

FREE

# CityPULSE

a newspaper for the rest of us

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

January 25-31, 2017

## How it's done

The life  
and music  
of George Howard  
p. 10



AMONG  
THE  
DARKEST  
SHADOWS

**Thursday, Feb 16 AT 7:30PM  
& Sunday, Feb 19 AT 1PM**

Through the lens of theatre and dance, a stunning tale of 21st-century human trafficking. A story of survival, of hope, and of redemption. **\$18 Student Tickets!**

This presentation is supported by the Arts Midwest Touring Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and the Crane Group. The production is underwritten in part by University Outreach and Engagement and the William Wright Endowment Fund for New Works.



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# After 41 years as the Lansing area's first locally-owned organic grocery store, the East Lansing Food Co-op will be closing its doors.

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We will be open for business during regular store hours until Saturday, February 4th, 2017.

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\*excluded from clearance sale

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**Tuesday, February 28 AT 7:30PM**

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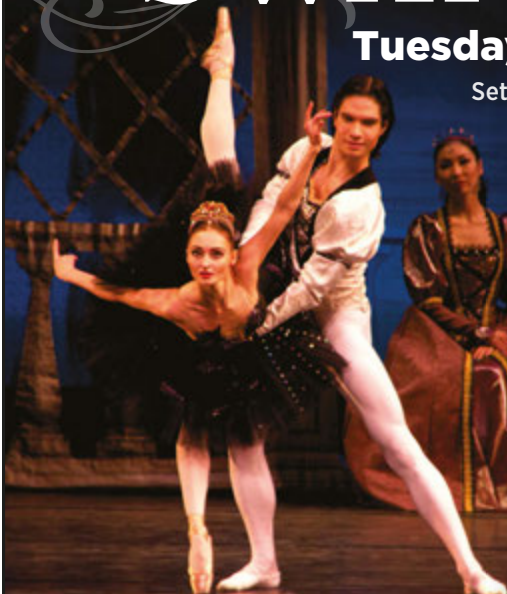


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**SWAN LAKE**

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# BLOOD at THE ROOT

By Dominique Morisseau

BLOOD AT THE ROOT is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

**FEBRUARY 3 - 12, 2017**  
ARENA THEATRE

Directed by Steve Broadnax





# Feedback

## Muddling over a maverick

Good Job on letters, V.L. Pentel of De-Witt. Now, while the nation muddles over the maverick that was foisted onto us Nov. 8, pray that powers that be grab him by the scruff of his neck, and tell him that, by virtue of his un-American character, he can pay up taxes for scores of years then relax in something less than a prison penthouse. Let's hope he doesn't erode the soul of that young mannequin son that he tows about.

— **Lola Buckingham Okemos**

## Of misspellings and more

I don't expect you to print this letter, but can you please explain to me what on earth G.A. Graham was prattling on about in his letter to the Dec. 21, 2016 issue of the City Pulse? I could not make heads nor tails of it. Could you?

I believe he was saying that I could not spell "common" words or peoples last names. I don't believe I misspelled any "common" words, but it's possible I may have misspelled some last names as I had nothing to refer to about the names, so I had to guess. The names weren't in the dictionary. People make mistakes, so sue me! One expects the publication one writes to, to correct any spelling errors.

I've noticed that City Pulse makes plenty of typos, (you really should consider hiring a proof reader), but any intelligent person can figure out what you mean.

I'm not surprised that Mr. Graham may have been confused by my letter. I hardly recognized it myself, it was so heavily edited.

Isn't this G.A. Graham the same character who wrote a denigrating letter about City Pulse earlier in 2016? Calling you gay and calling Democrats and others nasty names? The last name Graham is awfully familiar. Apparently Mr. Graham is perfect and thinks "his sh-t don't stink". Opps, sorry. I guess an old lady shouldn't say things like that! Ha! My Foot!

— **Mrs. (not MIZ) Shelly Centeno**  
Lansing  
**Micromanaged teachers**

I am very disappointed that the contract negotiations for Waverly

Schools have been as drawn-out as they are. As an alumnus myself and current mother with students that attend Waverly schools currently this is unacceptable. The board's contract proposal to our teachers includes language that requires our teachers to be available at certain times after school. I think that is unfair. I feel that the teachers are doing a great job managing their time on their own. They have been available whenever I or my children have needed them. I have never had an issue scheduling a teacher for extra help for my children or even for a quick meeting if needed. I feel that they put in countless amounts of hours outside of their regularly schedule classroom days already and they do it now without a contract. Don't babysit our teachers! Don't micromanage them as they are adults. Allow them to continue to make whatever available time needed to our children something that they can control. At the end of the day this is all about our children. We know that all adults involved are working for the best of the children, so let's keep that in mind and look for solutions. Our Waverly community teachers deserve better than this long drawn-out contentious fight.

— **Jessica Bush Lansing**

## Business and greed

Will your newspaper explain how it is okay to pass laws that are unconstitutional? How the governor and legislature can thumb their nose at Michigan's Constitution? How Attorney General Schutte - who supposedly plans to run for governor - doesn't take his present job seriously enough to defend it? How they can not only flaunt the state constitution, but discriminate among groups while they do it? Didn't they all take a vow on the bible to uphold it? Have they no integrity? The answer to that is obvious.

I'll mention two laws that are particularly egregious.

First, they passed a law that students may leave the public school to engage in Bible study classes if the classes are nearby. Where is the constitution's assurance that there will be a separation of church and state? Of course, the academies, cyber schools, etc. can get away with that because they were set up to answer to no one. Everything is secret about them. Yet, in fact, they are paid for by taxpayers - another extraordinary flaunting of the law - in their effort to starve out the public schools and replace them with schools for profit.

And an interesting, but not surprising, aspect of the law is that Christian studies are the only ones mentioned in the law. What about Jews and Muslims and Athe-

See Feedback, Page 6

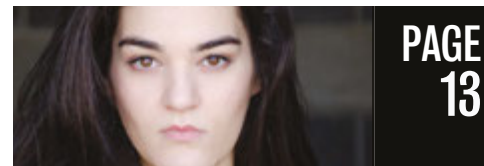
# CityPULSE

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Peter Spadafore announces City Council candidacy



Haslett actress wins audiobook honors



Shane Mauss explores psychedelics through comedy



Photo by NICOLE RIGO

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**THIS MODERN WORLD**  
by TOM TOMORROW

OUR TOP STORY THIS HOUR: AMERICA'S FINAL DESCENT INTO MADNESS HAS OFFICIALLY BEGUN!

THAT'S RIGHT, BIFF! THE NUCLEAR ARSENAL IS NOW UNDER THE COMMAND OF A BLUSTERING NARCISSTIC WITH POOR IMPULSE CONTROL!

WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

JOINING US TO DISCUSS THE BLEAK, UNCERTAIN FUTURE CONFRONTING US ALL IS ONE OF MANY UNQUALIFIED NOMINEES HOPING TO DISMANTLE THE AGENCIES THEY'LL BE CHARGE OF!

SO--TELL US ABOUT YOUR PLANS, UNQUALIFIED NOMINEE!

OH, WELL, IT'S QUITE SIMPLE, REALLY--I INTEND TO REDUCE MY AGENCY TO A HOLLOW SHELL OF ITS FORMER SELF, WHILE STILL GIVING LIP SERVICE TO THE CONTINUATION OF ITS MISSION!

I WOULD EXPECT NO LESS!

FOR FURTHER INSIGHT INTO THE DYSTOPIA AWAITING A NATION LED BY A SOCIOPATH WHOSE CORRUPTION IS MATCHED ONLY BY HIS IGNORANCE, WE TURN TO OUR SPECIAL GUEST COMMENTATOR-- THE SCREAMING GUY FROM THE EDVARD MUNCH PAINTING!

THANKS, BIFF! NOT TO PUT TOO FINE A POINT ON IT, BUT--

--AAAAAAAUUUUUUUUUUUUUUGGGHHH!

I THINK THAT ABOUT SUMS IT UP, SCREAMING GUY!

COMING UP NEXT--

--OUR EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH A TRUMP VOTER WHO DIDN'T REALIZE SHE WOULD LOSE HER INSURANCE!

NOBODY TOLD ME THE A.C.A. AND OBAMACARE WERE THE SAME THING!

CAN WE HAVE A DO-OVER?

ALSO--DOES YOUR NEW PRESIDENT WANT TO GRAB YOU BY THE PUSSY--OR PUNCH YOU IN THE FACE?

FIRST THESE MESSAGES.

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.)



# A truce for now

## City Council rift could complicate upcoming development decisions

The deadlock over Lansing City Council leadership is over — but the chasm between two Council factions is neither bridged nor resolved, laying the groundwork for gridlock that could impact major developments, including the Red Cedar Renaissance.

Essentially, the battle at Council was not about who would lead the body for the next year. Rather, it centered on control of the city's development agenda.

Council members At-Large Patricia Spitzley and Kathie Dunbar, joined by Second Ward Councilmember Tina Houghton and Fourth Ward Councilmember Jessica Yorko, generally support the way tax incentives are being used to lure development into the city. At-Large Councilmembers Carol Wood and Judi Brown Clarke, First Ward Councilmember Jody Washington and Third Ward Councilmember Adam Hussain are demanding more transparency and better accountability for the cost and benefit of tax incentives given to developers.

While the leadership tussle seemed to magnify petty political differences fueled by personal animus, some Council members say that wasn't the case.

"You know it's important that as we look at an issue, I think it does a injustice to a council when the press, or the public, try to put us in a role and say because she voted this way, 'You're anti-mayor,'" said Wood. "Or because you voted this way, 'You're pro-mayor.'"

"If (the public) had wanted clones, they would have looked at voting for clones," she added. "They chose to put different people on council based on

their beliefs and how they thought that they would interact. It's our responsibility to respect our colleagues and to be able to work with them."

But Washington, the First Ward Councilmember, disagrees, arguing that Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero had clear allies on the Council.

"We clearly have a pro-Bernero faction. It's been in place for many years,"



Courtesy Photo

The Lansing City Council's leadership battle is resolved, but the fight revealed deep divisions among Councilmembers.

she said. "When you see (Bernero's chief of staff) Randy Hannan behind closed doors deliberating about leadership of Council, there is clearly a faction on Council."

Wood was one of five council members who agreed to on-the-record, audio recorded interviews about the battle of ideas playing out at Council. Brown Clarke, Yorko, Hussain and Washington were the other four. Dunbar declined, and Houghton did not respond to a Facebook message requesting an interview. Spitzley did not return phone calls.

The interviews revealed a deep divide on how the city can move forward.

"There are some major issues within the city, and that's the philosophical differences. Part of it has to do with development," said Brown Clarke, who is the newly appointed chair of the Development and Planning Committee for Council. "Part of it has to do with the medical marijuana ordinance. Part of it has to do with fairness and transparency in bidding — which actually all fall under the umbrella of 'what's the vision of the city?' What is the vision and who can move that forward?"

"We have a lot more work to do in those areas, and when it comes to development and housing, those are the things I am most concerned about," she said.


Hussain concurs that understanding Lansing's housing issues is key in moving the city forward, particularly as they relate to economic development decisions.

"When you talk about economic development incentives, it's tough to have that conversation, particularly when they pertain to housing when you don't know what your housing stock is or what your needs are," he said.


Council has approved some large housing developments, most notably the SkyVue project on Michigan Avenue and a new Gillespie Co. development at Michigan and Clemens avenues. Both focus on market rate housing units.

What's divided the Council in the last year are payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) options for low-income housing developments. It failed to approve a 23-unit complex on the western edge of Old Town earlier this year. The developer, Sam Saboury, wanted a four percent PILOT -- essentially to pay four percent of his income on the property as a tax rather than the standard tax assessed to real property. Saboury is suing Hussain, Washington and Wood in federal court, arguing that they violated the Fair Housing Act and discriminated against

See City Council, Page 6



FOR  
**DESIGN**





East Lansing

In spite of the very public placement of the detail below, no observers were able to identify its location as the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing. The building, constructed in 1927, served as the original East Lansing High School. It was converted to a community center in 2002 and carries the name of former MSU President John A. Hannah.

The carved stone twigs above can be found in East Lansing. The first person to correctly identify the location of the detail will receive a City Pulse Eye for Design mug. Send your answer to [debolman@comcast.net](mailto:debolman@comcast.net) by Feb. 1.

— Daniel E. Bollman, AIA

**PUBLIC NOTICES****NOTICE**

The Board of Review of the City of Lansing will meet in regular sessions in the 3rd floor Conference Room, City Hall for five days March 13, 14, 15, 16, & 17, 2017 at 9:00 AM to 12 NOON and 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM. **EXCEPT** for Wednesday, March 15 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM and 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM to review and correct the assessment roll made by the City Assessor. The Board will hold open sessions, during which time any resident taxpayer may be present to make appeals and be heard in person. Taxpayers are permitted to file his or her protest by letter and his or her personal appearance shall not be required. Protest at the Board of Review is necessary to protect your right to further appeals to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. An appointment is necessary and must be scheduled before 4:30 PM, March 15, 2017. Letter appeals must be **received** in the Assessor's Office by 4:30 PM, March 16, 2017. If you wish to contact the City of Lansing Assessor's Office, you may do so by calling (517) 483-7624.

**RATIO AND TENTATIVE EQUALIZATION FACTORS FOR 2017****INGHAM COUNTY**

	RATIO	FACTOR
COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
RESIDENTIAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00

**EATON COUNTY**

COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
RESIDENTIAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00

**CLINTON COUNTY**

	RATIO	FACTOR
AGRICULTURAL	50.00	1.00
COMMERCIAL	50.00	1.00
INDUSTRIAL	50.00	1.00
DEVELOPMENTAL	50.00	1.00
PERSONAL PROPERTY	50.00	1.00

Subject to revisions by:

Board of Review, County Equalization, State Tax Commission

City Assessor's Office

**CP#17-015**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING  
SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES  
A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES LOCATED AT 3209 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None  
ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:  
Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.  
Job offer for Fire Chief position approved.  
Meeting adjourned.  
Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor  
Susan L. Aten, Clerk

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING  
SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES  
A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD AT THE TOWNSHIP OFFICES LOCATED AT 3209 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None  
ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:  
Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.  
Minutes of the regular meeting held on 12/13/16 and special meeting held on 01/05/17 approved.  
Agenda approved.  
Resolution 17-1: Resolution authorizing notice of intent to issue revenue bond adopted.  
Resolution 17-2: Board of Review appointments adopted.  
Renewal of Amusement Device License approved for: Gus' Bar, Jumpin Jax, NCG Cinema, VFW Post 701, and Westgate Tavern  
Referred to Planning Commission R-16-21, conditional rezoning request.  
Claims approved.  
Executive session held to discuss attorney-client privileged communication & pending litigation.  
Board returned to regular session.  
Approved settlement of MTT case as proposed and authorize Township Attorney and Assessor to take necessary actions to reach settlement.  
Meeting adjourned.  
Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor  
Susan L. Aten, Clerk

**CP#17-016**

**City Council**

from page 5

low-income people. That suit is thought to have been ginned up by Bernero, who held a press conference days after Council rejected the project to accuse Council members of racism in their decision.

Likewise, a proposal to build low income and market rate housing at the former School for the Blind has run up against opposition, and due to a clerical error, a public hearing was not held for the developer to get a four percent PILOT. The developer told Council it would move ahead with a 10 percent PILOT, which does not require approval of City Council, but could run into barriers with state housing officials who dole out federal housing development dollars.

Yorko said she was uncertain if the development issues were playing a role in the battle but "would hope that would be an area we are united."

But that unity could be challenged as the Council moves forward with a public hearing Jan. 30 on a controversial bid-

ding ordinance Washington championed as former chair of the Development and Planning Committee. The ordinance would require developers who receive tax incentives from the city to participate in an open bid process.

The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce opposes that ordinance. Organized labor, on the other hand, supports the ordinance.

The Chamber argues Bernero should simply include it as part of the universal master development agreement. That's something Council has asked the mayor to do previously, but he has not. Labor says the ordinance will increase transparency and act as protection for local jobs on these taxpayer supported builds.

"For me, it goes back to the bidders ordinance," Hussain said.

Then he acknowledged this likely was tied to the 2017 election — and with two powerful special interest groups lined up on either side, they face a Sophie's choice of which group to "piss off."

— **Todd Heywood**

**Feedback**

from page 4

ists? And what does "nearby" mean? Is that an "out" to keep students from attending a synagogue or mosque if it's not "nearby?"

Second, the other law that is so wrong even to a high school student of "Civics" - do they still teach that? - regards basic freedom of speech. That is one of the 10 laws under America's sacred Bill of Rights. Well, our ignorant, self-serving, pompous, bible-thumping law-makers and governor of Michigan passed a law that one cannot protest in-front-of a business. The penalty is \$1,000.00 per day! So my former protest at Bank of America would land me in jail today because I wouldn't pay that. Who would feed my cats?

Why would they think they could get away with that? Is it because they've gotten away with laws to jeopardize public education and all the other laws they've passed in the middle of the night crippling our unions, privatizing public employees, and other threats to the well-being of the middle class and those at poverty level.

They're running rough-shod over our society, taking a state we used to be proud of to a place we want to flee. Teachers don't want their children to be teachers. And the same goes for children of police and firefighters and factory workers. You'd think they'd care about their progeny they way we do. Business/Greed is running Michigan.

— **Judy Hood  
Bath**

**PUBLIC NOTICES****CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
NOTICE OF POSTING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES**

On January 18, 2017, the following minutes of the proceedings of the Meridian Township Board were sent for posting in the following locations:

Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road  
Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court  
Hope Borbas Okemos Branch Library, 4321 Okemos Road  
Haslett Branch Library, 1590 Franklin Street  
Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road  
Snell Towar Recreation Center, 6146 Porter Ave.  
and the Township Web Site [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us)

**December 28, 2016 Special Meeting  
January 3, 2017 Regular Meeting**

**BRETT DREYFUS, CMMC  
TOWNSHIP CLERK**

**CP#17-020**



# Winter of discontent

## Three challengers aim to unseat Lansing Council members

Two weeks ago, James McClurken became the first official candidate for Lansing City Council. He announced he's challenging Fourth Ward Councilmember Jessica Yorke, who has not yet filed paperwork to run for re-election but said she expects to seek another term.

On Friday, Jim DeLine, the former auditor for City Council, filed to run against Tina Houghton in the Second Ward. She hasn't announced her intentions yet.

And on Tuesday, Lansing School Board member Peter Spadafore filed to seek one of two at-large seats up for grabs this election. Those seats are currently occupied by Kathie Dunbar and Judi Brown Clarke. Dunbar has not made any announcement regarding her political future, whereas Brown Clarke said she is still deciding whether to challenge Mayor Virg Bernero for the mayor's office or to seek re-election to a second term on Council.

"Either way, I'll be on the ballot," she said.

The Council's weeks-long battle to elect its leadership team was "the last straw," for Spadafore, who is entering his sixth year of a seven-year term on the school board.

The Waverly Community Schools graduate, educated at Michigan State University's James Madison College, helped the school board navigate a controversy involving a school board member being charged with embezzling from an elementary school and the Lansing Pathway Promise. He was also critical to the \$120 million bond, approved by voters in May 2016, designed to restructure the district and how it delivers education.

He was also chairman of the body when it struck a deal to sell Lansing Eastern High School to Sparrow Hospital. That's a move that met with fierce resistance at first. That happened in January last year. The health-care giant has said it intends to try to keep the historic facade, but the building will be otherwise gutted as part of further exten-



Spadafore

sions. Spadafore said he is sensitive to the balancing act between development and historic preservation.

"Preservation is very, very important to me, but I also need folks to realize, sometimes, there has to be progress, or there has

to be a situation where it's not possible, especially with taxpayer dollars," he said. "The school district, for instance, we spent a very long time — since I was elected and then decades before that analyzing the Eastern High School question — all the data came in, all the information was presented to us and we were able to determine it was not fiscally responsible to use taxpayer dollars to preserve that site."

To address that, he said, the school found a buyer "that was interested in talking about that and keeping an eye on it." He wants to bring that same perspective to Council, a perspective he presented as being data driven.

For instance, on the contentious question of selling the Lansing Board of Water & Light, Spadafore said he's opposed right now but is open to data that make a different case. He also acknowledged that while tax incentives are important as tools, they should be "scrutinized more," particularly insofar as they impact other government areas, like

schools, and their funding.

He promises a leadership that will bring people together, not leadership marked by the factionalism of the past — between Council members or between Council and the mayor's office. That starts with his campaign itself.

"I'm not going to target anyone," he said. "This is about how I would be a good addition to the Lansing City Council. I think that what happens too often in City Council races and in our mayoral race is that there's enemies and allies. And I think we're all in it to make the city better, to do for the city what we can. So no, I won't be targeting anyone specifically. I think that they can stand on their records, and I will stand on what I've achieved and let the voters decide who's going to be best for City Council."

— Todd Heywood



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As the years pass we miss him more, not less. There will never be another **JOHN L. POLLARD**

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PEACE January 25, 2013

## School choice matters for Michigan families

In our country, we love to customize, whether it's a new addition to the house or the colors and fonts surrounding our text messages.

We choose everything, from our line of work to our preferred place to grab lunch (where we probably customize our lunch order). So it's easy to understand why parents want more choices in their children's education.

Parents understand that education options open doors for their children. Every child is unique, with distinct interests and learning styles. Moms and dads know that a school that might work for one student might not be a good fit for another. They know their child best and should be empowered to select the right school.

In many states, Michigan included, law-



**ANDREW CAMPANELLA**

makers have taken action to provide a more diverse variety of school choices for families.

From Jan. 22 through 28, millions of Americans will raise awareness about the importance of school choice at an unprecedented 21,000 events — including more than 700 events in Michigan. These events are planned to coincide with National School Choice Week, the largest celebration of opportunity in education in U.S. history.

For families in the Great Lakes State, National School Choice Week provides a good opportunity to review the different types of education options available to their children.

Michiganders can choose traditional public schools for their kids, and the state allows parents, with some limitations, the freedom to choose traditional public schools outside of their existing school zones. This process is called open enrollment, or public school choice.

Michigan also allows public charter schools, which are tuition-free public schools that are given the freedom to be more innovative. Magnet schools, which focus on themes such as math, science, technology and the performing arts, are available.

In addition, the Great Lakes State is one of 41 states with a tuition-free online academy, allowing students to go to school entirely online.

Of course, parents in Michigan can also pay to send their children to private schools.

Finally, parents have the freedom to educate their children in the home, and more parents are homeschooling their children than ever before.

Seventy percent of Americans support school choice, and January is the time to exercise the choices available to Michigan families.

Parents who would like to explore their options, whether or not they're happy with their children's schools, should consider exploring in January. National School Choice Week is a great opportunity to visit schools, ask lots of questions of teachers and administrators and talk with other parents to see which educational options are likely to be the best fit for their kids.

Parents who begin the school choice process in January instead of waiting until summer break will have more options available to them. Depending on which options seem best, parents may need to meet

deadlines for applications or scholarships, or they may want to enroll before a school starts a waiting list.

Why is this process important?

In addition to ensuring greater peace of mind, research has demonstrated that when parents actively choose the schools their children attend, or choose to educate their children in the home, high school graduation rates increase dramatically.

A student with a high school diploma will, over the course of his or her life, earn more than a quarter million dollars more than a student who has dropped out. High school graduates are far less likely to be incarcerated and are six times more likely to participate in community and civic affairs than individuals without high school diplomas.

Most important, though: School choice matters because every child in America has potential. Today's students are tomorrow's leaders, and when parents are empowered to customize their children's education, just as they choose so many other things in their day-to-day lives, great things happen for kids and for our country.

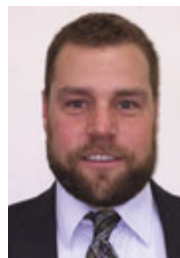
*Andrew R. Campanella is president of National School Choice Week.*

## School choice is not nurturing all children's potential

According to Andrew Campanella, the president of National School Choice Week, the purpose of National School Choice Week is to draw attention to school choice policies.

For the school choice lobby — including billionaire Betsy DeVos — this is a chance to make specious claims without referencing where their data came from. Their claims about the impact of school choice policies without citation are kindred to “alternative facts” and should be regarded as such.

We should take the opportunity offered by National School Choice Week to demand accountability from school choice proponents.



**NATE WALKER**

As a parent of a 4-year-old who will be enrolling in kindergarten in Detroit next year, I think a lot about my daughter's schooling. Contrary to how Campanella thinks of children, I don't think of my daughter's education as a pair of shoes or a

new phone or some other consumer purchase. I can't fathom comparing decisions about her education to choosing the color of a text font.

Public education is different. It is a common good my neighbors, most of our city, most of our state and my daughter depend on. What I want for my own daughter, what I want for all children. School choice policies are compromising high quality for all. Although the consumer metaphor is woefully inadequate, I can't help but ask: What's the point of lacing up the best pair of shoes for myself if everyone else on my team has to play barefoot?

Michigan's school choice policies are not improving the quality of public education in our state. According to the Detroit Free Press, in 2003, Michigan was ranked the 28th state in fourth grade reading. In 2015, we were ranked 41st.

Choice advocates assume that competition between schools will lead to innovations and improved performance. However, most schools are narrowing curriculum and focusing on test preparation. The high stakes testing culture created by school choice policies stifles innovation.

Recently, the operator of one of Detroit's higher performing charter schools confessed to me that the high stakes testing, used to rank schools in the name of facilitating parental choice, has hurt their ability to offer well rounded education.

Testing has not improved learning outcomes for traditional public or charter school students. According to an Ed Trust-Midwest Report using data from 2013-14, 70 percent of Detroit charter schools are ranked in the bottom quarter of the state's schools, and according to the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress, Detroit Public Schools are very low performing. After years of school choice policy in Michigan, the data confirm that test scores

are not improving.

School choice is not a rising tide lifting all boats.

Instead, school choice policies have created a system where public dollars are spent on advertisements instead of learning, and where schools lure students on count day with shiny bikes. When parents try to get involved or raise concerns about their children's education, they are told to go shopping somewhere else.

Instead of helping schools, school choice policies destabilize the districts that parents choose to send their children to. This November, The Economic Policy Institute released a report showing that unregulated charter school growth has led to fiscal stresses and inefficiencies that compromise a district's ability to provide a high quality education. This is one of the reasons why the Detroit Public Schools, as whole, has continued to struggle in the last 20 years.

Most disturbingly, according to a 2016 report by Bridge Magazine, school choice policies are re-entrenching segregation in Michigan. This is a troubling consequence of school choice. Increasing segregation undercuts attempts to create opportunity for all. It is a step back for our state.

We must determine if school choice policies in Michigan deliver quality education outcomes for all children. I agree with Campanella that school policies matter because every child in America has potential. Now it is up to us to decide whether our state's school choice system is nurturing all children's potential.

*Nate Walker is a former teacher who is now an organizer and policy analyst for AFT Michigan. He holds master's degrees in teaching and urban education policy.*

### PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION  
ORDINANCE NO. 1392

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 50-8 OF CHAPTER 50 - ZONING - OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING TO ADD DEFINITIONS RELATING TO THE EXPANSION, MAINTENANCE AND RECONSTRUCTION OF PAVING.**

Please take notice that Ordinance No. 1392 was adopted by the East Lansing City Council at the regular meeting of the Council held on January 10, 2017, and will become effective 7 days after the publication of the following summary of ordinance.

#### SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 1392

#### THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Ordinance 1392 would replace the definitions of Pave, and its Derivatives, Pavement Expansion, Pavement Maintenance and Pavement Reconstruction which were omitted from the Zoning Ordinance in error.

A true copy of Ordinance No. 1392 can be inspected or obtained at the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan during normal business hours.

Marie E. Wicks  
City Clerk

CP#17-019



# Hide it or flaunt it?

## BWL rolls out proposed designs for substation walls, solicits public input

When you put a power substation next to a park, do you try to hide it, hope people ignore it or lean into its industrial look?

That's the question raised at a Jan. 18 design charrette held by Lansing's Board of Water & Light.

At the second of three charrettes — meetings to inform the public about projects and solicit comments — the BWL unveiled three “conceptual designs” for screen walls and a corner plaza that would surround its planned \$26 million substation on the present site of Scott Park at Malcolm X Street and Washington Avenue.

A crucial variable in the design, the height of the wall, is still in flux. At Wednesday's charrette, BWL proposed a wall 12 feet high on the south side along the Grand River, a height of 12 to 14 feet high along Malcolm X Street and 16 to 18 feet along Washington Avenue. The designs included 18-foot-tall “tower elements” at the corners of the wall.

At that height, the upper portion of the transmission towers would be clearly visible above the wall.

That was a sticking point for Dale Schrader, an attendee at both charrettes and member of Preservation Lansing, a citizens group that opposed BWL's plan to put the substation in Scott Park.

“Even at 20 feet, it's every bit as ugly as we thought it would be,” Schrader said. “The substation poles tower over the walls.”

Schrader said his group will push for higher walls, including a wall at least 18 feet high on the south side of the substation along the river. (For purposes of comparison, the Great Wall of China is 26 feet 3 inches at its tallest.)

Schrader praised BWL's detailed presentation and efforts to solicit public input for the wall and plaza designs.

“They've been fair in showing what the views would really look like from the various points,” he said.

But he added that the result would be “ugly” no matter what happens.

“A lot of people, including our group, expressed concerns about the minimal heights of the walls,” Schrader said. “You can see the entire steel spine of the substation if it's only 12 feet.”

Schrader and other foes of the substation plan are still stinging from a bitter defeat last fall. In a 7-1 vote Sept. 26, Lansing's City Council approved BWL's plan to remove the nearly 100-year-old Scott Center building and move the 86-year-old sunken garden,



Courtesy Image

The proposed 12-foot height of the wall, seen here from Washington Avenue to the south, would leave the top of the substation infrastructure visible.

both of which are in the 6-acre Scott Park, to make room for a new four-acre substation.

The utility proposes moving the garden to the southwest corner of the 2 acres of Scott Park that would survive.

BWL officials argued that the screen wall, and the bells and whistles that go along with it, will create a fresh, highly visible gateway to REO Town, the resurgent district south of downtown. All of the designs shown at Wednesday's charrette provided for views of the river, including a viewing station near the relocated sunken garden, as well as a proposed fishing platform on the south side and a stairway down to the existing River Trail on the river's south bank.

The first two sets of designs featured a red brick wall broken up with towers and lighter layers of limestone. In the first set of designs, the wall was topped by curved metal louvers in various combinations. At Wednesday's charrette, two people commented that the first set of designs looked like a “ballpark” and didn't fit with REO Town's overall look.

Ken Jones of Studio Intrigue Architects, one of the presenters Wednesday, said he had already heard that comment from several people.

The second design played with variations on window-like cutouts, from metal louvers to McMansion-style windows with curved tops.

The third design got the most vocal support from the 30 people attending the charrette.

It uses darker masonry and window gratings, with the feel of public works projects and factories of the 1930s and '40s. Jones said the design was a response to community members who said the screen walls and plaza should reflect the “grit” of REO Town. Following the industrial theme, the corner plaza of the third design included three 8-foot-tall vertical columns subtly suggesting the famous three smokestacks, Wynken, Blynken and Nod, atop the nearby Eckert Power Station, which is scheduled to close in 2020. One variant of the third design included circular “portholes” that peek inside. Jones said the window-like gratings and portholes were added in response to public suggestions that the walls include views of the substation infrastructure and not try so hard to hide it.

All of the designs prominently featured new tree plantings and a lot of public art. BWL has committed to a budget of \$20,000 every three years for adding art to the screen wall.

A few of the designs presented included “green walls,” with plantings of various sizes and types, including “writable moss,” or moss that can be painted on to a surface in any desired design. But Jones emphasized

that “green walls” have maintenance requirements that add to the cost.

BWL officials said the walls and plaza have not been assigned their own budget, because the designs are still in the planning phase, but the overall \$26 million for the substation provides for some kind of masonry walls, rather than cheaper chain link fence.

A third and final charrette is scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 1 at the old Grand Trunk railroad depot next door to the REO Town Cogeneration Plant. BWL has invited community members to contact Annie Rzepecki, the utility's community relations coordinator, at amr1@bwl.com to make suggestions or schedule a meeting with Studio Intrigue architects.

*Eve Kucharski contributed reporting to this story.*

— Lawrence Cosentino



### PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF EAST LANSING  
ORDINANCE NO. 1389

#### AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING USE DISTRICT MAP OF CHAPTER 50 -- ZONING -- OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING

Please take notice that Ordinance No. 1389 was adopted by the East Lansing City Council at a regular meeting of the Council held on January 10, 2017 and will become effective 7 days after publication of the following summary of ordinance.

#### SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 1389

#### THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

The Zoning Use District Map is hereby amended to conditionally rezone the following described area from P, Parking and RM-32, City Center Multiple-Family Residential District, to B-3, City Center Commercial District in accordance with the conditions set forth in the conditional rezoning agreement incorporated herein:

341-345 Evergreen Avenue, parcel 33-20-01-13-226-001  
314 Evergreen Avenue, parcel 33-20-01-13-228-015  
328 Evergreen Avenue, parcel 33-20-01-13-228-014  
334 Evergreen Avenue, parcel 33-20-01-13-228-008  
340 Evergreen Avenue, parcel 33-20-01-13-228-007  
(collectively, the “Property”)

Subject to the following conditions voluntarily offered by the applicant and accepted by the City pursuant to MCL 125.3405:

- 1. Project Definition.** The Developer agrees to construct a mixed-use building (the “Project”) on the Property substantially conforming to the conceptual site plan attached as Exhibit A as approved by City Council also on January 10, 2017.
- 2. Zoning Use Restrictions.** Except as modified herein, the zoning use district regulations for the Property shall be the “B3” City Center Commercial District regulations of Chapter 50, Article VI, Division 4 of the City Code and the Property shall remain subject to all other district use and development standards, and all other regulations of the City Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 50 of the Code of the City of East Lansing, and shall remain subject to all other applicable state and local requirements for land development.
- 3. Parking.** The proposed parking for the Project shall be approved to the extent required by any applicable provisions of the City of East Lansing Code.
- 4. Compliance with Conditions.** Upon the Developer establishing a development or commencing a use upon the property subject to this Agreement, Developer and its successors and assigns shall continuously operate and maintain the development or use in compliance with all of the conditions set forth in this Agreement. Any failure to comply with the conditions contained herein shall constitute a violation of the East Lansing zoning ordinance and be punishable accordingly against the owner of the property.
- 5. Timing.** The Developer and the City agree that the approvals and activities described herein are conditions to this Agreement and if not completed in the following time periods the Property shall revert back to the RM-32 Center Multiple-Family Residential District:
  - 1.** The Developer shall commence construction of Building B within twenty-four (24) months and complete construction within forty-eight (48) months of the effective date of rezoning.
  - 2.** The Developer shall commence construction of Building C within forty-eight (48) months and complete construction within seventy-two (72) months of the effective date of rezoning.

A true copy of Ordinance No. 1389 can be inspected or obtained at the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan during normal business hours.

Marie E. Wicks  
City Clerk

CP#17-018

One version of BWL's screen wall design for the planned Scott Park substation, viewed here from across Washington Avenue, leans into the industrial look.



Courtesy Image



# OH YEAH GEORGE!

The jazz album that took  
two hours and 91 years  
to record

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Last month, George Howard went into the recording studio for the first time in his life.

So what? A lot of saxophone players make a lot of records — maybe too many. Why care about this one?

**George Howard  
"How It's Done" CD  
release party**

7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb.  
28

FREE

Moriarty's Pub  
802 E. Michigan Ave.  
(517) 485-5287,  
moriartyspublansing.  
com

Be patient, keep your ears open and we'll get there. That's Howard's approach to life. He will turn 92 on Feb. 22.

Born and raised in the segregated Deep South, a veteran of World War II,

witness to the heyday of jazz in 1950s New York, Howard has been a quiet mainstay of Lansing music for decades, jamming around town and busking on the streets.

If you've worked downtown in recent years, you may have tossed a few bucks into his saxophone case on your lunch hour and walked back to your cubicle with "Blue Skies" in your head. Or if you were down and out, he might have thrown you some of his day's takings, no questions asked. That's the kind of gentleman he is.

Loved and respected by his many local friends and fellow musicians, Howard can be reproached for only one thing.

He's been been holding out on us.

**Wavelength of midnight**

Last year, a nonagenarian with a sharp eye and an appreciative ear started showing up at Moriarty's Pub downtown. Jazz Tuesdays has become a hothouse where local artists, MSU students and world-renowned jazz professors like Rodney Whitaker and

Etienne Charles play for a jammed room every week.

Plenty of aspirants, from greenhorn students to retired duffers, approach drummer Jeff Shoup, organizer of Jazz Tuesdays, to ask if they can sit in with the band.

For a change, it was Shoup who had to coax the reluctant Howard to bring his horn.

"I didn't want to get up there with all those bad cats from MSU," Howard said last Wednesday. He was in a reflective mood, sitting in the living room of his friend, Lawrence Max, popping grapes and ignoring the bottle of beer next to him.

"You see, I'm not what you would call a Sonny Rollins or a Charlie Parker, with the fast stuff," he said.

Howard has no formal training, just big ears and a deep love of the music.

"I don't sound like the rest of the people, because I'm just playing me, how I feel about the songs that I'm playing," he said.

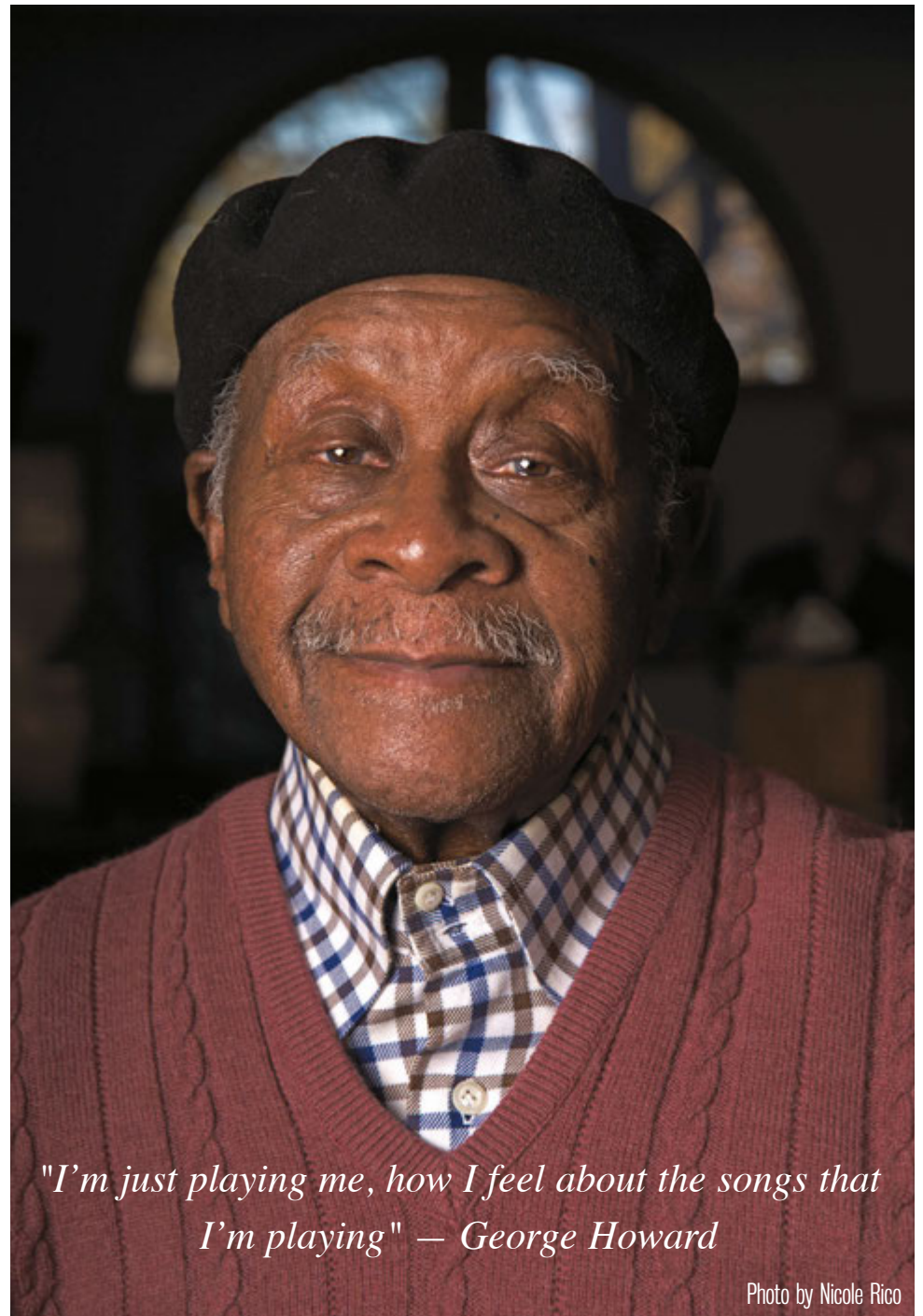
Shoup hears an endless supply of MSU hotshots, but he felt something special in Howard's sound — the rich grain of experience, ribbed with 90 rings of life. They played together once at a gig in Old Town, and Shoup never forgot that sound.

Over the decades, Howard has cultivated a tone as smooth as 18-year Scotch, gentle as a mother's kiss, sharp as your grandpa's fedora and dark as katalox, the royal ebony wood of Mexico — the wavelength of midnight, with a hint of purple.

A few years ago, when Shoup was working at a day job downtown, Howard was busking in front of a burrito place on Washington Square.

"I'd go for lunch and hear this sound coming from down the block," he said. "You don't just pick up an instrument and have a sound like that."

Finally, one night last spring, Howard got up his nerve and brought his horn to Moriarty's. Shoup made sure the best players, in-



*"I'm just playing me, how I feel about the songs that I'm playing" — George Howard*

Photo by Nicole Rico

cluding organist Jim Alfredson and guitarist Larry Barris, were up on stage.

"I knew everybody that heard him was going to be blown away," Shoup said. "Sure enough, he played his head off."

As the set wound down, Shoup shot a meaningful look to his bandmates. That sound had to be documented.

Just three weeks later, they were in Alfredson's home studio on the west side of Lansing.

The CD begins with Howard playing all by himself, sauntering into the first tune, "Bye Bye Blackbird," like a man quietly opening a door.

"He didn't count in or do anything," Alfredson recalled. "I'm like, 'OK, I guess we're going.'"

Shoup expected to record for at least two days, owing to Howard's inexperience in the studio. They were done in two hours. But those two hours were 90 years in the making.

**The 'black soldier'**

A thing called George happened to Howard's mother Feb. 22, 1925. She was about to go to Alabama State University, having graduated from industrial trade school, when she met some friends who were a little older and "a little fast," in Howard's words.

"They went on this hayride, and that's where I was made," Howard said, laughing.

He grew up in Birmingham to the sound of jazz, blues and gospel music.

"We had the good stuff," he said, "Duke Ellington, Woody Herman, all the big bands."

He walked past a well-equipped all-white school every day to get to a ramshackle school for black kids.

"They had a nice bus," he said. "They used to pass us in the wintertime, throwing spitballs and stuff."

He was drafted into the Army in 1943 and stationed in Italy, near Naples, in an all-black unit. He remembered seeing old peo-



# Howard

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ple and children scrounging for scraps in the garbage and giving them his rations.

“Those people loved us,” he said. “They called us ‘the black soldati.’”

On duty in Corsica, he got homesick for buttermilk and cinnamon rolls. A baker gave him two dozen rolls.

“No pay, no pay,” the baker said, waving him off. While Howard was on leave in Switzerland, a jeweler gave him a Swiss-made Richard watch and a bottle of French perfume.

A couple sitting next to him at the movies invited him to spend a day at their castle.

“They had every doggone album Duke Ellington ever made and all that stuff,” Howard said. “It was beautiful, man. They treated us like royalty.”

Segregated Birmingham was tough to take after that.

“When I got back to America, the same stuff was going on,” he said. “After all the hell I went through overseas, I wasn’t going back here and stay in a place like that. So I moved to New York.”

## Orbicularis oris

Howard arrived at Penn Station in 1947 with \$5 in his pocket. He landed a job at a laundry the next day. Soon after that, a school friend who worked at New York Hospital got him a job as an orderly.

Howard liked anatomy in high school and had a knack for it. His boss, a brain surgeon, overheard him chatting with a medical student one day.

“We were talking about the orbicularis oris (the muscles around the lips) and all that,” Howard said, savoring the Latin. He didn’t know it yet, but his own orbicularis oris would soon play a crucial role in his life.

Dr. Stanley made Howard his operating room technician, with a raise in pay.



Courtesy Photo

George Howard, at right, plays with an unidentified young man at a park in Lansing in the 1980s.

Courtesy Photo

Saxophonist George Howard listens to a playback in Jim Alfredson's Lansing studio Dec. 13, his first time in a recording studio at age 92.



At night, Howard made his way to the legendary Savoy Ballroom or headed to one of the most fabled stretches of concrete in jazz history, 52nd Street, home of Birdland, the Bandbox, the Onyx, the Three Deuces, Minton's Playhouse — birthplace of bebop — and many other clubs.

“I got poisoned by the saxophone players,” he said. “Sonny Rollins, Stan Getz, all those guys.”

Howard got to know Duke Ellington and his band on a first-name basis.

“Those guys were so beautiful,” he said. “They were just so enthralled over the fact that you liked their music.”

Among Ellington's men was Howard's saxophone idol, the sinuous and insinuating Johnny Hodges.

“That's why I wanted to play the alto — oh God, Johnny Hodges,” Howard sighed.

Busy with work by day and dancing and “meeting the ladies” by night, Howard didn't think of picking up a horn. He married Cora Smith, a woman he met at the Savoy, moved to Newark in 1959 and signed up with an employment agency. With a wife and three kids, he ended up working in the men's room at a country club, shining shoes to make extra money.

A customer kept on raving about a town called Lansing, Michigan, “where people are nice, and you can raise your kids.”

But Howard didn't like Lansing at first.

“It was too corny,” he recalled. “When we came through downtown on Washington Avenue on the bus, I said, ‘What the hell is this cow town?’”

A job opening for manager at the Lansing YMCA was hard to resist. He later took a job as a physical therapy technician at Ingham Regional Medical Center.

Jazz in Lansing was sparse, but on weekends, Howard took the bus to Detroit, where jazz greats were playing by the dozens.

“Man, that was it,” he said.

Still in the thrall of alto man Johnny Hodges, Howard went to a second-hand store and bought a \$69 silver alto saxophone that wouldn't stay in tune.

“My wife and kids would say, ‘Oh my God, put that thing away,’” he said.

He soaked it in the bathtub to make the pads swell up and force it back into tune.

Exiled from home, he practiced in the basement of a friend who ran a barbershop. He took informal lessons with Keith Barto, a veteran big band player who lived in Okemos.

The barber started to like what he was hearing in his basement and tipped off local bandleader Earl White, who led a quasi-funk band called Earl White and the Motiques. White showed up at the barbershop one day and told Howard, “Get your horn, we're going to Chicago.”

“You're crazy,” Howard told him.

“I said get your horn.”

White turned out to be a crook, skimming off the gig money for himself, but playing for the public was a rush for Howard.

“Man, that was a hall,” Howard said. “To me, it looked like 10,000 people out there, even though it wasn't that many.”

## ‘Oh yeah, George’

The saxophone “poison” surged into



Courtesy Photo

Howard was a weekly regular at Bomac's Lounge in Detroit in the 1980's.

Howard's veins, with no antidote in sight. He traded his alto in for a tenor, paying an extra \$450 for a new Selmer Mark VI.

In Detroit, he hooked up with a group of players from MSU who played Thursday nights at a club called Bomac's, on Gratiot Avenue near Broadway Street. They teased him about his lack of training.

“Here comes George from Lansing,” the organ player would say. “Let's see if he makes it through a tune.”

One week, Howard heard a raspy voice behind him say, “Don't let these guys bug you.” It was Marcus Belgrave, the great Detroit trumpet player.

“You sound good,” he told Howard.

“Some nights I was good, some nights I wasn't,” Howard said.

One night, playing the standard “Blue Moon,” he inserted the melody from the show tune “Some Enchanted Evening” so deftly that a musician in the audience took notice and came up to him after the tune to shake his hand.

“My head got a little bit bigger,” Howard laughed.

Back in Lansing, Howard became acquainted with Roscoe Mitchell, a legendary figure in Chicago avant-garde jazz, who lived in Bath, north of Lansing, in the early 1970s. Mitchell co-founded two of the most important avant-garde ensembles in jazz history, the Art Ensemble of Chicago and the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians.

“The man is a genius,” Howard said. “I learned a lot from him. A lot of people tell me I have a great tone. I got that from Roscoe.”

In the 1980s, Howard fell into a long-running gig at Jambalaya's on Round Lake Road with singer Panthea Hawes. It worked well, but Hawes annoyed Howard with her habit of interrupting solos.

“She'd get happy,” Howard said. Tossing aside his plate of grapes, he jumped out of his chair to re-enact the scene.

“I got into it and got wound up in my solo, she'd cut you off: ‘Oh yeah! Yeah! Oh yeah, George! Yeah, yeah, yeah, play it again!’ I wasn't going to play it again,” he cried, cracking up. “I wanted to move on. I'd say to myself, ‘Oh, Jesus.’”

One night in the 1980s, he sauntered into Baker's Keyboard Lounge in Detroit carrying a red saxophone, wearing a Russian fur hat and long, beautiful coat.

He jumped from his chair again to imitate his younger self, strutting across the room with a big grin on his face.

“People stopped talking and whispered ‘Who is that?’” he recalled. “I lied to them. I told them, ‘I'm just back from a gig, I thought I'd check y'all out.’ I didn't have no gig.” He laughed.

“I looked pretty good that night. I played the devil with 'em. I asked some ladies if I could sit down and join them. They said, ‘Oh, yes.’” He laughed again.

After Howard retired in 1989, he spent a lot of his extra time practicing his horn, with



# Howard

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encouragement from former MSU jazz professors Wessell “Warmdaddy” Anderson and free lessons from trumpeter Derrick Gardner. He married his second wife, Anne Paquet, in 1994 and they are still going strong.

In the early 2000s, Howard played at East Lansing’s Green River Café and busked on the sidewalk outside. When the place closed, he busked outside New York Burrito on Washington Square in downtown Lansing for about three years for free food and tips from passersby. “I loved it,” he said.

## Scot, scat and squawk

Terry Terry met Howard more than 30 years ago at an informal weekly gathering of musicians and artists hosted by MSU art professor Bob Weil and his wife, Judy.

Terry, now Lansing JazzFest director, had just returned from Guatemala and was sporting a beautiful shirt he bought there.

“The first thing Howard ever said to me is that he liked the shirt — and could he have it,” Terry said with a laugh. Terry gave it to him and went home in his undershirt that night. They’ve been friends ever since.

“A lot of people love George,” Terry said.

Howard has jammed for years as part of the OtherBand, a rotating group of like-minded artist-musicians including Terry,

Howard served in Italy in World War II and put a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D.C. last year.

Courtesy Photo



saxman Jack Bergeron and guitarist/bassist Dennis Preston.

“I play some grooves on bass for him and Jack to just scot, scat and squawk on top of,” Preston said. “I really like jamming with George. I’ll get a run going, and he lets loose on it. I just close my eyes and grin while I’m listening to him. His playing amazes me.”

The jams take place mostly at Terry’s house, in the spirit of the old Weil salons. The music is all improvised.

“Some artists just want to make art, they don’t really care about the business part,” Terry said. “Those are the ones I’d rather hang out with.”

## That’s not all

Nobody but George Howard can be George Howard, but people still ask him how he’s managed to thrive into his 90s. He doesn’t smoke, eats good food, exercises and is “very moderate on the booze.” But the master key to being George is clear to anyone with ears.

“Music is like loving God to me,” Howard said. “Any good music. I don’t care if it’s classical, hillbilly — if it’s good, I can dig it.”

People often ask him to name his favorite jazz saxophonist.

“All of ‘em,” Howard said. “They all have their own thing they want to say.”

Jim Alfredson, one-third of the chart-topping ensemble Organissimo, has played with dozens of jazz greats and toured the world with singer Janiva Magness, but playing with “George from Lansing” on the new CD was a unique experience for him.

“I feel like I’ve played with a direct link to the era of Lester Young and Coleman

Hawkins, which is really rare now,” Alfredson said. “He’s kind of the last of a breed of men.”

At the Dec. 13 recording session, Alfredson found himself checking his own tendencies to “showboat.”

“I was hearing his approach, and it affected my playing,” Alfredson said. “Take a breath, take your time and you’ll get there when you get there.”

The standards on the CD all have a special meaning to Howard. Although there are no vocals on the disc, he keeps the lyrics in mind when he plays.

“I heard this stuff all my life,” he said. “I listened to the big bands, Glen Gray and the Casa Loma Orchestra, Patti Page, Doris Day. All those songs are embedded in me, in my consciousness.”

Howard’s take on “I’m an Old Cowhand” is a sly delight. (It’s not an old cowboy song, by the way, with lines like “I know every trail in the Lone Star State/’cause I ride the range in a Ford V8.”)

And Howard’s orbicularis oris produces a particular eloquence on the simple, understated 1952 standard “That’s All.”

“It reminds me of my courting days, when I had this beautiful lady that I liked,” he recalled with extra warmth in his voice. “The love that I can only give you, that’s all and stuff like that. Now, that tune brought tears to my eyes. I think that’s the best tune on the CD, because it really got into my soul.”

He shook his head wistfully, half singing, “That’s all.”

Although a second CD isn’t out of the question.

“Maybe, possibly, if this one goes OK,” he said.

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# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC • THEATER

## 'Fantastic' recognition

### Haslett actress earns award for audiobook recording

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

It took 640 minutes, almost 11 hours, for Lauren Ezzo to record her parts for the audiobook version of Sarah Combs' "The Light Fantastic." It is one of several books she has recorded for Grand Haven-based audio publisher Brilliance Publishing. But something about this recording resonated with listeners, and the book was named one of the 16 best audiobooks of 2016 by AudioFile Magazine.

"When the best of the year came out, I was extremely surprised," Ezzo said. "I did not expect that at all. I knew that we had done a good job, but I didn't know that people liked it that much."

Ezzo a Haslett-based actress and audiobook narrator, recorded the book with reading partner, Todd Haberkorn. Ezzo voiced all the female characters in the book. She partially credits the effectiveness of the reading to the emotion the crew brought to the recording session, which happened shortly after the Pulse nightclub shooting last year.

"It's a book about a school shooting, and when we came in to read, it was an atmosphere in our studio," Ezzo said. "It absolutely came through."

The themes of redemption in the book did too, Ezzo said, adding that the actors were able to deliver emotionally charged yet controlled performances. She also credits much of her success to the direction she received while recording the story.

"I don't think I could have done it without a director," Ezzo said.

Ezzo planned to pursue a career in acting and never intended to narrate books. She graduated from Hope College in 2014, where she studied theater and English studies. Her work in narration started in the spring of 2015 when she took an audiobook audition as a way to build her resume.

"I don't want to say I fell into this job, this career, but I did," she said. "When I went to my first audition, I thought 'Maybe if they pay me it will be enough to cover the gas, and at least it will be enough to be a special skills thing.' But it is a career, it is a job."

"The Light Fantastic" is one of many audiobooks that Ezzo, 24, has recorded in less than two years at Brilliance Publishing.

"I've recorded maybe several dozen," she said. "I've got a few more coming down the pike. I couldn't tell you an exact number."

Ezzo was active in theater at Haslett High School and Hope College, and she has appeared on stage locally with Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. While recording audiobooks is a unique challenge, Ezzo finds parallels to stage acting.

"You're telling a story, which is what theater is, essentially," she said. "That's why I love both of these things."

Ezzo enjoys the challenge of audiobook recording, because it forces her to delve into her characters differently than

she would for a theater script.

"Ninety percent of the time it's just me telling the story to myself, and there's a lot of subtleties," Ezzo said. "The only thing you get is your voice, and that's it."

A unique difficulty is posed also when there are multiple characters in the same scene. She tries to steer clear of changing vocal inflection while reading, finding that it detracts from the story.

"If you're so worried about giving this middle-aged man a different voice than this middle-aged man, eventually everyone is going to sound the same, and the production value isn't going to be as good," Ezzo explained.

Ezzo plans to continue recording audiobooks while pursuing acting opportunities. A significant benefit of audiobook

Courtesy Photos

Left: Local actress Lauren Ezzo stumbled into a career in audiobooks after graduating from Hope College. Below: The audiobook version of "A Light Fantastic," which features Lauren Ezzo, was recently named one of the best audiobooks of 2016 by AudioFile Magazine.





## Better living through mushrooms

Comedian Shane Mauss explores the benefits of psychedelic drugs  
By TY FORQUER

Shane Mauss wants to talk to you about LCD, mushrooms and ecstasy. Well, that's not entirely true. He wants to talk about the brain. But he knows drugs will pull an audience.

"It's really hard to market the concept of telling jokes about the brain," Mauss said. "But people will come out and talk about

psychedelics, and then I'm able to explore bigger ideas of consciousness and psychology in a fun, palatable way."

Mauss brings his latest comedy show, "A Good Trip," to Mac's Bar Saturday. He describes himself as a "psychonaut," someone who uses psychedelics to explore the subconscious or otherwise inaccessible parts of his mind. Mauss, 36, began experimenting with psychedelics as a teenager. He started out smoking marijuana, but soon moved on to LSD and mushrooms.

"At first, I was just a reckless, rebellious young man who was interested in exploring different experiences," he said.

But over the years, Mauss' relationship with the drugs started to change.

"It started morphing into something I would do responsibly by myself," he said. "I would sit and journal about my experiences and what I was learning from them. It was a way of bringing out my inner world and seeing myself in a different light, using it as a tool

to gain a better understanding of myself and the world."

Over the last few years, Mauss has been experimenting with ways to bring scientific ideas into his act. His first attempt, the 2013 Netflix special "Mating Season," brings ideas of Darwinism and procreation instincts into jokes about relationships. His latest comedy album, 2015's "My Big Break," uses Mauss' experience of breaking both of his feet to explore headier topics.

"It was really about sharing these interesting ideas I learned about negativity and how emotions have evolved," Mauss said. "Pain doesn't feel good, and none of us like it, but pain exists so that we know when our hand is touching an oven, so that our hand doesn't burn off. I'm explaining the science of that in a fun way."

Mauss also hosts a podcast, "Here We Are," where he interviews members of the scientific community on a wide variety of topics. A former factory worker



Courtesy Photo

Comedian Shane Mauss explores the world of psychedelics in his latest show, "A Good Trip," which comes to Mac's Bar Saturday.

who never attended college, Mauss tries to make complex topics accessible to blue collar types.

"When I'm making the show, I'm thinking of this factory worker who doesn't have a college education, but that doesn't mean that he's dumb," Mauss said. "I think that all of us have natural curiosity, but for some people science seems too intimidating. I'm trying to show that we can all participate in this conversation, and we can all learn this stuff."

"A Good Trip" is Mauss' latest attempt to bring scientific ideas into his comedy show. In his own career, Mauss believes he has benefited from the use of psychedelics.

"It doesn't matter who you're listening to, whether it's Jerry Seinfeld or Louis C.K., all they're doing is 'Hey, have you noticed this thing,' pointing out things in that we don't notice in our day-to-day lives," Mauss said. "Psychedelics force you to look at things differently, so as far as I'm concerned they are a creative aid."

But he's found benefits off stage, as well. "Mushrooms, for me, are the most beneficial," Mauss said. "I've had chronic depression from the age of 10 or so, and they've really helped with my depression and helped me figure out directions in life."

Mauss is an advocate for the clinical use of psychedelics, which is mostly illegal in the U.S. He argues that using the drugs with professional guidance could help users gain insight or explore subconscious feelings.

"I'm not about everyone going out and doing as many drugs as possible," he said. "We need to have a more informed approach."

While mushrooms are his psychedelic of choice, Mauss finds each drug has different effects.

"I'm a very messy, disorganized person, and LSD is very functional for me," he said. "I'll use LSD, and I'll clean the house or organize some things. I use it to communicate to my non-conscious world that these are the kind of behaviors I want to be working on."

Mauss also uses drugs like MDMA — known in club circuits as ecstasy, rolls or molly — or MDA, which is similar to MDMA but with stronger psychedelic effects. These drugs, he said, boost feelings of empathy.

"I like doing MDA with my girlfriend; it opens you up to sharing problems you're having in a relationship and helps you gain more appreciation for the positive things," Mauss explained. "MDMA, back when it was legal and used clinically, was often used in relationship counseling."

Because of the intense emotions that come out with these drugs, Mauss encourages users to be careful where and how they take them.

"Most people think it's going to be some party drug," Mauss said. "And then it pulls up some things, you see things in a different light and learn some truths that can be hard to learn in a party setting."

Mauss believes that responsible use of psychedelics offers new perspectives, which can lead to better understanding of ourselves and better life choices.

"I'm very much about questioning our perspectives and our own versions of reality, because we have a number of cognitive biases, and life is incredibly complex and hard to figure out," he said. "When we recognize some of these self deceptions, we can have a laugh, but we can also forgive ourselves for a lot of the mistakes we made in life."

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# Goodbye, Miss Lezlee

**Librarian, storyteller Lezlee Worthington retires from East Lansing Public Library**  
By BILL CASTANIER

On a recent Sunday at the East Lansing Public Library, a seemingly endless stream of patrons poured through the doors to say goodbye to retiring librarian Lezlee Worthington who, in her 25 years at the library, was best known to many as beloved storyteller “Miss Lezlee.”

Many of the patrons who came that afternoon had first come to the library as toddlers or babies and now return with their own children — and even grandchildren — in tow.

“I had no idea that many people would come,” Worthington said. “Most of the peo-

Courtesy Photo  
Lezlee Worthington (left) shares a laugh with former East Lansing Public Library board member Tom Plasman. A 25-year librarian and storyteller at the library, Worthington retired earlier this month.



ple there had come to my story times over the years.”

Worthington became a librarian in an era when libraries still had wooden card files containing information on all the books in the library.

“There were cash boxes” for paying late fees, she recalled. “There were no cash registers.”

Like the rest of the world, libraries were on the threshold of a revolution. The rapid spread of the Internet and personal computing drastically changed the role of librarians.

“Libraries took on that job, and it was a big learning curve,” Worthington said. “Before technology, a librarian’s job was very labor intensive, including shelving books. We started automating, and everywhere I worked I ushered in computers.”

Looking back, Worthington recalls some technological advancements that already seem archaic. She remembers the early days of VHS, when most pa-

trons had to check out the VCR players themselves, because they were often too expensive to own.

“We moved on to DVD, then streaming,” she said. “A lot of people use the library to use computers.”

She also recalls how controversial it was in the library industry when libraries began renting movies.

“Today, libraries answer the question: ‘What are people wanting?’” she said. “We serve the public.”

East Lansing Public Library recently completed a major renovation, which included a new video game room, and an expanded technology room complete with 3D printers and a recording studio for podcasters and musicians.

Libraries, Worthington said, have also become community gathering places. Long gone are the days of whispering to avoid disturbing readers.

“People think a library is about books, but it’s not,” Worthington said. “Libraries are the one of the last places where

people will talk with you. People go to libraries for advice, to talk and to share experiences. It’s really personal.”

When Worthington began at the East Lansing Public Library, she gradually became the go-to storyteller for Toddler Time, Baby Time and Read to the Dogs. She said she focused on stories with “lots of animals” and used puppets with names like Nutty and Rocky.

“I learned on the job and was inspired by professional storytellers to get better at it,” Worthington said.

One of her loves was folktales. “They are simple yet complex,” Worthington said. “There is usually a lesson, a caveat or resolution.”

But she would also augment the stories and adapt them for children.

“Folktales can be kind of scary and graphic, and I wasn’t going to bring out the knives,” she said.

Worthington considers the time she spent as storyteller a golden age for children’s books.

“Children’s books today are dramatically different from when I started,” she said. “They have changed dramatically in cleverness and complexity and are richer than ever. Cool artists emerged using dramatic shading and textures.”

She said children’s books have always been a social barometer, pointing to children’s books about two dads or books that show diverse races and ethnic groups.

“When things show up in children’s books, you know society has accepted them,” she said. “Children’s books don’t move culture; they keep tabs on it.”

In retirement, Worthington would like to try her hand at writing and illustrating children’s books. She is also adapting her storytelling into what she calls “story totems,” which are hand quilted and appliqued totem poles. One such totem might feature a bear at the base, a blueberry bush growing out of its head and a cardinal topping it off.

“Bears are a symbol of motherhood or the female spirit. Bears love blueberries, and cardinals love berries too,” Worthington said, and she was off into storytelling mode again.

## SCHULER BOOKS & MUSIC

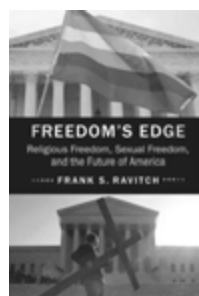
### Local Author Night

Wed., January 25 @ 7pm  
Eastwood Towne Center location

Join us for a panel presentation by accomplished authors from the state of Michigan. Featured authors are Regina M. Blaylock, author of the inspirational poetry collection *Inspired By Gina*; Michelle Cochran, author of the inspirational self-help book, *Lead Like the Sun*; and Valerie Hunsberger, author of the historical biography *Lost But Not Forgotten*.

### MSU College of Law Prof FRANK S. RAVITCH presents *Freedom’s Edge*

Thursday, January 26 @ 7pm  
Meridian Mall location



Meet MSU Professor Frank S. Ravitch as he discusses *Freedom’s Edge: Religious Freedom, Sexual Freedom, and the Future of America*. He takes the reader directly into the heart of

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# 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 Allison at (517) 999-5066.

## Wednesday, January 25

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

**Mindfulness.** Meditation for beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 420-5820, [ow.ly/CIHU305nMqx](http://ow.ly/CIHU305nMqx).

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**MSU Creative Writing Center Group.** All types of creative writers encouraged to attend. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, [elpl.org](http://elpl.org).

### EVENTS

**After School Action Program.** Light meal, tutoring and activities. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Eastside Community Action Center, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing.

**After School Teen Program.** For teens in grades 7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, [elpl.org](http://elpl.org).

**Allen Market Place — Indoor Season.** Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Farmers Market, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911, [ow.ly/Bol1303O4VE](http://ow.ly/Bol1303O4VE).

**Alcoholics Anonymous.** A closed step meeting. 6 p.m. Donations. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 899-3215.

**ICACS Whisker Wednesday.** Pet adoptions. All animals spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Noon-6 p.m. Ingham County Animal Control, 600 Curtis St., Mason. (517) 676-8370.

**Practice Your English.** Practice listening to and speaking English. All levels welcome. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, [elpl.org](http://elpl.org).

**Minecraft Game Event.** Ages 8-15 game together. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Dansville, 1379 E. Mason St., Dansville. (517) 623-6511, [cadl.org](http://cadl.org).

**STEM Storytime.** Ages 6 and under explore

See Out on the Town, Page 20

## Opening the curtains



Photo by Chris Purchis

Playwright Christy Hall (left) and director Frannie Shepherd-Bates sit on the set of "A Painted Window," a world premiere play opening this week at Williamston Theatre.

• • • • • Jan. 26-Feb. 26 • • • • •

While thousands prepared for the Women's March on Lansing last week, Williamston Theatre was putting the finishing touches on "A Painted Window," a world premiere play that puts the focus on two strong female leads.

New York-based playwright Christy Hall said she sees it as her responsibility to write compelling roles for women of all ages. "A Painted Window" is centered on two estranged sisters who struggle to reconcile, but the play also addresses issues of identity, class, race, age and consumerism.

"It started out as a love letter to Harlem, and then it evolved from there," Hall said.

Director Frannie Shepherd-Bates said the play is unlike any play she's seen, especially with the focus on older female leads.

"The characters in the play are all navigating their way through these challenging relationships with the world at large and circumstances that may or may not be in their control," Shepherd-Bates said.

She believes plays like "A Painted Window" can get audiences to consider issues from a different

perspective. Hall is excited to premiere the play in the intimacy of Williamston Theatre.

"It's kind of like it's a coming out party," Hall said. "It legitimizes the piece in a very special way."

Hall, who was raised in a small city in Oklahoma, developed her love for writing and creating at a young age. Her father, a writer, would read his own stories to her as a child. She took theater classes in high school and graduated from college with a degree in theater.

"It was really seeing people's response to my work that made me realize that not everyone does this, and this is special," Hall said.

Hall believes that plays are more than just entertainment, that they act like snapshots of the cultural landscape when they were written. And while the classic works of theater are important, Hall argues that creating new works and telling new stories can keep audiences engaged and prevent theater from becoming obsolete.

"We should always do Shakespeare, but it's truly

remarkable to see an audience sit down in their seats and not know how the story ends," Hall said. "It's incredible to see people's faces and know that they truly had an experience that they've never had before."

Hall emphasizes the importance of theaters that support new work, and she hopes the local theater community takes advantage of the opportunity to see a play before anyone else.

"Something is happening on the Williamston Theatre stage that is not happening anywhere in the entire world right now," she said. "Come and experience a brand new piece of art that right now is exclusively available to this community."

### "A Painted Window"

Williamston Theatre  
Jan. 26-Feb. 26  
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Friday; 3 p.m. and  
8 p.m. Saturday (no  
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— DIAMOND HENRY



# Turn it Down

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S MUSICAL LANDSCAPE  
BY RICH TUPICA

### FISHERKING PLAYS FINAL SHOW




**Friday, Jan. 27 @ Mac's Bar, 2600 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$10/\$7 adv., 8 p.m.**

Fisherking has been a staple of the Lansing punk rock scene, releasing a series of melodic hardcore discs, including "2 Songs," the "Forget It" EP and its 2012 LP, "Ghost." However, in late December, the band announced it's breaking up. The Facebook post stated, in part: "It is with heavy hearts that we must announce that Fisherking's days are finally coming to an end. We have been extremely fortunate to have met the best people in the world and shared the stage with the best bands in the world." Fisherking plays its final show Friday at Mac's Bar. Openers are Bike Tuff, React and Dead Hour Noise. In July, Fisherking released "True Nature," a five song EP. That, along with the rest of the band's catalog, is available as free downloads at [fisherkingband.bandcamp.com](http://fisherkingband.bandcamp.com).

**FRI. JAN. 27TH**

### JOHN MCCUTCHEON AT THE TEN POUND FIDDLE



**Friday, Jan. 27 @ Ten Pound Fiddle — MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. \$20/\$18 members/\$5 students. 7:30 p.m.**

Folk songwriter and multi-instrumentalist John McCutcheon has released 38 albums since the 1970s. A master of the hammered dulcimer, McCutcheon also has chops on guitar, banjo, autoharp, mountain dulcimer, fiddle and jawharp. His time as a traveling songsmith has earned him acclaim from the likes of the Washington Post, which dubbed him "folk music's rustic renaissance man." His latest LP, "Trolling for Dreams," features 14 original songs rooted in traditional Appalachian instruments, rhythms and storytelling, but it also enters the realm of heartland-rock music. The six-time Grammy nominee debuted on vinyl back in 1975 with his "How Can I Keep From Singing?" LP on June Appal Recordings. Over the years, he's had a number of records on the noteworthy Rounder Records imprint, which is best known for its Alison Krauss releases.

**FRI. JAN. 27TH**

### HOMEGROWN THROWDOWN: WEEK THREE



**Friday, Jan. 27 @ The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$12/\$10 adv., 6:30 p.m.**

Lansing's biggest annual battle-of-the-band competition, the Homegrown Throwdown, enters its third week of competition Friday. Performing this week are Sinhaven, the Century Soundtrack, No Stars and Mirrurs. Also taking the stage is Odds Fish, a Lansing-based progressive rock band that touches on both classic and alternative rock sounds — what the band refers to as "indie rock with a kick." The group comprises lead singer Meagan Earls, guitarist Will McCullough, bassist/backup vocalist Nick Kressler and drummer Michael Romblom. Keep up with the band at [facebook.com/oddsfishmusic](http://facebook.com/oddsfishmusic). Scary Women, another local female-fronted quartet, also performs. The stripped-down punk-rock outfit has booked steady local gigs since last year and also ventures across Michigan. Next month, the band has gigs in both Kalamazoo and Detroit.

**FRI. JAN. 27TH**

UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT [ALLISON@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM](mailto:ALLISON@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM)

## LIVE & LOCAL

	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.	Service Industry Night, 3 p.m.	Space Jam Party (FREE), 9 p.m.	Tell Yo Mama, 8 p.m.	DJs Ruckus & Lynch (FREE), 10 p.m.
Black Cat Bistro, 115 Albert Ave.			Mark Sala, 9 p.m.	
Buddies - Holt, 2040 N Aurelius Rd			John Persico, 9 p.m.	
Buddies - Okemos, 1937 W Grand River Ave			Lee Groove, 9 p.m.	
Classic Bar & Grill, 16219 Old US 27		Lee Groove, 7 p.m.		
Champions, 2440 N. Cedar St.		Karaoke, 9 p.m.		
Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.	Dale Wicks, 10 p.m.		Karaoke, 9 p.m.	Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Coach's, 6201 Bishop Rd			Blue Haired Bettys, 9 p.m.	Jammin' DJ, 9 p.m.
Darb's Tavern, 117 S Cedar St				Steve Cowles, 9 p.m.
Eaton Rapids Craft Co., 204 N Main St.		Steve Cowles, 6 p.m.	Darrin Lerner, 6 p.m.	
Esquire, 1250 Turner St.	Karaoke with DJ Jamie, 9 p.m.		Karaoke, 9 p.m.	
The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.	Live Blues w/ The Good Cookies, 8 p.m.	Mike Skory & Keith Minaya, 8:30 p.m.	The Hot Mess, 9:30 p.m.	The New Rule, 9:30 p.m.
Gallery Brewery, 142 Kent St.		Open Mic, 7 p.m.	Ladies Sing the Blues, 7 p.m.	Dennis Therrien & Mike Elia, 7 p.m.
Grand Cafe/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.			Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.	
Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.	"Johnny D" Blues Night, 9 p.m.	Karaoke Kraze, 9 p.m.	Star Farm, 9 p.m.	Star Farm, 9 p.m.
Harrison Roadhouse, 720 E. Michigan Ave.			Chris Laskos, 5:30 p.m.	
The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.,			Homegrown Throwdown 3, 6:30 p.m.	Captain Boom's Rave In The Cave, 8 p.m.
Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.			Fisherking final show, 8 p.m.	A Good Trip' with Shane Mauss, 7 p.m.
Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.	Open Mic w/ Jen Sygit, 9 p.m.	Atomic Boogaloo, 9 p.m.	Jim Shaneberger Band, 9 p.m.	Eastside Players, 9 p.m.
Reno's East, 1310 Abbot Road		Kathy Ford, 8 p.m.	Alistair, 8 p.m.	Bobby Standall, 8 p.m.
Reno's North, 16460 Old US 27	Kyle's Open Mic Jam, 7-11 p.m.		Bobby Standall, 8 p.m.	Elkabong, 8 p.m.
Reno's West, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy.			The New Rule, 8 p.m.	Avon Bomb, 8 p.m.
Ryan's Roadhouse, 902 E State St			Jake Stevens, 6 p.m.	
Tavern & Tap, 101 S. Washington Square	Tavern House Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m.			
Tequila Cowboy, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy.			Brent Lowry & the Drifters, 4 p.m.	Brent Lowry & the Drifters, 4 p.m.
Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.		Frog Open Blues Jam, 8:30 p.m.	Jimmy G. & the Capitols, 9 p.m.	Jimmy G. & the Capitols, 9 p.m.
Watershed Tavern and Grill 5965 Marsh Rd.	Trevor Compton, 7 p.m.	Dan MacLachlan, 8 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.	Capitol City DJs, 10 p.m.
Waterfront Bar and Grill, 325 City Market Dr.		Alex Mendenall, 8 p.m.		





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## Free Will Astrology By Rob Breznsy

Jan. 25-31

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Westward Ho! is the name of a village in southwestern England. Its name is impressive because of the exclamation point. But it's not as dramatic as that of the only town on earth with two exclamation points: Saint-Louis-du-Ha! Ha!, which is in Quebec. I invite you Aries folks to be equally daring. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you have a cosmic mandate and poetic license to cram extra !!!!!s into all your writing and speaking, and even add them to the spelling of your name! Why? Because this should be one of the most exciting and ebullient phases of your astrological cycle — a time to risk showing just how enthusiastic and energetic you are!!!!

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): The New York Film Critics Circle named Casey Affleck the Best Actor of the year for his role in the film *Manchester by the Sea*. In his acceptance speech at the award ceremony, Affleck gave a dramatic reading of quotes by David Edelstein, a prominent critic who has criticized his work. "Mumbly and mulish," was one of Edelstein's jabs about Affleck. "Doesn't have a lot of variety," was another. A third: "Whenever I see Affleck's name in a movie's credits, you can expect a standard, genre B picture — slowed down and tarted up." I suspect that in the coming weeks, Taurus, you may get a vindication comparable to Affleck's. I suggest you have wicked fun with it, as he did.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): The roulette wheels at casinos in Monaco have 37 pockets. Eighteen are black, 18 are red, and one is green. On any particular spin, the ball has just less than half a chance of landing in a red or black pocket. But there was one night back in August of 1913, at the Casino de Monte-Carlo, when probability seemed inoperative. The little white ball kept landing on the black over and over again. Gamblers responded by increasingly placing heavy bets on red numbers. They assumed the weird luck would soon change. But it didn't until the 27th spin. (The odds of that happening were 136,823,184 to 1.) What does this have to do with you? I suspect you're in a comparable situation — the equivalent of about 20 spins into an improbable streak. My advice: Don't bet on the red yet.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Born to a religious mother on July 8, 1839, John D. Rockefeller amassed a fortune in the oil industry. Even in comparison to modern billionaires like Bill Gates and Warren Buffet, he's the richest American who ever lived. "God gave me the money," he said on numerous occasions. Now I'm going to borrow the spirit of Rockefeller's motto for your use, Cancerian. Why? Because it's likely you will be the recipient of blessings that prompt you to wonder if the Divine Wow is involved. One of these may indeed be financial in nature. (P.S.: Such boons are even more likely to transpire if you're anchored in your sweet, dark wisdom and your holy, playful creativity.)

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): What influence do you need most in your life right now? Are you suffering because you lack a particular kind of help or teaching? Would you benefit from having a certain connection that you have not yet figured out how to make? Is there a person or event that could heal you if you had a better understanding about how you need to be healed? The coming weeks will be a favorable time to get useful answers to these questions — and then take action based on what you discover.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The next two weeks will be a favorable time to kiss the feet of helpful allies, but not to kiss the butts of clever manipulators. I also advise you to perform acts of generosity for those who will use your gifts intelligently, but not for those who will waste your blessings or treat you like a doormat. Here's my third point: Consider returning to an old fork in the road where you made a wrong turn, and then making the correct turn this time. But if you do, be motivated by bright hope for a different future rather than by sludgy remorse for your error.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In the beginning was the wild cabbage. Our ancestors found that it had great potential as food, and proceeded to domesticate it. Over the centuries, they used selective breeding to develop many further variations on the original. Kale and kohlrabi were the first to appear. By the 15th century, cauliflower had been created. Broccoli came along a hundred years later, followed by Brussels sprouts. Today there are at least 20 cultivars whose lineage can be traced back to the wild cabbage. In my astrological opinion, you Libras are in a wild cabbage phase of your long-term cycle. In the coming months you can and should do seminal work that will ultimately generate an abundance of useful derivatives.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In 1733, workers finished building the New Cathedral in Salamanca, Spain. But if you go there today, you will see two seemingly modern elements on one facade: carvings of a helmeted astronaut and of a gargoyle licking an ice cream cone. These two characters were added by craftsmen who did renovations on the cathedral in 1992. I offer this vignette as metaphor for your life, Scorpio. It's a favorable time to upgrade and refine an old structure in your life. And if you do take advantage of this opening, I suggest you add modern touches.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): I suspect that in the coming weeks, you will be afforded opportunities to bend the rules in ways that could make life simpler, more pleasurable, and more successful — or all of the above. To help you deal with the issue of whether these deviations would have integrity, I offer you these questions: Would bending the rules serve a higher good, not just your selfish desires? Is there an approach to bending the rules that may ultimately produce more compassionate results than not bending the rules? Could you actually get away with bending the rules, both in the sense of escaping punishment and also in the sense of being loyal to your own conscience?

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): I don't necessarily guarantee that you will acquire paranormal powers in the coming weeks. I'm not saying that you will be able to foretell the future or eavesdrop on conversations from a half-mile away or transform water into whiskey-flavored coffee. But I do suspect that you will at least tap further into a unique personal ability that has been mostly just potential up until now. Or you may finally start using a resource that has been available for a long time. For best results, open your imagination to the possibility that you possess dormant magic.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A London-based think tank does an annual study to determine which of the world's countries offers the most freedom. The Legatum Institute measures indicators like civil liberties, social tolerance, and the power to choose one's destiny. The current champion is Luxembourg. Canada is in second place. France is 22nd, the U.S. is 26th, and Italy 27th. Since I'm hoping you will markedly enhance your own personal freedom in the coming months, you might want to consider moving to Luxembourg. If that's not an option, what else could you do? The time is ripe to hatch your liberation plans.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): I love to see dumpsters that have been decorated by graffiti artists. Right now there's one by the side of a busy road that I often drive down. Its drab gray exterior has been transformed into a splash of cartoon images and scripts. Amidst signatures that look like "Riot Goo" and "Breakfast Toys" and "Sky Blooms," I can discern a ninja rhinoceros and a gold-crowned jaguar and an army of flying monkeys using squirt guns to douse a forest fire. I suspect it's a perfect time to for you to be inspired by this spectacle, Pisces. What dumpster-like situation could you beautify?

## Out on the town

from page 17

science, technology, engineering and math. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 272-9840, cadl.org.

**Teen Movie – Zootopia.** Popcorn while supplies last. 3-5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**Biology on Tap.** Presentations on plant drugs and on fungi. 7:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Sq. Lansing. (650) 269-3659, facebook.com/BioOnTap.

### MUSIC

**MSU Faculty Recital: Philip Sinder, tuba.** 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/FREE for students and children. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu/event-listing.

**Tavern House Jazz Band.** 7:30 p.m.-10:30 a.m. Tavern and Tap, 101 S. Washington Square, Lansing, 517-374-5555.

## Thursday, January 26

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**(TOPS) Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** Weigh-in 5:15 p.m.; meeting 6 p.m. First meeting FREE. Room 207, Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Haslett. (517) 927-4307.

**A Course in Miracles.** Group on peace through forgiveness. 7-9 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes St., Lansing. (517) 371-3010, unitylansing.org.

**Celebrate Recovery.** For all hurts and hang-ups. 6 p.m. Donations welcome. Trinity Church (Lansing), 3355 Dunckel Road, Lansing, (517) 492-1866.

**Mason Codependents Anonymous.** Support group. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Mason First Church of the Nazarene, 415 E. Maple St., Mason.

**Lansing Reiki Share.** Attendees benefit from Reiki treatment and practice Reiki skills. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Donations appreciated. Willow Stick Ceremonies,

1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. (517) 402-6727, willowstickceremonies.com.

**Starting a Business.** Course for aspiring entrepreneurs. Call to register. 9-11 a.m. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, ow.ly/XxKk307jucj.

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Elephant and Piggie Party.** Celebrating Mo Willems' classic characters with a craft, games and snack. 4-5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

### MUSIC

**Joseph Luloff, saxophone.** 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students FREE. Fairchild Theatre, MSU Auditorium, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu/event-listing.

**Absolute Music Chamber Series.** Margarita Shevchenko, piano. 7:30 p.m. \$20 in advance/\$22 at door/\$5 students at door. Urban Beat Event Center, 1232 Turner St., Lansing. (517) 256-8913, absolutemusiclansing.org.

**Lansing's Got Talent.** Local talent competition. 7-11 p.m. FREE. Reno's East, Reno's East, 1310 Abbott Road, East Lansing. (517) 881-8135, kathyfordband.com.

**Open Mic Night on the Michigan Princess.** Hosted by Fried Egg Nebula. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. FREE. Michigan Princess Riverboat, 3004 W. Main St., Lansing. (517) 885-8318.

### THEATER

**A Painted Window.** Play about family, loss, regret and the staggering power of fear and love. 8-9:30 p.m. Pay-what-you-can. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

### EVENTS

**After School Action Program.** Light meal, tutoring and activities. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Eastside Community Action Center, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing.

See Out on the Town, Page 21

## WEDNESDAY, JAN. 25 >> BIOLOGY ON TAP AT MIDTOWN BREWING CO.

Midtown Brewing Co. explores the wild side of plants Wednesday with its Biology on Tap event. The event offers two lectures: MSU Ph.D. candidate Carina Baskett presents "Plant Drugs: Thinking Outside the Pot," and MSU Professor Gregory Bonito presents "Plants and Fungi: Edibles, elixirs and intoxicants." The evening also features trivia, raffles and prizes. Biology on Tap is a sister group to Lansing's Astronomy on Tap, which offers accessible science presentations in bars and restaurants. 7:30-9:30 p.m. FREE. Midtown Brewery Company, 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. facebook.com/bioontap.

## JAN.27- 28 >> 'VISIONS FOR THE END OF THE WORLD' AT LCC THEATRE PROGRAM

LCC Theater Program alum Scott Crandall explores the idea of Armageddon through poetry, images and dance in his new experimental piece, "Visions for the End of the World." The 35-minute piece was developed through 18 months of research, writing, improvisation and sound composition. The work is part of LCC's "Climate Change: Film, Fact & Fantasy" series, which explores climate change through science, film and theater. 8-9 p.m. \$5-10 suggested donation. LCC Black Box Theatre, 168 Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo.



# Out on the town

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**After School Teen Program.** For teens in grades 7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**Current Events.** Get in "the now" with world events. 11 a.m.-noon. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

**Project Feeder Watch.** Learn about and watch birds to gather useful data. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave.,

Lansing. (517) 483-4224, mynaturecenter.org/programs.

**12-Step Meeting.** AA/NA/CA all welcome. In room 209. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing.

**CADL Family Storytime.** Held off-site during library remodeling. 10:30-11:15 a.m. FREE. Library of Michigan, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. cadl.org.

**Did the Early Christians Forget Jesus? Eyewitnesses, Oral Traditions, and Distorted Memories.** Public talk with Dr. Bart Ehrman. 7 p.m. FREE. Wells Hall, 619 Red Cedar Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-2930, religiousstudies.msu.edu.

**Drop-in Coloring.** Ages 13 and up color. Supplies provided. 2-7:30 p.m. FREE. CADL Webberville, 115 S. Main St., Webberville. (517) 521-3643, cadl.org.

**Genealogy Seminar: Part 2.** Genealogy

**JAN. 27-28 >> 'THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES' AT THE WHARTON CENTER**

MSU's 18th annual production of "The Vagina Monologues" comes to the Wharton Center this weekend. Last year, productions of "The Vagina Monologues" raised over \$4 million benefitting groups that fight violence against women. Proceeds from MSU's event benefit the MSU Sexual Assault Program. 8 p.m. Friday; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday. \$20/\$10 students. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

procedures, with use of Ancestry.com. Call to register. 6-8 p.m. FREE. CADL Leslie, 201 Pennsylvania St., Leslie. (517) 589-9400, cadl.org.

**Ladies Silver Blades Figure Skating Club.** All skill levels welcome. 9:30-11:20 a.m. \$5 and yearly dues fee. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. (517) 881-2517, ladiesilverblades.com.

**MSU Film Collective screening: LE MÉPRIS aka CONTEMPT.** Movie about the dissolution of a marriage. 7 p.m. FREE. B122 Wells Hall, 619 Red Cedar Road, East Lansing.

**Senior Reminiscing Series.** Join us for fun and nostalgia. 12:30-1:30 p.m. FREE. Williamston Senior Center, 201 School St., Williamston.

**Spanish Conversation Group.** Practice listening to and speaking. All levels welcome. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

**Sheldon Low in Concert.** Rock star performs at "Light up Shabbat" service. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 1924 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. shaareyzedek.com.

**Taylor Taylor.** Jazzy-pop guitarist/vocalist performs. 7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-1443, gloperahouse.com.

**Flint Water Crisis Fundraiser.** Featuring Tell Yo Mama. 8 p.m. \$8 in advance/\$10 at door. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/events/232674910522349.

**THEATER**

**The Vagina Monologues.** A reading for those affected by domestic violence. 8 p.m. \$20/\$10 MSU students. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

**A Painted Window.** Play about family, loss, regret and the staggering power of fear and love. 8-9:30 p.m. \$15/\$13 military and seniors/\$10 students. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

**Visions for the End of the World.** Original experimental piece with dance, music and more. 8-10 p.m. \$10/\$5 students. Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, www.lcc.edu/showinfo.

**EVENTS**

**After School Teen Program.** For teens in grades 7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**Project Feeder Watch.** Learn about and watch

See Out on the Town, Page 22

**Jonesin' Crossword** By Matt Jones

"Stuck on You" — so smooth, you can't even tell. Matt Jones

**Across**

1 A-list notable  
6 "Big Blue" company  
9 Exudes affection  
14 Tell jokes to  
15 Perrins's partner in sauce  
16 TV host with a book club  
17 Slow reaction to making tears?  
19 1980s attorney general Edwin  
20 157.5 deg. from N  
21 Insurer's calculation  
22 Gave bad luck to  
23 \_\_\_ Lingus (carrier to Dublin)  
24 Red-sweatered Ken from a 2016 presidential debate  
25 Voracious "readers" of old audiobooks, slangily?  
31 Responsibility shirker's cry  
32 Coyote's cries  
33 Gulf Coast st.  
35 Bitty amount  
36 Test versions  
37 Ditch  
38 "All Things Considered" co-host Shapiro  
39 Ninja Turtles' hangout  
40 \_\_\_ and variations  
41 Three fingers from the bartender, for instance?  
44 John's "Double Fantasy" collaborator  
45 Blackhawks and Red Wings org.  
46 Montana moniker  
49 1978-'98 science magazine  
51 "\_\_\_ death do us

part"  
54 Act histrionically  
55 What the three longest answers are actually held together by  
57 XTC's "Making Plans for \_\_\_"  
58 Adjust, as a skirt  
59 Corset shop dummy  
60 Newspaper piece  
61 Creator of a big head  
62 React to Beatlemania, perhaps

**Down**

1 Ill-bred men  
2 Auckland Zoo animals  
3 Fortune founder Henry  
4 Strong following?  
5 Doctor's orders, sometimes  
6 Societal woes  
7 Bird's bill  
8 Could possibly  
9 Franchise whose

logo has three pips  
10 Letter tool  
11 "Bang a Gong (Get It On)" rockers  
12 Facility  
13 Leave hairs everywhere  
18 Britain's neighbor, to natives  
22 Prominent part of a Nixon caricature  
23 K2's continent  
24 Haunted house warning  
25 Brewer of Keystone and Blue Moon  
26 Top floor  
27 "Quadrophenia" band  
28 Pacific Northwest-ern pole  
29 Craftsperson, in steampunk circles  
30 Nickelodeon's green substance-in-trade  
31 Actress Vardalos  
34 "George of the Jungle" creature

36 First name mentioned in "Baby Got Back"  
37 Jewish house of prayer  
39 Carmichael who coined the phrase "black power"  
40 Cannon fodder for the crowd?  
42 Seafood in a "shooter"  
43 Elsa's sister  
46 Folds and Harper, for two  
47 Unreal: abbr.  
48 Type of dancer or boot  
49 "In My Own Fashion" autobiographer Cassini  
50 Sticky note note  
51 Pasty luau fare  
52 \_\_\_ facto  
53 "Sex on Fire" group Kings of \_\_\_  
55 "Weekend Update" cohort Michael  
56 Haul a trailer

**Friday, January 27**

**CLASSES AND SEMINARS**

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

**Prerana Yoga Twerkout.** A workout aimed at your seat. All levels welcome. Bring knee pads. 6-6:45 p.m. \$5. American Martial Arts Academy, 402 E. Saginaw St., Lansing.

**MUSIC**

**MSU Faculty Recital: Jane Bunnell, mezzo-soprano, and Marc Embree, bass-baritone.** 8 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/FREE for students and children. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

**John McCutcheon.** Folk performer at Ten Pound Fiddle. 7:30 p.m. \$20/\$18 members/\$5 students. MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn

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## Out on the town

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birds to gather useful data. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-4224, mynaturecenter.org/programs.

**Crafts with ACTION.** Making rain sticks from paper towel rolls. 3-4 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

**Beginning Origami.** Paper folding art for ages 7 and up. 4-5 p.m. FREE. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 694-9351, cadl.org.

**Ice Worlds.** Examination of icy ecosystems and ice on other planets. 8-9:30 p.m. \$3-4. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. ow.ly/S30L307wkTS.

**StoryTime.** Ages 2-5 enjoy interactive program of stories and songs. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**JAN. 27-28 >> ART AND CRAFT BEERFEST**

Art, beer and music collide in REO Town this weekend at the Art and Craft Beerfest. The multi-site festival will take over four venues: the Cadillac Room, the Robin Theatre, AA Creative Corridor and Reo Town Pub. Each site features different art, live music and beer options. Admission includes access to all four venues, but your glass must be empty as you go between locations. For the non-beer drinkers, there is a variety of cider and wine, and food vendors are available. VIP admission includes early entry and 15 sampling tickets; regular admission includes 10 sampling tickets. Check in and day-of ticket purchases take place at the Cadillac Room. Friday; 6-10 p.m. Saturday; 5-10 p.m. \$35/\$30 adv./\$40 VIP/ \$15 designated driver. The Cadillac Room, 1115 S. Washington Ave., Lansing, MI. artandcraftbeerfest.com.

**Time Warp.** Ages 10-18 solve a series of puzzles to escape a time/space vortex. Call to register. 6-7 p.m. FREE. CADL Mason, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. (517) 676-9088, cadl.org.

**Art and Craft Beerfest.** Art, beer and music festival. 6-10 p.m. \$35/\$40 VIP/\$15 designated

driver. REO Town, Lansing. See web for participating venues. artandcraftbeerfest.com.

See Out on the Town, Page 23

**CityPULSE NEWSMAKERS**

HOSTED BY **BERL SCHWARTZ**

**MYRLIE EVERS-WILLIAMS**  
 Civil rights activist

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**Thanks to all who helped with our youth projects in 2016:**

- AJ's Socks
- Buddies Grill
- Capital Area College Access Network
- Dorsey Schools
- Edru Skate
- Everybody Reads
- Flap Jack Restaurants
- Go Green Trikes
- Go Workout
- Greater Lansing Home Builder's Assn
- Green Cricket Design
- Insuring Michigan's Future
- Just B Yoga
- Mancino's Pizza & Grinders
- MAT 2 Program
- Mid-Michigan Grant Writers & Consultants
- North Construction
- Old Town General Store
- Paper Image
- Peace Education Center
- Planet Fitness
- Preuss Pets
- Shumaker Technology Group
- Sparky's Electric
- Think.Create.Explore. LLC
- Young Entrepreneur's Association (YEA)
- Zaytoon

**yaco** YOUTH ACTION COMMITTEE  
 CAPITAL REGION COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: EASTON • INGHAM • CLINTON COUNTIES

**b21** building twentyone

**HOLT** PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
 teaching excellence

Check out localfirstmidmi.com to learn more and to subscribe to our email list!



# Out on the town

from page 22

## ARTS

**The Hob Nob wsg Gifts or Creatures.** Gallery viewings and live music. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-4800, broadmuseum.msu.edu.

## Saturday, January 28

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Contortion Workshops.** Multiple levels of contortion classes for ages 7 and up. Registration required. 11:45 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Jackson School of the Arts, 634 N. Mechanic St., Jackson. (517) 784-2389, jacksonarts.org.

**Reiki One Training.** First step in learning to use energy healing technique. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$50. Willow Stick Ceremonies, 1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Suite 3, Lansing. (517) 402-6727, willowstickceremonies.com.

## MUSIC

**Deacon Earl: BAD Brew Bourrbon Winterfest.** Live music and 17 specialty brews. 2-7 p.m. Bad Brewing Co., 440 S. Jefferson St., Mason. (517) 676-7664, badbrewing.com.

## THEATER

**The Vagina Monologues.** A reading for those affected by domestic violence. 2 and 8 p.m. \$20/\$10 MSU students. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com.

**Visions for the End of the World.** Original experimental piece with dance, music and more. 8-10 p.m. \$10/\$5 students. Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, www.lcc.edu/showinfo.

## LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Sound on and Page Down.** A Poetry Workshop with Mary Fox and Rosalie Petrouske using sound devices. 10 a.m.-noon. FREE. Portland District Library, 334 Kent St., Portland. (517) 647-6981, pdl.michlibrary.org/news-events.

## EVENTS

**Greater Lansing Chinese New Year Celebration.** Traditional Chinese parade and performances. 1-4:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. greaterlansingchinese.org.  
**Shane Mauss: "A Good Trip."** Comedian

## SATURDAY, JAN.28 >> STATEHOOD DAY CELEBRATION AT MICHIGAN HISTORY CENTER

The Michigan History Center honors those who helped create our state, including settlers, natives, laymen and statesmen, with its Statehood Day celebration. The day's activities include the premiere of the "Mlstories of Michigan" video, bookmaking, historic craft and trade demonstrations and folk tunes by violinist Laurie Sommers. Statehood documents, including Michigan's first constitution, are on display. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Michigan History Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 373-3559, michigan.gov/mhc.v

## SUNDAY, JAN. 29 >> LEGENDARY LADIES OF JAZZ

Lansing native Ramona Collins teams up with LCC's Faculty Jazz Quartet to honor some of jazz music's greatest singers. Collins, a busy singer who performs throughout the Midwest, will take on standards originally sung by legends like Ella Fitzgerald, Aretha Franklin and Billie Holiday. The LCC Faculty Jazz Quartet comprises pianist Dennis Therrian, saxophonist Jon Gewirtz, bassist Ed Fedewa and drummer Mike Daniels. The group, which formed in 2007, released its debut album, "No Vacancy," in 2011. 4 p.m. FREE. Dart Auditorium, 500 Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo.

## SUNDAY, JAN.29 >> AUX PETITS SOINS' KING CAKE PARTY

Aux Petits Soins, Lansing's only French cultural center and French language immersion program, hosts its inaugural King Cake Party Sunday. "It's just a good excuse for local Francophiles to get together, eat authentic French pastries and pick up a little French, if they want," said Gaëlle Cassin-Ross, founder of Aux Petits Soins. The king cake — puff pastry filled with almond paste — is traditionally made to celebrate the new year. Admission includes cake tasting and a glass of non-alcoholic sparkling cider; children's activities are available. 3-5 p.m. \$12/\$10 adv./children under 2 FREE. Hannah's Koney Island, 7940 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 999-7277, apsfrenchclass.com

discusses psychedelics. 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. \$20/\$15 adv. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795, macsbar.com  
**Art and Craft Beerfest.** Art, beer and music festival. 5-10 p.m. \$35/\$40 VIP/\$15 designated driver. REO Town, Lansing. See web for participating venues. artandcraftbeerfest.com.  
**Coloring for Adults.** Supplies provided. 2-4 p.m. FREE. CADL Holt-Delhi, 2078 Aurelius Road, Holt. (517) 694-9351, cadl.org.  
**Glen Erin Pipe Band's Annual Robert Burns' Birthday Celebration.** Piping, dancing, food, drink and poetry. 5-10 p.m. \$45. Eagle Eye Banquet

Center, 15500 S. Chandler Road, Bath. (517) 927-4010, ow.ly/8Jg7305Z8ch.  
**Minecraft Free Play.** Challenge yourself or teach family how to play. 2-4 p.m. FREE. CADL Okemos, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021, cadl.org.  
**SEAL: Tots Preschool Playdate.** Play, music and movement to encourage young learners. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 432-1472, museum.msu.edu.  
**Snowy Day Fest.** Winter activities and refreshments for ages 3 and up. 11 a.m.-noon. FREE. CADL Dansville, 1379 E. Mason St., Dansville. (517)

623-6511, cadl.org.  
**Winter Wonderland.** Wintry activities including hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, dog sledding and more. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Township. (517) 349-3866, bit.ly/HNCprg.

## Sunday, January 29

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Charlotte Yoga Club.** Beginner to intermediate. 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. \$5 annually. ALIVE, 800 W. Lawrence, Charlotte. (517) 285-0138, charlotteyoga.net.

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

**Kendo Martial Art Class.** Martial arts practice group. 10-11:30 a.m. \$5. Westside Community YMCA, 3700 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. (269) 425-6677, koyokai.wordpress.com/about.

## MUSIC

**Concert in the Cafe with Debbie Hyams Walton.** CD release for singer/songwriter. 2-3 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**Legendary LADies of Jazz.** Ramona Collins teams up with LCC Faculty Jazz Quartet. 4 p.m. FREE. Dart Auditorium, 500 Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 483-1488, lcc.edu/showinfo.

**Sheldon Low in Concert.** Rock star performs at "Light up Shabbat" service. 11 a.m. FREE. Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 1924 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. shaareyzedek.com.

## THEATER

**A Painted Window.** Play about family, loss, regret and the staggering power of fear and love. 2-3:30 p.m. \$15/\$13 military and seniors/\$10 students. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. (517) 655-7469, williamstontheatre.org.

## EVENTS

**Statehood Day Celebration.** Family-friendly activities with music and cake. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Michigan Historical Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 241-6852, ow.ly/Osk0308aoh5.  
**Game of Thrones Trivia Night.** Live music to follow. 6-9 p.m. \$10 per team. Michigan Princess Riverboat, 3004 W. Main St., Lansing. (517) 885-8318.  
**King Cake Party.** Authentic representation of a traditional French celebration. 3-5 p.m. \$12/\$10 in advance/kids under 2 FREE. Hannah's Koney Island, 4790 S. Hagadorn Road, Ste. 110, East Lansing. (517)

See Out on the Town, Page 24

## SUDOKU

## BEGINNER

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

## 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 25



OLD TOWN LANSING'S NEWEST INTIMATE PERFORMANCE VENUE

## Planet D Nonet CD Release Party

### A Salute to Strayhorn

Detroit's own down and dirty little big jazz band. Bring in this ad to receive half off your first drink!

<b>UPCOMING EVENTS:</b>	2/24 "Hate Mail"
1/29 Wine Tasting	2/25 "Hate Mail"
2/3 RWB Comedy Benefit	2/28 Grand River Connection
2/13 Mark Mehaffey Workshop	3/3 Arts Night Out
2/14 Valentines Dinner	3/10 Ritmo
2/17 "Hate Mail" by Generation Theatre	3/17 Sea Cruisers
2/18 "Hate Mail"	3/24 Deacon Earl and the Congregation
2/23 Sea Cruisers	4/14 Sea Cruisers



FEB 10<sup>th</sup> 2017 | \$15

LIMITED SEATING

Tickets: urbanbeatevents.com/events





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# CityPULSE

2017 TOP OF THE TOWN AWARDS  
ARE COMING SOON!



It's almost time for Greater Lansing residents to vote for their favorite businesses, places and people in City Pulse's annual Top of the Town Awards. This year, City Pulse is taking reader submissions for contest categories. The best suggestions will be added to this year's contest.

To see a list of last year's categories and to submit your own idea, visit [lansingcitypulse.com/totfcat](http://lansingcitypulse.com/totfcat)

## Out on the town

from page 23

999-7277, ow.ly/QMf5308adzB.

**Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance.** 6 p.m. \$8 dance/\$10 dance & lesson. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.

**One World One Sky.** Big Bird and Elmo take imaginary trip to the moon. 2-3:30 p.m. \$3-4. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-4676.

**Program to Honor The Four Chaplains.**

Pancake, eggs and toast breakfast with movie and program. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. \$6/\$4.50 seniors and kids. American Legion Post #269, 1485 Haslett Road, Haslett.

**Atheists & Humanists Meeting.** Program about "Looking Ahead: Our Country, Our Organization, Our Mental and Physical Health." 5-9 p.m. Asian Buffet, 4920 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 914-2278, atheists.

[meetup.com/453](http://meetup.com/453).

### Monday, January 30

#### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

**A Course in Love.** Weekly group dedicated to the study of the spiritual psychology. 1-2 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 230 S. Holmes St., Lansing. (517) 371-3010, unitylansing.org.

**HomeWork Help.** Drop-in homework help from MSU's College of Education Kappa Delta Pi. 5-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**Painting Basics: Acrylic.** Basic painting for ages 14 and up. 6:45-7:45 p.m. \$40. Jackson School of the Arts, 634 N. Mechanic St., Jackson. jacksonarts.org.

**Support Group.** For the divorced, separated and widowed. 7:30 p.m. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272, stdavidslansing.org.

#### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Graphic Novel Writing Club.** Ages 12 and up bring own supplies to make a graphic novel. 4-6 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**Read A Poet/Write A Poem.** Featuring the work of Muriel Rukeyser. 7-9 p.m. Snyder C301, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. (517) 884-1932.

#### MUSIC

**MSU: Musique 21 Featuring the Music of Andy Akiho.** Compositions featuring steel drum and more. 7:30 p.m. FREE. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu/event-listing.

**New Horizons Community Band.** Learn to play an instrument or dust off an old one. 9-11 a.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. (517) 355-7661, cms.msu.edu.

#### EVENTS

**After School Action Program.** Light meal,

See Out on the Town, Page 25



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## January 26 - February 26, 2017

WORLD PREMIERE

A  
**Painted  
Window**  
By Christy Hall

Directed by  
Frannie Shepherd-Bates  
Featuring: Ruth Crawford  
Dominique Lowell, Lynch Travis

A beautifully crafted play about family, loss, regret and the staggering power of fear.

But ultimately, at its center, this is a play about love.

[Pay-What-You-Can Preview](#)

Thursday, Jan. 26 @ 8PM

\$15 Previews

Jan. 27 @ 8PM

Jan. 28 @ 8PM

Jan. 29 @ 2PM

Feb. 2 @ 8PM

Williamston Theatre  
122 S Putnam St., Williamston  
517-655-7469  
[www.williamstontheatre.org](http://www.williamstontheatre.org)





# Out on the town

from page 24

tutoring and activities. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Eastside Community Action Center, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing.  
**After School Teen Program.** For teens in grades 7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.  
**BabyTime.** Ages 0-2 and caretaker experience rhymes and finger plays. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.  
**Social Bridge.** Come play bridge and meet new people. No partner needed. 1-4 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.  
**Driver On Call Presentation.** Learn about personal driving service that can take you to the doctor and more. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4406 Okemos Road, Okemos. meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

## Tuesday, January 31

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Capital City Toastmasters Meeting.** Learn public speaking and leadership skills. See website for schedule and locations. 7 p.m. FREE for visitors. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 775-2697, 639.toastmastersclubs.org.  
**H.E.R.O. Installing Lights & Ceiling Fans.** Simple electrical projects that can be done at home. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Greater Lansing Housing Coalition, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. (517) 372-5980, glhc.org.  
**Make Your Business Legal.** Tax, liability, contracts and more covered. Call or register online. 6-8 p.m. FREE. Small Business Development Center, LCC, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing. (517) 483-1921, sbdcMichigan.org.  
**Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** Have a support system, lose weight. Wheelchair accessible. 6 p.m. FREE first visit. St. Therese Church, 102 W. Randolph St., Lansing. tops.org.

### MUSIC

**Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's.** 7-10 p.m. FREE. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 485-5287.  
**MSU Faculty Recital: Dmitri Berlinsky, violin.** A celebration of Schubert's 220th Birthday. 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/students FREE. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu/event-listing.  
**MSU Wind Symphony Concert.** 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$8

seniors/students FREE. Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu/event-listing.

### EVENTS

**Rat Pack Tuesday.** \$5 classic cocktails and Frank Sinatra party. 4-11 p.m. FREE. American Fifth Spirits, 112 N. Larch St., Lansing. (517) 999-2631, ow.ly/5d31305pMUM.  
**Capital Area Crisis Rugby Practice.** All experience levels welcome. 7-8 p.m. \$3. Gier Community Center, 2400 Hall St., Lansing. crisisrfc.com.  
**After School Action Program.** Light meal, tutoring and activities. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Eastside Community Action Center, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing.  
**After School Teen Program.** For teens in grades 7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.  
**LCC West Toastmasters.** Public speaking group. 5-6:30 p.m. LCC West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing. (517) 483-1314, lccwest.toastmastersclubs.org.  
**12-Step Meeting.** AA/NA/CA all welcome. In room 209. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Cristo Rey Community Center, 1717 N. High St., Lansing.  
**Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous.** 5:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.  
**ToddlerTime.** Active storytime to build prereading skills. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.  
**Overeaters Anonymous.** Struggling with food? Overeaters Anonymous offers hope. 7 p.m. Presbyterian Church of Okemos, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 505-0068, oa.org.

## Wednesday, February 1

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Gentle Yoga.** Relaxing pace class suitable for beginners. 11 a.m.-noon. First class FREE/\$5/\$3 members. Williamston High School, 3939 Vanneter Road, Williamston.  
**Mindfulness.** Meditation for beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Donations welcome. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 420-5820, ow.ly/CIHU305nMqx.  
**Introduction to Audio Analysis.** Workshop on basics of audio analysis tools. 12:30-2 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. ow.ly/HPSX308a1hy.  
**CosPlay 101.** 4-week course on wig techniques, foam work for props, make up and more. 6:30-7:30 p.m. \$35/sliding fee for ages 13-17. Jackson

School of the Arts, 634 N. Mechanic St., Jackson. jacksonarts.org.

### EVENTS

**After School Action Program.** Light meal, tutoring and activities. 4-6 p.m. FREE. Eastside Community Action Center, 1001 Dakin St., Lansing.  
**After School Teen Program.** For teens in grades 7-12. 2:30-5:30 p.m. FREE. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.  
**Allen Market Place — Indoor Season.** Locally grown, baked and prepared foods. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Farmers Market, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911, ow.ly/Bol130304VE.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous.** A closed step meeting. 6 p.m. Donations. Pennsylvania Ave. Church of God, 3500 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 899-3215.  
**ICACS Whisker Wednesday.** Pet adoptions. All animals spayed/neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Noon-6 p.m. Ingham County Animal Control, 600 Curtis St., Mason. (517) 676-8370.  
**Practice Your English.** Practice listening to and speaking English. All levels welcome. 7-8 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.  
**Green Themes Presentation: Climate Change and Public Health.** Part of a climate action plan developed by Meridian Township. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Meridian Township Hall, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos.

### LITERATURE AND POETRY

**Wharton Center Inner Circle Book Club.** "The Berlin Stories," by novelist Christopher Isherwood. 3:30-5 p.m. Schuler Books & Music, 1982 Grand River Ave., Okemos. whartoncenter.com.

### MUSIC

**Margarita Shevchenko, piano.** 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$8 seniors/FREE for students and children. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu/event-listing.  
**LMM Hosts the Earl Nelson Singers.** Concert of Negro Spirituals and gospel music from post-Civil War Era. 1-2 p.m. FREE. Plymouth Congregational Church, 2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. lansingmatineeemusicale.org.

# TOP 5

## DINING GUIDE

THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN  
GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED  
BY CITY PULSE READERS

*Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2016 Top of the Town contest, we've assembled a guide to your favorite Lansing-area eateries. We'll run single categories in the paper periodically, but the complete dining guide is always available on our website or on our official mobile app, The Pulse. The app is available on iPhone and Android platforms; head over to facebook.com/lansingapp or text "pulse" to 77948 for links to download.*  
*Bon appétit!*

## TOP 5 STEAK

**#1 CAPITAL PRIME**  
 Upscale surf and turf restaurant with contemporary ambiance  
 2324 Showtime Drive, Lansing.  
 (517) 377-7463  
 capitalprimelansing.com  
 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11:30 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday; 2-9 p.m. Sunday

**#2 TEXAS ROADHOUSE**  
 City Pulse readers love the steaks and service at this casual steakhouse  
 280 E. Edgewood Blvd, Lansing  
 (517) 887-8181  
 texasroadhouse.com  
 4 p.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 4 p.m.-11 p.m. Friday; 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday; 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday

**#3 KNIGHT CAP**  
 One of Lansing's oldest restaurants, re-opened last year with revamped menu and upscale interior  
 320 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
 (517) 484-7676  
 knightcap.com  
 4 p.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 4 p.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; closed Sunday

**#4 OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE**  
 Australian-themed steakhouse famous for its Bloomin' Onion  
 707 Brookside, Lansing  
 (517) 321-3100  
 outback.com  
 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 11 a.m.-9p.m. Sunday

**#5 LONGHORN STEAKHOUSE**  
 City Pulse readers recommend the bacon-wrapped sirloin and parmesan-crusted asparagus at this chain steakhouse  
 5796 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing  
 (517) 703-9041  
 longhornsteakhouse.com  
 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday



### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 23

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

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

C	E	L	E	B	I	B	M	D	O	T	E	S
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## LAMBS' GATE ANTIQUES / THE LIFE THAT'S LIVED THERE VINTAGE MARKET PLACE

Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Lambs' Gate Antiques in Old Town will close at the end of February. The following month, it will be replaced by The Life That's Lived There Vintage Market Place, which will focus more on reclaimed and "upcycled" antique and vintage home decor.

### By ALLANI I. ROSS

For about two months, Jill Rinner had a "nagging feeling" to go see her old colleague, Carol Lamb, owner/operator of **Lambs' Gate Antiques** in Old Town. The two women met in the early 2000s, when Lamb was operating an antique shop in Grand Ledge and Rinner was one of her regular customers. The two grew friendly over the years as they ran into each other at estate sales, but it had been a few years since Rinner had visited Lamb.

"I couldn't quite place it, but I just felt compelled to pay her a visit," Rinner said. "Turns out, the universe was trying to tell me something."

Earlier this month — unbeknownst to Rinner — Lamb announced that she would be retiring at the end of February. She had planned a massive, month-long sale to sell everything she could — including shelves and the cash register — to make way for the next tenant before heading into retirement from retail.

"It was a bittersweet decision, but I'm in my 60s now, and I just want to slow down," Lamb said. "The shop is doing well, but my husband's retiring this year and we want to do more traveling. I think I'll always be an antique (dealer), but it was time to get out from behind the counter."

For several years, Lamb rented space in antique malls where she sold items she had collected and "picked." Then in 2001, she opened the original brick-and-mortar version

of Lambs' Gate Antiques in Grand Ledge. Styles and items varied, including clothes, home décor items and memorabilia. On any given week, Lambs' Gate shoppers could pick their way through old cameras, antique art, vintage dresses and old-timey straight razors.

"It started as a 'chick shop,' with flowers on everything," Lamb said. "But over time, I made a point to include children's things and stuff that guys like. People think of antiquing as something old ladies do, but the last few years, I've seen a huge increase in younger shoppers, many of them men. Reusing and repurposing older things has become very popular."

The Old Town store became Lamb's second location in 2010, and two years later, she closed the Grand Ledge store to focus on the Lansing shop. But as she watched her grandchildren grow up — she used to keep a playpen behind the counter for them when they were babies — she felt the pull away from a full-time job.

"I had always dreamed of having my own store, and I'm very lucky to have made it work for the last 16 years," Lamb said. "But with all my grandchildren moved out of state now, it's given me some perspective. It's time for me to say goodbye."

That's where Rinner comes in. She is the co-owner of Bungalow 47, a Haslett-based company that designs specialty paint lines. The business grew out of a new and vintage home décor store of the same name she started in

Williamston in 2011 with her business partner, Chantelle Deimling. The duo worked on some projects using chalk and clay paint, a natural product first used by in early human cave drawings. For antiquers, it's easy to distress and works well on a variety of surfaces, including wood, metal, glass and ceramics.

"This type of paint became quite popular in the home décor marketplace about six years ago," Rinner said. "We were part of the beginning, and we found ourselves wanting to create a product that worked to our specifications, and for the retailers around the country we sold to, small boutique shops like us."

Rinner and Deimling worked with a chemist to develop a chalk-and-clay-based paint that is solvent free and American made. The paint line took off, and it now features 20 designer colors. That success necessitated a move into a larger building in Haslett. They also reached out to national home décor brands to develop customized paint for their customers. Junk Gypsy, a Texas-based brand, offers 18 colors, and Shabby Chic, based in California, has 10. Last summer, Rinner and Deimling decided to close the store to focus on the paint and support for their over 300 U.S. retailers.

"But I really missed it," Rinner said of the retail business. "Then I found myself in Old Town last week, and I gave in to this nagging feeling I'd had to go see Carol, and she told me she was closing. And just the day before, a deal with a different business to take over (the space) had fallen through. Carol said to me, 'You should really take this over.'"

"I couldn't think of anyone better to turn it over to," Lamb said. "She's going to be a great fit for Old Town. Her style and approach to antiquing are going to appeal to a lot of people and keep my regular customers coming back."

Last year, Rinner started a blog, *The Life That's Lived There* (thelifethatslivedthere.com), where she waxes philosophical on personal life goals, adventures in picking and, of course, the world of home décor. That will also be the name of the new store when it opens sometime this spring: **The Life That's Lived There Vintage Marketplace**.

"The landlord is going to redo the floors, so everything's coming out before I get to move in," Rinner said. "And it's definitely going to have a different look. My style is different — a little funkier, a little weirder. I'll be keeping a lot of things that people like, (such as) the

postcard area, which some people spend an hour and half going through. But I plan to have everything (staged) differently and share my vision of how to live with vintage items."

Rinner will continue to co-run Bungalow 47 with her partner, with *The Life That's Lived There* being more of a "nights and weekends" gig. She said the store will have more of a homelike feel but with "a few surprises" mixed in. She'll continue to use the five pickers that Lamb purchased from but will add her own flavor.

"My design philosophy is to include sentimental objects in your designs but to make them your own," Rinner said. "You can take grandma's dresser, give it a coat of bright paint, and you're able to use something old in a new way. All the people who love Carol's style are going to feel at home here, but I plan to bring in lots of new pickers as well. I'm just glad I listened to that voice in my head."

**Lambs' Gate Antiques**  
**1219 Turner St., Lansing**  
**11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; closed Sunday and Monday**  
**(517) 999-7277,**  
**facebook.com/lambsgateantiques**



Allan I. Ross/City Pulse

Carol Lamb will close her Old Town store, Lambs' Gate Antiques, at the end of February. Her store features antique and vintage items, including this (not for sale) women's suffrage poster.

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# Meaty Mary — Meat Southern BBQ

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mix of sweetness and salt. It also has a good peppery kick, and it's hearty without being too thick — a tough balance to strike.

The drink is garnished with an olive, a pickle spear, celery, half of a jalapeño and — of course — bacon. What else would you expect from a place that describes its soft drinks selection as “vegetarian options”?

— TY FORQUER



## What's your favorite dish/drink?

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

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