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September 10-16, 2014



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|--|---|
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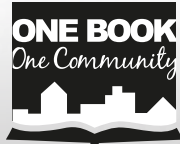
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# Feedback

## Love God, not the church

After reading "Love the Church, Hate the Dogma", I am glad I have repudiated further affiliation with this contemptible and offensive institution.

At age 16 in 1970, I began my pursuit of ministry. I've concluded my query quest quandary and am convinced the premise of the church is fundamentally false propagating a big God lie. All God brands are wrong. Don't got it won't get it right.

Even though I'm not gay, I've ascertained that God don't take sides and can never con-

done nor sanction implementation of bully tactics against the love of homosexual couples. With the church at forefront of bully crusade, its little wonder if this campaign will ever be adequately resolved.

I suspect that God is embarrassed by these so called ambassadors and that the devil is ecstatic with such compatible allies. The sin of the church shines in a world saturated with hatred.

The diabolical history of this monolithic albatross chronicles execution of egregious evil corrupting consciousness contaminating existence. Worst character attributes and traits have been amplified and projected upon a deity in order for leaders to justify and validate unleashing horrendous atrocities throughout the world.

It is preposterous how modern era continues to be held captive by this despicably outmoded outdated archaic edifice for 2000 years. This perverse monstrosity handicaps spiritual advancement driving charge straight to hell rather than facilitate salvation establishing heaven on earth as originally created.

Considering how the church is a major antagonist in global melee and given that about half total population is subject to any one of a plethora mutated variations of God concept,

I ponder if it is at all possible for another renaissance established upon enlightened intelligence.

Rather than establish another faction it is imperative to transcend and transform impediments for achievement of peace and prosperity. It is important to recognize all God books and buildings are human concoctions and constructions according to prevailing ignorance and prejudices having nothing to do with a genuine and authentic truth of God. I propose instead the DIVINE DISCIPLES ASSEMBLY where all children of God are welcome to gather and celebrate life and self.

—Dale Bryon Dobberstein Eaton Rapids

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

2.) Write a guest column:

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 371-5600 ext. 10

(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.)

# CityPULSE

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## CITY PULSE THIS WEEK

7 p.m. Wednesdays



- Timothy Muffitt, conductor, Lansing Symphony Orchestra
- LSO guest violinist Yevgeny Kutik
- Carol Dunitz of "Bernhardt on Broadway"
- BWL Commission Chairman David Price



**IMPACT 89FM**

## THIS MODERN WORLD

BY TOM TOMORROW



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## PULSE

## NEWS &amp; OPINION

## Generation violence

The headlines late last month all trumpeted the news: Nine shootings in nine days. It was “uncommon” for Lansing, city police say, but an aberration in crime for the area, not a trend.

“There were five individuals who sustained injuries and four residents/vehicles that were damaged,” said Chief Michael Yankowski. “The volume of gun violence during this timeframe is unusual. The investigations have revealed no analytical pattern other than the fact that each shooting had an intended target. None on the shootings were random. The investigations have been able to establish that two or three of the shootings were retaliation related.”

The retaliation related shootings, Yankowski said, stemmed from a recent

homicide in the city.

Despite this “unusual” trend, the chief said violent crime in the city is down 12 percent over last year; while homicide is down 25 percent; home invasions are down 14 percent and crime overall is down 8 percent.

Bishop David Maxwell, director of the Mayor’s Office of Community and Faith Based Initiatives and a local minister, says the perception that crime is up and people are not safe after a series of shootings such as those experienced in Lansing is not an uncommon response.

“It’s one thing to have a someone break into your car, then it is another thing to have gunfire in your neighborhood,” Maxwell said. “The reaction is more visceral.”

He also pointed to the attention national media have paid to increasing gun violence in nearby locations such as Flint, Detroit and Chicago; noting it is natural to “lump” local trends into national trends.

Both Maxwell and Yankowski point towards a disturbing trend in violence in

general and gun violence particularly: it is mostly driven by youth 14-28.

“They are so much quicker to pick up a handgun to settle their differences,” the chief says. He notes that shootings often stem from simple interactions that young people perceive as “disrespect.”

“I think it is generational,” Maxwell said.

For Maxwell, a part of the issue is the ongoing loss of neighborhood schools. He recalls growing up in Flint during the '70s, where life centered around the neighborhood school. And because living in the neighborhood meant you also attended that neighborhood school, the peer group was limited to neighborhood geography. This, Maxwell said, created a stronger sense of community and connection.

“Your mother knew my mother,” he said.

But that has disappeared, he noted. Neighborhood schools are closing in tight budget times, and

See Crime, Page 6

## Haunted by history

Demolished house near Eaton Rapids brought visions of fugitive slaves

Bob Albaugh straddled the rubble of a demolished house in Hamlin Township, near Eaton Rapids, last Thursday evening.

“Everything in this house was built for a particular purpose,” he said.



Albaugh

The extra large cistern with no water line, the smooth beam in the attic, the trap-door in the kitchen — to Bob and his wife, Pat, who owned the house at 9740 Kinneville Road, it all added up to one thing: The timber-framed hulk was a stop on the Underground Railroad.

The claim was never verified, though, and it’s unlikely to be. The house came down two weeks ago.

“The structure was going,” Pat Albaugh said. “It was unsafe. I guess we weren’t very good stewards of it.”

Pat Albaugh researched the house’s history for 20 years and never found



Photo by Benjamin Hall

Bob Albaugh believes this now demolished Hamlin Township house could have been a part of the Underground Railroad.

anything conclusive, not even the date the house was built.

Bob Albaugh tried more direct methods.

Several years ago, he scrutinized the attic from every angle. There seemed to be no way in.

Determined to get inside, he took a power saw to the ceiling, but the saw violently shuddered in his hands. The boards weren’t nailed to the beams. He moved the boards aside and found a spacious attic room.

The beam across the attic floor was smooth and worn, unlike the roughly planed ones at the edges of the house.

“It was from people sitting on there,” he said.

Albaugh thought it all out. Years ago,

he said, a barn with a tall cupola sat across the road. Fugitives traveling along the Grand River a few miles away would spot a light in the window, signaling that the house was safe to approach.

Edwina Murphy, an expert on the Underground Railroad and a member of Michigan’s Freedom Trail Commission, said it’s easy to be misled by odd architecture.

“Houses are just quirky and so are their builders,” Murphy said. “I grew up in a house that had crazy little things like that, and it was in no way affiliated with the Underground Railroad.”

Murphy, the curator of the Michigan Collection at the Library of Michigan, said that no documented Underground

See Haunted, Page 8



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



**Property:** 1401 Moores River Drive, Lansing

This property once served as a corner grocery, built in the 1920s by Anna and Michael Scieszka, who had recently emigrated from Poland. The simple wood-framed building sat a few steps above the sidewalk on a rusticated concrete block foundation. Like many small, family-owned groceries of the era, the building supplied the needs of its immediate neighborhood with fresh groceries and produce. Deliveries were even offered.

The building was sold in 1958, continuing use as a grocery and later a beauty salon and a business equipment store. Unfortunately, it fell into disrepair and in 2008 was featured as a City Pulse Eyesore. At that time, the storefront was blocked with a large ramp, while peeling paint and dense weeds characterized the former grocery. Although its owner had indicated that the structure was scheduled to be converted to an art gallery or bookstore, the property was foreclosed and demolished in 2013.

Neighbors banded together and created the garden on the site. Donations were collected from far and near, nurturing the welcome transformation. According to a descendant of the property’s original owners, the garden still needs another season to fully flourish. However, it is a decided improvement over the derelict building.

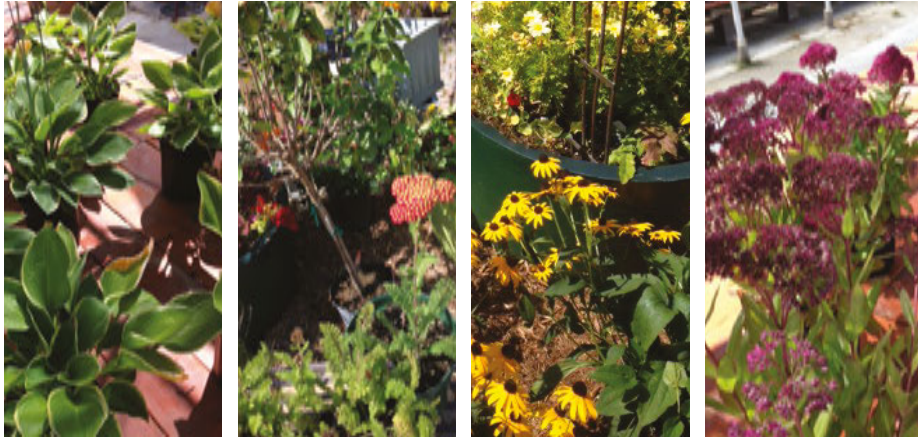
— Dan E. Bollman, AIA

(City Pulse reader Marion L. Cornett contributed to this story)

“Eye candy of the Week” is our weekly look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eyesore of the Week. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail [eye@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call Andy Balaskovitz at 999-5064.

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## Crime

from page 5

adding to those woes, students can opt out of the neighborhood altogether — choosing to attend neighboring schools or charter schools.

Add into this the shifting demographics of single-parent homes and the economic burdens of single parenting, Maxwell says, and youth often find themselves turning to peer groups with very little adult supervision for socializing and association.

But there are ways to address the problems, Maxwell and Yankowski said.

Yankowski said LPD is taking a two prong approach to the situation. One is aggressive police enforcement. The other is school programming targeting late elementary and early middle school students with conflict resolution education.

The department launched an educational program GREAT — Gang Resistance Education and Training

Program — in January. The program reaches students 5th grade to 8th grade, teaching them conflict resolution skills, and engaging the youth in programs such as youth sporting.

In May, LPD launched the Violent Crime Impact Team. This team consists of a sergeant, five officers and a detective. Together, the team has arrested 175 “violent” individuals and cleared 200 warrants. This team works hand and hand with the Capital Area Violent Crime Initiative. That initiative ties local, state and federal resources together to target the region’s most violent offenders, and quell violent hotspots as they erupt in the area.

Maxwell said the community must talk about what is happening, and listen to young people if it is ever going to overcome the violence.

“When you have a coherent explanation of the factors leading to violence, people are willing to communicate; to be part of the solution,” Maxwell said.

—Todd Heywood

## PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF EAST LANSING

ORDINANCE NO. 1340

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 22 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING BY AMENDING SECTION 22-32 OF ARTICLE II - CIVIL RIGHTS - AND ADDING SECTION 22-40 TO ARTICLE II - CIVIL RIGHTS - TO ADD A DEFINITION OF CONTRACTOR AND TO PROHIBIT CITY CONTRACTORS FROM DISCRIMINATING AGAINST EMPLOYEES IN THE PROVISION OF BENEFITS TO THEIR EMPLOYEE'S DOMESTIC PARTNERS BASED ON MARITAL STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION.

THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Section 22-32 of Chapter 22 of the Code of the City of East Lansing is hereby amended to read as follows:

### Sec. 22-32. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Age means chronological age, except as otherwise provided by law.

Commission means the East Lansing Human Relations Commission.

Contractor means a person or business that provides goods or services to the City.

Disability means that term as defined at section 103(d) of the Persons With Disabilities Civil Rights Act, Public Act No. 220 of 1976 (MCL 37.1103(d)).

Gender identity or expression means a person's actual or perceived gender, including a person's self-image, appearance, expression, or behavior, whether or not that self-image, appearance, expression, or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person's biological sex as assigned at birth.

Marital status means being single, divorced, widowed, separated or married, and the conditions associated therewith, including pregnancy and parenthood.

National origin includes the national origin of an ancestor, and shall include persons who are not naturalized citizens.

Sex includes, but is not limited to, pregnancy, childbirth, or a medical condition related to pregnancy, or childbirth. Discrimination because of sex includes sexual harassment which means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct or communication of sexual nature when:

(1) Submission to such conduct or communication is made a term or condition either explicitly or implicitly to obtain employment, public accommodations or public services, education, or housing.

(2) Submission to or rejection of such conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting such individual's employment, public accommodations or public services, education, or housing.

(3) Such conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's employment, public accommodations or public services, education, or housing;

or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive employment, public accommodation, public service, educational or housing environment.

Sexual orientation means being or regarded as being heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, or having a history of such identification.

Student status refers to a person enrolled in an educational institution recognized by the State of Michigan in pursuit of a recognized degree.

To harass means to have physical conduct or communication which refers to an individual protected under this article, when such conduct or communication demeans or dehumanizes and has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's employment, public accommodations or public services, education, or housing, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive employment, public accommodations, public services, educational, or housing environment.

Section 22-40 is hereby added to Chapter 22 of the Code of the City of East Lansing to read as follows:

### Sec. 22-40. City Contractor discrimination in providing benefits; prohibited.

(a) Except as otherwise provided herein, the City, a political subdivision, or an agency thereof shall not enter into a contract with any contractor that discriminates against its employees on the basis of marital status, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression by failing to provide employment benefits for employees with domestic partners that it otherwise provides for the spouse of a married employee.

(b) A contract to which the City, a political subdivision, or an agency thereof, is a party shall contain a covenant that the contractor is in compliance with this provision and that a breach of this covenant may be regarded as a material breach of the contract.

(c) This provision shall not apply to any of the following contracts:

(1) Contracts less than \$20,000.00 total.

(2) Where there are no compliant contractors capable of providing the goods or services at comparable prices.

(3) Where another public agency is a party to the contract and a law, rule or policy of that agency would not permit compliance with this ordinance.

(4) Where the work or purchases are funded in whole or in part by a governmental entity and the application of this ordinance is not feasible.

(5) Purchases made through the State of Michigan's Extended Purchasing Program or other cooperative purchasing contractual arrangements utilized by the City.

(6) Purchases with any sole source supplier for supplies, material, or other equipment.

(7) Contracts entered into in response to emergency or exigent circumstances.

(8) Contracts which provide benefits that are collectively bargained by City employees.

Marie E. Wicks, City Clerk

# Small money first; big money coming

We know that big money in many forms shapes our government. Politicians may claim that the interests of large contributors, accompanied by the checks they write, don't influence their agendas and votes. But something has distorted our political system, and big money certainly is one of the corrosive factors.

A look at the latest post-primary campaign contribution reports from the Michigan Secretary of State's Office illustrates the mismatch. The race for governor — incumbent Republican Rick Snyder against Democratic challenger Mark Schauer — has attracted more than 6,000 campaign contributions, most of them small. These

are really whispering fans, supporting their team and players. In the next two months, we will see the deep-pocket political power brokers step up as the election approaches.

For now, with some minor exceptions, a look at campaign donations from gubernatorial supporters mid-Michigan is pretty egalitarian. The Michigan State Utility Workers Council gave \$10,000 to Schauer on Aug. 22, raising its contribution to \$54,000 so far for this election cycle. The money comes from a Lansing address, but it's really a statewide payment.

There were no big local donations to the Snyder's reelection campaign. His largest contribution to date came from Joseph P. Kaiser IV of the Gallagher-Kaiser Corp. of Grosse Point Farms. He gave \$6,800 on Aug 25, raising his total so far to \$11,200. His company is a paint finishing supplier and assorted industrial processes. It was one of about 50 local contributions.

The largest contributions to the Schauer campaign — \$68,000, to date from each — came from the SEIU Local 79 PAC and the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenter, both based in Detroit.

But that's it for the really big money in this round of reports. There are, of course, political interests showing support for their team. The Whitmer Leadership Fund, based in Lansing, added \$500 to its donations — \$4,017.79 so far — to the Schauer campaign. Former Michigan Attorney General Frank E. Kelley contributed \$1,000, for a total of \$3,000. And former Lansing Mayor Tony Benavides sent his check to Schauer — \$100.

From East Lansing, George H. Wyatt III, recently named chairman of the Michigan Compensation Appellate Commission, added \$100 to his Snyder campaign contributions, for a total of \$950. On the other side of the political ledger, a former chairwoman of the

Michigan Employment Security Board of Review during the Granholm Administration and still an attorney with the State of Michigan, Amy Rosenberg, helped the Schauer campaign with a \$100 contribution in July. Her total so far is \$150.

Other notable locally based contributions to the Snyder campaign include \$1,000 from Joseph P. Maguire, president and COE of Wolverine Development Corp. in East Lansing. Snyder is a politically comfortable fit for Maguire, a director and treasurer of the Mackinac Center For Public Policy board and a former director of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

James E. McGillicuddy, an Okemos physician, sent off another \$100 to the Snyder campaign, \$225, so far this season. His wife, Susan, formerly Meridian Township's Republican supervisor, ran a weak campaign in 2010 for the 69th District state House seat, losing to Sam Singh.

And finally there is small donation from Michael E. Moody of Williamston, who contributed \$25 in July, \$105 so far. A Michigan assistant attorney general, he was appointed state public administrator by Snyder in August 2011. This job is described by the state in grim bureaucratic language as having "oversight over the appointed county public administrators' activities that effectuate disposition of the decedent's body and manage the determination/liquidation/distribution of any assets in the decedent's estate."

Lets return to the Democrats.

Schauer received about 180 contributions from donors in the greater Lansing area, contributions that reflect the personality of the region. His donors cite affiliations with Michigan State University, the state workforce, consultants and trade associations.

A relatively large contribution to the Schauer campaign came from Patricia Smith of Lansing, who listed her background as as a public health consultant-State of Michigan. She donated \$1,000 in July, bringing the total to \$5,400.

Raymond Joseph of East Lansing, a prominent East Lansing attorney and long-time Democratic Party supporter, who died Aug. 7 at age 90, donated \$500 to Schauer on Aug. 4. His total contributions totaled \$1,600. Other large contributions to Schauer came from Charles L. Moore Jr., president of C.L. Moore and Associates in Lansing, an accounting firm, who donated \$1,750; Barbara Free, from Holt, at \$1,750; and Kevin Warner, of Holt, at \$1,615.

The cut off for these post-primary contributions was Sept. 4. Another reporting period covers contributions through Oct. 19, with reports to the state due on Oct. 24. Expect the pace of giving to accelerate. A complete list of all donations is available in a searchable database on the secretary of state's website. There are also reports pending for independent political committees, super PAC committees and political party committees.

*Email Mickey Hirten at [mickey@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:mickey@lansingcitypulse.com).*



**MICKEY HIRTEN**

## PUBLIC NOTICES

The Ingham County Treasurer is accepting proposals for **Demolition, Deconstruction & Debris Removal**, of residential structures located at sites listed in the **Bid Packet# DEMO-09-2014**. Packets can be obtained at the Ingham County Land Bank office located at the Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W Maple St, Lansing, MI 48906 or at the website: [www.inghamlandbank.org](http://www.inghamlandbank.org). Proposals will be due at the Land Bank office by 2pm on September 24, 2014. The Bid Opening will be September 24, 2014 at 2pm. The Ingham County Treasurer is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.



CP#14\_226

The Ingham County Treasurer is accepting proposals for the **Removal and Disposal of Hazardous Materials**, of residential structures located at sites listed in the **Bid Packet# HM-09-2014**. Packets can be obtained at the Ingham County Land Bank office located at the Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W Maple St, Lansing, MI 48906 or at the website: [www.inghamlandbank.org](http://www.inghamlandbank.org). Proposals will be due at the Land Bank office by 1pm on September 24, 2014. The Bid Opening will be September 24, 2014 at 1pm. The Ingham County Treasurer is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.



CP#14\_225

CITY OF EAST LANSING

ORDINANCE NO. 1342

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 1-12 OF CHAPTER 1 - GENERAL PROVISIONS - OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EAST LANSING TO CLARIFY THE COSTS THAT MAY BE IMPOSED BY THE COURT FOR VIOLATIONS OF ORDINANCES.

### THE CITY OF EAST LANSING ORDAINS:

Section 1-12 of Chapter 1 of the Code of the City of East Lansing is hereby amended to read as follows:

#### Sec. 1-12. General penalty.

(a) Unless another penalty is expressly provided by this Code for the violation, of any particular provision or section, every person convicted of a violation of any provision of this Code which is not declared a civil infraction, or any rule or regulation adopted or issued in pursuance thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500.00 along with court costs and costs of prosecution or by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Unless otherwise prohibited by law, the Court may impose court costs and costs of prosecution for any offense for which a person is convicted, whether or not another penalty is expressly provided by this code for a violation, which may include all expenses, direct and indirect, to which the Court and City have been put in connection with the violation up to the time of judgment. Each act of violation and every day upon which such violation shall occur constitute a separate offense.

(b) The penalty provided in this section, unless another penalty is expressly provided herein, shall apply to each and every addition to this Code and to the amendment of any section thereof without the necessity of providing such penalty in the ordinance making any such addition or amendment.

Marie E. Wicks, City Clerk

CP#14\_224

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

The City of East Lansing has completed the 2013 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report covering activities from 7/1/13 through 6/30/14. This is to provide notice that the formal 15 calendar day comment period on the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report begins on September 11, 2014 and concludes on September 26, 2014. Individuals wishing to see and review the Performance Report may do so at the City's Planning, Building & Development Department located in Room 217, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The East Lansing Community Development Advisory Committee will hold a public hearing on Monday, September 29, 2014 in Court Room 2, 54-B District Court, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing, to receive comments on the CDBG program performance during the 2013 program year. Individuals and groups wishing to comment on the program performance are encouraged to attend the public hearing.

Written comments may also be submitted and should be addressed to the CD Advisory Committee, in care of the East Lansing Planning, Building, Development Department no later than 5:00 p.m., on September 25, 2014 or should be presented to the Committee at the public hearing.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services should write or call the City Manager's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. (517) 319-6930. TDD 1-800-649-3777.

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

Marie Wicks, City Clerk  
Dated: September 10, 2014

CP#14\_222

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE Rezoning #14020 (Okemos Road, LLC) Ordinance No. 2014-04

Date passed: September 2, 2014  
Nature of the ordinance: An ordinance amending the Code of the Charter Township of Meridian to rezone 3698 Okemos Road from RR (Rural Residential) to RD (Multiple Family-8 units per acre)  
Full text available at: Meridian Township Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road  
Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Ct.  
Haslett Branch Library, 5670 School Street  
Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road  
Snell Towar Recreation Center, 6146 Porter Avenue  
The Township Website [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us)

ELIZABETH LEGOFF  
SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS  
TOWNSHIP CLERK  
CP#14\_227

#### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN NOTICE OF POSTING OF TOWNSHIP BOARD MINUTES

On September 3, 2014, 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).

August 19, 2014 Regular Meeting

ELIZABETH LEGOFF  
SUPERVISOR

BRETT DREYFUS  
TOWNSHIP CLERK  
CP#14\_228

#### CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SLU-3-2014, 1521 Herbert Street  
Special Land Use Permit – Parking Lot

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 13, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, to consider SLU-3-2014. This is a request by LJC Properties for a Special Land Use permit to construct a parking lot at 1521 Herbert Street to provide additional parking for Leroy's Classic Bar & Grill at 1526 S. Cedar Street. Parking lots are permitted in the "C" Residential district, which is the designation of the subject property, if a Special Land Use permit is approved by the Lansing City Council.

For more information, please call the Lansing City Council at 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., Monday, October 13, 2014 at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email at [city.clerk@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.clerk@lansingmi.gov)

Chris Swope, City Clerk

CP#14\_229

## Haunted

from page 5

Railroad routes run through Eaton, Clinton or Ingham counties, but added that "anything is possible."

"It would be presumptuous to say definitively that this region did or did not have activity," she said. "It could be that we'll never see the documentation."

Pat Albaugh sighed at the chances she may have missed to change the Underground Railroad map in Michigan.

She has lived near the house for 40 years, but she didn't get interested in its history until Clayton Naylor, its previous owner and a close friend, left it to the Albaughs over 20 years ago.

Just once, Albaugh asked Naylor whether fugitive slaves stayed in the house. He said yes.

"You don't know how many times I've booted myself for not probing more," she said.

Naylor told the Arbaughs the house came down to him from his grandfather, Phineas, a Civil War veteran who got the

house from the original owner and builder, a farmer named Calvin Hale.

For a historian, that's something to grab onto. According to Murphy, it's often the people who lived in the house, not the house, that counts.

Abolitionists were often Methodists, former Quakers or other Christians with liberal views, Murphy said. They often didn't attend church services.

A biographical sketch from Samuel Durant's "History of Ingham and Eaton Counties" pegs Hale as a "thoroughly practical farmer" who was "fearless in the advocacy of his principles."

"Religiously, his views are liberal," the sketch reads. "His wife is a member of the Congregational Church." That implies Hale wasn't a member of any church.

If Hale were mentioned in abolitionist periodicals, Murphy said, that might be a "smoking gun." But no such mention has been found.

Pat Albaugh spent years chasing records, but never even found a deed of sale for the house.

But she never doubted that the house sheltered fugitive slaves. For years, she took groups of fourth and fifth-graders to the house and gave them stern lessons about the Underground Railroad.

When the kids told her they'd just run away if they were slaves, she set them straight.

"They'll bring you back and bring you back," she told them. "They'll cut your Achilles tendon so you can't run."

Now she's resigned to the idea that the house's putative history will never be proven.

She has no plan to build on the land or sell it for now.

"Perhaps some day I'll put a sign on it," she said.

Bob Albaugh walked away from the rubble, back to his house. The shadows took over. Thunder boomed in the distance, over the Grand River. While we were talking, a friend of Albaugh's prowled the grounds with a metal detector.

The evening's haul: a jar lid, a brake shoe and a piece of a leather boot.

—Lawrence Cosentino

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Courtesy Photos

Left: The Canadian dragon boat team in practice. Right: Rob Flanders of Lansing traveled to Ravenna, Italy to compete as a member of the Canadian team for the Dragon Boat Crew Club World Championships last weekend. The team won both Gold and Bronze medals.

# DRAGON HEART

## HOW AN OLE MAN FOUND NEW LIFE ON A BOAT WITH A DRAGON

By **BELINDA Y. THURSTON**

I arrive for my 7:30 a.m. breakfast appointment at the Soup Spoon Cafe and Rob Flanders hands me a postcard.

There is a caricature of him with his trademark red, frond-like beard and a smile that nearly meets his ear. A compass is at the bottom, next to an ornate sculpture of a dragon head.

---

**“ DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE IS A SPECIES OF BAMBOO TREE WHOSE SEED REMAINS DORMANT FOR THE FIRST FEW YEARS OF ITS LIFE? WHEN IT’S READY, THE SEED THEN SPROUTS FORTH TO BECOME A TREE OF 40 FEET IN JUST SIX WEEKS. THIS IMAGE ENCAPSULATES THE ADVENTURE THAT HAS BECOME MY LIFE AS I NEAR MY SEVENTIES.”**

— ROB FLANDERS —

---

The waitress juggles three plates of breakfast to our table. Alan’s Smoky Scramble for me.

Flanders gets French toast and bacon. She then sets another plate in front of him with eggs over easy, potatoes, marble toast and more bacon.

He can pack some calories.

Flanders is a Soup Spoon icon. He’s the owner and creator of Rudy Baggs coffee. The self-made barista regularly charms customers with stories as he preps hot cups of joe.

But today isn’t about coffee or even yoga, a passion of his since the early 2000s.

Nope, he’s a day away from hopping on a plane for Italy to do the bravest, craziest thing in his 68 years on the planet yet.

Flanders is leaving for Ravenna, Italy, to be on a Canadian team at the International Dragon Boat Crew Club World Championships.

A mouthful for sure.

A miracle to Flanders.

He’s animated and appears constantly bouncing, shifting, gesturing or emphasizing something.

“I’m feeling good. Feeling strong.”

He rapid fires names of coaches, teams, cities he’s trained in over the short three years he’s been consumed by this sport. Yes, dragon boating is a sport.

There are professional dragon boaters.

And Flanders has a plan to be one of them, eventually dreaming to build a world-class training facility in Lansing for the Midwest.

He’s not afraid to dream this big, to dream with this much eccentricity, with this much verve.

He’s not afraid any more.

“It’s about being a part of something bigger than myself,” he says.

### LATE - LIFE ATHLETE

Flanders is “a homeboy homeboy.”

That’s how he describes his roots as a Lansing native. He

graduated from Sexton in 1964.

“I was born in Lansing,” he says. “Graduated from the same high school my mother graduated from. My children graduated from there too.”

His father worked for General Motors. Except for a few transfers before Flanders was in the fifth grade, the family stayed rooted in the capital city.

“I never left except for six months at Wayne State University,” he says.

He doesn’t belabor that story.

“I got a woman pregnant, got married and came home.”

Flanders describes his younger self as a man who would do anything but make waves.

“I grew up in a family who I perceived and believed was very competitive,” he says. “Nobody ever beat my father. Rather than lose it’s better not to compete. I spent a whole life of not competing.”

Athleticism and competition came after Flanders’ children got involved in sports.

“As part of their growing up I started training and lifting,” he says describing his daughter getting ready for a triathlon. “I love training with my daughter, she’s a horse.”

Flanders said his father was the good-at-everything type.

“In some ways my life is mirroring his,” he says. “At 60 he started skiing and by 65 he was trying out for the national ski patrol and he was teaching blind people. And then he started sailboarding and then he started teaching that for the university. I’ve got some good blood. I’ve got some good genes here.”

Finding his athleticism and competitive side was a pro-

See Dragon Boat, page 10

# Dragon Boat

from page 9

cess that he says helped him “deal with the fears, you know? Allow myself to be visible, to be seen, to be just who I am.”

## DRAGON HEART

Flanders is an adviser for this weekend’s Capital City Dragon Boat Race, hosted by the Women’s Center of Greater Lansing. He’s helped coach how the teams are put together, coordinated with the American Dragon Boat Association for their participation and equipment.

It’s a huge role born out of him slapping together a team for the first race in 2011.

“That weekend was magical,” he says.

The team of 20, named “Dragon Heart,” actually won the race. In a television interview on the riverfront that day, they roared their battle cry for the cameras with Flanders’ booming tenor cracking from the force of his lungs.

“One mind!”

“One heart!”

“One body!”

“Dragon heart!”

Flanders wasn’t a paddler in that event. He held the flag catcher role, seated on the head of the dragon at the bow reaching to snatch up the flagpole before the other team does. He set the count for the team, spoke words of inspiration and bellowed the final call, “Power!!” for the last few meters of the race signaling for the team to dig in.

Being on the river, being with a group of people and the physicality sparked an obsession.

The unison attracted him. Unlike other team sports with positions and roles, everyone has one mission and role in dragon boating: paddling.

**“DEEP INSIDE I JUST BELIEVE EVERYBODY HAS THAT SPARK OF SOMETHING. THEY DO. THE SPARK OF WHO THEY ARE. BE ALL OF WHO YOU ARE. IF YOU DO THAT, WE WIN.”**

— ROB FLANDERS —

“There’s something about it that’s so Zen and so yogic to me,” he says. “I believe in the heart of my hearts if we get 20 people to do the same exact thing at the same time we’d change the world. There’d be a consciousness shift.”

Ron Hau, president of the American Dragon Boat Association, says the sport has been exploding since the mid-80s.

Flanders, or “Captain Red Beard,” as Hau calls him, is special. He’s among a small percentage of people who catch the dragon boating bug. Weekend warriors are more the norm, he says.



Courtesy Photo

Flanders, back right, poses with the Canadian dragon boat team, on which he competed in Italy.

Flanders bought a dragon boat immediately after the 2011 race.

“That’s kind of unusual,” Hau says. “Normally people are with it a half dozen years before buying a boat.”

Flanders says buying the boat seemed like a natural next step.

“You can’t ride a bike without a bike,” he says.

The feeling you get from dragon boating?

“It’s just giddy,” he says. “You can’t help but have fun. And when you’re in the boat, yep for those 350 meters you work hard. Yep you’re tired. And you get off the boat and you’re just giddy.”

## OLE MAN’S ADVENTURE

The same energy that propels Flanders’ enthusiasm equally makes tears come easy.

He emits a drive about the sport, about its potential for changing a community, about his role in that change.

“Beyond bringing dragon boating to mid-Michigan what else can I do?” he says. “How can I inspire? I still want the gold medal. But how can I inspire?”

This chapter in his life represents a chance to practice a new adventure. The adventure of life.

“Some of my adventure has been getting through the day,” he said. “I didn’t decide I wanted to live until I was 55.”

Flanders is a recovering drug addict and alcoholic.

“I started drinking to die,” he says. “Through the process of the steps, I learned

that.”

It wasn’t until 55 when “I said I’m ready. Is there room on this planet for me?”

He shares the pieces of his addiction story freely, but in fragments.

“I loved pot. I loved cocaine. I think I started drinking at 12, 13, 14 ... early adolescence.”

He doesn’t bother with dates. Time is foggy and fleeting.

“I remember the first meeting I went to but I said I’m not keeping dates,” he says, estimating he’s been sober 13 or 14 years now.

Recovery was a hard practice to find. His first attempt at age 42 he said after a long time using and drinking, doing “lots of damage.”

“I was sober probably 10 years, then found religion, left recovery and got drunk again.”

Found religion and left recovery?

“I got drunk on Jesus.”

He said he stopped going to meetings and “I got religiously proud,” and fell off the wagon.

The trip to Italy is his second time out of the country.

“I went to Israel on a pilgrimage at one point” some time in the 1980s, he says. “I went from New Age to Christianity to Messianic Judaism. I also thought the world was coming to an end with Y2K. I was stocking beans and shit.”

He said looking back, “I was so full of fear. I lived a life of fear.”

Today, he says he goes to meetings, practices yoga, trains hard for dragon boating and lives to serve.

“I’ve always been a searcher,” he says, “Looking, finding. But not anymore. I’m seeking spirit in a much different way. It’s not outside any more.”

## THE LANSING FOUR

Flanders is a powerhouse of enthusiasm. It’s infectious and influential.

After the 2011 Capital City Dragon Boat Race, Flanders learned of a dragon boat for sale for \$10,000. It was a Hong Kong style boat, not as ornate as what is used in festi-

vals and more lightweight.

He approached some friends. “I’m gonna buy a boat, you want in?”

He says to me, “Meanwhile, I don’t have a pot to piss in.”

A handful of friends threw in cash to buy the boat.

Then a group of them went to Florida for an intense dragon boat camp.

Two had never paddled. Rob had been a flag catcher. Johanna Johnson, his partner, had been the drummer.

“They called us the Lansing Four,” Flanders says. “They couldn’t believe we had been basically in one race. Then we bought a boat. They just couldn’t believe we did this.”

Larry Stegman and Tom Barthel make up the rest of the four.

“We show up at camp with effectively no experience, talking about how we just bought a boat and they put us in a boat with people, some of whom had decades of experience,” Stegman says. “Our coach, Albert McDonald, was a gold medalist and legend in flat water paddling with 40-plus years of experience. He generally referred to groups by where they were from and started calling us the Lansing Four.”

“That first year at camp was tough beyond description, but it was also a spectacular experience,” Stegman says. “The people at the camp embraced us and our inexperience, and we came away stronger and wiser. Now when we go back to camp, being part of the Lansing Four earns us an odd sort of respect. We wear the name with honor.”

Stegman says training on the dragon boat team — now named Anahata — can be brutal and Flanders can get intense.

But he says it’s a good thing for Flanders.

“I think it has made him both focused and more intense, but also more content and happy,” Stegman says.

## LIVING CLOSE TO THE EDGE

Flanders says he’s eager to get to Italy. He’s not sure he’s ready.

He’s competing in the 60C category for

See Dragon Boat, page 11

# Dragon Boat

from page 10

those 60 and over.

When he comes back he goes straight to Adado Riverfront Park for the Capital City Dragon Boat Race. He'll captain the Anahata team. He'll welcome Hau and the American Dragon Boat Association, which is bringing four boats for the event. There are 30 teams expected from around the Lansing area, many are teams of survivors of cancer, abuse and addiction.

"Deep inside I just believe everybody has that spark of something," he says. "They do. The spark of who they are. Be all of who you are. If you do that, we win."

Winning came as Flanders worked through the recovery process.

"Because of what my perception of who my father was, and the decisions, the lies that I believed, I didn't know what it was to be a man."

Flanders' voice begins to crack and he struggles to get his words out.

A friend and sponsor became the model for getting clean.

"He walked the walk," Flanders says. "He was raw, he was vulnerable and he struggled. For him to get sober it was brutal and yet he kept at it and kept at it and he struggled with the concept of God. His level of honesty and his vulnerability, it was that

relationship that allowed me to begin to go in the closet, turn on the light and begin to work from there to clean it up and to move forward.

"I love being clean," he says. "No regrets. I live close to the edge, I love it close to the edge. It gets scary. That's where creation is."

Flanders won't be paddling this weekend. He'll be perched on the flag catcher throne, his signature beard probably freshly dyed to be blazing red. He wants his Anahata team to feel the experience of paddling on the Grand River. He wants them to see and feel the city along one of its natural veins. He wants them to start building community in unison.

"It's not about me," he says. "Yeah it's fun. Yeah I'm having a blast. Yeah I'm loving the training. Yeah, I'd love to come home and have a Gold Medal. But that's not what it is. The bigger part of that is developing this sport in this community because it's so enriching."

Last Friday and Saturday Flanders posted on the OleMan's Adventure Facebook wall from Italy.

His team won a Bronze Medal by 0.1 second in a 200-meter race.

"Impossible," he writes. "And he's bringing home a Gold Medal for the 500 meter race, 'by .1 second...again!'"

"Oh yeah, know what that means? It means that a small town Midwestern boy, the OleMan, is a Gold Medal-winning world champion. Did I say improbable? I did."

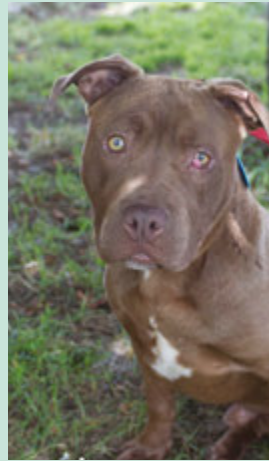
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## Zig-Zag

Zig-Zag is always on the move! He has a very short attention span but he loves to play. He'd love an active family with some sturdy older kids to tire him out.

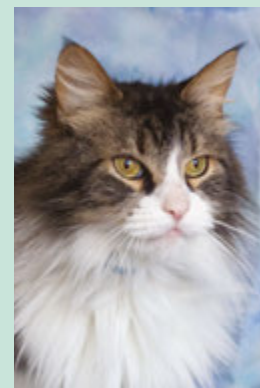
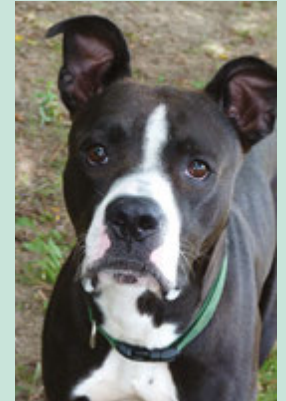
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## Lester

Lester is just a big puppy! He'd be a great dog for someone looking for an agility dog or a running buddy.

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## Khan

Khan is a big handsome boy who loves people and will take all the attention he can get!

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## Whiskers

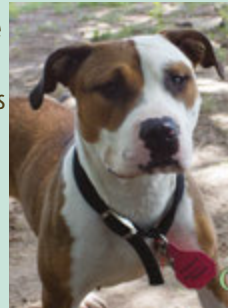
Whiskers is an older girl who is looking for a sunshiny spot to relax in the sun.

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## Charlotte

Charlotte is a sweet little girl. She bonds quickly especially if you have a few cookies to share!

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## Opal

Opal is a younger, smaller cat. She is a nice, friendly girl, but she is not fond of dogs.

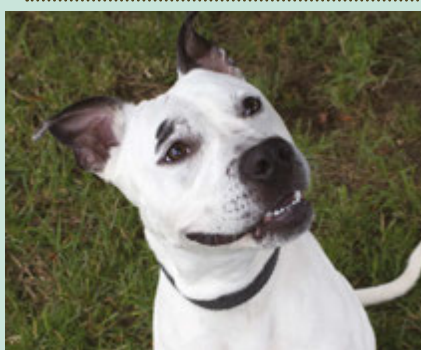
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## 'Violin-ism' without mercy

Yevgeny Kutik opens Lansing Symphony season with arch-romantic concerto

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

You don't need to unpack a violinist's backstory to appreciate a tone that runs from caramel to glacial melt to bat's blood, as the music demands. Russian-born Yevgeny Kutik, 28, will probably lean toward the caramel when he plays Max Bruch's arch-romantic violin concerto to start the Lansing Symphony's 85th season Friday.

"It's the perfect violin concerto," Kutik said. "It's a perfect mix of good old-fashioned violin-ism — if there is such a word — and good old-fashioned virtuosity."

But Kutik's backstory surely has something to do with the extra crease of passion in his forehead. When 5-year-old Kutik and his family came to the United States from Belarus in 1990 fleeing anti-Semitic persecution, they were allowed to take two suitcases. Against all common sense, Kutik's mother, Alla Zernitskaya, crammed one of them with a trove of rare and precious sheet music by Russian composers.

Fourteen years later, Kutik brought this delicate bouquet of seldom-heard waltzes, nocturnes and miniatures to light in an unusual CD, "Music From the Suitcase." The deeply personal project bypassed big names like Brahms and Tchaikovsky, hit a nerve with listeners and earned Kutik a March 18 profile in *The New York Times*.

The experience tested Kutik's skills and his heart in unexpected ways.

"It was a long year, but I learned a lot about many different things," he said. "I learned about what my family went through back in Russia."

When Zernitskaya was laid off from a job teaching violin at a school for gifted children, she was told flat-out that the school had exceeded its quota of Jewish staff members. The minister of culture was no help. "You have your own country, find employment there," Kutik said he told her.



Violinist Yevgeny Kutik performs at the LSO's season opener. Photo by Corey Hayes

As Kutik's career reaches a national level, he is still unpacking that suitcase. "I discovered compositions and composers I'd never heard of," Kutik said. He decided to include a Yiddish song on the CD after visiting concentration camps in Poland.

"It wasn't just a recording project," he said. "It helped me grow as an artist and as a person."

To Lansing Symphony maestro Timothy Muffitt, Kutik is the ideal soloist, engaging to audiences but serious as a bottle of Stolichnaya stashed in a snowbank.

"He has an incredible story to tell with 'Music from the Suitcase,' but most of all, he's one of those white-hot talents with a uniqueness to his playing," Muffitt said. "He's not cookie cutter — he's polished but not polished."

Muffitt was impressed that Kutik's debut CD, "Songs of Defiance," waded into chill waters of politically charged 20th-

century masters like Dmitri Shostakovich, Arvo Pärt and Alfred Schnittke.

"That tells me a lot about him as an artist," Muffitt said. "For who he is, his debut statement shouldn't be Beethoven. He has something else he can say that maybe nobody else can."

Muffitt described Friday's Bruch concerto as "full-blown romantic music" with a lot of give and take between soloist and orchestra. "That's part of the challenge and part of the fun," Muffitt said. "All the musicians on stage have to connect in a very strong way."

In Kutik's view, it's a warhorse, but a frisky one.

"The way the violin interacts with the orchestra — it's not a traditional format," Kutik said. "The first movement is short, like a prelude, but it walks the listener into a much more substantial second and third movement. It's really fun to play."

Understatement is not exactly the watchword for Friday's concert. The night's anchor work, Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony, not only has its heart on its sleeve, but its guts, loins and bowels as well.

"Tchaikovsky is a deep well," Muffitt said.

The maestro loves to massage those Tchaikovskian harmonies as they burn across the orchestra like full-body blushes.

"He was a genius at creating character in his music through orchestration, through voicing," he said. Each harmony has a specific role in the drama. "Is it all bunched up in the lower register or spread through the entire spectrum? They both have different effects," he explained.

Or you can forget what Muffitt just said, stealthily open that Stolichnaya and sweat out the symphony's raging march from anguish to triumph.

"The listener can sense that there's more to this than just architecture," Muffitt said. "There's a very strong and intimate and specific emotional content to it."

To open the night and the season, Muffitt picked music from one of those rarely sighted living composers, Boston-based Michael Gandolfi. "The Willowtwist" is a snippet from an epic cycle called "The Garden of Cosmic Speculation," is a brisk four-minute ride featuring two of the orchestra's star players, principal trumpeter Rich Illman and principal trombonist Ava Ordman.

Muffitt said he puts a lot of extra thought into any season opener, however brief. Neither snoozing nor bafflement are in order.

"I want it to be uplifting, to set a tone for anticipation and excitement," he said. "I want it to be something everybody will gravitate to."

## Original superstar Michigan woman brings Bernhardt musical to East Lansing

By ALLAN I. ROSS

If television had been around when Sarah Bernhardt was alive, she undoubtedly would have had an envelope-pushing reality show and been a fixture on "TMZ." The 19th century French actress/artist sent tongues wagging worldwide with her risqué artistic endeavors and unconcealed sexual exploits, paving the way for Elizabeth Taylor, Madonna and Miley Cyrus to inherit her mantle of Most Scandalous Woman Alive. Not bad for a self-trained

courtesan's daughter who died before the 1920s could even get roaring.

"A lot of people know Sarah Bernhardt's name, but know nothing about her," said Carol Dunitz, an Ann Arbor woman who created a show based on Bernhardt's life. "This musical is as much about education as it is entertainment."

Dunitz 62, brings her one-woman original musical, "Bernhardt on Broadway," to East Lansing's Hannah Community Center on Saturday. The two-hour performance features 12 original songs and Dunitz' French-accented portrayal of Bernhardt, who died in 1923 at 78.

"The show takes place in 1890s when she's in her 50s and still quite sexy," Du-

nitz said. "I've researched her so much that I don't even play her anymore — I become her."

Although Dunitz is a professional writer, this is her first stage production. Initially she had planned to create a fictional leading lady character similar to Ethel Merman, but she found inspiration when she started reading about Bernhardt.

"If I'd created a character, I wouldn't have been able to come up with someone this fascinating," Dunitz said. "She was way ahead of her time for many things, and definitely a leader for female artists."

Dunitz said she's a born performer ("My mother used to call me a little Sarah Bernhardt"), but before this show she

had never acted on stage. She said "Bernhardt on Broadway," which she debuted in 2009, fulfilled a longstanding dream.

"I raised four kids on my own, and I (gave up) certain things because I had to be fiscally responsible," Dunitz said. "But I realized if there's something special you want to do, if you don't start working on it at some point, it's not going to happen. I had the talent and the drive — I just decided it was time."

### "Bernhardt on Broadway"

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13  
Hannah Community Center  
819 Abbot Road, East Lansing  
\$28.50/\$24.50 seniors and groups  
(800) 838-3006  
bernhardtonbroadway.com

# MICHIGAN BLUESFEST 2014 Old Town

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Artwork By Brian Whitfield

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY • SEPT. 19 & 20**

SHARRIE WILLIAMS • HANK MOWERY & THE HAWKTONES WITH MIKE MORGAN • CHAMPAGNE & THE MOTOR CITY BLUES CREW  
ROOT DOCTOR FEATURING FREDDIE CUNNINGHAM • HARPER & MIDWEST KIND • BULL HALSEY • GREG NAGY  
THOSE DELTA RHYTHM KINGS • FROG & THE BEEFTONES • MARCI LINN BAND • KATHLEEN & THE BRIDGE STREET BAND  
BIG BOSS BLUES BAND • TWYLA BIRDSONG • JUNIOR VALENTINE • RED HERRING • MATCHETTE & FROG  
DEACON EARL & THE CONGREGATION • GINA GARDNER & BRIAN KANDLER • ALLEN BATES • ANDY WILSON

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**IN "OLD TOWN" LANSING, MI**



The Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art (MICA) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that serves as a catalyst for community development through quality arts programming. Supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts & Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs. Programs subject to change.

# THE 2014 MICHIGAN BLUESFEST: SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

It's that time of year again: students are back on campus, leaves are starting to change, and as the calendar flips again to September, each new day brings us closer to the 2014 Michigan BluesFest.

BluesFest is an annual pilgrimage for thousands who come from all over mid-Michigan and the Midwest. Every year we work to create open spaces in the community to connect with old friends, meet new ones, and engage in conversations about how to make a better community.

Every year we try to give attendees something old and something new, as our stages will feature both local favorites and nationally prominent blues bands and artists. And all of them bring something special to BluesFest: an original tune, never heard anywhere before.

But this year, we're bringing something new as well: for the first time, we'll be called the Michigan BluesFest. This year's lineup will bring music makers with soul in their sound and sound in their soul to the streets of Old Town, where thousands will experience BluesFest together, surrounded by shops, vendors - and the blues.

If you've heard it, you know it. The virtuosic trumpeter Wynton Marsalis has said that "Everything comes out in blues music: joy, pain, struggle. Blues is affirmation with absolute elegance."

That's what you'll hear this weekend in Old Town, in the expressive, clear vocals of Lady Champagne backed by the Motor City Blues Crew, the old school sensibilities and modern day energy of Hank Mowery & the Hawktones, the familiar powerful soul-blues sound of Root Doctor featuring Freddie Cunningham, the emotive fervor of Sharrie Williams' vocals, and the high-energy jump blues of Michigan favorite Those Delta Rhythm Kings.

Old Town has had its share of the blues. In the early 1980s the intersection of Turner Street and East Grand River was surrounded by a ghost town on the north side of Lansing. People were losing interest in local downtowns across the country, and Lansing was no exception. Local artists like Terry Terry and the late Robert Busby saw potential early on, in the neighborhood's brick buildings and location on the Grand River.

They worked hard to change the story of Old Town, and over the last three decades Old Town has attracted the highest concentration of creative service businesses in the state, new outside investment, active and vibrant streets, restaurants, art galleries, and much more.

Today, Old Town Business & Art Development Association has grown into the Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art (MICA), but its goals have remained constant. MICA serves as a catalyst for community development through quality arts programming. This arts programming includes the MICA Gallery in Old Town, Grand American FishRodeo, Lansing JazzFest, Michigan BluesFest, and the Burning Desires poetry reading.

What's next? For now, MICA is working on taking our vision of arts-driven development through bold and innovative ideas statewide. This weekend you have the opportunity to join in, by coming down to Old Town to celebrate the blues and our community with thousands of old and new friends.



Produced By

**BLUESFEST**  
2014 Old Town

**MICA**  
MICHIGAN INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

# AROUND THE FESTIVAL

## THE TURNAROUND LOUNGE

For the same price as it was in 1995 - just \$5 a day - the Turnaround Lounge is a prime location to enjoy music from both main stages.

## HAPPY HOUR

There will be FREE admission to The Turnaround Lounge from 4 to 6 pm on Friday, for ages 21+.

## FREE ADMISSION DONATIONS INVITED

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

## RIVER BOAT AT BLUESFEST

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

**FRIDAY** Half-hour TOURS of the Grand River, 5-8 pm, at the discount price of \$4/person. Departures from the dock at Burchard Park, next to the Brenke Fish Ladder, close to BluesFest activities.

**SATURDAY** TAXI SERVICE 2-10 pm. Round trip just \$1, and free for children under 6. Depart Lansing City Market on the hour (:00) and from Old Town on the half hour (:30). Parking is available near the City Market, at the Lansing Center and surrounding areas.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Michigan BluesFest cares for those with disabilities in the following ways. As an outdoor street festival, the

festival venue is naturally wheelchair accessible. Handicap-accessible parking is available on both sides of E. Grand River Ave. Wheelchair-accessible restrooms are available.

## WKAR BACKSTAGE PASS

We're proud to welcome videographers from WKAR's BackStage Pass program to capture performances at the Michigan BluesFest! Edited footage will be broadcast in 83 markets (and growing) around the country. Watching those, you can say "I was there"!

## KIDZBEAT

The KidzBeat area presents free activities for kids of all ages on Saturday from 1 to 5 pm — Face painting by MICA Gallery, and hands-on art projects led by Broad Art Museum. Kids can also make

their own music on free harmonicas led by Andy Wilson from 2 to 3, and all afternoon at the "instrument petting zoo" of woodwind and brass instruments, guided by musicians from MSU Community Music School. The Marshall Music tent offers electric guitar and bass for kids to explore with guidance from two professional band musicians.

## HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

The Lansing Historical Society will conduct a free 1-1/2 hour walking tour within Old Town on Saturday, starting at 10 a.m. from the entrance to Lot 56 (Turner at E. Grand River). This year's tour includes new material on neighborhood history, prominent African-Americans and the underground railroad.

# BLUESFEST 2014 PERFORMERS – FRIDAY

ENJOY MORE IN-DEPTH BAND INFO AT [WWW.OLDTOWNBLUESFEST.COM/PERFORMERS](http://WWW.OLDTOWNBLUESFEST.COM/PERFORMERS)



## TWYLA BIRDSONG

5:00-6:00 PM SOUTH STAGE

From the moment she sets free a first soulful note, audiences know what has made Twyla one of Lansing's most loved vocalists since 2002. She has sung with numerous Blues greats, including Larry McCray and Freddie Cunningham. In 2012 she and Mike Eyia were duet winners of Capital Area Blues Society's "Blues Brawl," and performed at Old Town BluesFest. She is currently lead singer of The Hooties, who in 2011 competed in the Memphis International Blues Challenge. In addition to session recording, Twyla collaborates in a 'Women of the Blues Review' with

BMA winner Sharrie Williams, Detroit Princess of the Blues Thornetta Davis, and BMA nominee Kathleen Murray.



## BIB BOSS BLUES BAND

6:00-7:00 PM NORTH STAGE

Big Boss Blues is one of the hardest working blues roots bands hailing from West Michigan (Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo and Battle Creek). The band is winner of the 2014 Capital Area Blues Society (CABS) "Blues Brawl" and is designated to compete in the 2015 International Blues Challenge (IBC) in Memphis. These four men -- who between them have nearly a century of blues performance history -- play blues, soul and R&B covers and original music, paying tribute to a musical era made famous

by the blues greats; Freddie King, Albert King, Howlin' Wolf and Little Walter. They have a passion for powerhouse rhythm and blues music that transports their listeners to some steamy club, where the smoke is blue, the atmosphere is alive, and the music is gut-wrenchingly powerful. Band members are Bill LaValley-bass, Joe Ferguson-vocals and harmonica, Charlie Schantz-vocals and guitar, Eric Busch-drums.



## RED HERRING

6:15-7:00 PM MICA STAGE

Every once in a while, a group of young musicians meet by chance and are drawn to each other by their passion for music. Red Herring is one of those bands. Comprised of four

young musicians who possess rock sensibilities beyond their youthful ages. This is evident in their song selections, covering the likes of Jimi Hendrix, Frank Zappa, the Who, the Beatles and Led Zeppelin. This group of multi-instrumentalists and burgeoning songwriters includes: Melanie Kelley, 15 (vocals, guitar, piano, bass, ukulele, flexa-tone), Max Beardsley, 13 (drums, bass, guitar, piano, vocals); Aaron Lomasney, 13 (guitar, bass, drums) and Josh Pajak, 14 (drums, vocals, piano).

## HARPER & MIDWEST KIND

7:00-8:00 PM SOUTH STAGE



An amalgamation of blues, rock, soul and world music, Australian performer "Peter D. Harper" creates a heady mix of roots music through his creative use of the harmonica, and the haunting drone of the didgeridoo. He has become a huge favorite on

# BLUESFEST 2014 PERFORMERS – FRIDAY CONT.

ENJOY MORE IN-DEPTH BAND INFO AT [WWW.OLDTOWNBLUESFEST.COM/PERFORMERS](http://WWW.OLDTOWNBLUESFEST.COM/PERFORMERS)

the worldwide festival circuit. A Michigan resident now, he is backed at BluesFest by the very talented Detroit-based band "Midwest Kind," which features Mike Howe on guitar, James Norris on bass guitar, and Greg Saucedo on drums. Harper has received multiple music awards in Australia, the USA, United Kingdom and Canada. He has performed for the Queen of England, received a Gold Record for "Sailing Australia" (America's Cup Theme) and been featured on many major film sound tracks. Harper has also been a guest harmonica player for US Super group "Journey" and blues legend Muddy Waters on his Western Australian tour. Harper has performed regularly with The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in Australia and received many Australian Blues awards for "Male Vocalist of the Year", "Song of the Year" and "Acoustic Artist of the Year" He was inducted into the Blues Museum Hall of Fame in Windsor Canada in late 2011. In late 2013, Harper released a new acoustic blues CD called "Bare Bones" and in 2014 received an amazing five nominations at the Detroit Music Awards, winning as World Music Vocalist.

**Related Event: Harper Didgeridoo Workshop - MICA Stage, 5 - 5:45 pm** — This modern-day version of an ancient Australian woodwind can be played without knowing formal music theory, but in skilled hands like Peter Harper, the fundamental drone note can achieve unique sounds and rhythms. Whether a student yourself or inquisitive appreciator, don't miss this unique opportunity!

## THE 89TH KEY 7:15-8:00 PM MICA STAGE

The 89th Key is a Lansing-based blues/rock band of outstanding 13 and 14-year-olds. Cameron Hall (keyboards) and Elijah Hoene (guitar and vocals) have been friends their entire lives and began making music together at a young age. They met Brian Griffin (drums and vocals) at Marshall Music's Rock Camp, and the band was formed, then completed a year later with Parker Garman (guitar and vocals). Don't let their youthfulness fool you. Among their musical influences are Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, Pink Floyd, Stevie Ray Vaughan, The Rolling Stones, and The Black Keys -- inspirations for a level of onstage talent, energy and enthusiasm that is sure to bring you to your feet.



## GREG NAGY 8:00-9:00 PM NORTH STAGE

Known for spinning a diverse web of music out of guitar strings, Greg Nagy was



encouraged at a young age to explore a variety of music -- soul, rock, funk, jazz, and Motown -- but it was the edgy blues that captured him, and by the early 1990s he kept him working seven nights a week in blues and funk bands. Fast forward to a career changer: In 2004, Nagy signed on with the legendary band Root Doctor, and was part of two studio recordings, one of which -- Change Our Ways -- received a Soul Blues BMA nomination in 2008. After amicably leaving the band to reconnect with his solo career, his first solo album, Walk that Fine Line, brought him rave reviews, a Best New Artist Debut nomination at the Blues Music Awards, and worldwide airplay. His 2011 release of Fell Toward None garnered widespread praise in high blues places and new recognition of his "heart-stopping, exceptional vocals." Without a doubt, Nagy is firmly established as a word-class musical artist.

## MIKE MORGAN WITH HANK MOWERY & THE HAWKTONES 9:00-10:30 PM SOUTH STAGE

The Hawktones weave together a show laced with old school sensibilities and modern day energy--covering Chicago standards, Texas shuffles, West Coast swing, originals and much more.

In 2013 they released the CD "Account to Me" -- in part a tribute to Gary Primich with two previously unreleased Primich pieces. The CD garnered wide acclaim for its different musical textures and strong musicianship, and launched an amazing 2014. In January the Hawktones were honored at The International Blues Challenge with the prestigious award for Best Self-Produced CD. In May they were invited to play the annual Blues Hall of Fame fundraiser at the Hard Rock Cafe/Memphis during the Blues Music Awards. They were also nominated for four Jammy Awards: Album of the Year, Song of the Year, Best Blues-Soul Album, and best production. And the year's not even over yet!

Where did this all begin? Hank Mowery, an Ohio native with a "pretty musical" extended family in Kentucky, was inspired by his banjo-playing great uncle, and picked up the "blues harp" in his early 20s. He raced onto the local and regional blues scene in the mid 90's with his band The Hawktones. As general manager of Grand Rapids' blues hotspot, the Rhythm Kitchen Cafe, from 1995 until it closed in 2000, Mowery honed his skills, jamming nightly with the local and national blues acts that happened through there -- a who's who of blues greats and harmonica experts. As to the rest of the band, Mowery's stated goal is to always be the least



talented guy in the band!" That is not an easy thing to do, given his considerable talent, but meeting him at the top are are Patrick Recob (Bass/Vocals), Troy Amaro (Guitar), John Large (Drums/Vocals) and Chris Corey (Piano/keyboards).

## SPECIAL GUEST MIKE MORGAN

In 1996 & 1998 Mowery had the opportunity to tour with Blacktop recording artist Mike Morgan & The Crawl, and Mike offered this assessment: "I was amazed that Hank could step in on a national level like he did. ...two minutes into our first show we knew he wasn't a replacement, he was part of the band!" With respect like that, it's not surprising that Morgan and Mowery continued to cross musical paths.

A Dallas native, Morgan co-founded The Crawl in the late 1980's, and his searing guitar playing, their fiery, unforgettable live performances, and a series of successful albums earned rave reviews from critics and a devoted audience worldwide. Their reputation as one of the best contemporary blues bands in Texas grew, with Morgan writing original songs that were on a par with the classics they chose to cover. They continued to delight their fans with new albums throughout the 1990s. Mike own three CD releases, between 2000 and 2007 were well-released, but he chose new business ventures and local gigs over the life of a touring artist. That makes it a rare treat to hear Morgan in our neck of the woods, back sharing a stage with Hank Mowery!



## CHAMPAGNE & THE MOTOR CITY BLUES CREW 10:30-APPROX. MIDNIGHT NORTH STAGE

Lady Champagne is an expressive blues singer with a crisp, clear and powerful alto voice that delivers lyrics you'll feel deep down in your soul. Champagne was nominated for best Blues vocalist in 2010 and 2012, and in March 2014 was officially inducted into the Detroit Blues Hall of Fame for Best Blues Artist, followed by being chosen best Blues singer of the year by the Detroit Black Music Awards Association. Backing her are the Motor City Blues Crew, an outstanding ensemble of Larry Turner and Robert Penn on guitar, Paul Stewart on bass, Rick Jones on keyboard, Richard Adams on sax and Roger Vince on drums.





# BLUESFEST 2014 PERFORMERS – SATURDAY

ENJOY MORE IN-DEPTH BAND INFO AT [WWW.OLDTOWNBLUESFEST.COM/PERFORMERS](http://WWW.OLDTOWNBLUESFEST.COM/PERFORMERS)

## DANCE LANSING COMMUNITY DANCE PROJECT

1:00-1:30 PM MICA STAGE



Performances by DANCE Lansing Community Dance Project offer an eclectic blend of modern and contemporary dance. 2014 shows--including one at Lansing JazzFest--are drawn from a repertoire of 35 new original dances, a cadre of 80 dancers and 30 choreographers. In their first performance at BluesFest, the dances performed will evoke blues rhythms. Community Dance Project (CDP) is an in-house component of Happendance, Michigan's longest-running professional modern dance company, in collaboration with Lansing Community College's Dance Program.

## KATHLEEN & THE BRIDGE STREET BAND

2:00-2:45 PM & 3:15-4:00 PM  
SOUTH STAGE



Kathleen Walters has been captivating audiences in and around Lansing since the formation of her first band, Blues Xpress, in the late 90s. Later, as featured vocalist for Frog & the Beeftones, she shared the stage with national blues artists Larry McCray Memphis mainstay The Daddy Mack Blues Band, and San Francisco's Tommy Castro Band. In 2006, Kathleen formed The Blues Junkies as an outlet for performing her own songs, and took 2nd place in the Capital Area Blues Society Blues Brawl and People's Choice Award. She now dazzles audiences with Kathleen and The Bridge Street Band, playing a unique mix of traditional and contemporary blues and sultry ballads. In addition to Kathleen on vocals, band members are Jon Gewirtz, sax; Tim Brouhard, bass guitar; Angelo Santelli, slide guitar; Eric Payne, drum; and Steve Dely, lead guitar.

## HARMONICA FOR KIDS WITH ANDY WILSON

2:00-3:00 PM MICA STAGE



Back by popular demand: the workshop, presented by harmonica pro Andy Wilson, encourages kids to play the harmonica, and free ones are provided for the first 100 participants, thanks to the sponsorship of Capital Area Blues Society. Wilson, co-founder of the Lansing old-time country, swing

and blues quartet Steppin' In It, started playing harmonica at a young age himself, and went on to also play trumpet, Cajun accordian and Irish whistles. He works in CABS' "Blues in Schools" program, and received national recognition as a featured performer at the 2007 Society for the Preservation and Advancement of the Harmonica convention. In addition to Steppin' In It, he is a long-time member of Those Delta Rhythm Kings and The Bad Gravy Blues Band, and in more recent years, of Springtails and The Lash.



## GINA GARNER & BRIAN KANDLER [2014 DUO WINNER, CAPITAL AREA BLUES SOCIETY (CABS) ANNUAL BLUES BRAWL]

3:15-4:00 PM MICA STAGE

Gina Garner and Brian Kandler's musical collaboration began at an open mic in downtown Lansing in 2011. After some working with local blues band Hittin' Home, in 2012 Gina joined Brian in the all-male blues/rock group, Late Edition, mixing it up with songs from Janis Joplin, Etta James, and Joan Osborne. At last year's BluesFest, Brian and Gina joined Jimmy G & the Capitols on the North Stage for a rocking' good time on Friday night. This year, with a set on their own, you'll hear Brian's smooth slide and blues guitar style paired perfectly with Gina's soulful interpretations of classic and modern blues tunes as well as original songs written by the duo. It's the sound and talent that made them the winning duo at this year's Blues Brawl.

## JUNIOR VALENTINE

4:00 TO 5:00 PM NORTH STAGE

Junior Valentine is a guitarist, singer, bandleader and teacher whose nearly 30 years of experience include many styles of blues, rhythm & blues, swing, and American roots music that touch on eras from the 1940s to the present. Valentine has played many venues in Chicago and the West Coast as well as throughout Michigan, and has toured nationally with the James Harman



Band. He is no stranger to the Old Town BluesFest stages, either, and this year he's teamed with Jason Wheeler (mandolinist with the band Fauxgrass), and percussionist Brandan Grinwis.



## MATCHETTE & FROG

4:15 TO 5:15 PM MICA STAGE

Matchette and Frog are decorated veterans of the Lansing music scene, honing their formidable harmonica, guitar, and vocal chops. It's a rare treat to hear them unplugged and face-to-face. Dave Matchette is one of Michigan's premier harp players, a formidable singer and frontman, and a familiar figure with Lansing blues fans thanks to his years performing with a variety of local bands, including guesting with Root Doctor. "Frog" is renowned as one of Lansing's hardest working – and continuously working! – guitar players, fronting local legends Frog & the Beeftones for decades, plus stints in countless other mid-Michigan bands.

## MARCI LINN BAND

5:00 TO 6:00 PM SOUTH STAGE

"You always win with Marci Linn." That's what fans new and old say about the veteran vocalist and her tight, six-piece unit, who have for years been serving a rich blend of blue-eyed soul to audiences across southwest Michigan and beyond. Hailing from Lansing, Linn started singing in bands in the early 80's and has toured nationally. Her vocal versatility comes from a voice big enough to do Aretha Franklin songs justice, yet tender enough for the sweetest ballads. As lead singer for Loaded Dice, she was instrumental in helping them win the 2002 Kalamazoo Valley Blues Association talent contest and a trip to the 2003 International Blues Challenge in Memphis. Another win from her time with Loaded Dice is guitarist/vocalist Jim Beebe, now her husband. The two of them eventually left the Dice to roll out their own band. Beebe has 25-plus years of professional musicianship under his belt, both regional and national. Rounding out the Marci Linn Band at BluesFest are saxophonist Orion Flowers and bassist Greg Orr plus Sam Ryan on drums and Geoff Stockton on guitar.



# BLUESFEST 2014 PERFORMERS – SATURDAY

ENJOY MORE IN-DEPTH BAND INFO AT [WWW.OLDTOWNBLUESFEST.COM/PERFORMERS](http://WWW.OLDTOWNBLUESFEST.COM/PERFORMERS)



## ALLEN BATES LAP SLIDE GUITAR EXHIBITION & WORKSHOP

5:30-6:30 PM MICA STAGE

Allen Bates has been involved in the Michigan music scene for over 30 years, playing in various bluegrass, country and blues bands. He has shared the stage with national artists Wynona Judd, Gatemouth Brown, Ison Krauss Idom Scene, Los Lobos and more. He is a past president of the Great Lakes Acoustic Music Association and enjoys teaching the instruments he plays -- Dobro or Resonator guitar, lap/pedal steel guitar, slide guitar, and banjo.

## FROG & THE BEEFTONES

6:00 TO 7:00 PM NORTH STAGE

One of Michigan's favorite bands--Frog & the

Beeftones--serves up a 100% all beef musical menu and the audience never leaves hungry. High energy, high musical proficiency and an off-the-gauge fun factor make it a great time for both the band and their listeners, as they cover the Blues with a healthy dose of rock and roll and a dash of funk for fun. They rock mid-Michigan's nightclub and concert stages pretty much every week -- over 150 shows in 2013 alone. They are also a regular on East Lansing's WMMQ (classic rock) radio. But they are much more than a local band. Since 1985 the 'Tones have done shows at countless clubs, county fairs and festivals around the midwest. The "Frog" is incomparable guitarist Steve Forgey--super fast (some claim they can't see his fingers move) and equally accurate--and the ever-amazing Beeftones are "Coop" Cooper on keyboards, Art Phelps on drums, and Mike Jessup on bass.



## DEACON EARL & THE CONGREGATION

6:45 TO 8:00 PM MICA STAGE

The band consists of Lansing native Deacon Earl, 31, on guitar and vocals; Ohio native Roger "Kidd Cincinnati" Gentry on harmonica and vocals; and Jackson, MS native Tyler Jenson on drums and



sometimes bass. Their unique sound is a blend of traditional folk and Mississippi Delta music, with traces of country, funk and rock & roll. After hearing The Congregation, join in a long Amen!



## ROOT DOCTOR FEATURING FREDDIE CUNNINGHAM

7:00 TO 8:00 PM SOUTH STAGE

Root Doctor, born of the fertile Lansing, Michigan music community, had its humble beginnings in the open mic scene of the late 1980s. Founding members Freddie Cunningham (lead vocals) and James Williams (bass guitar & vocals) still anchor the band's signature blend of powerful soul, traditional blues, R & B, and an increasing amount of original material--that few if any can match. The current line-up features original band mate Mike Skory (Hammond B3, keyboards, vocals, and song-writing), Bill Malone (guitar & vocals), and Bobby Gardner (drums), all veteran performers whose abundant abilities allow Root Doctor to continue their long tradition of amazing audiences and wowing critics. Along with 25 years of club, concert and festival performances, they have released six recordings to local and national acclaim. Their 2013 release, *New Attitude*, has been receiving airplay and rave reviews from around the world, including Australia, Italy and Japan.

## BULL HALSEY

8:00 TO 9:00 PM NORTH STAGE

Bull Halsey (a band, not a man or animal) creates a 'romp and stomp' jump blues that comes naturally -- with a reverent bow to the past of Chicago's electric blues scene, a heaping of the city grime of Detroit, and a pinch of Midwestern prairie dust mixed in, cooking up a nice batch of 'Halsey'. In 2001 veteran musicians Wally Schmid and Dave Oesterle kicked things off, and brought in Garth Girard to join them. They had already been in more than one garage-rock band together over the previous 15 years, and wanted control and dynamics--rather than screaming amps--to be at the core of Bull Halsey; to build songs upon traditional blues, jazz, country and swing forms without being trapped by any one



of them. Their first recording, a self-produced EP, *The Mighty Fists of Joe Frazier*, generated good air play, and in 2009 they released *Hot Dry Work*, a studio recording committed to reproducing what their live show had become after 6 years. Current band members are Dave on drums, Garth (bass guitar/lead vocals), Ben Vermeylen (guitar/vocals), and Danny Pratt (harmonica/guitar/vocals).

## SHARRIE WILLIAMS

9:00 - 10:30 PM NORTH STAGE

Sharrie Williams, also referred to as Princess of The Rockin' Gospel Blues, has performed in over 40 countries and with such Blues/Jazz legends as Buddy Guy, Taj Mahal, Van Morrison, Koko Taylor, Dizzy Gillespie and more. She's a three-time nominee by the Blues Foundation for Traditional Female Blues Artist and Soul Blues Female Artist of the Year. In 2012 her latest album, *Out Of The Dark*, won the prestigious Blues Album of the Year award from L'Academie du Jazz. She continues to captivate audiences with her strong yet emotive voice, gifted song-writing, and soul-stirring performances, joined by fellow vocalists Twyla Birdsong, Charles Allen and Angel Dottery; drummer "Boonie" Dottery, guitarist Chris Diener, bassist Marco Franco, and Alan Sloan on keyboards.



## THOSE DELTA RHYTHM KINGS

10:30 TO APPROX. MIDNIGHT NORTH STAGE

Those Delta Rhythm Kings have a style that loiters at the intersection where blues meets jazz -- swinging "little big band" jump blues from the 1940's and beyond--a high-energy, horn-driven sound that appeals to music lovers of all ages, to fans old and new. Founded in 1988 and based in Lansing, they've performed far and wide, backed the great James Harman, opened shows for Duke Robillard, Roomful of Blues, Pat Benatar and many others. They just released their fourth recording, *Swine of the Times*. The band features Ray Aleshire on vocals, bassist Rod Aleshire, guitar-slinger John Davidson and drummer Jeff Shoup. along with George Hirai on baritone sax, Chad Bement on tenor saxophone, Janell Christie on alto saxophone and Andy Wilson on both trumpet and harmonica. They're sure to send you home from BluesFest with music still running through your head and feet still tapping!



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

# SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Enjoy happy hour at the Turnaround Lounge beverage tent.  
21+ only. 4-6 pm Friday. Admission free!

### MAIN STAGES (ON TURNER STREET)

|                |  |             |
|----------------|--|-------------|
| 5:00-6:00 pm   | Twyla Birdsong                               | South Stage |
| 6:00-7:00 pm   | Big Boss Blues Band - Blues Brawl winner     | North Stage |
| 7:00-8:00 pm   | Harper & Midwest Kind                        | South Stage |
| 8:00-9:00 pm   | Greg Nagy                                    | North Stage |
| 9:00-10:30 pm  | Hank Mowery & The Hawktones with Mike Morgan | South Stage |
| 10:30-midnight | Champagne & the Motor City Blues Crew        | North Stage |

### MICA STAGE (CITY LOT 56 AT THE SOUTH END OF TURNER ST.)

|              |                            |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| 5:00-5:45 pm | Harper Didgeridoo Workshop |
| 6:15-7:00 pm | Red Herring                |
| 7:15-8:00 pm | The 89th Key               |

### THE OTHER STAGE (1215 TURNER ST.)

|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| 6:30-9:30 pm | Open Jam Session |
|--------------|------------------|

RIVER BOAT TOURS: 5:00-8:00 PM

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

|             |  |                               |
|-------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 10-11:30 pm | Lansing Historical Society free walking tour | Start south end of Turner St. |
|-------------|--|-------------------------------|

### MAIN STAGES (ON TURNER STREET)

|                |  |             |
|----------------|--|-------------|
| 2:00-2:45 pm   | Kathleen & the Bridge Street Band        | South Stage |
| 3:15-4:00 pm   | Kathleen & the Bridge Street Band        | South Stage |
| 4:00-5:00 pm   | Junior Valentine                         | North Stage |
| 5:00-6:00 pm   | Marci Linn Band                          | South Stage |
| 6:00-7:00 pm   | Frog & the Beeftones                     | North Stage |
| 7:00-8:00 pm   | Root Doctor featuring Freddie Cunningham | South Stage |
| 8:00-9:00 pm   | Bull Halsey                              | North Stage |
| 9:00-10:30 pm  | Sharrie Williams                         | South Stage |
| 10:30-midnight | Those Delta Rhythm Kings                 | North Stage |

### MICA STAGE (CITY LOT 56 AT THE SOUTH END OF TURNER ST.)

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1:00-1:30 pm | DANCE Lansing Community Dance Project                |
| 2:00-3:00 pm | Andy Wilson-Harmonica for Kids                       |
| 3:15-4:00 pm | Gina Garner & Brian Kandler - Blues Brawl Duo Winner |
| 4:15-5:15 pm | Matchette & Frog                                     |
| 5:30-6:30 pm | Allen Bates - Lap slide guitar exhibition & workshop |
| 6:45-8:00 pm | Deacon Earl & The Congregation                       |

### (NEAR THE MICA STAGE)

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1:00-5:00 pm | KidzBeat: Activities for kids of all ages |
|--------------|---|

### THE OTHER STAGE (1215 TURNER ST.)

|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| 3:30-9:30 pm | Open Jam Session |
|--------------|------------------|

RIVER BOAT TAXI: 2:00-10:00 PM



Limited seating available on site.  
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Schedules subject to change.

# Art Gallery **CONFIDENTIAL**



Illustration by Jonathan Griffith/City Pulse

## Super festival

The whole ball of beeswax about the 4th annual Art Attack!

By JONATHAN GRIFFITH

In the winter of 1960, the comics world saw its first super team-up when DC's mightiest heroes — including Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman — formed the first iteration of the Justice League to battle a giant space echinoderm. So when economic downturn and loss of regional awareness threatened Lansing's historic REO Town district, a similar team-up of exceptional entities united with a common goal. And thus the Art Attack! festival was formed, comprising local artists, musicians and food vendors to battle the threat of re-development and to raise awareness of a community rich in culture and creativity.

"We were looking for an opportunity like this," said James Groves, one of the founders of the Showdown in REO Town component of the festival. "It was the perfect coincidence."

At the Showdown, organized by REACH Art Studio, artists had about six hours to complete a work of themed art. This year's goal: Decorating a trash can to be placed in one of Lansing's parks.

Groves, a tattoo artist at the Tattoo Shop in Lansing, had his can decorated with (exceptionally fitting) images he called "the Trash Monkeys." The array of bright colors and highly stylized figures is something easily likened to street art. Six hours is a definite strain to be creative, but Groves felt he was armed with the best tool for the job.

"You get such a smooth blend with spray paints," Groves said. "You can work big quickly."

Meanwhile, a group of Groves' competitors were also executing a clever spin off the theme. Their circular drum was colored to be reminiscent of a decomposing Coca-Cola can. Evidence that perhaps the more consistent theme of this year's "showdown" was hardly a confinement for

the artist's imagination.

"It's great how the Showdown was organized this year," said Marcus Cottom, one of the collaborators for the soda can piece. "There is more sense of fairness."

The team comprised Steve Carian, Paul Vetne, Marcus Cottom, Garrett Giger and Nathan Gonzolez. Carian and Vetne are also tattoo artists at Lansing's Liquid Tattoos.

While the Showdown is one of the huge attractions at Art Attack!, several vendors were also on hand exhibiting and selling their creations. One such artist was REO Town resident — and recipient of the Art Council of Greater Lansing's 2014 individual artist grant — Katie Woodhams, who has a long history with being creative.

"My mother is an art instructor," Woodham said. "I probably used a paint brush long before I ever used a pencil."

Woodham works in the medium of encaustic, or beeswax, painting. Pigment is added to heated beeswax on wood, panel or canvas allowing the artist to implement a structural depth to the work. Woodham has studied photography and holds degrees in fine art and zoology, but had a crash course four-day encaustic seminar.

"I found I was able to express myself in a way I was never able to before," Woodham said. "It's the best way to articulate ideas."

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# THE SCREENING ROOM by ALLAN I. ROSS

## Critic's choice 'Life Itself,' 'Snowpiercer' lead Indie Film Series

In "Life Itself," the documentary about late Chicago Sun-Times film critic Roger Ebert, one of his peers brags that the Pulitzer Prize-winner could crank out a well-thought-out review in half an hour. This piece, dear reader, took significantly longer than that, but if Ebert had lived long enough to review the visionary thriller "Snowpiercer" — and been brazen enough to combine it with an analysis of his own film — I'd be willing to

### "Life Itself" and "Snowpiercer"

Indie Film Series  
Studio C! Meridian Mall  
1999 Central Park Drive,  
Okemos.  
(517) 393-7469,  
celebrationcinema.com/  
studio

bet it wouldn't have been one of his quickies. Both films play this month at Studio C! as part of the Indie Film Series.

It's somewhat intimidating to review "Life Itself," about a man synonymous with contemplative film critiques, so let's start with "Snowpiercer." (Procrastination, after all, is a hallmark of being a writer.) South Korean filmmaker Joo-ho Bong ("The Host") used the source material, a French graphic novel, as a jumping off point to craft a razor-sharp allegory of societal hierarchy and infused it with Gnostic themes that, unless you're a religious studies major, may require a little post-viewing unpacking.

In fact, it's almost better to unhitch the film entirely from the real world and view "Snowpiercer" as a strictly metaphorical film about classism and cultural imperialism as seen through a dystopian sci fi lens — think David Lynch's "Dune" packed onto a train and relegated to the opposite end of the color palate.

In the near future, scientists attempting to reverse global warming accidentally send

the planet plummeting into a global ice age that wipes out all life. A locomotive powered by a perpetual motion engine — our first clue that Bong intended the movie to be a pure flight of fancy — lugs the final remnants of humanity around in an unending loop circumscribing the Americas, Eurasia and Africa. Those in the caboose live squalid existences, subsiding on "protein bars" (better if you don't know what they're really made of) manufactured farther up the train. Nearer the locomotive lives a society of hedonists and brainwashed sheeple: Front cars good, back cars baaaaaad.

The film follows a bloody uprising by the rear passengers, led by Curtis (Chris Evans, "Captain America: The Winter Solider"). References to various historical revolutions blend with unfamiliar motifs and abstruse visuals (why are those storm troopers dipping their hatchets into the guts of a freshly sliced carp?) that I was only able to chalk up to Eastern filmmaking. Which also accounts for the intense violence. Not since "Braveheart" has an otherwise self-serious picture included flourishes such as the dull wet "schlup" of an ax plunging into a human cheekbone. That said, "Snowpiercer" is an eminently satisfying original work that will have a lasting effect on the way action can be incorporated into storytelling.

Ebert once said the violence that had overtaken mainstream entertainment was



Courtesy Photo

"Life Itself," about Roger Ebert, plays at Studio C! as part of the Indie Film Series.

lazy, but I'd like to think he'd appreciate Bong's use of it. Ebert was, after all, the first champion of a ferocious young filmmaker named Martin Scorsese. He thumbs-upped the blood-spattered "Scarface" over his sparing partner Gene Siskel, who found the film "boring"; this heated exchange is one of many archived moments in "Life Itself," which loosely follows Ebert's eponymous 2011 memoir.

As a sound-alike narrator reads excerpts from the book, documentarian Steve James ("Hoop Dreams") follows Ebert as he be-

gins his final battery of hospital visits in the months leading up to his death at age 70 last year. The film tracks his life, from growing up about two hours outside Chicago through his college years where he proved himself to be a standout journalist and his years as a thoughtful film reviewer at the only paper he ever worked for.

Ebert entered the pop culture landscape as the portlier half of "Siskel & Ebert & the Movies," making film criticism a mainstream affair, albeit a black and white one — how can one simply reduce a work of art to a yay or nay? But "Life Itself" also ventures into race relations, journalistic integrity and the evolution of film. A bold scope indeed, but the film stays on track to present a well-rounded portrait of a man who saw movies as an extension of existence, and the only art form to truly instill the elusive quality of empathy.

And so, in the words of Ebert, I conclude this two-film evaluation thus: "Two thumbs way up."

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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. Thursdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Jonathan at (517) 999-5069.

## Wednesday, September 10

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Family Storytime.** Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 367-6363.

**Meditation.** For beginners and experienced. 7-9 p.m. FREE. Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, 3015 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. (517) 351-5866.

**Overeaters Anonymous.** 7 p.m. FREE. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 W. Saginaw Highway, Grand Ledge. (517) 256-6954, [fcgl.org](http://fcgl.org).

**Computer Club: Online Safety.** Safety tips for navigating the Internet. 1-2:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, [meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com](http://meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com).

**Senior Games.** Featuring Mahjongg and Pinochle. 1 p.m. , FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

**Football and Social Justice.** Discussion. 6-7 p.m. FREE. Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 125 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-7434, [pilgrimucc.com](http://pilgrimucc.com).

### EVENTS

**Practice Your English.** Practice listening to and speaking English. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, [elpl.org](http://elpl.org).

**Allen Street Farmers Market.** Featuring locally grown/prepared foods. Live music by Jen Sygit. 3-6:30 p.m. FREE. Allen Street Farmers Market, 1619 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 999-3911.

**Capital Area Crisis Men's Rugby Practice.** Weather permitting. All experience levels welcome. 6:30 p.m. FREE. St. Joseph Park, 2151 W. Hillsdale St., Lansing. [crisisrffc.com](http://crisisrffc.com).

**BabyTime.** Intended for ages up to 18 months with adult. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, [elpl.org](http://elpl.org).

**Teen Crafternoon.** Teens create a variety of crafts. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, [elpl.org](http://elpl.org).

**OBOG: Writing Workshop.** Creative writing

See Out on the Town, Page 26



## The new (Abby) normal

THURSDAY, SEPT. 11-14 & THURSDAY SEPT. 18-21

Mel Brooks probably had little idea that his 1974 comedy “Young Frankenstein” would become the iconic phenomenon it is today when he filmed it. Brooks reported that the original cut was over twice as long as the film we’re familiar with and that for every three jokes, only one was even funny. Nowadays, however, you’d be hard pressed to find someone that doesn’t directly associate “Puttin’ on the Ritz” with the film or mimic Marty Feldman’s classic “Walk this way.”

The film’s popularity eventually spilled over to Broadway in 2007 in musical form after the unabashed success of Brooks’ other screen-to-stage adaptation, “The Producers.” Riverwalk Theatre’s adaptation of that musical opens on Thursday, and it has some pretty big shoes to fill — quite literally, for actor Chris Goeckel, who plays the Creature.

“It’s so much fun getting to portray the monster,” Goeckel said. “I’ve been a longtime fan.”

Riverwalk’s production of “Young Frankenstein,” directed by Tom Ferris, brings the local community theater season to life in a big way. The show features Josh Martin in the titular role, James Houska as the exceedingly eccentric Igor and Veronica Gracia-Wing as Frankenstein’s fiancé, Elizabeth. The set design also promises to be quite lavish. The Brooks film had sets made of the exact intricate pieces built by special FX wizard Ken Strickfaden for James Whale’s 1931 “Frankenstein” film. Riverwalk’s sets hope to capture that same awe-inspiring aesthetic.

“They’re some of the most aggressive sets I have seen at Riverwalk,” Goeckel said. “The castle disappears and reappears, interchanging with the lab and dungeon. We have had a sizable production crew rehearsing alongside the actors. Hopefully it will wow

audiences.”

“Young Frankenstein” will be Goeckel’s 19th production in the Lansing area. Though he considers himself a relative newcomer to the stage, having only had his theater debut 12 years ago, he is no stranger to roles adhering to the “gentle giant” tropes — Goeckel once played Lenny in a Bath Community Theatre Guild production of “Of Mice and Men.” As far as tackling Peter Boyle’s iconic role as the monster, Goeckel doesn’t plan on being too ambitious.

“Boyle’s performance is definitely what I am going for,” Goeckel said. “I’m following it pretty much verbatim.”

So it would seem that all the pieces are in place for that fateful bolt of lightning to strike and bring the play to life. Fans of the film can look forward to all their favorite scenes and dialogue, but with a play being based on a film full of so much ad-libbed material, there is sure to be room for surprises as well. And when the show has its run and Goeckel hangs up his neck bolts for good, he says it’s another thing to cross off his bucket list.

“I’ve always wanted to be in a Tom Ferris-directed play,” Goeckel said. “I am really thankful for him casting me. I didn’t want any other role.”



### “Young Frankenstein”

Riverwalk Theatre  
Through Sept. 21  
7 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m.  
Fridays-Saturdays; 2 p.m.  
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228 Museum Drive, Lansing  
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—JONATHAN GRIFFITH



# TURN IT DOWN

A SURVEY OF LANSING'S  
MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

BY RICHTUPICA

## LIGHTS AND CAVES RETURN TO THE LOFT

**Saturday, Sept. 13 The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. \$12, \$10 adv., all ages, 7 p.m.**

After a three-month hiatus from live shows, *Lights and Caves*, a local experimental indie rock band, returns to the stage Saturday. Openers are *Signals*, *Alaska*, *Last Night Saved My Life* and *the Class Acts*. *Lights and Caves* is Dillon Gorden (vocals/guitar), Evan Rudman (drums), Stefan Wiseman (bass) and Jason Marr (guitar). This week's *Turn it Down* is an interview with Gorden, who gives insight on the band's past and its upcoming album.

### Lights and Caves formed in 2012. How did it start?

The early stages of our band were fairly casual. Evan, Stefan and I would get together to play music a few times a week and write some random (songs). Then we started working on a few tunes that would eventually make it to our debut record. Once we began writing and demoing "Run" and "To the Solipsist," we decided to start sharing the songs. After that, we put ourselves out into the Lansing scene and played a handful of shows before we approached Jason.

### How do the band members' musical influences mesh?

I think the musical palate of our band is rather diverse, but there are some common themes throughout all of our respective iTunes libraries. We're all fans of Manchester Orchestra, Kanye West and Bad Suns. However, the musical interests that we don't share as a band are probably the most important when it comes to the creative process. One of (my) biggest inspirations is just everyday life. The people you meet, places you see and how you interpret all of it can end up turning into a pretty neat song idea.

### How is it gigging in Lansing?

We're all extremely proud to call Lansing our hometown. The art culture around here has improved drastically over the years. I think that's really exciting. As with a lot of things in Lansing, we have come a long way, but we're not there yet. The people involved in the scene — the bands and venues, alike — are all talented and good at what they do. But most importantly,



the community has been encouraging and receptive to all of it. Without that crucial piece, there wouldn't be a music scene.

### What recordings has the band done so far?

We have one album released, and one on the way. We recorded our debut record, "In Satori," in Chicago with our good friend Mike Govaere at Downbeat Studio. I think we plan on going back to him with this next effort as well.

### What's the songwriting process for the band?

For "In Satori," I would write something on my acoustic guitar — a vocal line, chord progression or sometimes an entire song. Then I'd show it to the band and if we all dug the overall vibe, we would continue on with the song. From there, we took things out and added things in, often scrapping entire ideas in the process. We came up with eight songs that we all enjoyed, cut one of them and took the remainder down to Chicago. Some things were written or finalized while recording, but for the most part we went down there to record a finished album.

### Was there any teamwork on the upcoming LP?

The guys and I have kind of changed the writing process a bit for the new stuff. Every step of the way has been very collaborative, and that is something we're all excited about. It takes a bit longer to write this way, but I don't think there's a single note that any of us are unhappy with. It's great to be able to say that all of us had a part in writing every aspect of every song.

### What can attendees expect at the Loft show?

We'll be sharing the stage with a very talented and diverse group of Michigan bands. I believe we're planning on debuting a bunch of brand new songs at this show. Come hang out with us and enjoy a taste of what the Michigan music scene has to offer.

**UPCOMING SHOW? CONTACT RICHTUPICA AT RICHT@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM >>> TO BE LISTED IN LIVE & LOCAL E-MAIL LIVEANDLOCAL@LANSINGCITYPULSE.COM**

## LIVE & LOCAL

|  | WEDNESDAY                     | THURSDAY                              | FRIDAY                            | SATURDAY                              |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave.             |                               | S.S. Web, 9 p.m.                      | One Year Later, 8 p.m.            | The Starving Arts, 9 p.m.             |
| Coach's Pub & Grill, 6201 Bishop Rd.               | DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.             | Updraft, 9 p.m.                       |                                   | DJ Jimmy, 9 p.m.                      |
| Colonial Bar, 3425 S. MLK Blvd.                    |                               | Doc Brown, 8 p.m.                     | Roux, 8 p.m.                      | Roux, 8 p.m.                          |
| Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave.                 | Jacob Latham, 10 p.m.         | Karaoke, 9 p.m.                       | Karaoke, 9 p.m.                   | Karaoke, 9 p.m.                       |
| The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave.                 | Blue Wednesday, 8 p.m.        | Skoryoke Live Band Karaoke, 8 p.m.    | Summer of Sol, 8 p.m.             | Blue Haired Betty's, 8 p.m.           |
| Grand Café/Sir Pizza, 201 E. Grand River Ave.      |                               | Kathy Ford Band, 7:30 p.m.            | DJ Victor, 8:30 p.m.              | DJ Victor, 8:30 p.m.                  |
| Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave.                  | Johnny D Jam, 8 p.m.          | Karaoke Kraze, 8:30 p.m.              | Hidden Agenda, 9 p.m.             | Kathleen & The Groove Council, 9 p.m. |
| Gus's Bar, 2321 W. Michigan Ave.                   |                               | Open Mic w/Hot Mess, 9 p.m.           | Karaoke                           |                                       |
| The Loft, 414 E. Michigan Ave.                     | Taj Weekes & Adowa, 8 p.m.    | We Came as Romans, 6 p.m.             | Wavves, 6:30 p.m.                 | Lights and Caves, 7 p.m.              |
| Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave.                   |                               |                                       |                                   | The Bear Creek Brothers, 6 p.m.       |
| Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave.               |                               | The MTVs and Special Guest, 9:30 p.m. | Lincoln County Process, 9:30 p.m. | Smooth Daddy, 9:30 p.m.               |
| R-Club, 6409 Centurion Dr.                         |                               |                                       | Showdown, 8:30 p.m.               | Showdown, 8:30 p.m.                   |
| Tin Can West, 644 Migaldi Ln.                      | Waterpong, 11 p.m.            |                                       |                                   |                                       |
| Tin Can DeWitt, 13175 Schavey Rd.                  | DJ Trivia, 8 p.m.             |                                       |                                   |                                       |
| Ull's Haus of Rock, 4519 S. Martin Luther King Jr. | Bike Night, 8 p.m.            |                                       | Big Brother's Smoke, 8 p.m.       | Past Tense, 8 p.m.                    |
| Unicorn Tavern, 327 E. Grand River Ave.            |                               | Frog & the Beeftones, 8:30 p.m.       | Late Edition, 8:30 p.m.           | Late Edition, 8:30 p.m.               |
| Waterfront Bar & Grill, 325 City Market Dr.        | Suzi & the Love Bros., 6 p.m. | Off the Ledge Band, 6 p.m.            | Craig Hendershott, 6 p.m.         | Tye Dyed Giants, 6 p.m.               |
| Whiskey Barrel Saloon, 410 S. Clippert St.         | DJ, 9 p.m.                    | DJ, 9 p.m.                            | DJ, 9 p.m.                        | DJ, 7 p.m.                            |

## PLAY IN A BAND? BOOK SHOWS? LIVE & LOCAL LISTS UPCOMING GIGS!

To get listed just email us at [liveandlocal@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:liveandlocal@lansingcitypulse.com) or call (517) 999-6710

**WHAT TO DO:** Submit information by the Friday before publication (City Pulse comes out every Wednesday.) Be sure to tell us the name of the performer and the day, date and time of the performance. Only submit information for the following week's paper.

# Out on the town

from page 24

workshop led by Anita Skeen. 4-6 p.m. & 7-9 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

## MUSIC

**Fusion Shows Presents.** 10 p.m. FREE. Crunchy's, 254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 351-2506, crunchyseastlansing.com.

## Thursday, September 11

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives.** The Charleston Hospital Workers' Strike of 1969, 12:15-1:30 p.m. FREE. MSU Museum Auditorium, MSU campus, East Lansing.

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** Contact Jan. 5:15 p.m.

\$5. New Hope Church, 1340 Haslett Road, Haslett. (517) 349-9183, newhopehaslett.com.

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** Weigh-in 6 p.m., meeting 6:30 p.m. FREE to visit. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 882-9080, stdavidslansing.org.

**Family Storytime.** Ages up to 6. Stories, rhymes and activities. 10:30 a.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6363. cadl.org.

**Meditation.** For beginners and experienced. 7-8:30 p.m. FREE. Quan Am Temple, 1840 N. College Ave., Mason. (517) 853-1675, quanamtemple.org.

**Tarot Study Group.** With Dawne Botke. 7 p.m. FREE. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 883-3619, triplegoddessesbookstore.net.

**Lansing Area Codependent Anonymous.** Held in room 214G. 7-8 p.m. FREE. Community Mental Health Building, 812 E. Jolly Road, Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

**Ojibwe/Anishinaabemowin Class.** Teaching the language of the first people from this region.

7-9 p.m. Donation. Nokomis Learning Center, 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 349-5777, nokomis.org.

**Craft Night Social.** Creating quill boxes, making dance shawls and teaching the peyote stitch. 5-7 p.m. FREE. Nokomis Learning Center, 5153 Marsh Road, Okemos. (517) 349-5777, nokomis.org.

**Sign Language Classes.** For ages 12 and up. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Christian Church, 2600 Bennett Road, Okemos. (517) 492-6149.

**Current Events.** Call to register. 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

**Domestic Violence Advocacy.** CARE volunteer training Sept. 11-14. FREE. 2500 S. Washinton Ave., 2nd floor, Lansing. (517) 272-7436.

**Nursing Home to Your Home.** Seminar on health care. 5:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

## EVENTS

**Art Quilts Closing Reception.** For "Color Wheel of Emotions" and "Mapping Memories: Michigan." FREE. 4:30-6 p.m. Lookout! Gallery, Snyder/Phillips Hall, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. rcah.msu.edu.

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

**Euchre.** No partner needed. 6-9 p.m. \$1.50. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. (517) 484-5600.

**Karaoke.** With Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184.

**YPAAL Happy Hour.** Meet and network with other local professionals. 5:30-7 p.m. FREE. Tavern On the

Square, 206 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (614) 266-0852.

**Dimondale Farmers Market.** Live music, locally grown produce. 3-7 p.m. FREE. Bridge Street, Dimondale. (517) 646-0230, villageofdimondale.org.

**Turtle Toast Fundraiser.** Wine and craft beer tasting, live music fundraiser, 5-8 p.m. \$35. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866, hncfoundation.org.

**English Country Dance Lessons.** In room CM20. 7-9:30 p.m. \$6/\$4 students/MSU students FREE. Snyder/Phillips Hall, MSU campus, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. (517) 321-3070, msu.edu.

**Student Organic Farm Farmstand.** Student-run farm stand features local organic food. 11-5:30 p.m. MSU Erickson Hall, 620 Farm Lane, East Lansing. (517) 230-7987, msuorganicfarm.com.

**Smith Floral Harvest Basket Sale.** Fresh produce grown on site. 3-7 p.m. Smith Floral, 1124 E. Mt. Hope, Lansing. (517) 484-5327, smithfloral.com.

**Teen Game Haven.** Play a variety of games; board, card and video. 3-5:30 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**MSU Community Club Welcome.** Open to all MSU faculty members, alumni, staff and retirees. 12-30-2:30 p.m. FREE. University Club MSU, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. (517) 332-4313, msu.edu.

## MUSIC

**Rally In The Alley Open Mic.** 6:30 p.m. FREE. American Legion Post 48, 731 N. Clinton St., Grand Ledge. (517) 627-1232.

**[REVOLUTION] at Tavern.** Electronic music, 21-up. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. FREE. Tavern On the Square, 206 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 374-5555.

**Open Jam at the Colonial.** All talents welcome. \$8 sizzler steak special. 8 p.m. FREE. Colonial Bar and Grill, 3425 S. MLK Jr. Blvd. Lansing. (517) 882-6132, colonialbarandgrille.com.

**We Came As Romans.** 6 p.m. \$21-\$23. The Loft, (At Harem Urban Lounge) 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. ow.ly/B8foB.

**Marshall Music Drum Circle.** All ages and levels welcome. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Marshall Music, 3240 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. (517) 337-9700, marshallmusic.com.

## THEATER

**"Young Frankenstein."** Musical comedy based on the Mel Brooks classic. 7 p.m. \$22/\$19 seniors & students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

## Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"From Start to Finish"--literally so.  
Matt Jones

### Across

- 1 Slightly soggy
- 5 Person who keeps things kosher
- 10 Exec's "Fast!"
- 14 Xenia and Zanesville are there
- 15 Hatch of Utah
- 16 \_\_\_ Eightball (Emily Flake comic)
- 17 Move on
- 19 Prudish type
- 20 90-degree bends
- 21 Not pro bono
- 23 Neil deGrasse Tyson series
- 26 "Impossible!"



- 27 Parolee, for example
- 28 1990s dance hit, or the guy (John) who sang it
- 32 Low in fat
- 33 Get down, get down
- 34 Grumpy cohort
- 37 Norse god of battle
- 38 Things in your throat
- 39 Turtle doves' number
- 40 Behold
- 41 Provide opportunity
- 42 Market optimist
- 43 Kind of bread
- 45 Round lid?
- 46 Cheapskate
- 48 Partner of 6-Down
- 49 Frozen food aisle options
- 52 Cafe au \_\_\_
- 53 1998 Sarah McLach-

- lan ballad
- 54 Chinese dish with seeds
- 59 Shoe insert
- 60 Like cooked hot dogs
- 61 Was in the red
- 62 Diamond decision
- 63 Diaper, in Britain
- 64 "Warrior Princess" of TV

### Down

- 1 Bobs and weaves, e.g.
- 2 Shower wand sound
- 3 Rapper Mathangi Arulpragasam, to fans
- 4 Fun with cards
- 5 Muddies the waters
- 6 Partner of 48-Across
- 7 Bud
- 8 "Back to the Future"

- bully
- 9 The scoop
- 10 Llama lookalike
- 11 Dinner when you can't decide
- 12 Of another world
- 13 Seattle's sound
- 18 SpaceX head \_\_\_ Musk
- 22 "Blue" singer LeAnn
- 23 Boston team, briefly
- 24 Variety of daisy
- 25 Petrified
- 28 Echolocation system
- 29 Bill featured on "Picture Pages"
- 30 Graceful and quick
- 31 Scrabble piece
- 33 Knock on the head
- 35 Baby screecher
- 36 They bolted from Baltimore
- 38 \_\_\_ Haute, Indiana
- 42 You might cover your mouth before doing it
- 44 Put some fizz in
- 45 Runny cheese
- 46 Brunch and dinner
- 47 One of the BRICS countries
- 48 Like the "Batman" TV series
- 50 "2 Minute Drill" channel
- 51 "Once and Again" actress Ward
- 52 Night table item
- 55 "How's it hangin'?"
- 56 She-sheep
- 57 Hallow or velvet ending
- 58 Grp. that approved Olestra

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See Out on the Town, Page 27

## SUDOKU

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

## INTERMEDIATE

### TO PLAY

Fill in the grid so that every row, column, and outlined 3-by-3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 exactly once. No guessing is required. The solution is unique.

Answers on page 29

# Out on the town

from page 26

## Friday, September 12

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Alcoholics Anonymous.** A closed women's meeting. 7:30 p.m. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing. (517) 882-9733.

### EVENTS

**Protest Against Circumcision.** March against the genital cutting of children. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. FREE. Capitol Lawn, Lansing. (248) 642-5703, ow.ly/B8giy.

**Lansing Bike Party.** Bike ride with TGIF stop. 5:45 p.m. FREE. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, MSU campus, East Lansing. facebook.com/groups/lansingbikeparty.

**Library Boot Camp.** Discover library resources and services. Noon-1 p.m. FREE. MSU Library, MSU campus, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. (517) 884-0901, lib.msu.edu.

**Old Town Farmers Market.** Featuring local foods and products, live music by Deacon Earl. 3-7 p.m. Corner of Turner Street and Grand River Avenue, Lansing. (517) 485-4283.

**StoryTime: Michigan Reads.** "Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band." 10:30-11:15 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**Teen Movie Mania.** Watch a blockbuster hit on the library big screen. 3-5 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**Tejano/Latino Music Festival.** Music, food, and family fun. 6 p.m.-midnight. FREE/\$5 beer tent cover. Cesar E. Chavez Plaza, 216 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 803-9239, lansingforcesarchavez.org.

**Sweet September Party.** Fundraising event. FREE. 5-9pm Grace Boutique/Curvaceous Lingerie, 513 East Grand River, Lansing. (517)881-8466.

### MUSIC

**Wavves.** Live performance. 6:30 p.m. \$14. The Loft, (At Harem Urban Lounge) 414 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing. ow.ly/B8i3j.

### THEATER

**"Young Frankenstein."** See details Sept. 11. 8 p.m. \$22/\$19 seniors & students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

## Saturday, September 13

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Domestic Violence Support Group.** Noon-1:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163, womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

**Tai Chi in the Park.** For beginning and experienced tai chi practitioners. 9-10 a.m. FREE. Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, 1400 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (517) 272-9379.

### EVENTS

**2014 Lansing Heart Walk.** Stop heart disease and stroke. 8:30 a.m. FREE. Delta Dental, 4100 Okemos Road, Okemos. (269) 808-2783, lansingheartwalk.org.

**Karaoke.** With Atomic D. 9 p.m. LeRoy's Classic Bar & Grill, 1526 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (517) 482-0184.

**Harvest Moon Campfire.** Campfire, marshmallows and a walk. 7-8:30 p.m. \$3/\$7 per

family. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. (517) 349-3866, meridian.mi.us.

**Capital City Dragon Boat Race.** Presented by the Women's Center of Greater Lansing. FREE. Adado Riverfront Park, 531 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163, capitalcitydragonboat.com.

**CAHS's Walk for the Animals.** Activities and more. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. FREE/donations encouraged. Fitzgerald Park, 133 Fitzgerald Park Drive, Grand Ledge. (517) 626-6060 ext. 120, adoptlansing.org.

**Touch a Truck.** Truck show for kids. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. \$5/\$3 kids/\$12 family (up to 5 people). Hawk Island County Park, E. Cavanaugh Road, Lansing. (517) 244-7186, friendsofinghamcountyparks.org.

**Women's Conference with Beth Moore.** Living Proof Simulcast. 8:30 a.m. \$15/\$12 advance. South Church, 401 W. Holmes, Lansing. (517) 322-2000, southlife.org/special-events.

**Second Saturday Supper.** Takeout available. 5-6:15 p.m. \$8/\$4 children. Mayflower Congregational Church, 2901 W Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-3139, mayflowerchurch.com.

**Tejano/Latino Music Festival.** Music, food, and family fun. Noon-midnight. FREE/\$5 beer tent cover. Cesar E. Chavez Plaza, 216 E. Grand River, Lansing. (517) 803-9239, lansingforcesarchavez.org.

### MUSIC

**Matt LoRusso Trio.** Jazz. 9 p.m.-midnight, FREE. Troppo, 111 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 371-4000.

**Lights and Caves.** 7 p.m. \$10. The Loft, (At Harem Urban Lounge) 414 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. ow.ly/B8oKe.

**A Fairchild Fanfare.** MSUFCU Showcase Series. Variety of music. 8 p.m. \$20/\$18 Seniors/\$10

students. Fairchild Theatre, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-5340, music.msu.edu.

### THEATER

**"Young Frankenstein."** See details Sept. 11. 8 p.m. \$22/\$19 seniors & students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

## Sunday, September 14

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

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

**Spiritual Talk, Pure Meditation and Silent Prayer.** 7 p.m. FREE. Self Realization Meditation Healing Centre, 7187 Drumheller Road, Bath. (517) 641-6201, selfrealizationcentremichigan.org.

**Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous.** Third floor meeting room. 2-3 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

See Out on the Town, Page 28

## MONDAY, SEPT. 15 >> WORLD VIEW LECTURE SERIES: MICHELE NORRIS

Journalist, host and special correspondent for NPR Michele Norris will give a lecture in the Cobb Great Hall at Wharton Center on Monday. Norris' lecture coincides with her book, "Grace of Silence: A Memoir," which is part of this year's One Book, One Community program. Norris has been in journalism for over 20 years, getting her start as an ABC news correspondent and working her way up to cohost of NPR's "All Things Considered." She has received numerous awards for her work, which lends insight into American culture and social issues. 7:30 p.m. \$20. Wharton Center, Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 353-1982, whartoncenter.com.

## FRIDAY, SEPT. 12 >> BEERFEST AT THE BALLPARK

Fans of last spring's Beerfest at the Ballpark outdoor festival didn't have to wait too long for a follow-up. Bookending the summer, Beerfest at the Ballpark returns to Cooley Law School Stadium on Friday, celebrating all things beer, cider and mead. The fest promises to enhance some features from the inaugural event, most notably moving the festivities from the front of the stadium down onto the playing field. BAD Brewing Co., Dark Horse Brewing Co. and Griffin Claw Brewing Co. will be among the dozens of Michigan breweries on-hand, joined by a few out-of-state breweries. There will be plenty of live music provided by the Black Barn Band, Joe Wright and Stone Clover. And for those planning on having lots of "fun," a fleet of cabs provided by iCab Taxi service will be lined up outside the park to take you home. 6 p.m. \$35/\$30 adv./\$40 adv. VIP. Cooley Law School Stadium, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. beerfestattheballpark.net.



## Who Was The World's First Superstar?

Find out who she was and why all the greats stand on her shoulders

Carol Dunitz' **Bernhardt on Broadway** The Musical

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--UPSTAGE Theatre Journal

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## Out on the town

from page 27

### EVENTS

**Lansing Area Sunday Swing Dance.** Lessons 6-6:30 p.m., dance 7-10 p.m. \$8 dance/\$10 dance & lesson/students \$5 w/free lesson. The Lansing Eagles, 4700 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. (517) 490-7838.  
**Scandinavian Society of Greater Lansing Annual Picnic.** Food and fun. 2-5:30 p.m. \$2. Lions Club Pavilion, Green Arbor Drive, Dimondale. (517) 482-8357, 321-2674 or 589-9350 (rides)  
**Greater Lansing Rose Show.** With the Greater Lansing Rose Society. Noon-5 p.m. FREE. MSU Horticulture Gardens, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 651-6793. greaterlansingrosesociety.lifeyo.com.

### THEATER

**"Young Frankenstein."** See details Sept. 11.

## SATURDAY, SEPT. 13 >> LANSING ART GALLERY 'ART ON FIRE' FUNDRAISER

Lansing Art Gallery is firing up the grill and kiln for the unlikely pairing of pig and pottery in its "Art on Fire" fundraiser. Artist Mark Chatterley will be on hand to help guests make customized Raku bowls, a Japanese style of pottery that's shaped hand rather than by being thrown. While you're waiting for the kiln tech to finish heating your bowl, you can enjoy a pig roast, beer, wine and live music. The first bowl goes in at 3 p.m. and the last one goes in at 6 p.m.; the festivities will last until 8 p.m. All proceeds from the event benefit the Lansing Art Gallery. Tickets are available online, by phone or at Lansing Art Gallery. 3 p.m. \$25/Raku bowl is additional \$25. 6396 S. M52, Owosso. (517) 374-6400, lansingartgallery.com.

2 p.m. \$22/\$19 seniors & students. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. (517) 482-5700, riverwalktheatre.com.

## Monday, September 15

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Unlocking Revelation.** 7 p.m. Lansing Seventh Day Adventist Church, 5400 W. St. Joe, Lansing. (517) 321-1963, lansingadventist.org.  
**Adult Rape Survivor Support Group.** Registration preferred. 6-7:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163.  
**Job Seekers Support Group.** Finding the right career. 10 a.m.-noon, FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 372-9163, womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org.

**Support Group.** For the divorced, separated and widowed. Room 9. 7:30 p.m. St. David's Episcopal Church, 1519 Elmwood Road, Lansing. (517) 323-2272, stdavidslansing.org.

**Stress and Food.** Learn what foods eat to lower stress. 6:15 p.m. FREE. Rassel-Daigneault Family Chiropractic, 537 N. Clippert St., Lansing. (517) 203-2090, achiro.net.

### EVENTS

**HomeWork Help.** Free drop in tutoring. Grades K-8. 5-7 p.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**A Community Conversation.** Discussion on climate change. 7 p.m. FREE. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 347-2021, cadl.org.

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

**Mac's Monday Comedy Night.** Hosted by Mark Roebuck and Dan Currie. 9:30 p.m. FREE. Mac's

Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 484-6795, macsbar.com.

**Club Shakespeare.** 6-8:45 p.m. Donations. CADL Downtown Lansing Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300, cadl.org.

**Saints, Sinners & Cynics.** Lively conversation, variety of topics, no judgment. 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. Coral Gables, 2838 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. (517) 882-9733, saintmichaellansing.org.

**Walk with Friends, Sit in Peace.** A peaceful interfaith gathering. 2 p.m. FREE. Capitol Lawn, Lansing. (517) 351-5866, lamc.info/great-lakes-tour-retreat.

**BabyTime.** Intended for ages up to 18 months with adult. 10:30-11 a.m. FREE. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. (517) 351-2420, elpl.org.

**Michele Norris.** NPR personality speaks about racial equality. 7:30 p.m. \$20. Wharton Center, MSU campus, East Lansing. (517) 432-2000, whartoncenter.com/events/detail/michele-norris.

**Friends of Michigan Farmworker.** Family event, speakers, buffet dinner and music. 6 p.m. \$10/\$5 children. UAW Local 652, 426 Clare St., Lansing.

### MUSIC

**Open Jam at (SCENE) MetroSpace.** All talents and styles welcome. 7 p.m. \$3. (SCENE) MetroSpace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. (517) 319-6832, facebook.com/scenemetroSpace

## Tuesday, September 16

### CLASSES AND SEMINARS

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly.** Have a support system, lose weight. 7 p.m. FREE to visit. Eaton Rapids Medical Center, 1500 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. (517) 543-0786.



Mickey Hirten/City Pulse

The Knapp's Centre in downtown Lansing will have its grand opening Nov. 13.

### By ALLAN I. ROSS

The date for the grand opening of the newly renovated **Knapp's Center** has been set for Nov. 13. The itinerary for the invitation-only affair hasn't been confirmed yet, but a spokesperson for the **Eyde Co.**, the building's owners, confirmed the company is working with local public relations firm Truscott Rossman to create an event.

Even though businesses have already begun opening inside the building, project developer Nick Eyde said the event will officially



unveil the \$36 million development. "The renovation has been a massive effort, and (this event) will be an opportunity to thank everyone who's worked to move this project forward," Eyde said. "The Knapp Centre is going to be a vital part of the downtown Lansing economic and culture scene. We're excited to be open."

The Knapp Building, an example of Streamline Moderne architecture, was built in 1938. The five-story, 190,000-square-foot building

**Not So Happy Endings Support Group.** For women ending relationships. 5:30-7:30 p.m. FREE. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 1710 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 896-3311.

**Hopeful Hearts Grief Group.** Learn, grow and heal together. 10-11 a.m. FREE. The Marquette Activity Room, 5968 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. (517) 381-4866.

**Capital City Toastmasters Meeting.** Learn public speaking and leadership skills. 7 p.m. FREE. CADL Downtown Lansing, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. (517) 367-6300, cadl.org.

**Speakeasies Toastmasters.** Improve listening, analysis, leadership and presentation skills. 12:05-1 p.m. FREE. Ingham County Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar St., Lansing. (616) 841-5176.

**Reflexology.** Call for an appointment. 12:30-3:30 p.m. \$14/\$12 for members. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045.

was a department store before it was bought by the Eyde Co. in 1982 and turned into office space. It was vacant from 2002 to November 2012, when the redevelopment project began.

The first tenants are **Draper Eyewear, The Runway**, a fashion incubator and **Dewpoint**, an IT firm that has a ribbon-cutting next week. The building also has 23 one- and two-bedroom residential units, of which about half have occupants.

### Beer at the Stadium

Downtown Lansing already has plenty of spirit, but it's about to get more. **The Beer Grotto**, a specialty wine and craft beer package store, was announced as the new tenant in the **Stadium District's** west end. Construction is set to begin later this month for a January opening.

The Beer Grotto will be a 4,200-square-foot tasting room/bar with a small food menu and an outdoor patio.

"Beer Grotto is a hybrid concept that as far as I know is unique to the area," said Beer Grotto owner/president Sam Short. "It's like if you took the beer and wine section of

a Whole Foods and put a bar in it. And we offer samples of everything, so there's never any buyer's remorse."

Short owns the original Beer Grotto location in Dexter; another store is set to open soon in Ann Arbor. He's also a partner in **Zoobie's Old Town Tavern** and the upcoming **Creole bar/restaurant** in Old Town.

### Valentine's day

The Plant Professionals celebrates 35 years this Friday with a special open house event. There will be a tour of the facility and demonstrations on sub-irrigation, composting and green roofs. There will also be music by the Grand Ledge Bums from 5-7 p.m., door prizes, picnic-style food and dessert.

Plant Professionals provides floral design services, interior landscaping, exterior landscaping and garden design, holiday decorating and storage and event rentals.

The event will be 2-7 p.m. Friday at the Plant Professional offices, 16886 Turner St., Lansing. For more information, call (517) 327-1059 or go to theplantprofessionals.com.

**What is Elder Abuse?** Advanced registration is preferred. Call 706-5045. 5:30 p.m. FREE. Meridian Senior Center, 4000 N. Okemos Road, Okemos. (517) 706-5045, meridianseniorcenter.weebly.com.

**Jug & Mug Ski Club Meeting.** Singles activity club. 6:30 p.m. FREE. Tripper's Sports Bar, 350 Frandor Ave., Lansing. (517) 342-9955, jugandmug.org.

**Lansing Area Codependents Anonymous.** 5:45-6:45 p.m. FREE. Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, 2019 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. (517) 515-5559, coda.org.

### EVENTS

**Bible and Beer.** Discussion of scripture in everyday settings. 6 p.m. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, Lansing. (517) 482-0600, bibleandbeer@ccclansing.org.

**Toddler Time.** Ages 18-36 months listen to stories and





# HE ATE

# SHE ATE



## Exceptional food, peculiar location for Naing Family Restaurant

### A quirky love story

By **MARK NIXON**

There is a love story unfolding in South Lansing. I've only glimpsed the plot, but I don't know the characters' names and haven't the foggiest how it will all turn out. If it doesn't have a happy ending, though, I will curse the cruel fates.

The setting is a nearly vacant strip mall that appears to have been designed by crayon-wielding chimpanzees (with apologies to chimps everywhere). There's a sketchy-looking medical marijuana shop. Next to it, Naing Myanmar Family Restaurant.

Outside Naing is an upholstered rocking chair, the kind you see in the clearance section of a big box furniture outlet. The chair has a purpose that is also part of the love story, as you shall see.

Step into Naing and the eye is assaulted by the glare of out-sized fluorescent lights, like the one hanging above my basement workshop. I counted nine tables. The one defining feature is a flat-screen TV hovering high on the west wall.

There is a boy at one table, perusing a computer tablet. There is a woman in a nearby chair, rocking a baby. Our server greets us at our table. A little girl stands silently at his side.

So many restaurants seem composed of interchangeable parts and people. Not here. These people ARE the restaurant. This is the rarest of restaurants where food is the actor, not the script. It is the place that matters and the people who inhabit it; the customer is left to wonder how the many pieces mesh and how they make a go of it.

Then, a plot twist: The food is wonderful. Naing serves a selection of Malaysian, Burmese (Myanmar) and Thai dishes inspired by simplicity, fresh ingredients and, in many cases, a whole helluva lot of garlic.

Start with the Maggi soup. For that matter, finish with it. The portion of this ramen-based soup is a meal in itself. Rich in chicken broth, Maggi contains sizable chunks of fresh broccoli (al dente) and a hint of cilantro. All for \$4.99. About 50 cents more buys an entrée. The most expensive item on the menu weighs in at a mere \$6.99.

Try the Tea Pickled Leaves with Bean Salad (\$5.99). The name is not grammatically spot-on, but the taste definitely is. There are, indeed, pickled tea leaves scattered about in a bed of crunchy beans, cabbage and sesame seeds, plus a toss of peanuts. Embedded in the dish are halved cloves of garlic. Here again, the portion is meal-sized.

Save room for the Fried Bottle Gourd

See He Ate, Page 31

### Pushing the (egg) envelope

By **GABRIELLE JOHNSON**

Let's get the discussion about Naing Myanmar Family Restaurant's location out of the way — it's not great. As a lifelong Lansingite, there aren't many areas of the city that make me feel uncomfortable. This is one of them. On our last visit, customers of the marijuana dispensary next door were having their custom orders prepared. The clientele was interesting.

The restaurant itself is tiny. About 10 tables are scattered around a flat-screen television, which, after showing Asian music videos on our first visit, was switched to Eric Clapton for the subsequent visits.

Service is provided by a man, who I assume is an owner, the husband of the female cook and the father of a baby who is cute enough to be the restaurant's mascot.

Upon being seated, my boyfriend and I were presented with two menus: A smaller one, with descriptions of each of the 50-plus dishes and their prices, and a larger, bound notebook, which has large photos of each dish. This, in my opinion, is genius. One thing that intimidates me when I go

to an ethnic restaurant the first time is my unfamiliarity with the menu. This often leads to me choosing blindly and just pointing to items when giving my order, which makes me feel like an ignorant slob. The photo menu is extremely helpful.

On our first visit, we started with the Thai Papaya Salad Som Tum (\$5.55.) The ingredients — slivered green papaya, peanuts, cherry tomatoes, garlic and long beans — were refreshing and cooling on a hot day. A squeeze of lime brightened the dish. The accompanying squid, however, was one of the worst things I have ever put in my mouth, and I have eaten cow brain.

We moved on and ordered Pad Thai with shrimp (\$6.99) and fried rice with chicken (\$6.55.) Looking for the best Pad Thai in town? Your search ends here. This was the best Pad Thai I've had. The mix of rice noodles, bean sprouts, green onions and shrimp was wrapped in an envelope made of eggs and tossed in a peanut sauce. I could wax poetic about this dish for the rest of my space, but suffice it to say that we ordered it on each of our three visits.

The fried rice was also fresh, well prepared and chock full of onion, carrot, parsley, long beans and sizeable pieces of white chicken meat. The two fried eggs atop were poked with the tines of my fork to let the yolk spread over the rice and chicken. Stay out of the mall — get your fried rice here. Panda Express doesn't have any soul in their food anyway.

The boyfriend ordered a watermelon

See She Ate, Page 31



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Gabrielle Johnson/  
City Pulse

The fried rice at Naing Family Restaurant is topped with fried eggs.

## He Ate

from page 30

(\$4.99), a strange name for what appears to be zucchini, fried tempura-style. What makes this dish work is the dipping sauce, made with tamarind. The taste is earthy and, frankly, foreign to my tongue. We ordered the gourds on both visits, just to savor the sauce.

The spring rolls (\$3.99) are filled with fresh-tasting mushrooms, carrots, onions and minced chicken. It all comes in a fried wrapper made of taro flour. There's a soy-based dipping sauce, but I opted for the tamarind sauce.

Naing does not serve alcohol, but the beverage selection is extensive. On our second visit, we opted for iced Chinese Tea (\$1) and a Classico smoothie (a puree of lime juice, strawberries and bananas) for \$2.99. The smoothie is refreshing and not overly sweet.

There's a quirkiness to Naing. How, for instance, did they arrive at the curious price of \$5.55 for so many entrees? Also puzzling: If you ask for water, you get

bottled water — and pay for it. Let's assume it's a cultural quirk, not a distrust of Lansing's tap water.

It's also amusing to find medical advice on the menu. An Immune Booster (\$2.99) promises to "kill the cold." The \$2.99 drink Specially for Women, made of watermelon, cucumber and honey, claims to be "wonderfully diuretic." How often do you see that on a menu?

Naing is not for the hurry-up crowd. On our second visit, they were busy (customers seated at five tables). It was a half-hour before our drinks arrived, and close to 45 minutes before the food appeared. My advice: Bring a book or a good conversationalist as a dinner companion.

I call Naing a love story, but it's not a romance. That blue rocking chair on the sidewalk outside? It's where mom rocks the baby to sleep and where a teenaged boy fed the child from a bottle during our second visit. When I paid the bill, the server ran my debit card while cradling the child.

At each turn, the family of Naing seemed intent on looking after each other. Teaching, learning, helping, loving. Happily, some of the love seeped into the food.

## She Ate

from page 30

crush smoothie (\$2.99) and was presented with a beer stein full of blended watermelon, lime juice, and honey. I died for it. Always a good sport, he stuck to his bottle of Ice Mountain (yes, when you ask for water you're buying a bottle of it for \$1) and let me devour the smoothie. The watermelon theme continued to the end of our meal, when the waiter, baby on hip, brought us a plate of watermelon slices. We slurped and wondered if this little dessert will change with the season — apples in October, citrus in January? I hope so. How charming.

On our second visit we started with an order of spring rolls (\$3.99.) Six deep-fried rolls, thinner than egg rolls, are stuffed with carrot, onion, chicken or pork and thin noodles with a sweet chili dipping sauce. The spring rolls are heavenly, crunchy and piping hot. We got them again on visit number three and will order them to infinity and beyond.

I had the fried rice stick (\$5.55): Thick noodles with carrots, spinach, mushrooms, what I think was shaved asparagus, chicken and bean sprouts. This was not unlike the Pad Thai, but the noodles are thicker, the vegetables are different and there is no peanut sauce or egg envelope. For those rea-

sons, I preferred the Pad Thai. My date had the fried rice vermicelli (\$5.55) with angel hair noodles tossed with bean sprouts, onion, carrot, asparagus and chicken. Again, same theme, different noodles.

On our third visit, since it was one of those 70 degree August days (hat tip to the Polar Vortex) I decided to try a soup. The Su Kee (\$6.99) is more of a stew, with chicken, shrimp, squid, egg, noodles, watercress, beans and fennel seeds in a huge steaming bowl of slightly spicy tomato-based broth. My loyalty to the pho at Asia's Finest was shaken. I wanted to dive in and do the backstroke in this soup. Alas, the bowl was too small, and I didn't want to provide the setup to a bad joke. ("Waiter, there's a food critic in my soup!")

I couldn't resist the Wonderfully Diuretic Specially for Women smoothie (\$2.99) made with watermelon, cucumber and honey. It was served, oddly, at room temperature. It didn't make me feel like more of a woman, but the taste of cucumber was strong and refreshing.

The boyfriend commented that they should move downtown into the space recently vacated by New York Burrito. They wouldn't be able to handle the crowd, I said. Two adults and a baby work here.

Now excuse me, if you need me I'll be in my kitchen trying to duplicate this restaurant's egg envelope.

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