

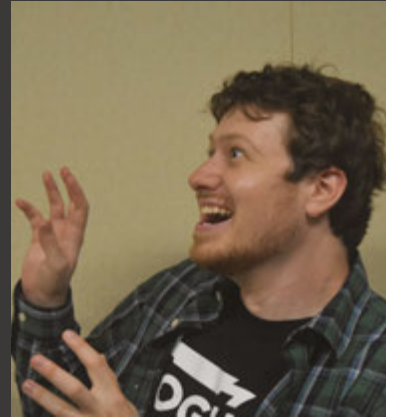
FREE

# CityPULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us

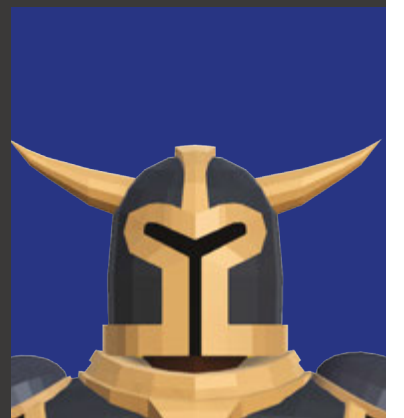
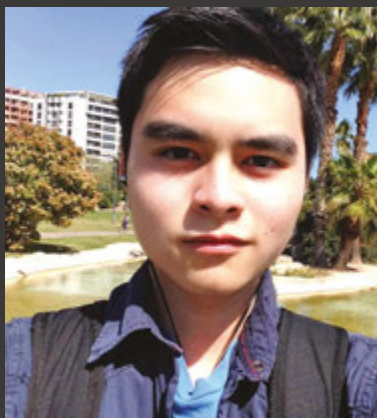
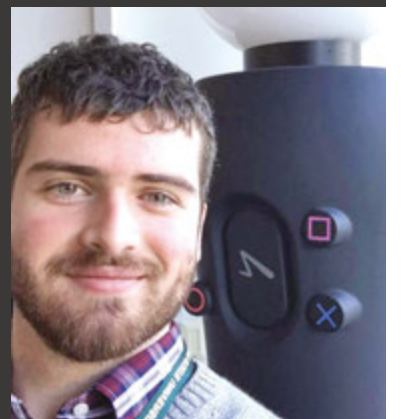
[www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com)

October 10 - 16, 2018



## Here's the story of... **oddByte Games** East Lansing's DIY Video Game Designers

See page 12



ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S

# Love Never Dies

THE PHANTOM RETURNS



THE SPELLBINDING SEQUEL TO  
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

OCT. 9-14 MSU'S WHARTON CENTER  
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Arthur Miller's  
**THE MILLER PLAYS**  
A Memory of Two Mondays  
and A View From the Bridge

Directed by Rob Roznowski

October 12-21, 2018  
Pasant Theatre

Immigration. Bigotry. Nationalism.  
The plays of Arthur Miller remain  
as relevant as ever.

**2018  
2019**  
SEASON

**BREAKING**

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10th Annual  
**HAUNTED AUD**

Hosted by the MSU Department of Theatre

General Admission \$10

October 27-31, 2018

MSU Auditorium

On the corner of Auditorium Road & Farm Lane.

For nearly a decade MSU theatre students  
have revolted mid-Michigan audiences with  
hair-raising results. This fundraiser for  
student initiatives will scare you to death.

Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018 from 9pm - 1am

Sunday, Oct. 28, 2018 from 7pm - 11pm

Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018 from 8pm - 11pm

**DOWN BORDERS**

# CityPULSE



## LOCAL EXPERTS

### ART SUPPLIES

## Make unique holiday gifts for everyone on your list at Delphi

There's an almost palpable excitement to this time of the year as plans are made for a busy season of parties and celebrations. Store shelves are stuffed, "Top 10 Gifts" lists are published, and the hunt for the perfect something begins. Before you commit to the hustle and bustle of shopping and searching high and low - it doesn't have to be this way. Make this holiday season slower, make it more deliberate, make it more magical by giving a distinct gift made by you.

For the adventurous and artsy people on your list, give the gift of creativity and time. Schedule a private Art a la Carte class at Delphi Glass with your friends, family, co-workers, fantasy football league, book club — you get the idea. Create glass art and connections. The relaxed party atmosphere of these short classes is the perfect break during the holiday season to relax, socialize and enjoy holiday cheer. You are welcome to bring adult beverages for all the adults in your party. Join one of the scheduled Art a la Carte classes at Delphi and create customized gifts from sandblasted glassware to gorgeous jewelry, even whimsical mosaic wall art. Looking for more options? The class schedule includes a wide variety of options from single day classes to in-depth workshops spanning multiple days. With all these options, you can treat yourself to a new hobby while making incredible gifts for everyone on your list.



Delphi Glass  
**DELPHI GLASS**  
**(517) 394-4685**

3380 E Jolly Rd  
Lansing, MI 48910  
www.delphiglass.com

### HEALTH & WELLNESS

## Beating the Michigan blues with a great tan!

Michigan's cold, grey and harsh winters can be tough on your mood. We can help.

In the winter, Vitamin D levels take a dive due to lack of sun exposure. Indoor tanning has shown to increase those levels leading to mood enhancement. Every tanning session produces enough units of Vitamin D for your daily recommended intake — around 1000-4000 IU. Along with the host of health benefits associated with increased Vitamin D levels, a tanning bed can also be beneficial to fight off skin cancer.

We firmly believe in moderation when it comes to indoor tanning and advise our customers to do the same. We recommend year-long programs and best practices, taking into account the customer's age and desired results. We advise many of our customers to tan only a few times every week, keeping in mind any events they need to attend. We also have some customers with psoriasis and eczema who have experienced benefits in the tanning bed. We also offer spray tans, which is especially useful for pregnant women unable to use the tanning beds. Our \$10/month membership package is available for everyone with options to upgrade it to a higher level. Please contact any of our seven locations for an appointment.



Jason Hadley & Justin Carpenter  
**J2 TANNING**  
**517-940-4646**

423 Albert Ave.  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
j2tanning.com

### HOME IMPROVEMENT

## Hot and cold soaking hydrotherapy in your own home!

Here's an elegant, simple, portable and easy-to-use hydrotherapy experience for your home. Started 40 years ago by our father, James, our FuroHealth line of hot and cold soaking tubs combine old world experiences with cutting edge technology. The hot soaking tubs are based on the principle of Japanese bath traditions, keeping the water still and hot. It offers deep-healing relaxation and reduces pain, which can aid a plethora of health conditions along with joint relief, detoxification, and meditative mindfulness.

An ice-cold plunge does not sound fun at all, especially in Michigan! But the benefits associated with our Furo cold tub have already been adopted by professional athletes and workout enthusiasts. With the practice dating back hundreds of years, a cold plunge improves circulation, relieves depression, keeps your skin and hair healthy, strengthens your immune system, increases testosterone levels, increases energy levels, promotes better sleep, and above all invigorates your spirit.

Popularized by Wim Hof, we have our tubs in fitness centers, recovery spas and chiropractor offices. With minimal maintenance costs, they can be easily cleaned and serviced without any hassle. All the tubs are hand-crafted with a tough and durable protective polyethylene coating that is UV stable and scuff resistant.



Jessica Graham

**HOTWATER WORKS**

**(517) 364-8827**

2116 E Michigan Ave  
Lansing, MI 48912  
hotwaterworks.com  
info@hotwaterworks.com

### BANKING

## What the shortage in housing inventory means for homebuyers

With the number of houses for sale at an all-time low, it can be harder than ever to find a new home. Still, that doesn't mean it's a bad time to look. In fact, with interest rates expected to rise, you might regret not shopping for a house now.

But in a hot housing market like right now, you have to be prepared because deals happen fast. In a low inventory market like this, buyers are going to find a lot of competition for houses that are available. You might even end up in a bidding war. With more buyers than sellers, the basic laws of supply and demand push prices higher. It's important to stand out from the pack by having your financial documents in order when you make an offer. They can either be the obstacle or pathway to your dream house and should be given priority as such.

Even though home prices are higher than the past, they may be more affordable in 2018 than they will be next year. With interest rates on the rise, you could save a lot of money by moving to a new house this fall. Under the current market conditions the longer you wait, the farther you move away from your dream house, financially.



John Blossey, VP / Senior Credit Officer

**DART BANK**

**(517) 676-3661**

368 S. Park St.  
Mason, MI 48854  
www.dartbank.com

### SALON \ BARBER

## Over the 'Cider Moon': Fall Pedicure is Lansing's Ultimate Stress Buster

Relax in a bubbly soak, robust with notes of sweet harvested apples. Feet and hands are cleansed and nourished, while tensions melt away. Our fall pedicure offering "Cider Moon" is the ultimate stress-buster. This process starts with a spiked foot polish blended with muscadine grapes and spirited Texas moonshine to remove all the dead and dry skin. Once free of the unwanted skin, a massage is done with a passion fruit-steeped, coconut milk lotion kissed with a dash of spiced sunflower seed oil. This invigorating finish deeply nourishes and leaves you feeling renewed and refreshed.

You also get to sip on a hot apple cider with whipped cream and a caramel drizzle while getting the pedicure, just one of the many ways you will be truly pampered at Bliss. Mention our ad in City Pulse and receive 20 percent off of our Farmhouse Fresh Line of skincare products on the day of your scheduled appointment. Also included with the fall pedicure promotion is a free full-size OPI polish of your choice to take home. You can also book a special spa pedicure with either a Shellac or a spa pedicure for only \$65! For all this and more salon services, please contact Bliss Salon to book your appointment today.



Dallas Angelosanto

**BLISS SALON**

**(517) 323-6388**

5320 Ivan Street  
Lansing, MI 48917  
www.blissalononline.com

### Another reason I love Lansing

When I heard the big crash, I stopped working and looked out the window. For the second time in two months a huge limb fell from my neighbor's 100-year-old tree. The first limb missed crushing people and cars but stopped traffic on Prospect Street. This time the limb barely missed my neighbor, removed the corner of his porch roof, and took down a wire. For the second time in two months I called City Forestry. Here's the remarkable part, within in 30 minutes both the Fire Department and the

Forestry Department were on site checking the wires, putting up caution tape and making sure the neighborhood was safe. AMAZING!  
We are privileged to live in a city with dedicated, competent, responsive public servants who enhance our quality of life, even when we don't stop to write editorials about them. I am a native New Yorker but for the past 29 years stuff like this that makes me proud to call Lansing home and more than willing to pay my share of taxes.

**Jennifer M. Grau  
Lansing**

# CityPULSE

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Bishop and Slotkin faceoff on "Flashpoint"



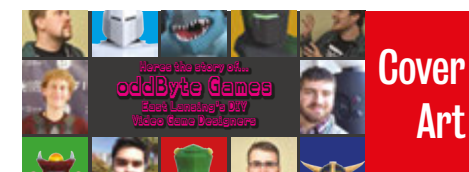
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A look at the rental scooters filling streets near you



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What's next for Ruckus Ramen?



**Cover  
Art**

Cover design by Abby Sumbler

**ADVERTISING INQUIRIES:** (517) 999-5061  
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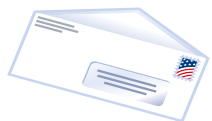
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**Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages?  
Now you have two ways to sound off:**

- 1.) Write a letter to the editor.**
  - E-mail: [letters@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:letters@lansingcitypulse.com)
  - Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
  - Fax: (517) 371-5800
  - At [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com)
- 2.) Write a guest column:**



Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: [publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:publisher@lansingcitypulse.com) or (517) 999-5061 (Please include your name, address and telephone number so we can reach you. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.)

The Meridian Township Election Commission will meet in the Office of the Township Clerk at the Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864, on Tuesday, October 16, 2018, at 5:45 p.m. for the purpose of appointing precinct inspectors, absentee counting board members, and other related issues for the General/School District Election to be held Tuesday, November 6, 2018.

**Brett Dreyfus, CMMC  
Meridian Township Clerk**

CP#18-244

**B/19/037 MOBILE COMMAND UNIT** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids at the CITY OF LANSING, C/O LBWL, PURCHASING OFFICE, at 1110 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48912 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on OCT. 30, 2018 at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by calling Stephanie Robinson at (517) 702-6197, email: [stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com](mailto:stephanie.robinson@lbwl.com) or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info).** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#18-250

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on the **AIR**

**NOW AT 10:00 A.M.**

**SUNDAYS** on

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### THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



TOM TOMORROW © 2018

## PULSE

## NEWS &amp; OPINION

## Will Slotkin get Kavanaughed in House race?

POLITICS



KYLE MELINN

The Brett Kavanaugh hearings are mercifully over and nobody is more thankful than Democrats like Elissa Slotkin running in competitive seats.

Democrats like the 8th Congressional District nominee don't want anything

to do with such a flashfire topic as "who was telling the truth? Kavanaugh or Christine Blasey Ford." They want to talk about something more politically advantageous (and relevant) to them among critical independent voters. A subject like health care.

Bishop and Slotkin stayed far away from Kavanaugh's weekend confirmation during their WDIV TV "Flashpoint" debate Sunday on the Detroit station. Bishop was bent on linking Slotkin to U.S. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, whose popularity numbers are well south of President Donald Trump's.

Slotkin wants to talk about congressional Republicans' doomed American Health Care Act, their repeal-and-replace answer for President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act.

On Tuesday, Slotkin released a 30-second TV ad featuring six Michiganders with pre-existing conditions. She says their health care and that of 300,000 constituents would have been in jeopardy if the Republicans' plan had become law.

"I approve this message because, Mr. Bishop, the health of our families should be more important than partisan politics," Slotkin directly tells the camera.

The shot is similar to the closing of her first ad, where she looks at the viewer when saying "gutting protections for pre-existing" was a "dereliction of duty and it's a fireable offense."

During the Bishop-Slotkin debate on WDIV's "Flashpoint," Bishop pushed back on this claim by saying his wife was born with a pre-existing condition — juvenile rheumatoid arthritis — and he would have never signed off on a bill that left people uncovered.

"When I voted for that bill, there is no way I would have voted for it if it didn't include protections for people with pre-existing conditions," he said, before preceding to haul out a copy of the bill and read it on



Courtesy WDIV/ClickOnDetroit

air. U.S. Rep. Mike Bishop, R-Michigan, (left) and Democratic challenger Elissa Slotkin face off on WDIV TV's "Flashpoint," hosted by Devin Scillian.

air.

To that, Slotkin said the Republicans' offering still allowed those with pre-existing conditions be priced out of the market. Before the passage of the ACA, she said her mother couldn't afford her health insurance when she lost her job in 2002 because she had had cancer years prior.

"That's not making it affordable," she said.

The independent fact-checking website Politifact wrote that the AHCA "would allow for people with pre-existing conditions to be charged more per year for their insurance coverage — possibly to the tune of thousands or even tens of thousands of dollars more per year."

Bishop's point has been that insurance costs are high under the ACA, a reason he supported efforts in Washington, to reform it.

The Republicans' answer in Congress was to steer these patients into high-risk pools to assist with any additional costs they may have incurred under their plan. Whether that would have kept insurance bills down for these folks with pre-existing conditions is a subject of debate.

What isn't debatable is that marginal Michigan Democratic candidates — not incumbents in safe blue California or New York districts — were not being helped by the Kavanaugh spectacle.

Last week's New York Times' survey on Michigan's 11th Congressional race showed the margin by which Democrat Haley Stevens leads Republican Lena Epstein

shrinking over the six days of the polling. Her once double-digit lead ended up shrinking to eight points. Slotkin, too, over the six days of the Times' poll in the 8th District was up — well within the margin of error — twice during the course of the poll, only to finish three points down to Bishop by Oct. 3.

Many factors played into these results, but Kavanaugh being spit-roasted over an open senatorial fire wasn't moving numbers for either congressional hopeful.

"When you're in a marginal seat, you have to focus on the issues," said Ed Sarpolus of Target Insyght, a pollster of more than 30 years. "If I'm a Democrat, I have to talk about the issues, not Kavanaugh."

Democratic interest groups realize that, too. Last week, a pro-ACA group called "Protect Our Care," rolled into Lansing as part of a six-week trip across 23 mostly swing states.

Fueled by predominately union money, the "Protect Our Care" train stopped in front of the Capitol, where cancer survivors took turns with mid-Michigan public officials beating Bishop over the head for wanting to "gut" the ACA.

"Mike Bishop is my representative, but he doesn't represent me," said cancer survivor Amanda Iltiong.

The bus tour didn't get near the coverage as the Kavanaugh hearings, but the point remains. Slotkin and her supporters are eager to change the subject.

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


**SORE**  
OF THE WEEK

**3801 Walton Drive,  
Lansing**

This Eyesore might not look shabby from outside, but city officials know it's what's inside the counts. City officials are working to address growing problems inside this small apartment building. Police officers visited the site nearly 100 times in the last year, for everything from robberies and assaults to prostitution and drugs.

The owner, Bruce Kruger, continually picks up trash around the building and has replaced broken windows. He recognized the place is infested with bed bugs and cockroaches, but he said he has addressed those issues, among others.

"There's a cop over there that just keeps hammering my ass," Kruger added. "It's not the Taj Mahal. I understand that. The big problem is that the city keeps bitching about the cops coming over there."

Police said residents there don't sign lease agreements and Kruger hasn't done anything to help officers facilitate background checks for tenants. Kruger dismissed both claims as "hearsay" but said he's willing to work with the city to reach an equitable resolution.

**Kyle Kaminski**

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

# SCOOTERS, SCOOTERS, EVERYWHERE.

## HERE'S A QUICK GUIDE ON HOW TO USE THE SCOOTERS THAT HAVE TAKEN OVER LANSING AND EAST LANSING

### GETTING STARTED

1. Download Bird or Lime apps or both to track down the nearest scooter.
  2. Enter your debit/credit card details. Bird requires a valid driver's license.
- Lime offers an "affordability program" so those without smartphones can unlock scooters via text message and purchase discounted ride credits with cash. But you have to prove your eligibility. Visit [li.me](http://li.me) for details.

### HOW DO THEY WORK?

1. Scan a QR code on the handlebars and press the "unlock" button. (It'll ping or chirp LOUDLY if you move it first.)
2. Once aboard, give the ground a few kicks and apply the right-thumb throttle. They travel about 15 mph, using lithium-ion batteries. Distance depends largely on battery life and riding conditions. Check the battery percentage beforehand! The brakes are fixed to the handlebars. You'll need them for sharp, downhill turns!



### HOW ARE THEY CHARGED?

Both companies offer an opportunity to get paid to collect and charge scooters every night. Visit [li.me](http://li.me) or [bird.co](http://bird.co) for more details about either program.

### ALSO

Age: 18 or older.  
 Weight limit: Lime: 300 lbs.  
 Bird: 200 lbs.  
 Balance: Avoid carrying anything.  
 Phone: Like driving anything, it's not safe on a scooter.  
 Drinking: It's illegal.  
 Passengers: None.  
 Advice: Stick to pavement. Those already have enough potholes to avoid anyway.

### WHERE CAN I RIDE THEM?

Lansing: Streets out of the way of traffic and sidewalks except in the downtown shopping district. That's Larch Street on the east, St. Joseph St. on the south, Capitol Avenue on the west and Shiawassee Street on the north.  
 East Lansing: Anywhere, just don't disrupt car or foot traffic.  
 Michigan State University: Not in bike lanes or sidewalks and only on streets that are limited to 25 MPH.

### HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Bird: \$1 plus 20 cents per minute.  
 Lime: \$1 plus 15 cents per minute.

### AND WHEN I'M DONE?

1. Hop off and leave them on the sidewalk by the curb or another spot not in the way of foot traffic.
2. Lock it on your phone.
3. Snap a pic to prove where you left it. They can charge a \$120 pickup fee for retrieving the scooter from wherever you happen to misplace it.

# What's stalling fiber Internet in Lansing?

## Lightspeed says BWL delays network rollout

As fiber Internet lines connect to local neighborhoods, at least one service provider contends the Lansing Board of Water & Light has stalled progress by falling behind on nationally recognized standards.

For years, Jason Schreiber, the CEO of Lightspeed Communications, has looked to expand "revolutionary" Internet speeds to Lansing neighborhoods through new, fiber-optic data lines installed on virtually every utility pole within the city. It's no easy

feat, he contended.

But outdated rules from the BWL are the largest obstacles stalling the expansion, he said. Lightspeed's initial goal was to connect the entire city of Lansing. Now, the local company is turning its focus to other communities across the state — such as Ypsilanti and Huntington Woods — to keep business moving.

"Admittedly, this is new territory for BWL," Schreiber explained. "There are no other companies doing what we're doing. We're literally trying to attach to every pole in the city. When we're denied access, that means at least four or five homes will nev-

er be reached. We're really doing all that we can within this process."

Fiber Internet connections, for the uninitiated, offer gigabit-speed download times by bouncing light signals through small, flexible, glass wires that run through larger, protective cables. The average Internet connection runs at 18.7 megabits per second. Fiber can run up to a gigabit — or 1,000 megabits — per second.

Put simply, you can download more faster with fiber than standard broadband. But not when providers like Lightspeed are forced to follow timelines largely decided by their primary competitors before they're

able to lay down any new neighborhood networks.

"I don't think there have been any active attempts to restructure how we're working with BWL," Schreiber said. "They haven't changed anything. We have permit requests in now and it's the maximum number that we're allowed to submit. We're just waiting."

New Internet lines — regardless of the service provider — need to be installed along every city street before service can be connected. The "customary practice" in the business is to use existing utilities already installed in the area, Schreiber said. And in Lansing, most of the utilities are installed on poles already owned by BWL.

Other utilities on those poles often need

See Lightspeed, Page 8

### NOTICE OF HEARING

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

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE STREET LIGHTING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

TO THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, the owners of the land described below within the Street Lighting Special Assessment District, and any other interested persons:

2328	Showtime	1609	Lake Lansing Road	2524	Lake Lansing Road	3318	Wood Street
2401	Showtime	1615	Lake Lansing Road	2620	Lake Lansing Road	3309	Wood Street
2501	Showtime	1627	Lake Lansing Road	2628	Lake Lansing Road	3315	Wood Street
2505	Showtime	1634	Lake Lansing Road	2704	Lake Lansing Road	3319	Wood Street
2620	Showtime	1700	Lake Lansing Road	2706	Lake Lansing Road	3323	Wood Street
3508	Wood St.			2710	Lake Lansing Road	3320	Preyde
2810	Chamberlin Dr	1707	Lake Lansing Road	1540	Lake Lansing Road	And Also Parcels:	
2500	Kerry Street	1720	Lake Lansing Road	2800	Preyde Blvd		
2503	Kerry Street	1813	Lake Lansing Road	2500	Showtime Dr	33-21-01-02-100-048	Towne Center
2511	Kerry Street	1910	Lake Lansing Road	3115	Towne Centre	33-21-01-02-100-002	Wood St.
2127	Lake Lansing Rd	2000	Lake Lansing Road	2800	Towne Centre Blvd	33-21-01-03-200-011	Wood Street
2401	Lake Lansing Rd	2017	Lake Lansing Road	2925	Towne Centre Blvd	33-21-01-02-126-03	Showtime
2615	Lake Lansing Rd	2030	Lake Lansing Road	3225	Towne Centre Blvd	33-21-01-02-126-100	Showtime
1320	Lake Lansing Road	2110	Lake Lansing Road	2320	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-200-014	Wood Street
1384	Lake Lansing Road	2129	Lake Lansing Road	2401	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-200-015	Wood Street
1403	Lake Lansing Road	2200	Lake Lansing Road	2510	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-401-017	Lake Lansing
1405	Lake Lansing Road	2250	Lake Lansing Road			33-21-01-03-426-007	Lake Lansing
1408	Lake Lansing Road	2300	Lake Lansing Road	2707	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-426-009	Wood Street
1411	Lake Lansing Road	2312	Lake Lansing Road	2715	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-426-021	Lake Lansing
1415	Lake Lansing Road	2400	Lake Lansing Road	2723	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-427-034	Lake Lansing
1422	Lake Lansing Road	2408	Lake Lansing Road	2727	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-451-005	Lake Lansing
1475	Lake Lansing Road	2410	Lake Lansing Road	2733	Wood Street		
1492	Lake Lansing Road	2412	Lake Lansing Road	2920	Wood Street	33-21-01-02-503-001	Wood St.
1500	Lake Lansing Road	2414	Lake Lansing Road	2925	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-503-001	Wood St.
1515	Lake Lansing Road	2425	Lake Lansing Road	3010	Wood Street	33-21-01-03-426-023	Lake Lansing
1824	Lake Lansing Road	2500	Lake Lansing Road	3018	Wood Street	33-21-01-02-127-001	Showtime
1520	Lake Lansing Road	2502	Lake Lansing Road	3107	Wood Street	33-21-01-02-127-002	Showtime
1530	Lake Lansing Road	2510	Lake Lansing Road	3125	Wood Street	33-21-01-02-128-002	Showtime
1568	Lake Lansing Road	2512	Lake Lansing Road	3300	Wood Street	33-21-01-02-201-008	Preyde
1600	Lake Lansing Road	2515	Lake Lansing Road	3305	Wood Street	33-21-01-02-201-009	Preyde

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Township Supervisor has reported to the Township Board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll prepared by her related to all properties listed above, and that are within the Street Lighting Special Assessment District, and are benefited by the street lighting improvements generally described as follows:

The acquisition, construction, installation, maintenance and operation of luminaires, standards, and other equipment, wiring, cables, and appurtenances related to street lighting generally, but not necessarily limited to, along Lake Lansing Road from US 127 west to the City limits, and Wood Street from David Street north to county line.

The special assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the annual cost of the acquisition, construction, maintenance and operation of the street lighting improvements and work incidental thereto within the special assessment district. Information regarding the street lighting improvements is on file and available for public examination with the Township Clerk at the Township's Administration Building, 3209 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, within the Township. The total assessment is \$97,500.00, which amount will be assessed to the properties within the special assessment district.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Township Supervisor has further reported that the assessment against each parcel of land within the special assessment district is such relative portion of the whole sum levied against all parcels of land in the special assessment district as the benefit to such parcel bears to the total benefit to all parcels of land in the district.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Township Board will meet on Tuesday, the 16th day of October, 2018 at 7:00 o'clock, p.m., in the Administration Building, 3209 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48917, for the purpose of reviewing the proposed special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto. The special assessment roll may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular business days until the time of the hearing and may further be examined at the hearing.

Appearance and protest at the hearing, in person or in writing, are required in order to appeal the action of the Township Board in approving the special assessment roll, and/or the amount of an assessment, to the state tax tribunal. A property owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment proceedings or may file his or her appearance and protest by letter and his or her personal appearance will not be required. The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of a special assessment with the state tax tribunal within 30 days of the date the special assessment roll is confirmed by the Township Board.

Susan L. Aten, Township Clerk

# Lightspeed

from page 7

adjustment before another can move in. Sometimes lines need to be moved up or down a few inches to bring them into compliance with regulatory codes. But the BWL requires providers to seek a permit from every other utility using those spaces before any newcomers can arrive.

And here's where the trouble begins for Lightspeed, Schreiber said.

"We have to be somewhat surgical in how we approach coverage expansion because of these limitations," Schreiber added. "BWL is our most important partner here. They own the poles. We want to work with them."

The Federal Communications Commission voted in August to adopt one-touch, make-ready policies for most pole

attachments. The practice essentially allows for one contractor — usually paid by the company requesting expansion — to make all of the necessary adjustments without waiting for each individual company to move.

The one-touch system, in other communities nationwide, has streamlined a process that in some cases has forced service providers to wait years while their competitors slowly make space. But in Michigan, where telecommunications are regulated at the state level, the FCC's vote can only offer guidance.

And the BWL hasn't taken action to help expedite any of the outstanding permit requests, Schreiber explained.

"Everybody else — like Consumer's Energy and DTE — is doing this," Schreiber said. "This is just the arrangement that works best. There are so many people on our Facebook that complain when we're not

in their area. It makes me wince because there is nobody more interested in covering these neighborhoods than I am."

Dick Peffley, the general manager at BWL, said Lightspeed's competitors are understandably slow to respond to requests that would ultimately reduce their share of the local telecommunications market. But he hasn't heard any complaints from any other companies, so he hasn't placed the issue at the top of his priority list, he said.

"Everybody else seems to be satisfied with our rates and our rules and regulations here," Peffley said. "If there are suggestions out there, I'd think we'd want to look into them."

Peffley said he would "check in and see" how to expedite the utility adjustment process. He suggested a letter from the BWL could encourage companies to respond to the requests in a more timely manner, but he said he has no urgent plans to bring the issue to the board.

"When they add to our poles, we get revenue and that helps keep the rates lower for our customers," Peffley added. "We want this too. They're just frustrated they can't move quickly enough. If we can be more forceful, maybe we should. We can look into that, but I don't want to get sued by every other utility on those poles."

Kevin Schoen, the CEO of ACD, another local Internet and telephone service provider, said he hasn't had an issue with BWL's

regulations but said his company is more narrowly focused on commercial instead of residential service. He doesn't necessarily share the same hurdles as Lightspeed, he said.

"Sometimes when the government implements rules, nobody gets what they want," Schoen suggested. "Sometimes it can be more efficient to interact with each other to accomplish a goal. Government regulations are more of a blunt instrument than a finely tuned scalpel."

BWL Board Chairman David Price said he never heard a complaint from Lightspeed and would only look into the matter at Peffley's request. Commissioners don't get involved in day-to-day operations and procedures, he repeatedly emphasized.

Schreiber previously met with both Peffley and former Mayor Virg Bernero to address his concerns without much progress. And until something changes, he hopes customers can at least understand the continued delay.

"We want to work with BWL and hopefully change some of these policies," Schreiber added. "Until then, we're just going to continue to follow the rules as they've been written."

Visit [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com) for previous and continued coverage on Lightspeed Communications.

— KYLE KAMINSKI  
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY Waste Management and Radiological Protection Division P.O. Box 30242, Lansing, Michigan 48909

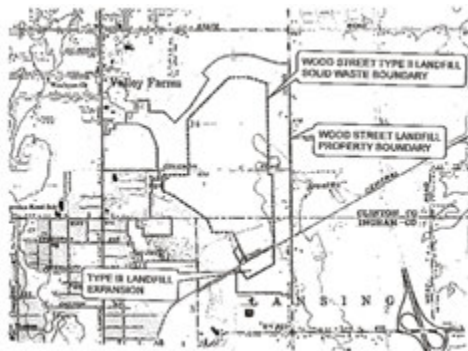
### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PART 115 CONSTRUCTION PERMIT FOR A TYPE III LANDFILL

Section 11510(2)(c) of Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (Part 115) provides for a notice of application for a construction permit for a new Type III landfill.

On August 31, 2018, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) received a construction permit application from Granger Waste Management, Inc., to construct a Type III landfill adjacent to its existing Granger Wood Street Landfill. The Director of the DEQ must either issue or deny the construction permit application by January 25, 2019.

Granger Wood Street Landfill is located at 16980 Wood Road, Lansing, Ingham County Michigan. Granger Waste Management, Inc., applied to construct a new Type III landfill covering 12.6 acres of lateral expansion and 3.7 acres of vertical expansion acres.

Granger Wood Street Landfill is shown on the map below and is located in the NE ¼ of Section 3, T4N, R2W Lansing Township, Ingham County, Michigan.



Nearest Crossroads:

Wood Road and Lake Lansing Road

Lansing Township:

Sections 3, T4N, R2W

The Department has scheduled a public hearing regarding the construction permit application. The hearing will include a chance for both formal and informal comments. Hearing Details:

Date: Thursday, November 1, 2019  
Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Asbury United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall  
2200 Lake Lansing Road  
Lansing, Michigan

The public comment period will close November 16, 2018.

The complete application package may be reviewed at the Lansing Township Hall, located at 3209 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, during normal business hours, and at the DEQ, Lansing District Office, 525 West Allegan, Lansing, Michigan. Information Contact: Mr. Steve Blayer, Waste Management and Radiological Protection Division, e-mail address [blayers@michigan.gov](mailto:blayers@michigan.gov); phone 517-614-7443.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Waste Management and Radiological Protection Division

CP#18-246

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on Tuesday, October 30, 2018 at 8:15 p.m., Council Chambers, 101 Linden Street, to consider the following:

A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1416a, an Ordinance to Amend Section 50-94a of Division 3 – Special Use Permit – of Article II – Administration and Enforcement – of Chapter 50 – Zoning – and to add Division 7 - Medical Marijuana Provisioning Centers Overlay Districts – and Sections 50-801, 50-802 and 50-803 to Article VII – Other Districts – of Chapter 50 – Zoning - of the Code of the City of East Lansing to Allow for and Regulate Medical Marijuana Provisioning Centers.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable accommodations, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this meeting, upon notice to the City of East Lansing, prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should write or call the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 319-6920, TDD 1-800-649-3777.

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

CP#18-249

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# Dispensaries face Oct. 31 shutdown; 'dropped ball' delays reform efforts

A last-ditch effort to dole out licenses to local dispensaries was made even more futile after the City Clerk's Office "dropped the ball" on recommendations to adjust Lansing's ordinance on medical marijuana.

The city's Medical Marijuana Commission met late last month to urge the City Council to expand the ordinance-mandated cap on the number of dispensaries within the city. The goal: Approve at least a handful of local provisioning centers so they can at least have a shot at nabbing a state license before the end of the month.

But a flustered Deputy City Clerk Brian Jackson said he "dropped the ball" and forgot to put the time-sensitive recommendations on the City Council's agenda for its meeting on Monday. That advice will now have to wait until the Council's next meeting, Oct. 22 — only 10 days before all local dispensaries are pegged for closure.

Unless city officials decide to overhaul the ordinance in the next few weeks or another set of emergency rules is again issued by the state Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Lansing won't be home to a single dispensary by the end of the month regardless.

City Clerk Chris Swope contended the missteps won't make much of a difference.

"We have given all of the information to the Council members and the mayor," Swope said. "They have all the information. I've consulted with Council leadership and this really will have no impact on the process at all."

In Lansing, 27 dispensaries are listed as "pending" for a chance at one of 20 available dispensary licenses. Another 32 have appealed Swope's decision to deny their licenses, totaling 59. And they need both state and local approval to stay open.

Only nine remain operational, according to a recent City Pulse analysis. All of those shops need state-issued operating licenses by Oct. 31 or they'll need to close, according to a recently adjusted set of emergency rules guiding the industry. But the ongoing appeals have essentially frozen the local market.

A judge's order essentially prohibits Swope from issuing licenses until each appealing dispensary applicant has had a chance to work through the process. The pending applications, in the meantime, cannot be approved because entrepreneurs will still need to fit into the local market if their denials are eventually overturned.

Swope has repeatedly emphasized that the regulatory structure is more "complex" than ever imagined.

Medical Marijuana commissioners advised the City Council to revise the limit to ensure medical bud remains available for local residents long past the Oct. 31 deadline. The five-member panel asked the Council to consider expanding the dispensary cap to a popu-

lation-based, one provisioning center for every 3,000 residents.

For context, U.S. Census figures would peg that number at 38 dispensaries in the city of Lansing, whose population was 116,020 in 2016. Ann Arbor, with about 4,500 more residents, capped its number at 28. Detroit, which is nearly six times bigger than Lansing, set its limit at 75 potential dispensaries.

The breathing room would provide a work-around to the stalled appeals process, allowing Swope to approve dispensaries while ensuring space remains for those who have filed appeals. The commission also suggested allowing every successful appeal to find a space in the market regardless of the ordinance-induced limitation.

If the recommendations were to be approved, the dispensary limit could ultimately climb as high as 57 provisioning centers. It's unclear if City Council would approve an amendment to the ordinance but, because of Jackson's missteps, they won't be able to entertain the concept until weeks after the commission had intended.

"That one was my fault," Jackson said before the City Council meeting on Monday.

Officials at LARA — following a legal tussle that garnered attention from Attorney General Bill Schuette — opted earlier this week to schedule an additional Medical Marijuana Licensing Board meeting ahead of the Oct. 31 deadline. Additional batches of state licenses are now set to be doled out on Oct. 18 and Oct. 29.

But Lansing dispensaries won't be included in the mix. City officials — even before delivering the recommendations was botched by Swope's office — said the chances of getting shops eligible for state licensure by Oct. 31 were inconceivably slim. City Attorney Jim Smiertka previously labeled it as a "drop-dead date for everyone."

Swope said the looming deadline was problematic and previously suggested state officials should reconsider the mandate. But, according to a spokesperson for LARA, there are no plans to adjust that deadline. Unlicensed dispensaries that operate past Oct. 31 could receive a referral to the Michigan State Police, he said.

The state, so far, has approved licenses for 19 provisioning centers. About 80 percent of medical marijuana cardholders live in a county that is within 30 miles of a licensed dispensary. And 94 percent live in a county that is within 60 miles. An additional "robust" number is expected to be approved later this month, officials said.

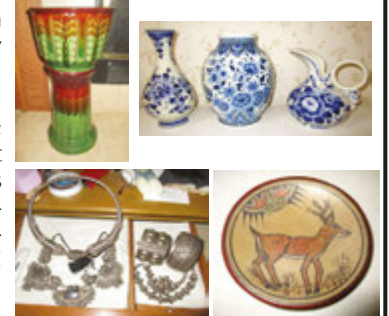
Visit [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com) for previous and continued coverage on medical marijuana regulation.

— KYLE KAMINSKI  
kyle@lansingcitypulse.com

## Selma Hollander Estate Sale Conducted by Family Treasures Estate & Tag Sales Friday, 10/19/18, 9 am – 5 pm & Saturday, 10/20/18, 9 am – 3 pm 1928 Danbury W. • Okemos, MI 48864

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<https://www.estatesales.net/MI/Okemos/48864/2017116> and/or [www.familytreasuresestatesales.com](http://www.familytreasuresestatesales.com) for many pictures!

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### City of Lansing Notice of Public Hearing

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on October 22, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, Lansing, MI, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of Brownfield Plan #74 – 930 W. Holmes Rd. Redevelopment Project pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, Public Act 381 of 1996, as amended, for property commonly referred to as 930 W. Holmes Rd. located in the City of Lansing, but more particularly described as:

930 W. Holmes Rd. Lansing, MI 48910, Parcel #: 33-01-01-29-477-082; A PORT OF LOT 17 SOUTHLAND PLAZA A SUBDIVISION SITUATED IN THE SOUTHEAST ONE-QUARTER OF SECTION 29, (T4N, R2W), STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF INGHAM, CITY OF LANSING, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 23, PAGE 13 & 14, INGHAM COUNTY RECORDS. COMMENCING AT 1/2 " BAR IN CONCRETE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 17 SOUTHLAND PLAZA A SUBDIVISION SITUATED IN THE SOUTHEAST ONE-QUARTER OF SECTION 29, (T4N, R2W), STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF INGHAM, CITY OF LANSING; THENCE S31DEG05'54"W, 224.52 FEET ALONG THE NORTHWESTERLY LINE OF WASHINGTON AVENUE TO A 5/8 "X30" STEEL BAR & CAP #51489 AT THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PARCEL; THENCE CONTINUING S31DEG 05'54"W, 441.89 FEET ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY LINE TO O FOUND CONCRETE MONUMENT AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 17; THENCE N89DEG 56 '21 "W, 251.16 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 17 TO A FOUND BAR; THENCE S00DEG '23 ' 11 "E, 133.06 FEET (RECORDED AS 133.78 FEET) ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT 17 TO A 5/8"X30" STEEL BAR & COP #51489 ON THE NORTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF HOLMES ROAD; THENCE N89DEG 56'21 "W, 313.25 FEET ALONG THE NORTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF HOLMES ROAD TO A 5/8 "X30 " STEEL BAR & CAP #51489; THENCE N01DEG 14 '22 "E, 290.00 FEET TO A 5/8 "X30 " STEEL BAR & CAP #51489; THENCE S89DEG 53'57 "W, 224.00 FEET TO A FOUND BAR & COP #16053 ON THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE MARTIN LUTHER KING JUNIOR BOULEVARD (STATE HIGHWAY M-99); THENCE ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY LINE, NORTHWESTERLY 58.70 FEET ALONG A CURVE TO THE LEFT SAID CURVE HAVING A RADIUS OF 7129.89 FEET, WITH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 00DEG 28'18 " AND A LONG CHORD OF 58.70 FEET BEARING N00DEG 05 '51 "W TO O FOUND BAR & CAP #16053; THENCE N 89DEG 59 ' 13 "E, 199.80 FEET TO A FOUND BAR & CAP #16053; THENCE N 00DEG 00 '36"E, 194.93 FEET TO A FOUND BAR & COP #16053; THENCE N 89DEG 59 '39 "W, 203.63 FEET TO A FOUND BAR & CAP #16053 ON THE EASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE MARTIN LUTHER KING JUNIOR BOULEVARD (STATE HIGHWAY M-99); THENCE ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY LINE, NORTHWESTERLY 54.84 FEET ALONG A CURVE TO THE LEFT SAID CURVE HAVING A RADIUS OF 7129.89 FEET WITH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 00'26 '27 " AND A LONG CHORD OF 54.84 FEET BEARING N 02 DEG 07'16"W TO A FOUND BAR & CAP #16053 AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 16 OF SAID SOUTHLAND PLAZA; THENCE N 89DEG '58'10"E, 396.51 FEET ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF LOT 17 TO A FOUND BAR AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 14; THENCE N 00DEG 10 '39 "W, 52.31 FEET TO A FOUND BAR AT AN INTERIOR CORNER OF LOT 14; THENCE S 89DEG 56 '56 "E, 493.12 FEET (RECORDED AS EAST, 493.39 FEET) ALONG THE NORTH LINE FOUND BAR AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 10; THENCE S 00DEG 04'28 "W, 140.34 FEET TO A 5/8"X30 " STEEL BAR & CAP #51489; THENCE N89'55 ' 05 "E, 226.25 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Approval of this Brownfield Plan will enable the Lansing Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to capture incremental tax increases which result from the redevelopment of the property to pay for costs associated therewith. Further information regarding this issue, including maps, plats, and a description of the brownfield plan will be available for public inspection and may be obtained from Karl Dorshimer — Director of Business Development, Lansing Economic Area Partnership, 1000 South Washington, Suite 201, Lansing, MI 48912, (517) 702-3387.

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](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov).

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMCC  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)  
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CP#18-248

# Realtor solidifies plans to revive Cooley Haze House

Lansing City Council approves property sale

A retail store for salvaged building materials will soon move into one of the more iconic historical sites in the downtown area following a recent, unanimous vote by Lansing's City Council.

City Council members voted Monday to offload the historic, city-owned Cooley Haze House on Malcolm X Street to a local real estate agent for \$20,000. The Realtor, Joe Vitale, said he plans to restore the exterior and renovate the interior for a shop for "architectural and building material salvage."

If all goes as planned, Vitale hopes to open the store by next summer.

"I'm very excited," Vitale added. "The comments at the Committee of the Whole meeting were all very encouraging and supportive. They liked how the architectural details will be preserved even if the property isn't preserved. They also liked the educational components and all of the classes we have planned."

Vitale, the former president of Preservation Lansing, plans to seek grant money that would allow him to host classes on key preservationist skill sets like how to reglaze windows, restore plas-



ter and install wood trimming. Rooms of the home will also be filled with salvaged building materials that will be sold for similar projects.

"We will have the skills and the space available to help homeowners in Lansing and historic preservationists learn skill sets they can take into the community," Vitale said previously. "The goal is to save the property and create a business and resource that doesn't currently exist in Lansing."

City officials labeled the site an "attrac-

tive cultural asset." And Mayor Andy Schor said Vitale's proposal was the better of two the city received since it opted to allow the sale of the property last year and opened it to a second round of bidding in June. The plan will ensure the property is renovated and maintained for years to come, Schor said. The only other proposal the city received was from a Jackson artist who wanted to make it her home. She offered \$10,000.

"We are excited that this historic property will be purchased and fixed up,"

Schor said in a statement.

Voters authorized the sale last year, but nobody showed an interest when the city first advertised its availability.

A bit of renovation work and a zoning change are now the only obstacles standing in the way of opening. Vitale also said he will employ licensed contractors with plans to eventually place the home on the national historic registry.

The Colonial Revival house sits between Cooley Gardens and the new Central Substation that the Lansing Board of Water & Light is building on the southwest corner of Washington Avenue and Malcolm X Street along I-496. The city has maintained the home for decades and last year took steps to repurpose the property.

Eugene Cooley, son of 19th century Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas M. Cooley, built the three-story home. It was also home to Dr. Harry Haze and Michigan Gov. G. Mennen Williams and the headquarters for the Michigan Baptist Convention before the city acquired the site in 1978.

Until last year, it housed the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. It has since moved into the Meridian Mall.

Visit [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com) for previous and continued coverage at the Cooley Haze House.

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## CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on October 22, 2018 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 purchasing, contracts, and sales ordinance, Chapter 206 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances, by adding sexual orientation and gender identity to nondiscrimination provision, Section 206.20(b).

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

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMMC  
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CP#18-247

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2019 INGHAM COUNTY BUDGET

The Ingham County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2019 Ingham County Budget on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at the Courthouse, 3rd floor, Mason, Michigan at 6:30 p.m. The hearing is for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed budget prior to its adoption. The property tax millage rate required to generate the necessary funds to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

The proposed budget may be examined on weekdays at the Controller's Office, 1st floor of the Courthouse in Mason, Michigan between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Questions on the proposed budget may be addressed to Timothy J. Dolehanty, County Controller/Administrator, P.O. Box 319, Mason, Michigan 48854.

CP#18-245



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**Schuetten intervenes on medical marijuana rules**

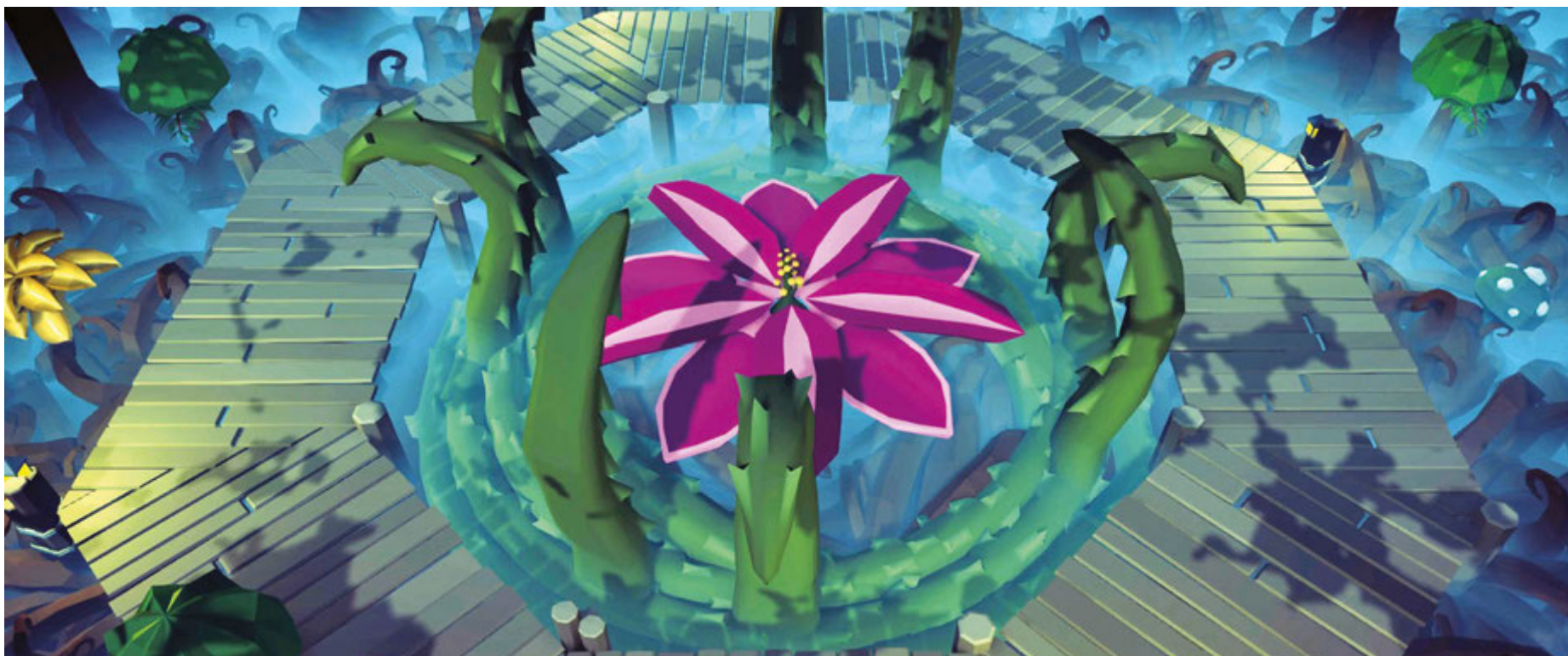
Eleventh-hour litigation from Attorney General Bill Schuette's office is likely to ensure that every dispensary in Lansing — along with hundreds across the state — will close before the end of the month.



**City Market development plans stalled**

Plans that would boot Waterfront Bar & Grill from the Lansing City Market and transform the riverside space into a new placemaker for the city have largely stalled while litigation continues.

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## 'Rogues Like Us,' the video game designed, programmed, funded and launched in Lansing

By **DENNIS BURCK**

**B**ounding through dungeons, slashing swords and shaking spears against hordes of giants, slimeballs and golems, players of the video game "Rogues Like Us" enjoy a well-polished adventure. And it was made entirely in renegade fashion by five restless Michigan State University students.

The story of the game's production doesn't start in a Silicon Valley gaming studio. It doesn't even start in a studio.

Development of "Rogues Like Us" began in a southside East Lansing apartment filled with six hulking game design computers.

The rent was paid in full with cash. Patrick Williams, Chris Ulrich, Zach Klegon, Matthew Bearup and Elan Gleiber spent 12-hour workdays for nearly three years on the passion project, adorning themselves with the moniker Oddbyte Studios.

Though the team graduated in 2016, they put their professional plans on hold to self-publish the release, taking freelance jobs to make ends meet. The game eventually launched in May to solid review scores and a growing playerbase. "Rogues Like Us" has sold over 1,000 copies so far.

"Designing a game was a dream people told me wasn't possible," Oddbyte lead designer Gleiber said. "From the beginning

it was like any other class project."

As part of a capstone course for MSU's computer science program, the goal of the initial project was to create a mid-'80s-style game that would be included in an arcade cabinet comprising other student-made games.

The group got to work, labeling its creation "Dungeoneers." The game fell into the category of "Rogue-like" games, where the player raids dungeons for treasure, retaining their loot if they die, and are sent back to the beginning of the game.

"It was supposed to be just a showpiece," animator and 3D artist Klegon said. "It had to work with only three buttons and eight degrees of movement."

However, by the end of the semester, the group decided MSU's student arcade was not big enough to house its idea. The team believed a standalone release was possible.

"We thought we could at least sell this out of the back of our cars in a parking lot somewhere," lead programmer Williams said.

The team needed more time.

"We petitioned the head of the department to keep working on it as the second semester project," Gleiber said. "It was supposed to be four to six months at the most."

Initial work was done in the MSU Games for Entertainment and Learning Lab, under the supervision of William Jeffrey, MSU Academic Specialist, Instructor and GEL lab

Courtesy photo

In the dark forest portion of the game, this flower octopus uses its leafy tentacles to slam down on the player.



Courtesy photo

The Oddbyte apartment studio funded by a \$12,579 Kickstarter and leased out for cash paid in full as developers (from left to right) Chris Ulrich, Matthew Bearup, Zach Klegon and Patrick Williams work on the game.

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# Rogues

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manager.

“A bunch of those guys were the cream of the crop. They were passionate, had great ideas and worked very hard,” Jeffrey said. “They were able to make something that was a lot of fun, and I could tell they were on to something. They were excited to put in extra time.”

Every week, the Oddbyte team would come into the lab for a full playthrough evaluation, he said.

“They would tell me they made changes and I’d play it over again. We would chat and see what will work and could be better,” Jeffrey said. “The idea sounded crazy at first for them to start an indie company, but we gave them another semester to work on it.”

By the time the extended semester was over, the game showed promise.

“They changed the art style and gameplay — it was more refined.”

By the time the group finished its second course, releasing a game became an attainable goal, Jeffrey said.

The original rinky-dink concept of making it a simple arcade game eventually translated into a niche game on Steam.

“Because it was set up in the arcade sense, it was already built to be a Rogue-like game. Back then, it wasn’t a dominant genre in the market. There was no other Rogue-like in the art style we chose,” Gleiber said.

“I knew if I didn’t do it, I was going to regret it for the rest of my life,” Gleiber said. “We thought, ‘We have nothing to lose, so let’s get some funding and push for

a release on Steam.”

However, the group needed help. An average indie game development studio would employ 50 people to develop a game the size of “Rogues Like Us,” Williams said. To pay salaries and fund a project like this would traditionally cost at least \$200,000, he added.

So the group turned to Kickstarter to fund an initial investment. Oddbyte sought \$11,200 and with the help of 185 backers, received \$12,579. Most investors were friends, family and members of the MSU gaming community. Some donations came from far-off locales, such as Japan or Finland.

The team put all the money down on an apartment to house their gaming computers and serve as a living space and workstation. None of the designers had a rental history, or stable source of income or credit to lease, but the cash talked.

“It was enough for five people to just pay rent,” Williams said. “It was four of us in a four bedroom apartment. We basically turned a living room into a game studio with a couch, whiteboard and TV.”

The landlord and maintenance men did not know what to think of the place.

“When they came in, we just told them we all like to play games a lot,” Williams said.

With its battle station ready, Oddbyte’s grind began.

“We’d wake up, sit down at the computer and work until the sun went down and came up again,” Gleiber said.

Work hours were brutal, but fun.

“As soon as we woke up, until we went to bed, we worked on ‘Rogues.’ It was nothing to us. We were just having fun making it,” Williams said.

“You could get a little stir-crazy. Same scenery day-in and day-out. We had to



Dennis Burck/City Pulse

(Right to left) Zach Klegon, Patrick Williams and Chris Ulrich play Rogues Like Us at the MSU Main Library.

take a walk every now and again to take a break,” Klegon said.

Slogging through development, the team managed to put out an early access launch on Steam, where players from all over the world could test the game.

Simultaneously, Gleiber entered the game into the 2016 Seattle Indie Game Competition. It wound up becoming one of the competition’s finalists.

Releasing it on a trial basis enabled the

**See Rogues, Page 14**



Courtesy photo

The final 2018 version of the game with its revamped art scheme by Chris Ulrich.

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Courtesy photo

Rogues Like Us developers (left to right) Zach Klegon, Chris Ulrich, Matthew Bearup, Elan Gleiber and Patrick Williams at the Midwest GDEX 2017 gaming conference in Columbus, Ohio.

## Rogues

from page 13

game to receive real criticism, 3D artist Ulrich said.

"We were all friends and didn't want to criticize each other. People started telling us there were things wrong with the game, and now that we had outside information, we could modify it."

Some had problems with the art direction.

"I thought it would be a good challenge that would improve myself as an artist; to take a game not quite finished, and completely revamp it into something cohesive," Ulrich said.

"We redid the style twice, because we didn't have a good idea and we didn't go outside of the team for criticism at first," he added. "I learned it was a good idea to have a lot of people look at my artwork."

The early access was nervewracking, Gleiber said. "People pointed out what was fun and what wasn't fun. We tried to work around what players like and enjoy. We see it in a different way than players will, and this was a big lesson learned."

One reviewer wasn't impressed, Williams said.

"One guy told us it was 'nothing special.' But we flipped his view on it once we worked on the game for another year. We took his feedback and made the game better because of that."

The game also attracted the attention of Austin Patterson, a video game speedrunner and online streamer from Texas. The goal of speedrunning is to finish a game as fast as possible.

"I spent 100 hours in 'Rogues' at this

point, and went through over 1,000 deaths," Patterson said.

Patterson attracted a YouTube and Twitch — an online streaming service — audience that was instrumental in spreading the word and finding out bugs before "Rogues Like Us" was formally released to the public.

"There is something endearing about 'Rogues.' It feels and looks very retro. When I was a kid, I played these kinds of games," Patterson said.

"Rogues Like Us" is part of an indie movement in the gaming industry, he said.

"There are only a handful of these kinds of games. This game has a lot of potential, but it's a little bare bones right now. When they fill things out, I think a lot of people will come in and see it is a really good game," he said.

Fixing the bugs discovered in early access, the final game launched in May.

"Even though it wasn't like a huge hit, it did okay," Gleiber said. "People had fun playing it and let us know they enjoyed it."

Williams said "Rogues Like Us" is all any company wants to talk about in the job interviews he's done so far.

"They said they could see the passion, and were impressed we got that far without any money. They wanted someone passionate about gaming to work for them and could see it in 'Rogues Like Us.'"

Jeffrey said "Rogues Like Us" proves it doesn't take a move to the East or West Coast to be a successful game developer.

"At launch, I bought them a cheap bottle of champagne and told them to celebrate, because I knew they wouldn't take the time to," Jeffrey said.

"It's crazy to see what a couple dudes working in a single apartment eating Ramen and working their butts off can do with enough passion and talent."



## ARTS & CULTURE

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### Deft pivots of a daring diva

Renee Fleming brings eclectic recital to Wharton

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

It was tempting to hear a coded message in Renee Fleming's time-stopping rendition of "Danny Boy" at Sen. John McCain's Sept. 2 funeral. Something like this: "We may not agree on much, but we're all going to die, and that's a start."

**Renee Fleming**

7:30 p.m.  
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Fleming, who comes to the Wharton Center for a rare solo recital Tuesday, is not fooling around these days.

Whether it's a Super Bowl, President Obama's inauguration, the Olympics, opera's

reigning diva is always up for a mass experiment in neuroscience.

"Music goes back in evolution, millions of years before modern history, and it contributed to social cohesion, whether it was drumming or vocalizing," she said in a phone interview last week.

"There's no question that it's very powerful. I'm always honored when I'm asked to do something like John McCain's funeral. It brings us together."

The night before we talked, Fleming teamed up with Audra McDonald for Carnegie Hall's opening night gala with conductor Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony.

"We had a wonderful time," she said. "It was smart of them to program something with two people who never sing together. It made it more of an event."

Fleming's recent career, and Tuesday's recital, reflects an era of glorious, matter-of-fact eclecticism in music.

"One of my daughters got interested in 1940s big band music when she was about 12," Fleming said. "I said, 'Where are you getting this?' 'YouTube.' She wanted to talk to me about Dakota Staton and Nina Simone and I thought, 'That's so sophisticated. Kids have everything at their fingertips.'"

Tuesday's recital will showcase the silvery, luminous voice that conquered opera houses around the world, but the evening will also demonstrate the diva's deft pivots to Broadway, film soundtracks, jazz and new music.

That's Fleming's husky, dusky voice trailing like black lace on a satin pillow on the soundtrack of "The Shape of Water." To deliver her sultry take on the standard "You'll Never Know," she left the vibrato in the vanity drawer.

"I've never sung in that style before," she said. "I like the challenge. I love all things

voice."

To frame the intense drama "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," Fleming reverted to full-on operatic drama and diction, singing "Last Rose of Summer" with almost intimidating authority.

Fleming will sing both songs Tuesday. She'll also remind her fans that this was the year she stormed Broadway, with a Tony-winning run in "Carousel" and a Broadway album on Decca.

She found it to be a "discipline, but not a challenge."

"I thought it would be hard for me, but it wasn't," she said. "I never got bored. If you're in classical music, you learn that art of being professional is to consistently try to find something better, even in a piece you've performed for a long time."

The wordless, ravishing counterpoint of Heitor Villa-Lobos's "Bachianas Brasileiras," one of the pieces Fleming sang at the Carnegie Hall gala last week, will also be in the mix Tuesday, along with florid Italian arias and intimate songs by the master of the art, Franz Schubert.

New music has long been a vital part of Fleming's career. Tuesday's recital will also feature excerpts from "Letters from Georgia," a song cycle by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Kevin Puts, setting the letters of artist Georgia O'Keefe to music. Puts wrote the piece for Fleming, who sang the world premiere of the cycle in 2011.

"She led an incredible life, a very original life, at a time when women did not have these opportunities, and I've fallen in love with that world, and he evokes it beautifully," she said.

People often ask Fleming if there are any more career boxes she feels the need to check.

"I did have a sense of urgency in the last five or six years, but I don't anymore," said Fleming, 59. "In classical music, I hit most of them. I'm so satisfied with where I am. I love touring."

She takes her cue from the iconic soprano Leontyne Price, whom she still considers a mentor.

"She told me she enjoyed most the years that she toured," Fleming said. "I remember seeing a couple of her concerts when I was a young singer and just going crazy, because she was still so glorious."

Fleming was scheduled to work with another vocal legend she has long admired, Aretha Franklin, on a big gala at the Kennedy Center before Franklin fell ill and died this year.

To her delight, Fleming learned that she and Franklin were mutual fans.

"She had a great success with 'Nessun Dorma' at the Grammys and started studying to familiarize herself with classical singing," she said. "I was thrilled to get that acknowl-

Does "Love Never Dies," now playing at the Wharton Center, live up to "The Phantom of the Opera"? Check out [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com) to read our review.



Andrew Eccles

Renee Fleming pivoted from opera stardom to Broadway and films this year. Tuesday's Wharton Center recital will cover it all.

edgment from her, because, what an icon, what a great singer, an historic singer."

Fleming may have few boxes left to check, but she is always open to new experiences, and a doozy is in store for her early next year.

The Shed, a high-concept Manhattan arts center scheduled to open in 2019, recruited Fleming for its first production, "Norma Jeane Baker of Troy." It's a reinvention of Euripides' tragedy "Helen" in the form of a "melalogue" — partly spoken, partly sung.

Poet Anne Carson wrote it specifically for Fleming and actor Ben Wishaw.

A new experimental theater, dangling like a steel-and-Teflon worm over the Hudson Yards on the far west side of Manhattan, is about as off-off-off-Broadway as you can get.

"That's going to be a completely new experience," Fleming said. "So if you're open-minded and you stay in shape as a performer, then really interesting things continue to come your way."

Can you survive the Trail of Terror?



Courtesy photo

# Local haunts: Best Maze's 'Trail of Terror,' MSU's 'Haunted Auditorium'

By SKYLER ASHLEY

"If you told me 30 years ago that I'd be running a haunted trail, I would have laughed in your face."

As he reflects on the success of his Williamston corn maze, Best Maze, Mark Benjamin jokes about how he — a man with no particular interest in the macabre — ended up with the marquee horror trail in Greater Lansing.

Best Maze's "Trail of Terror" gained its fame due to its high production value. The winding trails are raked into a smooth path, and the scares are supplied by professional animatronics and top-shelf props. Benjamin travels around the United States seeking the spookiest options available — he makes it a point to adorn the "Trail of Terror" with television and film-quality equipment.

This year's "Trail of Terror" is a third of a mile long and, along with the props and animatronics, includes multiple twisting turns, a healthy dose of fog, strobe lights and shacks, as well as a spinning vortex tunnel.

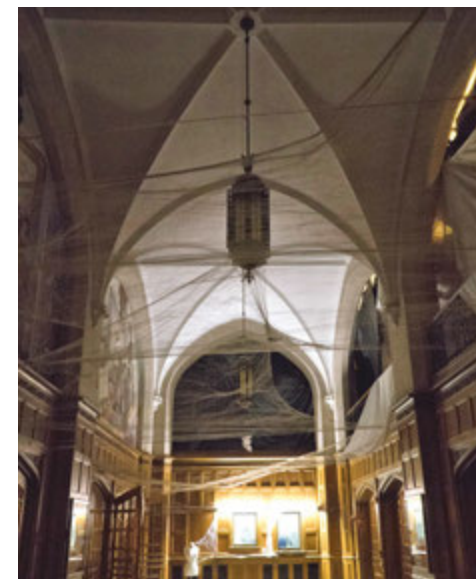
Opened in 2001, Best Maze was originally dubbed Maze and Market, but made the switch to reflect the influx of positive feedback.

"The customers kept telling us, 'Dude, you have to change your name to Best Maze,'" Benjamin said. "People told us it was the best maze they'd been to, because of the way we take care of our paths."

Not a horror fan himself, Benjamin didn't initially consider adding a separate Halloween-friendly trail. But people demanded it, and Benjamin sought to create a product that would live up to the standards set by his original maze.

"The customers wanted it, and if we were going to add a haunt, it had to be good. We couldn't let a poor haunt ruin the original maze's reputation. And we've kept improving it," Benjamin said.

Benjamin makes sure the haunt stays fresh



Courtesy photo

MSU's Haunted Auditorium in 2016. This hair-raising fundraiser benefits student organizations and initiatives.

by routinely swapping the props and animatronics.

"It's much easier to keep things the same once you get the animatronics built into your haunt. Since we have to take everything out of that field every fall, so we can replant the field the next spring, we might as well change it."

Though unwilling to give much away in print, Benjamin promises returning visitors will be treated to something entirely new.

But if cornfields aren't your bag, you can always visit Michigan State University's campus for the annual Haunted Auditorium attraction.

Each year, MSU theater students transform Fairchild Auditorium into a concert hall of terror. Previous years have seen themes range from hospitals and sleepaway camps, but this year's producers, theater students Rachel Aho and Shelby Deraedt, have settled on a carnival theme for the 10th anniversary — thanks, in part, to clowns once again becoming a hot topic in the horror realm.

This year's Haunted Auditorium is offering three different routes, instead of just a single cohesive experience. The disturbing carnival also includes the addition of three escape rooms.

"We tried to make the routes and escape rooms entirely different, while also keeping a cohesive carnival theme and making everything as scary as possible," Aho said.

More than 100 students work on the auditorium each year, some tasked with designing an individual room, others using their acting talents to terrify guests.

One of Deraedt's favorite tricks, from her own time as an actor in the Haunted Auditorium, is listening closely for visitors' names. When she'd overhear one, she'd pass it along to the other actors, so they can whisper — or shriek — that person's name as they approach the next room.

"When people hear their own name getting called by these random people, that's pretty scary for them. Seeing their reaction after that is pretty fun," she said.

With all the new additions and changes, Aho is confident that the Haunted Auditorium has taken the scare factor even further.

"I'd say the last two years were about a 7.5, this one is going to be a 9," she said.

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**Fat Man** is a sweet old guy looking for a nice cozy spot to call home. He's pretty laid back but prefers gentle handling so older children in the home would be best. He does fine with other animals and would do ok with another cat to keep him company.

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**Bean** is a big sweetheart looking for a loving snuggly home. He's a very sweet laid-back boy who is always generally just waiting patiently for people to notice him.

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# Poems and pines

## LSO opener is homecoming for violinist Melissa White

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Next Thursday's Lansing Symphony season opener will end with one of the most thunderous thumpings in all of symphonic music, Respighi's "Pines of Rome," a panoply of sonic pageantry that whiplashes from sweet little bird calls to clanking, horn-blasting Roman legions.

But many proud Lansing-ites are more interested in the road to Rome, which, as all history buffs know, runs through Gaul.

Violinist Melissa White, who grew up in Lansing and is now a mainstay of the globe-spanning Harlem Quartet, will bask in the solo spotlight for two epic-romantic French effusions by Ernst Chausson and Camille Saint-Saëns.

White comes back to Lansing for holidays and family visits, but hasn't appeared with the Lansing Symphony since March 2011, for a soaring ride through Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto.

"The Wharton Center stage is so huge and intimidating," White said. But the chill evaporated fast and she felt enveloped in a "supportive family."

"I grew up with them," White said. "A lot of them are my teachers, or we were in the same programs growing up."

White didn't know Maestro Timothy Muffitt back then, but came out a true believer.

"He was so supportive that it allowed me to take liberties and I knew he'd be right there," she said. "I trusted him. I could sit back and let him lead and not worry about what would happen with the orchestra. It felt like he was doing lovely music-making and I just got to play along."

"Playing along" is not an option for White next Thursday, by any stretch. Ernst Chausson's "Poeme" and Camille Saint-Saëns's "Havanaise" are major statements, and star turns, for White.

The emotional weight of Chausson's one-movement concerto is borne by a steely, suspension-cable through-line of violin virtuosity.

Every weekend, for four or five years, White listened obsessively to "Poeme," on repeat play, while driving with her mother from Lansing to Chicago for lessons.

She learned the piece in college but has not yet played it with an orchestra.

"Now I get to perform it, not only with an orchestra, but back home, and my mom will be there," she said. "That is super special to me."

While in Lansing, White likes to check out what's new at favorite haunts like Horrocks Farm Market. She has fond memories of Celebration Cinema, where she got her first job as an usher in her teens. "I was super nervous for my job interview," she said. "When I got it, I was so proud I wore my uniform for fun."

White's main gig is the Harlem Quartet, a multi-cultural ensemble that fearlessly blurs genre lines, has lots of fun on stage and uses much of its energy to reach out to young people all over the world, especially those who haven't gotten much exposure to classical music.

The quartet's ever-growing tours and

commitments have made it harder for White to do solo engagements, but she called it a "fun challenge."

The quartet is in the second year of a residency at London's Royal College of Music, navigating a schedule jammed with concerts, master classes, workshops and outreach. After Thanksgiving, White is heading back across the Atlantic for another round.

Since the Harlem Quartet formed in 2006, its eclectic repertoire has grown to global proportions. White and her band mates just came off of a tour with Cuban pianist-composer Aldo Gavrilan, including Gavrilan's originals and jazz standards.

One of White's favorite recent gigs was a tour of the U.S. and Japan with jazz piano legend Chick Corea and his frequent duet partner, vibraphonist Gary Burton.

"Chick's really a rock star in Japan," White said. Adoring mobs lay in wait for Corea at every town.

"It made the energy incredible," White said. "I'll never forget — we arrived at one of the halls and there was a massive crowd waiting someone to arrive. It was only a rehearsal day, so I thought, 'Wow, who's playing here tonight?'"

Touring Japan, White got to apply the Japanese language skills she learned in Lansing, at the Black Child and Family Institute, Gardner Elementary and Everett High School, from the age of 6 until she left for studies at Interlochen at 16. White even visited Japan with her father as part of an exchange program with one of Lansing's



Lansing native Melissa White, seen here with Harlem Quartet band mate Felix Umansky, gets a big solo turn with the Lansing Symphony Oct. 18.

Courtesy photo

sister cities, Otsu.

Working with Corea was a career and life high for White. Enjoying five-star hotels and first-class food and conversation at Corea's favorite restaurants didn't hurt, either.

"He's immensely creative," White said. "Every time we perform, it's new. He has a way of making everyone on stage feel empowered to be their most creative self."

When White works with young students, she treats them the same way.

"I try to influence them to create something that doesn't exist yet," she said. In a world where content pours into musician's heads via the Internet, White has to remind herself of the same thing.

"Uniqueness is what makes the arts the arts," she said. "Trying to sound as perfect as Itzhak Perlman is one goal, but if I want to hear Itzhak Perlman I'm going to put on Itzhak Perlman."

Lately, White's search for her own best self has broadened to include projects like Intermission, a union of yoga and music-making, "movement and mindfulness."

The idea, she explained, is to carve out "the silence to hear your own mind."

"It's a little scary," she allowed. "But somehow, it's almost empowering to feel like all you have to do is be your best self, instead of trying to re-create being the best version of someone else."

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# Welcome to the Varhaus: Jason Keusch debuts new exhibit

By SHRUTI SARIPALLI

Pacing through his vast studio, Jason Keusch has prepared his many collages and acrylic paintings for his solo show "Intro to Varhaus," debuting Saturday at the META Collective art gallery in Old Town.

## "Intro to Varhaus"

Opening Reception  
Free  
Saturday, Oct. 13,  
4 p.m. to 11 p.m.  
META Collective Gallery  
718 E. Grand River Ave.,  
Lansing  
www.metacollectiveart.com  
art@metacollectiveart.com

"Varhaus is the Germanization of the word warehouse. It reminds me that I am doing commerce, working and making things with my

own hands to sell to individuals in a simple way," said Keusch, who has never formally trained to be a professional artist.

A culinary artisan by profession, he was executive chef of Troppo in downtown Lansing until four years ago. He professed that the change was initiated by one very simple reason.

"I ran out of reasons as to why I was doing what I was doing. I needed a new 'Why,' so I took a sabbatical for four months, during which I attended a retreat at a Trappist monastery," Keusch said.

The Trappist monastery he visited is in Bardstown, Kentucky, and is the oldest monastery of its kind still operating in the United States.

Keusch spent most of his time in the monastery's library, poring over books by the monk, activist and author Thomas Merton, along with G.K Chesterton, the English writer and philosopher. Also included in his reading list were various texts on introversion and contemplation, abundant in a monastic library.

"I wanted to lay the foundation for something new to grow," Keusch said.

Grow it did, and everything he did thereafter was based on Romans 12:2, "Be not conformed to the patterns of this world."

This recurring reference is visible everywhere, from his T-shirts that say "12:2" to his highly contemplative work, all of which are part of his upcoming exhibit.

He avoids over-intellectualizing his



Keusch

work. Included in the show are pieces which showcase his strong Michigan roots, along with highly contemplative abstract pieces.

"I basically do three kinds of work: The first kind is collage, which takes a lot of planning and is very literal," Keusch said. "The second is acrylic and epoxy pouring, in which you prepare the colors, but you really don't have that much time to manipulate; you have to be in the moment to do it."

"The juxtaposition of these two completely different kinds of paintings in the show is very interesting. Jason builds those paintings," said Greg Zivic, co-founder of META Collective.

Zivic and his partner, Trisha Wilcox, first met Keusch at Troppo, and have followed his journey ever since — from his time at the monastery to becoming an artist.

"As he started painting and showing me his work, I was struck by how cohesive his body of work looked for an artist without any formal training," Zivic said.

The show not only has "provisional," or casual pointing, pieces, which might not have a big market in the Lansing area, but



Courtesy photo

"Diana, Distressed," by Jason Keusch.

also affordable, limited edition reproduction prints of posters, t-shirts and other merchandise.

Also carried over from Keusch's time as a chef at Troppo is his association with the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

"You can purchase a \$20 ticket for the chance to win a custom piece of art created by Jason. The winner will receive a custom 24 x 36 painting, and the cost of each ticket is a donation to the GLFB," said Keusch's manager, Jennifer Calery.

Talking about his favorite collage, featuring Ian "Lemmy" Kilmister from the English heavy metal band Motörhead, along with a host of nostalgic imagery, Keusch explained the underlying philosophy encompassing his work.

"Lemmy is my favorite. He is kind of a badass. One of his most famous sayings was, 'I'm 49 percent motherfucker and 51 percent son of a bitch.' He was irreverent, but also a smart person who touched and

affected a lot of people in a positive way," Keusch said.

"In my work, you find a certain kind of irreverence, and as the famous Father Jake Foglio said, 'To be reverent you must have some irreverence to know the difference.'"

Keusch described a third kind of work as "furniture," which takes longer to make than the first two kinds, using acrylic based colors with multiple layers of various media.

This kind can be seen in his third show at the East Arbor Architecture and Plus Gallery in December.

East Arbor also hosted Keusch's first ever show, "In God We Rust," which was a phenomenal success where Keusch sold 75 percent of the work in the show.

"Emotions that his works evoke are very powerful," said Amanda Harrell-Seyburn, curator of the gallery and one half of the duo at East Arbor Architecture.



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~ Lansing City Pulse

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By LAUREN GUNDERSON



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Williamston Theatre  
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# Sygit to perform new, 'It's About Time,' album at MSU

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

As a young girl, Jen Sygit often found it difficult to fall asleep. "Jennifer, why are you not going to sleep?" her dad would ask. "I couldn't sleep because of the songs in my head," Sygit said.

Decades later, some of those songs trapped in her head have been recorded on

## Jen Sygit Album Release

\$20 Public, \$18 Fiddle Members, \$5 Students  
Friday, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.  
MSU Community Music School  
4930 S. Hagadorn, East Lansing  
www.jensygit.com

her fourth album, "It's About Time." She has a Ten Pound Fiddle concert Friday, which will feature the album in its entirety with the same musicians from the recording.

"I wrote my first songs in elementa-

ry school when I was as young as maybe 4 or 5," Sygit said. Growing up in Maryville, Michigan, near Port Huron, she used a cheap, unwieldy organ in the basement to "write really bad songs."

While acoustic guitar is her primary instrument, Sygit plays keyboards, banjo, a dobro and — sometimes — electric guitar. "I'm self-taught on everything."

"I can do a lot of genres," she said. "I've been called a vocal chameleon. I have the ability to sound like a lot of different things, depending on what hat I'm wearing."

Sygit has performed in 16 states and done extensive studio work and back-up singing. The completion of her new album has already spawned upcoming gigs in New Orleans, Arizona, and a tour from Ohio to New York. "Maybe in Europe in April," Sygit said.

Her many Greater Lansing fans know her for appearances at local bars. "It's easier to name places I haven't played," Sygit said. The Green Door, Lansing Brewing Co., Mac's, The Avenue Café, Crunchie's, Zoobies and Waterfront are some of the joints she has performed at.

Every Wednesday night, Sygit hosts Moriarty's open mic night. The first Thursday of every month, she performs there with the Lincoln County Process. For over five years, the trio of Sygit, Sam Corbin and Geoff Ian Lewis have had that slot at Moriarty's. "I live really close to Mort's," Sygit confessed. "They are like family to me."

Lewis is also the percussionist for "It's About Time." She calls him "my sweetheart."

"We started dating eight years ago," she said. "He's a talented fella and I'm not being partial. It's pretty generally recognized he's a talented drummer."

For the seventh year, she hosts the "Eclecticana" music program on WLNZ 89.7 FM. Sygit calls its pop, soul, and Americana mix, "kind of a variety pack." It airs on Fridays from 1-3 pm and repeats on Saturdays from



Sygit

3-5 pm. The program has been offered syndication at a Chicago station.

After two years at St. Clair Community College, she transferred as a junior to Michigan State University in 1999. Sygit graduated with an English major in 2002. "I like to think it helped with my songwriting, not just with my 'Jeopardy' skills," she said.

Recording songs and playing music is Sygit's sole occupation. Her last regular job was at Elderly Instruments over a decade ago. "I've been living off my music for 11 years," the 39 year-old said. Her parents have mixed feelings about her choice of careers.

"They're very, very proud, but I think they also wish I had more stability," Sygit said. "They waffle back and forth between being super proud and being like, 'I wish you had a more stable career and a 401 K,'" she said. "They're conservative and I'm the farthest thing from it."

Her first album, "Here to There," sold its entire 1,000-unit printing. "Marshall Street" followed and sold out after two 1,000-unit printings. "Pollyanna" sold about 1,500 copies. It won several radio awards and won "Best Country Song" for "Sugar High" at the Garden State Film Festival in 2014.

"My last record did really well and put the fear in me that I might not be able to surpass it," Sygit said. "I was releasing an album every three years, and now it's been nine years since my last solo record."

"It's About Time" producer, Dominic John Davis — a Detroit native who is a sought-after Nashville session player and current bassist for Jack White — offered support. "He gave me room to grow," Sygit said.

The concert at the MSU Community Music School will be the first chance to get physical copies of the new album. All its songs will be played, "from beginning to end," Sygit promised. "It might be your only chance to hear some of them live."

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# Lansing writers convene for Indie Author Day

By **BILL CASTENIER**

The next time you think about dog-earring a page of your favorite book, take a few seconds to think about what went into its creation.

## Indie Author Day

Free  
Saturday, Oct. 13, 1  
p.m. to 5 p.m.  
CADL, Downtown  
Lansing  
401 S. Capitol Ave.,  
Lansing  
www.cadl.org  
(517) 367-6363

It wasn't just the author, or authors, who put words on a page, and then went back and crossed

out adverbs and introduced punctuation. Although writing is the most important part of getting a book published, implicit in that process is a slew of other behind-the-scenes professionals. They not only make a book look good on a store shelf, but make it easy to read with attractive type styles.

"It takes a lot of people to make a book," said Laura Tang, digital literary librarian for Capital Area District Libraries and one of the organizers of Indie Author Day, which

will be held at the Downtown Lansing Branch Saturday.

"Indie Author Day is an international institution formed to celebrate local independent authors and the community that supports them," Tang said.

She said scores of sites across the United States and Canada will be hosting similar gatherings, as a nod to the explosion of a self-publishing industry driven by print-on-demand and a desire to control the process of publishing.

There will also be several indie authors sharing a panel discussion on writing with Stephen Mack Jones, whose first novel, "August Snow," a detective-thriller set in modern-day Detroit, received a Michigan Notable Book Award last year, along with the



Jones

Buhk

Hammet Award given by the International Association of Crime Writers. Jones is originally from Lansing and has a degree in advertising from Michigan State University.

He likes to point out that if he can write a book, anyone can.

"I published my first book when I was 60. My advice is to write, write, write," Jones said.

Tang said she was recently at the Kerrytown BookFest in Ann Arbor when she heard Jones speak. She asked him if he would be on a panel for aspiring writers. It will be a homecoming for Jones, who grew up on Lansing's west side on Max Street. His next mystery, also set in Detroit, will delve into human trafficking.

Joining Jones on the panel will be Tobin Buhk, whose specialty is historical true crime. Buhk, who teaches history and English to middle and high school students in Forest Hills, near Grand Rapids, can often be found on the weekends at the Library of Michigan researching true crime cases.

"I'll be researching one particular thing and find five other things to write about," Buhk said.

His advice to new writers of nonfiction is, "Find a niche and get established," he said.

Buhk has definitely found his niche: Historic true crime. With his new book, "Wicked Women of Detroit," he is at full stride.

Joining Jones and Buhk on the author panel are two other authors who write stories set in Michigan: Alexandria Sure, author of "In Pursuit of Charity," and an active member of Capital City Writers, and Kristie Dickinson, author of "The Tunnels," a historical romance set in northern Michigan during Prohibition.

A panel on the business side of self-publishing comprises John K. Addis, author of the gothic horror novel, "The Eaton," set in Eaton Rapids; Julie Taylor, coordinator of the Espresso Book Machine at the MSU Library and Laura Klynstra, a local designer of book jackets, who's crafted book jackets for Mitch Albom, Amy Bloom, Jodi Picoult and Paula McLain.

Tang said networking time will take place at the end of the program where attendees will be able to mingle with authors and presenters.

"We need more events like this. Writing in Lansing is often seen as being on island status," Tang said.

68th

## MICHIGAN ANTIQUARIAN BOOK & PAPER SHOW

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www.curiousbooks.com

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MichiganBookShow

## SchulerBooks

Mickey Lolich + Tom Gage  
present *Joy in Tigertown*

Sunday, October 14 @ 3p

Told from the vibrant first-hand perspective of Lolich himself and the expertise of award-winning Detroit journalist Tom Gage, *Joy in Tigertown: A Determined Team, a Resilient City, and our Magical Run to the 1968 World Series*, is the remarkable saga of that 1968 season which culminated in Tigers glory.

### Lansing Storytellers Meeting

Monday, October 15 @ 7p

The Lansing Storytellers are a group of mid-Michigan storytellers and story lovers, both amateur and professional, dedicated to keeping the tradition of oral storytelling alive. Visitors and new members are welcome!

Mystery Author Pairing:  
PJ Parrish + C.M. Gleason

Thursday, October 18 @ 7p

Join us for a talk and signing with a trio of acclaimed Michigan mystery authors! PJ Parrish (the sister team of Kris Montee and Kelly Nichols) is celebrating the release of *The Damage Done*, newest book in the bestselling Louis Kincaid series. C.M. Gleason will be presenting *Murder in the Oval Library*, second in her Lincoln's White House Mystery season

Located in the Meridian Mall  
1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos  
www.SchulerBooks.com

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# intro to VARHAUS

[by Jason Keusch]

Opening  
Reception  
Saturday  
Oct. 13th  
4-11 pm  
718 E. Grand River Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48906

#intro2varhaus  
@metacollectiveart



# OUT ON THE TOWN

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

## Wednesday, October 10

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

**ALL THOSE LEGAL AND FINANCIAL LOOSE ENDS**. From 4 to 5:30 p.m. \$10. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road East Lansing.

**MINDFULNESS MEDITATION**. From 7 to 9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington Lansing.

**OPEN STUDIO LIFE DRAWING**. From 7 to 9:30 p.m. Model fee: \$2 students (LCC, MSU, High School), \$5 all others. Room 208., Kresge Art Center, 600 Auditorium East Lansing.

**PRACTICE YOUR ENGLISH**. From 7 to 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**STARTING A BUSINESS**. From 9 to 11 a.m. Free - to register call (517) 483-1921. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Sq. Suite 110 Lansing.

### LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

**BIG USED BOOK SALE**. At 11 a.m. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 346-9900.

**READING BUDDIES**. From 4 to 5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### EVENTS

**GAMES AT THE MERIDIAN SENIOR CENTER (SEE DESCRIPTIONS FOR DATES AND TIMES)**. From 12:30 to 4 p.m. Bingo and Bridge- \$1 - \$2 per person to play. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

**HANDS-ON FALL FUN (AGE 6 & UP)**. From 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Webberville Library, 115 S. Main St. Webberville. (517) 521-3643.

**MSU LIBRARIES' DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP OPEN CONSULTATION**. From 2 to 3 p.m. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

## Thursday, October 11

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

**(TOPS) TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY**. At 6 p.m. First meeting FREE.. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St. Haslett.

**A COURSE IN MIRACLES**. From 7 to 8:30 p.m. Love offering.. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes Lansing. 517-371-3010.

**MSU LIBRARIES' BEAL BOTANICAL GARDEN TOUR: PLANTS AND THE GEOMETRY OF NATURE**. From 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. free. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

**MSU LIBRARIES' DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP CO-WORKS**. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Digital Scholarship Co-Works are opportunities for meeting and working alongside colleagues and fellow practitioners of digital

scholarship. Please consider joining us! MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

**SPANISH CONVERSATION GROUP**. From 7 to 8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### EVENTS

**ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING**. From 7 to 9:30 p.m. \$6/ students \$4/MSU students FREE. Snyder/Phillips Hall, The intersection between Grand River Ave. and Bogue St. on MSU campus East Lansing. (517) 355-1855.

**FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION: UNION TIME: FIGHTING FOR WORKER RIGHTS, PRESENTED BY MATTHEW BARR**. From 7 to 9 p.m. free. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

**LUNCH AT THE SENIOR CENTER**. From 12 to 1 p.m. suggested donations of \$3.00. If you are age 59 and under, there is a charge of \$5.75 (this is not a suggested donation). Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

**ONE BY ONE 2018 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**. At 6:30 p.m. Studio C! (Meridian Mall), 1999 Central Park Drive Okemos.

**SOUTH LANSING FARMERS MARKET**. From 3 to 6:30 p.m. St. Casimir Church Parking Lot, 800 W. Barnes Avenue Lansing.

**THROWBACK THURSDAY--HAUNTED HITCHCOCK MOVIE SERIES (ADULTS)**. From 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Williamston Library, 201 School St. Williamston. (517) 655-1191.

## Friday, October 12

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

**AQUI ESTAMOS: IT'S TIME**. From 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$30.00 per ticket includes continental breakfast and lunch, does not include parking fee. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing.

**MSU LIBRARIES' CLEANING AND GEOCODING DATA WITH OPENREFINE**. From 4 to 5 p.m. free Digital Scholarship Lab. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

### LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

**ELEMENTARY BOOK DISCUSSION**. From 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**GROWING INFLUENCE BOOK SIGNING**. From 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. free. Barnes and Noble (Lansing), 5132 W Saginaw Highway Lansing. (517) 327-0437.

**STORYTIME**. From 10:30 to 11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

### MUSIC

**TEN POUND FIDDLE: JEN SYGIT--CD RELEASE**. From 7:30 to 10 p.m. \$20 Public, \$18 Fiddle Members, \$5 Students. Available online or at the box office at 6:30PM.. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road East Lansing. (517) 353-5340.

**TGIF DANCE PARTY FRIDAY 10/12/18**. From 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. \$15 includes complimentary dance lesson & buffet. Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 S. Chandler Rd. Bath.

**TGIF DANCE PARTY FRIDAY 10/12/18**. From 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. \$15 includes complimentary dance lesson & buffet. Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 S. Chandler Rd. Bath.

**TGIF DANCE PARTY FRIDAY 10/12/18**. From 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. \$15 Complimentary dance lesson & buffet. Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 S. Chandler Rd. Bath.

### EVENTS

**BEADED BRACELETS 101 (ADULTS & TEENS)**. From 1 to 2:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road Okemos. (517) 347-2021.

**BWL CHILI COOK-OFF 2018**. From 5:30 to 9 p.m. Adult Ticket \$5.00 Child Chili Ticket \$3.00 Chili Cook-off Fast Pass \$10.00. Cooley Law School Stadium, 505 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing.

### ARTS

**HEALING THROUGH ART BY NAMI LANSING**. From 7 to 9 p.m. Urban Beat Events Center, 1213 Turner Street Lansing.



## ZOMBIE WALK

Beware of phantoms on Washington Square and ghouls on Michigan Avenue, as Lansing's undead descend to Lansing Center Exhibit Hall C. Leaving the brains at home, participants will instead bring nonperishable food items to the Greater Lansing Food Bank. After the meet up, the swarm of zombies will engulf the city

**ZOMBIE WALK**  
Noon to 5 p.m.  
Zombies encouraged to gather at 11:30 a.m. Begins at Lansing Center 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing [www.lansingcenter.com](http://www.lansingcenter.com) (517) 483-7400

streets leading up to the Capitol building for one gory photo shoot on its steps. Zombies returning to the Lansing Center will receive discounted entry to the "How-To Halloween" event, and will be able to participate in the Best Zombie Contest. This annual tradition has raised more than \$5,000 and collected up to 5,000 pounds of food over its nine-year history. A special Mystery Machine bus replica, presented by Capital Area District Libraries, will accompany the event for photo-ops.

## WEDNESDAY, OCT. 10 >> 'THE LARAMIE PROJECT: TEN YEARS LATER'

The Downeaster Theatre takes on the story of Matthew Shepard, a man whose 1998 death inspired the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act in 2009, which extended hate crime protection to gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability. This staged reading features dialogue comprising more than 200 separate interviews with Laramie, Wyoming, residents, along with transcripts from the trial and local news clips.

**7 to 9 p.m., The Downeaster Theatre, 1120 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing (517) 599-0737, [www.thedowneastertheatre.com](http://www.thedowneastertheatre.com)**



## SATURDAY, OCT. 13 >> MOORES PARK PORCHFEST 2018



The Moores Park Neighborhood Organization is throwing its annual Porchfest, featuring local musicians and spoken word artists. Performers include Deacon Earl, Kevin McCartney, Mary McGuire, Bart Moore, Grace Carras, Suban Nur Cooley, Ruelaine Stokes and Masaki Takahashi.

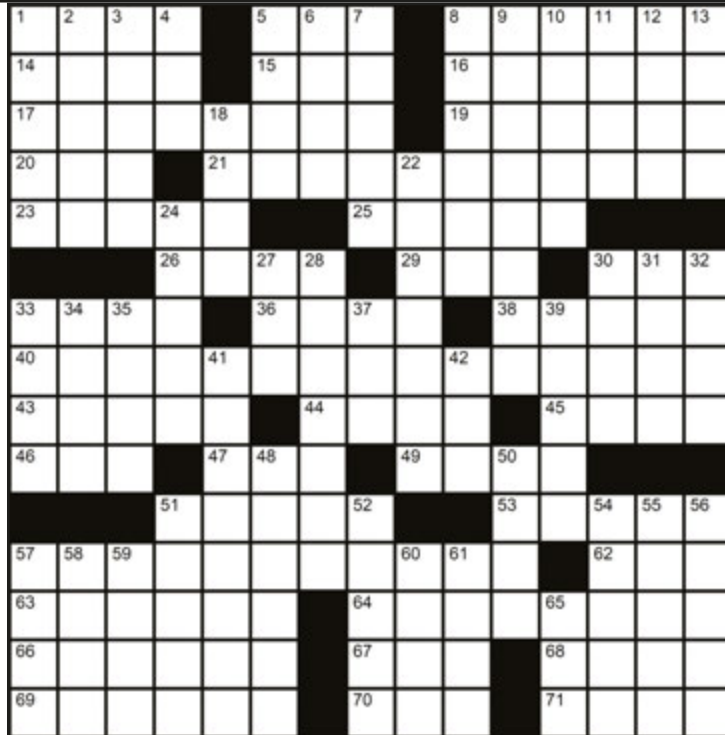
**4:30 to 9 p.m., Moores Park Neighborhood Organization, 400 Moores River Dr., Lansing. (517) 483-4277, [www.mooreparkneighborhood.com](http://www.mooreparkneighborhood.com)**

# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

**"Getting Shift-E"--- moving over.** Matt Jones Across

- 1 Cut coupons, say
- 5 Show whose 50th season would premiere in 2024
- 8 Holiday driver, in a phrase
- 14 Sea movement
- 15 Japanese for "yes"
- 16 "Let's hide out!"
- 17 Animal that's a source of Musk?
- 19 Home theater component
- 20 Every last one
- 21 Handler of meteorology?
- 23 Indian yogurt drink
- 25 "I Am America (And \_\_\_ You!)" (2007 Stephen Colbert book)
- 26 Lofty
- 29 Agcy. combating price fixing
- 30 Hanoi lunar festival
- 33 Falco of two HBO series
- 36 Fantasy group
- 38 Circumvent
- 40 Clapton-inspired New Orleans dish?
- 43 Kick back
- 44 Old Norse letter
- 45 Name associated with IRAs
- 46 Shadowy figure
- 47 Use a crowbar
- 49 Group associated with Brooklyn since 2012
- 51 "No Logo" author Naomi
- 53 Jon of "Napoleon Dynamite"
- 57 British prep school offering singing lessons?
- 62 Actress Gabor
- 63 Wheat-free soy sauce



- 64 Advice to "Star Wars" fans?
  - 66 Hot dish stand
  - 67 "It's a dog \_\_\_ dog world out there"
  - 68 "Akeelah and the Bee" star Palmer
  - 69 Says
  - 70 \_\_\_-pitch softball
  - 71 They may be beady
- Down**
- 1 Great buy
  - 2 \_\_\_ Wafers (Nabisco brand)
  - 3 Matinee stars
  - 4 You can't take a Scantron with it
  - 5 Oxford, e.g.
  - 6 "The Lion King" lioness
  - 7 Does some workout tasks
  - 8 Cut in half
  - 9 Like some shady calls
  - 10 Metallic quality
  - 11 "Wheel of Fortune" creator Griffin
  - 12 Neighborhood
  - 13 Luminous sign gas
  - 18 It ended in 1945
  - 22 Scientist Albert who studied LSD
  - 24 "Come Back, Little \_\_\_" (William Inge play)
  - 27 Rockstar Games game, to fans
  - 28 Shakespeare play split into two parts
  - 30 Luau root
  - 31 Do some cutting and pasting
  - 32 Part of MIT, for short
  - 33 Messes up
  - 34 Like one end of a pool
  - 35 Sit \_\_\_ by (take no action)
  - 37 Tempe sch.
  - 39 Poet's output
  - 41 Da Gama, for one
  - 42 Word in some obits
  - 48 Makes alterations to
  - 50 The other side
  - 51 Unscrupulous man
  - 52 Features to count
  - 54 Loser to Truman and FDR
  - 55 Draw forth
  - 56 Landscaping tools
  - 57 "Julius Caesar" inquiry
  - 58 Pie shop purchase
  - 59 Leave out
  - 60 Skewed type (abbr.)
  - 61 \_\_\_ the Elder (Roman statesman)
  - 65 Scrape by, with "out"

©2017 Jonesin' Crosswords • For answers to this puzzle, call: 1-900-226-2800, 99 cents per minute. Must be 18+. Or to bill to your credit card, call: 1-800-655-6548. **Answers Page 27**

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

October 10-16, 2018

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** Humraaz is a word in the Urdu language. Its literal meaning is "secret sharer." It refers to a confidante, a person in whom you have full trust and to whom you can confess your core feelings. Is there such a character in your life? If so, seek him or her out for assistance in probing into the educational mysteries you have waded into. If there is no such helper you can call on, I advise you to do whatever's necessary to attract him or her into your sphere. A collaborative quest may be the key to activating sleeping reserves of your soul wisdom.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** Taurus author Roberto Bolaño suggests that the world contains more beauty than many people realize. The full scope and intensity of this nourishing beauty "is only visible to those who love." When he speaks of "those who love," I suspect he means deep-feeling devotees of kindness and compassion, hard-working servants of the greater good, and free-thinking practitioners of the Golden Rule. In any case, Taurus, I believe you're in a phase when you have the potential to see far more of the world's beauty. For best results, supercharge your capacity to give and receive love.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)** Once upon a time you were walking along a sidewalk when a fairy floated by and whispered, "I'm willing to grant you three wishy-washy wishes for free. You don't have to do any favors for me in return. But I will grant you three wonderfully wise wishes if you perform three tasks for me." You asked the fairy, "What would those three tasks be?" She replied, "The second task is that you must hoodwink the devil into allowing you to shave his hairy legs. The third task is that you must bamboozle God into allowing you to shave his bushy beard." You laughed and said, "What's the first task?" The fairy touched you on the nose with her tiny wand and said, "You must believe that the best way to achieve the impossible is to attempt the absurd."

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)** You Crabs tend to be the stockpilers and hoarders of the zodiac. The world's largest collections of antique door knobs and Chinese restaurant menus and beer cans from the 1960s belong to Cancerian accumulators. But in alignment with possibilities hinted at by current astrological omens, I recommend that you redirect this inclination so it serves you better. How? One way would be to gather supplies of precious stuff that's really useful to you. Another way would be to assemble a batch of blessings to bestow on people and animals who provide you with support.

**Leo (July 23-August 22)** Chinese mythology tells us there used to be ten suns, all born from the mother goddess Xi He. Every 24 hours, she bathed her brood in the lake and placed them in a giant mulberry tree. From there, one sun glided out into the sky to begin the day while the other nine remained behind. It was a good arrangement. The week had ten days back then, and each sun got its turn to shine. But the siblings eventually grew restless with the staid rhythm. On one fateful morning, with a playful flourish, they all soared into the heavens at once. It was fun for them, but the earth grew so hot that nothing would grow. To the rescue came the archer Hou Yi. With his flawless aim, he used his arrows to shoot down nine of the suns, leaving one to provide just the right amount of light and warmth. The old tales don't tell us, but I speculate that Hou Yi was a Leo.

**Virgo (August 23-September 22)** You now have maximum command of a capacity that's a great strength but also a potential liability: your piercing brainpower. To help ensure that you wield this asset in ways that empower you and don't sabotage you, here's advice from four wise Virgos. 1. "Thought can organize the world so well that you are no longer able to see it." — psychotherapist Anthony de Mello 2. "Keep some room in your heart for the unimaginable." —poet Mary Oliver 3. "I like to wake up each morning and not know what I think, that I may reinvent myself in

some way." —actor and writer Stephen Fry 4. "I wanted space to watch things grow." —singer Florence Welch composed than if you're agitated and trying too hard.

**Libra (September 23-October 22)** "There are works which wait, and which one does not understand for a long time," wrote Libran author Oscar Wilde. "The reason is that they bring answers to questions which have not yet been raised; for the question often arrives a long time after the answer." That's the weird news, Libra. You have been waiting and waiting to understand a project that you set in motion many moons ago. It has been frustrating to give so much energy to a goal that has sometimes confused you. But here's the good news: Soon you will finally formulate the question your project has been the answer to. And so at last you will understand it. You'll feel vindicated, illuminated, and resolved.

**Scorpio (October 23-November 21)** Many seekers who read horoscope columns want common-sense advice about love, career, money, and power. So I hope I don't disappoint you by predicting that you will soon have a mystical experience or spiritual epiphany. Let me add, however, that this delightful surprise won't merely be an entertaining diversion with no useful application. In fact, I suspect it will have the potential of inspiring good ideas about love, career, money, or power. If I had to give the next chapter of your life story a title, it might be "A Thousand Dollars' Worth of Practical Magic."

**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)** In 1962, when she was 31 years old, Sagittarian actress Rita Moreno won an Academy Award for her role in the film West Side Story. In 2018, she attended the Oscars again, sporting the same dress she'd worn for the ceremony 56 years before. I think the coming weeks will be a great time for you, too, to reprise a splashy event or two from the past. You'll generate soul power by reconnecting with your roots. You'll tonify and harmonize your mental health by establishing a symbolic link with your earlier self.

**Capricorn (December 22-January 19)** The Committee to Reward Unsung Good Deeds hereby acknowledges your meritorious service in the trenches of the daily routine. We praise your tireless efforts to make life less chaotic and more coherent for everyone around you. We're grateful for the patience and poise you demonstrate as you babysit adults who act like children. And we are gratified by your capacity to keep long-term projects on track in the face of trivial diversions and petty complaints. I know it's a lot to ask, but could you please intensify your vigilance in the next three weeks? We need your steadiness more than ever.

**Aquarius (January 20- February 18)** You need a special pep talk that's best provided by Aquarian poet Audre Lorde. Please meditate on these four quotes by her. 1. "Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation. 2. "We have been raised to fear the yes within ourselves, our deepest cravings." 3. "You cannot use someone else's fire. You can only use your own. To do that, you must first be willing to believe you have it." 4. "Nothing I accept about myself can be used against me to diminish me." 5. "The learning process is something you can literally incite, like a riot."

**Pisces (February 19-March 20)** My horoscopes may interfere with your ability to rationalize your delusions; they could extinguish your enthusiasm for clichés; they might cause you to stop repressing urges that you really should express; and they may influence you to cultivate the state of awareness known as "playful wisdom." Do you really want to risk being exposed to such lavish amounts of inner freedom? If not, you should stop reading now. But if you're as ripe for emancipating adventures as I think you are, then get started on shedding any attitudes and influences that might dampen your urge to romp and cavort and carouse.

# SUDOKU

# Advanced

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## 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 27

# TURN IT DOWN!

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE  
BY RICH TUPICA

Fri. Oct. 19

THE DEVIL'S CUT  
PLAY FINAL SHOW  
AT THE AVENUE



Lansing-based rock band calls it quits

Friday, Oct. 19 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 21+, \$10, 7 p.m.

Since its 2010 formation, the Devil's Cut has played shows across the map and released a pile of acclaimed LPs via East Grand Records, a local imprint, along the way. Known for his amped-up brand of Americana, songwriter Joe Fox (guitar/vocals) led the charge on each LP, including 2017's "People Who Let You Down" — the group's third and final record. Friday, the band plays its last show, a farewell event that also includes performances from Saint, Flatfoot, Jake Simmons & the Little Ghosts, Stop Bobby Hatch and Dead Daughters. Playing over 100 dates each year, the Devil's Cut reached ears far beyond the Capital City, thanks to its distinct sound that echoes old-school folk, classic Springsteen-esque storytelling and raucous, Replacements-like dynamism. Visit the soon-to-be-defunct band, which also comprises Pat Hogan (bass), Corey Staley (guitar), Derek Vaive (drums) and Matt Waterman (keys), at [www.facebook.com/devilscut](http://www.facebook.com/devilscut).

Sat. Oct. 13

THE STICK AROUNDS RELEASE 'WAYS TO HANG ON'



Local power-pop outfit unveils new vinyl

Saturday, Oct. 13 @ The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 21+, FREE, 8 p.m.

The Stick Arounds, a Lansing-based power pop band, celebrate the release of its new sophomore LP, "Ways to Hang On" (GTG Records), Saturday at the Avenue Café. The free album-release show also features the Gashounds, Indonesian Junk, La La Delivery, and E.Z. Duhzit & the Soul Jar.

"The new album was recorded in a studio setting, unlike 'Mystery Garage,' our first LP, which was recorded live in front of an audience," said Matthew Carlson, vocalist/guitarist of the Stick Arounds. "'Ways to Hang On' also sees the Stick Arounds dividing up the songwriting duties between me and guitarist and vocalist Jeff Gower. We each have five songs on the record that we wrote and sing lead on. That approach makes the sound of the new record more diverse and collaborative."

The new LP, available on CD or orange vinyl, showcases the band's knack for layering keys, horns and stacks of guitars into one polished-pop sound. The group, which formed five years ago and also comprises drummer Joel Kuiper and guitarist Jason Lantrip, invested much sweat equity into the new disc.

"We spent about seven months on-and-off in various studios finishing the work on this record," Carlson said. "In the summer of 2017, we added Ian Walker as bass player and he was instrumental in much of the engineering and recording on this. While the sound of the record was formed in small part by our shared love for bands like Guided By Voices, Sloan and Teenage Fanclub, it really took shape in rehearsals. Both Jeff and I brought songs to practice expecting them to sound one way and by sharing them with a group of talented bandmates and friends, they took on a life of their own — becoming greater than the sum of their parts."

**LIVE AND LOCAL**

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT  
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DESTINATION	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night	Trap Queen	Culture Clash	The Stick Arounds
Buddies, 1937 W Grand River Ave		Karaoke, 9pm		
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.		Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Claddagh, 2900 Towne Center Blvd.		Trivia, 7:30		
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Road	DJ Trivia		Live Music	DJ
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.			
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Good Cookies Band	Jeff Shoup & Friends	Smooth Daddy	Smooth Daddy
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	Johnny D Blues Night	Karaoke	Mix Pack	Psychotic Paradise
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.			Bells Fst Version 5.0 9pm	Evil Masquerade, 8pm
Macs Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			Conspicuous Bystanders, 8pm	Tall Heights, 7pm
Nuthouse, 420 E Michigan Ave.		Bingo		
Renos East, 1310 Abbot Rd.			The New Rule, 6pm	The New Rule, 6pm
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave.	Comedy Open Mic, 8pm			



# Out on the Town

from page 22

## Saturday, October 13

### HOLIDAYS

**HALLOWEEN PHOTO SHOOT/MAC AND CHEESE COMPETITION**. From 4 to 6 p.m. \$10 for entry. Enter your Mac and Cheese for free. Cedar Street Art Collective, 1701 Cedar Lansing. 517-977-1476.

### MUSIC

**TALL HEIGHTS**. At 7 a.m. \$13. The Loft, (At Harem Urban Lounge) 414 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing.

### EVENTS

**\*CADL ADVENTURERS ROLEPLAYING GAME CLUB (AGES 12-17)**. From 2 to 4 p.m. FREE. CADL Mason Library, 145 W. Ash St. Mason. (517) 676-9088.

**\*ESCAPE ROOM--LAW & ORDER (AGE 12 & UP)**. From 2 to 3 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St Haslett. (517) 339-2324.

**\*PIRATE PARTY (ALL AGES)**. From 2 to 3 p.m. FREE. CADL Mason Library, 145 W. Ash St. Mason. (517) 676-9088.

**45TH ANNUAL APPLE BUTTER FESTIVAL**. From 11 to 5 a.m. Free with a \$5 suggested donation for parking. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave. Lansing. (517) 483-4224.

**NATIONAL CHESS DAY (ALL AGES)**. From 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. FREE. CADL Foster Library, 200 N. Foster Ave. Lansing. (517) 485-5185.

**SATURDAY STORYTIME**. From 11 to noon Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St Grand Ledge. 5176277014.

**SECOND SATURDAY SUPPER**. From 5 to 6 p.m. \$9 (children \$5). Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W Mount Hope Ave. Lansing. (517) 484-3139.

**SPARTANS WILL. STEP UP FOR DOWN SYNDROME**. From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Official 5K Registration \$25 General Registration/1 mile walk and festival events \$15. MSU Museum Auditorium, 409 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 355-2370.

**WALK FOR THE ANIMALS - PAWS IN THE PARK**. From 1 to 4 p.m. Registration Cost: \$25/person

Your registration fee includes an event t-shirt, lunch, goody bag, access to the doggy ice cream eating contest sign-up and doggy costume contest sign-up, trick or treating, and cider and donuts. Cooley Law School Stadium, 505 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing.

## Sunday, October 14

### SUNDAY, OCT. 14 >> COMMUNITY EX VOTO RETABLO EXHIBIT



Casa de Rosado will host a new exhibit featuring works of art with the theme of intervention in precarious situations and times of need. The exhibit runs until Oct. 28. Light refreshments provided.

12 to 5 p.m.,  
Casa de Rosado, 204 E. Mt. Hope, Lansing.  
(517) 402-0282



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- ✓ No-Fault Reform
- ✓ Election Reform
- ✓ Licensing Reform
- ✓ Tax Reform
- ✓ Reduce Spending

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# Out on the Town

from page 25

## CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

**JUGGLING.** From 2 to 4 p.m. FREE. Orchard Street Pumpthouse, 368 Orchard St. East Lansing.

## LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

**CHARACTER VISIT STORYTIME.** From 2 to 3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

## EVENTS

**AUTUMN COLOR WALK.** From 2 to 3 p.m. \$3/person or \$7/family. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866.

## Monday, October 15

### CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS

**A COURSE OF LOVE.** From 1 to 2 p.m. Love offering. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes Lansing. 517-571-3010.

**ADDICTION RECOVERY THERAPY AND YOGA.** From 6 to 7 p.m. Health Insurance of Sliding Scale Fee. GPS Guide to Personal Solutions, 913 W Holmes Road Suite 141 Lansing. 5176670061.

### LITERATURE-AND-POETRY

**BABYTIME.** From 10:30 to 11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

## EVENTS

**HALLOWEEN MAGIC WITH BRAD LANCASTER (ALL AGES).** From 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. FREE. CADL Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St Haslett. (517) 339-2324.

## NEW IN TOWN: WHEEL HOUSE CERAMIC STUDIO



Dennis Burck/City Pulse

Owner and instructor Daniel Nuñez of REO Town's new Wheel House Studio instructs his first ceramics class in the renovated building.

### By DENNIS BURCK

Nestled beside the Robin Theatre, Wheel House Studio seeks to reduce the barrier of entry for those interested in practicing ceramics.

The studio will have weekly classes limited to eight students, with private lessons available. Events will center on allowing people to try ceramics for free, or at low cost.

### Wheel House Ceramic Studio

Now Open  
Class meets 6 to 9 p.m. weekdays  
Inquire for Saturday events  
1103 S. Washington Ave., Lansing  
(517) 712-9013  
www.wheelhouse.studio

“REO Town is the epicenter of all the things I’m proud of having done for the last decade of my life,” owner and instructor Daniel Nuñez said.

Nuñez previously worked at the REACH Studio Art Center, making public sculptures and teaching classes. He began teaching a decade ago.

“You spend your life trying to get better at the things you are good at. Strangely enough, I am really good at teaching strangers to make mud and play with pottery. I’ve already done this at other studios, but now I have the opportunity to do it the way I think is best.”

It is important to keep class sizes low and have a low pressure vibe for those starting out, Nuñez said.

“Most people who give it a shot enjoy it. If you get the ceramic bug, you will never have to buy another wedding present again,” he added.

Looking for a building to house his studio, Nuñez said it had to be REO Town.

“It’s why I chose the building, even though it was dilapidated and took me two years to fix,” he said.

For eight months, Nuñez said he had to move a bucket from place to place catching water from endless roof leaks before the city greenlighted his renova-

tions.

Despite a complete overhaul, with a new roof, electrical and HVAC work, the building kept its exposed brick, hardwood floors and original tin ceiling. These features are most likely original and around 100 years old, according to Nuñez.

Fellow REO Town businesses pitched in and were instrumental in Wheel House getting up and running, Nuñez said.

A sink was donated by Good Truckin’ Diner owner Nick Sinicropi, and floating shelves and a wooden counter were commissioned by Mickey Fink of Vintage Junkies out of the REO Town Marketplace.

“I wouldn’t be able to do this without the support of my friends in REO Town. Now they can’t escape me,” Nuñez said.

Upcoming events at the studio include a “Clay of the Dead” mug making session Oct. 20 for \$30 and free wheel-throwing to anyone who brings in an “I Voted” sticker on Nov. 6.

Students will be able to use eight new Brent throwing-wheels, and two kilns will be on site for firing.

Nuñez is currently waiting on a Lansing Economic Area Partnership grant for last minute repairs, facade work and signage. Open lab hours will be pending feedback from the first few months of business.

“I spent so much time working on this with countless respirators. I need to pause a little bit and realize all my dreams are coming true.”



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**Tuesday, October 16**

**CLASSES-AND-SEMINARS**

**BASIC YOGA @ THE LIBRARY.** From 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. FREE. DeWitt District Library, 13101 Schavey DeWitt.

**HOMEWORK HELP.** From 5 to 7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**HOW TO HIRE A CONTRACTOR.** From 5:30 to 7 p.m. free. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St. Lansing.

**KNITTING AND CROCHET GROUP.** From 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**MENS ISSUES THERAPY GROUP.** From 6 to 7 p.m. Call office for more information. Health insurance and sliding scale fee.. GPS Guide to Personal Solutions, 913 W Holmes Road Suite 141 Lansing. 5176670061.

**WRITING A BUSINESS PLAN: YOUR ROADMAP TO SUCCESS.** From 6 to 8 p.m. Free - to register call (517) 483-1921.

Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr. Lansing. (517) 321-4014.

**LITERATURE-AND-POETRY**

**PAWS FOR READING.** From 6 to 7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St. Grand Ledge.

**PRESCHOOL STORYTIME.** From 11 a.m. to noon Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St. Grand Ledge.

**TODDLERTIME.** From 10:30 to 11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road East Lansing. (517) 351-2420.

**MUSIC**

**JAZZ TUESDAYS AT MORIARTY'S.** From 7 to 10 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. (517) 485-5287.

**EVENTS**

**MSU LIBRARIES' SPECIAL COLLECTION OPEN HOUSE: CELEBRATE LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH.** From 4 to 7 p.m. free. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive East Lansing. (517) 353-8700.

**READ TO A DOG (ALL AGES).** From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave.

Lansing. (517) 367-6300.

**TUESDAY GAMES.** From 1 to 4 p.m. Euchre, Free Bridge, \$1 - \$2 per person. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road Okemos.

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**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 23

S	N	I	P	S	N	L	B	U	S	M	A	N		
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**SUDOKU SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 23

8	5	2	7	1	3	6	9	4
1	7	6	9	8	4	5	2	3
9	4	3	2	6	5	8	7	1
3	9	5	4	2	8	1	6	7
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4	2	7	6	5	1	3	8	9
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# FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

## Back of House: Q&A with Ruckus Ramen's Steve Swart

By TIARA TERRY

Steve Swart, whom you might also know from his DJ performances around town, began Ruckus Ramen as a simple passion project. A series of sold-out, one-night-only events led to his ramen concepts taking up permanent residency inside the Avenue Café. Instead of beer nuts and chips, Avenue patrons — thanks to Swart — are treated to high-end ramen, seaweed salads and spicy garlic edamame.

Swart began his gourmet cooking journey as a way to alleviate work-related stress. He and a close friend held pop-ups around Lansing to test out his unique recipes. He eventually found himself with a devoted following that hungered for more of his original Asian cuisine-inspired dishes.



**What was the vision you had for your restaurant?**

I first envisioned Ruckus Ramen as a small food truck in a bar where I would serve food out of a small window. I imagined that I would be doing most of the cooking and the work by myself. The response has been so good that it has been overwhelming and exciting.

**How did you come up with your original recipes?**

In the beginning, we had an excess amount of chicken in stock. One day, we were in the kitchen messing around making curry, and decided to use some of the chicken. We wanted to start off by using what we already had in the kitchen and tried to make good decisions with that. We originally used grilled chicken and have since implemented the use of fried chicken.

Everyone was blown away by how good it was right off the bat. It's almost a mistake that we started using it. It has grown to be one of our best selling ramen dishes.

**What have been the ups and downs since opening?**

My highlight and lowlight are somewhat the same. The requirements of running a business have been challenging. I've been focusing on running the business and doing it correctly. Doing that means spending less time cooking. I now have a really strong team that does a great job doing a majority of the cooking.

I started this business with the hopes of cooking all the time. Instead of focusing on cooking everyday, I spend time to work on the business side of things, which is why it is a gift and a curse.



Swart

**How has your experience been since partnering with the Avenue Café?**

Speaking for myself, I think it has been really great for the both of us. I don't think the success of the business would have been the same had I started somewhere else. You normally don't get the opportunity to open

See Ramen, Page 29

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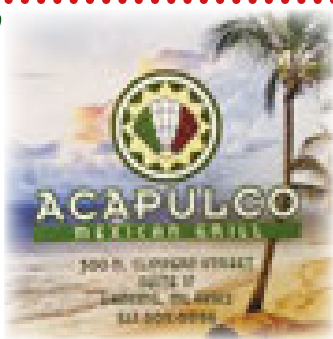
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# Ramen

from page 28

up a restaurant this big when you are still learning how to run a business.

This partnership has created a lot of potential. Dealing with a high volume of customers is something I never thought I would have to manage.

The experience has just been wonderful. The owner, Colleen Kelley has been great and she has been an amazing resource in helping me learn how to run a business.

### What's next for Ruckus Ramen?

Within a year or two, we hope to expand. But, as of now, I want to continue to focus on how to run the business side of things more effectively and master that before taking the next step.

There are a few business options floating around, but we have not settled on what we are doing next. The demand has been so good and the staff really enjoys doing the work, so there is no reason to not expand the business. East Lansing and Detroit are two locations that we have in mind, but nothing has been solidified.

Our focus right now is to continue putting out good food, participating in fun events and trying out new things with the menu.



Two ramen bowls concocted by Ruckus Ramen. These, along with other dishes, can be delivered to your door by Ky's Cart. Takeout is also available at the Avenue Café.

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## BACKPAGE CLASSIFIEDS

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