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A newspaper for the rest of us

**FREE**

1:04:13 AM  
Daylight Time



# What happened to Anthony Hulon?

SEE PAGE 12



1:42 AM



Attorney Andrew P. Abood and  
Lansing Community College  
President Dr. Steve J. Robinson

Pleased to welcome Dr. Steve Robinson,  
President, Lansing Community College.

— Andrew P. Abood

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*That's my*  
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Original artwork by Stella Alfredson



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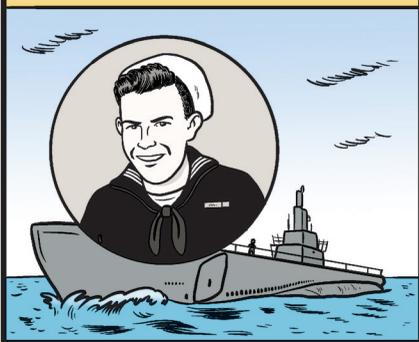
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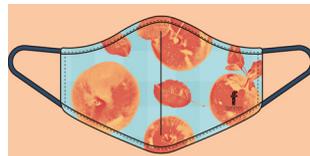
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**PAGE 16**

Fenner Nature Center's new COVID-era fundraiser



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GADL librarian receives award



**PAGE 25**

Healthy pop-up comes to Old Town



**Cover Art**

Collage by Kyle Kaminski

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88.9FM

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

### DO-IT-YOURSELF FUNNIES

**SPECIAL "PRE-ELECTION DEADLINE" EDITION!**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** (1) PRINT OR CUT OUT CARTOON; (2) CROSS OUT THE OPTIONS WHICH DO NOT REFLECT THE ACTUAL OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION; (3) LAUGH MANIACALLY OR SOB UNCONTROLLABLY, AS CIRCUMSTANCES MAY WARRANT

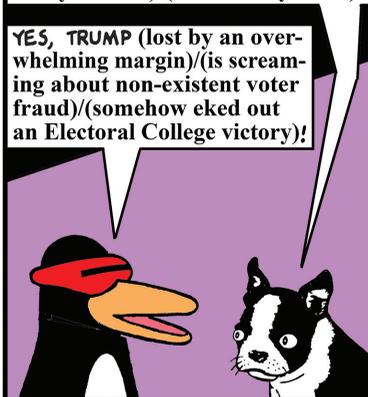
IMAGINE HOW DIFFERENTLY IT ALL MIGHT HAVE TURNED OUT IF THERE (had)/(had not) BEEN ANY DOUBT AS TO THE WINNER OF THIS ELECTION!



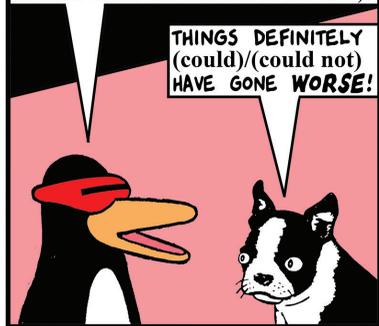
NOVEMBER 4, 2020 IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT OUR LONG NATIONAL NIGHTMARE WILL (be over on January 20th)/(continue indefinitely)!



AS IT HAPPENED, OF COURSE, THE OUTCOME WAS (too decisive to question)/(close enough for Republicans to try to steal)/(unthinkably awful)!



(Unfortunately)/(fortunately) THE ELECTION (was)/(was not) DISRUPTED BY (voter intimidation)/(white supremacist violence)/(late-breaking events which couldn't possibly have been foreseen by someone who had to write about the outcome in advance)!



ONE THING IS CERTAIN--THIS ELECTION PROVED THAT OUR DEMOCRACY IS (dead on arrival)/(still clinging to life with a ventilator shoved down its throat)!



**TMW: THE CARTOON THAT'S EERILY PRESCIENT, EVEN WHEN IT'S NOT!**

TOM TOMORROW © 2020... www.thismodernworld.com... twitter: @tomtomorrow

# Retirees revolt

Lansing city retirees are up in arms over Mayor Andy Schor's decision to rein in the city's burgeoning legacy costs by reducing retiree health care benefits. The move will save the city an estimated \$8 million each year. We feel the retirees' pain, but we think it's important to understand the context. This isn't the first time that retiree benefits have been the subject of cuts and controversy. In the depths of the Great Recession, the Bernero Administration made similar moves out of financial necessity and got the same blowback from retirees. The fiscal crisis now facing Lansing due to the COVID pandemic may make the 2008 meltdown look like a walk in the park. Continuing to kick the can down the road on the city's long-term obligations for pensions and retiree health care is a risky strategy that could lead Lansing to the brink of bankruptcy.

The sticky wicket behind retiree concerns over the sanctity of their benefits is that in many cases their own unions agreed to contract terms that explicitly link retiree benefits to the benefits provided to active employees. In other words, when changes are made to the benefits for active employees through the collective bargaining process, they are also applied to retiree benefits. With few exceptions, the claim that city retirees were promised an unalterable package of pension and health care benefits for the rest of their lives simply doesn't hold water. We understand that uncertainty causes fear and that city retirees are deeply concerned about their future financial stability. We don't mean to be insensitive, but welcome to the club.

There are no easy answers to the city's financial woes. One theoretical solution is to raise taxes, but in reality it's not an option due to strict statutory limits on the ability of cities to generate new revenues through higher property or income taxes. Nor is Lansing the only city in Michigan with a rocky financial outlook, which again begs important questions about how cities are (under)funded and highlights the urgency of finding a path to municipal financial stability that doesn't involve an appearance before a bankruptcy judge.

We do have a few modest suggestions. For starters, the city should revisit the generous pension benefits provided to police officers and firefighters, many of whom retire with pensions that equal or exceed their annual income while they were on active duty. We don't buy the argument that the lucrative pensions available to first responders are sacrosanct because they put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe. It's about math, not hero worship. As legacy costs continue to grow, chewing up a larger and larger share of the city's finite resources, less money is available to pay the salaries of active



## The CP Edit

### Opinion

employees. In the case of public safety, that will mean fewer police officers and firefighters on duty to protect Lansing residents. Despite calls to defund the city's Police Department, common sense dictates that a basic level of police and fire protection is essential to the safety of the community.

Others argue that police and firefighters should be entitled to generous pensions because they are ineligible for Social Security. To be clear, this was a choice and not a mandate. The original rationale for excluding municipal first responders from the Social Security system was they already had generous pensions. It is worth evaluating if bringing first responders into the Social Security system like everyone else is a more cost-effective approach.

All of that said, the claims from retirees that they were blindsided by the changes to their benefits could have been avoided. Mayor Schor should have done a better job

framing the issue publicly in the context of the city's ongoing financial struggles and explaining the need for shared sacrifice prior to making the changes. We daresay that he should also lead by example. In the aftermath of the Great Recession, when city employees were asked to make significant sacrifices through pay cuts or furlough days, elected officials and top city executives led by example by reducing their own salaries. We appreciate the resolution passed by Council that authorizes them to take a voluntary 10% pay reduction, but we've seen no parallel effort by Mayor Schor or his leadership team to take voluntary pay cuts that would signal to the community, as well as city employees and retirees, that sacrifice starts at the top.

Politicians are fond of pandering to retirees, and Mayor Schor is no exception. His campaign promise that he would never balance the city budget on the backs of retirees probably sounded good at the time, but it was a promise he had no chance of keeping given the city's long-term obligations for retiree pensions and health care. With the scale of COVID-driven financial destruction just beginning to unfold, this likely isn't the last time that Schor will have to make tough, unpopular decisions to cut spending. We hope in the future he will do a better job explaining why it is necessary.

Send letters to the editor on this editorial or any other topic to [letters@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:letters@lansingcitypulse.com).

Please limit them to 250 words

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
Of Vehicle Auction  
November 13, 2020, 12pm**

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CP#20-271

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING & COMMENT PERIOD  
TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**NOTICE** is hereby given that the public comment period for the initial draft 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) will begin at a virtual public meeting hosted by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) via Zoom teleconference on **November 10, 2020 from 5:30-7 p.m.** and will continue through **November 24th**.

This public meeting and comment period are your opportunities to review and comment on the initial draft MTP, titled Moving Mid-Michigan, a long-range vision and future blueprint for improvements to our region's transportation system across Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties.

The initial draft document will be available for review throughout the comment period at [movingmidmichigan.org/documents](http://movingmidmichigan.org/documents). For more information on how to participate and RSVP to the virtual public meeting, visit [movingmidmichigan.org/events](http://movingmidmichigan.org/events). Public comments can be submitted at any time at [mitcrpc.org/public-comment](http://mitcrpc.org/public-comment), or can be made during the meeting. Adoption of the final document by the TCRPC Board of Commissioners is anticipated for December 17, 2020.

TCRPC is committed to open and accessible events. Contact [clerk@mitcrpc.org](mailto:clerk@mitcrpc.org) to request interpretation services, accommodations for persons with disabilities, and assistance with additional needs, including use of the Telecommunications Relay Service, in advance of the meeting.

CP#20-273



Dr. Anurag Tikaria, MD  
Nephrologist

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# Unite after the election? Easier said than done

Back in 2006, when the Michigan Democrats last flipped the majority in the state House, the Republican floor leader at the time, Steve Tobocman, sat down with the incoming speaker on how to cre-



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

When a House session went all night and a tax increase vote was on the board, Democrats were allowed to scoot back to the Speaker's Library to catch a few winks on some cots. House sergeants were ordered to keep Republicans at their desks. All night long.

Today, Tobocman is the co-director of the Michigan Political Leadership Program at Michigan State University. Looking back at the severe political acrimony, he laments how things turned out. If only both sides worked together better.

This, obviously, isn't a new refrain.

After every election, Republicans and Democrats come together in the spirit of bipartisanship for a day or two. For the good of the country. For the good of the state. For the good of the people.

This year is no different. Gov.

Gretchen Whitmer told reporters on Election Day, "I do hope that once this election is behind us, we can find some common ground. It's been a tough year, but we've got to have leaders who can look for that common ground and not scorched earth."

That's easier said than done.

Republican Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey is still in charge of the Senate. His relationship with Whitmer remains a pile of ashes after last year's budget showdown and the recent lawsuit that erased her emergency executive order powers.

It doesn't have to be that way.

Believe it or not, our legislators are more of a reflection of their constituents than they get credit for. If they hear "stick to your guns," "no compromise," that's what we're going to get. More tire spinning. Little progress.

But if they hear back home that working together is a priority, we might be amazed what can happen.

"It's going to take a lot more than a columnist writing about how we all need to be nicer to one another as a way to get ourselves out of the bitter partisanship," Tobocman said. "It's going to take people to really stand together and stand up against the more radical forces on both sides of the aisle, those who believe that if the world lined up with their vision, it would be a better place."

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

## OPINION

ate a more bipartisanship atmosphere.

In the session before, the tension between Republicans and Democrats had been thick. The Republican majority shut down debate routinely, refusing to recognize Democrats or giving minority members the courtesy of explaining their amendments on the House floor.

Andy Dillon, the incoming speaker, agreed with Tobocman that it had to stop.

The new leadership evened out office allotments. For the first time since split control, minority members would get nearly the same amount to spend as majority members.

Dillon and Tobocman liberalized floor speaking opportunities. If Republicans had something to say about a particular issue, the Democrats would give their colleagues the courtesy of addressing the chamber.

So, what did Democrats get for extending the hand? The cold shoulder.

If you remember, 2007 was the infamous \$2 billion budget hole. Democrats hoped Republicans would work with them on spending cuts or revenue increases everyone could agree to, at least in part. Instead, House Republicans took a caucus position to not be a part of the process.

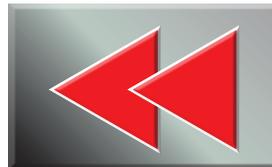
Whether it was budget cuts or tax increases, House Republicans didn't want to get hung with their fingerprints on the final solution. Instead, they made as many Democrats as possible own a tax increase.

"I remember sneaking around the Capitol, trying to isolate members, literally, to have conversations with members," said Tobocman. He got nowhere. "At that point, it just felt like folks were more committed to trying to rewin control of the House than govern the state. It felt like it made no sense to try to bend over backward for that kind of support."

Things went downhill from there.

# REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By KYLE KAMINSKI



## Retirees bring grievances home: Schor's

Nearly 100 retired city employees gathered at Lansing Mayor Andy Schor's house on Moores River Drive last week to protest a series of changes to their healthcare plans set to take effect next year. They took Schor to task over broken campaign promises in which he previously vowed never to solve current budgetary problems on the backs of former employees. The upcoming benefits changes are expected to cut the city's ballooning unfunded liabilities by about \$8 million annually, while also creating additional out-of-pocket expenses from higher copays for office visits and prescription drugs for about 1,300 former employees.

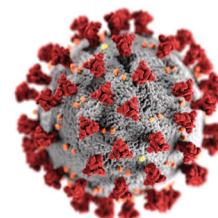
## Suit over transgender policy dismissed

A lawsuit against Williamston Community Schools by conservative parents has been tossed out of a federal courtroom. Four parents filed the lawsuit in 2018, claiming that added protections for students based on sexual orientation and gender identity had only worked to "silence and punish" their "sincerely held religious beliefs." Judge Hala Jarbou held that the parents failed to state a claim by only naming unfounded and hypothetical consequences to the district's anti-discrimination policies. The suit is expected to be refiled after some type of tangible damages can be assembled.



## COVID-19 still 'trending upward' here

Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail is continuing to cite a "slight gradual trend upward" in COVID-19 cases this week as county officials tallied nearly 5,000 cases to date, including 1,204 active cases and at least 70 deaths. At least 82 people are also now hospitalized with coronavirus in Ingham County, including at least 19 in intensive care and nine on ventilators. Most of those cases are tied to Michigan State University and East Lansing. Vail said McLaren and Sparrow also tracked 40 virus-related visits on Sunday.



Across Michigan, nearly 188,000 cases and 7,400 deaths have been confirmed since March, including more than 2,500 cases and 28 deaths combined in Eaton and Clinton counties to date.

In recent days, just over 5% of COVID-19 tests in Ingham County have come back positive, reports show. Vail said that "isn't horrible," noting she would be "nervous" at rates like 7-10%.

A new state order requires restaurants to collect contact information from customers to trace them in case of an outbreak. Restaurants, bars and other venues have also been limited to six people at most at a table. The state also reduced to 50 people the maximum size for indoor gatherings such as weddings, parties, and banquets in nonresidential settings without fixed seating. It had been 500.

## Firefighter in patient care issue resigns

The Lansing Fire Department announced that a firefighter had resigned "before discipline could be imposed" after being found to have violated state EMS protocols and departmental policies stemming from a "patient care issue" that took place in August. The press release doesn't mention many details, except to note that an investigation began on the same day of the incident and involved "inappropriate restraint of a patient." Fortunately, the press release notes, the patient was not harmed. Still, the firefighter was placed on administrative leave and later found to have violated an unnamed departmental policy. Although the firefighter resigned, the investigation was still turned over to the Lansing Police Department and the Michigan State Police to determine if criminal charges are needed. A Lansing Police Department officer was also present during the encounter. His actions are reportedly under review for internal policy violations but not for any alleged criminal issues.



## Dog seizure closes animal shelter

After more than 30 dogs were taken from a home in the the 5600 block of Marsh Road in Meridian Township last week, Ingham County Animal Control temporarily halted taking in others animals. While the seized dogs were reportedly not in bad condition, their living conditions were "pretty deplorable," a spokesperson said.



## 403 Seymour Ave., Lansing

This month's Eye Candy is the Alane Family Law Firm, at 403 Seymour Ave. The firm is located in the historic Jenison family home, a red brick Queen Anne-style Victorian at the corner of Seymour and Shiawassee Street in the shadow of the state Capitol. Its Queen Anne-style characteristics are exemplified by the multiple Ionic columns that support the large wraparound porch, asymmetrical facade, and rounded turret. The house does not display any of the gingerbread latticework commonly associated with Victorian-style homes. The Jenison family home was built after such trim was commonly used — some reports say 1898 and others put it at 1903. Either way, this is about 30 years after such ornamentation was widely popular. The windows of this house are also notable because of their simplicity, which also seems to indicate that the house was built later. There is a mixture of rather large and smaller windows in the structure, and a door from the second floor to the roof of the porch. The only extravagance is in the diamond panes of the upper part of the bay window on the second-floor gable. This building has been beautifully preserved, which should be celebrated. In fact, it has been featured here in the Eye Candy column in September 2011 and on a Greater Lansing Historical Society walking tour in the summer of 2018.

— CARRIE SAMPSON

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

# City Council to consider a 'significant' cut to police

## Defunding advances, with fewer specifics and a bow to politics

The Lansing City Council will vote this month on a vaguer version of a resolution that had initially called for cutting the Police Department budget by 50% over the next five years. Instead, the new proposal only calls for "significant" budget cuts with no set time frame.

Councilman Brandon Betz, in response to calls from the Lansing chapter of Black Lives Matter after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, drafted a resolution in July that would have tasked a new "Public Safety Transformation" subcommittee with finding ways to redirect half of LPD's \$46.5 million budget into other community programs and services designed to head off criminal behavior before it can begin.

The latest version, however, omits those specific benchmarks altogether. Instead, it instructs the subcommittee to operate under a much more ambiguous framework of "significantly reducing" the percentage allocated to policing in Lansing.

Council President Peter Spadafore, who proposed the amendment at a committee meeting last month, cast

the change as a much more politically feasible alternative for when the resolution eventually reaches the City Council next month. It'll take at least five votes to pass.

"Budgets reflect our priorities," Spadafore said. "We've heard from many in our community that we should be prioritizing more social services and finding ways to help people. This amendment aims to reduce the percentage spent on policing and actually invest more into those services."

For weeks, the resolution that could have enabled the committee to get to work has been stuck in the City Council's newly created Committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. That committee spent 90 minutes yesterday hashing out the legislative language to send to the full City Council.

"I'm happy with where things are," Betz told City Pulse earlier today. "Obviously, having a number to work with would be easier. However, we knew going into this that the process would be a negotiation. I am excited that we are moving forward as Council to do this important work."

Committee members viewed the latest changes as a more politically feasible solution on a highly controversial issue. Conservative-leaning Council members like Carol Wood, Adam Hussain and Jeremy Garza are expect-



Spadafore



Betz

ed to reject any reduction in police funding — particularly one as high as 50%. Adding more generic language makes the concept palatable, Betz said.

And if Betz and an alliance of so-called progressives on the City Council — like Spadafore, Kathie Dunbar, Patricia Spitzley and Brian Jackson — still support the measure next month, it'll actually garner five votes needed to pass, even without support from Wood, Hussain and Garza.

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor, of course, could always veto the plans, requiring a sixth council member to override it.

"If this is what it takes to get it through Council," Dunbar said in supporting yesterday's changes.

Betz and Dunbar argued to retain the 50% language as written, but they eventually opted to reach a compromise. Spadafore and Spitzley, though supportive of measures that could redirect Police Department funding elsewhere in the city, were reluctant to set a 50% reduction as the target.

Spadafore also cautioned that slower, smaller reductions may become necessary to avoid layoffs because more than 80% of LPD's budget is tied up in salaries and retiree benefits.

"I don't want that 50% number to be the limiting factor," Spadafore added. "This is about creating the wish list. This committee can tell us what we need. It's our job to be realistic."

Betz' proposal to divest from the Police Department has proved divisive in recent months.

Many local activists billed it as the only way to generate meaningful reforms and mitigate police racism. Others have sounded alarm bells over what they believe would lead to more crime.

Dunbar, for

her part, has said she wants to avoid layoffs. Betz has labeled it an inevitability.

Mayor Andy Schor and Police Chief Daryl Green have each spoken against reducing LPD's budget. The full City Council, by 5-3 vote, also rejected a budget priority last month that asked Schor to incorporate some level of police divestment into his next annual budget proposal.

Moving away from specific 50% divestment language, however, has potential to sway the vote.

Still, NAACP President Dale Copedge has said that a "significant number" of his chapter's members do not support the concept of reducing funding to the Lansing Police Department.

Green also claims divestment would lead to fewer cops and more dangerous neighborhoods. He has argued that his department — already struggling for resources — doesn't have room for cuts when millions of dollars are tied up in retiree pensions and other contractual obligations.

Records show that personnel costs account for about \$39 million of LPD's \$46.5 million annual budget. Of that, salaries account for about 39.2% of expenses. Another 36.2% is tied up in legacy costs, including pensions, retiree health benefits and other expenses. The divestment proposal from Dunbar and Betz, in theory, wouldn't be able to touch many of those items — leaving LPD with an actual "operating" budget of about \$7.5 million annually, officials have said.

The latest resolution, if it passes City Council, calls for the yet-to-form subcommittee to generate a report on ways to boost social equity and racial justice in Lansing by March 2021.

Betz painted the elimination of the 50% language as a necessary compromise to get it started.

He also encouraged his colleagues to take the recommendations seriously when they arrive.

"This puts us in a frame where we're all politically comfortable at the onset. This is going to be uncomfortable. Dismantling white supremacy is an uncomfortable conversation for everybody, including myself," Betz added. "I just don't want this to become a research project on the shelf."

— KYLE KAMINSKI

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED MINUTES

**A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. DUE TO RESTRICTIONS ON PUBLIC GATHERINGS RELATED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING WERE INSTRUCTED TO PARTICIPATE REMOTELY USING ZOOM.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Hayes, Clerk Aten  
Trustees: Broughton, Harris, McKenzie, Bankson  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Treasurer Rodgers  
ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gresens, Attorney

#### ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD:

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Hayes.  
Approved minutes of the meeting held on September 29, 2020.  
Agenda approved as amended.  
Public hearing held for 2020 street lighting special assessment roll.  
Adopted Resolution 20-15: Resolution Confirming 2020 Street Lighting Special Assessment Roll  
Approved Police Department Policy #25.  
Adopted Resolution 20-16: Resolution to Ratify and Affirm Township Board Activities made during Board Meetings held Virtually.  
Approved Claims.  
Meeting adjourned.

Diontrae Hayes, Supervisor  
Susan L. Aten, Clerk

CP#20-263

#### STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF INGHAM NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

File No. 20-948-DE  
Estate of Maxine Lee Rach. Date of birth: 03/02/1945.  
TO ALL CREDITORS: \*NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Maxine Lee Rach, died 08/27/2020. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Angela Park, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, MI 48933 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of this notice.

Date: 10/27/2020

Robert L. Refior II P43374  
1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Ste. 5  
Lansing, MI 48910 (517) 374-8890

Angela Park, personal representative  
567 East South Street  
Mason, MI 48854  
(517) 489-9533

CP#20-270

# Voters show up in droves for 'smooth' Election Day

Statewide turnout may set records with 19,000 same-day voter registrations

Voters could be waiting on more precise results from Tuesday's election well into Wednesday afternoon, but precincts across Greater Lansing were buzzing with activity throughout the day.

And if absentee ballots already tallied are any indication, turnout is expected to set records.

State officials counted more than 3.2 million returned absentee ballots — or 92% of those sent — by 4:30 p.m. Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson said absentee counting was going smoothly and labeled precincts as “islands of calm, welcoming a steady stream of voters” during the day.

Elections officials also expected about another 1.8 million in-person votes in Michigan, pushing statewide totals past the more than 4.87 million votes tallied in 2016, according to news reports.

In Lansing, turnout estimations for in-person voting were relatively as polls closed at 8 p.m. after 13 hours. City Clerk Chris Swope labeled turnout as “good” as lines evaporated.

Same-day registrations also set records. By 4:30 p.m., nearly 19,000 Michigan voters had registered and voted on Election Day — surpassing an all-time high of 13,000 set during the March primary. Most same-day registrations were reportedly in Detroit, Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids. State election officials reported nearly 250 were Lansing residents.

Thousands made their way into sev-



Voters stand in line early morning on Election Day at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Delta Township.

Sean Bradley/City Pulse

eral dozen precincts across Ingham County on Tuesday. Several polling locations saw long lines in the morning that slowly tapered off by the mid-afternoon. Officials described the scene in Lansing as “steady, but not overly busy.”

The surge in absentee voting, as expected, seemed to make for more manageable crowds. Said a spokesman for Swope as the day wound down: “It’s

really been going smooth today.”

Several residents lined up outside St. Stephen Lutheran Church on Waverly Road in Lansing by 8 a.m. Nearly 200 people were also outside Waverly East Intermediate School by 8:15 a.m. The parking lot at Swope's satellite office on Washington Avenue in south Lansing was packed for most of the day.

Among the first voters at St. Stephen was Raquel Lopez. She planned to tick the bubble for Joe Biden — adding her vote to nearly 100,000 absentee ballots already received from across Ingham County, many of which were expected to lean heavily toward the Democratic Party.

Lopez said she wants her and others' voices to count this election. That's why she waited with several others early in the morning to “make a difference” to the country's future, she added.

At Waverly East Intermediate School, Mariann Smith was in line to vote for President Donald Trump. She said she waited to vote in-person — like nearly 200 others who lined up there by 8:15 a.m. — because she didn't trust the integrity of the absentee voting process.

“It has more security to see the success of the ballot going in,” Smith added.

ed.

By 12:30 p.m., more than 300 ballots were cast in person at precincts 3 and 11, two of three precincts housed at the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing. In the progressive Precinct No. 11, about 1,400 of 1,500 absentee ballots that were sent out had already been returned.

Precinct Chairwoman Marie Wicks also reported seeing more younger voters than usual — like East Lansing voter Samantha Stewart, who described the election with only one word: “insanity.”

“There's just a lot going on right now,” she said. “Whoever wins, something is going to happen.”

Stewart, like many other voters who came out to cast their in-person ballots, said social issues like women's rights and the Black Lives Matter movement ultimately pushed her to the polls.

At Meridian Township Hall, about 10 voters were signing up hourly since polls opened. Though not a polling place itself, voters could still go there to register and to drop off absentee ballots.

Garrett Christensen, 19, of Okemos, registered at the hall and filled out his



Sean Bradley/City Pulse

A voter casts her ballot in one of many voting stations at Lansing's Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Rd.



Sean Bradley/City Pulse

Voters walk into Holt High School in Delhi Township on Tuesday to cast their votes.

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER**

**In the Matter of:  
Hoskins Drain**

**NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DETERMINATION**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** to you as a person liable for an assessment that the Board of Determination, composed of Paulette Hatchett, Helen LeBlanc, John Leonard, and Jennie Nerkowski (Alternate), will meet on **Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.** to hear all interested persons and evidence and to determine whether the actions prayed for in a Petition dated September 28, 2020 for the cleaning out, relocating, widening, deepening, straightening, tiling, extending, improving, relocating along a highway, providing structures, mechanical devices and pumping equipment, adding lands to and/or deleting lands from the existing drainage district, and adding branches and a relief drain are necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare of Meridian Charter Township and the City of Lansing, County of Ingham, State of Michigan, in accordance with Sections 72, 191 and 197 of Act No. 40, PA 1956.

Please take notice that the meeting will be conducted pursuant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act as amended by Michigan Public Act 228 of the Public Acts of 2020 (PA 228) which authorizes public bodies to conduct public meetings electronically or "remotely" with remote participation. This meeting will be conducted by remote access only. For those seeking to participate through online video conferencing, participants may access the electronic meeting through the following Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88454293910>. The public may also participate by calling the following toll-free number: (877) 853-5257 and entering Meeting ID: 884 5429 3910.

Members of the public will only be able to speak during the public comment portions of the meeting. To provide for orderly public participation, a person wishing to speak must state their name and request to be recognized by the Board. The Board of Determination will recognize all persons wishing to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the Ingham County Drain Commissioner. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Ingham County Drain Commissioner at the number noted below (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 711 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. Minutes of the meeting will be on file in the following office: Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854.

**YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED** that persons aggrieved by the decisions of the Board of Determination may seek judicial review in the Circuit Court for the County of Ingham within ten (10) days of the determination. If the actions prayed for in the Petition are determined to be necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience or welfare, a special assessment may be levied against properties that benefit from the project. A landowner or party of interest to property to be assessed, or their agent, may appear in person to comment on the necessity of the project.

Dated: October 22, 2020

Patrick E. Lindemann  
Ingham County Drain Commissioner  
Phone: (517) 676-8395

**CP#20-272**

## Election

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ballot on Tuesday.

"I feel like I have a say in something," he said.

Though Christensen declined to name his presidential pick, he said he decided on his candidate by watching news and hearing what policies he liked best. His mother, Rachel Christensen, also watched as her son registered. She also planned to vote by later that afternoon.

"It's the direction of the country, whether we go more communist or socialist or stay a democracy, which is what we fought for initially," Christensen told a reporter on the scene.

By 2:45 p.m., another 262 votes had been cast in Precinct No. 26 at Lansing's Southside Community Center. Said precinct chairwoman Mary Morgan: "Everything's gone very smoothly."

Lansing resident Iman Manuel, who said he lost friends for supporting Trump, thinks a Biden presidency would be a "disaster" for the U.S. economy. Though "terrified" of a Biden presidency, he also said he'd expect U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris, Biden's running mate, to replace him as president in the first year.

"I think we would lose the America we know," Manuel told a reporter. "Harris terrifies me more."

Still, Manuel added: "No matter what happens today, we're all Americans."

Lansing resident Jacala Harris, who said she has always voted for Democrats. Cast his Biden vote at Holt High School in Delhi Township. One of the two precincts housed at the high school had collected nearly 600 in-person votes by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

At one point, Harris said she wasn't sure how to cast her vote. Her father eventually persuaded her to vote for Biden. "If you want change, you have to get up and speak your mind," she said.

With a focus on the presidency, Lansing resident Alex Kalil said he didn't learn about the statewide ballot initiatives until he saw them listed on his ballot. Among them: a proposal to amend the state constitution to allow for state oil and gas funds to be used for maintenance projects and a requirement that cops obtain a warrant to search electronic devices.

"No one was talking about these," Kalil said, noting he still voted yes on all three proposals.

Anita Groh and her daughter Tiffani

Abraham also supported the proposals, though both of them also admitted to not knowing anything about the issues until reading about them on the ballot.

There were no signs of any local "army" of poll-watchers stationed in Greater Lansing, as President Donald Trump had called for earlier this month. Nor was there any visible presence of an armed militia or others attempting to intimidate voters before they arrived to cast their vote.

Gillian Dawson, chairwoman of Precinct No. 45 at the Foster Community Center in Lansing, reported no indication of voter intimidation. Most of those who came inside were also wearing face masks.

Benson also reported earlier in the day that she wasn't aware of any voter intimidation issues across the state either. She also had no immediate indication of increased or decreased turnout.

Still, city and township clerks across Greater Lansing have been on high alert in recent weeks amid a deluge of misinformation over voter fraud, but none have immediate reason for concern.

Given a drastic increase in absentee voting this year, residents might be waiting on a concrete set of results until Wednesday morning or afternoon, but they're expected to be reliable as clerks continue to vouch for enhanced security measures ahead of next week's election.

Benson issued a directive in October that banned firearms from within 100 feet of a polling location, but the order was shot down by the Michigan Court of Appeals. It's already a crime to intimidate people with guns, making a gun ban unnecessary, it ruled.

A reporter saw nobody openly carrying weapons into local polling locations. Elections officials from across Greater Lansing also didn't report any other significant issues at any precincts.

The Lansing Police Department still vowed to keep more cops on the streets and be particularly responsive to any suspected efforts to suppress the vote. Swope wasn't expecting armed militias at precincts in Lansing, but it's better to be safe than sorry, he explained last week.

Nessel also outlined a plan last week to dispatch Michigan State Police troopers to counties where the threat of unlawful voter intimidation may be the highest. None of the clerks who spoke to City Pulse last week expected the Greater Lansing region to require those added resources.

— **SEAN BRADLEY and  
KYLE KAMINSKI**

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# 'Fun,' 'popular,' 'protective'

Family, friends of Anthony Hulon recall his life, death and their battle for information

By SEAN BRADLEY

Anthony Hulon and his father, Stoney, chatted every Sunday about NASCAR races.

The races were something the Hulon family had been into for generations. Anthony and his father both raced cars for many years and even owned a towing business together for a time in Arizona.

But now, his father, who lives in the Phoenix, Arizona, metro area, can't hear his son's excited voice over the phone to talk about the races.

"That was a very special thing for him, and that's gone. That was their Sunday," Tabetha Conder, Anthony's sister, said Saturday.

Hulon died April 11 at 54 while in custody at the Lansing City Jail under dubious circumstances. The family filed a wrongful death lawsuit last month against the City of Lansing; Police Chief Darryl Green; Sgt. Billy Windom; and four police officers: Sgt. Edgar Guerra, detention officers Charles Wright and Gary

Worden and patrol officer Trevor Allman.

The suit alleges that Hulon died while struggling against efforts by the officers to constrain him in a jail cell.

The family wants Hulon to be remembered for how he lived: as a protective sibling to Conder, his other sister, Heather Hulon, and brother Stoney, and as a person who was obsessed with cars and drag racing and was smart, witty, handy and empathetic.

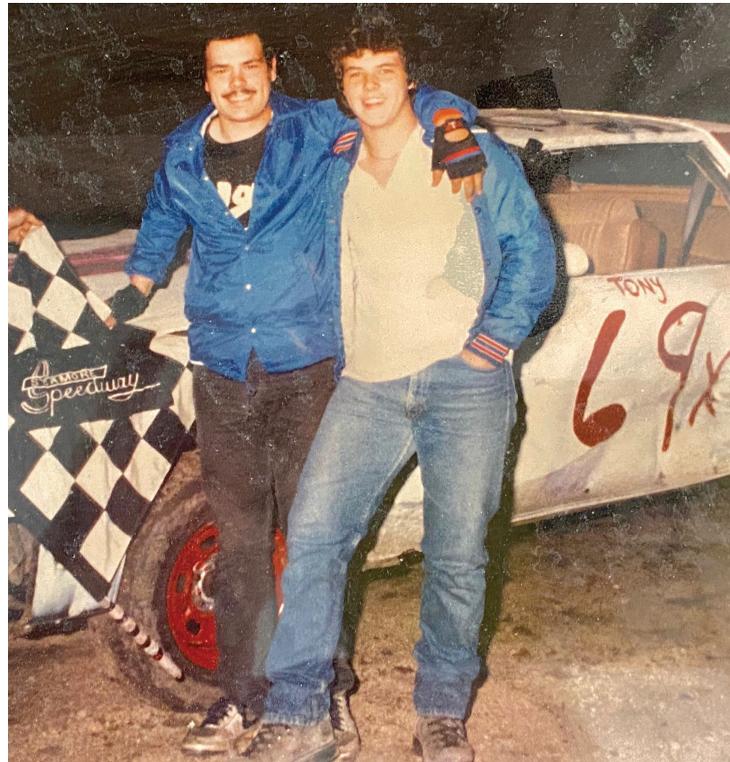
Aurora, Illinois, is where Hulon was born and grew up. He was a graduate of West Aurora High School's Class of 1985, Heather Hulon said. She is a personal representative of her brother's estate, according to the lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court of Western Michigan.

When Hulon was younger, Anthony would read her a bedtime story if their mother, Joan was busy.

"He got me my first job. He got me my first car," she said.

A "fun guy" and "popular" with a sense of fashion who liked "The Flintstones" TV show and drag racer John Force, Hulon began an interest in cars at a young age that lasted his entire life.

"Anthony's been doing it since he could drive," Hulon said.



Courtesy

Anthony Hulon (left) and his brother, Stoney, next to a car in approximately 1986 after a race at Sycamore Speedway in Maple Park, Illinois, according to information provided by his sister Heather Hulon.

He owned several cars throughout the years — including a Chevrolet Malibu with the cartoon character Fred Flintstone's "Yabba Dabba Doo!" catchphrase painted on it — and would race them on tracks in Arizona, Illinois and Michigan.

In the mid-1990s, Hulon and his father owned a car towing and repair business called Super Automotive in Mesa, Arizona, where

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Courtesy

Anthony Hulon in a 2019 photo with his father, Stoney during a visit to his parents' home in Mesa, Arizona.

## Lawsuit: Lansing cops 'conceal facts' after inmate dies beneath City Hall

Ex-mayor, Councilman allege 'coverup' within Mayor Andy Schor's administration

By KYLE KAMINSKI

The city of Lansing is still refusing to release several key details after videos and reports showed that four police officers directly contributed to the death of an inmate in April. And those cops are back on duty despite an ongoing criminal investigation into the incident.

Video footage released by attorneys late last month shows Anthony Hulon, 54, of Lansing, being escorted by four

LPD officers into a small cell at the city's lock-up below City Hall at about 1:04 a.m. on April 11. After a brief struggle with officers, Hulon was pronounced dead at 2:12 a.m.

The events that took place during those 68 minutes are now the subject of a federal wrongful death lawsuit



Hulon

that was filed last week against the city, Police Chief Daryl Green, two sergeants, two detention officers and a patrol cop — all of whom are back at work this week.

Schor and Green declined interviews with City Pulse last week and refused to answer several basic questions about the incident via email. But a 30-page complaint filed last month in the Western District of Michigan alleges that the officers involved not only wrongfully killed Hulon, but "conspired to distort and conceal the actual facts and circumstances regarding his death."

And newly surfaced emails show that efforts to conceal facts may have continued this week.

City Attorney Jim Smiertka, in response to questions from the City Council last week, also claimed his first notice of the incident (and the subsequent lawsuit) was a story in the Lansing State Journal.

Emails obtained by City Pulse, however, show that both Green and Smiertka were notified on May 29 of the pending lawsuit. Damico also sent Smiertka a copy of Hulon's death cer-

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## Hulon

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the family moved to in 1987 and where Hulon lived until 2003.

A passion for cars is how he met one of his longtime and best friends, Mark Mosher. The two met when Hulon was 18 at a hot rod car gathering in Mesa.

“He just liked automobiles and was into racing because his dad was a mechanic and his dad liked hot rods. He did real well at racing,” Mosher said.

At one point, Hulon was ranked high nationally in the sport from approximately 1995 to 2007, Mosher said. He also won several awards for his racing.

Hulon worked with Mosher as a tow truck driver while in The Grand Canyon State and raced cars at Firebird International Raceway in Chandler, Arizona, Mosher said.

In 2002, Mosher moved from Arizona to the Lansing area, and Hulon followed his best friend and their family the following year. Hulon’s obituary indicates he lived in Haslett.

“He worked for me for quite a while,” Mosher said.

Hulon also did estimates on car repairs, he said.

“Whatever he needed done, he’d jump in there and do it,” Mosher said.

Armed with what Heather Hulon described as an “infectious” smile and a “confident” personality, her brother worked at several dealerships in mid-Michigan; he even starred in a commercial for Lansing used car dealer OK Auto Mart, where he worked.

### A ‘tough time’ and death

In December, Hulon lost his job at OK Auto Mart, Hulon’s attorney, Jennifer Damico, said. An employee there said the parting was a mutual decision but didn’t give details. He later went back to work with Mosher, who owns a tire and truck service in Perry. although Hulon said her brother worked with Mosher often as a “side gig.”

Hulon had been going through a divorce around that time as well.

“He was going through a tough time. I didn’t realize it was that tough,” Hulon said.

Drugs played a role in at least the final days of Hulon’s life. Methamphetamine and ecstasy were found in Hulon’s system, according to his autopsy report obtained by Damico and viewed by Hulon.

Hulon was arrested for a simple assault on April 10 after he punched his



Courtesy

Anthony Hulon smiles while his arms around his sister Heather Hulon (left) and Heather’s daughter Shalice (right) in a photo taken in 2019 at his parents’ home in Mesa, Arizona.

roommate in an argument, according to police. His jail stint began at 1:50 p.m. that day.

“He was arrested and in jail for eight hours,” Heather Hulon said. “He had let them know something wasn’t right and he didn’t feel good.”

Officers at the jail observed Hulon to be under the influence of methamphetamine, according to the lawsuit.

During his jail stint, he told officers he was hot and sweaty, the lawsuit indicated.

Hulon said her brother even took his clothes off and stuffed them in the toilet in his cell.

Hulon was taken from the jail at approximately 10:13 p.m. April 10 to Sparrow Hospital in Lansing for treatment, according to the lawsuit. He admitted to Allman while at the hospital that he had used meth on the day before and was worried it could have been laced with something else.

“Sparrow treated him for whatever reaction he was having,” Hulon said.

Officers and a nurse at the hospital indicated Hulon was “thrashing around” in his hospital bed, the suit says.

At 12:25 a.m., Hulon was discharged from Sparrow Hospital and returned to police custody, but Hulon “wouldn’t cooperate” with officers to get back into a patrol car and backup was called to assist.

Officer Trevor Allman, one of the policemen named in the wrongful death suit, said in his report he used force to get Hulon into a wheelchair to move him into the patrol car, according to the lawsuit. A wheelchair was used because officers observed Hulon’s arms and legs to be “shaking erratically.”

neck and shoulders, he extended his left leg out and braced it on the ground, applying more force.

Hulon struggled to breathe.

“A breathless Hulon uttered: ‘I can’t breathe, I really can’t breathe now ... .’” the lawsuit says.

A wrist restraint applied by Guerra replaced the handcuffs, while the other officers continued to pin Hulon down to the ground on his stomach and chest, restricting his ability to breath, according to the lawsuit.

Panting and gasping for air were Hulon’s last voluntary movements, according to video of the incident.

Despite this, the officers “continued to pull, tug and tighten the waist restraint belt” on Hulon, who was motionless.

At 1:10 a.m., officers secured a weight belt on Hulon and turned him onto his side, more than five minutes after his last movement.

A minute later, Allman checked if Hulon was breathing or had a pulse, but found neither. He then requested a medic.

CPR was incorrectly administered after a defibrillator warned eight times to give it, according to the lawsuit.

First responders arrived at 1:19 a.m. to Hulon’s cell.

“During the approximately eight minutes from the time that the defendant officers determined that Hulon was not breathing and had no pulse, to the time that the first responders arrived, no Defendant officer performed any rescue breathing and/or administered any oxygen,” the lawsuit indicated.

First responders attempted life-saving measures, but records indicated that by the time Hulon arrived at Sparrow Hospital, he had been without a heartbeat for 38 minutes.

Never regaining consciousness, Hulon was pronounced dead at 2:12 a.m. April 11.

Sgt. Billy Windom, who works in city detention unit and is one of the defendants, observed the actions of the other officers from a “main lockup area” but did not intervene at any time, according to the lawsuit.

### ‘Frustrating’ struggle for information

The family’s attempts to find out the circumstances surrounding Hulon’s death only have come to light in recent weeks after the lawsuit was filed.

“It’s been frustrating. I contacted the Lansing Police Department as soon as we found out,” Heather Hulon said. “Within an hour of me finding out, I was trying to get a hold of them. It was

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# Hulon

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a mess to try to get a hold of a person because everything's automated. It was really hard." Finally, when she did connect with a person, she was told someone would call her back.

A lieutenant contacted Hulon but was "not helpful," Hulon said. "She wasn't able to tell me in general what he was arrested for."

A Michigan State Police detective in charge of the case wouldn't tell her anything about the case because "it's under investigation," Hulon said.

"Really, the whole thing that prompted this was just because we couldn't get any information," she said. "We haven't been told anything, and it's been a very long time and a lot of work to get nowhere."

On April 16, Hulon's body was flown to Arizona for a viewing before he was cremated.

"Seeing him in person told us right away they did something to him because his face was bruised and he had some gashes here and there and some trauma to his wrists and his ankles and a few other places on his body," Hulon said.

Hulon said she wants all Lansing police officers to be retrained so a situation like her brother's does not happen again.

"We're definitely hoping this is going to push the city to do something," she said. "I know they're trained and they always say this: 'they train our officers well'. It just doesn't seem that way. How do you not know when enough is enough? They should have those skills. You should know somebody can't be restrained in that way for more than a minute. They need to find a better way."



Anthony Hulon gives a thumbs up while standing next to a green car with gold flames on the hood around 2018, according to Heather Hulon. The car is owned by Anthony's friend Mark Mosher.

The family would also like to see all of the officers named in the lawsuit charged with murder for their involvement in his death, Hulon said.

Frustration and sadness are emotions Hulon's family have been feeling over the death and the process to obtain information surrounding it.

"It's a very, very long time," Hulon said about holding in her thoughts on her brother's death.

More than a month after Hulon's death, George Floyd was killed in Minneapolis by police in part by officers restraining him with their arms and legs.

The Ingham County medical examiner ruled Hulon's death a homicide resulting from "positional asphyxia" — as did George Floyd of Minneapolis at the hands of police six weeks later.

Green told local media he was "disgusted" by Floyd's death.

At a NAACP anti-police brutality rally in June, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor, Green and about 1,000 other



Heather Hulon (left) with her mother Joan (middle left), brother Anthony (middle) and their father Stoney (far right) during a visit in 2019 in Mesa, Arizona.

people at the Michigan State Capitol knelt for eight minutes and 46 seconds, the amount of time officers restrained Floyd before he died.

Hulon said seeing that, and the entire situation, has been "traumatic."

Despite the sadness, she said she is

surprised by the outpouring of support she and her family have received.

"I couldn't tell you how much I appreciate how people are being so supportive and so nice about it. He's not a monster. He's not whatever they think he is," she said.

# Lawsuit

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tificate and autopsy photos on Sept. 16. She said that nobody at the city has sent her a response.

"So, when Smiertka said to the City Council that his first notice of the incident was reading about the lawsuit in the Lansing State Journal, he was not being forthcoming," said Jennifer Damico, the Detroit attorney for Heather Hulon, Anthony Hulon's sister and representative of his estate.

"This is about accountability, Damico added. "This is about an apology. It's about a recognition that somebody did something wrong. This is about not allowing this to happen to someone else."

## 'I can't breathe'

Hulon was booked into the city's lock-up at 1:50 p.m. on allegations of domestic violence stemming from a fight with a friend at his home on Pennsylvania Avenue, the lawsuit states. At the time, Hulon was "visibly under the influence" of methamphetamine, according to reports.

After arrest, Hulon was taken to the city's lock-up where he reportedly paced wildly around his concrete cell, stripping off his clothes and shouting for

several hours straight. Cops decided to take Hulon to Sparrow Hospital later that evening for a medical evaluation, reports showed.

Medical staff gave Hulon some lorazepam to ease his anxiety. Cops picked him back up at 12:25 a.m., noting that, even hours later, he still "couldn't stop moving." Reports repeatedly noted that Hulon was "visibly under the influence." He can be heard growling in video tapes.

Video footage later shows four officers — identified in the lawsuit as Sgt. Edgar Guerra, detention officers Charles Wright and Gary Worden and patrol officer Trevor Allman — escorting Hulon back inside a cell and attempting to secure leg restraints before pulling Hulon to the floor.

Footage released by Damico's office, which the city has refused to release independently, also shows the officers piling on top of Hulon as he pleads with them to ease pressure off his neck in the corner of his cell. "I can't breathe," he tried to shout. "I'm about to pass out," he told officers.

Sgt. Billy Windom, who is also named in the lawsuit, reportedly looked on from a camera wired to a control room as Hulon appeared to make his final voluntary movements at 1:07 a.m.

Autopsy reports and Hulon's death certificate clearly list the manner of his death as homicide, more specifically from "positional asphyxia" or the inability to breathe caused by another

er — something that could have been avoided and now requires cops to be held liable, Damico said.

The lawsuit also alleges that the cops failed to deliver adequate and timely lifesaving measures to Hulon. Video footage shows that the four officers involved also repeatedly ignored automated defibrillator alerts designed to notify them to give rescue breaths after several failed attempts at CPR.

"During the eight minutes from the time that the defendant officers determined that Hulon was not breathing and had no pulse, to the time that the first responders arrived, no defendant officer performed any rescue breathing and/or administered any oxygen," the lawsuit further alleged.

Green said each of the officers were put on paid leave while the Michigan State Police was called in for a criminal investigation. The results of that probe were later handed off to Attorney General Dana Nessel's office in July, where it remained under review earlier this week.

The lawsuit contends that criminal charges were expressly requested against the police officers, though neither the AG's office or the Michigan State Police would confirm or deny that assertion. A spokesman for Nessel's office declined to comment, except to note the review continues.

"There is no standard timeline for conducting reviews of these matters,

and we prefer a thorough, comprehensive unbiased evaluation of the evidence rather than an expedited rush to judgment," a spokesman for the AG's office explained to City Pulse via email late last week.

In the meantime, the cops involved in Hulon's death have been called back to work, though Schor and Green wouldn't explain when or why the officers were allowed to return to duty. They also declined to elaborate on why the officers didn't attempt to revive Hulon through mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on Hulon that night at the city's underground lock-up.

Instead, a mayoral spokeswoman responded to questions with a joint statement from Schor and Green: "The Lansing Police Department has not been served with the lawsuit and has not had an opportunity to thoroughly review the allegations, and therefore, can't provide comment on the pending litigation or the pending investigation and review by the Attorney General's Office."

## 'Medical complications'

City officials also wouldn't explain why Hulon's death was attributed only to vague "medical complications" in a press release sent out about the incident to local media outlets in April.

That press release, the first formal notification to the public that something occurred that night, only noted

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# Lawsuit

from page 14

that Hulon was “exhibiting medical complications unrelated to his arrest.” It doesn’t mention any physical altercation with officers, instead noting only that “his medical complications recurred” at 1:04 a.m. — just when officers were piled on top of Hulon in his cell.

“Officers immediately started life saving measures and used an AED in an attempt to regain consciousness,” according to the press release, in which Green labeled the incident a “tragedy.”

Green later told the Lansing State Journal that he wasn’t aware that Hulon’s cause of death had been ruled a homicide by the Ingham County Medical Examiner’s office. Despite their public availability, none of those reports were specifically sent to city officials, a spokeswoman added.

“To prevent any conflict of interest, the matter was referred to and investigated by the Michigan State Police,” Schor said in a statement. “The Lansing Police Department cooperated with that investigation. Without notification to the City of Lansing or Lansing Police Department, the Michigan State Police investigation was forwarded to the Attorney General’s Office for review.”

Schor and Green also added: “No decision has been provided from the Attorney General’s Office, nor has the Michigan State Police or the Medical Examiner released their records or reports to the City of Lansing, which is standard while a matter remains under review.”

The fatal risk of prolonged restraint, however, is something cops have been alerted to nationwide — particularly in the months following George Floyd’s killing in Minneapolis on May 29. Like Hulon, Floyd’s death certificate also listed “positional asphyxia” as a contributing cause.

It’s also a lesson that city officials learned firsthand in 1998 when the city paid out \$9.8 million in the alleged wrongful death of Edward Swans, a 260-pound man who was handcuffed, tied to his stomach and held down in a manner that was later found to have directly led to his death.

That case was tried for 27 days before the jurors eventually found in favor of the plaintiffs. And it’s a route that Damico is also prepared to take as she emphasizes the continued need for reforms — especially after learning all four of the officers involved have since returned to work.

“That’s the worst part. It’s like letting Larry Nassar continue to give exams,” Damico remarked, referring to the MSU sports doctor who is in prison for sexual assault.

Reports show that Hulon was at least the fourth inmate to die at Lansing’s lock-up in the last decade. A Traverse City Record-Eagle investigation also revealed that at least 200 inmates died in Michigan’s local jails between 2009 and 2018, most of whom died of suicide inside their cells.

### ‘A six-month coverup’

Green had told City Pulse more than a month after Hulon’s death that he didn’t think George Floyd would have died in Lansing. Local officers would know better, he explained — entirely failing to men-

tion that Hulon died an eerily similar death just a few months earlier inside his jail.

“When that situation happened in Minneapolis, we kind of went into defense mode. It wasn’t our department. The first thought was this couldn’t happen here in Lansing,” Green said. “I still don’t believe it could happen here. I believe our officers would’ve stood up and intervened to stop it.”

Schor also then pledged to reaffirm police policies geared toward de-escalating violence, exhausting non-lethal alternatives and reviewing instances of police force. He also marched alongside protesters as they unknowingly chanted some of Hulon’s last words: “I can’t breathe.”

Many local activists, including Councilman Brandon Betz and several others tied to the Black Lives Matter movement, have since billed the lack of transparency in Schor’s administration — among other leadership issues — as reason enough for the mayor to immediately resign.

“It took over six months to find out what actually happened, and Schor’s administration has not been forthcoming about the case,” Betz wrote in an open letter. “This was clearly a murder that was covered up by the LPD and Schor has shown no interest in getting to the bottom of the case or holding anyone accountable. He has refused to answer any questions on the matter.”

Betz labeled the “unconscionable” incident at the lock-up as a “complete devaluation of human life” at the hands of police, also claiming that Schor has since shown more interest in “protecting himself” than holding officers at the Lansing Police Department accountable for their actions.

“In order to stop harming this city, he must resign,” Betz wrote in a letter sent to media outlets.

Betz added: “Whenever he is confronted for his actions, Andy is incredibly defensive and deceptive, showing that he has no remorse and is only looking out for himself. Lansing needs a leader willing to fight for the interests of the working class and Black and brown communities.”

Schor counted that Betz “has his agenda to decimate our public safety and will spread every rumor he can about me. Lansing residents need leaders that are focused on solutions not false attacks. I will continue to do my job on behalf of the City of Lansing, and if he wants to get back to the work of serving residents I’ll be waiting.”

Former Mayor Virg Bernero — Schor’s predecessor who is leaning toward running again next year — also labeled Hulon’s death as a “six-month coverup by the Schor administration.”

“The statements from the city of Lansing since the time of Hulon’s death were at best misleading and at worst a deliberate attempt to downplay and cover up this officer-involved tragedy,” Bernero said last week. “It is stunning that any municipal administration and police agency would engage in this type of behavior surrounding an officer-involved fatality in 2020.”

Bernero joined Betz in calling for Lansing to close its lock-up altogether following “increasingly problematic” issues inside over recent years. Instead, he said, the city should consider outsourcing inmates to the county’s jail in Mason or use more PR bonds for minor offenses.

“The times call for even greater transparency today, and yet, sadly we are getting exactly the



Courtesy

Video footage released by attorneys last week shows Hulon struggling with four Lansing Police Department officers inside the city’s lock-up. All of them are now named in a federal wrongful death lawsuit and have since returned to duty.

opposite from this administration,” Bernero said. “Stonewalling and obfuscation will not do where loss of life is involved. We need to know why Lansing residents were lied to in April.”

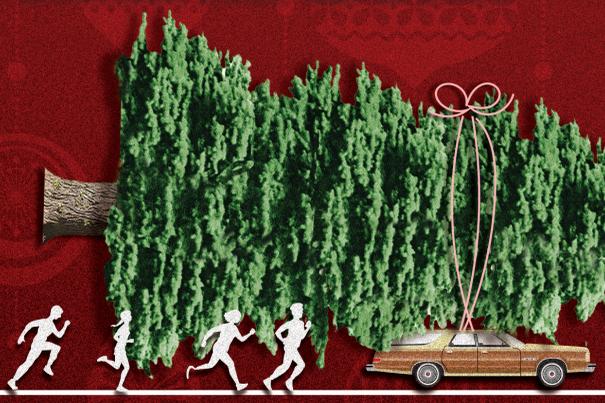
Schor, while expressly declining to address the criticism from Bernero directly, called this City Pulse reporter back only to speak about the potential closure of the city lock-up. He said his administration is “actively looking at options” — including a unified facility with Ingham County.

“That’s absolutely on the list. It’s been on the list. Now it has some more urgency to it,” he said.

As for the police officers accused of killing Hulon in the city’s lock-up? Schor has nothing to say. “We’re just waiting to hear back from the Attorney General’s Office. I’m not a lawyer,” Schor said.

The city has not yet filed a formal response to the recent complaint in federal court.

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# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## Fenner Nature Center launches November Mask Ask fundraiser

By SKYLER ASHLEY

After a season that saw the cancellation of its summer camp and the Maple Syrup Festival, Fenner Nature Center had to forgo yet another of its marquee community gatherings, the Apple Butter Festival, which was supposed to be in mid-October. The loss of revenue has led to Fenner's November fundraising campaign, the Apple Butter 2020 Mask Ask.

### Fenner Nature Center

2020 E. Mt. Hope Ave.,  
Lansing  
Wednesday, 10 a.m. to  
6 p.m.  
Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m.  
to 6 p.m.  
(517) 483-4224  
To donate to the 2020  
Mask Ask fundraiser visit:  
[mynaturecenter.org/product-category/maskask](http://mynaturecenter.org/product-category/maskask)

Mask Ask urges the community to make a single \$50 donation, in exchange for a limited edition mask featuring the 2020 Apple Butter Festival artwork and a membership

pass to Fenner Nature Center, which itself is a \$30 value. Contributors can request additional masks for \$15 each.

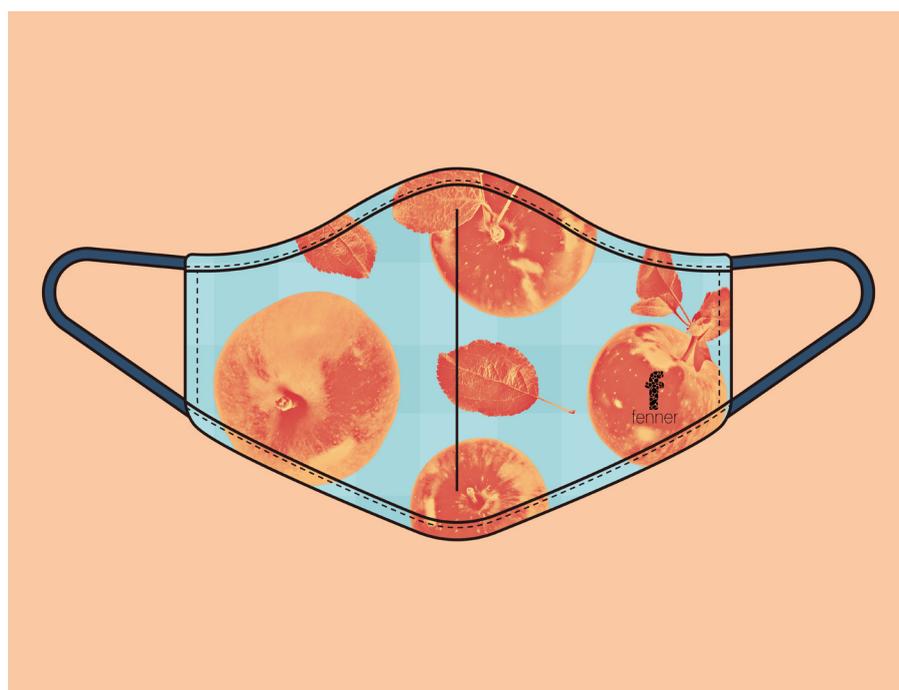
Executive Director Liz Roxberry said Fenner has struggled in part because it is not considered an essential service by the state of Michigan. The pandemic as a whole is taking a major toll: as Fenner has lost 80 percent of its earned income for 2020. "Not only does that come from our seasonal programs like summer camp, but of course our festivals like Maple Syrup Festival

in March and Apple Butter Festival in October," Roxberry said. "We had to find non-traditional ways to look at fundraising from our community."

Roxberry said another major difficulty is that the majority of grant funding for place-making institutions such as Fenner has dried up. Fenner has only received supplemental funding from the Paycheck Protection Program and donations from community members. "Not only have we seen a dramatic decrease in our ability to raise funds through seasonal revenue, we've also seen a dramatic decline in foundation grant funds that are available to organizations like ours."

These combined factors pushed Fenner into having to come up with its own best possible last-ditch effort at its disposal to make up for the severe loss of revenue. Mask Ask was largely inspired by the Apple Butter Festival's evolution as an arts and culture event since its inception in 1973. The festival began as a fundraiser where volunteers would gather and share joy with each other while peeling, slicing and stirring apples into butter. Eventually, it became a showcase for local music, crafts and artisanship. The 2019 festival featured Capital Area Lace Makers, the Greater Lansing Potters Guild and the Capitol City Quilt Guild.

"We started seeing a transition to really reflect the arts through imag-



Courtesy

Fenner Nature Center is calling upon the Lansing community for its 2020 Mask Ask Fundraiser. A \$50 donation gives contributors a limited edition Apple Butter Festival face mask and an individual membership to Fenner Nature Center.

ery. We've had Apple Butter Festival posters and artwork that's been done by local artists that's become rather coveted in our community. We wanted to preserve that history and nostalgia with this campaign," Roxberry said.

Roxberry explained that selling the 2020 Apple Butter Festival poster in the form of a cotton mask was an obvi-

ous decision, considering how it would be highly emblematic of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. "We're not presenting this as, 'Here's an opportunity to buy a really cool mask.' We're presenting this as, 'We really need our community to support us,'" Roxberry said.

## Boutique shop for babies gets a new crib in Old Town

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Mother and Earth Baby Boutique, a shop that specializes in artisan-crafted goods for babies and young children, is expanding its horizons with a new and improved space in Lansing's Old Town neighborhood.

"We had our eyes out for something that afforded us a bit more storage

and bigger retail space. This space provided that, as well as keeping us in Old Town, which we really love. It's a great fit," owner Lynn Ross said.

The new space is 400 square feet larger and has a basement that is actually fit for storage. Ross said the extra breathing room allows Mother and Earth Baby Boutique to carry larger and cumbersome gear items such as strollers and car seats. "It was difficult to house those in our old space," Ross said.

Mother and Earth Baby Boutique originally opened in 2011, with Ross operating the business directly out of her home. The shop then moved into an office space down the road, which it would call home for two years,

before finally getting its own brick and mortar shop in Old Town in 2014. Ross said the shop grew organically, and the original location came about after she was contacted by the Old Town Commercial Association to open up a shop in one of the empty spaces in the neighborhood.

Ross was inspired to create a baby boutique thanks to her experience as a parent trying to purchase cloth diapers for her son to save money. There wasn't really a shop around town that carried items like that, so she decided to open up her own.

"It was prompted as a cloth diaper store and now we are so much more than that," Ross said.

Mother and Earth Baby Boutique

carries products ranging from toys, books, clothing and kid-friendly household products. Ross said she makes it a priority to purchase from suppliers that have environmentally sustainable practices and treat their employees well.

Ross works with a small, dedicated staff that are also mothers. "It's been really great working with them. They love interacting with the community. We pride ourselves on being educated about our products; it gives us an opportunity to connect with our customers," Ross said. "It's not just a job, it's about connecting with local families."

### Mother and Earth Baby Boutique

100 E. Cesar E. Chavez  
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## We Can Help You Get Your GED

By Barbara Schmidt

If you or a friend or family member is interested in obtaining a GED, we would love to help you make that dream come true! Here at Capital Area Literacy Coalition, or The Reading People, we offer a non-classroom GED alternative program. You can call us at **(517) 485-4949** to schedule an appointment to get signed up.

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and can have your friends and family attend as well.

As is our policy, all our materials and testing is free of cost to our students. Most people finish the program, steadily working and studying in one to two months. In addition, we have tutors available for each of the subjects who can work one-on-one with you if you need extra help. Our goal is to help you complete your GED!

Due to COVID issues, we require masks at all times in our building for everyone's safety. We are also only taking appointments — no walk in help will be available. We are now taking appointments for September 1 and beyond! We hope to see you soon!

[thereadingpeople.org](http://thereadingpeople.org)



# *Favorite Things* Nic Gareiss and his octave mandolin

*Nic Gareiss is a masterful traditional folk dancer. He has received global recognition and was named one of Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch." He has traveled the globe, performing in more than a dozen countries and collaborating with luminaries of traditional dance and music such as Alasdair Fraser, Bruce Molsky, The Chieftains and Sandy Silva. Gareiss also writes and records music of his own, inspired by his gay identity and life as a dancer, using his favorite thing — a handcrafted octave mandolin.*



My favorite thing is an octave mandolin that was made for me by a luthier in Nottingham, New Hampshire, named Robert Abrams. I started a conversation about having him build me an instrument in 2013. I already had the same instrument built by a different maker that I purchased at Elderly Instruments, but at that time I was on tour in Germany doing this awful schedule of 30 shows in 30 different cities. In the middle of that tour, I wrote to Robert and said, "Let's go for this. Let's have you start work on this instrument."



The instrument almost was the goal I could look forward to at the end of that real intense tour.

I've lived in Lansing on and off since 2015. Before the pandemic, I was on the road 36 weeks a year — dancing and playing music. This instrument is not only something that is really enjoyable; it's also part of my work. It's a nice way for me to connect with my local community. For example, this summer I read that the Salus Center, an LGBTQ+ resource center in our community was in danger of losing its space due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, I recorded five

little queer folk songs and released them on NicGareiss.BandCamp.com. All of the proceeds from that go to the Salus Center. So far, that project has raised almost \$1,000 to benefit Salus.

The instrument itself is one of the most stunning octave mandolins I have ever seen. It is made of red mountain cedar on the back and on the sides. The top is made of Sitka spruce. It really sparkles. I first heard the octave mandolin on a recording of traditional Irish music when I was working in public radio while I was a student at Central Michigan University. I was so struck by the

sound. For me, it's a way of connecting with singing. It's really special.

During the pandemic, all work has been canceled for touring artists. I've been performing and dancing in my living room. I actually have a show at a venue called Club Passim in Boston coming up on Nov. 11 that is streaming on [Passim.org/stream](http://Passim.org/stream). That is where people can actually get a chance to hear this instrument.

*Interview edited and condensed by Skyler Ashley. If you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, email [skyler@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:skyler@lansingcitypulse.com)*

# Seasonal high: Pumpkin spice fudge perfect for an fall afternoon

Detroit Fudge Co. cranks out tasty edible treats at Stateside Wellness

By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

Detroit Fudge Co., which is actually based in Ann Arbor, started baking up goodies for medical marijuana patients in 2015 but has since expanded to the recreational market with an array of edibles — including peanut butter, vegetable oil, honey and multiple flavors of fudge.

Company officials recently told MLive that they make the “best tasting fudge in Michigan.” Naturally, I had to put that assertion to the test. And honestly, I couldn’t find reason to disagree.

## Detroit Fudge Co. — Pumpkin Spice Fudge

Price — \$25

THC content — 100 mg

I’ll admit it: I’m a sucker for seasonal flavors of all kinds, especially in the fall. Pumpkin pie, salted caramel, vanilla spice, cinnamon, apple cider, hazelnut cream. I’ll take it all. So, you can imagine my intrigue when I noticed this spooky season flavor last week at Stateside Wellness.

This decadent hunk of heaven is packed with 100 mg of THC and weighed in at more than a quarter-pound — plenty for more than just one serving. Most edibles seem to be focused more on effects than flavor, but this sugary snack provides a true des-



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sert experience. It’s something I could find myself snacking on regardless of its THC content. The roaring high was just a bonus.

I scarfed down half of the fudge bar just after breakfast on Saturday afternoon and it took about an hour for the effects to take hold. Euphoria. Happiness. Boredom erased. Perhaps it was the brisk fall air, but this sugary treat also gave me a quick boost of energy — enough to turn my dog’s usual 20-minute neighborhood walk into nearly an hour roaming across Moores Park.

After lunch, I finished off the rest of the fudge bar, did some yard work

and tried to forget about the massive amount of calories that (thankfully) aren’t labeled on the outside of the package. The resulting high also lasted until long after the final trick-or-treater had left the neighborhood.

The company also reportedly plans to roll out a mint fudge in the winter. Stay tuned for more.

## Detroit Fudge Co. — Honey

Price — \$25

THC content — 100 mg

Eventually, I’m hoping to stock my whole kitchen with cannabis-infused alternatives to everyday ingredients. I’ve also been on a homemade smoothie kick recently, and typically use honey as a natural sweetener to blend in. So, I was thrilled to add this tasty treat to my cupboard collection.

No surprises here: It looks like honey. It smells like honey. It feels like honey. It tastes like honey. It also blends perfectly in a strawberry banana smoothie. I really couldn’t ask for anything more.

Detroit Fudge Co. clearly cares about flavor profile. No overly sugary concoctions, bitter herb overlays or skunky



aftertastes here. You truly wouldn’t know this — or the pumpkin fudge — was a cannabis-infused product unless you carefully read the label. And that’s exactly the kind of subtle, tasty goodness that I’m always looking for when shopping for marijuana edibles.

*Kyle Kaminski is a City Pulse staff writer and cannabis enthusiast who has been smoking marijuana just about every day for the last decade. Every week, Kaminski samples some of the best cannabis products available in Greater Lansing, gets real high and writes about them.*



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# If not now, when?

Jim Alfredson grooves his way to a lifetime award

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

When lockdowns swept the world in spring of 2020, organist Jim Alfredson was prepared, in his own sweet way.

His basement wasn't stocked with beans, beer, guns and ammo, but it was equipped with a full recording studio and a magnificent instrument — the Hammond B-3 organ — that plays well with others, but really shines when you need to hold the fort alone.

## Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan 12th Annual 2021 Tribute

Jim Alfredson, organissimo, special guests 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8 Livestream at facebook.com/jazzjamm Proceeds go to JAMM Musician Relief Fund Donations can be made now and during the event

That makes 2020 the perfect year for Alfredson to get the 12th annual lifetime recognition award from the Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan. He'll perform with two iterations of his long-lived organ trio Organissimo, now celebrating its 20th year, and special guests Greg Nagy on guitar, Michael Dease on trombone and soulful vocalist Freddie Cunningham in a live-streamed award ceremony Sunday.

Alfredson's above-ground exploits, from topping charts and stretching boundaries with Organissimo to touring the globe with jazz and blues greats James Armstrong and Janiva Magness, were more than enough to earn him the award.

But Alfredson outdid even himself in 2020.

For 11 bleak weeks, "Live From Jimmy's Basement" beamed live-streamed solo jazz to a pandemic-numbered populace. Alfredson swung, grooved, be-bopped, pitched woo and prog-rocked, pulling out all the stops until his band mates, guitarist Larry Barris and drummer Randy Marsh, could rejoin him in the basement in June.

Since spring, "Organissimo Sundays" and "Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's," with drummer Jeff Shoup and special guests, have kept a flame lit for live jazz in Lansing and attracted viewers around the world.

Incredibly, before those 10 weeks

in spring, Alfredson had never played a solo gig or recorded a solo album. He drew upon a lifetime of experience and eclectic tastes to keep the concerts from getting stale.

"I was learning new songs every week, trying not to repeat myself, trying to challenge myself, keep things fresh for me too," he said.

In late March, Alfredson had just returned from three exhausting months of road trips, including a tour in Canada with blues belter Thornetta Davis and tours of Spain and the U.S. West Coast with blues guitarist and singer James Armstrong.

Returning home, he told his wife, Alison, "I've got to find a better balance here."

Then came the lockdown — not the rest he had in mind.

"I'm just thankful that when all the gigs went away, I had the knowledge and the gear," he said. "I didn't have to invest much, and as far as I know, we were one of the first multi-cam professional audio live streams that were doing it that early."

Like everyone else, Alfredson had nights when his eyes popped open at 3 o'clock A.M. and he wondered when it all would end and what it was all for. It wasn't just that musical gigs dried up; Alfredson's heart broke for his daughters when their dreams of playing French horn in the Spartan Youth Ensemble and entering a figure skating competition were scotched.

"At that point, I just decided to try and take it one day at a time, keep focused on my own goals, help other musicians keep jazz going, try to help my kids and my wife get through this," he said.

Alfredson was equipped for the moment in more ways than one. He grew up with five sisters and a brother and his parents in a tiny two-bedroom farmhouse in the cornfields in the middle of Mason.

"Believe it or not, I've always been kind of a solitary person anyway," he said. "Growing up in that environment, my propensity is to put on the headphones, put a record on or plug into a keyboard and disappear. That's my little space and that hasn't really changed."

Despite nationwide (and worldwide) success and recognition, Alfredson is glad he settled in Lansing with his wife, Alison, and three daughters.

"Lansing's a great place to raise kids



At the height of spring lockdowns, organist Jim Alfredson held the fort alone for 11 weeks of solo livestream concerts. Alfredson gets a lifetime tribute from the Jazz Alliance of Mid-Michigan Sunday in a livestreamed concert reuniting the original members of organissimo and featuring special guests.

and I wanted to be somewhere they would thrive," he said. "Nothing ever happens here, no mudslides, hurricanes, wildfires."

Not that he hasn't contemplated moving to a bigger market.

"Alison and I talked about moving to Nashville, Atlanta, the East Coast, Philadelphia," he said. "But once you have kids, it's important to be close to family."

For many longtime Lansing jazz lovers, a highlight of Sunday's tribute will be the return of Organissimo's first guitarist, Joe Glostott, who went by the name Joe Gloss in the Organissimo days.

At Sunday's tribute, Organissimo will live stream two sets, the first with current guitarist Lawrence Barris, the second with Glostott, and a finale with both guitarists joining Alfredson and Marsh.

Glostott is now based in Milwaukee, where he works as a physical therapist and jiu-jitsu instructor. He has been keeping up his lyrical, richly patterned guitar skills by playing solo acoustic, but he's also developed some new techniques ("new arpeggios and new ways of getting around the neck") on the electric guitar.

A decade ago, Glostott left Organissimo and Lansing, in part, out of frustration over his own musical limitations.

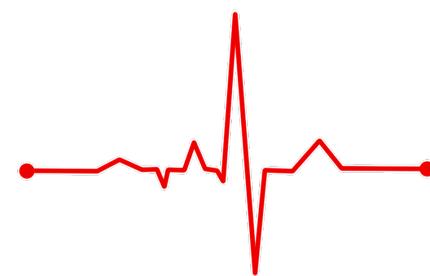
"When I look back at that time in my life, it was hard to feel at peace

with myself musically," he said. The years have given him a more balanced perspective. He's been listening to Organissimo CDs like "Groovadelphia" and its philosophical-lyrical core composition, "If Not Now, When?"

"I was taken aback by how soulful it was, and what a neat arrangement," he said. "I don't like every last thing we did, but most of it holds up really well and I enjoy listening to it."

The challenge for Glostott Sunday is re-learning melodies and chords he hasn't touched in years. He's been practicing for one or two hours a day for the past two months leading up to Sunday's tribute.

"I'm going to just go in, relax and try to be in the moment and really enjoy it," he said. "It's a part of my life that I look back on fondly and I'm glad to revisit and almost put a bow on it — 'Hey, guys, it was great stuff, and I'm here to acknowledge that and have some fun.' I just wish we could do it all in person and have everybody there."



# CADL's Jessica Trotter named Public Librarian of the Year

By **BILL CASTANIER**

If you've read a book from the Capital Area District Library in the last several years, it's likely that librarian Jessica Trotter was behind its inclusion in CADL's expansive catalog.

This past week, the Michigan Library Association, the Michigan Association for Media in Education and the Michigan Academic Library Association named Trotter the Public Librarian of the Year.

"It was quite a surprise. I didn't know I had been nominated. I had to reread the award letter," she said.

Trotter, a Lansing native, has been a librarian for 18 years and is a graduate of both Michigan State University and the University of Michigan.

"I graduated with a history degree from MSU, but I knew I didn't want to be a teacher," she said.

That was a good choice for the thousands of CADL patrons that read her selections for the library's catalog. She's the collection's development specialist and master of curating adult fiction, audio books and e-books.

"I help people connect with books," she said. "I have to go out looking for title of books that people will want to read."

To that end, she is on the selection committee for the Library of Michigan's Notable Book Award, which names 20 books with a Michigan connection each year. She also serves on the national Readers Advisory Board, which makes recommendations monthly for books to be read.

Trotter is also co-host of a regular podcast, which emanates from the CADL system, called the Reader's Roundtable Edition, which discusses new books and interviews authors.

"Jessica is an amazing resource to CADL, the community it serves and both the statewide and national landscape of Readers Advisory and collection development services," said Scott Duimstra, director of Capital Area District Libraries.

Trotter said the pandemic has created some interesting challenges for libraries including how to figure out how to simulate browsing for books since libraries are not open.

"During the current pandemic, there was a swing to digital at one point, but recently there has been a surge in physical checkouts of books. It's a weird cycle," Trotter said.

In her career, which began when



Courtesy

people were still checking out VHS tapes, she has seen a lot of changes due to innovations in technology. She has also observed how people are reading broader across genres.

"I've enjoyed watching people reading more diversely and learning about other communities. As a person of color, and being a product of a mixed marriage, it's inspiring," she said.

Trotter said libraries have to adjust to the needs of the community and look for book titles that represent those needs. For her, this means looking for new vendors or buying books on Amazon.

CADL has an advantage over smaller systems since it can move material between branches and provide access to broader collections in just a day or two.

Trotter said even though her job requires her to read across a lot of genres, her personal go-to is still fanta-

sy and science fiction.

She recalls reading at an early age, at the behest of her father, the "Foundation" series, by Isaac Asimov, and the "Dune" series, by Frank Herbert.

Before the pandemic limited in person meetings, she chaired the MLA Fantastic Fiction group to encourage reading across that genre.

Trotter has some advice that may surprise aspiring librarians: Be flexible.

"I started before the e-book thing and look where we are now. You may be driving the delivery van or doing ordering, or conducting a podcast," she said.

Trotter's real inspiration for becoming a librarian may come from her childhood experiences of visiting her hometown library.

"Saturday mornings we made trips downtown to the big library. We got lunch and came home with books," she said.

CADL librarian Jessica Trotter has been named Public Librarian of the Year by the Michigan Library Association, the Michigan Association for Media in Education and the Michigan Academic Library Association.

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Virtual Author Talk  
November 8 · 3pm

*Together, Apart* is a collection of finding love in unexpected places during an unprecedented time . . . each with the one thing we all want: a guaranteed happy ending. Join us in conversation with authors Erin Craig, Erin Hahn, Rachael Lippincott, Sajni Patel, and Auriane Desombre. You must register free via Eventbrite to receive the zoom link the day of the event: [togetherapartpanel.eventbrite.com](https://togetherapartpanel.eventbrite.com)

### MERCY HOUSE

Virtual Author Talk  
November 10 · 7pm

Debut author Alena Dillon drops in for a virtual chat to discuss *Mercy House*, now in development as a CBS All Access television series, which Amy Schumer called "... The book we've all been waiting for." You must register free via Eventbrite to receive the zoom link the day of the event: [mercyhouse.eventbrite.com](https://mercyhouse.eventbrite.com)

### TALK ALL THINGS PLANTS

With Rick Vuyst  
November 12 · 7pm

Have you found yourself talking to your plants? Or maybe you've been telling yourself, just one more plant baby? Well, Rick Vuyst doesn't think those are bad things during a pandemic, in fact he believes plants are helping to save the day in 2020. Join us as we discuss this and more with Rick on Facebook LIVE.

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# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Cool, Cool"--  
another door  
opens.

by Matt Jones

**Across**

- 1 Completely chill
- 5 Cat's resting spot
- 8 "Sweat smile" or "money-mouth face," e.g.
- 13 Et \_\_\_\_ (Latin for "and others")
- 14 Golden \_\_\_\_ O's (cereal variety that somehow exists)
- 16 Fix with a needle
- 17 ITEMS IN THE FREEZER
- 20 ITEMS IN THE FREEZER
- 21 Affectionate greeting (that I'm guessing there will be a lot of when this is done)
- 22 Raphael's weapon, in "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles"
- 23 Gallery offering
- 24 Ral z c` bica de och
- 27 Long sandwich
- 29 Makeshift car cleaners
- 32 Exclamations that have their moments?
- 34 Ewe's mate
- 36 Answer a stimulus
- 40 ITEMS IN THE REFRIGERATOR
- 44 Phone maker from Finland
- 45 "Born in the \_\_\_\_"
- 46 New employee
- 47 Degs. for many professors
- 50 Alternatives to Maccs
- 52 It's usually due April 15
- 53 Breakfast hrs.
- 56 Android program
- 58 Carp in some ponds
- 60 ITEMS IN THE VEGETABLE CRISPER
- 67 ITEMS IN THE VEGETABLE CRISPER
- 68 Words before ante

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13				14			15		16		
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24	25	26		27		28		29	30	31	
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60			61	62			63			64	65
67											
68						69			70		
71						72			73		

- 69 It ended on April 9 this year
- 70 Musk of Tesla Motors
- 71 Bedding item
- 72 Get the idea
- 73 Some TV rooms**Down**
- 1 Golden State, informally
- 2 "30 Rock" star Baldwin
- 3 Longest possible sentence
- 4 Go together perfectly
- 5 With "The," 2008 Mike Myers flop
- 6 Carpet calculation
- 7 Stereotypical '80s hairdos
- 8 Words in the middle of everyone's favorite Napoleon-based palindrome
- 9 Alternate nickname for Sporty Spice (as opposed to Scary)
- 10 Home of Suntory's headquarters
- 11 2000 World Series MVP Derek
- 12 "\_\_\_\_ let you down!"
- 15 Green "Sesame Street" character
- 18 "It's either them \_\_\_\_"
- 19 Karmann \_\_\_\_ (classic VW model)
- 24 Rhett Butler's last word
- 25 The \_\_\_\_ State University
- 26 Jonas who developed a polio vaccine
- 28 Actress \_\_\_\_ Ling of "The Crow"
- 30 "Despicable Me" supervillain
- 31 "Late Night" host Meyers
- 33 Omit
- 35 Initialism for the series of "Avengers" movies
- 37 "Keep \_\_\_\_!" ("Don't give up!")
- 38 "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World" star Michael
- 39 "Jurassic Park" beast
- 41 God, to a Rastafarian
- 42 Preternatural power
- 43 Make retroactive, like a payment
- 48 "Hawaii Five-O" detective, to McGarrett
- 49 Go letter by letter
- 51 "Bon \_\_\_\_" (good evening, in France)
- 53 Photographer Diane
- 54 Transform bit by bit
- 55 Dealt a sharp blow, in the Bible
- 57 Asks intrusive questions
- 59 "The Sky \_\_\_\_" (1950 Italian drama)
- 61 Hurt all over
- 62 Rapper in "Law & Order: SVU"
- 63 Dermatologist's case
- 64 Miniature golf goal
- 65 English school founded by Henry VI
- 66 1040 IDs

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Answers Page 24

## SUDOKU

## Basic

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

### TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 24

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

November 4 - 10, 2020

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Aries poet Charles Baudelaire championed the privilege and luxury of changing one's mind. He thought it was natural and healthy to always keep evolving beyond one's previous beliefs and attitudes, even if that meant one might seem inconsistent or irrational. "It is lamentable," he once proclaimed, "that, among the Rights of Human Beings, the right to contradict oneself has been disregarded." I bring these thoughts to your attention, dear Aries, so that you will feel at peace with the prospect of outgrowing rules, strategies, and approaches that have worked well for you up until now—but that have outlived their usefulness.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** The horoscopes I write are my love letters to you. As I compose them, my goal is to celebrate your beauty and strength even as I discern what's lacking in your life and what confusions might be undermining you. In my philosophy of life, that's how love works at its best: remaining keenly aware of the good qualities in the beloved while helping them deal with their problems and heal their wounds. I suggest that in the coming weeks you adopt my approach for use with your own close relationships. Your allies are in special need of both your praise and your rectifications.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** When Charles de Gaulle was 15 years old, he wrote "General de Gaulle," a short story in which he envisioned himself, many years in the future, as a general in the French army. Thirty-five years later, his imaginary tale came true, as he became a general of the free French army fighting against Germany in World War II. In the spirit of de Gaulle's prophecy, and in accordance with current astrological omens, I encourage you to compose a comparable tale about your own destiny. Have fun as you visualize in great detail a successful role you will play months or even years from now.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** In 1903, archaeologists digging in a cave in Cheddar Gorge, England found the fossilized remains of "Cheddar Man," a person who had lived there 9,000 years earlier. In 1997, DNA tests revealed that a teacher named Adrian Targett, who was living a half-mile from the cave, was a direct descendant of Cheddar Man. I propose that we invoke this scenario to serve as a metaphor for you in the coming months. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, your ancestors are likely to play a bigger role in your life than usual. Connections between you and them will be more vivid and influential and worthy of your meditations.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** According to the film "Amadeus," composers Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) and Antonio Salieri (1750-1825) were adversaries who disliked and undermined each other. But there's evidence that this was not entirely true. In fact, they collaborated on creating a cantata that was performed by Nancy Storaice, a famous singer they both admired. It's unlikely they would have cooperated in such a way unless they had a working relationship. I suspect that a comparable correction is due in your world, Leo. It's time to dissolve a misunderstanding or restore a lost truth or fix an old story that got some of the facts wrong.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** The coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to ask for help and seek support. I urge you to be forthright in doing so! Resources that have been inaccessible before may be more available now. I suspect you will be able to capitalize on the luck and skill of allies who have benefited from your favors in the past. Their successes could bring you blessings and their breakthroughs should inspire you to instigate breakthroughs in your own life. Be straightforward. Ask them to lend their influence in your behalf.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** In the 1970s, an Englishman named Stephen Pile founded the Not Terribly Good Club. It was designed to be a gathering place for mediocre people whose lives were marked by inadequacy and incompetence.

To organize his thoughts about the club's themes, Pile eventually published a book entitled "The Book of Heroic Failures". Unfortunately, it sold so many copies that he got expelled from his own club. He had become too successful! I suspect that in the coming months, you may have an experience akin to his. The odds are good that you'll find interesting success in an area of your life where you have previously been just average.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** "At every crossroad, be prepared to bump into wonder," wrote Scorpio poet James Broughton. I believe that's stirring advice for you to keep in mind during the coming weeks. Broughton's words inspired me to come up with a corollary for you to heed, as well: "At every turning point, be ready to stumble into an opportunity disguised as a problem." I've got one more clue for you. Last night in my dream, my Scorpio poetry teacher offered a thought that's well-suited for you right now: "Whenever you want to take a magic twisty leap into the big fresh future, be willing to engage in one last wrestling match with the past."

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Actor Gary Busey is quirky and kooky, but his peculiar rants sometimes make good sense. Here's one that I suspect might be useful for you to consider during the next two weeks: "It's good for everyone to understand that they are to love their enemies, simply because your enemies show you things about yourself you need to change. So in actuality enemies are friends in reverse." I don't mean to imply that your adversaries and nemeses are totally accurate in their critiques of you. But there may be a thing or two you can learn from them right now that would truly improve your life.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Musician John Coltrane described one of his life goals as follows: "There are forces out here that bring suffering to others and misery to the world," he said. "But I want to be the opposite force. I want to be the force which is truly for good." Even if that's not an intention at the core of your long-term plans, Capricorn, I recommend you consider adopting it during the next few weeks. Being a vigorous and rigorous force for good will be especially needed by the people with whom you associate—and will also result in you attracting interesting benefits.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Known as "the bad boy of bridge," Aquarian-born Geir Helgemo is a champion in the card game of bridge. At times he has been the top-rated player among Open World Grand Masters. But in 2019, he was suspended from the World Bridge Federation for a year because he tested positive for taking testosterone supplements that are banned. Why did he do it? He hasn't said. There is some scientific research suggesting that testosterone may boost cognitive function, but other evidence says it doesn't. I'd like to use Helgemo's foolishness as a teaching story for your use, Aquarius. According to my astrological analysis, you're approaching the peak of your competence and confidence. There's no need for you to cheat or sneak or misbehave in a misplaced effort to seek an even greater advantage. In fact, righteous integrity will enhance your intelligence.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** "I might really have gone round the bend," confessed Botswana author Bessie Head. "I mean people who get visions and see a gigantic light descend on them from the sky can't be all there, but if so I feel mighty happy. If one is happy and cracked it's much better than being unhappy and sane." Although I don't expect your state of mind in the coming weeks will be as extreme as Bessie Head's, Pisces, I do suspect it will have resemblances to her dreamy cheerfulness. If I had to give a title to this upcoming phase, it might be "Wise Folly." And yes, I do think your "craziness" will generate useful insights and fertile revelations.

Go to [RealAstrology.com](http://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.

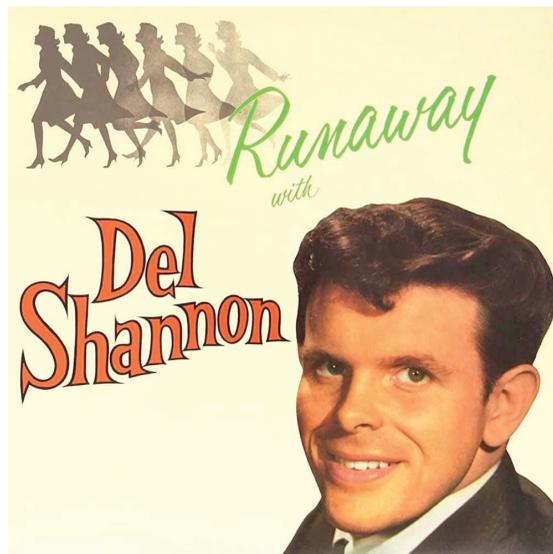
# TURN IT DOWN!

BY RICH TUPICA

## DEL SHANNON AND THE IMPORTANCE OF DIGGING BACK



The original 45 rpm single of "Runaway," issued by Bigtop Records.



The debut LP, "Runaway with Del Shannon" (1961).



Later-era Del Shannon, 1968's "The Further Adventures of Charles Westover" LP.

### How the lost art of oldies radio neglects some of the best records ever

Growing up as an '80s child, I was able to catch the tail end of the heyday of oldies radio — something local airwaves abandoned years ago. Sure, there are still plenty of "classic rock" stations that play the same small batch of songs by a select few '70s and '80s bands, but long forgotten are the hits of 1950s and early-'60s. Narrow-minded radio program managers basically refuse to dig past Black Sabbath these days. Luckily, streaming services and satellite radio stations are somewhat filling that void for them. But I still hope that FM someday realizes what they're snubbing: some of the best records ever made.

Why do I care? Because the power of radio, at one time in my life, indeed had a major effect on me. Riding in the backseat of my parent's car, some 30-odd years ago, was a pivotal time for me as a child. Luckily, my father often tuned into the local oldies station that played everything from Elvis Presley and Aretha Franklin to Smokey Robinson and The Turtles. Hearing those songs at an early age not only shaped my taste, but encouraged me to dig back and value albums released long before I was born.

That curiosity about the history of recorded music never left me. Eventually, it led me to writing up several detailed histories of the '60s and '70s Lansing music scenes for City Pulse. In short, it shaped my life — for better or worse.

Thinking back, one of the key artists I heard on oldies radio, back in '86 when I was five years old, was the late Del Shannon. Oddly, I can still remember the very first time I heard his 1961 No.1 hit

song "Runaway" crackle through the speakers during a nighttime drive through the dark country roads of Mid-Michigan. From the opening chords, strummed so ethereally by Del, it was almost unnerving to my young ears. It was the first time a song seemed unsettling to me, yet I still loved it.

Knowing what I know now, it impacted me because "Runaway" had all the components of a perfect rock 'n' roll song. Del was eerily, painfully singing about misery and confusion. The keyboard was both haunting and captivating. That 2:20 seconds altered my mood in a way that no song had done before. It wasn't a happy tune or a typical sad ballad. It was both sonically and lyrically confusing.

Much like real life, the overall mood of the song is complex, and that's why I still love it today. For me, a good song comes from an authentic place. It can be abstract and bizarre. It can be polished and perfect, but it has to be honest. Like the old saying says, a good song has "three chords and the truth." Del Shannon was a master of that craft.

For years, I didn't realize that Del (real name Charles Westover) grew up not far from my hometown. During his pre-fame days, he lived in both Coopersville and Battle Creek. On a whim, he and his keyboardist Max Crook wrote "Runaway" while on stage at a small venue in Battle Creek. Within months, he drove to New York City, recorded the song and became a celebrity overnight. After that, he spent time living in the Detroit area and went to write other hits like "Hats Off to Larry," "Little Town Flirt," "Keep Searchin'" and "Stranger in Town," to

only name a few. In 1965, he also wrote a remarkable Top 10 single, "I Go to Pieces," for Peter & Gordon.

As a teen, I knew all of these hits thanks to a "Golden Hits" CD, but years later, I dug deeper into his catalog. There, I found two late-'60s era Del Shannon LPs that never received any airplay, ever. His "Home and Away" (1967) and "The Further Adventures of Charles Westover" (1968) albums were both issued a few years after his peak. Both are criminally overlooked. Sure, I still

love "Runaway," but hearing Del Shannon recordings from later in his career, when he was dabbling in psychedelic sounds and experimenting lyrically are my go-to Del tracks nowadays. It was a long road finding those semi-obscure albums, but I'm sure glad I found them. They are two of my most favorite LPs of all time. And, I have oldies radio (R.I.P.) to thank for that initial introduction to his long, brilliant catalog. Keep digging, friends. Your new favorite song is out there.

#### ABANDONED VEHICLE SALE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN

Sealed bids marked **S/21/037, ABANDONED VEHICLES** will be accepted at the City of Lansing Purchasing Office, 124 W Michigan Ave 8th floor, Lansing MI 48933 until but no later than, **1:00 PM, local time in effect WED. DEC 9, 2020.**

Questions regarding this sale may be directed to Shannon Tracy Buyer, at (517) 483-4128 or email: shannon.tracy@lansingmi.gov. 30 DAY NOTICE

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SWIFT TOWING, 2347 N CEDAR HOLT MI	9:30 AM
PJ'S , 1425 RENSEN, LANSING MI	10:00 AM
NORTHSIDE TOWING, 226 RUSSELL, LANSING, MI 48906	10:45 AM
H&H MOBILE TOWING, 1500 HASLETT ROAD EAST LANSING, MI 48823	11:30 AM

#### ABANDONED VEHICLE SALE DEC 9, 2020

NORTHSIDE TOWING		PJ'S TOWING	
YEAR	MAKE	YEAR	MAKE
2011	BUICK	2018	OTHER
2010	BUICK	2005	SATURN
2010	CHEVROLET	2004	MERCEDES
2011	DODGE	2002	TOYOTA
2012	FORD	2017	OTHER
2016	MAZDA	2001	JAGUAR
2016	FORD	1996	CHEVROLET
2017	NISSAN	2011	KIA
2012	CADILLAC		
2011	CHEVROLET		
2015	DODGE		

CP#20-274

# OUT ON THE TOWN

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

## Wednesday, November 4

**Allen Farmers Market** - 2:30-6 p.m. in atrium of Hot Water Works and outside. 2100 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

**Open Call:** Virtual Community Sculpture - 7-8 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab broadmuseum.msu.edu/artlab

**Dealing with Debt & Saving for the Future** - online. Taught by a HUD certified Housing Counselor. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Capital Area Housing Partnership. us02web.zoom.us.

**Music for Social Justice:** Randy Napoleon, jazz guitar - Video interview and performance. 11 a.m. MSU College of Music. music.msu.edu.

**Special Collections Look Club:** Food - Our theme this week is Food! 2-2:45 p.m. MSU Libraries, East Lansing. bookings.lib.msu.edu.

## Thursday, November 5

**Capital Area Audubon Society meeting** - Social meeting followed by "Birds of Belize" 7-9 p.m. For link: capitalareaaudubon.org.

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 6-7 p.m. facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing

**Studio (in)Process at Home** 9-10 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. broad.msu.edu

## Friday, November 6

**Marion Hayden, bass, with MSU Jazz Octets** - Video presentation, 8 p.m. For link, music.msu.edu.

**National Diabetes Prevention Program** - preventing type 2 diabetes. canr.msu.edu for link

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 7:30-8:30 p.m. facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing

**Snow White/Princess and the Pea** - Join us for our first ever virtual production! 7 p.m. All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre, 819 Abbot Rd, East Lansing. facebook.com/allofuexpress/

## Saturday, November 7

**Bulk Cider Day** - Cider enthusiasts, it's that time of year to start your next fermentation project! 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Uncle John's Cider Mill, 8614 North US 127, Saint Johns. ujcidermill.com.

**Printmaking Workshop:** Block Printed Totes. 1-4 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 7:30-8:30 p.m. facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing

**Take Out Dinner** - Curbside sauerkraut dinner. 4:30-6:30 p.m. Lansing Liederkrantz Club, 5828 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-882-6330.

**Virtual Home Buyer Education** - Capital Area Housing Partnership's Home Buyer workshop 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Capital Area Housing Partnership, 517-332-4663. us02web.zoom.us.

## Sunday, November 8

**Bulk Cider Day** - Start your next fermentation project! 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Uncle John's Cider Mill, 8614 N. US 127, St. Johns. ujcidermill.com.

**Industry Night** - Stop by from 12pm-9pm and cash in on your hard work! Ellison Brewery + Spirits, 4903 Dawn Ave, East Lansing.

## Monday, November 9

**Our Savior Lutheran: Digital Trends with Protect Young Eyes** - We show parents how to protect kids in the digital age. 6-8 p.m. Our Savior Lutheran Church & School, 7910 E St Joe, Lansing. oursaviorlansing.org

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 6-7 p.m. facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing

## Tuesday, November 10

**People's Law School** - 7-8 p.m. Virtual - Zoom. 616-238-7249. sinasdramis.com for link.

**Transmilitary (online film screening)** - In commemoration of Veteran's Day. 7-9 p.m. Link at: bookings.lib.msu.edu.

**Virtual Science on a Sphere: Dwarf Lake Iris** - Learn about Michigan's state wildflower and how it's affected by the water cycle of the Great Lakes! 10-11 a.m. museum.msu.edu

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**SUDOKU SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 22

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**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 22

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# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### Pop-up café whips up gourmet health-conscious food

By SKYLER ASHLEY

Abundance Café, a locally owned pop-up café, is returning to the Old Town Marquee to serve up delicious home-cooked meals that are also highly health-conscious. Through November

#### Abundance Café

Through November & December  
Wednesday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Old Town Marquee  
319 Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing  
(517) 974-9102  
Facebook.com/nourishmentforyourmindbodyandsoul

and December, Abundance Café will be set up each Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Regular COVID-19 safety measures including masks and social distancing

will be required.

Erin Meadows began Abundance Café as a way to bring gourmet healthy food for people with dietary restrictions to Lansing. She makes it a point to have unique recipes that aren't commonly found across town, and she sources all of her ingredients as locally as she possibly can.

"I make healthy, made from scratch food using local ingredients whenever possible. I don't use any preservatives or artificial anything," Meadows said. "I also specialize in providing a lot of vegan and gluten-free options."

Meadows knows what its like to have a restrictive diet. She abstains from dairy, beef, pork and soy. She wanted her own restaurant to be a safe haven for selective eaters. "When I go out to eat, I have a hard time finding things I can actually eat. So, I know the dilemma, and that's part of the reason why I started this business," Meadows said. "People can come here, eat and feel good without compromising their health."

This week's series of cafés features butternut squash soup, white bean chicken chili, divine vegan lentil soup, apple basil chicken salad, vegan Mediterranean salad, maple Dijon coleslaw with toasted pecans, salmon dill salad, vegan black bean burgers with quinoa and sweet potatoes, chicken salad sandwiches and stuffed acorn squash. Side dishes include rolls, popcorn and deviled eggs. On Saturdays, you can purchase croissants and muffins from Stone Circle Bakehouse and gluten-free treats from Gluten-Free Rox. Some other local goods available at Abundance Café include Apple Blossom kombucha, Rust Belt Roastery coffee, hot sauce from Grand Traverse Sauce Co. and tea from Divine Lotus Tearoom & Spa.



Courtesy

Abundance Café founder Erin Meadows.

Meadows believes that good food is an important component of being in a good mood. If you eat healthy, you'll feel all the better for it. "If I do go out and eat fast food, it will make me feel kind of crappy. A lot of people eat that stuff so regularly it doesn't occur to them. But it's important to eat healthy in order to feel good and have a good

energy level," Meadows said.

She hinted that if Abundance Café pops off and receives especially high demand, she might have a special encore series of pop-ups in January.

"If things go well, we might go into January. But for now, we're taking it slow with just two months to get started," Meadows said.

### Baked chiles rellenos

By ARI LeVAUX

Chiles rellenos harnesses the glorious combination of chile and cheese, an unstoppable culinary force if there ever was one. Consider the pizzaz that chile flakes add to pizza, or the pungent spice a green chile adds to a cheeseburger, or the beer absorbent qualities of a jalapeno popper, itself a miniature, simplified version of a chile relleno.

An ornery pepper, spicy and pungent, will soften in the creamy embrace of the cheese, and each will taste more vivid in the presence of the other. A chile relleno builds on this combination, and wraps it in stiffened egg coating.

Once, when I was a restaurant critic in Albuquerque, I made the mis-



take of referring to the exterior of a chile relleno as a "batter," in a review of Dahlia's Central Mexican Cuisine. When the owner threatened to sue my newspaper, *The Weekly Alibi*, her list of grievances included the assertion that the coating on her chile relleno was a meringue, rather than a mere batter. She wasn't wrong. (But I stood, and stand, by what I said about her *albondigas*.)

Most people know chiles rellenos as an option on a Mexican combo plate,



Courtesy

Ari LeVaux's baked chiles rellenos.

but it's a lot more interesting as a main dish, served with a simple, fresh tomato sauce, which adds an acidic layer to the complex flavor. Yet with so much going for it, I think the standard restaurant version underachieves,

weighted down unnecessarily by the grease absorbed by the deep-fried spongy meringue. I reviewed them according to local standards and kept my true feelings to myself, but I never stopped comparing them to my first chiles rellenos, which I experienced on a farm in the Idaho panhandle.

Up there on Killarney Farm, chiles rellenos were a celebration of the twin seasons of chile and tomato. But instead of serving a chile relleno on a puddle of tomato sauce in the traditional style, Ellen Scriven would pour the stiff egg mixture over a cast iron pan full of roasted chiles and tomatoes, and bake the pan in the wood-

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fired cookstove, using only a fraction of the grease.

Roasting the green chile — be they jalapeno, Anaheim, New Mexico chile, poblano or another — is not only the first step in chiles rellenos, but an important life skill. The roasting can happen on a grill, under a broiler, on a stovetop or even in a toaster oven. Since I use the oven to cook my chiles rellenos, I use it to roast the chiles too.

## Baked Chiles Rellenos, Northern Idaho-Style

Instead of the traditional tomato sauce, we roast the tomatoes along with the chile, and bake them with the cheese-stuffed chile in the stiff egg mixture. Serves two.

4 large chiles

2 eggs, separated

2 tablespoons flour

3 ounces cheese, grated (Monterrey Jack, orange cheese, Mexican queso fresco, cotija, quesadilla or asadero)

2 tablespoons oil

1 medium tomato, sliced, or a handful of whole cherry tomatoes (about 4-ounces), each one pierced so they'll collapse

1/2 medium onion, sliced (about 4 ounces)

1/4 teaspoon each of salt and pepper  
Salsa

Place the chiles about 5 inches under the broiler, on a cookie sheet or the oven grate. About eight minutes

in, you should be able to detect the odor of burning chile peels, a smell as seductive as that of baking bread. Turn them over and roast for about five minutes. Turn and roast the chile on a third side for four final minutes. You want the chile cooked all around, even if every square inch isn't blistered.

Transfer the chiles to a container with a lid, and leave them for 15 minutes to "sweat," a process that loosens the peels.

Meanwhile, separate the eggs and beat the whites stiff. Gently fold in the unbroken yolks (if you beat the yolks they will stick to the mixing bowl), and two teaspoons of flour.

When the chiles are cool enough to handle, gently peel them, pinching the peel here and there to help pull it away from the cooked chile flesh. If a chile falls apart, salvage as much cooked chile flesh as you can. My baked style is a lot more forgiving than the traditional greasy relleno.

Make two perpendicular slits near the top of the chile, like a "T," and carefully scoop out the seeds and membranes. Sprinkle the chiles with the rest of the flour, rolling them carefully around the plate to mop up all the flour, inside and out. For the fallen apart chiles, just put them back together as best you can after coating in flour. Stuff them with cheese and reconstruct as tightly as possible.

Mix the onions and tomatoes with the oil, salt and pepper and add this mixture to a cast iron skillet or heavy baking dish. Broil until they start to blacken on top. Then turn the oven to 400 degrees on bake.

Remove the pan from the oven and push the sizzling veggies toward the perimeter, leaving a space in the middle for the stuffed chiles. Spoon the meringue over the peppers, judiciously but completely, reserving some for your artful piles of tomato and onions.

Place in the oven with the light on, and watch it like a hawk. When the eggs have the first hint of brown — about eight minutes — remove from the oven. Serve with salsa.

*Flash in the Pan is food writer Ari LeVaux's weekly recipe column. It runs in about 100 newspapers nationwide, nourishing food sections large and small with complete protein for the belly brain.*

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