’s first five years of operation.

With BRTs under consideration in cities

across the country, researchers at the University of Utah chose Eugene’s system as an economic impact case study. Light rail, the study concluded, is too expensive to benefit a city with less than 1 million people, but BRTs brought a measurable result to Eugene. In the post-2008 recession, jobs fell by 5 percent outside the Eugene’s BRT corridor, but increased 10 percent within a quarter mile of a BRT station and five percent within a half mile. “We are impressed to see how the Eugene-Springfield market responded so quickly to the EmX BRT system,” the study concluded, with a caveat that further research was needed to pin down the correlation between the BRT and economic growth.

But in Eugene, a \$96 million EmX extension into the city’s western suburbs, a sprawling commercial strip similar to that of Meridian Township, has stirred up a hornet’s nest of opposition. Our Money Our Transit, a local group opposed to the extension, filed a lawsuit against the local transit district and the FTA. The lawsuit didn’t stop the new line, scheduled to open next year, but their objections are similar to those that have been aired in a series of contentious meetings in Meridian Township, where CATA’s proposed BRT has aroused the most vocal resistance.

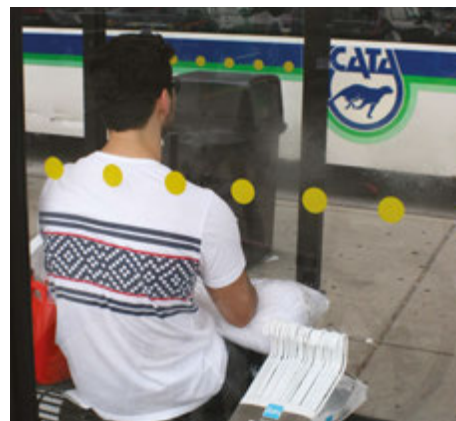
Conflict points

Plans for CATA’s BRT have been public since 2011, but it wasn’t until last year that a group of Meridian Township business owners spotted CATA’s trademark blue leopard in the bushes and began to chatter with alarm.

BRT opponents have a long laundry list of perceived flaws in the BRT. For one thing, they fear it will cost more to run in the longer term.

CATA maintains that with 27 stations replacing 28 enclosed bus stops, any increase in operational costs for the BRT compared to the old Route 1 would be “minimal” and easily handled within the current budget. Robison said CATA “is not considering a millage increase to fund costs associated with the BRT.”

Another frequent charge against CATA is that it’s highballing ridership projections along Route 1. Susan Pigg, director of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, said “CATA is held to strict standards on its assumptions they can make” and its rider-



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Supply-laden MSU sophomore Diego Arenas waits at the Okemos Meijer for a bus back to campus. His home town, Guatemala City, has had a BRT system since 2007.

ship estimates are “quite conservative in terms of increases in Route 1.”

But for many local businesses, center boarding along a new median, beginning at Hagadorn Road along the route eastward to the Meridian Mall, is the deal-breaker.

“A person heading east would not be able to make a left turn to come into the Coral Gables, the Oriental Market, all the way up the line,” George Tesseris, co-owner of Coral Gables in Meridian Township, said. “When we explained this to some of the merchants, they went up in arms. [CATA] is crazy.”

Last fall, Tesseris gathered signatures from about 55 businesses and commercial property owners on or near the corridor and gave the petition opposing BRT to the township.

Small businesses are leading the anti-BRT charge, but even heavier hitters like Brian Jones, co-owner of Playmakers, said he doesn’t support the project “the way it’s presented currently.”

Jones said the Lansing Chamber of Commerce announcement was a “big statement.”

“Most people are not against the idea of improved public transportation,” Jones said, “but the center loading — I have a hard time picturing how that’s going to work.”

The status quo is hardly ideal. Traffic experts come down harshly on the two-way left turn lanes now in place along Grand River Avenue from MSU to the Meridian Mall.

Experts coolly refer to the daily games of chicken that take place along two-way left

turn lanes as an “unsafe density of conflict points.”

Parts of the Michigan-Grand River corridor carry 25,000 vehicles a day already, CATA says. When the average annual daily traffic on a major roadway is projected to exceed about 28,000 vehicles per day during the next 20 years, installing a raised median is “prudent,” according to a study by the Iowa State Institute for Transportation.

The study advises a rapidly growing suburb to “design or retrofit its arterial streets with raised medians in anticipation of high future traffic volumes.”

Responding to businesses’ objections to the BRT design, MDOT and TCRPC embarked in July on a more intensive study of traffic data, including left turn data, to refine the models used in developing the system.

Alexander said CATA is prepared to go back to the drawing board, “identify which businesses will be truly disadvantaged” and find a solution for them.

Campus concerns

Small businesses aren’t the only ones with worries about the BRT. One major player — MSU — still has not taken a formal position on the project as a whole or its current design.

In a series of meetings and written exchanges going back to 2012, MSU President Lou Anna Simon and other MSU officials told CATA that shaving the meridian in Grand River by one third to make room for the eastbound bus lane would reduce “pedestrian sanctuary,” a key element of Grand River’s design as it runs along MSU.

It was hard for MSU administrators Mark Burnham and Satish Udpa to see how CATA’s goal of smoother traffic flow and faster bus service would be reconciled with “pedestrian safety...especially for persons with disabilities,” according to a Sept. 28, 2015 letter they wrote to Alexander.

MSU spokesman Jason Cody said last week that the university still has “significant concerns” over the safety of the thousands of students and staff members that swarm back and forth across Grand River every day.

Across Grand River from MSU, East Lansing has not taken a position either. East Lansing City Councilman Erik Altmann spent some time on the CATA BRT web site last week and said he found the details “sketchy.”

“They mention something about partnerships with local jurisdictions,” he said with alarm. “Who knows what that means?”

Talk of regional collaboration on CATA’s website reminds Altmann of the visiting aunt heading toward you with a wet kiss.

“You end up trying to wave away her perfume,” he said, laughing. “We are out of money in East Lansing.”

MSU has also expressed dread of the wet kiss from the aunt.

“The university continues to remain very concerned that it will be approached to contribute to the capital cost [of the BRT],” Burnham and Udpa wrote in the September 2015 letter. Besides being hit up for up-front money, the administrators worried that run-

See BRT, Page 11



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'EVERYBODY WILL BE FRUSTRATED'

Current BRT plans throw bikes inside – and under – the bus

Tim Potter has been waiting for decades for safe bike lanes along the Lansing area's central corridor, from the state Capitol to MSU to the Meridian Mall, and so have many other bicyclists.

But Potter, a member of the Tri-County Bicycle Association's Advocacy Committee, isn't encouraged by the current plan for CATA's proposed Bus Rapid Transit system. On the contrary, it has him thinking about mortality.

"For my remaining years as a cyclist, and for my kids, it would be nice if it were a friendlier, safer place to bicycle," Potter said. "We're hoping for on-road facilities, and not be looking at another generation or two."

Bicyclists hoping to find a multi-modal transportation vision of the future on CATA's BRT web page can read it and weep: The project will provide "the same accommodations for bicyclists that exist today."

That means pretty much nada, from the "Bicycle Friendly City" of Lansing all the way to the Meridian Mall.

The only exception is a half-mile of new, buffered on-road bike lanes along Michigan Avenue from Frandor to Harrison Road, which CATA is required by the feds to keep or replace.

The current BRT plan is not without bike-friendly features. Stations will be sheltered, with bike racks, and bicyclists will be able to roll their bikes from bus-level platforms onto



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

A few intrepid commuters share the right lane of Michigan Avenue with car traffic (above), but most cyclists take the sidewalk or an alternate route. Current designs for CATA's BRT don't include bike lanes from downtown to Frandor.

BRT buses and store them inside while they ride the bus.

"That's wonderful," John Lindenmayer, president of the League of Michigan Bicyclists, said. "But it's not a replacement for people who actually want to bicycle along the corridor."

When the half-mile Frandor-to-MSU stretch of Michigan Avenue was repaved two years ago, the Tri-County Bicycle Association successfully lobbied the state Department of Transportation to put in bike lanes. The proposed BRT project, in its current form, would eliminate even those. As a replacement, the CATA design team is proposing a bike lane that threads through the grassy median along that same stretch.

That idea doesn't impress Lindenmayer.

"It's not viable," he said. "Riding in the middle of Michigan Avenue is not a leisure activity. It looks pretty, but it's rife with problems — you have to cross the street to get onto it and there are lots of intersections and traffic turning across."

Lindenmayer wants to see buffered bike lanes or separated bike paths along the corridor "at the very least."

ments of the project to the procurement of the BRT — is already secured," Robison said.

The back-and-forth between MSU and CATA has been prickly at times. In a letter dated June 13, 2014, Simon tried to school CATA CEO Sandy Draggoo in the art of compromise, suggesting that CATA scale back on the BRT project the same way MSU did when the feds pulled the rug from under a \$1.2 billion Rare Isotope Accelerator and MSU came back with its Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, "a project that was half the cost but still delivered 80 percent of the science," Simon wrote pointedly.

In response, CATA's Alexander suggested that Simon, "when she's recruiting people internationally to get people to work at FRIB, can use a silver standard BRT system as a bragging point."

Pinch off or hold in?

Judging by the shift in language some of the principals in the debate have adopted in recent weeks, some of them are ready, if necessary, to pinch off the inflamed Meridian Township end of the proposed BRT line, and possibly even the mile-long stretch of Grand River adjacent to MSU. In a 15-minute conversation with Hannan, he used the phrase "Capitol-to-campus" four times.

"We consider the Capitol-to-campus con-

nection the most significant part of the corridor," Hannan said. "Anything beyond that would be gravy."

But the battle of the BRT, all along the corridor, is just heating up. This month, a rival group of businesses have banded together in support of the BRT. Chris Buck, owner of Fluid Salon in Meridian Township, is still outnumbered when he speaks in support of BRT at township meetings, but he insists that it would be a "50-year mistake" to stop the project.

Potter said the advocacy committee has discussed the idea of letting bicyclists share the dedicated BRT lane with buses. To East Lansing Councilman Erik Altmann, an avid bicyclist, sharing the dedicated lane sounds like an accident waiting to happen.

"You want to encourage people to ride bikes," Altmann said. "Is the bus going to pass the bike? It sounds awful. It's almost better to be in traffic."

Lindenmayer said there's also a potential problem with "hop-scotching," as bikes pass stopped buses, which then pull away and pass the bikes, and so on.

Last November, State Rep. Sam Singh co-sponsored a bill that would slap a \$100 fine on anyone using a dedicated bus lane, bicyclists included. That doesn't make Potter and other bicycle advocates feel any better.

"On the one hand, they're trying to block us legally, and on the other, they're asking 'how can we safely accommodate you?'" Potter said. "To us, it seemed like they were speaking out of both sides of their mouth."

CATA and Lansing planners have also discussed marking and improving alternate bike routes along the corridor, such as Jerome Street in Lansing and Albert Street in East Lansing.

Altmann and Lindenmayer both pointed out that bicyclists, like water, have a way of seeking the shortest route from A to B.

"A lot of bicyclists are going to ride in that BRT [dedicated] lane if nothing is provided on the pavement," Lindenmayer said. "Or if they bike in the vehicle lane, drivers will be annoyed and yell at them to get in the 'empty' bus lane. Everybody will be frustrated."

Buck said he "absolutely" moved his business to Grand River because of the flurry of activity, including the proposed BRT, along the corridor.

"We are on the verge of having a progressive look to a somewhat aging town," Buck said. "The youth of our community is clamoring for connectivity. It's not an easy process, but let's at least be productive with our opposition, collaborate, fill in the dots before we lose this chip."

BRT

from page 10

ning the BRT will "result in additional costs to the university and our students." The letter goes so far as to request a promise, in writing, from CATA that neither of those things would happen.

CATA's Robison said that's not going to happen. "Funding — from planning ele-



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Yellow anti-BRT signs are popping up all over town, especially on Route 1's eastern end, where dozens of Meridian Township business and residents oppose the project.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, September 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to Amend the Lansing Codified Ordinances by amending Chapter 297, Sections 297.01, 297.02, 297.03, 297.04, 297.07, 297.08, 297.09, 297.10, 297.11, 297.12, 297.13, 297.14, and adding Section 297.16 to rename certain sections; to better illuminate the intent of the Chapter; to add the definitions of bullying and hostile work environment and modify other definitions; to clarify the process for the submission and handling of claims; and to add a Section allowing for claims to be resolved by conciliation agreements

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

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk
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From **MOTOWN** to the **Wild West**

Suzanne de Passe waxes eloquent over her long showbiz career

By **TY FORQUER**

In the late '60s, Suzanne de Passe had recently moved to Detroit from New York to work as a creative assistant for Motown Records founder Berry Gordy. That's when a phone call from friend Bobby Taylor, bandleader for Bobby Taylor & the Vancouvers, really set her career in motion.

"Bobby called me one day and said, 'I'd like you to come down to my apartment. There's something I think you should see,'" she recalled. "I did, and that's how I met the Jackson 5."

De Passe brought the group to Gordy's attention, and the Jackson 5 went on to become one of the label's most successful acts. For over 10 years, de Passe worked closely with the group.

"My cousin, Tony Jones, and I were responsible for everything that had to do with the Jackson 5 except making the record — their wardrobe, their choreography, their lineup for the shows, putting them in school, finding them a house, all that stuff," she said.

De Passe followed Gordy out to the West Coast in the early '70s and rose through the company, eventually being named president of Motown Productions in 1981. She struck out on her own in the early '90s and is co-chairwoman/co-founder of DePasse Jones Entertainment, a television and film production company.

"(Gordy) recognized very early on that television, and subsequently film, was a way to expand the popularity and success of his artists," de Passe said. "Because he had that vision, I got to ride the coattails of that into new kinds of meetings, new kinds of opportunities. So by the time he appointed me president of Motown Productions, I had really had a fantastic 12-year education."

De Passe, 70, comes to East Lansing Friday for Sparrow Foundation's 42nd annual Kaleidoscope, an all-day event that focuses on women's health and community leadership. Her keynote address will cover her impressive career in music, television and film, and she'll share some personal stories from

her time in Detroit.

"People in Michigan, in particular, like to hear about behind the scenes at Motown," she said, "going to a Temptations recording session or watching Marvin Gaye lie on a couch and lay down background vocals, traveling on the road with various acts, supervising them on television appearances."

In addition to de Passe's keynote address, the event includes sessions on fitness, business, art, healthy eating and Michigan travel ideas.

After leaving Motown Productions, de Passe focused almost entirely on film and television. She recently started filming a show for VH1, "Daytime Divas," based on Star Jones' 2011 novel, "Satan's Sisters." The show, which stars Vanessa Williams, is centered on a fictional daytime talk show.

"Star and I have been working on it for quite some time," she said. "The stories really take us under the hood of a daytime talk show, albeit an invented one."

One of de Passe's most successful productions is the 1989 CBS miniseries "Lonesome Dove," which she produced for Motown Productions. Based on the novel by Larry McMurtry and starring Robert Duvall and Tommy Lee Jones, the epic Western took home seven Emmy Awards and two Golden Globes.



Courtesy Photo

Suzanne de Passe, co-chairwoman/co-founder of DePasse Jones Entertainment, started her career as a creative assistant to Berry Gordy at Motown Records.



Courtesy Photo

Suzanne de Passe discovered several of Motown Records' biggest acts, including the Jackson 5 (shown), Lionel Richie and the Commodores, Rick James and DeBarge.

"I met Larry McMurtry and invited him to lunch in L.A.," de Passe recalled. "I asked him what he had that hadn't been produced yet — this was shortly after 'Terms of Endearment' had come out — and he said, 'I have a book coming out in June, but you probably wouldn't be interested in it. It's a Western.' And I said, 'Oh yes I would.' I love Westerns and really love the aesthetic and romance of the West."

De Passe jumped on the opportunity, thinking she had beaten other studios to the punch.

"I was able to option the book before it was published, only to find out that I got it because everybody else — the studios and the networks in L.A. — had already passed on it," she said. "But as fate would have it, the book won the Pulitzer Prize, and suddenly I went from goat to goddess. It was one of the greatest experiences I've had, and we went on to produce over 60 hours of Westerns."

De Passe credits Gordy with teaching her "just about everything" she knows about business.

"He really was a tough boss but a very inspirational one," she said. "I got to learn a lot from day one. He's a perfectionist — and when anybody's starting out, we're far from perfect. It was phenomenally exciting time, but it was also very taxing — no vacations, just work. But it's the kind of work that doesn't seem like work to other people. It was my good fortune to end up in that position."

As for the music industry today, de Passe

hardly recognizes the landscape.

"To say that there's still a record business would be completely erroneous," she said. "There is a music business, but everything is different. The Internet changed everything. Now it's like the Wild West. I don't think there will ever be that kind of robust record company like we understood even 15 years ago."

While de Passe still sees a place for record companies, the business model has significantly shifted from the days of record stores and FM radio.

"There are two and a half generations of people who don't even understand the concept of paying for music, except for through a subscription service," she said. "It seems that the selling of music is the lowest revenue stream — it's almost a loss leader to become popular enough to tour and to sell merchandise and get endorsements."

While de Passe has lived on the West Coast since the early '70s, she still keeps an eye on Detroit and has been back to the city several times as a consultant for the Motown Museum. She's watched the city go through some hard times but feels that Detroit is "coming back in a big way."

"When you hit rock bottom, there's no way to go but up, and I mean that in the most positive way," she said. "Detroit is finding its new normal, its new future, through the opportunities that are being provided for young people and entrepreneurs to make the city robust again, from a financial standpoint. It's always been a great city, in terms of the people."

MICHIGAN BLUESFEST 2016 Old Town

Produced By
MICA
MICHIGAN INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

Sponsored In Part By
CityPULSE



Image adapted from original artwork by Terry Terry

SEPT 16 & 17

TURNER ST. &
E. GRAND RIVER
IN OLD TOWN
LANSING



MichiganBluesFest



OldTownBlues



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Founding Sponsor



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ComeBACK to BLUESFEST *by Joshua Pugh*

It's that time of year again: students are back on campus, leaves are starting to change, and as the calendar flips to September, each new day brings us closer to the annual Michigan BluesFest.

It's fitting that as the 2016 BluesFest draws closer, the comeback of the Old Town neighborhood has maybe never been more evident than in this moment.

Feelings of hope and renewal are in the air, both figuratively as well as literally, as Old Town has continued to see success and growth of existing businesses, and welcomed several new neighbors over the last year.

New housing, restaurants, and creative spaces are springing up seemingly daily at this point. And really, how could they not? It's the natural fulfillment of the vision of artists like Robert Busby, Barbra Morris and Terry Terry, who got all of this started with ideas like Art & Oktoberfest, JazzFest, Snake Rodeo, and yes, BluesFest.

Over the last three decades Old Town has attracted the highest concentration of creative service businesses in the state, new outside investment, active and vibrant streets, restaurants, art galleries, and much more - much of which is owed to the small group of artists that formed the North Lansing Art Association in the early 1980s. The people of Old Town were prepared to proudly display the hard work they had invested to create something beautiful in their deserted neighborhood.

BluesFest itself continues to see change year after year. This year we are instituting a new \$10 ticket price for entry to our Turnaround Lounge. These tickets will include one drink ticket and for the first time will be available for advance purchase at michiganbluesfest.bpt.me or on our website at michiganbluesfest.com. We are so grateful for your generous support year after year, which helps us keep BluesFest and JazzFest free to the public.

We are also proud to welcome the public to our beverage tent at 2:00 PM on Saturday. We hope you can join us for a Saturday afternoon tailgate with The Bear Band as we get ready to watch the Spartans take on Notre Dame that evening.

The growth over decades of our festivals is owed to visionary leaders and the dedicated volunteers and staff of the Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art.

MICA's guiding vision is, in the context of the arts, create open spaces in the community to connect with old friends, make new ones, and engage in conversations about how to make a better community. We work hard to encourage economic development and the preservation of historic spaces through quality arts programming, bringing people together to share the joys of music, expression, and so much more.

We can't wait to experience, on September 16 & 17, the blues with an incredible lineup, featuring bands from all over the country. Personally, I'm most looking forward to the virtuosic guitarist Tee Dee Young out of Kentucky, the return of BluesFest favorite Lady Champagne & her Motor City Blues Crew in a special late-night Friday set inside the Turnaround Lounge, and the nationally-renowned Bobby Murray, who backed Etta James for over twenty years.

So much has changed and continues to change in Old Town and for BluesFest over two decades. We're looking forward to celebrating the incredible progress of the Old Town neighborhood and our amazing old and new friends with you this September, and we're hopeful that you'll keep coming back and helping us create progress and memories here in The Capital City for years and decades into the future.

The comeback continues!

PRODUCED BY
MICA
MICHIGAN INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART



General Festival Information

Free Admission - Donations Invited

BluesFest is FREE to the public, thanks to our supporters. And your gift can help keep it that way. Please look for the bucket brigade, and drop in your cash donation. Or visit MichiganBluesFest.com to donate online by credit card or PayPal.

The Turnaround Lounge

Entry to the Turnaround Lounge beverage tent is \$10 and includes entry and one beverage ticket. The Turnaround Lounge is a prime location to enjoy drinks & music from all three stages. NEW this year: we'll be opening at 2:00 PM Saturday for a tailgate as we prepare for the Spartan football game at Notre Dame Saturday evening. We hope you'll enjoy the following beverage choices offered by our sponsor Westside Beer Distributors (subject to change):

Beer & Wine choices

We hope you'll enjoy the following beverage choices offered by Westside Beer Distributors (subject to change):

Cans:

- Blakes El Chavo
- Blakes Flannel Mouth
- Bud Aluminums
- BL Aluminums
- Magic Hat #9
- Bad Ass
- New Belgium Slow Ride
- Rochester Mills Milkshake Stout

Draft:

- Bud Light
- Dark Horse Crooked Tree
- Deschutes Black Butte
- Sierra Nevada Pale Ale
- New Belgium Fat Tire
- Stella Cidre

Wine List:

- Pop Crush - Red Blend
- Hidden Crush - Cab and Chardonnay
- Simply Naked - Moscato and Pinot Grigio

Retail Vendors

(Subject to change)

- Sisthas Creative Designs
- Silver Talisman
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(Subject to change)

- Amist Concessions
- Helping Our Heroes - Pies
- Maria's Tacos
- Cinnamon Nuts & More
- Cottage Inn Pizza
- Finley's Smokehouse
- Amie Joe's Elephant Ears
- Clint's Hot Dogs
- Melting Moments
- Fire & Rice
- Teff-Rific Ethiopian Cuisine
- Eastside Fish Fry

Accessibility

Lansing BluesFest cares for those with disabilities in the following ways. As an outdoor street festival, the festival venue is naturally wheelchair accessible. Handicap-accessible parking is available on both sides of E. Grand River Ave. Wheelchair-accessible restrooms are available.

River Boat at BluesFest

Lansing Metro Marinas offers different options on the two days of the Festival.

FRIDAY: Half-hour TOURS of the Grand River, 5-8 pm, at discount prices. Departures from the dock at Burchard Park, next to the Brenke Fish Ladder, close to BluesFest activities.

SATURDAY: TAXI SERVICE 2-10 pm. Round trips and free for children under 6. Depart Lansing City Market on the hour (:00) and from Old Town on the half hour (:30). Parking is available near the City Market, at the Lansing Center and surrounding areas.

KidzBeat

The KidzBeat area presents free activities for kids of all ages on Saturday from 1 to 5 pm. Capital Area District Library will be hosting hands on art projects and bringing their mobile library truck. MICA Gallery will be sponsoring a children's activity. Kids can also experience music at the instrument petting zoo of woodwind and brass instruments, guided by musicians from MSU Community Music School and Marshall Music.



WKAR BackStage Pass

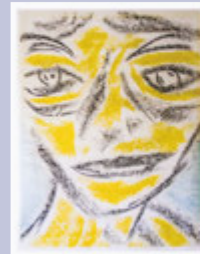
We're proud to welcome videographers from WKAR's BackStage Pass program to capture performances at the Michigan BluesFest! Edited footage will be broadcast in 83 markets (and growing) around the country. Watching those, you can say "I was there!" Watch this year and past shows at <http://wkar.org/programs/backstage-pass>.



This Year's Poster

This year's poster was adapted from original artwork by Terry Terry. See the original and more at the Old Town Professional Building just down the street from BluesFest at 1129 N. Washington. All proceeds from his show will go to help artist Barbara Morris.

Artwork of Terry Terry



Sat. Sept. 17
4-8 pm

Old Town Professional Building
1129 N. Washington
Lansing, MI 48906
517.482.3333

A MICA benefit

Save the date:

Join us October 23rd at UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner, at an afternoon benefit program for artist Barbara Morris, co-founder of OtherWise Gallery and former MICA board member.



Around BLUESFEST



Public Mural Showcases Decades of JazzFest and BluesFest Art

The side of the MICA building that houses the Arts Council of Greater Lansing, at 1208 Turner, and the MICA Gallery is now home to a massive mural featuring pieces from posters from the last two decades of JazzFests and BluesFests in Old Town Lansing.

Through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity, MessageMakers, O'Leary Paint, and REACH Studio Art Center, at-risk youth from our Lansing community participated in this program bringing a splash of color to the streets of Old Town.

You can be a part of the story of Old Town's festivals this year - take your photo with the mural and share it on social media. Make sure you're tagging us on Facebook at Lansing JazzFest, and on Twitter @LansingJazzFest.

"Seeing Rectangular": September/October 2016 exhibit at MICA Gallery

During the 2016 BluesFest, the MICA Gallery will be open for members of the public to come check out "Seeing Rectangular," a series of photo essays from Hal Gould. Below is a brief artist statement from Hal. It has been slightly edited for length.

This year more photos will be taken than any year in history, last year was a record year and next year will likely be the new record. Many of these images are digital; meant for sharing but not for hard copies. Photographs that were only used on the web and may or may not exist in a cloud somewhere.

I have made disposable images for over two decades. Photos printed on acid filled newsprint that were deteriorating on the way to the land fill.

This exhibit is in part a reaction to the impermanent nature of the digital image. The images here are meant to last.

The photos in this exhibit are printed on 100% rag paper with a neutral PH and printed with the alternative printing processes of Cyanotype and Platinum / Palladium. These non-silver processes are very stable and are produced and tested to meet archival standards. Without contamination, these images will last indefinitely.

Some of the photo essays include:

- "On the Streets" - homeless people in Tucson AZ
- "Florence State Prison" - a federal / state prison in Florence, AZ
- "Squatters Camp" in Senora, Mexico
- "The Entertainers"
- "Ladies of the Manor" - a nursing home in Northville, MI.



Second Shift Book Just Released by McGraw-Hill

Just released is the book, **Second Shift**, published by McGraw Hill and authored by David Hollister (former Lansing Mayor), Ray Tadgerson, and distinguished MSU faculty Thomas Holt and David Closs.

Lansing's history with General Motors dates back to the founding of Olds Motor Works in 1897, and the acquisition of Olds by General Motors in 1908.

Over the years, GM expanded production beyond the Lansing Car Assembly main plant and body shop. GM opened the Fisher Body Plant along Verlinden, a sheet metal plant on Saginaw Avenue and a service parts warehouse in Delta Township.

In 1984, Lansing plants began producing non-Olds vehicles. One of many challenges faced was the fact that partially completed vehicles that began at the Fisher Body Plant had to be transported across town by truck to the Lansing Car Assembly Plant to be completed. This was very costly and inconvenient, a fact compounded by additional pressures being placed on GM by the evolving global economy.

In 1996, GM announced that they would bring production of the new Oldsmobile Alero to Lansing, but that after production finished in 2004, GM planned to leave Lansing. The city faced the threat of losing local operations, resulting in the loss of thousands of high paying jobs, major tax revenue, and significant support for area nonprofits. Then Lansing mayor David Hollister teamed up with the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce to create the Blue Ribbon Committee to Keep GM. Mayor Hollister and Jack Davis, then chairman of the Chamber, co-chaired the committee and launched a public campaign entitled "Lansing Works! Keep GM," to persuade GM to remain in the city.

The campaign was successful (GM has built several plants), and years later is still a model for truly regional cooperation between business interests, labor unions, and community and elected leaders.

Also, *Second Shift*, an Emmy nominated documentary film produced by MessageMakers and MICA through a collaborative process has been completed and broadcast throughout Michigan and soon will be seen throughout the country.

Second Shift is one of the many innovative projects undertaken by the **Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art** to serve the goal of catalyzing community development through quality arts programming.

There will be book signings at Schuler's September 21, at REO's Museum on Sept 22, at UrbanBeat during the Athena reception on Sept 25.



BLUESFEST 2016 Performers

Friday, September 16, 2016



Deacon Earl & The Congregation 5:00pm - 6:00pm | South Stage

Deacon Earl & The Congregation consists of Lansing, MI natives Jordan Kimmey (drums) and Deacon Earl (guitar, uke, bass and vocals) and Ohio native Roger "Kidd Cincinnati" Gentry (harmonica and vocals). The band gets their sound from miscellaneous genres, resulting in a nice blend of traditional folk, gospel and other roots/Americana music as well as the sounds of the Mississippi Delta and Mississippi Hills regions. You can also hear reggae and traces of honky-tonk and rock & roll in their music.



Mary Flower 6:00pm - 7:00pm | North Stage

Flower's immense fingerpicking guitar and lap-slide prowess is soulful and meter-perfect, a deft blend of the inventive, the dexterous and the mesmerizing. Her supple honey-and-whiskey voice provides the perfect melodic accompaniment to each song's story.

Flower embodies a luscious and lusty mix of rootsy, acoustic-blues guitar and vocal styles that span a number of idioms - from Piedmont to the Mississippi Delta, with stops in ragtime, swing, folk and hot jazz.



Tee Dee Young 7:00pm - 8:30pm | South Stage

Tee Dee Young, a native of Lexington Kentucky, has been performing and playing for audiences since he was fourteen years old. Young is a blues legend in his own time. While playing his own unique style of the Blues, his dynamic stage presence, exciting harmony and energy will put you in the mood for dancing!

What makes Tee Dee Young unique is the style in which he plays the Blues. Young's playing and singing are authentic to the genre but oblivious to current industry trends. His guitar is a weapon, wielded with total authority, assailing the listener with his sheer virtuosity. He writes and performs his own music, while still being able to maintain his originality covering music written by other artist and his love for pleasing an audience!



Martilla Sanders & Gee-Q 8:30pm - 9:30pm | North Stage

Michael Gee returned to the music business from a prolonged sabbatical in 2008, and the initial incarnation of this group was known as "Groovestone." In 2011 the powerful vocalist Martilla Sanders joined the band permanently, and since then they've released an award-winning album together, won regional blues competitions all over Michigan, and represented their hometown of Kalamazoo in the 2013 International Blues Challenge in Memphis. Martilla Sanders and Gee-Q is ready to blow out your ears and get you on your feet in Friday evening's first headliner spot.



Danielle Nicole 9:30pm - 11:00pm | South Stage

A 2014 Blues Music Award winner, there's not a time in her life that singer/ bassist/ songwriter Danielle Nicole doesn't remember loving to perform.

Danielle began singing in coffeehouses and at open mic events at age 14, jamming with her parents whenever she could at clubs that would allow minors. At 16, she began singing lead in her father's band, Little Eva and the Works.

After a decade of performing as family band Trampled Under Foot with her brothers Nick and Kris, Danielle formed her own band, making her Concord Records solo debut with the 2015 release of a New Orleans-flavored, blues-soul based album Wolf Den.



Lady Champagne & the Motor City Blues Crew 11:00pm - 12:00am | Turnaround Lounge

Lady Champagne is an expressive blues singer with a crisp, clear and powerful alto voice that delivers lyrics you'll feel deep down in your soul. Champagne was nominated for best Blues vocalist in 2010 and 2012. In March 2014 she was officially inducted into the Detroit Blues Hall of Fame for Best Blues Artist.

Backing her are the Motor City Blues Crew, an outstanding ensemble of Larry Turner and Robert Penn on guitar, Paul Stewart on bass, Rick Jones on keyboard, Richard Adams on sax, Roger Vince on drums and Mike Skory on Hammond organ.

Saturday, September 17, 2016

KIDZBEAT (IN CITY LOT 56) FROM 1:00PM - 5:00PM

Broad Art Museum

Art Projects

Capital Area District Library

Art Projects

Bob Wilson

Electric guitar mentor

Josh Wilson

Electric bass mentor

MSU Community Music School

Petting zoo - Woodwinds/brass

MICA Gallery

Art Projects



The Bear Band 2:00pm - 3:00pm | South Stage

This year for the first time we'll be opening The Turnaround Lounge at 2:00 PM on Saturday afternoon! Come down early, bring your friends and be prepared to meet some new ones at our Spartan football tailgate with The Bear Band!



Kathy Engen & Steve Frarey 3:20pm - 4:00pm | South Stage

A fixture on the Lansing scene for 17 years, Kathy has performed at many of our festivals since her first BluesFest in 2003. Steve Frarey was with her at that event and they have done many shows over the years. He has also performed with Root Doctor and The Acme Jam Company.



Hannah Rose and the GravesTones 4:00pm - 5:00pm | North Stage

The GravesTones are a force of their own. Playing everything from soul music to jazz to blues to funk to rock and roll to folk, they represent a fusion of many genres, an encapsulation of feeling! Hannah Rose has a voice that is bound to send shivers down your spine and shake up your soul! Her band consists of some of the best musicians in West Michigan, who are sure to amaze.

BLUESFEST 2016 Performers



Kane and Steele

5:00pm - 6:00pm | South Stage

Shari and Dave first met in the summer of 1991, crossing paths as performing blues musicians: Shari was the partner of harmonica legend, Madcat Ruth, (Madcat & Kane), while Dave was leading the electric blues band, Big Dave and the Ultrasonics. A happy marriage, thousands of miles of touring, and twenty years later, they've recorded their first CD as a duo.

In many ways their playing has developed side by side, listening to and learning from great acoustic blues guitarists from the past - Reverend Gary Davis, Robert Johnson, Blind Blake, Robert Lockwood Jr. to name just a few.

As an acoustic blues duo, Shari and Dave throw a four handed guitar party of original and time-honored blues, gospel, swing and ragtime. Steeped in Dave's smoky vocals, percussive rhythm and innovative lead lines, Shari's crisp picking style, rootsy leads, and stinging slidework, their music has been described as "street swing and stomp blues."



Out of Favor Boys

6:00pm - 7:00pm | North Stage

Since coming together in 2003 the Out of Favor Boys have emerged as one of the most entertaining bands in West Michigan. They regularly play festivals from the Lake Michigan shoreline to Detroit and from Grand Rapids to Northern Indiana. Since 2005, they have been the hosts of Thursday Night Blues Jams in Kalamazoo. First, at Mr. Wonderful's and more recently at The 411 Club.

Featuring funky rhythms, searing guitar, and blazing saxophone lines, the quintet brings incredible energy to every show they play. Their high-energy sets feature their original songs, but also include favorites from contemporary acts like Tommy Castro and Tab Benoit and traditional favorites like Albert Collins and BB King.

The Out of Favor Boys put on a show sure to be enjoyed by contemporary and traditional blues lovers and anyone who appreciates great live music.



Cee Cee Collins

7:00pm - 8:30pm | South Stage

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Cheryl Collins (aka Cee Cee) has been pleasing crowds of numerous genres since age seven when she started singing in church. Cee Cee realized early on that Blues & Jazz had a special place in her heart. Cee Cee graduated from Cass Technical High School, attended Wayne County Community College and Kaplan University, and served in the United States Marine Corps.

In her 30's, Cee Cee moved to Atlanta, Georgia which allowed her to expand her musical talents and also gave her the opportunity to live in Madrid, Spain, performing as one of The New Supremes.

Cee Cee went on to perform and record with various local artists and BluesFest favorites such as Sir Mack Rice, Thornetta Davis, Alberta Adams, and many, many more.



David Gerald Band

8:30pm - 9:30pm | North Stage

David Gerald grew up to the sounds of the blues and R&B music in his hometown, Detroit. David started playing guitar at the age of 15, influenced by Prince and 80's rock guitarists.

Growing up, he was lucky enough to have a neighbor who was a guitarist and gave him scrap guitars. David performed in many local blues, R&B, and rock bands cutting his guitar and vocal chops live and in person. Finding it hard to keep a band together, he learned to play guitar, bass, keys, and drums. Using two antiquated cassette recorders he would overdub each part individually until the song was complete. This was the beginning of his songwriting, most of which were pop and rock tunes during the 80's. Around the age of 24, he began experimenting with computers to write and compose music, which he has done to this day.

Now in his 40s, he performs year-round at clubs and festivals across the United States. His blues have been receiving widespread radio play, along with recognition in the Blues and Rock communities. His debut album "Hell and Back" reached #1 on Roots Music Report's Blues Chart for Michigan based artists and remained in the top 20 for many weeks in a row.



Bobby Murray Presents the Music of Etta James

9:30pm - 11:00pm | South Stage

Detroit has a long history of standout blues performers, many who traveled north from Mississippi and other Southern states. Guitarist Bobby Murray is another talented performer who migrated to Detroit, albeit from the West Coast.

Murray's roots with the blues run deep, back to high school when he and band mate Robert Cray saw Albert Collins perform at their high school graduation in Tacoma, Washington. In the ensuing decades, Murray amassed a considerable resume of his own.

He performed in Etta James' backup ensemble, the Roots Band, for over two decades, including shows at the WOMAD festival at the Barcelona Olympics and at the inaugural for President Bill Clinton. You may have heard his guitar work on James' song "Blues is My Business," that was used on "The Sopranos" or seen him perform on "The Tonight Show," "Austin City Limits" or "Late Night with David Letterman."

Murray, who moved to Detroit in 1996, was selected by the Detroit Blues Society as a recipient of the group's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011. And in 2012, Bobby won a Detroit Music Award as Outstanding Blues/R&B Instrumentalist. And in 2013, Murray won another Detroit Music Award for Outstanding Blues Artist/Group.

But, don't get the wrong idea - Bobby's not resting on his laurels. Murray is working harder than ever, fronting his own Bobby Murray Band and often collaborating with Detroit's other top performers. His moving blues guitar work, with influences ranging from jazz to funk, and exciting stage performances make him one of the Motor City's treasures.





There isn't nearly enough space in this pages to adequately thank our wonderful sponsors, without whom it would simply be impossible to bring mid-Michigan's premier free outdoor blues event to Lansing every summer. To all of our sponsors: thank you for your invaluable help. Your support allows us to continue to serve as a catalyst for community development through quality arts programming.

Founding Sponsor



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1210 Turner St., Lansing, MI 48906
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The Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art (MICA) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that serves as a catalyst for community development through quality arts programming. Grants, donations, sponsorships and other revenues support art and artists.

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Call for Volunteers

We'd love for you to join us! Sign up at michiganbluesfest.com/volunteering.

Programs include

- MICA Gallery
- Lansing JazzFest
- Michigan BluesFest
- Grand American Fish Rodeo
- Turner Park Place (1208-1212) historic building rehabilitation project

MICA Staff

- Program Director | Katrina M. Daniels
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Past festival posters are available for purchase all weekend at the MICA Gallery



MICHIGAN BLUESFEST 2016 Old Town

Sponsored in part by: **CityPULSE**
MichiganBluesFest.com

Friday, August 5

MAIN STAGES (1200 block of Turner St.)

5:00pm - 6:00pm	Deacon Earl & The Congregation	South Stage
6:00pm - 7:00pm	Mary Flower	North Stage
7:00pm - 8:30pm	Tee Dee Young	South Stage
8:30pm - 9:30pm	Martilla Sanders & Gee-Q	North Stage
9:30pm - 11:00pm	Danielle Nicole	South Stage
11:00pm - 12:00am	Lady Champagne & the Motor City Blues Crew	Turnaround Lounge

River Boat Tours: 5-8pm | Open Jam: 8-9:30pm, 1213 Turner St.

Saturday, August 6

KidzBeat (in City Lot 56)

- 1:00pm - 5:00pm - Broad Art Museum - Art projects
- 1:00pm - 5:00pm - Capital Area District Library - Art projects
- 1:00pm - 5:00pm - Bob Wilson - Electric guitar mentor
- 1:00pm - 5:00pm - Josh Wilson - Electric bass mentor
- 1:00pm - 5:00pm - MSU Community Music School - Petting zoo - Woodwinds/brass
- 1:00pm - 5:00pm - MICA Gallery - Art projects

MAIN STAGES (1200 block of Turner St.)

2:00pm - 3:00pm	The Bear Band	South Stage
3:20pm - 4:00pm	Kathy Engen & Steve Frarey	South Stage
4:00pm - 5:00pm	Hannah Rose and the GravesTones	North Stage
5:00pm - 6:00pm	Kane and Steele	South Stage
6:00pm - 7:00pm	Out Of Favor Boys	North Stage
7:00pm - 8:30pm	Cee Cee Collins	South Stage
8:30pm - 9:30pm	David Gerald Band	North Stage
9:30pm - 11:00pm	Bobby Murray Presents the Music of Etta James	South Stage

River Boat Taxi: 2-10pm | Open Jam: 8-9:30pm, 1213 Turner St.

Limited seating available on site. Bring your lawn chairs for added comfort! Schedules Subject To Change.



MichiganBluesFest



OldTownBlues



OldTownBlues

For the record

New exhibit explores 'golden age' of album art

By PAUL WOZNIAK

Modern music listeners are used to seeing album art as tiny thumbnails in an iTunes library or a Spotify playlist.

The Golden Age of Album Art

On display through Sept. 30
Viewing hours: noon-9 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday; noon-6 p.m. Sunday
FREE

Curator lecture and live performance

With Doug Sjoquist and Thornetta Davis
6-9 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 25
\$20/\$15 adv.

Keys to Creativity Community Art Center
(In Lansing Mall)
5746 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing
(517) 657-2770,
keystocreativity.net

curated by Doug Sjoquist, a visiting scholar in the Department of Religious Studies at Michigan State University who recently retired from a full-time professorship at Lansing Community College. Sjoquist defines the "golden age" of album art as 1967 through 1983.

"Before the 1967 stuff, you get all this album cover stuff with conventional lettering styles and boring band photos," Sjoquist said. "Then you get to '67 you get Cream's 'Disraeli Gears,' Hendrix's 'Axis: Bold as Love,' 'Sgt. Pepper' and Andy Warhol's banana. All of a sudden they just let go, and it's all in 1967."



Paul Wozniak/City Pulse

"The Golden Age of Album Art," curated by retired LCC professor Doug Sjoquist, explores creative album covers from 1967 through 1983.

Sjoquist, 65, traces his love of album art back to his first year of college.

"I was in the dorm room with one of my friends, and we used to listen to music," he recalled. "He put on King Crimson's, '21st Century Schizoid Man.' I said, 'What is that?' And then he showed me the album cover, and I'm like, 'Oh my God.' This was an exciting time to be living in when you get this stuff."

But "The Golden Age of Album Art" is designed to be more than just a nostalgia trip into a classic rock record bin. Sjoquist has a true appreciation of the album covers and the artists who created them. The exhibit includes a wide variety of album art styles, including photo collages, references and reproductions of classical and modern art, psychedelic designs and Eastern-influenced covers.

"During that golden age, album cover artwork and the music went together hand in hand. You took it together, like a pill to increase the efficacy of both," Sjoquist said. "During that period, the experience that you had was much more totalitarian because it involved the senses of touch, hearing and seeing. The visual

experience was just as important as the auditory one."

Fittingly, music from the classic albums featured in the exhibit washes over viewers as they walk through the gallery.

The artwork on album covers, Sjoquist said, was often educational, albeit not purposefully.

"What we used to call 'fine art' just started flowing into popular culture," he explained. "I think it wasn't intentional, but a lot of young people got exposed to art history that probably had no interest or no knowledge of it before. But now we've got people like Escher and Magritte and Dali and John Curry and all these other people that are showing up on album covers, and people are asking, 'Where is the stuff coming from? It's cool.' You get fired up about art history."

The exhibit includes a section focusing on the influences of Asian and African themes in album covers, such as Santana's "Abraxas" album, which features the 1961 Mati Klarwein painting "Annunciation," and Jimi Hendrix and his band portrayed as Hindu deities on "Axis: Bold as Love."

"The artists that were doing that were thinking of themselves as world citizens before we even started talking about 'global perspectives,'" Sjoquist said. "They were way ahead of the game."

Sjoquist marks the end of the golden era with pop records from the 1980s. Albums put out by Madonna and Michael Jackson, he explained, feature a return to traditional portrait photography. The introduction of the compact disc also changed the way artists thought of album art.

"All of a sudden you've got artwork that's like this big," Sjoquist said, making a CD-sized square with his fingers. "It's like watching 'Star Wars' on your cell phone. It doesn't work."

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Making room for comedy

Greater Lansing's underground comedy scene rises to the surface
By EVE KUCHARSKI

The closings of Connexions Comedy Club and Tripper's Comedy Club were a huge blow to the local standup comedy community, taking away two of the scene's precious few venues. But like a game of whack-a-mole, local comedians rebounded and are popping up all over Greater Lansing.

Patrons gathered at the Beer Grotto in downtown Lansing last Wednesday for the latest comedy series to spring up in the area. The third installment of the weekly Comedy Night at the Beer Grotto, 9 p.m. on Wednesday nights, featured a handful of local comics. Local comedian Nick Leydorf, who was filling in for the evening's regular hosts, Michigan comedians Robert Jenkins and Pat Sievert, is thankful that more local bars are making room for comedians in their calendars.

"We're just trying to build a space to do comedy," Leydorf said.

While Fusion Shows brings in nationally touring comedians to the Loft and Mac's Bar, there are no local venues regularly



Courtesy Photo

Comedy Coven (left to right: Stephanie Onderchanin, Tricia Chamberlain and Emily Syrja) hosts a monthly comedy show at the Robin Theatre. The show is just one of the many comedy-centric events popping up in Greater Lansing.

hosting touring comedians. Leydorf said it's "depressing" that Connexions and Tripper's no longer exist, because up-and-coming comedians need regular spots to hone their routines.

"We tried looking for a places to have an open-mic night each day at a different place," Leydorf said. "You only get better by doing it."

With the addition of Wednesdays at the Beer Grotto, there are now four days of the week where locals can catch live comedy. The Green Door hosts a comedy open mic on Sundays, and Mac's Bar hosts its popular comedy night on Mondays. East Lansing bar Crunchy's features local comedians on Tuesdays.

Though only in its third installment, the Beer Grotto's comedy night seems to be get-

ting traction. Maggie Vance, a Beer Grotto bartender — or "Beer Geek," in Beer Grotto parlance — has worked during every show so far.

"I think it has the potential to bring a lot of people in," Vance said. "I think it's a really great idea. We can't do music, because there are apartments above."

For many local comedians, the rise of informal comedy nights has been an opportunity to try unique or experimental approaches. Comedy Coven, a trio of local female comedians, created an occult-themed comedy showcase in late 2014.

"What we're seeing is an emergence of an underground comedy scene coming into focus," said Tricia Chamberlain, co-founder of Comedy Coven. "What we do is kind of experimental — we do a lot of sketch, a lot

of improv and a lot of games and audience participation. You are starting to see more and more these underground shows coming up to the surface."

The group puts on a monthly show at the REO Town's Robin Theatre. Each month has a theme, often female-centric, with titles like "The Persistence of Mammary" and "Hollywomb." The group, which started out performing intimate house shows, attributes much of its success to being able to directly connect with its audience members, something that can be more difficult in traditional venues.

"I think Internet culture is changing how we're being entertained," Chamberlain said. "You can get entertainment in the palm of your hand that's tailored to your exact wants and needs. We try to hear our audience as much as they hear us."

Max Johnston, an MSU journalism major and aspiring local comedian, said that the informal comedy nights are a great opportunity for novice performers who might never get a shot at a legit comedy club.

"The first time I did standup was in December at the Avenue (Café)," he recalled. "It's not a comedy open mic but just a general one. I was like, 'Screw it. I'm going to do it.' I spent a couple of days writing what I thought was I thought were really funny jokes. I got up on stage and I bombed horribly. That was the hardest part. I haven't looked back since."

Double the fingers, double the Denk

Guest soloist pivots from Ravel to Beethoven in symphony opener
By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

For its 2016-17 season opener, the Lansing Symphony Orchestra snagged one of the most exciting and high-profile guest artists in the organization's history, pianist Jeremy Denk. But Denk's Lansing advent hasn't gone without a hitch.

Last week, the featured soloist asked Lansing Symphony maestro Timothy Muffitt to change the program — a rare event in the symphonic world — from Ravel's exquisite Concerto for the Left Hand to a work that's twice as long and very different in style, Beethoven's majestic Fifth Piano Concerto, also known as the "Emperor Concerto."

"The upside is that we get twice as much of him," Muffitt said of the longer work. (Perhaps four times as much, if you consider that he'll be playing with two hands instead of one.)

The local debut of a musician who has

played with nearly every major orchestra in the country — and written frankly and eloquently about the life of a musician in *The New Yorker* and other forums — is a big event, no matter what Denk wants to play.

But the switch puts a sizable dent in Muffitt's original vehicle, a showcase for Impressionist composers. Both Ravel and Manuel de Falla are out to make room for Denk's Beethoven, but Respighi's "Fountains of Rome" and Debussy's "La Mer" will still bring the evening to a crashing, watery climax.

After a first rehearsal Monday, Muffitt said the orchestra is "raring to go."

"No one ever complains about playing the 'Emperor Concerto,'" Muffitt said.

It doesn't hurt that the LSO hasn't done the concerto in Muffitt's tenure.

"It needed to come around, and it's a fantastic way to kick off the season," he said.

Denk, one of the smartest and most exciting classical pianists in the world, is known for tackling the most challenging music in the repertoire, warhorses or otherwise, and making them sound as if he's discovering them for the first time.

Muffitt excels at the give-and-take of working with guest soloists, but an artist the caliber of Denk, Muffitt said, makes his role clearer than usual.

"My job, in a case like this, is to bring the orchestra to his vision," Muffitt said. "In this concerto, I really will be deferring to him as far as how it's going to unfold."



Courtesy Photo

Pianist Jeremy Denk makes his Lansing Symphony debut Friday, performing Beethoven's Fifth Piano Concerto.

Denk's forceful yet nuanced recordings don't mess around, from his muscular pairing of music by Beethoven and György Ligeti to Bach's Goldberg Variations to a set of French Impressionist works with violinist Joshua Bell.

But to get to know him, there's no better place to start than his fluent and fascinating first-person accounts of the highs, lows and ordinary moments of being a musician, most of them published in *The New Yorker*.

"He's a very special person in the music world," Muffitt said. "Along with being an extraordinary artist, he's a wonderful communicator about music."

Denk's prose is a deft shuffle of kitchen sink realism and existential probing. The

tug between the performer's ego and the pull of history and tradition is a frequent theme.

"The mechanism of bone and muscle brought to bear on the piano is very complex; the hidden responding mechanism inside the piano is also very complex; and the interaction of the two is a lifetime's study," he writes in an article named "Every Good Boy Does Fine."

In another article, entitled "Piano Man," Denk writes about the "cheesy humiliation" of starring in a kitschy pseudo-classical DVD as a hungry young artist trying to make ends meet in New York. "Flight of the Concord," a 2012 *New Yorker* piece, chronicles in detail the day he went into the studio to record his acclaimed CD of Charles Ives' massive, volcanic "Concord" sonata. He struggles with the pressure to produce a performance for the ages on demand in a dark little room and the absurd combination of fine detail work with the inspiration his art demands.

"Imagine that you are scrubbing the grout in your bathroom and are told that removing every last particle of mildew will somehow enable you to deliver the Gettysburg Address," he writes

Perhaps someday, in an article, in his long-neglected blog or in a book, Denk will explain this week's Lansing switch from Ravel to Beethoven. (The LSO isn't releasing any details.) It might be just a scheduling glitch. But then again, it might be an interesting story.

Motown money pit

'Detroit Hustle' describes struggles, joys of rehabbing abandoned house

By **BILL CASTANIER**

If readers pick up "Detroit Hustle" thinking it's a book about getting rich by flipping houses in Detroit's depressed housing market, they will be sorely disappointed. But they

Amy Haimerl

Author talk and book signing
7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 14
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may appreciate it for its bare-bones honesty about life, love and one couple's pursuit of the American dream of home ownership — at all costs.

The book, by journalist Amy

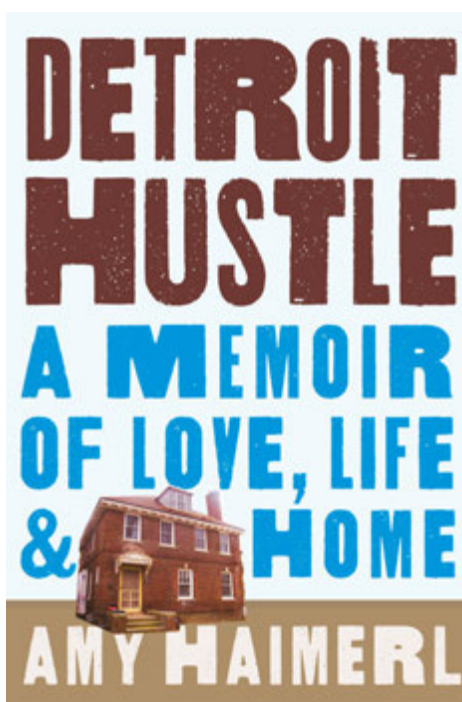
Haimerl, 40, follows the author and her husband, Karl Kaebnick, a 44-year-old computer programmer, as they move from Brooklyn to Detroit and set out to rehabilitate a neglected house. It can be read as a loving paean to Detroit and its gritty residents, but Haimerl is blunt in her assessment of the city she learned to love.

"I was not prepared for the devastation and poverty Karl and I saw in our first visit to the city together," Haimerl writes.

But that reaction did not deter the couple from buying a 1914 Georgian-style home in Detroit's West Village for \$35,000 in May 2013. In the book, Haimerl reflects on how she didn't want to be seen as "another New Yorker scoping a cheap house in the Motor City."

Like many homeowners, the couple quickly learns that a cheap house is not always an inexpensive one, especially in Detroit. The house has no plumbing, no heat, no electricity and is uninhabitable. A white tomcat greets the couple, which Haimerl sees as a sign of good luck.

The couple ultimately spend more than \$400,000 restoring the 3,000-square-foot home, and most of it was money they didn't have. They maxed out their credit cards, cashed out retirement savings and borrowed from Haimerl's father to pay for the extensive work required on the home.



Courtesy Photo

"Detroit Hustle," by journalist Amy Haimerl, describes the struggles of the author and her husband as they attempt to rehab an abandoned Detroit house.

A Colorado native, Haimerl describes her circuitous journey to the Motor City in the first chapters of "Detroit Hustle." She goes through several boom-and-bust jobs in new media before ultimately landing a Knight-Wallace Fellowship at the University of Michigan. While in Ann Arbor, the couple decides Detroit is the place they want to live, and that they want to play a role in "forging its future."

Even after the deal is sealed, Haimerl has some serious doubts. She wonders if they

will be welcome to their new home or would be seen as another pair of "white gentrifiers." The couple soon learn that Detroit is a welcoming place but also realize that the biggest concerns are within the house itself.

The couple learn some tough lessons: You can't borrow money against a home that has little value, contractors are tough to find and it's nearly impossible to insure an unoccupied home — especially in Detroit.

Haimerl, who calls herself "a contractor's daughter," faces an almost daily onslaught of decisions. Should windows come before plumbing? Should a roof and eaves be a No. 1 priority? When will they be able to actually live in the house?

To be clear, this is not a book about bringing sweat equity to bear or cutting corners to make the home-owning equation work. Haimerl and Kaebnick contract out the work to a local contractor.

"People wonder whether it was a smart thing and balk at the money spent, but this is a forever house," Haimerl said. "We want to live in Detroit. It's still a place defining what its future will be."

But she cautions others who might consider following their lead.

"Our rehab model is not sustainable," she said.

Haimerl also knows the real story of Detroit is not about the newcomers like her and her husband, saying that it's about the "people who never left — the middle class who never left — that's the untold story."

The couple's neighbors on Van Dyke Place help them adjust to life in the city, and they befriend several Detroiters at one of city's great neighborhood bars, PJ's Lager House on Michigan Avenue.

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"You have to earn your way in; do your time," Haimerl said.

While the city is laid out for cars, Haimerl finds that best way to get to know Detroit is on foot. On her walks, she discovers local gems like the Guardian Building, the riverfront and Hart Plaza. She also learns to appreciate the unexpected wildlife that has taken advantage of abandoned patches in the city.

"I love the pheasants," she said. "I love the country within a city."

Haimerl, who is settled in the home and recently landed a position as a journalism professor at Michigan State University, is preparing to write a book about the "us versus them" phenomena she sometimes encounters. She worries about the success of her own neighborhood, which is now filled with hip shops and restaurants. Improving a community can come at the expense of longtime residents, who are pushed out by rising rent.

"Success changes everything," Haimerl said.

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Meet MSU professor and journalist Amy Haimerl as she talks about her acclaimed memoir *Detroit Hustle*. *Detroit Hustle* has been recognized as so much more than a standard memoir; Rob Fournier, columnist for the Atlantic, declared "It's America's story." Amy Haimerl's memoir is as gritty and gripping as Detroit itself."

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OUT ON THE TOWN

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

Wednesday, September 7

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Gentle Yoga. Relaxing pace class suitable for beginners. 11 a.m.-noon. First class FREE/\$5/\$3 members. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston.

MUSIC

Art Camerón at Allen Farmers Market. 5:30-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Market Place, 1619 E. Kalamazoo Lansing. 517-999-3911, allenmarketplace.org.

Deacon Earl: Meridian Twp. Farmers Market. Live blues, reggae, Americana and more. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE. Meridian Township Farmers Market, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 853-4608, ow.ly/17t8303CHgo.

Jazz on the Grand. Phil Denny & Friends. 6 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. lansingcitymarket.com.

EVENTS

Meet Inventors, Entrepreneurs from Across State. Annual expo for business owners. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. \$30. Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. michiganinventorscoalition.org.

Allen Farmers Market. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 2:30-7 p.m. FREE. Allen Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

Thursday, September 8

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Capital Area Crisis Rugby Practice. All levels welcome. 6-8 p.m. FREE. St. Joseph Park, 2125 W. Hillsdale St., Lansing. crisisrhc.com.

Closing Out Your Garden. From 6 to 8 p.m. FREE. Greater Lansing Housing Coalition, 600 W. Maple Lansing. 517-372-5980, glhc.org.

Ingham Co. Genealogical Society Meeting. Lecture on using census records for research. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Sam Corey Senior Center, 2108 Cedar St., Holt. (517) 676-7140, ICGSweb.org.

Make Your Business Legal. Intro course on business law. Call or register online. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110. Lansing. (517) 483-1921, sbdcmichigan.org.

See Out on the Town, Page 26

REO Town under attack



Ty Forquer/City Pulse

Art competition participant
Emma Eagle of Mason works on a
Michigan-themed picnic table at
last year's Art Attack.

• • • • • Saturday, Sept. 10 • • • • •

If you've eaten at REO Town eateries Good Truckin' Diner or Saddleback BBQ, you've probably noticed the colorful picnic tables out front. Those tables are a result of last year's REO Town ART Attack, which returns for its sixth year Saturday. Since its inception, the event has transformed from a semi-spontaneous bout of fun to a yearly tradition.

"We're feeling really good," said Ryan Wert, executive director of the REO Town Commercial Organization. "This is the first year that nobody is stressed out about it at all."

The event started with a group of artists looking for a light-hearted competition. Wert and the Commercial Association used their resources to turn the competition into a festival.

"I run a recording studio, so I have music connections," said Wert, who also owns Elm Street Recording. "We pulled together what we could with the people that we knew."

The competition portion of the festival, the Showdown, involves teams of artists who spend the day painting and decorating something that will adorn the city. This year,

for the first time, the Showdown is divided between youth and adult teams. The adult teams decorate picnic tables that will stay in REO Town, while the youth teams decorate barrels to be placed over steam vents throughout the city. The resulting pieces are judged by a panel of artists, and cash prizes are doled out to the top three in each category.

"The first year, we had no idea what we were doing," Wert said. "At the end of the day, we said, 'Well, it was an event.' The third time was the first year we had our feet under us and felt like we knew what we were doing."

The event also features live music, art vendors and food trucks. Headlining this year's music lineup is the Patient Zeroes, a rock duo based out of Denver and originally from Lansing. Other performers include hip-hop artists Jahshua Smith and Sareem Poems.

At least 18 art vendors offer booths for interested shoppers, including jewelers, ceramicists, painters and t-shirt designers. The lineup also includes representatives from the Nyaka AIDS Orphans

Project, which sells products to benefit youth in Uganda who have lost parents to AIDS.

Hungry visitors can head to REO Town restaurants Saddleback BBQ and Good Truckin' Diner or grab something from Pie Hole Pizza

Truck, Mark's Gourmet Dogs' hot dog stand or MI Pops' popsicle stand. Red Cedar Spirits and Midtown Brewing Co. are teaming up this year to offer a bar featuring beers and cocktails.

Since Art Attack's third year, REACH Studio Art Center has coordinated participating art competitors and vendors. The studio, which offers art classes for children and adults, provides activities for kids during the festival.

"It just continues to grow and get larger every year," said Joy Baldwin, program director at REACH. "It's our family of artists here in REO Town."

REO Town Art Attack

Noon-9 p.m. Saturday,
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reotownartattack.com

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Lansing rockabilly band Blue Echoes honored

By RICH TUPICA

After 59 years of shows, the Blue Echoes, Lansing's first rock 'n' roll band, was inducted into the Michigan Rock and Roll Legends Hall of Fame earlier this year. Formed in 1957, the quartet released a string of now collectable 45 rpm records, including the dynamic "Debbie"/"It's Witchcraft" single, released in 1959 on Bon Musique Records.

The online Michigan Rock and Roll Legends voting ended June 1, and the Blue Echoes finished in first place, earning the group a spot in the Hall of Fame. Second was Detroit native Cub Koda of Brownsville Station, and fellow Lansing rock legends the Woolies placed third. The Blue Echoes are now honored among 80 other Michigan bands and vocalists,

including Bob Seger, Aretha Franklin and Grand Funk Railroad.

In celebration of its induction, the Blue Echoes play Sept. 15 at Reno's North, 16460 S. US Highway 27, Lansing. Legendary WILS disc jockey Erik O. Furseth is the event's emcee. Gary Johnson, founder of the Hall of Fame, will present the awards to past and current members of the band.

"I didn't even realize we were on the ballot for the induction," said Blue Echoes guitarist/vocalist Roger Benham. "Next thing you know, I get a phone call saying 'congratulations, you are the No. 1 vote getter.' That was pretty cool."

In 2012, the band was inducted into the official Rockabilly Hall of Fame. Benham, along with co-founder and vocalist/guitarist/pianist Larry Palmiter, are the two original members who continue to play in the Blue Echoes, which plays a show or two a month.

"I'm 75 years old, and so is Larry," Benham said. "We don't play as much as we used to. My son Craig — he's going to be 50 — he plays drums with us. These days, we're primarily a trio."

After forming at Lansing's Resurrection High School, the Blue Echoes played teen hops and high school gymnasiums and even scored air time on teen-themed television shows on WILX and WJIM. One highlight was opening for iconic rock 'n' roller Link Wray in 1959 at the Lansing Civic Center. During the late '50s, the band scored some local radio hits.

"Erik O. made 'Debbie' No. 1 in Lansing," Benham said. "He pushed the living daylights out of it. It wasn't rockabilly — it was more of a ballad. But the flipside, 'It's Witchcraft,' was definitely rockabilly, and so was 'Cool Guitar.'"

The Blue Echoes' claim of being Lansing's first rock 'n' roll band is backed up by Dick Rosemont, a Lansing music his-

torian and former owner of Eat Lansing record store Flat, Black & Circular.

"The Blue Echoes are definitely the first in Lansing that I'm aware of," Rosemont told the City Pulse in 2012. "If there is something else, it's really obscure. You have to put yourself in that timeframe. Rock 'n' roll in the '50s was still a counterculture. People thought rock 'n' roll was going to be temporary — thought it was going to pass by. So to have a rock 'n' roll band in an area like Lansing in those days is pretty impressive."

In a 2012 interview, Palmiter recalled being the area's sole rockers in the late '50s.

"I don't think there were any other local bands," Palmiter told City Pulse. "I remember we went to the musician's union and they said, 'You guys play that funny music?' The only other kinds of bands around here were country groups. We were different. We were kind of rockabilly."

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT ALLISON@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM

LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	Dixon's Violin, 7:30 p.m.	Desmond Jones, 8 p.m.	Cold Mountain Child, 8 p.m.
Black Cat Bistro, 115 Albert Ave.		DJ Don Black, 9:30 p.m.		Taylor Taylor, 8 p.m.
Brookshire, 205 W. Church St.			Chris Laskos, 6 p.m.	
Buddies - Holt, 2040 N. Aurelius Road	Steve Cowles, 7 p.m.	Kevin Schafer, 7 p.m.		Reggae Lou, 7 p.m.
Champions, 2440 N. Cedar St.	Karaoke, 8 p.m.	Lee Groove, 7 p.m.		Lee Groove, 8 p.m.
Classic Pub & Grill, 16219 Old US 27			Lee Groove, 8 p.m.	
Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.	DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.			DJ, 8 p.m.
Crafty Palate, 333 S. Washington Square		Team Trivia, 7 p.m.		
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Cold Country, 10 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke with DJ Jamie, 9 p.m.		Karaoke, 9 p.m.	
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 7 p.m.	Mike Skory & Friends, 8:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9:30 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 9:30 p.m.
Fieldhouse, 213 Ann St.		Reggae Lou, 6 p.m.		
Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.			Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m.		
Harrison Roadhouse, 720 Michigan Ave.,			Rachel Curtis, 5:30 p.m.	
Harper's, 131 Albert Ave.	Alistar, 6:30 p.m.		Alistar, 6:30 p.m.	Steve Cowles, 6:30 p.m.
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.			Diamond Jones, 8 p.m.	Beasley, 8 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.	Moosh & Twist, 7 p.m.		Rocky Votolato, 8 p.m.	Galaxy X, 8 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m.	Atomic Boogaloo, 9 p.m.	Big Willy, 9 p.m.	Smooth Daddy, 9 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road	Don Middlebrook, 6 p.m.	Kathy Ford, 8 p.m.	Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.	Bobby Standall, 6 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Jacob Ford, 6 p.m.	Life Support, 6 p.m.	Reggae Lou, 6 p.m.	Dirty Helen, 6 p.m.
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.	Chris Laskos, 6 p.m.	Jacob Ford, 6 p.m.	Jerry Sprague, 6 p.m.	Kathy Ford, 6 p.m.
Tavern & Tap, 101 S. Washington Square	Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m.			
Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy.		Cadillac West, 7:30 p.m.	Perry Hutchins, 7:30 p.m.	Perry Hutchins, 7:30 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog Open Blues Jam, 8:30 p.m.	Mr. Harrison, 9 p.m.	Mr. Harrison, 9 p.m.
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.	Trevor Compton, 7 p.m.	Mark Sala, 8 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.
Waterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr.	Mike Skory Patio Blues, 6 p.m.	Oxymorons, 8 p.m.	Joe Wright, 6 p.m.	

Out on the town

from page 24

Preschool Science Explorations: Underwater Animals. Nature class for preschoolers. 1-2:30 p.m. \$4. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866, bit.ly/HNCprg.
Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Weigh-in 5:15 p.m., meeting 6 p.m. First meeting FREE. Haslett Community Education Center, 1090 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 927-4307.

MUSIC

Visionary Violin. Dixon's Violin in concert. 7:30-10:30 p.m. \$10/kids FREE. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. dixonsviolin.com
Blues on the Grand. With Frog & the Beeftones. 6 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. lansingcitymarket.com.

THEATER

Grease. 1950s musical love story. 7-9 p.m. \$22/\$20 seniors and students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

EVENTS

AARP Community Conversations. Discussion on making Lansing better for all ages. RSVP by phone or online. 1-4 p.m. Oak Park YMCA, 900 Long Blvd., Lansing. (517) 267-8936, ow.ly/HHFo303Age4.
English Country Dance Lessons. No experience needed. 7-9:30 p.m. \$6/\$4 students/MSU students FREE. Snyder-Phillips Hall, C20, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. people.albion.edu/ram/lecd.
Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club. All skill levels welcome. Lessons, practice and fun. 9:30-11:20 a.m. \$5. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 881-2517 ladiesilverblades.com.
Mason Codependents Anonymous. A fellowship to develop healthy relationships. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Mason First Church of the Nazarene, 415 E. Maple St., Mason. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 9 >> 'FOLLOWING THE SUN' OPENING RECEPTION

"Following the Sun," the latest show at Lansing Art Gallery, has colored the gallery in metallic silver and grey and decked out the walls with representations of flowers, skylarks, skies, clouds and sunlight. The exhibit, by Lansing artist Ingrid Blixt, is a collection of mixed media works focusing on symbols of spiritual and physical growth. Originally from Romania, Blixt has spent most of her adult life living in Michigan. She describes her work as a "documented journey towards personal fulfillment and finding truth." 6-8 p.m. FREE. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 374-6400, lansingartgallery.org.

SEPT. 9-18 >> 'ROCK OF AGES' AT OWOSSO COMMUNITY PLAYERS

You don't have to head out to a huge concert venue to hear booming '80s rock this month — Owosso Community Players brings a big-haired, spandex-clad show to the Lebowsky Center. "Rock of Ages," which kicks off Friday, tells the story of aspiring singer Sherrie (Meghan Corbett) and Drew (Daniel Shafer), a worker at the legendary Bourbon Room club. The rock musical features songs originally performed by bands like REO Speedwagon, Pat Benatar, Bon Jovi, Styx and more. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturdays; 3 p.m. Sundays. \$20/\$18 students and seniors/\$10 children. Lebowsky Center, 122 E. Main St., Owosso. (989) 723-4003, owossoplayers.com.

THINGS TO PACK FOR VACATION

✓ Insect repellent if traveling to an area with Zika virus

Learn more: hd.ingham.org

Ingham County Health Department

SEPT. 8-18 >> 'GREASE' AT RIVERWALK THEATRE

A classic tale of teenage love comes to the Riverwalk Theatre stage Thursday. No, it's not the story of Tristan and Isolde or Romeo and Juliet — it's the rock 'n' roll romance of Sandy and Danny. The 1950's-themed musical comedy stars Christine Landers as Sandy Dumbrowski and Brian Farnham as Danny Zuko, the couple whose opposing personalities cause no shortage of strife. Alongside a cast of friends, teachers and classmates, the two learn to find their way as they prepare to graduate and enter the real world. The show is Eric Chatfield's directorial debut at Riverwalk. Before and after the show, visitors can check out the mixed-media artwork of City Pulse theater reviewer David Winkelstern in the lobby. 7 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays. \$22/\$20 students, seniors and military. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 8 >> MUSIC AT THE MANSION

Two budding stars make an appearance at the Turner-Dodge House's Music at the Mansion concert series Thursday. Reina Li, an 8-year-old pianist, and her brother, 17-year-old pianist Ricky Li, perform an intimate salon-style concert at the historic mansion. The program features both duet and solo pieces. The concert is Reina's first public performance. Proceeds from the evening go toward renovations and maintenance of the historic home. 7 p.m. \$10. Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing. (517) 483-4220.

Spanish Conversation. All skill levels welcome to practice language. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Grand Traverse Pie Co., 1403 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing.

Friday, September 9

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Palatte to Palatte. Painting lesson. 7-9:30 p.m. \$28/\$50 pairs. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 999-3643, reachstudioart.org.

MUSIC

MSU Professors of Jazz. 8 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students FREE. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.
The Scratch Pilots Present: Get Busy Fridays. Featuring DJs McCoy, Don Black and Mr. Needlez with special guests. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. 21+, \$3 cover. The RIV, 231 M.A.C. Ave., East Lansing.

EVENTS

Ox Roast Festival. Food, live entertainment and more. 5-11 p.m. FREE. Church of the Resurrection, 1531 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 482-4149.

THEATER

Grease. 1950s musical love story. 8 p.m.

\$22/\$20 seniors and students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Rock of Ages. Musical with '80s rock hits. 8 p.m. \$20/\$18 students and seniors/\$10 children. Lebowsky Center, 122 E. Main St., Owosso. (989) 723-4003, owossoplayers.com.

ARTS

Following the Sun Reception. For Ingrid Blixt's multimedia art. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 374-6400.

Saturday, September 10

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Bridging the Gap: ONE Nation. Classes, food and community building. 1-4 p.m. FREE. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. ow.ly/SQSG30iJjT.

Tai Chi at the Park. Instruction in Qigong, meditation and Yang style tai chi forms. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park, 400 S. Holmes St., Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

Tim Busfield's Performing Arts Warm-Up. Courses for kids and teachers. 10:30 a.m. FREE. MSU Communication Arts and Sciences Building, 404 Wilson Road, East Lansing. elpl.org/register.

See Out on the Town, Page 27

SUDOKU

ADVANCED

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

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 29

Out on the town

from page 26

MUSIC

The DJClarinet Combo at Meridian Heritage Festival. Performance at annual fall festival. 2-3 p.m. FREE. Meridian Historical Village, 5113 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 347-7300, ow.ly/heHh303Af79.

THEATER

Grease. 1950s musical love story. 8 p.m. \$22/\$20 seniors and students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Freakshow Film Festival. Horror and grindhouse cinema classics shown. 9 p.m. FREE. Windwalker Gallery, 125 S. Cochran St., Charlotte. facebook.com/FreakshowFilmFest.

Rock of Ages. Musical with '80s rock hits. 8 p.m. \$20/\$18 students and seniors/\$10 kids. Lebowsky Center, 122 E. Main St., Owosso. (989) 723-4003, owossoplayers.com.

EVENTS

Ox Roast Festival. Food, live entertainment and more. Noon-11 p.m. FREE. Church of the Resurrection, 1531 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. **Curator-led Exhibition Tour.** Exhibition tour of "Up Cloche: Fashion, Feminism, Modernity. 2:30-3:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 355-2370, museum.msu.edu.

Lansing Rivers Cleanup. Volunteers clean river area. 9 a.m.-noon. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460, inghamconservation.com.

Second Saturday Supper. All welcome for baked chicken meal. 5-6:15 p.m. \$9/\$5 kids. Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-3139, mayflowerchurch.com.

Walk 4 Christ Community Festival. Candlelit dinner. 6-8 p.m. \$10. Comfort Inn, 525 Canal Road, Lansing. wfccf.org.

Sunday, September 11

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Juggling. Learn to juggle. 2-4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pump House, 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. (517) 371-5119.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 11 >> 'CELEBRATING SURVIVAL' FASHION SHOW

Lemata, a local nonprofit whose name stands for "Leaving Everlasting Memories As Time Advances," hosts its sixth annual "Celebrating Survival" fashion show Sunday. The show, designed to honor those who are fighting cancer, features cancer survivors as models. The event also features live entertainment and food, as well as door prizes and raffles. The night kicks off with a social hour from 4 to 5 p.m., with the show immediately following. A portion of the proceeds go to organizations that promote cancer education and prevention. 4-7 p.m. \$3/\$30 adv. Eagle Eye Golf Club, 15500 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 853-7793, lemata.org.

SEPT. 14-15 >> JAZZ AND BLUES ON THE GRAND

Lansing City Market closes out its Concert on the Grand series this month as the summer season draws to a close. Wednesday's performance features smooth jazz saxophonist Phil Denny and his ensemble. The Lansing-based musician released his third album, "Upswing," last year. Opening for Denny is the Lansing School District Choral Ensemble. The next day, Sept. 15, Lansing stalwarts Frog & the Beeftones brings its bluesy sound to the stage. 6 p.m. FREE. Lansing City Market, 325 City Market Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-7460, lansingcitymarket.com/events.

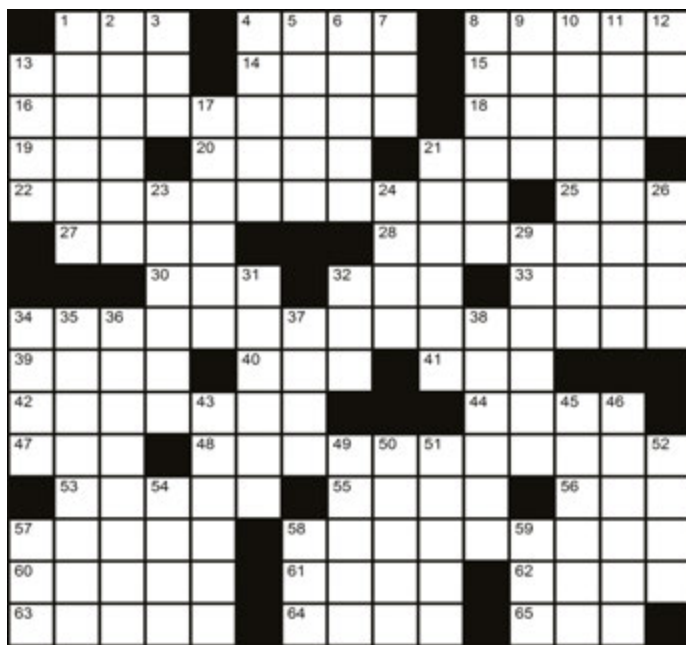
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Your Daily Allowance"—some rational terms. Matt Jones

Across

- 1 "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" topic, presumably
- 4 Dance in a pit
- 8 Chickens, ducks, and such
- 13 Org. which still has not detected any signals from outer space
- 14 "My mistake!"
- 15 In a whirl!
- 16 Like a centaur or mermaid
- 18 Pastime requiring careful movements
- 19 Abbr. in a military address
- 20 Like many trollish comments
- 21 Flora and fauna
- 22 Qualifies to compete in a tournament
- 25 Beehive St. capital
- 27 "American Horror Story: Freak Show" enclosure
- 28 Steaming mad
- 30 "Waterfalls" group
- 32 Company shares, for short
- 33 Mandarin hybrid used in Asian cuisine
- 34 Facebook meme often paired with a non-sequitur image
- 39 Gardener's gear
- 40 Pioneering filmmaker Browning
- 41 ___-mo
- 42 Common soap opera affliction
- 44 Marooning spot
- 47 "Amazing!"
- 48 Assistance
- 53 Trivial Pursuit edition
- 55 Elvis's disputed middle name



- 56 "I Ching" philosophy
- 57 Hardly happy with
- 58 Bygone lemon-lime soda
- 60 "Next to Me" singer
- 61 Sande
- 61 Rice from New Orleans
- 62 "Lord of the Rings" creatures
- 63 Passenger car
- 64 Insects with a waggle dance
- 65 "___ & Oh's" (Elle King hit)
- 7 Buying channel on TV
- 8 Marinated meat in a tortilla
- 9 Dunkable dessert
- 10 Fell apart, as a deal
- 11 Allow
- 12 Kidnapping gp. of the '70s
- 13 Email folder that's often automatically cleared
- 17 Move swiftly
- 21 Dick in the Pro Football Hall of Fame
- 23 Soup follower
- 24 Roman called "The Censor"
- 26 You're looking at it
- 29 "Heavens to Betsy!"
- 31 Austin and Boston, for two
- 32 Late Pink Floyd member ___ Barrett
- 34 "Austin Powers" verb
- 35 "Jeopardy!" in a box, e.g.
- 36 How some medicines are taken
- 37 Baby bronco
- 38 Adjusts, as tires
- 43 Naomi Watts thriller set for November 2016
- 45 Gender-neutral term for someone of Mexican or South American heritage, say
- 46 Establishes as law
- 49 "Common Sense" pamphleteer
- 50 "Fame" actress Cara
- 51 A and E, but not I, O, or U
- 52 "Easy ___ it!"
- 54 "The Lion King" lioness
- 57 "Au revoir, ___ amis"
- 58 Arm-raised dance move that some say looks like sneezing
- 59 "Brokeback Mountain" director

EVENTS

- East Lansing Farmer's Market.** Growers-only market with produce, meat, cheese and more. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 400 Hillside Court, East Lansing. ow.ly/h4zp30329Of.
- Walk 4 Christ Community Festival.** Entertainment and more. 8 a.m.-noon. \$10. Michigan State Capitol, 101 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. wfccf.org.
- Ox Roast Festival.** Food, live entertainment and more. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. Church of the Resurrection, 1531 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.
- Family Special: Life in a Log.** Naturalist-lead walk. 3-4:30 p.m. \$3/\$7 per family. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township.
- Greater Lansing Vegan Meetup.** Bring a dish to share for potluck dinner. 5:45-8:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Clerical Technical Union, 2990 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. (517) 394-5485, ow.ly/RuHb303i56G.
- Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance.** Lessons 6-6:45 p.m., dance 6:45. \$8 dance/\$10 dance & lesson. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.
- Rocking and Mixing in the Park.** Fun for all ages including Knockerball and music. Noon-10 p.m. FREE. Ferris Park, 323 N. Walnut St., Lansing.
- SouthFest.** Rides, live music, games, food, a car show and more. 4-7 p.m. FREE. South Church, 5250 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing. (517) 322-2000, southlife.org/southfest.
- Lansing Remembers.** Emergency responders walk in honor of 9/11. 100 block E. Michigan Ave., Lansing Center, Lansing. (517) 483-7641.

ARTS

Yvonne Perhne Artist Reception. Holt native shares nature photography. 3-5 p.m. FREE. EagleMonk Pub & Brewery, 4906 W. Mount Hope Highway, Lansing. eaglemonkbrewing.com.

THEATER

Grease. 1950s musical love story. 2 p.m. \$22/\$20 seniors and students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

Rock of Ages. Musical with '80s rock hits. 3 p.m. \$20/\$18 students and seniors/\$10 kids. Lebowsky Center, 122 E. Main St., Owosso. (989) 723-4003, owossoplayers.com.

Monday, September 12

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Gentle Yoga. Relaxing pace class suitable for beginners. 11 a.m.-noon. First class FREE/\$5/\$3 members. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston.

LITERATURE AND POETRY


Better Living Book Club. "Small Move, Big Change" by Caroline Arnold. 7 p.m. FREE. Schuler Books & Music, 2820 Towne Centre Blvd., Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

EVENTS

- Breast Cancer Support Group.** Education, speakers, and support. 7-9 p.m. Sparrow Professional Building, 1200 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 364-5471.
- Presentation and Book Signing.** Presentation on American Indian photography. 7-8 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum Auditorium, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 355-2370, museum.msu.edu.


See Out on the Town, Page 28

CRIMINAL DEFENSE



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Out on the town

from page 27

Social Bridge. Play bridge and meet new people. No partner needed. 1-4 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

Tuesday, September 13 CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Capital City Toastmasters Meeting. Learn public speaking and leadership skills. 7 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 775-2697, cadl.org.

Connections: Teen Girls Group. For girls in grades 9-12 to meet and form connections. 5:45-7 p.m. \$10. Come As You Are Counseling and Consulting, 3815 W. St. Joseph St., Suite B301, Lansing. (517) 803-3125, cayalansing.com.

Course in Miracles. Relaxed and friendly study group. 7 p.m. FREE. Call for location. (517) 482-1908.

Eye on Africa. Artist expands on experience in Algerian refugee camp. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. International Center, 450 Administration Bldg., East

Lansing. (517) 884-4800, broadmuseum.msu.edu.
Hopeful Hearts Grief Group. Learn and heal. 10-11 a.m. FREE. The Marquette Activity Room, 5968 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. (517) 381-4866.

Lansing Area Co-Dependents Anonymous. 5:45-6:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

Overeaters Anonymous. Support for weight loss efforts. 7 p.m. FREE. Okemos Presbyterian Church, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 819-3294.

Speakeasies Toastmasters. Improve listening, analysis, leadership and presentation skills. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (616) 841-5176.

People's Law School. Seven-week program to teach the legal system to non-lawyers. 7-9 p.m. \$7 per class/\$25 for all sessions. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. peopleslawschool.org.

Seller Financing: The Alternative Way to Start a Business. Course on land contracts. 6:30-8 p.m. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, sbdcnichigan.org.

Starting a Business. Course for business start-ups. Call or register online. 9-11 a.m. FREE.

See Out on the Town, Page 29

CityPULSE

NEWSMAKERS




HOSTED BY BERL SCHWARTZ



GUEST:
RICHARD
PEFFLEY

General Manager,
Lansing Board
of Water & Light

THIS WEEK
**CENTRAL
SUBSTATION**



MY18TV!

NEW TIME 10:30 a.m. EVERY SATURDAY

COMCAST CHANNEL 16 LANSING

7:30 P.M. EVERY FRIDAY

Free Will Astrology By Rob Brezсны

Sept. 7-13

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Two seven-year-old girls showed me three tricks I could use to avoid taking myself too seriously and getting too attached to my dignity. I'm offering these tricks to you just in time for the letting-go phase of your astrological cycle. Trick #1: Speak in a made-up language for at least ten minutes. Example: "Groftyp hulbnu wivgeeri proot xud amasterulius. Quoshibojor frovid zemplissit." Trick #2: Put a different kind of shoe and sock on each foot and pretend you're two people stuck in a single body. Give each side of you a unique nickname. Trick #3: Place an unopened bag of barbecue-flavored potato chips on a table, then bash your fist down on it, detonating a loud popping sound and unleashing a spray of crumbs out the ends of the bag. Don't clean up the mess for at least an hour.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In accordance with the astrological omens, I suggest you spend less energy dwelling in profane time so you expand your relationship with sacred time. If that's of interest to you, consider the following definitions. PROFANE TIME happens when you're engulfed in the daily grind. Swarmed by a relentless flurry of immediate concerns, you are held hostage by the chatter of your monkey mind. Being in SACRED TIME attunes you to the relaxing hum of eternity. It enables you to be in intimate contact with your soul's deeper agenda, and affords you extra power to transform yourself in harmony with your noble desires and beautiful intentions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): About 1.7 million years ago, our human ancestors began using primitive hand axes made from rocks. This technology remained in use for over 60,000 generations before anyone invented more sophisticated tools and implements. Science writer Marcus Chown refers to this period as "the million years of boredom." Its slow pace contrasts sharply with technology's brisk evolution in the last 140 years. In 1880, there were no cars, planes, electric lights, telephones, TVs, or Internet. I surmise that you're leaving your own phase of relatively slow progress, Gemini. In the coming months, I expect your transformations will progress with increasing speed — starting soon.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Prediction #1: You will attract truckloads of good luck by working to upgrade and refine the way you communicate. Prediction #2: You will tickle the attention of interesting people who could ultimately provide you with clues you will need to thrive in 2017. #3: You will discover secrets of how to articulate complicated feelings and subtle ideas that have been locked inside you. Prediction #4: You'll begin a vibrant conversation that will continue to evolve for a long time.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You know you have a second brain in your gut, right? (If not, read this: <http://bit.ly/secondbrain>.) During the past three weeks, I have been beaming telepathic instructions toward this smart part of you. Here's an edited version of the message I've been sending: "Cultivate your tenacity, darling. Build up your stamina, sweetheart. Feed your ability to follow through on what you've started, beautiful. Be persistent and spunky and gritty, my dear." Alas, I'm not sure my psychic broadcasts have been as effective as I'd hoped. I think you need further encouragement. So please summon more fortitude and staying power, you gutsy stalwart. Be staunch and dogged and resolute, you stouthearted powerhouse.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Is "Big Bang" the best term we can come up with to reference the beginning of the universe? It sounds violent and messy — like a random, accidental splatter. I would much prefer a term that suggests sublime elegance and playful power — language that would capture the awe and reverence I feel as I contemplate the sacred mystery we are privileged to inhabit. What if we used a different name for the birth of creation, like the "Primal Billow" or the "Blooming Ha Ha" or the "Majestic Bouquet"? By the way,

I recommend that you consider those last three terms as being suitable titles for your own personal life story in the coming weeks. A great awakening and activation are imminent.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The last few weeks have been fraught with rich plot twists, naked dates with destiny, and fertile turning points. I expect there will be further intrigue in the near future. A fierce and tender decision at a crossroads? The unexpected arrival of a hot link to the future? A karmic debt that's canceled or forgiven? In light of the likelihood that the sweet-and-sour, confusing-and-revelatory drama will continue, I encourage you to keep your levels of relaxed intensity turned up high. More than I've seen in a long time, you have the magic and the opportunity to transform what needs to be transformed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In the coming days, you will have more than your usual access to help and guidance. Divine interventions are possible. Special dispensations and charmed coincidences, too. If you don't believe in fairy dust, magic beans, and lucky potions, maybe you should set that prejudice aside for a while. Subtle miracles are more likely to bestow their gifts if your reasonable theories don't get in the way. Here's an additional tip: Don't get greedy. Use the openings you're offered with humility and gratitude.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): When my daughter Zoe was growing up, I wanted her to be familiar with the origins of ordinary stuff that she benefited from. That's why I took her to small farms where she could observe the growth and harvest of organic food crops. We visited manufacturing facilities where cars, furniture, toys, and kitchen sinks were built. She saw bootmakers creating boots and professional musicians producing songs in recording studios. And much more. I would love it if you would give yourself comparable experiences in the coming weeks, Sagittarius. It's an excellent time to commune with the sources of things that nurture you and make your life better.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Unless you were brought up by a herd of feral donkeys, the coming weeks will be an excellent time to embark on your second childhood. Unless you're allergic to new ideas, the foreseeable future will bring you strokes of curious luck that inspire you to change and change and change your mind. And unless you are addicted to your same old stale comforts, life will offer you chances to explore frontiers that could expose you to thrilling new comforts.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): These days, my dear, your eccentric beauty is even more unkempt than usual. I like it. It entertains and charms me. And as for your idiosyncratic intelligence: That, too, is messier and cuter and even more interesting than ever before. I'm inclined to encourage you to milk this unruly streak for all its potential. Maybe it will provoke you to experiment in situations where you've been too accepting of the stagnant status quo. And perhaps it will embolden you to look for love and money in more of the right places.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): I'm giving you an ultimatum, Pisces: Within the next 144 hours, I demand that you become at least 33 percent happier. Fifty percent would be even better. Somehow you've got to figure out what you can do to enhance your sense of well-being and increase your enjoyment of life. I'm sort of joking, but on the other hand I'm completely serious. From my perspective, it's essential that you feel really good in the coming days. Abundant pleasure is not merely a luxury, but rather a necessity. Do you have any ideas about how to make this happen? Start here: 1. Identify your four most delightful memories, and re-enact them in your imagination. 2. Go see the people whose influences most thoroughly animate your self-love.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Brezсны'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.



SPARTAN DANCE & FIT CENTER / CELEBRATION! CINEMA LANSING & IMAX

Alan I. Ross/City Pulse

The newly expanded Spartan Dance & Fit Center offers a wide variety of activities, including lessons in more than a dozen styles of dance and state-of-the-art physical training equipment.

By ALLAN I. ROSS

With school back in session, parents can release a collective sigh of relief. It's no longer solely on you to fill eight hours of daytime activities for your feisty offspring. But what about stuff to keep those kiddos active on weekends and between the final school bell and bedtime during the week — not to mention to beef up the old college application form? Last we checked, Harvard doesn't accept "has captured all Pokémon" as a desirable extracurricular.

Sports is the front lines of the eternal "keeping children active" campaign, and last month East Lansing witnessed one of its homegrown sports-related businesses more than quadrupling in size. **Spartan Dance & Fit Center's** new location in East Lansing's Carriage Hill Neighborhood, 6075 N. Hagadorn Road, is the third home for Tiffany Russell's business, which first opened on Ann Street in 2010. She initially opened the fitness center to pass her love of dance along to her own children.

"I was looking for the quality of training I'd had, but I couldn't find it locally," said Russell, 37, a former professional dancer who worked in New York and Asia. "Dance is sport — it's art and it's performance. You can't be a dancer unless you're athletic and have intelligence and endurance. There just wasn't any local place that was holding students to the levels that I wanted (for my own children),

so I started my own."

The business grew quickly. After the first year, Russell had 80 students. That number doubled the next year and again the year after that. After the Ann Street location was razed to make room for the mixed-use development that is now home to the **HopCat** and **FieldHouse** restaurants, Russell moved the studio to a larger location on the corner of Abbot and Lake Lansing roads. After three years at that location, she said, there were "students sitting on top of students," necessitating the recent move and expansion.

"This has grown faster than I ever imagined it could," Russell said. "There's a real demand for dance."

The new space checks in at 13,000 square feet, comprising six dance studios (some equipped with spring floors), a group fitness center, a smoothie bar, a play area for children and an "adult business center" (i.e., a place to keep mom and dad busy while junior's in ballet class). Russell has a team of 38 instructors on staff, including physical trainers and dietitians. The studio takes up half of the vacant space left by L&L Food Center, which closed in 2010.

"It's exciting to bring a business of this size to this part of East Lansing," Russell said. "I think it will really rejuvenate the Carriage Hill, and I hope it pulls new businesses into this pocket. It's a fun, upbeat area with lots of room for growth."

Spartan Dance has about 400 students, and with this move, Russell expects to see that number go up to 600. And lest you think that dance is "just for girls," Russell is quick to point out the high number of young men involved in programs.

"One of (our students) is a former MSU football player who had gotten out of shape," Russell said. "We helped him get back in shape, and he'll be the first to say that (our facility) turned his life around. Dance is my passion, and I give it all I can. I love hearing stories like that."

Sound and vision

Michigan-based movie theater chain Celebration! Cinema announced last week that all of its theaters, including **Celebration! Cinema Lansing and IMAX**, 200 E. Edgewood Blvd., would be outfitted with two cutting edge devices to enhance the moviegoing experience for hearing and vision impaired patrons. These changes are also intended to boost comprehension for those who are new to the English language or have learning disabilities.

The first addition is a descriptive audio service that narrates each film through a headset. The description provides information about key visual elements, such as the setting and scene changes, making movies more meaningful for people who can't see what's happening. The other addition is a new closed captioning service screen that attaches to a seat's cup holder. It can be adjusted with a flexible arm to the moviegoer's viewing angle, and all dialogue is displayed on the screen in text form. A statement released by Celebration! spokesman Steve VanWagoner said this technology paves the way for future iterations which could assist viewers with non-English captioning.

"We remain committed to continuing to improve services for all of our guests," VanWagoner said.

These changes received praise from Joe Sibley, a spokesman for Michigan's vision impaired community and a past president of the Michigan Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired.

"Celebration! Cinema was the first (theater) in Michigan to offer this technology on a limited basis 10 years ago," Sibley said in the release. "Many people with hearing or vision loss have enjoyed going to the movies again."

Both of these services will be available on request at the ticket counter by mid-October.

Spartan Dance & Fit Center
6075 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing
Hours vary by class/activity
(517) 999-5415, spartandancecenter.com

Out on the town

from page 28

Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, sbdcmichigan.org.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Have a support system, lose weight. Wheelchair accessible. Weigh-in 6:30, meeting 7 p.m. FREE first visit. St. Therese Church, 102 W. Randolph St., Lansing. tops.org.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Books on Tap. "Mudbound" by Hillary Jordan. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Jimmy's Pub, 16804 Chandler Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Ready & Play Storytime. family storytime with songs and sensory play time. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

EVENTS

LCC West Toastmasters. Public speaking group. 5-6:30 p.m. LCC West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing. 517-483-1314, lccwest.toastmastersclubs.org

Capital Area Crisis Rugby Practice. All levels welcome. 6-8 p.m. FREE. St. Joseph Park, 2125 W. Hillsdale St., Lansing. crisisrhc.com.

Wednesday, September 14

CLASSES AND SEMINARS

Know Your Numbers: Using Financial Statements. 8 a.m.-noon. \$10. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing. sbdcmichigan.org.

Gentle Yoga. Relaxing pace class suitable for beginners. 11 a.m.-noon. First class FREE/\$5/\$3 members. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston.

LITERATURE AND POETRY

Author Talk. Ben Rawlence speaks on "City of Thorns." 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. elpl.org.

Johnathan Rand Signing. Author of Michigan Chiller "A Ghostly Haunting in Grand Haven" visits. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Barnes and Noble, 5132 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. (517) 327-3968.

MUSIC

Deacon Earl at Allen Farmers Market. 5:30-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Farmers Market, 1619 E.

Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911,

EVENTS

Post-Polio Support Group Meeting. All affected by polio welcome to share information and support. 1:30-3 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 339-1039.

After School Action Program. Light meal,

tutoring and activities. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Eastside Community Action Center, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing.

After School Teen Program. For teens in grades 7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. elpl.org.

Allen Farmers Market. Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 2:30-7 p.m. FREE. Allen Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911, ow.ly/Bol130304VE.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
 From Pg. 27

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SUDOKU SOLUTION
 From Pg. 26

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

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music.msu.edu/choralunion



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Make America grape again

Sorry losers, Trump Winery
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By NOT DONALD TRUMP

Hey folks, listen up. There's a lot of wine out there being sold in these troubling times. Here we are in Michigan, which I'm told is a pretty good environment for the wine industry. Are Old Mission Peninsula or Fennville world-class wine regions? I don't know. People are certainly saying things, very interesting things. Really smart people. And they say it's good. Is it great? I don't know.

But let me tell you about my winery. Trump Winery. This is real American wine. The best wine. We shouldn't even be talking about wine not made in America. I'm telling you, we really did something special at our winery in Virginia. Really special.

I have to tell you I had no small hand in this. (My hands are quite large, I'm sure you know, like other parts of my anatomy, if you know what I mean.) We had experts taking a look at what vines would work and why. Good people. The best people. We had to do it right. We had to win. Our winery is in Monticello, as in Thomas Jefferson's home. What's more American than that? Probably a top five president, Jefferson. A real family man with a taste for American wine, let me tell you. You can look it up. It's in all of the books.

You really should taste my 2013 chardonnay. Bright flavors of the tropics. Pineapple, red apple, buttery profile. It drinks like a California chardonnay, but without that West Coast liberalism. Our winery is in Virginia. Far enough away from D.C. that we don't have to smell what's going on up there. Just terrible, rotten stuff.

People are saying really good things about these wines. The people at Wine Advocate and Wine Enthusiast are paying attention. They've given great reviews to our wines. But the failing Wine Spectator doesn't score our wines very well. Terribly biased. I mean, just really disgusting stuff, folks. They'll be out in the street by this time next year. Useless.

The media isn't covering this, but my wines come in half bottles as well as full bottles. I hear people spreading just nasty rumors we use half bottles so my small hands can hold them. Make no mistake, I will go after the people saying these things. My lawyers are incredible. The smartest people. Real people though. Real salt of the earth guys.

I have to mention — and please, hear



Courtesy Photo

These wines are fantastic. The best wines. I mean, really great stuff.

what I'm saying here — our Meritage is fantastic. I know people want to pronounce that word "MARE-uh-tahj," but that's what the French want. We're not going to play that game. You all know what's happening in Europe. Just awful, terrible stuff. It's "MARE-uh-tidge." Rhymes with heritage.

And let me tell you, our heritage is the best. It really is. We have the best people. The best ideas. Some losers call this wine "overripe" or "lacking structure." Why is more ripeness a bad thing? I call that winning.

Some loser said this wine tastes like California raisins crossed with a soggy soft pack of Camel Lights. Losers. I'm so sick of the losers of the industry. Like the French. They don't know the first thing about winemaking. Sad!

You can get these wines for about \$20 to \$25 each. That's a real middle-class wine right there. That's a deal, and I know that, because I wrote "The Art of the Deal." You shouldn't have to spend \$100 on a bottle of wine. That's ludicrous. I mean, I do, but I'm rich. I have so much money. You don't have as much money as I do. I've seen your town, ladies and gentleman. It's terrible. I've heard you don't even have casino in Lansing. Sad!

We make these wines for hard workers, families with smiling kids, people that put in real American effort. Crooked Hillary and the losers at the failing New York Times don't want to make dinner great again. They think you should drink Italian sparkling lemon water with your croissant. Let's have a real American meal like Virginia red wine and a Trump steak.

Try these wines. They're fantastic. They really are. Trump wine, available in regular bottles and half bottles. DON'T SAY IT!

Not Donald Trump is in no way related to Justin King, a certified sommelier and co-owner of Bridge Street Social, a restaurant in DeWitt that doesn't even serve Trump wines. Sad!

Mid-Michigan Manhattan — Tavern 109

Behind the bar at Tavern 109 in Williamston, there is a pair of shelves that looks like some kind of science experiment. Charred pineapple rings float in Bacardi Rum. A series of tequilas — used for the tavern's craft margaritas — are infused with ingredients like watermelon and basil or jalapeno and avocado. Then my eyes settled on one of the jars on the top shelf. It was labeled "Bacon Maker's Mark." I rubbed my eyes to make sure I wasn't imagining it. Have the bartenders been reading my dream journal?

If I were to make a list of my favorite things, bacon and bourbon would be near the top of my list. (Sorry, whiskers on kittens and warm woolen mittens.)



Tavern 109

11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday
109 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston
(517) 655-2100, tavern109.com

I feared that combining the two would be the proverbial too much of a good thing, but one sip of the Mid-Michigan Manhattan washed that concern away. Tavern 109 puts a twist on the traditional whiskey drink with the bacon-infused bourbon and just a hint of maple syrup. The result is salty,

smoky, sweet and savory.

The drink is garnished with a slice of candied bacon. Are you supposed to eat the garnish? I did. I have a firm No Bacon Left Behind policy. This policy, in my opinion, has been much more successful than a similarly named education policy. I encourage all of you to adopt it.

— Ty Forquer

What's your favorite dish/drink?
Do you have a go-to dish or drink at your favorite local restaurant? We want to know about it. Email your favorite dish/drink and a short explanation about why you love it to food@lansingcitypulse.com, and it may be featured in a future issue. If possible, please send a photo along with your description — a nice smartphone photo is fine. Cheers!



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