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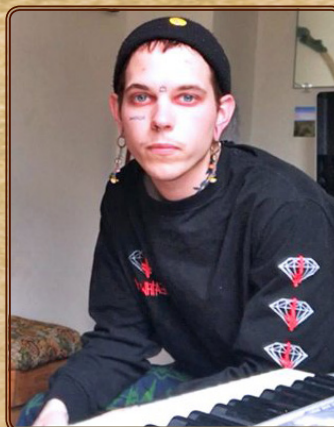
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May 13 - 19, 2020



The quarantine scrapbook: Lansing copes with life indoors

See Page 12



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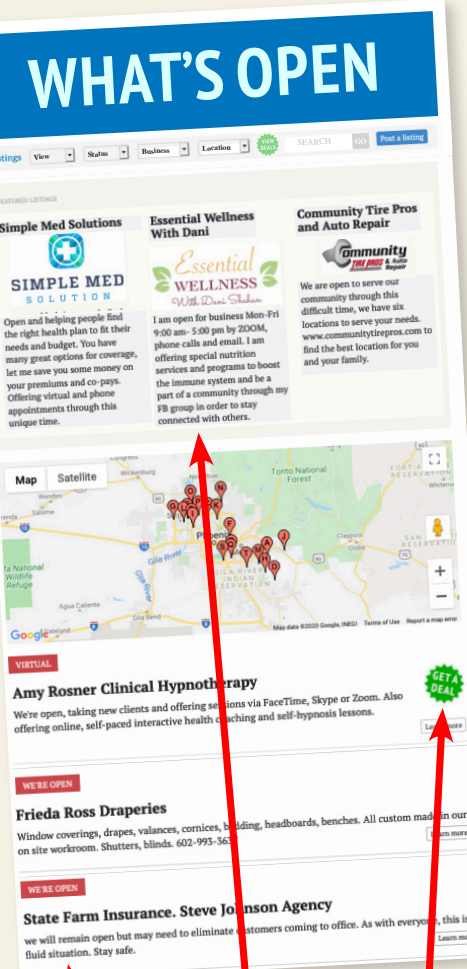
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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING
SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD VIA A ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING UNDER THE GOVERNOR OF MICHIGAN'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS 2020-48 AND 2020-42 ON TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Phil Clark, Attorney

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:
Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.
Approved minutes of the meeting held on April 14, 2020.
Agenda approved.
Approved referral of marihuana ordinance discussion to Ordinance Committee.
Adopted Resolution 20-06: Re-Appointments to Planning Commission.
Adopted Resolution 20-07: Re-Appointments to Downtown Development Authority Governing Board.
Approved Claims.
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor
Susan L. Aten, Clerk

CP#20-112

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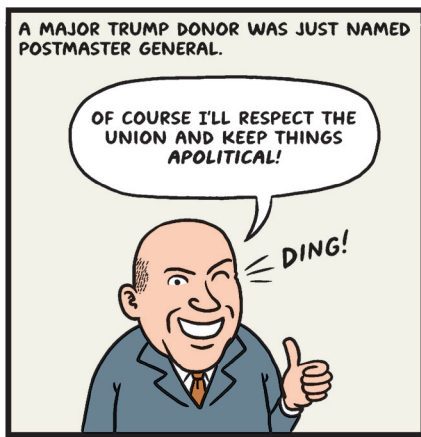
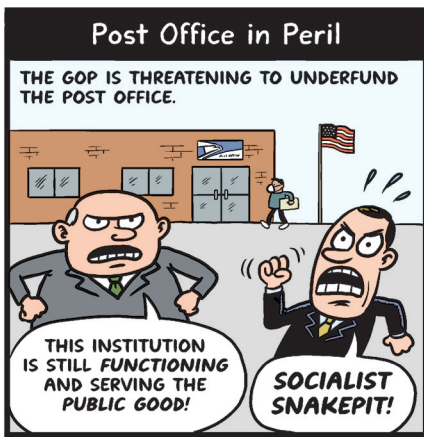
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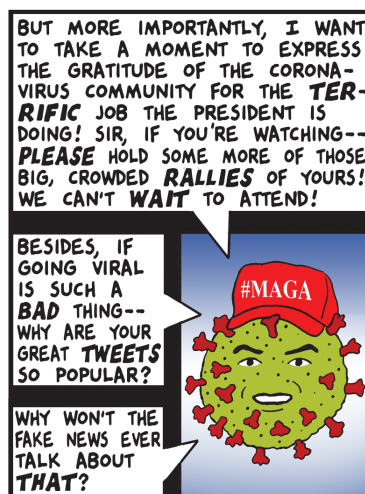
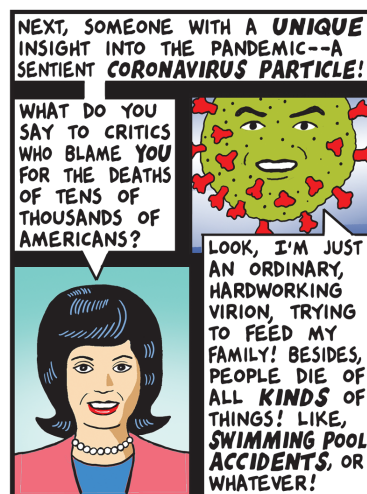
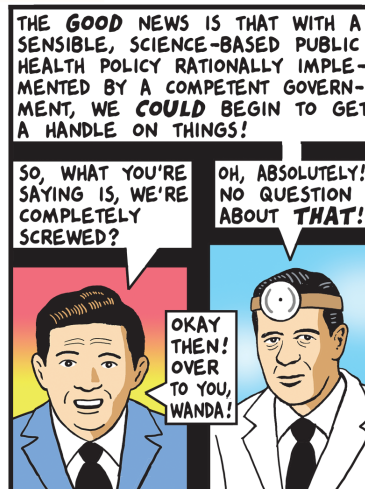
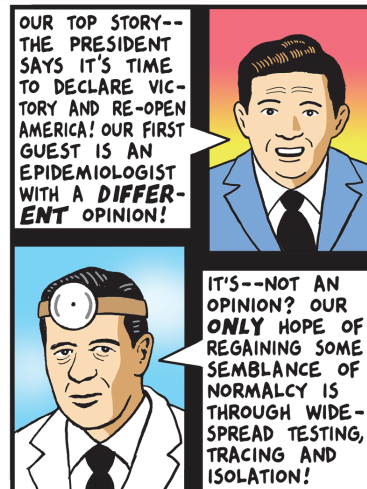
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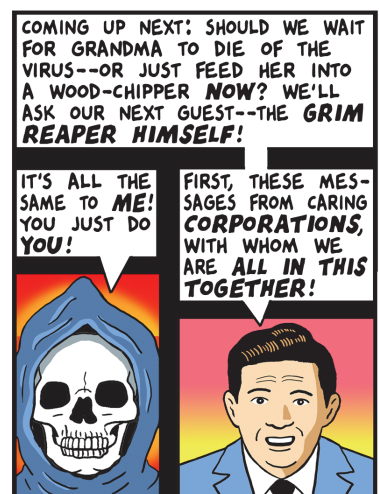
IMPACT

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THIS MODERN WORLD



by TOM TOMORROW



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Eyesore: A RED town garage has seen better days

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MSU Broad Museum gets a new director

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Farmers market season will not stop for COVID-19

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Cover Art

Design by Abby Sumbler

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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

COVID Spring

As Mother Nature unfurls her extravagant tapestry of new life, the stark skeletons of leafless trees slowly fill with a hundred shades of green, while birds resplendent in their May plumage orchestrate a delightful cacophony of early morning melodies that herald in song the imminent change of seasons. Spring has finally sprung, and it couldn't come at a better time.

Unlock thy copious stores; those tender showers
That drop their sweetness on the infant buds,
And silent dews that swell
The milky ear's green stem.

Long hidden beneath blanketing sheaths of clouds, the sun bursts forth against cerulean skies, liberating us from the icy clutches of winter, warming our flesh and lifting our tattered spirits, helping to heal the deep psychic wounds of perpetual worry, the unrelenting stress of financial uncertainty, and the abrupt and painful loss of routine human connections that are so fundamental to our existence as social creatures.

So many days of late, we feel ourselves drowning in an ocean of despair, with a rising tide of frustration and even anger over the harsh circumstances imposed upon us by an unseen enemy. This is COVID Spring, a bizarre and utterly unfamiliar juxtaposition of the glorious beauty of life against unspeakably tragic loss. Yet this spring is no different from every one that came before: It still brings us hope for a fresh start, a chance to cast aside the darkness of winter and walk into the light. It still reminds us of renewal, and of possibility, that whatever may lie ahead for us is limited only by our imagination. It still rekindles the passions of human and beast alike, rebooting the ceaseless cycle of life, and reaffirming that our continued existence on Planet Earth, despite our present circumstances, is indeed worth celebrating.

Even as we mourn and grieve for lives lost, so too must we find something positive to hold onto, to be optimistic about, or we will surely go mad together. Though it won't cure COVID, spring is a remedy for many ills, a gentle elixir to ease the burdens that weigh so heavily on our hearts and minds.

Fair Spring! whose simplest promise more delights
Than all their largest wealth, and thro' the heart
Each joy and new-born hope
With softest influence breathes.



H Inc.'s spring-time display at its Motor Wheel Lofts property on Saginaw Street.

Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

The CP Edit

Opinion

For many, spring is also a time to reestablish our connection to Mother Earth by digging our hands into her warming soil, sowing seeds that with tender care will bring forth multi-hued bouquets of floral delight and a bountiful harvest of life-giving sustenance. Soon enough we will witness with unbounded delight the first green shoots that stretch toward the sky, confirming that our labor and our love is more than sufficient to spark the regeneration of life.

For those more inclined to let Mother Nature do the work, Lansing is blessed with astonishing natural wonders right at our doorstep, from gently flowing rivers that teem with life to forested glades cut through with welcoming trails, offering glimpses of Canadian geese watching over their gaggle of fast-growing goslings, while white-tailed deer encourage their speckled fawns to take their first wobbling steps. The abundant glory of nature is ours to behold, if we allow our-

selves the luxury of speaking softly and moving slowly so we can more closely observe and appreciate the remarkable spectacle that is spring's rebirth.

Now let me sit beneath the whitening thorn,
And mark thy spreading tints steal o'er the dale ;
And watch with patient eye
Thy fair unfolding charms.

Wherever you may be and whatever you may be doing, we encourage you to take a moment now and then to pause and reflect on the many blessings spring bequeaths to us. Step outdoors, take a deep breath and fill your lungs with the crisp fresh air, gently scented with the intoxicating perfume of newborn blossoms. Exhale slowly, releasing the toxic brew of stress and worry, replacing it with the inner peace that comes from knowing we will indeed carry on, that this too shall pass, as surely as the arrival of spring.

(Poem excerpts from *Ode to Spring* by Anna Lætitia Barbauld (1773)).

Send letters to the editor on this editorial or any other topic to letters@lansingcitypulse.com. Please limit them to 250 words.



The evolution of elections

Time for Michigan to make a bold move to vote by mail

By **BRETT DREYFUS**

A microscopic attacker has invaded our state, threatening not only our health and well-being, but the fundamental roots of our democracy.

During a pandemic, no citizen should ever be forced to choose between their health — and possibly their lives — and going to the polls to vote on Election Day.

The conditions at polling locations are ideal for infecting everyone present: crowded precincts and lines lead to close voter contact, the virus can be transmitted through markers, voter applications and ballots, and the air in tiny voting booths can easily be contaminated.

Polling locations clearly endanger not only voters but also places election workers — most of whom are seniors — in a high-exposure, contained “virus zone” for up to 16 hours! Given that stark reality, will cities and townships be able to recruit enough election workers to even staff the polls? How do we conduct elections under these circumstances?

Just as viruses mutate and adapt to changing conditions in order to sur-



Dreyfus

vive, election laws can change and our society adapt to a revised method of elections, ensuring our democracy not only survives during a pandemic, but also evolves to an easier, more convenient and secure form of voting.

Surprisingly, the solution — vote by mail — is already used by Michigan voters! By fine-tuning and expanding it, we will have a pandemic-proof election system in place for the November 3 General Election.

Oregon has been voting by mail exclusively for 20 years. It's time-tested and works like a charm. Here's how simple it can be, adapted for Michigan:

1. All registered voters receive a ballot in the mail and have up to 40 days to vote.

2. The return envelope (voted ballot inside) is signed by the voter and returned by mail, no postage needed.

3. Voter identity verified through signature matching with official voter record.

4. Voter can track the status of their ballots online and receive replacement ballots anytime, for any reason.

The notion of a single “Election Day” disappears. Instead, there are 40 Election Days, with the last day used to tabulate the ballots. In my community of Meridian Township, for exam-

For more information on voting by mail, go to michigan-vote-by-mail.com

ple: Why set up 19 polling locations for only one day — when voters can have 20,000 homes serve as polling locations for a full 40 days?

Polling locations are no longer needed. That may feel like a loss to some residents who hold a nostalgic image of bicycling or walking to their neighborhood school or church and waiting in line to vote. Voters who fear election fraud might believe that democracy is better protected by keeping polling locations open on Election Day.

However, two decades of Oregon voting data proves voter fraud is virtually non-existent, and the safety and security of ballots significantly increased, when voting by mail. The entire process of setting up remote voting locations, transporting voted ballots, training and regulating a workforce of 150+ workers — as well as deploying the voting equipment, computers and software needed to run these polling locations — are a much greater threat to election security than mail-in voting. The U.S. postal system is safe and secure, and online ballot tracking allows rare ballot delivery issues to be easily resolved.

This evolution in elections results in benefits that go beyond ensuring elections will never be compromised by the outbreak of a disease. Because

it is so easy to vote, and everyone who is eligible to vote receives a ballot, voter turnout significantly increases, voter suppression and disenfranchisement are eliminated from our election process, and people with disabilities are given far easier access to a private and secure ballot when coupled with remote ballot marking systems.

It's an incredible bipartisan victory for election reform advocates! Research shows that over time, neither D's nor R's gain an advantage and win more races, because the number of active voters for both parties both increase at about the same proportion as before voting by mail.

Fiscally speaking, local communities save significant tax dollars on not hiring precinct workers, as well as the elimination of numerous polling location expenses. The State of Michigan pays for postage, so the cost is spread out to all citizens, just like the cost of maintaining the State Capitol, for example. Overall, costs increase modestly at the state level, but much of that is offset by substantial community reductions in expenses.

Mail voting works, and we need to act strongly and decisively now, in time for a pandemic-free November election. We can muster the political willpower to make the changes necessary to protect our democracy from invisible invaders, and evolve our elections to the next level. There is a time for bold legislative action ... and that time is now!

(Brett Dreyfus is the clerk for Meridian Township.)

COVID-19, coal and the connection in Greater Lansing

By **JON HOLLISTER**

I write as an attempt to reach the Lansing community as we navigate through this aptly named “Big Freeze” with two considerations in mind.

One is the multiple protests to reopen the economy that took place in April, the other the fact that April 22 marked the 50th annual Earth Day. I don't think I need to guess which one of these two has been on your mind more. In line with keeping up with relevant events, you may have heard the Environmental Protection



Hollister

Agency has halted the enforcement of environmental regulations placed on businesses indefinitely as a response to the increased financial pressure on many due to Covid-19.

According to a study from Harvard's School of Public Health, increasing fine particulate matter by just 1 microgram/cubic meter, or .001 PPM (which is to say .001 of particulate matter per a million parts air, equivalent to the weight 1 penny out of 10 million) is associated with a 15% increase in Covid-19 deaths. Fine particulate matter (otherwise known as PM2.5) is small enough to enter the respiratory system and burrow in the lungs, putting those in close proximity to PM2.5 emitters at a higher risk of developing

respiratory illnesses.

Consider now that Covid-19 is a respiratory illness, and Lansing is powered primarily by Eckert and Erickson Power stations, two coal-fired power plants.

Coal-fired power plants are major emitters of PM2.5, and although Lansing's effort to introduce clean energy with the Delta Energy Park is good progress toward reducing emissions, Erickson is now not scheduled to close until 2025. That means the majority of power in Lansing right now is still from coal, and we're all breathing the air that comes with it. With the current infrastructure, we cannot afford to see an increase in air pollutants, even as small as .001 PPM.

This is where I urge you to contact Mayor Schor and ask him to please continue local regulation of these two power plants, so that we don't allow PM2.5 levels to rise by .001 ppm. This is especially important now that the

economy is starting to slowly reopen and the Lansing community is exposing themselves more to pollutants in the air, with special consideration to those who live in neighborhoods closest to the coal power plants.

As we struggle to balance the health of our community and homes with the health of the economy and our livelihoods, I suggest we use this “Big Freeze” as a moment of retrospection to understand the powerful opportunity we have in this community to move forward with a mindset of purposeful environmental preservation, not only for the sake of this every increasingly fragile Earth we live on, but for the sake of our health.

(Jon Hollister, of Lansing, is a sophomore at Wesleyan University studying biology and neuroscience preparing for a career in medicine who is home in Lansing in the wake of Covid-19.)

Mayor submits reserve-gutting budget plan as COVID-19 settles in

City may need layoffs and \$22 million bond sale to make it, Schor says

A budget shortfall exacerbated by the coronavirus is poised to drain millions of dollars in reserve funds from the city of Lansing, even as officials look to lay off staff and slash annual expenses.

In a budget plan that the administration has revised in light of the pandemic and staggering economy, Mayor Andy Schor has proposed a savings of nearly \$700,000 by freezing the hiring of all nonessential employees and leaving dozens of unfilled positions vacant across several departments.

Those and other changes were outlined Monday to the City Council, which has until Monday to decide on a budget for the FY 2021 budget year, which begins July 1.

About \$2.25 million from the sale of the former Red Cedar Golf Course would supplant funding for Lansing’s parks projects, freeing up already obligated cash for other city functions. More than \$2.5 million will also be saved through various administrative and departmental changes, as well as newly renegotiated property and casualty insurance plans.

The cancellation of the city’s Fourth of July event and the closure of the city’s two swimming pools, at Hunter and Moores parks, will save at least another \$55,000 this year. With the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority closing the Lansing Center and canceling events such as Common Ground, another \$200,000 can be saved by slashing its subsidy.

Cutting funding for arts and culture grants, the Lansing Regional Sister Cities Commission, Common Ground and other subsidized agencies and events will save another \$214,000. Another \$80,000 was slashed from staff training and travel across nearly all departments.

And if all else fails, the city is prepared to borrow up to \$22 million to keep the budget balanced.

“It’s challenging when you have so much uncertainty on revenues and when the economy will open back up,” Schor said. “It’s challenging, but we’re navigating it and doing our best with these recommendations. This will be an ongoing process. There’s certainly some uncertainty.”

With projected income taxes declining by \$7.85 million, among other

CITY OF LANSING INCOME TAX REVENUE PROJECTIONS FY2021 – COVID 19 IMPACT				
	PRE-COVID FY2021 BUDGET SUBMISSION	CURRENT IMPACT PROJECTION (20%)	MODERATE IMPACT PROJECTION (25%)	SEVERE IMPACT PROJECTION (35%)
INCOME TAX REVENUE (DECREASE)/INCREASE	\$39,226,000 \$0	\$31,380,800 (\$7,845,200)	\$29,419,500 \$9,806,500	\$25,493,900 (\$13,729,100)
ECONOMIC ASSUMPTIONS	PRE COVID-19	Phased in approach This scenario assumes the Executive Order will not extend beyond 6/1. • Construction, lawn care, manufacturing are back to work. This includes certain retail operations as well. • Many offices to open at 50% or lower capacity starting 6/1. • Restaurants will more than likely operate at 50% capacity with take out, ghost kitchen, and curbside serving as the main method for providing service. • This also takes into account the fact that restaurants may only provide in-house seating for 35%-50% of its customers.	Phased in approach This scenario assumes the Executive Order extending through July. • More organizations will cautiously open and operate at 50% or lower capacity. • This scenario also assumes restaurants may not allow in-house dining seating capacity to exceed 50% through August. • This scenario acknowledges the cancellation of large events (including revenue-generating events) and other lost revenues.	Phased in approach This scenario assumes the Executive Order extending through August or later. • This scenario factors in bankruptcies, lost revenues, job losses, business closures due to the pandemic, and the possibility of schools remaining online. There are several other economic indicators to consider as well.

Source: City of Lansing

financial consequences of the coronavirus pandemic, revenues are slated to decline by nearly \$12.5 million over the next year.

To keep the budget balanced, Schor outlined a series of cuts and other tweaks to reduce expenses by more than \$7 million. But with nowhere else to turn, the city’s rainy-day reserve funds are poised to dip to an all-time low as officials look to keep the city’s finances in the black.

With fewer businesses open and less income taxes being collected both in Lansing and across the state, local tax revenues and anticipated state revenue sharing payments have plummeted. And projections for Lansing are still “conservative,” Schor said. In other words, things could always get worse.

Current projections show Lansing will lose out on at least \$7.85 million in income taxes, assuming Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s lockdown orders are lifted by June 1. If restrictions remain in place through July, the city could lose \$9.8 million. Estimates get worse as more time passes.

Accordingly, state revenue-sharing payments are predicted to decrease by at least \$3 million. Other breadwinning city services — like recreation fees and other permits — also haven’t been fully operational for weeks, edging down initial anticipated revenues by more than \$1 million.

To help cushion the blow, Schor has proposed a series of budget cuts and other changes.

Among the tweaks:
At least \$462,000 can also be saved by funding a city contract with the Lansing Economic Area Partnership through dollars previously earmarked for economic development in the city.

Schor also proposed a few more obvi-

ous budget cuts.

And while cuts have been proposed, they’re still not enough to cover the revenue shortfall.

Schor’s proposal calls for the city’s fund balance to see a \$4.8 million hit this fiscal year, bringing it below \$2 million or less than 1.5 percent of its operational expenditures — the lowest the fund has ever dipped. A longstanding city policy had aimed to keep that percentage closer to 12%.

Before the virus arrived, Schor had already planned to dip into those financial reserves, edging the fund balance down to less than 5% of city expenses. His new proposal drops it even further.

“It means we don’t have a cushion anymore,” Schor said. “If we have another pandemic, there will be much less of a cushion to cover these shortfalls. We still have plans to build that back up, but nobody was expecting the economy to completely shut down. This was unprecedented.”

Schor also announced this week that groups of city employees are being offered voluntary furloughs. Volunteers are able to retain medical benefits, will be able to collect unemployment — in many cases making more than their usual salary — and then can return to work by July 31.

Eligible employees include those represented by the UAW and Teamsters 214, including many employees in the city’s public services department. Schor said union members, mayoral staff and all employees not represented by a labor union will be able to take the furlough.

It’s unclear exactly how much cash the city will save, or whether any employees will sign up. Schor said mandatory layoffs and salary cuts are still on the table, should they become necessary. And while Schor hasn’t cut his own sal-

ary, he’s still leaving open the possibility.

“If we ask employees to take pay cuts, I will certainly take them as well,” Schor said. “It’s all on the table. First we’re trying to deal with reducing funding to different programs and finding efficiencies, but if there’s ever a time where we have pay cuts, I’ll absolutely do that as well.”

Records show the city has collected only about \$24 million of \$37 million in anticipated income tax this year, which officials attributed to the extended tax filing deadline of July 31. It’s unclear how much money will eventually arrive, but Schor is also prepared to borrow cash if necessary.

The City Council last week approved a tax anticipation note — a safety net strategy that allows the city to borrow up to \$21.8 million against future property taxes for the next three years — in order to cover short-term budget shortfalls, should immediate cash flow become a necessity.

The city hasn’t pulled the trigger on the bonding proposal, but is now authorized to do so as officials deem necessary. The maneuver would allow the city to borrow and spend up to about 17% of the collected and estimated property taxes collected for the next three fiscal years.

City cash flows are expected to be at their lowest possible points over the next several weeks — immediately before the July 31 income tax filing deadline. Given the delayed revenue, various expenses could become due before the city has enough to cover them, officials explained.

The City Council has until Monday to pass a budget proposal under city charter. Amendments could always be made. At least two more meetings are scheduled between now and passage.

Council President Peter Spadafore said passing the budget will be “uncomfortable from a timing perspective,” given that the Council will either have to rely on best estimates and pass a budget knowing that it’ll need to be amended later this year as the impact of the pandemic is assessed.

“I loathe to spend the fund balance, and it’s important to avoid unnecessary borrowing, but the reality is that it’s raining and we won’t do it in budget cuts, we’ll spend down our savings,” he said. “That’s why those reserves are there. This is different from any other budget we’ve had.”

— KYLE KAMINSKI

Off the books: Sick but never tested

How a recent MSU grad and her family got through COVID-19

Julia Kiehle said suffering through COVID-19 wasn't like anything you have seen on TV.

For her and her family, it was a confusing, slow-paced three weeks full of coughing, bedrest and not much else for her and her family. They didn't have feverish hallucinations like what Chris Cuomo lucidly described on MSNBC, nor did any of them get rushed to the ICU in a speeding ambulance.

Instead, they simply survived. Beating the virus took patience and care, but Kiehle said that they finally feel like they're back to normal.

Kiehle, 22, said she and her parents, brother and sister-in-law were stricken just as she was approaching gradu-

ation from Michigan State University with a degree in film and advertising.

They spent three weeks battling the illness, scouring the news and anxiously waiting to see if they would all survive.

"Near the end of March is when I started getting sick. My brother got sick one day, my sister got sick the next day, I got sick the next day, and then my parents got sick within days of each other," said Kiehle, from Bloomington Hills. "It was so weird. When one of us gets sick, we don't usually all get sick like that."

Some symptoms of coronavirus are commonplace. Fever, cough, runny nose? Kiehle assumed it could be the common cold, the flu or just allergies.

"At first, the signs of COVID were just a cough and fever. It's weird that new symptoms seem to come out every day. We didn't learn about some symp-

toms until after we had already experienced them," Kiehle said.

On April 27, the Centers for Disease Control updated its list of COVID symptoms, adding six more. Chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat and loss of taste or smell. Watching new symptoms appear on the news seemingly at random left Kiehle and her family feeling under-informed and unprepared.

"The final nail in the coffin was that we all lost our sense of taste and smell. It was the worst part of it," Kiehle said with a chuckle. Simply put, she said, "I like to taste stuff when I eat food. I missed it."

Once Kiehle and her family started to fear the worst, they started to look for a way to get tested. They called their doctor to talk about getting tested, but they never ended up getting one. Their doctor said that maybe after the



Julia Kiehle and her dad

curve is flattened, her family could take an antibody test, which would tell them if they had had the virus.

"The news was talking about how the hospitals are so overbooked, so we figured we might as well save the test for people who actually need it," said Kiehle. "We FaceTimed our doctor and he said that we probably had COVID."

"He told us to just keep an eye one

See Kiehle, Page 9

Why a Capitol gun ban isn't likely

Republican appointees unlikely to budge on Capitol Commission

You can't bring a gun into the Ingham County Courthouse. Security and a metal detector greets you at the Michigan Hall of Justice and most state office buildings.

But the state Capitol? You've been allowed to carry in a weapon since the building's 1879 dedication.

Legislators have long viewed the building as "the people's house." Publicly, they've argued against inconveniencing visitors. Dumping change and keys into little baskets. Running bags through an X-ray machine. Standing in line for God knows how long. It's a hassle.

Every year or so, Democrats cringe and school groups cancel tours when Open Carry Day rolls around. Second Amendment types parade around the building. They proudly strap their firearms to their side or fling it across their shoulder.

Republicans — many of whom grew up with guns being used for recreational purposes — tend to



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

applaud the display. Democrats — many of whom represent areas where gun use is viewed as an agent of creating senseless violence — question the wisdom of it all.

A portion of the April 30 Patriot Protest wasn't your typical, controlled exhibition of how to safely own a gun. A small contingent pretended they were some patriotic guerrilla force charged with reopening government for the people.

Clad in their camos, they hung around the Capitol gallery for a while. They showed off their long guns as they watched the goings-on of the Senate.

A harmless display by liberty-minded individuals trying to make a point? Some senators on the right side of the aisle felt so. Others did not.

Sen. Mallory McMorrow, D-Royal Oak, lost a friend to the Virginia Tech shooting of 2007. She told the Senate that while it's clear that the few people involved in these acts of violence didn't represent a majority, "nobody stopped them."

"Yeah, we're supposed to stand up here and say that we are brave

and we're not intimidated, but guess what? That is damn intimidating. This is intimidation. And my question back is, 'What the hell are we going to do about it? Or do we wait until something happens?'"

"It only takes one person to change everything forever."

Thrust into the middle is the six-member Capitol Commission. Officially, they're building's caretakers. Unofficially, they're the public fall guy for a controversy that's making people forget that we've all been "staying in place" since March 24.

Four of the six members owe their positions to the Republican-led legislative leadership. That's a majority. Officially, the Capitol Commission is now studying the issue. Unofficially, they're in a bind. The governor is putting pressure on them to act one way. The people who put them in the position they are in don't want them to.

The Republican-led House and Senate are not about to ban guns from their respective floors. It's their call if they want to do it and they won't. Period.

"The votes aren't there," House Majority Floor Leader Triston Cole, R-Mancelona, told me the other day.

For one, several members carry concealed. Second, it looks bad to one of the few remaining rock-solid constituent groups Republicans can count on in 2020. The Second Amendment, pro-gun crowd.

To fold under pressure and deflate

these supporters when President Trump's reelection chances and the Michigan House's GOP majority are already in a precarious state isn't politically wise.

To allow guns on the House and Senate floor, but not in the rest of the Capitol building is nonsensical. In short, guns likely will remain in the Capitol for the foreseeable future.

Rep. Beau LaFave, R-Iron Mountain, who brought his gun with him to the 2020 State of the State put it this way, "The first and last conference call with all lawmakers was well over a month ago and now she is concerned about us? The governor has wanted to ban guns in the Capitol for 20 years."

He then quoted former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, "Never allow a good crisis go to waste. It's an opportunity to do the things you once thought were impossible."

Damage control is well underway. Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey wants State Police to arrest anyone caught "brandishing" their weapon.

Michigan United for Liberty is urging anyone showing up to their Thursday protest to temper the message. No verbal or physical-looking threats aimed toward the Governor or anyone else.

It may not be enough to dial down the public pressure, but they're giving it a shot.

(Kyle Melinn of the Capitol news service MIRS is at melinnky@gmail.com.)

Ingham Co. Health Centers slams 'failed' protest response

Chairman: Inadequate enforcement puts Greater Lansing at risk

The Ingham Community Health Centers' board of directors is calling on the city of Lansing and the Michigan State Police to ramp up enforcement of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive orders on social distancing ahead of yet another protest expected downtown on Thursday afternoon.

In emails obtained by City Pulse, board members said they were "deeply troubled" by the response of both the Lansing Police Department and the Michigan State Police and their failure to adequately enforce social distancing measures at several anti-lockdown protests in Lansing.

"Not only have these protests brought people into Lansing who then gathered on our streets, but they did so without practicing social distancing or wearing face masks," Board Chairman Todd Heywood said in a letter dated Monday. "We cannot support the city's failure to enforce public health orders specifically designed to protect the health of our community."

The health centers' board also slammed the Michigan State Police in a separate letter.

"The failure of the MSP to issue citations on April 15 for violations of the executive order was a failure that resulted in a significant increase in risk to the health safety of Lansing area residents and essential frontline workers," Heywood wrote in a letter to MSP Director Col. Joseph Gasper.

Under an executive order, protests are allowed to continue but crowds must keep a six-foot distance from those outside of their immediate household or risk a misdemeanor charge. Still, crowds of people — many armed with rifles — were spotted huddled closely

together under umbrellas and blatantly ignoring the state directive. None were ticketed or fined.

Cops warned several people to keep their distance from one another at two rallies at the Michigan State Capitol lawn in recent weeks, but no tickets were issued, police said. Enforcement can be difficult and warnings always precede written tickets, they explained.

"Lack of enforcement of the executive orders was a rejection of solid public health measures and dramatically increases the potential exposures of untold numbers of city and county residents," Heywood wrote in both letters.

"We implore you to actively and aggressively enforce executive orders and county health orders in any and all future protests in this great city," he said. "The health of our citizens is at stake."

The Capitol lawn is under the jurisdiction of the Michigan State Police. The Lansing Police Department assists as requested, but is otherwise tasked with monitoring the surrounding block. Some county sheriff's deputies and East Lansing police officers have been called in to help.

MSP Lt. Brian Oleksyk told City Pulse this month that the protests "actually went pretty well," noting that ensuring people keep their space can be a challenging task for police officers. Cops are also handling a delicate balance of First Amendment rights to peacefully assemble. Calls to MSP headquarters were not returned this week.

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor said the Lansing Police Department is already doing everything it can to minimize any risks to the public and to adequately enforce executive orders on social distancing during these demonstrations.

"Our officers gave out many, many warnings when people failed to socially distance," Schor said. "You can't exactly follow someone around after they've been warned or it would be harassment.

It's not like officers can stand there and watch them."

Schor said officers are also treading lightly in order to protect demonstrators' freedom of assembly and not to put a limited police force at unnecessary risk for COVID-19 transmission.

"In order to issue a violation, you have to get their personal information," Schor said. "If they refuse, then you have to get hands-on with them. There's always a concern about people being infected, including among our own police force. Every contact they make increases the chance."

MSP officials told MLive that the "extreme discretion approach" was based on a handful of factors, including protecting the right to gather and protest while balancing the potential arrest of dozens of protestors with an angry, cooped-up crowd that could've quickly become violent.

Despite numerous live videos and photos to the contrary — including those in City Pulse — a spokesperson for the State Police was quoted on the Grand Rapids TV station WZZM asserting that protesters on foot at the recent "Operation Gridlock" rally had, for the most part, practiced adequate social distancing.

Heywood claimed the clear contradiction leaves the public to "draw the conclusion" that MSP "provided inaccurate information serving to minimize a very real public health threat" in Lansing.

Lansing Police Chief Daryl Green told City Pulse last month that tickets and fines serve as an important deterrent and shows those that ignore the order that violations carry consequences.

But he also recognized the need to strike a delicate balance between protecting the public and his own staff. Every officer coming into contact with someone to write a misdemeanor ticket risks further exposure to the virus, and the potential for at least 14 days off duty

in quarantine.

"I understand that people want more tickets and they want more arrests, but every time we pull those officers, those resources, away for something like writing a ticket, our state of readiness goes down. We're less prepared for something else that could take place," Green explained.

Heywood and Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail have still called for heavier-handed enforcement at demonstrations in order to better protect the community as well.

"We do not know how many low-wage, essential workers at convenience stores, gas stations and other retail establishments may have been exposed to, and may subsequently contract, the novel coronavirus," Heywood wrote in his letter. "This could increase the stress on our already burdened healthcare delivery programs and could have been mitigated with simple citations."

"I get allowing free speech. But people from all over the state traveled into Ingham County and interacted with all sorts of people," Vail said last month. "We have to have some sort of balance to the right of free speech and the right to protect our community under this executive order."

Ingham County Prosecutor Carol Siemon, in the meantime, is armed and ready to roll out misdemeanor charges to anyone found in repeated violation of the governor's executive orders.

"Our focus is on compliance, not prosecution. But when prosecution is the necessary step, we will," Siemon said in a recent letter to Schor. "I am dismayed by the illegal actions of many of these protesters and encourage a police response that ensures the restrictions are followed."

The next rally in Lansing is scheduled for Thursday. Visit lansingcitypulse.com for coverage.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

Kiehle

from page 8

it," she said. With nothing to do except sit at home and wait it out, Kiehle and her family started binging CNN and Google News. "Staying updated with the news kind of helped. At first, all the information coming out was so vague," Kiehle said.

One thing she did know is that the virus is much more dangerous for older people. The health of her parents was

Kiehle's main concern during self-isolation. She knew that she could make it, and she wasn't too worried about her brother or his wife. But her parents experienced the virus differently.

State of Michigan numbers show a 1% death rate for people in Kiehle's age range. But it jumps to 18% for people the age of her father and mother, who are 56 and 55.

"For me and my brother and my sister in law, we had COVID for a much shorter time. But my parents' symptoms lasted a lot longer," said Kiehle. "They didn't feel better until, like, three

weeks after."

The state reports that nearly half of Michigan's COVID victims have recovered — but that does not include those like Kiehle who were never tested.

According to the Detroit Free Press, doctors say that COVID-19 can cause harm to the immune system, kill cells, hurt or even shut down the heart, liver and kidneys. Kiehle reported no lasting symptoms for her and her family.

It was a strange, contradictory feeling. Kiehle felt comforted knowing that her youth would help her defeat the

virus, but this feeling was complicated by the fear of her parents' health deteriorating.

"I could be fine, but my parents could get worse just because they're older than me. The news said that older people were having more issues. Not knowing who would survive was pretty scary. And being stressed doesn't help you get better."

"We got rest, we took care of ourselves and we were able to beat it," said Kiehle. "I'm just so glad my parents are still alive."

— COLE TUNNINGLEY

LETTERS to the editor

A cost-savings idea for MSU

I am a concerned MSU faculty member. Higher education faces difficult decisions in the coming months. The impact of COVID19 has destabilized state budgets and many campus operations have been halted. I have heard horror stories of newly hired faculty receiving notices of rescinded job offers. MSU has already announced pay cuts for executives that will last into the next fiscal year.

I would like to propose a cost savings idea that has not been publicly discussed: fire the sexual harassers. A Google search of MSU Title IX investigators reveals numerous faculty and staff found in violation of MSU's sexual harassment policies. Many of these problematic employees received little to no punishment for their sexual misconduct on

campus. In navigating an unstable economy where widespread joblessness is the new reality for many of our MSU community members, I ask why should sexual harassers be allowed to continue working at MSU while those who do not harass are laid off or live in fear of losing their livelihood?

Name withheld

Solving the racial disparity problem

I have a solution to the problem that East Lansing City Council and its mayor have identified as cops making 20% of their arrests of African Americans, in spite of the fact that they only comprise 3% of the population. My solution could revolutionize the way the whole criminal justice system operates from the national level to cities like East Lansing. It's a no-brainer.

For years groups have complained that African Americans make up the majority in prisons nationwide, yet we all know they are in the minority of the population. So my solution is as follows:

Identify the percentage of the population of all minorities in all communities.

When that percentage of criminal conduct is met on a monthly basis, the police should not pursue arrests of those minorities.

City councils can no longer accuse the police of being racist.

Police can no longer be maligned as racist by minority groups.

Judges can no longer send people to prison unless they represent the percentage of the population that their ethnicity represents in their community.

Our prisons would now look like society at large.

Police, who have trouble recruiting because of society's negative view of them, will now have young people looking forward to a career of public service.

Judges will not be criticized for sending minorities to prison because they will adhere to the percentages they represent in their communities.

If the percentages are met, yet one is still a crime victim, 911 will inform them that there 's nothing the police can do. No one is to blame.

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

• At lansingcitypulse.com

2.) Write a guest column:

Contact Berl Schwartz for more information:

publisher@lansingcitypulse.com
or (517) 999-5061

(Please include your name, address and telephone number so we can reach you. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.)

It will be a Win-Win for all of society.

P.S. If you like this idea, don't thank me, thank the geniuses on the East Lansing City Council and their mayor. It all started with their idea of using percentages to fight crime.

George Umholtz
East Lansing

Ex-convict's new pot brand supports marijuana felons

Ryan Basore to launch Redemption Cannabis in Lansing

A new recreational and medical marijuana brand launches in Greater Lansing next week, and 10% of every sale will be dedicated to criminal justice reform and those imprisoned for weed.

Ryan Basore — who served time in federal prison on a marijuana conviction — will launch Redemption Cannabis Co. May 23 and supply several local dispensaries with exclusive strains of top-notch bud, pre-rolled joints, live resin vaporizer cartridges, THC concentrates and other pot products.

"The idea,

for me, is to feature the stories of our strategic partners and highlight their brands," Basore told City Pulse. "The idea is not to be this big corporate brand where nobody knows what's doing what and where these products are coming from. It's kind of my dream job."

Basore is the co-founder of the Michigan Association of Compassion Centers, the original Lansing Cannabis Association and Cannabis Patients United. He was among the first to grow and sell medical marijuana in Lansing, at Capital City Caregivers.

In 2009, he was arrested — along with six others known as the Okemos 7 — and federally charged amid a haze of unclear cultivation restrictions, but since his release from prison in 2015, he has remained at the forefront of the industry. He also served as business development director for the Michigan Cannabis Industry Association.

Redemption Cannabis Co. will serve

largely as a middle man for the industry. In partnership with three licensed growers and a processing facility, Basore has signed licensing agreements to supply at least 25 dispensaries — including many in Lansing — with his signature products.

"I've got so many close friends that have stores now and others that I've built these relationships with over the years," Basore said. "I've got to pick and choose where my products go. I know all of these people and I get an opportunity to work with the people I like and believe in what I do."

Basore launched his company, in part, through a \$50,000 social equity grant from Gauge Cannabis Co. The Michigan retail chain plans to open a dispensary in Lansing on May 27.

And Basore's time behind bars inspired the idea behind the charitable side of his business.

He said at least 10% of every sale



Basore

will be redirected to a nonprofit that is geared specifically toward providing commissary cash to inmates serving time for marijuana-related convictions, helping prisoners once they get out and lobbying politicians for further criminal justice reform.

"I was in there for a few years, so I understand what it's like," Basore said. "I want to put money on people's books and help them after they get out too. If you don't have great friends, family and a support system, you can really be set up to fail after you get released. I want to help."

Basore said his company would have launched months ago had it not been for the pandemic. His initial product packaging supplier in Wuhan, China, obviously experienced some delays. But after working out some alternative partnerships with local companies, the brand is finally ready to roll.

Redemption Cannabis Co. will provide an array of marijuana products in Lansing at local dispensaries. As part of a launch special, discounts may be available to those convicted of pot-related crimes.

(Visit redemptioncanna.com for more details about Basore and his new company.)

— **KYLE KAMINSKI**

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF INGHAM NOTICE OF HEARING File #20-158-GA

In the matter of Steven Chandler.

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on 06/09/2020, 2:00 p.m., in front of Judge Garcia at Ingham County Probate Court, 313 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing MI 48933 for the following purpose: Petition for appointment of guardian of an incapacitated individual.

Date: 2/26/2020
Ryan Stockwell
c/o Ingham County DHHS
5303 S. Cedar Street
Lansing, MI 48911
517-775-4824

CP#20-113

B/20/104 INDIGO CAMERA PROJECT as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept bids at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, 124 W Michigan Ave, 8th Floor, MI. 48933 or electronically thru MITN until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **JUNE 2, 2020** at which time bids will be opened. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128, or stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#20-116

Owosso barbershop stays open despite warnings

Over 50 people waited outside Karl Manke's Barber & Beauty in Owosso Tuesday, lining up for their first post-COVID-19 haircut.

"We're keeping the party rollin'!" Manke said with a smile.

By opening his shop, Manke is defying Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive orders shuttering many businesses, including salons and barber shops, to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus.

"Owosso Police served me with papers for a criminal act," Manke said. "Then I guess I got served by the state police. I've had three different types of servings within one week. I don't even remember what days I got them, I've been so jammed up here."

Manke is the only one cutting hair in the shop right now. His employees were too intimidated to come back to the store, for fear of losing their licensing or losing money. Manke claimed that the shop adheres to social distancing guidelines, although most of people waiting outside weren't wearing masks.

Most of the customers said they were in line "just to get a haircut," but as pushback to Whitmer's stay-at-home orders mounts, there was clearly more going on than that.

Karen Hathon, 77, from Mulliken, stood outside the shop waving a "Don't Tread On Me" flag. "I think it's a criminal shame to force these businesses to shut down," she said. "I wish there were more people like Karl Manke."

Deb Smith, 63, from Woodland, wasn't there to get a haircut, either. "I wish I was," she said. "I need one." Smith said she was standing in the parking lot, waving a Purple Heart flag, to "represent freedom."

"My father was a World War II veteran," she said. "Gretchen Whitmer is power-hungry. I think her reasons for doing this are political. It's a shame that there are some people who blame this all on President Trump."

There was no police presence at the shop on Tuesday afternoon.

WXYZ-TV reported that on Monday, Shiawassee Circuit Court Judge Matthew Stewart denied a request for a restraining order against Manke's shop that would have forced him to shut down.

Manke said that he viewed reopening as a personal necessity. As the weeks went by, he realized that he was going to run out of all the money he had saved up. "I couldn't afford to be out of work any longer," explained Manke. "My bills were all due."

Of course, Whitmer came up in conversation.

"When she decided to take us into



Cole Tunningley/City Pulse

Above: Karl Manke could barely keep up with demand at his Owosso barber shop Tuesday, despite state orders that barber shops, salons and other businesses remain closed.

lockdown, it just dropped me to my knees," Manke said. As it became clear that nonessential businesses wouldn't open back up any time soon, he decided that it was time to reopen.

Business has been booming at Manke's. He claimed that a blog post about his shop went viral, earning 40,000 unique views. The line outside started growing faster than he could keep up with.

"I'm busier than a one-legged tap dancer on a two-legged stool," he said. For now, he and his business seem unstoppable, despite all those pesky warnings from the police.

People driving past Manke's honked and waved, eliciting cheers from the crowd of customers. He said that looking outside the front window of his shop makes his heart swell.

"It's overwhelming," he said. "Absolutely overwhelming to see the support I'm getting. I have thousands of people offering me support."

— COLE TUNNINGLEY



Cole Tunningley/City Pulse

Deb Smith of Woodland showed her support Tuesday for Owosso barber shop owner Karl Manke, who opened his shop in defiance of the state shutdown.

B/20/103 May Street Storm Sewer Improvements as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept bids at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, 124 W Michigan Ave, 8th Floor, MI. 48933 or electronically thru MITN until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **May 28, 2020** at which time bids will be opened. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128, or stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info.** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#20-114



1328 S. Washington Ave., Lansing

This dilapidated car garage on the edge of REO Town has seen some far better days. Chipped paint is piling up at the foundation. The windows are boarded up. The fire-damaged garage door is rusted and smashed in. And while it might have some history, the building only detracts from the beauty of the rest of the neighborhood.

Gay Powers owned and operated Powers Motors Sales since 1955 and later opened Anytime Anywhere Taxi Service from inside the building. It has sat vacant ever since he died and left the building to his wife in 2014.

"We had a guy that was buying it, but he backed out. Now we're hoping to sell it by July," Joyce Powers said.

Several people have reached out to express interest in renting or buying the property, including a charitable group that wanted to store clothing for the homeless and wealthy downtown tenants looking for extra parking. But Joyce Powers is picky. She said she also turned down three or four people who wanted to open a pot shop.

"I'm not going to let someone sell drugs out of that building," she explained. "That wasn't going to work."

Property records show the Powers bought the lot for \$41,000 in 1983. The 613-square-foot Art Deco building was constructed in 1927. And while Joyce Powers wants to get rid of the property, it's still not exactly for sale. She's still holding out hope that someone will turn it into an automotive shop — perhaps by later this summer.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

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

Coping with quarantine

Locals share how they're keeping it all together

By SKYLER ASHLEY, LAWRENCE COSENTINO
AND COLE TUNNINGLEY

At the beginning of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's Stay Home, Stay Safe order, City Pulse reached out to the Lansing community in order to gather stories about regular people's lives in quarantine. That series, which appears occasionally online, covers many demographics, with the age of subjects ranging from 23 and 95. These storytellers share their feelings on the global pandemic, and also explain what they're doing at home to keep sane. While the full version of each of these stories — and several others — are available on lansingcitypulse.com, we've compiled a large sampler, so you can learn a little bit about how your city is adjusting to life indoors.

John Irvin 'Irv' Nichols

The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 looks familiar to Irv Nichols. As director of the Michigan Tuberculosis Association for 17 years, Nichols, 95, played a role in containing a deadly communicable disease for which there were no drugs until the mid-1960s.

"It was identical to the kind of thing we have now," Nichols said. "Contact tracing was the primary thing. You tried to find everyone an infected person was associating with, and either give them a skin test or a chest X-ray."

Nichols was part of an all-out effort to contain TB in Kentucky from 1948 until he moved to Lansing in 1957.

"We would go into a community and try to X-ray most of the adults," he said. "We would take those mobile chest X-ray units right down into the creek beds near the mines and X-ray people down there."

Sadly, he doesn't see that level of effort now.

"The lack of leadership at the federal level has really hurt us a great deal," he said. "They knew a problem was coming and there was already a template for what we needed to do, but nobody followed up on it."

Nichols, a widower, is sanguine about living in quarantine. He lives in the same Lansing house he's lived in for 63 years. He has no problem wearing a mask when he goes out.



"It's not so hard on people like me," he said. "I'm in pretty good health and I don't worry about a lot of stuff. I can live this way myself, but I feel awfully sorry for those who have lost jobs and those who just can't stay at home."

He maintains an almost punishing Zoom schedule with three far-flung children, the oldest of whom is 65, and eight grandchildren. He's catching up on three books, including "Dark Towers," David Denrich's account of Deutsche Bank's ties to Donald Trump, and devours The New York Times (in print format) every day.

While many of his philanthropic projects, in tandem with fellow Rotary Club members, are on hold, he's working on a grant to secure funds to furnish a school in Majok-Chedhiop, a village in South Sudan, with chairs, blackboards and other supplies.

He stays in touch with his many Rotary contacts by phone, but he misses Wednesday night dinners with two friends, Dave O'Leary (founder of O'Leary Paints) and a mutual friend, Sue. Next Thursday, Nichols will participate in a drive-by birthday party for Sue, who is turning 80.

"They're going to put a wheelchair in her driveway, and she'll sit there and we'll go by, and they'll have cupcakes on the lawn for anybody who wants it," he said. "I'll be one of those driving by."



Candice Wilmore

Candice Wilmore, 71, is a retired retail sales worker and photographer. She stays in the senior living apartment complex Friendship Manor, which is near the Frandor Shopping Center.

Wilmore said her experience is akin to living in two levels of self-isolation, as the apartment complex has its own special set of lockdown rules. Residents are not allowed in the common areas, and Wilmore said social distancing practices have left the halls mostly barren.

"We've been on lockdown since Gov. Whitmer announced it herself. It's almost like a lockdown within a lockdown," Wilmore said.

Wilmore said she gets her groceries and necessities from the Frandor Kroger, and takes many precautions when exiting her residence. Even before the coronavirus was reported in Michigan, she made a habit of wearing a mask and latex gloves.

"I'm 71 and I've had chronic illness for over 30 years. I felt extremely frightened in the beginning," Wilmore said. "I don't feel that way as much now but in the beginning, I thought, 'If I get this thing, there's no way I am going to survive it.' Even though I didn't have the fear of losing my income, I had the fear I wouldn't need any income."

Wilmore said her involvement with the homeless community is her chief concern. Citing a recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, she stressed the importance of not evicting homeless tent encampments, such as the one she helped organize at Holy Cross Services on Larch Street.

"I contacted the police department before we

Quarantine

from page 12

set the camp up. We have been getting amazing donations of tents and sleeping bags,” Wilmore said. “The CDC says under normal conditions this would be considered unsanitary but in this situation, it may even be safer than a shelter.”

Wilmore added that she was very livid with the United States’ response to the coronavirus. “As much as I disdain our president, I do not focus on him. All of the agencies worldwide were warned about this. I think the United States’ response has been horrific,” Wilmore said.



Bethanne Harms

Bethanne Harms, 40, Lansing, is a stay-at-home mother and artist. She spent many years working for (SCENE) Metrospace in East Lansing, working the door for galleries by local artists and live shows by bands such as The Plurals and Drinking Mercury, before its eventual takeover by Michigan State University’s Department of Art, Art History and Design.

Missing live music is one of the biggest blows to Harms’ life since the coronavirus preventative measures put the squeeze on local arts, and large gatherings in general.

“That’s one thing I really miss from before the lockdown — having that ability to go out; see my friends and support their bands. Just giving back to the Lansing music scene,” Harms said.

Harms, who has high-functioning autism, did not have a full-time professional occupation leading up to the pandemic. Rather, she’s the stay-at-home parent to her 5-year-old son Jonathan, who is also autistic.

“We couldn’t afford child care. If I was to go back into the workforce, all of our money would be spent on child care or student loans, and it would leave me with a negative bank balance,” Harms said. “We thought the easiest way would be for one of us to become the stay-at-home parent, and I was down

for it.”

The biggest factor in establishing some normalcy for her family is her son’s continued visits to his social therapist. Though coronavirus-specific precautions are taken by Harms, her son and her son’s therapist, such as flu masks, gloves and protective shoe coverings, the appointments have managed to carry on as usual.

“He loves riding in the car and going places. Having that ability to spend the morning at social therapy — it gives him time for himself,” Harms said. “Having that little bit of normalcy during a crazy time where we have to reduce our social interaction is nice. It’s that important bit of normalcy amid a crazy pandemic.”

Harms said she is cautiously optimistic about the future after the coronavirus.

“I’m still upset that a lot of people are ignoring the stay at home orders. That kind of frightens me,” Harms said. “I always say, ‘Stay safe; stay healthy and stay at home!’”



Ryan Holmes

Ryan Holmes, 36, of Lansing, is an artist and arts educator with Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy, where he instructs children from kindergarten to eighth grade. He’s known around town for his vibrant chalk art — intricate sketches and colorful portraits of comic book characters and other pop culture iconography from medieval dragons to the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

“We found out we were taking a month off, and that turned into the rest of the school year,” Holmes said.

Being separated from his students and dealing with a wave of art show cancellations causes Holmes to feel growing anxiety as the weeks of self-isolation roll on.

“As an educator, you are the norm. You are a constant in a lot of those kids’ lives, and to not be there for them is really tough,” Holmes said. “There’s a sense of disappointment — especially when things you’re looking forward to are canceled. But my kids’ safety is the number one thing. We’re lucky that this is a time with many different options for communication, but it’s taken a while to emotionally reset and say, ‘Here we go, we’re going to try this a different way.’”

While Holmes calls his daily educational YouTube videos his “reason for getting out of bed,” he still finds time to head outdoors to produce more of his chalk art. He’s also diligently creating sketches and

— when he needs to have some mindless fun — he’ll build structures out of LEGOs. Holmes also uses his additional free time to work on various projects for his “Ghostbusters” fan club.



Ty Forquer

Ty Forquer, 38, Lansing, owns 517 Shirts, is one of three local satirists running Lansing Facts and — up until the coronavirus and shelter-in-place mandates hit Michigan — was the marketing manager for Elderly Instruments. Forquer is also the former arts and culture editor for City Pulse. But he’s taking a break from full-time occupations to stay home and help take care of his 4-year-old daughter.

“I tried working part-time from home. I found it was causing me so much stress — trying to balance family stuff and the news, all while trying to sell guitars. I felt that I had to step away from that and focus on taking care of my family,” Forquer said.

Forquer is using his newfound free time to do more cooking and finally get around to some home improvement projects he had on the back burner.

“We cook things I consider to be comfort food, like chicken tacos or chicken enchiladas. We also like goulash and slow cooker stuff,” Forquer said.

To kill the time indoors, Forquer and his wife Rose seek out creative, educational and engaging activities for their daughter on websites such as Pinterest. “We try to keep up with her education. We’re doing numbers, letters and craft projects. But we’re also carving out time to chill out, listen to music and watch a show,” Forquer said.

His daughter is also a fan of “Storyfriends,” an online children’s show created by Dylan Rogers of the Robin Theatre.

Forquer and his cohorts Emily Syrja and Craig Terrill crack people up with their hyper-local satire at Lansing Facts. Forquer said being a comedian amid a crisis is a delicate balancing act.

“Early on, we wanted to make sure we were never making fun of the virus. Even as a humor account, we wanted to make sure we were taking it seriously. But we’re also trying to find humor in this shared crappy experience,” Forquer said. “It’s hard to be funny when you’re stressed out about work, money and personal relationships.”

Quarantine

from page 13



Ezra Kelly

Ezra Kelly, 23, is a frequent volunteer at The Fledge, a musician and performance artist. Kelly, who uses they/them pronouns, jokes that self-isolation isn't a new experience to them and they're witnessing the rest of Michigan learning to cope with it.

"It's sort of weird, this feels like something I've already put myself through five times," Kelly said.

Even though the isolation is no longer by choice, Kelly's current lifestyle is consistent with how it was before the coronavirus swept across Michigan.

"It's been odd philosophically. It feels like a hazy timeout period. Everywhere is vacant; everything feels hypnotic — like time is moving really slow," Kelly said. "But it feels good. The last four or five years have flown past me and, while it sucks that all of this is happening, it's sort of a slow breath of fresh air."

Kelly said they've been following two polarized sides of the Internet debate about the coronavirus: People using it as an opportunity to make memes, and those taking it very seriously and are highly annoyed by any humor surrounding the crisis.

"I can see why it's upsetting to people, but meme culture has always been about people not being able to cope with things and laugh at it instead. It's like the only way to avoid fear is to laugh. I just want people to do whatever keeps them sane," Kelly said. "But it's important to balance them out. Stay inside; don't get people sick."

But Kelly's primary concern is with their sibling, Marshall Kelly, who lives in Los Angeles. Before moving, Marshall and Ezra Kelly were inseparable and the two still remain in close and constant contact, with Ezra flying out to California in February before the wide scale preventative measures took full effect.

"We always go through any big life event together, so this has been scary. I almost flew back to Los Angeles, because that way if something happens to

one of us there's no way we can't be together. Like, 'If you get sick, I get sick.' But I know we can't be that irrational," Kelly said.



Kevica Towns

The warmth of stage lights, the sight of swaying bodies, the sound of her voice amplified to an impossible volume — Lansing neo-soul singer Kevica Towns, 27, who writes and performs under the name V. Soul, has no idea when she'll get to experience these things again. Since the COVID-19 outbreak has made it impossible to safely perform music in front of a crowd, artists like Towns have nothing left to do but create in private.

"I miss being on stage. I really do," said Towns. "When and if we get back to performing in Lansing, it's going to be like a family reunion. I think it's really going to be nice. I've just been working and writing."

Before the whole world went on lockdown, Towns regularly performed at popular Lansing bars like Mac's Bar and the Avenue Café. Towns has also participated in Lansing's annual house show festival, Stoopfest, which was canceled this year for obvious reasons.

"The Avenue is my home. That's where it all started," said Towns. "And I've played the most shows at Mac's Bar this year." Asked if she was worried that these places wouldn't survive the pandemic, Towns said, "Yes, I absolutely am."

Work-life has proved both to be both a stressor and an inspiration for Towns. After all, artists write about what they know. Lengthy, tedious shifts lugging and scanning items at a warehouse directly inspired her new single, "What A Day."

"It's a song written about a relatable day at work," she explained. "Sometimes, you get off work and you just want to talk about it. Who can I talk to? That's why I wrote the song. It's my first pandemic song."

Towns knows that it can take a village to raise a great song. Collaborating with other artists in Michigan and people around the world has given her a sense of community in these times of widespread loneliness and isolation.

Thinking about how the world will look in the future makes her anxious. She doesn't know quite what it will look like, but she knows it will probably never be the same.

"I haven't been feeling scared until, like, now. Even with everything opening back up, we're still going to have social distancing, we're still going to

have to keep six feet away, we're still going to have to make sure we're sanitizing and wearing masks," said Towns. "It's kind of getting scary."



Ashley Medina

Ashley Medina, 40, is a hairstylist at Bliss Salon Spa Boutique known for giving people unique cuts. She often shaves patterns and designs into the back and sides of heads or graces people with quirky styles such as mullets. But with hair salons bunched in with businesses deemed nonessential, she's stuck inside managing social media accounts for herself and Bliss. Medina isn't too upset with having more personal time at home.

"This situation has allowed me time that I would have never gotten or given myself," Medina said. "I'm determined to come out of this stronger, smarter and more prepared."

She, like many others, is turning to food nutrition to help cope with the countless hours spent indoors. "I'm not saying better nutrition will prevent the coronavirus, I'm just saying it won't hurt," she said.

She's catching up on sleep and still finding time to exercise, despite gyms being closed. Medina suggests others dealing with quarantine-related stress try the same techniques. Her favorite dishes at the moment are loaded with broccoli, leafy greens and mushrooms.

With schools closed statewide, Medina has to balance her at home responsibilities with Bliss, while also looking after her 9-year-old daughter. Medina said she isn't enforcing the usual limits on her daughter's screen time with technology, and that she regularly plans activities to keep her active and imaginative. The two like to spend time together making homemade popsicles, playing soccer in their backyard and crafting simple sewing projects such as DIY pillowcases.

Medina believes the coronavirus should bring about permanent societal change, and hopes things don't simply return to the way they were. She notes the extreme overwhelming of hospitals nationwide and the tidal wave of unemployment applications.

"Unemployment offices and hospitals are overwhelmed; it's so unfortunate. Maybe in the future, the government could distribute monies through social media avenues," Medina said. "There are literally billions of people on their phones daily. Technology can give us what we need. I'm on team technology."

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

New and necessary

Mónica Ramirez-Montagut is eager to take the reins at MSU's Broad Art Museum

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Mónica Ramirez-Montagut is having an even stranger COVID-19 lockdown than most humans. In July, she takes over as the new director of MSU's Eli and Edythe Broad Museum, most likely in a virtual capacity, at first. Meanwhile, she's wrapping up her duties as director of Tulane University's Newcomb Art Museum in New Orleans — also remotely.

She's fielding a flood of congratulatory emails from her current colleagues and her future ones at MSU, but, poised between one COVID-19 hot spot and another, she doesn't know when she'll be able to pack up and move to Michigan.

"I have to just wait and be patient, which is not my forte," she said.

Ramirez-Montagut a museum director and curator, event organizer, advocate for marginalized communities, a trained architect and lots of other things, but above all, she is a true believer in the transformative power of contemporary art. She loves nothing more than to see a light bulb go off over a skeptical visitor's head.

"Imagine that you've felt hostility toward something your whole life, and suddenly you're like, 'Oh, my God, I get it. That is so interesting and so creative,'" she said. "That's the best experience we can provide for our audience."

The kind of art that thrills her goes beyond aesthetic beauty or even spiritual uplift, into a zone of new and necessary communication.

"When a visitor says, 'I didn't know how much I needed to see this show,' that's the best compliment you can get," she said. "Art is such an interesting and powerful vehicle for engaging people."

Her passion for museums comes from growing up in Mexico City, the "City of Palaces," where hundreds of museums and cultural sites whisked her off to any century she cared to visit.

"My whole life, we went to museums as our entertainment and informal

education," she said. "You can see the Teotihuacan Pyramids, the size of the Egyptian Pyramids, or you can drive another hour and see the Olmeca, or you can stay in Mexico City and see temples and cathedrals." The city is a treasure box of art and architecture ranging from pre-Hispanic and indigenous to colonial culture to "super-contemporary cutting edge."

"That's how I grew up. It stuck with me," she said. "Wherever I travel, I have to go to the museums and the market."

The MSU search committee credited her with turning the Newcomb Museum into a vibrant gathering spot for students and the community — a goal they hope she will pursue at the Broad — and a hub of New Orleans culture.

But her own transformative experiences in museums leave her uninterested in running a passive coffee-shop-style hangout.

"I've been very thankful because I've learned a lot," she said. "I've become a more sensitive and sensible human being because I grew up going to museums and understanding the world through the power of the visual arts."

Although she is trained as an architect, with a special interest in the work of Frank Lloyd Wright and Zaha Hadid, Ramirez-Montagut found that art "can be a lot more experimental and a lot more flexible in responding with more immediacy than architecture." As she pointed out, patience is not her forte.

"Architects always have to negotiate longer, with more stakeholders, for their product to be materialized," she said. "Frank Lloyd Wright had to work around 16 years to get the Guggenheim built. I don't imagine myself sticking to a project for 16 years."

Running a museum, especially one designed by a visionary architect, is a way for her to blend both passions.

She loves the immediacy of art, its quick response time and unpredictable twists and turns as new voices break onto the scene.

"I've dedicated my career to contemporary art, to giving artists their first museum show," she said.



Ramirez-Montagut

However, she is keenly aware of widespread public bafflement, and even hostility, to a lot of contemporary art.

"We come upon these weird things on the wall, on the floor, that we're not even sure if that's art," she said. "What are we supposed to do with it? Can we touch it? It's the job of the museum to be welcoming, to put people at ease."

She can relate to anyone who has struggled to read high-concept jargon next to a piece of art and walked away unedified.

"Sometimes I walk into a museum, read the wall text, and I have a Ph.D. and I'm still grappling with exactly what they mean," she said. "It upsets me, quite honestly, because if I'm having trouble — it defeats the purpose of serving your audience."

She likes to give visitors "several points of access" to an exhibit. Rather than hermetically placing art in "sacred" isolation, she likes to include infographics, timelines, videos of the artist at work, graphic novel-style text boxes — anything that might help switch the light bulb on.

"We turn them into high-end design components and post them equally to the artwork," she said.

She views the Broad's visionary design, by Zaha Hadid, is an asset and not a distraction.

She also works as a curator at Wright's Guggenheim Museum in New York, a

gigantic spiral that is often accused of upstaging the work displayed inside.

"Both the Guggenheim and a Zaha Hadid building — I love to look at the artwork from above, from a skewed perspective," she said. "So it's not just a head-on experience, like it is in many other museums. You're going to be able to look at everything from different angles that are generally not the experience in other museums, and that's an asset."

She also looks forward to tapping into the wide-ranging colleges of a large university, from the veterinary school to the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, and look for ways to bring Native American, Latino, LGBT and other marginalized groups into the artistic conversation.

"I'm excited to experience the Midwestern work ethic and life ethic," she said. "There's a particular one for the South as well and it has been a tremendous joy to discover that in the South, and I'm looking for the same experience in the Midwest."

She also knows that there are several Frank Lloyd Wright houses within cantilevering distance of MSU, including two of Wright's experimental Usonian houses, in Okemos.

"It's all super-exciting and extraordinary. I can't wait. It's such a dynamic region with so much history. It's like a myth and I'm going to be in the middle of it all."

Curtainless Theatre stages 'Prometheus Bound' via Zoom call

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

If the Curtainless Theatre was a musical group, it wouldn't play simple pop or three-chord rock 'n' roll. The theatrical company would surely perform only abstract jazz or classical symphonies. I admire that it doesn't take an easy path.

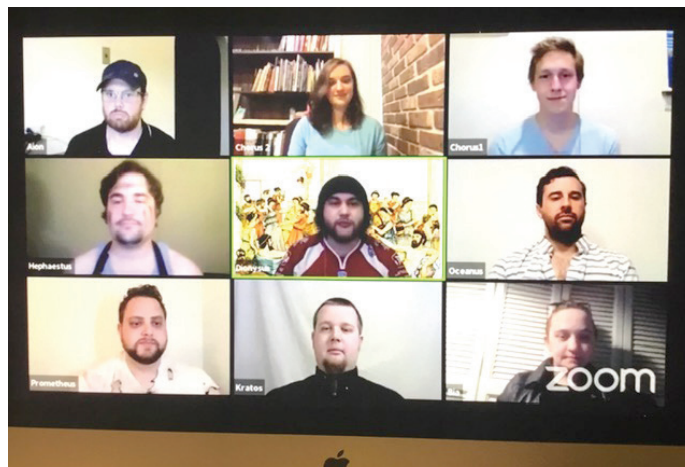
The troupe that moved from East Lansing's Hannah Center, to Lansing's Sycamore Creek Church, and now to online shows, is known for performing only complicated Shakespeare tragedies. For an indefinite time, the Curtainless Theatre is providing a virtual reading of "Prometheus Bound," by Aeschylus — the possible creator of tragedies.

"Prometheus Bound"

Curtainless Theatre
facebook.com/curtainlesstheatre
lansing

The Greek classic is easily available on the Curtainless Theatre's Facebook page. A link on the site allows for PayPal donations.

A Shakespeare script from the late 1500s and early 1600s or translated Greek dialogue from 430 B.C. isn't meant for modern audiences with short attention spans or a disdain for highbrow, outdated discourse. And the



David Winkelstern/City Pulse

appeal of "Prometheus Bound" can be even harder to appreciate when viewed with the limitations of Zoom.

Using split screens technically navigated by Cody Skalmowski, the Curtainless Theatre succeeds in presenting real actors reading really difficult lines when live theater has been stifled by an all-too-real Covid-19 pandemic.

Like Prometheus' stubbornness to defy Zeus, the Curtainless Theatre bravely recorded a cast of seven courageous actors reading part of the multi-layered play. Without auditions, direc-

tor Dale Wayne Williams chose trusted actors he worked with before. They rehearsed three times before their live broadcast on May 8.

A mighty Kameron Going shoulders the role of Prometheus and much of the focus in the tragedy about power, freedom of thought and the importance of pity. Wearing a tattered shirt symbolizing being doomed to be chained to a rock by Zeus, Going gives a heroic reading.

The rest of the cast read principal roles and contribute the voice of the obligatory Greek chorus known as the

The cast of Curtainless Theatre's Zoom call reading of "Prometheus Unbound."

"Oceanids."

Robert Mueller is an expressive Hermes who brazenly serves Zeus. Ellie Weise as "Io," offers dramatic and persuasive speech as a god who struggles with her own sufferings.

All actors — including Tim Edinger, Chris Didur, Monica Holland, and Joe Clark — offer clear enunciation, smooth deliveries of antiquated text and the ability to interact with others while separated. A memorable scene is when Weise manages all that while also reacting to stinging insects sent by Zeus.

Balance issues, visual inconsistencies and uneven settings are expected when trying out a new medium. Williams' brief narration interruptions with loud music or sound effects are especially awkward. Anyone who has used Zoom can appreciate how difficult it can be to have a perfect chat. To create a flawless, multiple reading of Greek Antiquity Theater lasting about 70 minutes is a daunting task.

I remember how daunting it was to read "Prometheus Bound" in high school. It was easier being able to listen to the script in the comfort of my home. And this time, I didn't have to fear a test at the end of the story.

East Lansing Art Festival goes digital with a plethora of art and music

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, holding the East Lansing Art Festival in its original form became an impossibility. But ELAF Manager Heather Majano worked with her team to put together a virtual version of the festival on Facebook and Zoom that includes magic, music and more.

"We're ready for anything," said Majano.

"We even have pre-recorded videos of our live performances just in case our computers decide not to cooperate."

Majano herself will be hosting an "Art-Along," where participants can tune in to learn an easy craft. "It'll be something you can do at home that most people will have the tools for. It's a little silly, but I'm excited for it," laughed Majano.

In addition to the Art-Along, the festival includes performances from musicians The Swift Brothers and magician The Amazing Clark. There will be pre-recorded videos of poetry readings from poets who have been featured in the ELAF Poetry Journal.

"We have an annual poetry journal that the festival puts out," said Majano. "We will be printing that journal again this year, after the festival, when things are more open."

For those who like to work with their hands, the festival features demonstrations from local artists. "Meg Croft will do a demonstration of fiber art and then talk about the history of the medium," said Majano. "Lino Pretto will do glass blowing, and Manny Lopez is doing metalwork."

Majano had no problem setting up the virtual version of the festival, but she is worried that things could go awry

East Lansing Art Festival Online

Saturday, May 16,
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
(517) 319-6804
elartfest.com/
virtual-festival
facebook.com/
ELArtFest



East Lansing Art Festival is moving online. You can check it out Saturday, 10 a.m., at elartfest.com/virtual-festival.

on the day of. Once she and her team figured out exactly how they wanted to run the festival, all it took was setting up Zoom, Facebook and their website. "Fingers crossed that everything goes smoothly," said Majano. "I just hope technology is our friend on that day."

On the day of the festival, attendees can use ELAF's Facebook page to vote on who should win the People's Choice Award. They'll announce the winner at 6 p.m.

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Michigan author goes to the dark heart of normal

By **BILL CASTANIER**

If the very idea of irony were to die during the coronavirus, how would one bury it? A new book by Ferndale writer Michael Zadoorian might provide an answer. While working as a copywriter in the post-glory-days of Detroit advertising, Zadoorian claimed to be an author. However, it's only in recent times that he's become critically acclaimed.

Zadoorian has always been a very good writer who never strayed far from his Detroit roots. Two of his early books, "Second Hand: A Novel" and "The Lost Tiki Palaces of Detroit," were cult-like, ironic tributes that circulated main-

ly among his followers. His 2009 novel "The Leisure Seeker" struck pay dirt, becoming the basis for a 2018 film starring Helen Mirren and Donald Sutherland. He quickly followed that effort with "Beautiful Music," which won a Michigan Notable Book Award.

His fourth novel, "The Narcissism of Small Differences," about a couple looking 40 in the eye, who have hit a rough patch in their relationship, continues his climb. The book's protagonists, Joe Keen and Ana Urbanek, are part of the hip Detroit creative class who have fallen into a routine when the 2008 recession strikes. In the book Ana asks Joe, "Are we weird?"

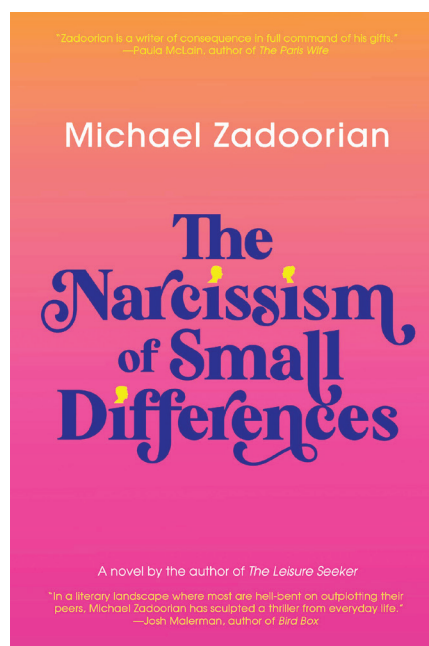
Ana is a fast-rising advertising executive, while Joe is a little more laid-back, working as a freelancer while he writes his novel. They are unmarried and childless. Frankly, they have become boring — until the book reaches its major reveal. But you will have to read the book to find out exactly what it is. It's front and center in chapters like "Heart of Tiki Darkness" and "The Mythos of the Broken Hipster."

Zadoorian was expecting a big book launch with all the bells and whistles until the world shut down and he was forced into a virtual book launch by livestreaming on Facebook.

"I guess you could say I am 'pimping' my book," he said in a phone conversa-



Zadoorian



tion from his home in suburban Detroit.

"I don't see face-to-face library and bookstore events happening and it has sent writers scrambling," Zadoorian said. He was pleased that 500 people viewed his book launch live, and a total of 1,700 have watched it since.

Zadoorian said the draft of the book had been sitting on his shelf since he started it in 2007. He said it originally had a couple different names, such as "Broken Hipsters" and "The Midlands" — in honor of a bar he, his spouse and his friends hang out in.

"It was a period piece that never found a home," he said. "It was of the moment and the editor went, 'ho-hum.'"

So, he did what authors do and put it away. Years later, after he wrote about it in a blog, editors showed renewed interest.

"There was a national conversation going on about Detroit, and I thought

the book was going to be another 'comedy of manners,'" Zadoorian said, referring to a literary technique drawing on a comic technique that satirizes contemporary society.

"Twelve-plus years had gone by, and I'm happy they didn't want it then," Zadoorian said.

It wasn't planned this way, but now — in the heart of the coronavirus crisis — the book takes on much more existential meaning for readers who are searching for something. In many ways, the fictional backdrop of the financial crisis seems trite in today's world.

Zadoorian's passionate followers won't be disappointed with his new book which oozes irony, Detroit kitsch and nostalgia.

Like joining Joe for some treacherous spelunking in an abandoned tiki joint, where Joe seems to be looking for what he calls "broken beauty in some things and what memories represent." He could almost be talking about his relationship with Ana.

There's been a critical discussion for years about purveyors of Detroit "ruin porn," but Zadoorian said the scenes of urban exploration are not exploitive. "They have a lot to do with where I am. We've rediscovered what was there before and some of the beauty of the abandoned things of the past."

"I have a fascination with what's gone. I keep writing about memory and things rendered obsolete," he said. He also has drawn on his friends, much like Jack Kerouac did in his books, to provide a colorful backdrop and ribald humor.

"Kerouac mythologized all of his friends and I stole such things from my friends," Zadoorian said. After all, his book dedication reads: "To my friends."

But let's be clear: the book isn't only about old friends jesting and slapping each other on the back. This is a book that will make you uncomfortable, as Ana and Joe's "small" differences come to a climax.

"I had to ask myself, 'Do I want to write about that?' But generally it's the most interesting things that make you uncomfortable," he said.

The book's title, borrowed from a Freudian theory, helps define the hypersensitive dynamic between Joe and Ana. Zadoorian delves deeply into relationships. He doesn't shrink from describing the challenges this longtime couple face, and you really don't know where that relationship is going until the book's end.

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"Fresh Air"—for your sunshine days, or not.
By Matt Jones

Across

1 It's built for accessibility

5 Rainless

9 Graceful fowl

13 The Beehive State

14 Curiosity rover launcher

15 Fern's seed

16 Start of a path, which traces the opening lyric from a "Brady Bunch" song

18 Film director Pier ____ Pasolini

19 "A Woman Speaks" writer Anais

20 "M*A*S*H" actor Alan

21 Sonic Youth bassist/singer Kim

22 Winter warmers

24 Vientiane's country

25 Cartoon tavern that's very susceptible to prank calls

26 Hat removers, quaintly

29 Filtered communication

31 College teachers, familiarly

32 Neighbor of Liech.

34 "The BFG" author Roald

35 Pilot light, e.g.

36 Watch sound

37 Container for coffee

38 Chain that merged with AMC Theatres

39 It's not the same as assertive

40 Language of Andorra and Barcelona

42 New Facebook reaction emoji

43 Tire mark

44 One of Universal's

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58						59					60		

classic movie monsters

47 " ____ & Juliet" (2011 animated film)

50 Hat stat

51 Lyric verse

52 Parts partner

53 End of the path

55 Signs

56 Perceive

57 Singer Rexha

58 Bonus item

59 Grand Ole ____ (venue broadcasting live streams)

60 "Nailed It" host Nicole

Down

1 Archaeological attractions

2 Place to store antiques

3 Classic "Muppet Show" song with that "do dooo do do-do" refrain

4 Golden ratio symbol

5 Where some bracelets are worn

6 Steals from, as a fridge

7 Actress Fisher of "The Great Gatsby"

8 East Indian lentil stew

9 Hardly dense

10 Lumber material

11 "Alice's Restaurant" chronicler Guthrie

12 "Open" sign element

15 Parodies

17 Belly button

21 Blunder

23 Churn

24 Appears menacingly

26 Sketched

27 Ask for support, in a way

28 " ____ fun!" (catchphrase from the BBC's "Miranda")

29 Ivy extension?

30 Antony who eulogized

Caesar

31 Answer, in court

33 Something to look up to

35 Shakespearean compilation

36 Lawn layer

38 Shaq's former team

39 ____ in comparison

41 Jazz bandleader/drummer and son of Thelonious

42 In a snug manner

44 Less naive

45 Photoshop company

46 More recent

47 Disgusting goo

48 Handle

49 Above, in Augsburg

50 Part of a recipe

53 Craft in videos recently released by the Pentagon

54 Lessen gradually

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Answers Page 23

SUDOKU

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	4	9		3		1	7	

Advanced

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 23

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

May 13-19, 2020

ARIES (March 21–April 19): During a pandemic, is it possible to spread the news about your talents and offerings? Yes! That's why I suggest you make sure that everyone who should know about you does indeed know about you. To mobilize your efforts and stimulate your imagination, I came up with colorful titles for you to use to describe yourself on your résumé or in promotional materials or during conversations with potential helpers. 1. Fire-Maker 2. Seed-Sower 3. Brisk Instigator 4. Hope Fiend 5. Gap Leaper 6. Fertility Aficionado 7. Gleam Finder 8. Launch Catalyst 9. Chief Improviser 10. Change Artist

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): Of all the signs, Tauruses are among the least likely to be egomaniacs. Most of you aren't inclined to indulge in fits of braggadocio or outbreaks of narcissism. (I just heard one of my favorite virtuoso Taurus singers say she wasn't a very good singer!) That's why one of my secret agendas is to tell you how gorgeous you are, to nudge you to cultivate the confidence and pride you deserve to have. Are you ready to leap to a higher octave of self-love? I think so. In the coming weeks, please use Taurus artist Salvador Dalí's boast as your motto: "There comes a moment in every person's life when they realize they adore me."

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): When I was young, I had a fun-filled fling with a smart Gemini woman who years later became a highly praised author and the authorized biographer of a Nobel Prize-winning writer. Do I regret our break-up? Am I sorry I never got to enjoy her remarkable success up close? No. As amazing as she was and is, we wouldn't have been right for each other long-term. I am content with the brief magic we created together, and have always kept her in my fond thoughts with gratitude and the wish for her to thrive. Now I invite you to do something comparable to what I just did, Gemini: Make peace with your past. Send blessings to the people who helped make you who you are. Celebrate what has actually happened in your life, and graduate forever from what might have happened but didn't.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): "You have two ways to live your life, from memory or from inspiration," writes teacher Joe Vitale. Many of you Cancerians favor memory over inspiration to provide their primary motivation. That's not necessarily a bad thing, although it can be a problem if you become so obsessed with memory that you distract yourself from creating new developments in your life story. But in accordance with astrological potentials and the exigencies of our Global Healing Crisis, I urge you, in the coming weeks, to mobilize yourself through a balance of memory and inspiration. I suspect you'll be getting rich opportunities to both rework the past and dream up a future full of interesting novelty. In fact, those two imperatives will serve each other well.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): Author Anne Lamott has some crucial advice for you to heed in the coming weeks. "Even when we're most sure that love can't conquer all," she says, "it seems to anyway. It goes down into the rat hole with us, in the guise of our friends, and there it swells and comforts. It gives us second winds, third winds, hundredth winds." I hope you'll wield this truth as your secret magic in the coming weeks, Leo. Regard love not just as a sweet emotion that makes you feel good, but as a superpower that can accomplish practical miracles.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): Theologian St. Catherine of Siena observed, "To a brave person, good and bad luck are like her left and right hand. She uses both." The funny thing is, Virgo, that in the past you have sometimes been more adept and proactive in using your bad luck, and less skillful at capitalizing on your good luck. But from what I can tell, this curious problem has been diminishing for you in 2020—and will continue to do so. I expect that in the coming weeks, you will welcome and harness your good luck with brisk artistry.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): "I'm curious about everything, except what people have to say about me," says actor Sarah Jessica Parker. I think that's an excellent strategy for you to adopt in the coming weeks. On the one hand, the whole world will be exceptionally interesting, and your ability to learn valuable lessons and acquire useful information will be at peak. On the other hand, one of the keys to getting the most out of the wealth of catalytic influences will be to cultivate nonchalance about people's opinions of you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): On the kids' TV show "Sesame Street", there's a muppet character named Count von Count. He's a friendly vampire who loves to count things. He is 6,523,730 years old and his favorite number is 34,969—the square root of 187. The Count was "born" on November 13, 1972, when he made his first appearance on the show, which means he's a Scorpio. I propose we make him your patron saint for the next four weeks. It's an excellent time to transform any threatening qualities you might seem to have into harmless and cordial forms of expression. It's also a favorable phase for you to count your blessings and make plans that will contribute to your longevity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): "No one ever found wisdom without also being a fool," writes novelist Erica Jong. "Until you're ready to look foolish, you'll never have the possibility of being great," says singer Cher. "He dares to be a fool, and that is the first step in the direction of wisdom," declared art critic James Hunecker. "Almost all new ideas have a certain aspect of foolishness when they are first produced," observed philosopher Alfred North Whitehead. According to my analysis of astrological omens, you're primed to prove these theories, Sagittarius. Congratulations!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): "Few people have a treasure," writes Nobel Prize-winning author Alice Munro. She's speaking metaphorically, of course—not referring to a strongbox full of gold and jewels. But I'm happy to inform you that if you don't have a treasure, the coming months will be a favorable time to find or create it. So I'm putting you on a High Alert for Treasure. I urge you to be receptive to and hungry for it. And if you are one of those rare lucky ones who already has a treasure, I'm happy to say that you now have the power and motivation to appreciate it even more and learn how to make even better use of it. Whether you do or don't yet have the treasure, heed these further words from Alice Munro: "You must hang onto it. You must not let yourself be waylaid, and have it taken from you."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): At this moment, there are 50 trillion cells in your body, and each of them is a sentient being in its own right. They act together as a community, consecrating you with their astonishing collaboration. It's like magic! Here's an amazing fact: Just as you communicate with dogs and cats and other animals, you can engage in dialogs with your cells. The coming weeks will be a ripe time to explore this phenomenon. Is there anything you'd like to say to the tiny creatures living in your stomach or lungs? Any information you'd love to receive from your heart or your sex organs? If you have trouble believing this is a real possibility, imagine and pretend. And have fun!

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): "A myriad of modest delights constitute happiness," wrote poet Charles Baudelaire. I think that definition will serve you well in the coming weeks, Pisces. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, there won't be spectacular breakthroughs barging into your life; I expect no sublime epiphanies or radiant transformations. On the other hand, there'll be a steady stream of small marvels if you're receptive to such a possibility. Here's key advice: Don't miss the small wonders because you're expecting and wishing for bigger splashes.

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

TURN IT DOWN!

BY RICH TUPICA

LOCALS PICK LOCALS VOL. VII

THE SEVENTH INSTALLMENT OF LOCAL FOLKS DISCUSSING SOME OF THEIR FAVORITE LOCALLY MADE SONGS

The '60s and 2000s are represented in this weekly local music mix curated in part by yours truly with guest endorsements from various local musicians. As you read, feel free to listen along on YouTube, or wherever you stream music.

Jennifer Toms (Bassist/vocalist, Scary Women)

Pick: The Hat Madder "Mayflies" — 2012

Because I was introduced to Lansing's amazing music scene only a decade ago, I chose a more recent song from The Hat Madder's 2012 album "Orgy



Opposite." The song, "Mayflies", represents for me the great depth of talent in Lansing. Hearing this song for the first time made me realize just what our musical community is capable of.

The powerful fullness of sound on "Mayflies" comes from its careful and precise layering of voices and instruments. The song is sonically dense but beautifully intricate in its craftsmanship, like each moment is caringly choreographed. It has its own atmosphere that is at once devastating and dreamy. I cannot claim to know the song's meaning. However, I can describe the emotions it evokes: a poetics of longing and anticipation carried by lush and powerful sound.

"Mayflies" invites many listens because of its complexity and beauty. Now that I'm fortunate enough to play shows alongside The Hat Madder, I find this song and this

album endlessly inspiring.

Peter Richards (Artist, musician, Stargazer)

Pick: The Fuzz "Cold Feet" — 2003

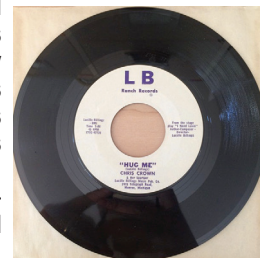
In the fall of 1999, my friend Ben Gaydos and I rented a house on the corner of Northlawn and Abbot in East Lansing. Our next-door neighbor was a gregarious fellow who we called Shirtless Jim. He introduced himself to us as manager of a band called The Fuzz and slipped us their demo CD. It was short fuzzy song blasts with lots of interesting keyboards and layers. It reminded me of bands like Grandaddy or early Flaming Lips, maybe even more strongly of an obscure band called Glue. We would go see The Fuzz several times at The Temple Club or some other now-defunct Lansing venue. Along with bands like Wanderjahr and Kinetic Stereokids (from Flint), The Fuzz brought something different to the table: songs that were still "rock," but quirky, low-fi and populated with odd loops and bubbling synths. In 2003, the band released its proper debut album "Noise Destroyers." To this day, it's a great listen. Check out "Coldfeet," an infectiously catchy oddball indie pop song.

John Olson aka Inzane Johnny (Musician, Wolf Eyes, "Inzane Michigan" co-host)

Pick: Chris Crown & Her Spartans "I Need Lovin' b/w Hug Me" — 1967

Whenever you look in the mirror in these times and hear the soft flush of humanity slowly going down the drain, all you need is this uber-mysterious and clattering monster of a sonic art project to regain all hope in humanity. This pointless, talent-free zone delivers the most horrible racket known to any state. Whoever pressed this hellish sound miasma on seven inches should be crowned with a heaping side of psychological help. This 10-cent plea for

sandpapered affection is essentially Michigan's own Shaggs or Dangerous Weapons. As for its origins, the label says Monroe, Michigan ... but c'mon ... "and her SPARTANS." Unreal, yet too real.



Rich Tupica (Turn it Down! writer and "Inzane Michigan" co-host)

Pick: Chevrons "Hey Little Teaser" — 1966

I've been writing up Lansing tunes for the last month, so I figured I'd retune my antenna toward West Michigan's obscurity pile for this week's edition of "Locals Pick Locals." In 1965, The Chevrons formed at East Christian High in Grand Rapids and quickly did what most West Michigan-based bands did: headed to Great Lakes Recording Studio in nearby Sparta. There, they cut tracks for the studio's Fenton Records imprint — the label responsible for fellow locals like The JuJus and The Quest's. Lead vocalist and keyboardist Bob Goote wrote the B-Side track "Hey Little Teaser" and many of the band's other originals — including the blissful A-side, "What Everyone Wants." In early 1966, the song climbed to No. 5 on local radio charts. A year later the group disbanded following their high school graduation. Goote then promptly formed a new band, Counts of Coventry, and recorded "Somewhere (Someone Is Waiting)," another lost local hit on 4 Count Records.



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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Farmers market season makes it way back to Greater Lansing

By **DAWN PARKER**

It's mid-May, the time each year when people head outside to their home gardens, put herbs and vegetable plants in the soil and dream of what will be.

If you don't have room for a garden — or your thumbs are the opposite of green — never fear, outdoor farmers' markets are back.

Meridian Township Farmers Market will open its outdoor market on May 16, two Saturdays later than usual. Folks in and around Williamston will be able to attend the first Eastern Ingham Farmers Market of the year on May 17 in McCormick Park, just north of downtown Williamston.

The South Lansing Farmers Market is also ready to open on May 21, and the East Lansing Farmers Market will join its ranks on Sunday, June 7. A website for the popular farmers mar-

kets at the Capitol, held three times each year, says its first market will be July 23.

Market managers region-wide say their vendors are eager to see their customers, and if the near-300 shoppers at Wednesday's final indoor Allen Marketplace sale of the winter is any indication, shoppers remain happy to support local growers, coronavirus or no coronavirus.

How shoppers and vendors interact will of course be different, but area market managers said they are ensuring the experience will be a safe one.

Julia Kramer manages the Allen Marketplace, which will move, for one year only, from its home of nearly 20 years to an outdoor space at the corner of Michigan Avenue and North Fairview Street. The hours, 2:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, won't change.



Meridian Township Farmers Market

Opens May 16
1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos
Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Wednesday markets begin after July 4, hours TBD
Facebook.com/MeridianTownshipFarmersMarket

East Lansing Farmers Market

Opens June 7
280 Valley Ct., East Lansing
Sundays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
cityofeastlansing.com/farmersmarket

Allen Farmers Market

Opens May 13
2100 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Wednesday, 2:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
allenneighborhoodcenter.org/market

Eastern Ingham Farmers Market

Opens May 17
123 High St., Williamston
Sundays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
easterninghamfarmersmarket.org

South Lansing Farmers Market

Opens May 21
800 W. Barnes Ave., Lansing
Thursdays, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
southlansing.org

Capitol Farmers Market

First market takes place July 23
100 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing

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The move is necessary because the 1600 block of Kalamazoo Street, home to the Allen Neighborhood Center, will be a construction zone for much of the summer.

The changes in the market since the onset of the pandemic will continue to be practiced outside, Kramer said.

"We've gotten rid of our extra activities and social gathering aspects. We stopped putting out tables for people to sit at, and we canceled all of our live music," she continued.

That leaves a market that is strictly for shopping, which is not a bad thing.

"It's an essential place for people to get food in this area, and an essential

place for our local vendors to develop customer bases and make sales," Kramer said.

Customers have gotten the message.

"Even though we had that many people come through, they were filtering through very quickly, grabbing their stuff and chatting with a friend for one minute and then leaving," Kramer said.

With past summers sometimes bringing upwards of 700 people on a market day, Kramer said she's not sure what the pandemic will do to attendance.

She does know the space they'll have is sufficiently big for everyone to

See Markets, Page 22

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Markets

from page 21

stay far enough apart while choosing whatever is in season.

"I'm hopeful that it will go smoothly and it will be safe," Kramer said.

And while this year's market is limited by necessity to around a dozen vendors, Kramer is proud that three — Highwater Farm, Half Barn Farm and Magnolia Farm — are urban farms growing their wares in the Eastside neighborhood.

The pandemic has disrupted the Meridian Township Farmers Market as well. Opening day is two weeks later than tradition, and instead of a shiny new pavilion, vendors will cross Central Park Drive to the spacious Meridian Mall Parking lot.

Saturday hours are still 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will again be a market on Wednesdays after July 4, although it's unclear as yet what those hours will be.

Haslett resident Tom Cary heads up both the Meridian market and its smaller cousin, the Eastern Ingham

Farmers' Market in Williamston.

The two-week delay has helped Cary and others craft strategies for safe shopping. Social distancing will be a priority, and there's plenty of room for it.

"Markets typically are a place of central congregation and lingering," Cary said. "We hope we can still have some aspects of people enjoying themselves — in a very safe and organized way."

Shoppers will be asked to wear masks, Cary said, and all the vendors will wear face coverings. There may be controls put on how many people are allowed into the market at a time, he added, at minimum making sure there is just one customer per vendor.

Shoppers will also be asked not to bring their own bags — a twist on what we've been taught all these years — and to use electronic payment methods whenever possible to minimize contact.

As with everything else these last couple of months, opening day for the market should be a new experience.

"I am sure there will be many things we'll learn after doing it the first week," Cary said. "And I'm sure I'll have a whole new list."



Courtesy photo

Customers at the Allen Street Marketplace practice proper social distancing on a recent market day.

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