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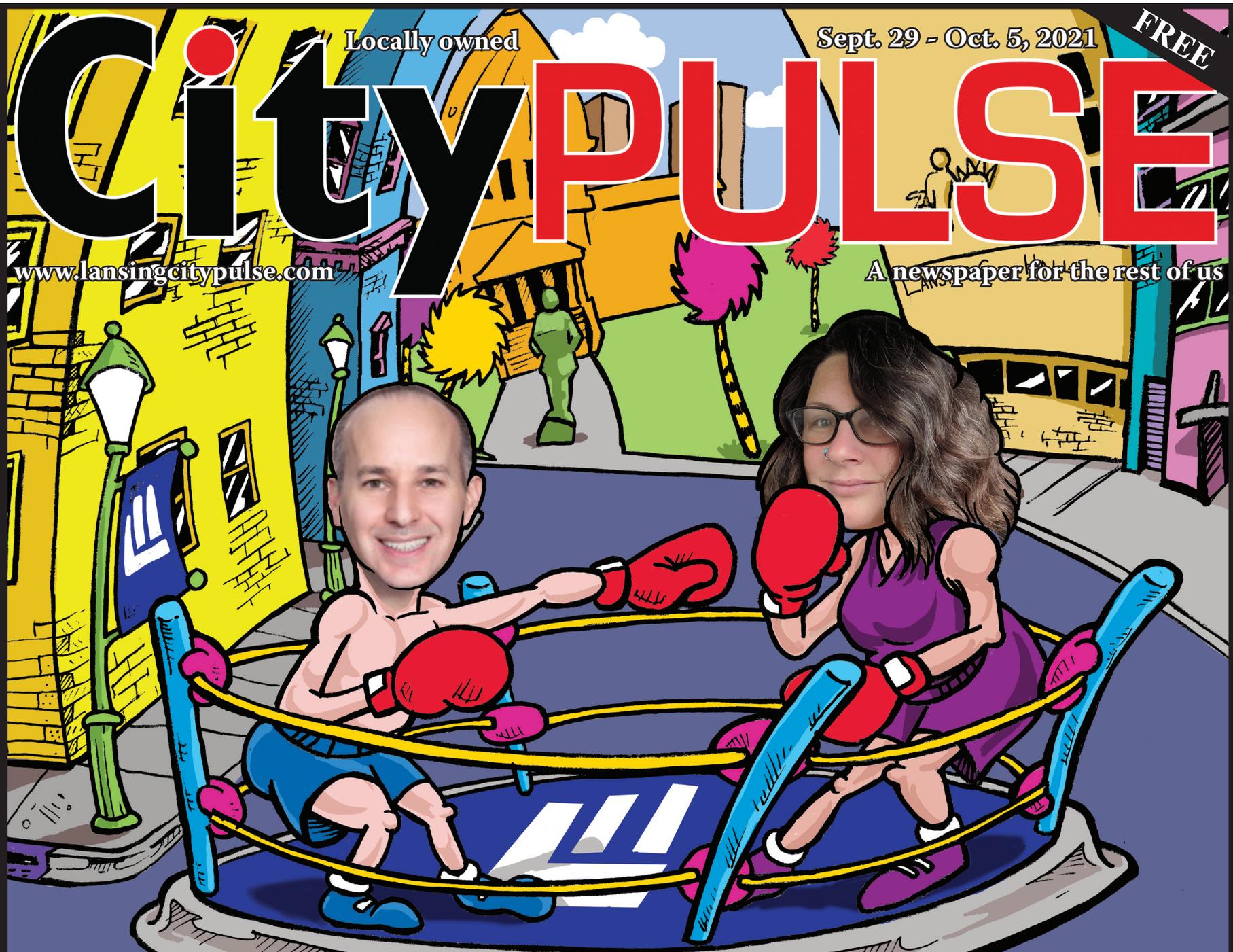
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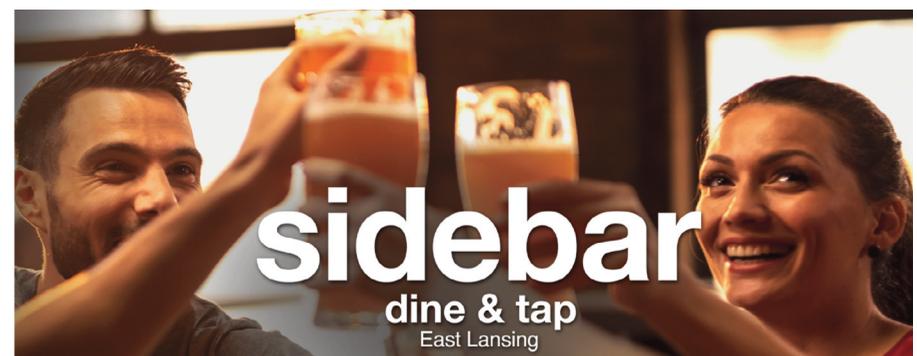


Schor vs. Dunbar

A blow-by-blow guide to Lansing's general election

See page 5

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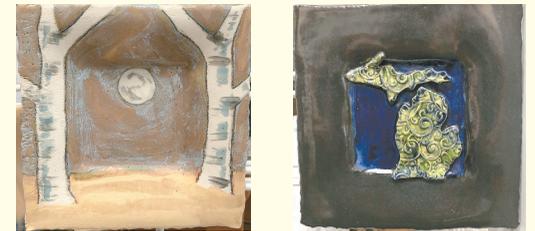


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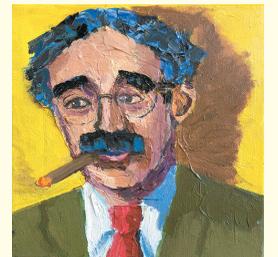
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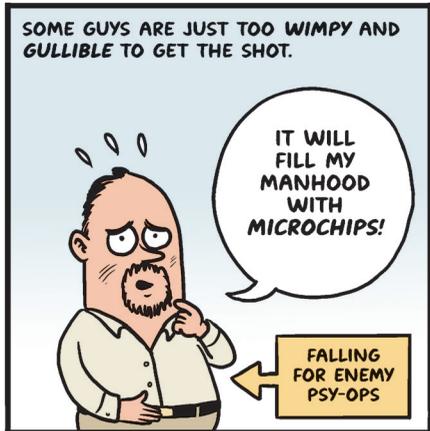
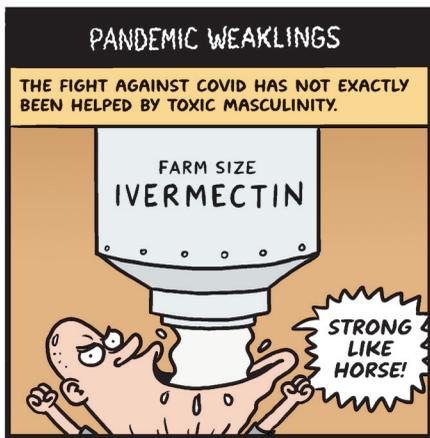
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CityPULSE

**VOL. 22
ISSUE 8**

(517) 371-5600 • Fax: (517) 999-6061 • 1905 E. Michigan Ave. • Lansing, MI 48912 • www.lansingcitypulse.com



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Get ready for a weeklong celebration of local businesses



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New in Town: Love Your Selfie



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The last summer tomatoes can be used in this Indian dish



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Illustration by Nevin Speerbrecker

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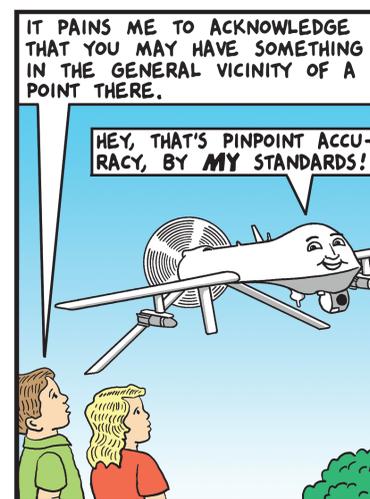
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by TOM TOMORROW



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PULSE NEWS & OPINION

THE ELECTION GUIDE

VOTE ABSENTEE THROUGH NOV. 2 or HEAD TO THE POLLS ON NOV. 2

ELEVEN CANDIDATES ENTER HEAVYWEIGHT MATCHUP FOR LANSING CITY HALL

By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

Six challengers. Five incumbents. Only five will survive November.

Next month, Lansing voters will decide whether Mayor Andy Schor will keep his mayoral sash for the next four years or if Councilwoman Kathie Dunbar will go on to become

ANALYSIS

the 53rd mayor of Lansing — and the first woman and openly bisexual person to hold the office.

City Councilman Peter Spadafore is running for another four-year term for one of two at-large Council seats alongside Rachel Willis, Jeffrey Brown and Claretta Duckett-Freeman. Council members Jeremy Garza and Brian Jackson are also vying for a second

term against two political newcomers: Oprah Revish in the Second Ward and Elvin Caldwell in the Fourth Ward.

Only one candidate for office in Lansing is running unopposed: City Clerk Chris Swope, who is seeking his fifth term.

Absentee ballots have already started to hit mailboxes across Lansing. Walk-in early voting is available 8 a.m. to 5

p.m. weekdays at City Hall. You can also vote at 2500 S. Washington St. through Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 2. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 30; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 31 and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 1.

Round One — Lansing Mayor

Kathie Dunbar vs. Andy Schor

Schor, 46, was elected to his first term as the 52nd mayor of Lansing in 2017 after having served five years in the Michigan House of Representatives and a decade on the Ingham County Board of Commissioners. He has a bachelor's degree in political science and history from University of Michigan. He has lived in the city with his wife, Erin, for more than 20 years. He also serves on executive boards for the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Capital Area United Way, Lansing Promise, Accelerator of America and the state's Manufactured Housing Commission.

Dunbar, 52, is the director and founder of the South Lansing Community Development Association, which runs the South Lansing Farmers Market. Her fourth term on the Council, ends this year; her decision to run for mayor forced her to forgo seeking reelection. Dunbar is also chairwoman of the Council's Committee on City Operations.



Schor



Dunbar

Weighing heavily on the race are the typical bread-and-butter issues of most city elections, public safety, crime reduction, economic development, affordable housing, protecting the environment, repairing sidewalks and, of course, fixing those damn roads.

Both Schor and Dunbar have voiced plans that lead to many of those same goals for Lansing, albeit with differing playbooks on how to get the job done. Perhaps more than a vote on any particular issue, however, next month's election is more of a referendum on the sitting mayor.

The question for voters: Has Schor's record earned him another four years?

Schor, of course, thinks the answer is clear. And that's evidenced by the veritable war chest of campaign contributions and the mountain of political endorsements his campaign has collected.

Schor outraised Dunbar by nearly \$300,000 and still had \$232,000 in the bank this month. City Pulse cannot afford the ink to print his full list of supporters, but they include former Mayor Tony Benavides, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, U.S. Sen. Gary Peters, State Rep. Sarah Anthony, nearly a dozen labor unions, the Greater Lansing Labor Council, dozens of small business owners and neighborhood leaders, multiple members of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce's PAC

and many other political powerbrokers.

Even former Schor critics — like City Councilman Brandon Betz — now stand in his corner.

"I feel great. The campaign is doing everything it needs to do and leaving everything out on the field," Schor said. "The reception is fantastic, and you can also see that with the endorsements."

Schor cast a wide net of priorities for the next four years, including reducing crime (in part) by hiring more police as quickly as possible, securing more funding for road and sidewalk repairs, incentivizing continued economic development and supporting more local small businesses.

And he's standing on his track record to convince voters that he could use another term.

Schor touted more than \$1.5 billion in economic investment in the city since he took office — including the opening of the highly anticipated Capital City Market grocery store on Michigan Avenue and several new housing projects "for all income levels." Schor also said he's committed to bolstering community programs that can help prevent kids from getting involved with crime, securing more grant funding for small businesses and enhancing racial equity. And he appears to be on track to delivering some semblance of a performing arts center, a goal that has eluded his predecessors going back to David

Hollister, who left office 18 years ago.

"I came into this office as a new mayor, with a vision for the city and the leadership style to work with others and get things done. While there have been many challenges during my tenure, my team and I have tackled them head-on to do what is best for our community and proven that we have what it takes to help Lansing grow for another four years," Schor told City Pulse.

Dunbar, however, is risking her Council seat to push a different narrative and different solutions. For her, the last four years under Schor have been marred by the highest homicide rates in decades, multiple lawsuits that allege discrimination at City Hall, cops who disproportionately target, search and arrest Black people — and a general lack of desire to bring about change.

She has a firm answer to whether she thinks Schor deserves another term: "Absolutely not."

"I think transparency matters. Accountability matters. Compassion matters. Those are all key components that are missing in the leadership of this city right now," Dunbar told City Pulse. "Even if our goals are the same, the way that we'll get there is very different. We all want public safety and an economically thriving community, but Andy Schor is reactionary. He doesn't lead."

THE ELECTION GUIDE

Round one

from page 5

Morale at City Hall is shit. There's no vision or direction. That's the big difference between us."

Dunbar has emerged as a leading (and vocal) opponent to the Schor administration over the last year — even more so after she announced plans to block him from a second term in April. She said her campaign is about giving a stronger platform to "disenfranchised" voices in the city, including Black and brown residents who have faced a culture of discriminatory retaliation under Schor's leadership, she explained. She has also slammed the mayor for a lack of financial oversight and lack of meaningful progress on bridging a widening racial divide within the city.

Among her specific priorities for the next four years: curb a record-high level of gun violence by "reconsidering" how police resources are allocated, explore ways to encourage developers to build more affordable housing across the city and show some more "human emotion."

"We need someone who can show some empathy and feel some emotion," Dunbar explained.

"We're just not seeing that. How much contact does Andy Schor have with average folks in Lansing that aren't scripted as part of a public relations stunt or ribbon cutting ceremony? When is he actually communing with folks? When is he listening to the needs of average residents?"

In the wake of unrest after the murder of George Floyd, Schor launched an advisory alliance designed to craft recommendations for a more equitable future for public safety in Lansing. He also cobbled together a task force last month to help address rising levels of gun violence.

That work has since led to the reopening of at least two community centers, as well as a deluge of city funds budgeted to proactively curb gun violence — \$180,000 for youth programs, \$240,000 for a gun violence prevention initiative called Advance Peace, \$75,000 to help solve cold cases, \$1 million for cameras and plans to hire a dozen more cops as quickly as possible.

Many of those plans are still in the works. Dunbar said only a few of them have paid dividends.

"Crime is certainly an issue at the top of mind for a lot of folks, whether that's speeders or gunshots or homicides. We're certainly working through our plan there," Schor explained.

But despite Schor's "best efforts," as he labeled them, his administration has still faced an onslaught of criticism from several Black institutions in Lansing. Leaders of the local Black Lives Matter and NAACP chapters have also denounced his leadership or called for his resignation.

Those complaints have also boiled into several lawsuits from current and former city staffers, as well as ongoing civil litigation from the family of Anthony Hulon, an inmate who the medical examiner said was killed last April by officers in the Police Department lockup. Among Hulon's last words: "I can't breathe."

Despite a medical examiner's report that clearly listed Hulon's cause of death as homicide due to positional asphyxia, Schor said last week that the four officers who had pinned Hulon to the ground last year were "not responsible" for his death. And they are back on the job.

"There was a death in the lockup," Schor said. "There was not an inmate killed by police officers. There was an inmate that died. There is nothing that actually said officers killed him."

He added: "It's my understanding that he died of a medical condition. That's what I know."

Dunbar had a pointed response to Schor's latest assessment on Hulon's death: "Fuck that."

"He was killed by positional asphyxia caused by four officers putting him on his stomach while he was in handcuffs," she added. "You don't have to have intent to kill someone. I watched the video. His hands were cuffed. He did not pose a threat. They all could've just walked away."

Attorney General Dana Nessel found that the officers were not criminally liable for Hulon's death, as they acted within the bounds of reasonable policies and procedures. An internal review also found that officers acted appropriately, though it still recommended policy changes.

Dunbar added: "We're going to be settling lawsuits. They're going to cost us a lot of money. And when I say us, I mean you and me — the taxpayers. These aren't going to go away. They have merit. Some of these folks would've taken

a policy change but they were ignored. The mayor let it get worse. He delayed the process of remedying the situation and forced them to work in an environment that is really hostile and retaliatory until they have no choice but to sue the city."

Schor couldn't cite any internal Police Department policies that were changed in response to Hulon's death. He also couldn't cite any procedural changes in response to officers deploying tear gas without warning at a massive demonstration that turned violent downtown last May.

"It's an empathy issue," Dunbar said. "You don't have to say the officers were negligent. If the officers were acting in accordance with their policies, you can still be a human and recognize that it's sad that people were tear gassed or that it's tragic that someone died in their jail cell."

Dunbar has stopped short of publicly calling for Schor's resignation, but drafted a resolution last June in collaboration with Black Lives Matter that sought a 50% reduction to the police budget. She also argued that Schor's administration hasn't done enough to simultaneously stop gun violence, curb police discrimination and provide support for families of murder victims. Her first campaign "press conference" last week featured several mothers of those killed in recent shootings. The overarching sentiment: Schor isn't doing enough to keep Lansing safe.

"I think the biggest thing is acknowledging that there is a problem," Dunbar said. "There's no acknowledgement. These mothers who lost their children to gun violence want to know that there's somebody in power who is listening to them. They want a mayor who cares about their kids. There's nothing of substance, and he has had four years to do something before now."

Schor responded: "I have absolutely recognized that we have issues in our city. I also recognize that some people feel there has been racism in Lansing for many years. There are certainly a few people who have been to my house protesting with guns outside. I don't like those tactics and they don't like me — and that's OK. I'm still working with many, many leaders in the Black community. There are some people who will just never want to work with me and that's OK."

Last month, Dunbar's plan for public safety included true divestment from the Lansing Police Department — that is, actually reducing the amount of money in its budget and reallocating that cash to other, more proactive social services and nonprofit organizations

throughout the city.

That particular political stance was the subject of the first mudslinging mayoral mailers to hit local mailboxes this month, which declared "Dunbar wants to slash the police budget and fire police officers!" Schor said his campaign was not aware or involved in the distribution of those materials, which have a paid-for line from the dark money "Michigan Deserves Better" account.

Those mailers also included Dunbar's personal cell phone number and have led to an outpouring of angry phone calls from residents who want more cash for cops, she said. But most of those callers may be disappointed. Dunbar has changed her tune on divestment.

Faced with a recent report that showed as few as 10 cops on the street at any given night, Dunbar said her latest public safety plan actually includes the possibility of more police funding, particularly to help hire more detectives and road patrol officers to crack down on speeding.

And that's a major turnabout from her hardline stance on budget reductions voiced last year.

"I don't want to even talk about adding funding or removing funding," Dunbar said. "That puts the onus of public safety on the amount of money spent. It's actually about how everything is deployed. It's about examining how our resources are used. I don't know exactly what I would do with the police budget. There would definitely be more funding for training but it wouldn't be bullshit training. We would need to decide things that have the greatest return on investment."

So, what are the real differences between Schor and Dunbar? It's as much about style as issues.

"Even if our policies and directions were the same — and I don't think they are — we're both Democrats. We both stand on generally the same platform," Dunbar said. "Our method of governance is different. I do not and would not govern the way he governs. He's reactive and defensive. For me, it's more about recognizing mistakes and separating intent from impact."

Schor said voters won't need to look further than his track record to make an informed decision.

Dunbar led the way on amending the human rights ordinance to protect members of the LGBTQ+ community, worked for easier access to marijuana when the city was establishing regulations and also fought hard to declare Lansing a sanctuary city for immigrants in 2017.

THE ELECTION GUIDE

Round Two —

Lansing City Council at-large

By KYLE KAMINSKI

**Jeffrey Brown vs.
Clareta Duckett-Freeman vs.
Peter Spadafore vs.
Rachel Willis**

Top two vote-getters will fill two seats.

Spadafore, 36, was elected to the Council in 2017 and has twice been unanimously president elected by his colleagues. He was president of the Board of Education at the Lansing School District. He is a graduate of Michigan State University, where he studied social relations and policy. He is a lobbyist and deputy executive director for the Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators.



Spadafore

Willis, 33, is the vice president (and past president) of the board at the Lansing School District and director of the East Lansing branch of Bethany Christian Services. She has a master's degree in social work from Michigan State University. She is a division director for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Services Agency.



Willis

Brown, 37, serves on the executive committee of the Ingham County Community Health Centers and the city's Human Relations and Community Services Advisory Board. He has several college degrees — including a doctorate in Ministry Christian Leadership from Kingdom University



Brown

International Bible College. Brown is also a public speaker and author, with a stated focus on vocational rehabilitation, transitional housing, residential long-term care, life skills management, community living supports, youth and self-employment and job readiness.

Duckett-Freeman, 39, has lived in Lansing for 16 years with her husband and five children. She has degrees in education and political science from Michigan State University and has served as a combat medic in the U.S. Army Reserves. Duckett-Freeman is a board member at the Willow Tree Family Center and the state Board of Licensed Midwifery and was the first Black certified lactation counselor in Lansing. In addition to volunteering for churches and several other neighborhood organizations, she's also pursuing a career as a firefighter-EMT.



Duckett-Freeman

With Kathie Dunbar's departure from the City Council at the end of the year because of her mayoral bid, at least one fresh face is guaranteed to take the dais at City Hall next year. The odds are whoever that is will serve alongside Spadafore.

Along with the advantage of incumbency, Spadafore carried a five-figure fundraising edge over the competition throughout this election cycle and gathered endorsements from nearly as many political power brokers as Mayor Andy Schor, including the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce and several labor unions.

His moderate approach hasn't ruffled many feathers at City Hall. And Spadafore thinks he's best suited for the job because, well, he's already been doing it for the last four years, he explained.

"I've spent the last four years learning on the job, navigating the Council through COVID-19 as the president for the last two years, and the last 10 years in public service roles, earning the respect of my colleagues in leadership roles," Spadafore said. "I'm proud of my work."

His biggest accomplishments? Passing three balanced city budgets that simultaneously invested in public services, public safety and economic development while also promoting expanding affordable housing stock in the city, Spadafore said in response to a questionnaire.

Spadafore was also a leading advocate for the boozy social districts that opened this summer.

Just don't expect him to rock the boat over the next four years. His top priorities, while essential for effectively running a municipality like Lansing, are just about as down-the-middle as it gets: Quality of life improvements, more opportunity for all and investments in the local economy.

"We all care about the basics: good roads, clean water, nice streets and parks. I am committed to making sure city services measure up to resident expectations, because we all deserve to live in a city we feel proud of," he said. "Economic development can't just be about new hotels and breweries. We need to ensure the opportunity reaches every neighborhood, from clean parks and good quality of life to easy access to services and support for small businesses."

Also on his priority list: "reforming laws that disproportionately affect residents of color must be a part of our multi-pronged efforts toward fostering racial equity," Spadafore told City Pulse.

Willis' experience in public education and dealings with budgets, personnel and policy would likely make her a relatively cohesive partner for Spadafore's moderate agenda next year. Both have been school board presidents. Willis even endorsed Spadafore for Council in 2017.

"I am a social worker who has dedicated my entire life to supporting and protecting children and families," she told City Pulse. "I have experience doing the job as a member of the school board. I know how to govern, pass and manage

large budgets and meet the needs of constituents. Lansing deserves leadership that understands what they are doing, and I can be that person."

Willis said her top priorities for the next four years include supporting businesses that weathered the pandemic while attracting new development, addressing the "divide" between police officers and the public, new placemaking efforts within the city and, quite broadly, "people over politics."

Her agenda for social equity reforms also includes a "thorough review" of racism and disparate outcomes that exist within existing city policies. Lansing has assembled enough committees, she said. It's now time to look at the results of that work and hold people accountable, she said.

"The wellbeing of people and the community should take precedence over any individual political motivations. We need to hear from the community and govern in a way that makes people feel valued and heard," Willis added. "Stable employment opportunities lead to stable health and wellbeing, which lead to stable education, which leads to stable long-term success."

Brown said he has been working to uplift and empower local residents for "several decades." And there's only one reason why he's running for the Council this year: "To ensure that I am in the best position possible to continue this work on behalf of our citizens."

"With all due respect, I have worked harder than any candidate in the at-large race to meet people at their front doors and learn the issues from their perspectives," he told City Pulse. "I have walked away with a keen sense of what the citizens of this city expect from their leaders."

Among Brown's top priorities: build stronger neighborhoods, support small businesses, create more jobs and work to make local government more transparent and accessible. He also cited plans to implement "common-sense policy and investment" to build more housing, enhance local parks, boost community policing efforts and collaborate with Lansing schools.

He added: "We must do a far better job at getting to neighborhood meetings, creating opportunities for constituents to interface with their representatives, and meeting people where they are at so that we can build a stronger, more inclusive Lansing for all."

Brown said that he inadvertently attended (and was photographed at) a pro-Trump fundraiser alongside conservative spitfire Linda Lee Tarver last year.

Round one

from page 6

But aside from saving the city about \$2 million between now and 2038 through a recently reworked lease agreement with the Lugnuts, many of

her most noteworthy achievements are collecting dust.

"The Council can use our position to advocate for things, but I'm not the mayor," Dunbar said. "We don't get these shiny feathers for every ribbon cutting. When people say they haven't seen me as much as the mayor, it's because it's a different job. They aren't

going to see me out there. I don't get invited to ribbon cuttings anymore. That doesn't mean I'm not on the ground talking with people and trying to address their issues every single day. It's just not as visible."

She added: "That's a big driver in why I'm running for this job — to be able to make change."

THE ELECTION GUIDE



Round Three — Lansing City Council 2nd Ward

By KYLE KAMINSKI

Jeremy Garza vs. Oprah Revish

Garza, 45, was elected to represent the city's southern Second Ward in 2017. Born and raised in Lansing, Garza identifies himself as a plumber rather than a politician and has since accumulated a mountain of support from local labor unions. He said his job is to give a voice in city government to "everyday working families" who are far too often overlooked in local politics.



Garza

Revish, 34, has worked in education since 2009 and serves LGBTQ students at Michigan State University and Lansing's LGBTQ community as one of the co-directors for the Salus Center, a gather-



Revish

ing space, information hub and advocacy space for LGBTQ culture.

Garza is running for his second term on the familiar "I'm not a typical politician" platform. But in addition to being a union plumber, he's also the state political lead for the Michigan Pipes Trades Association and carries a hefty list of endorsements from career politicians in Lansing.

Garza is usually in lockstep with Schor's agenda and often advocates for local unions to be involved in the construction of new development projects — something Schor would do anyway. When asked about his most significant accomplishments over the last four years, he cited a "strong track record helping my constituents and providing the service they deserve."

"When it comes to broader city issues, I have been focused on addressing south Lansing's priorities, such as fixing our roads, keeping our neighborhoods safe, improving our parks and helping local workers and small businesses recover from the pandemic," Garza explained.

If elected to another term, the next four years will have a major South Lansing focus, he said. Those priorities include hiring more cops and training them on racial biases and nonviolent conflict resolution, as well as fixing roads and supporting local businesses after the pandemic. As a Latino man, Garza said that he's acutely aware of racial injustices in the legal system and also wants to find ways to bolster diversity among police and hire more trained social workers.

"To do all this, we cannot slash police funding or defund the police. Instead, we will need to spend more money on public safety, so we can invest in much-needed training, as well as offer higher wages to job recruits so we can attract more talented and qualified officers," he said.

Revish — the third member of Dunbar's "crew" alongside Duckett-Freeman — is proudly running on a campaign that seeks to disrupt the status quo at City Hall. She said she differs from Garza in that she's a "voice for everyone," not just the interests of local labor unions.

"His slogan is 'Working for Regular People.' And when you say regular people, that means there are some irregular people who you aren't working for," she said on "Merica 20 to Life."

Revish's top priorities include substantially reducing funding to the Police Department, bringing a community center to southeast Lansing and building more relationships with nonprofit

groups. She also wants to keep a laser focus on streets, sidewalks and parks in the Second Ward.

"Divesting from the police and investing back into our community is vital if we are going to make sustainable change toward racial equity," she said. "I will call for government wide professional development workshops on race, privilege and power. We need a common language and understanding of these issues if we are going to address them. We need to expand our definition of public safety and focus on proactive services that provide resources for residents."

If elected, Revish wants the Council to have more direct conversations about race and the over-policing of Black, brown and indigenous people. She also wants to explore the city's role in possibly expunging all cannabis-related criminal offenses and releasing inmates from prison.

"We have to unlearn bias and stereotypes so we can truly humanize people different from us and I am ready for these hard conversations. I am not interested in keeping things the way they are. We need to get serious about addressing the needs of our most marginalized residents," she said. "We have to do things we have never done before to support our houseless population, be proactive about gun violence, and feed Lansing residents experiencing food insecurity. Voters should vote for me in November because I am ready to work for the change."

Round two

from page 7

He has garnered support from several members of the Council's more traditional bloc, including Carol Wood, Adam Hussain and former Councilwoman Jody Washington. He has also secured endorsements from the chamber of commerce and several local labor unions that represent police officers, building trades, firefighters, realtors, plumbers and pipefitters and other major institutions in Lansing.

Just don't call him a Republican.

In response to several questions about his reported attendance at a Trump fundraiser last year, Brown insisted he's a Democrat who does not support Trump and has no "political relationship" with Tarver. They're just church friends. And Brown only helped her to "coordinate logistics."

"It wasn't until the end of this event did I realize there was Trump informa-

tion at this event," he said. "I was not aware and did not authorize or approve of myself in any pictures soliciting Trump for president. Given what was happening in this country, those images did not and do not reflect who I am and I had them removed. Most people in the black community know one another because the black community has had to stand shoulder to shoulder to resist and fight racism for decades. To think otherwise is to be ignorant of the struggle of the black community."

Brown's game plan to bolster racial equity in Lansing includes "leading by example, listening, observing, problem-solving with diverse groups of stakeholders" and "not only creating equity plans but ensuring that provisions of said plans are implemented" and cemented into policy.

"We need to address inequitable access to services, inequitable support of neighborhoods and at-risk demographics, lack of job growth in certain parts of the city, economic development, and entrepreneurial support in vulnerable communities and inequitable city programming,"

he said.

Duckett-Freeman is the only at-large candidate to have a public endorsement from Dunbar as one of three members of "The Crew" — a political alliance that also includes Oprah Revish.

Announced last month on an episode of "Merica 20 to Life," a local Facebook program focused on the African-American community, the three of them represent an equitable and progressive shift to city government — one designed to focus heavily on the needs of the city's disenfranchised residents, Duckett-Freeman said. And since none of them have the advantage of incumbency, they also represent the underdogs of the general election.

"I'm the best candidate because I'm able to relate to people from different walks of life. I've lived in places outside of where I was raised. I'm used to adapting and I don't allow barriers to stop me. My education in the military and at MSU has prepared me to deal with challenges of the 21st century, like over-coming racism, sexism and classism," Duckett-Freeman told City Pulse.

Her top priorities include cutting more tax breaks for affordable housing projects, investigating complaints of racial discrimination at City Hall and getting a better grip on the city's unfunded pension and post-employment benefit obligations without cutting back on retiree benefits.

Duckett-Freeman also wants to curb gun violence by taking "unneeded money" away from the patrol division of the Police Department, instead investing those resources into more detectives for unsolved murders, more community center programming and resources for mental health.

"I will be only one voice, but I will use my voice to fight tirelessly for these issues," she told City Pulse. "All these things would make our city more desirable to live in while still honoring those who already live here. I am aware that we need to build new power in the City Council to do these things. I am up to the challenge. My role in all of this will be to remind the mayor and the rest of Council that we work for all the people, even the ones without power or influence."

THE ELECTION GUIDE

VOTE ABSENTEE THROUGH NOV. 2
or HEAD TO THE POLLS ON NOV. 2



Round Four — Lansing City Council 4th Ward

By KYLE KAMINSKI

**Brian Jackson vs.
Elvin Caldwell**

Jackson, 37, is running for his second term representing the Fourth Ward on the Council. A lifelong resident of the Frances Park Neighborhood and a J.W. Sexton High School graduate,



Jackson

Jackson has degrees in both political science and criminal justice from Indiana State University, as well as a law degree from Howard University School of Law. He has worked as both a prosecutor for the city and as a criminal defense attorney, currently representing indigent defendants as an assistant public defender at the Ingham County Office of the Public Defender.

Caldwell, 32, has lived in downtown

Lansing for the last eight years and works as a licensed real estate agent, as well as a licensed lobbyist, outreach coordinator and legislative consultant at Fraser Consulting, a subsidiary of the full-service Lansing-based law firm of Fraser Trebilcock. Caldwell also serves as the board secretary of the Capital Area Housing Partnership and was featured on the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce's latest "Ten Over the Next 10" list.



Caldwell

Jackson said he is uniquely qualified for another term because he has "deep ties and connections to the people" in the Fourth Ward and no loyalties to any special interest groups.

"I understand that being the 4th Ward representative is to represent everyone,

especially the marginalized. I will use my learned experience to get things done on behalf of the people," he told City Pulse. "People should do their research and make their own choice. If they choose me, they will get someone with experience whose heart and mind are in the right place."

Jackson's top priorities include fostering the development of more affordable housing in the city, improving the relationship between police and the public and protecting the environment. He also wants to support policies and programs designed to boost racial equity among residents.

"Public safety reforms play an important part because they could address the disparities within the criminal justice system that slants against the poor and people of color. We should shift our public safety away from a reactive, punitive system into a proactive system that addresses the causes of crime," Jackson said, noting a desire for more oversight on complaints against cops.

In recent months, Jackson has led the charge on amending and repealing several criminal infractions within the city, including laws that made it illegal to possess drug paraphernalia (like needles) or loiter in an area with a reputation for drug dealing or prostitution. "The ordinance repeals were important to clean up our laws to reflect our values," he said. "Most were for things that shouldn't be criminal, and I think most people in Lansing would agree."

Jackson also usually votes against closed sessions in the general interest of transparency.

Also on Jackson's priority list for the next four years: actually attending his

meetings.

In January, City Pulse discovered that Jackson had missed 11 out of 12 meetings of the Ways and Means Committee in 2020 — in part because he said he "forgot" his committee assignment after the COVID-19 pandemic arrived. Records also showed he also missed five of the nine Committee on Public Safety meetings, two Council meetings and one Committee of the Whole meeting, in addition to all 12 meetings of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.

After that story, Jackson apologized. And his attendance record has also vastly improved.

"I am embarrassed that I did not realize that I was missing meetings," he said. "I am glad that my absence did not hold up any city business. For the other ones, I should have called in for an excused absence instead of waiting until the last minute to see if my work schedule cleared."

He added: "Since then, I have been focused on managing my schedule and things are better."

Caldwell, however, thinks he can provide more "responsive representation" within the 4th Ward. And so does the Chamber of Commerce, which endorsed Caldwell over Jackson alongside the Greater Lansing Association of Realtors and multiple local labor unions.

"The 4th Ward needs a fresh approach, a new start with real change, where people can see that your elected leadership is accountable to you and recognize that they work for you," he added.

Caldwell's priorities include broad political concepts like safety, economic development, a higher quality of life for residents and employees, vibrant neighborhoods and regional collaboration. His mailers also proudly list his phone number, noting that Caldwell is "just a phone call away."

"Public safety reforms are paramount in improving equity," he added. "I would use my vote and voice to find common ground among stakeholders, use my relationships at the Capitol and look for best practices and policies that have been effective or have support in other cities. I plan to advocate for local economic development opportunities, protect and enhance neighborhoods, address gun violence and help draft policies that make Lansing a safe place to work and live."

NOTICE OF HEARING

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING PROPERTY OWNERS AND RESIDENTS TO THE OWNERS OF THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY IN THE PROPOSED 2021 POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT:

All lots and parcels of land within the Township.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Lansing proposes to make the following generally-described police, fire, and emergency services improvements with respect to the proposed 2021 Police and Fire Protection Special Assessment District:

- (1) one or more ambulances; (2) fire engines/vehicles/apparatus; (3) building/facility upgrades, improvements and/or repairs; (4) computer hardware, software, and related technology and equipment; (5) police patrol vehicles and related equipment; (6) cameras, recording equipment, and related police and/or fire equipment; (7) police and/or fire operating costs; and (8) other police and/or fire equipment, apparatus, and operation costs (the "Project").

Plans and cost estimates for the Project have been prepared and are on file with the Township Clerk for public examination. The estimated total annual cost for the Project is \$1,522,415.01. Property that is exempt from real property taxes will be exempt from this assessment.

Plans and cost estimates for the Project have been prepared and are on file with the Township Clerk for public examination.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board will meet on Tuesday, the 12th day of October, 2021, at 7:00 o'clock, p.m., in the Township Administration Building, 3209 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48917, for the purpose of hearing any objections to the Project, and the question of creating a special assessment district and defraying the expenses of the special assessment district by special assessment on the property to be especially benefited.

Appearance and protest at the hearing, in person or in writing, are required in order to appeal the action of the Township Board in approving the police, fire, and emergency services improvement special assessment project, the special assessment roll, and/or the amount of an assessment to the state tax tribunal. A property owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment proceedings or may file his or her appearance and protest by letter and his or her personal appearance will not be required. The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of a special assessment with the state tax tribunal within 35 days of the date the special assessment roll is confirmed by the Township Board.

Dated: September 29, 2021

Maggie Sanders, Township Clerk

CP#21-220

Dana Watson for East Lansing

VOTE NOV. 2 City Council

- Equitable practices
- Housing
- Affordability
- Environment
- Public Safety



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THE ELECTION GUIDE

VOTE ABSENTEE THROUGH NOV. 2
or HEAD TO THE POLLS ON NOV. 2

Three City Council seats up for grabs in East Lansing

Appointed members look to retain seats after contentious year

By TODD HEYWOOD

Architect Daniel Bollman, 56, along with lawyer and former East Lansing School Board member George Brookover, 71, and Adam DeLay, 33, a department analyst at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, want to knock out appointed City Council members Chuck Grigsby, 49, CEO of Primetime Mentoring & Tutoring Educational Services, and Dana Watson, 44, a public health official. The top two vote-getters will serve on Council for the next four years.

Two candidates are also competing to fill a partial term on the Council. Ron Bacon, 47, a manager at Genentech, is looking to stay on Council for another two years. Mikey Manuel, 29, who works at the family-owned Blondie's Barn restaurant in Haslett, is hoping voters will put him on the Council instead.

The election is the culmination of a tumultuous few years on the East Lansing City Council, especially in 2020, when an August rift on the dias led longtime Council members Mark Meadows and Ruth Beier to resign.

That battle was over retaining former City Attorney Thomas Yeadon. The remaining members selected Grigsby and Watson to serve out those terms — making them the first African Americans to serve on the East Lansing City Council. This year, Aaron Stephens also resigned from the Council to attend graduate school. His seat and Beier's would have been up for election this November, while Meadow's seat still had three years left when he resigned, leaving a partial, two-year term, up for grabs. This year's election will decide how they're filled.

Watson said that as a working mother and former renter, she brings a unique voice that emphasizes "voices that should be heard." She also said that she will focus on encouraging growth and lessening harms of the decisions made by the legislative body in the city. Among her other priorities: She'll focus on the environment, housing and public safety concerns, she said.

For Grigsby, a former professional basketball player, he's looking to stick on the Council in order to help drive "solutions" for East Lansing. He sees the city



Bollman



Brookover



DeLay



Grigsby



Watson



Bacon



Manuel

poised to become a national leader on "several policy initiatives" while also harnessing the power of the Michigan State University community. He said that if he is retained on Council, he will seek to address the pension-legacy issues in the city — which will include a permanent income tax for residents. He also wants to prioritize transparency and accountability in government decision-making and emphasized plans to continue focusing on initiatives that improve the environment and public health of the city.

Watson and Grigsby face three others on the ballot.

Bollman, the architect, wants to use his experience serving on various committees in the city to harness a stronger partnership with MSU, empowering and valuing city employees and prioritizing equity and diversity in zoning and budgeting priorities. He has over a decade in municipal experience, including various roles for historic preservation in Kalamazoo, Ann Arbor and East Lansing. Bollman is the former author of City Pulse's "eye" feature.

For Adam DeLay, a former Lansing Township trustee, election to the Council is a step in pushing for "great change." He said the confluence of issues from the Trump administration and racial reckonings to the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic crisis has put the nation at a "crossroads" for change. He said he'd focus on police reforms, including reinvesting 25% of the budget into community support services to address poverty and mental health. He also said that he wants to bolster transparency at City Hall and help with post-pandemic economic recovery.

George Brookover, an attorney well known in political circles and a former East Lansing Public Schools board member, is hoping to use his experience to "assist the city in navigating current issues which it confronts."

All five candidates responded to a questionnaire that sought their opinions on the recent decision to implement a citizen oversight committee for local cops. It also asked their thoughts about the Council's decision not to sign a controversial letter coordinated by former East Lansing

police officer and current Ingham County Sheriff Scott Wrigglesworth that criticized Ingham County Prosecutor Carol Siemon's decision to stop charging add-on criminal charges for felony possession of a firearm during a felony — except in the most extreme circumstances.

Siemon's decision was based on evidence from her officer that showed a racial disparity in its application within the county. Wrigglesworth said the prosecution of that crime bolsters safety. Still, East Lansing Mayor Jessy Gregg was among only two local leaders not to sign it.

DeLaysaid he supported Siemon's decision, citing her statistical information. He said he didn't "buy" Wrigglesworth's claims. Watson, who also declined to support the Wrigglesworth action, said she could not "sign-on to perpetuate racial injustice." Grigsby, who also opposed the Wrigglesworth letter, said that when data shows a disproportionate impact on any group of people because of a policy, it's "easy to amend, change or get rid of it." Bollman said he supported Siemon's policy decision because she provided data to back up her claims, which Wrigglesworth had not. He also indicated he was uncomfortable supporting infighting between countywide elected officials, preferring to allow voters to make that decision at the ballot.

Brookover thinks everyone should stay in their own lane. He doesn't agree with either Wrigglesworth or Siemon, noting that both of their actions were "unnecessary and counterproductive," citing their independent authorities to investigate and charge crimes.

All five candidates supported the Police Oversight Committee that was adopted last year.

Grigsby chaired the commission that recommended the adoption and creation of the oversight committee, and Watson said "dismantling systems is hard work," emphasizing the community engagement in the city's process. Brookover cautioned that the committee also had to align with collective bargaining agreements as well as city insurance policies, but also supported the idea.

East Lansing residents will also have to choose between Bacon and Manuel to complete a two-year term left vacant

when Meadows resigned.

Bacon said he will continue to focus on modernizing the city operations by reducing and eliminating codes that hamper growth. He also wants to see more affordable housing in the city, more regional cooperation and ways to address the city's growing pension obligations.

Manuel said he is seeking election to do his part for the community. He said he will work on reducing the cost of government by cutting spending and increasing and supporting diversity in the city — particularly through encouraging small businesses to hire people of color — and by addressing the ongoing financial issues tied to recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As with the candidates for the two four-year seats, City Pulse asked both Manuel and Bacon about the controversy between Wrigglesworth and Siemon, as well as their thoughts on a citizen oversight committee for the police.

Bacon served as a liaison between the committee that recommended the oversight committee and the Council. He is "proud" of the work. Manuel said he too supported the committee, so long as it did not devolve into a broad anti-police mentality.

The battle between the two top countywide law enforcement officers over guns and criminal charges, however, resulted in nuanced responses. Bacon voted to not sign the Wrigglesworth letter because he opposed a public rebuke of another elected official, but he said Siemon's policy roll out was poorly handled. He acknowledged that both officials had significant concerns to address related to both stopping gun violence and punishing it, and that addressing gun violence is a nuanced conversation.

Manuel, for his part, said both elected officials are right and both are wrong. He said he can see the justifications from both officials and believes it is inappropriate to make the debate a binary option, when there are numerous layers to addressing gun violence.

THE ELECTION GUIDE

VOTE ABSENTEE THROUGH NOV. 2
or HEAD TO THE POLLS ON NOV. 2

Voters face multiple funding issues on the Nov. 2 ballot

Local school districts line November ballot with bonding proposals

More than \$125 million on the line for Greater Lansing Schools

By KYLE KAMINSKI

Five local school districts are leaning on new tax levies, bonding proposals and millage renewals to drive renovations, construction and other improvements for students in Greater Lansing. Here's what voters in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties will decide in November:

Leslie Public Schools

The school district is leaning on a \$20 million bond issue to school campuses. Its approval would trigger a 3 mill increase (or \$3 on each \$1,000 in taxable property value) for families within the district — meaning a home with a market value of \$100,000 will see a \$150 annual tax increase.



Plans include a new storage building, three school buses, new roofs at the middle and high schools, security improvements at entryways, air conditioning systems, an addition to the high school gym, remodeled classrooms and administrative offices, electrical and mechanical upgrades, new fire alarms and ceiling repairs and various technology improvements across the school district, including plans to purchase new computers, student laptops and projectors.

If approved, district officials plan to complete most of the renovations over the next three years.

Dewitt Public Schools

A bonding proposal is also up for consideration in Dewitt. If approved by voters, this proposal would generate \$66 million with no projected increase in property taxes over the 2021 levy. The cash would also be spent gradually over the course of six years



to renovate its aging facilities, update various educational technologies across the district and bolster extracurricular programs.

If approved, the bond funds could only be used for physical improvements and not for salaries, maintenance, repairs or other expenses. Plans include extensive mechanical upgrades and adding air conditioning to all learning spaces, roof and flooring replacements, parking lot and sidewalk repairs, new laptops and tablets for students and staff and security improvements.

Plans also include new turf, lighting, track and press box at the football field, as well as renovations to the baseball, softball, soccer and swimming facilities. District officials also plan to install new playground equipment, a band teaching tower and bleachers at the high school gym.

Voters approved a \$25.2 million bond in 2016. This proposal is set to address the remaining infrastructure issues identified by the district over the next six years — with no tax increase.

Grand Ledge Public Schools

Grand Ledge voters will decide whether to renew an existing sinking fund millage for three years at a rate of .7921 mills — simply maintaining the current levy with no proposed tax increase.

The sinking fund — also called the Capital Improvement Fund — was first approved by voters in 2002 at a rate of 1 mill and the community approved its renewal in 2011. Headlee reductions have lowered the tax rate over time to its current rate of .7921 mills. Over the years, it has paid for school building improvements, roof replacements, maintenance of heating and cooling systems across classroom buildings, parking lot repairs, athletic facility upgrades and more.

Perry Public Schools

This Shiawassee County school district northeast of Lansing, which some Ingham County residents attend, is

asking voters to approve a 25-year, \$9.9 million bonding proposal to buy new instructional technology for several classrooms, replace the roof on two school buildings and install a new heating and cooling system at the elementary school.

Its approval would not increase taxes for families within the district, only maintain the current rate of levy of 1.09 mills, or \$1.09 on each \$1,000 taxable property value. Plans include remodeling, furnishing (and refurnishing) classrooms, new school buses, construction of a livestock barn, resurfacing at the track, new lighting at the football field and pavement repairs.

Fowlerville Community Schools



Though most students reside in Livingston County, portions of this school district dip into eastern Ingham County. And after its last bonding proposal failed in May by a few dozen votes, the district is back at it again, this time looking for approval to borrow up to \$41.9 million for various renovations — including the installation of air conditioning at two of its school buildings.

If this 23-year bonding proposal passes, the property tax levy would stay flat at 0.9 mills, or \$0.90 for each \$1,000 of taxable value. The district also expects to borrow from the state School Bond Qualification and Loan program to pay back the debt required to complete the project.



Pots, parks and books also on ballot

City of Mason

Mason is looking to boost funding for its parks and trails with a request for a new 1-mill property tax levy (\$1 on each \$1,000 in taxable value) over the next five years, which would generate about \$232,000 annually for improvements to parks, trails and other pathways within the city.

The city's immediate priorities include several improvements to signs, buildings and pathways at Laylin Park on the east side of the city, as well as renovations at Rayner, Lee Austin, Bond, Griffin and Hayes parks and portions of the 2.4-mile Hayhoe Riverwalk Trail off Howell Road.

City of Potterville

Voters in Potterville will decide whether the cannabis industry can finally move into town.

A voter-initiated proposal seeks to overturn the current prohibition on recreational marijuana businesses in the city and introduce new allow-

ances for retailers, growers and processors. The ordinance, if approved, would require the city to grant licenses for up to two pot shops, as well as three growing operations, a processing facility and an on-site cannabis consumption lounge.

The ordinance would require city officials to carve out a new competitive licensing structure, which would also depend on would-be entrepreneurs first receiving their state licenses.

Bath Township

The Bath Township Public Library needs help keeping books on the shelves for the next decade. A 10-year millage renewal will keep the tax levy flat at .6792 mills — or about \$0.68 for each \$1,000 in taxable property value. The millage aims to generate about \$323,000 in its first year and the cash can only be used for operating, maintaining, and equipping the local library.

Mayor's race: Wait and see

One downside of early voting is many voters decide before all the facts are in. Just as the campaign is heating up, absentee ballots arrive in the mail. In the case of the Lansing mayor's race, residents are voting even before either of the two scheduled TV debates. Of course, some elections are over almost before they began, usually when an incumbent is so entrenched that the opposition is token.

The outcome of the mayor's race appears to be a foregone conclusion. Judging from the endorsements and his huge fundraising advantage, Andy Schor appears poised to win big. Perhaps not by the 4-to-1 margin of his victory four years ago, but sizably. We congratulate him on his political acumen.

We wish we could join in his chorus of support, as we did on this page in 2017. But we cannot — not yet anyway.

Schor is a nice enough fellow with a long track record of meritorious public service, but his passionless and uninspiring leadership style leave us feeling empty rather than energized. During his first term, Schor's numerous unforced errors, troubling aversion to transparency and palpable disconnection from the realities of racial injustice make the prospect of giving him four more years at the helm of city government a near certain recipe for the sort of ongoing frustration and anxiety that will require more Xanax than a doctor would be comfortable prescribing.

Schor's opponent, 16-year City Council incumbent Kathie Dunbar, carries her own suitcase full of inadequacies, not the least of which is her maddening propensity to miss just about every deadline that falls on her plate. While we adore her unconventional personality and deeply admire her unbridled passion for social justice, we're not persuaded she's the reliable, steady hand the city needs right now to navigate the considerable complexities involved in running the daily operations of a \$200 million municipal corporation as it bounces back from the COVID-19 pandemic. Perhaps she would surround herself with highly capable administrators who can keep the train from coming off the tracks, but we're afraid her free-wheeling approach to life and to governing is better suited for the Council dais and grassroots community organizing than running a tight ship as the city's chief executive.

For all of the above reasons, we are genuinely torn between the pragmatism that says reelecting Schor will keep city government more or less on an even keel, and the idealism that underpins our deeply held progressive principles, which are thoroughly ingrained in Dunbar's character and lacking in Schor. We are going to continue to listen closely to both candidates, hoping for an October epiphany on our part. We encourage early voters to slow down and do the same.

Lansing City Council At-Large

Dunbar's mayoral bid creates a vacancy in one of the two at-large seats on the Council that will be difficult to fill. Her long tenure led to palpable progress at many levels and her institutional knowledge of city government's inner workings will be impossible to replace. The contenders are incumbent Council President Peter Spadafore, who

serves as executive director of a statewide association; Rachel Willis, vice president of the Lansing School Board and director of the state's child welfare licensing division; Claretta Duckett-Freeman, a veteran of the U.S. Army Reserves and a firefighter-EMT who is active in her church and community; and Jeffrey Brown, a motivational speaker, author and community activist who serves on the county's community health centers executive committee and on Lansing's human relations and community services board.

If you can judge a candidate by the company they keep, we're nervous about handing Dunbar's progressive baton to Brown, who finished second in the August primary behind Spadafore, but whose enthusiastic endorsement by At-Large Councilwoman Carol Wood and former First Ward Councilwoman Jody Washington, both of whom lean uncomfortably toward the conservative side of the political spectrum, suggests he would be an instant ally for Wood and yet another right-leaning Council member in a left-leaning town. Duckett-Freeman has an admirably progressive agenda and plenty of potential, but Willis is a proven leader with significant experience leading a

The CP Edit

Opinion

large and complex public institution. Spadafore, whom we endorsed in the August primary, has demonstrated the ability to govern with common sense and compassion and deserves another term. For these reasons, **we endorse Peter Spadafore and Rachel Willis for At-Large City Council.**

Lansing City Council Fourth Ward

The incumbent representing Lansing's northwest quadrant is Brian Jackson, an attorney by trade who last year earned a reputation as an occasional attendee at Council committee meetings. As of late he has made a more vigorous effort to meet his obligations as an elected official, but the only substantive accomplishment we can find in his record over the past four years is the repeal of a handful of outdated city ordinances, which is a bit like vacuuming the corners of a little-used closet when you run out of more interesting things to do. Jackson's challenger is Elvin Caldwell, a virtual unknown whose grasp on the issues and the responsibilities of the position seem tenuous at best. Jackson is the more informed of the two and, despite our misgivings, remains the best choice to serve over the next four years. We endorse Brian Jackson for reelection to the Fourth Ward seat on City Council.

Lansing City Council Second Ward

We don't have much to say about incumbent Second Ward Councilman Jeremy Garza because he's perhaps the least visible of the body's current members. Garza is a union plumber and his political agenda seems heavily circumscribed by his allegiance to organized labor. Having done little to distinguish himself, except for aligning with Carol Wood on most issues, we have no qualms about

supporting his challenger, Oprah Revish, who is assistant director of MSU's Gender and Sexuality Campus Center and would bring a demonstrated commitment to social justice to the position. **We recommend a vote for Oprah Revish.**

Lansing city clerk

As Lansing's city clerk for the past 16 years, Chris Swope has worked diligently to make it easier for city voters to exercise their democratic franchise, especially through the expansion of absentee voting. His unquestioned competence in administering both our local elections and the multitude of services provided by his office makes it easy to endorse him for a fifth four-year term. For obvious reasons, he is running unopposed. **We urge a vote for Swope.**

East Lansing City Council

Following last summer's abrupt resignations of former East Lansing Councilmembers Mark Meadows and Ruth Beier, the resulting vacancies were filled through the appointment of Dana Watson, a health educator for the Ingham County Health Department, and Ron Bacon, who works for Genentech, a local biotechnology company. Both are now seeking election to their appointed seats in November.

A third vacancy, created when Mayor Aaron Stephens resigned this summer to pursue a master's degree in public policy at Harvard University, was filled by the appointment of Shanna Draheim, policy director for the Michigan Municipal League and a member of Council from 2015 to 2019. Draheim agreed to fill the vacancy only temporarily.

As a result, three of the five Council seats are up for grabs. East Lansing voters must now choose two candidates from a field of five to fill the four-year terms left by Stephens and Beier. Those candidates include the incumbent Watson; East Lansing attorney George Brookover; Chuck Grigsby, who leads a nonprofit mentoring and tutoring agency; Daniel Bollman, an architect who has served on the city's Planning Commission (full disclosure: until recently, he volunteered his time to City Pulse as a contributor to our "Eye" feature); and Adam Delay, a state employee who was a member of the Lansing Township Board of Trustees before moving to East Lansing. Voters must also fill the two years remaining on Meadows' term by electing either Bacon or his challenger, Mikey Manuel, a graduate of Central Michigan University who helps run Blondie's Barn, his family's restaurant in Haslett.

Thus far, Watson and Bacon have performed admirably in their appointed positions, with the former becoming the first Black woman to be named East Lansing's mayor pro tem. We believe both appointees have earned the opportunity to learn and grow into their roles as elected members. For the remaining open seat, we think Bollman's extensive experience with municipal governance, historic preservation and land use issues has the most potential to make a meaningful contribution to smart growth in the city. Therefore, **we endorse Dana Watson, Ron Bacon and Daniel Bollman for East Lansing City Council.**

Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages? Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor: E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com or mail: City Pulse 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912 • Fax: (517) 371-5800 • lansingcitypulse.com

2.) Write a guest column: Contact Berl Schwartz for more information publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061.

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



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Good candidates are another casualty of the political wars

Maybe I'm wrong, but it doesn't feel like election season.

Sure, I'm aware people are running for city office. Mayoral candidate Kathie Dunbar and Mayor Andy Schor sent me a mailer

each the other day. Somebody in the next block over has a Claretta Duckett-Freeman sign in the front yard.



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Republicans are raising money to run for governor.

Where is all the energy?

This weekend, it was at an Antrim County fruit market out in the middle of nowhere. More than 2,000 got together to rally in support of Garrett Soldano, who segued the outrage about the governor's old COVID-19 restrictions into a credible campaign.

Today's political energy is on the fringes — the far left and the far right, which isn't unusual.

What is unusual is how far apart the polar opposites of the parties have drifted. The conservative leaders of 10 years ago — folks like Meshawn and Matt Maddock on the Republican side — are now the leaders of the Republican Party.

Now the grassroots of the parties have drifted into the Land of Conspiracy. It's trending deeply into cynicism and distrust over government. No government official is safe. In 2016, Trump's people were colluding with Russia. In 2020, "widespread fraud" allegedly cost Trump the election.

The public is moving to the point where they don't trust anybody. They trust the politicians they agree with politically. The rest are liars.

They trust news outlets that present information in a way that aligns with their sensitivities. The rest is fake news.

When COVID-19 hit, government shut down businesses, but displaced workers couldn't get their unemployment. It took months to get a secretary of state appointment to get a title transfer.

All the while, the people taking the brunt of society's outrage are public officials. It doesn't matter if you're with the city, state or the federal government. Too many residents don't know the difference.

Being an elected official simply isn't a desirable job these days. The pay is fine, but it's not great. Nobody gets a pension anymore. The benefits aren't what they used to be. Job security is hit or miss.

At times, the public is increasingly

grouchy at best, unreasonable in too many cases and combative at worst.

For good people, the type of people we'd actually want in a leadership position, being a public official isn't worth the headache. I've been hearing this for months. Both sides.

Political figures don't miss the job when they're done. Good people are

taking a hard pass on the prospects.

So, until candidates are excited about serving and other people are excited to support them, low-energy elections are what we're going to get.

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

OPINION

Councilman Brian Jackson knocked on my door a few months ago.

The enthusiasm I felt from him four years ago was replaced by hesitancy, weariness. It's as if he was running for reelection out of an obligation. Nobody else wanted to do it, so here he was.

I'd say 2021 election fatigue was unique to Lansing, but don't believe it is. I felt much the same thing this past weekend on Mackinac Island as Michigan Republicans got together for their biennial conference.

In years past, candidates planted their signs all over businesses. Signs were speckled over greenspace. Attendees wore two, three, five stickers of candidates ranging from governor to MSU trustee on their jacket or blouse.

There were buttons, T-shirts, large parties. The enthusiasm was genuine.

This year, the presence was underwhelming. No campaign signs draped over lake-facing buildings for those disembarking from Shepler's Ferry to see. Wait, there was one. It was for a University of Michigan regent candidate named Lauren Hantz.

Nobody shoved handbills in my face as I walked down the dock.

Few signs. Few to no stickers. Craig James had a few dozen college kids running around, but even they exuded all of the excitement of the casual football fan who cheers for a team because the football helmet design looks cool.

It's not as if the Republicans don't have races to run in. Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson is vulnerable. Twelve

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**CITY OF EAST LANSING
NOTICE OF REGISTRATION
FOR THE NOVEMBER 2, 2021 ELECTION**

To the qualified electors of the City of East Lansing:

Please take notice that the City of East Lansing will hold a City General Election on November 2, 2021.

For the purposes of electing the following non-partisan offices:

- City Council – Two (2) Full Terms
- City Council – One (1) Partial Term

Any qualified elector who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the East Lansing City Clerk; the office of their County Clerk; a Secretary of State Branch Office, or other designated state agency. Qualified electors who have a valid Michigan driver's license or state ID, may register online at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/>. Registration forms may be obtained at mi.gov/vote and mailed or dropped off at the office of the East Lansing City Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at www.expressSOS.com.

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the East Lansing City Clerk's Office is October 18, 2021. After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector must register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the following locations and times:

East Lansing City Clerk – City Hall
410 Abbot Road, Room 100
East Lansing, MI 48823

Regular Business Hours:
Monday-Friday from 8 am-5 pm
Additional Hours:
October 26 & 27 from 5 pm-8 pm
October 31 from 9 am-5 pm

City Clerk Satellite Office
MSU – Brody Hall
241 W. Brody Road
East Lansing, MI 48823

Starting on Monday, October 4, 2021
Regular Business Hours:
Monday-Friday from 9 am-4 pm
Additional Hours:
October 26 & 27 from 5 pm-8 pm
October 31 from 9 am-5 pm

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS:

Any registered voter may request an Absent Voter Ballot. No reason required.

The East Lansing City Clerk's Office must have a signed application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. You may apply online at www.mi.gov/vote or at the East Lansing City Clerk's Office.

November 1, 2021 at 4:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot except for those who register to vote on Election Day. Ballots issued on November 1, 2021 must be requested and voted in person at either of the East Lansing City Clerk's Offices.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, November 2, 2021, are eligible to receive an Absent Voter Ballot at the East Lansing City Clerk's Office.

Jennifer Shuster
East Lansing City Clerk

CP#21-218

**CITY OF LANSING
SUMMARY OF
ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1293**

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing by adding a new Section 884.14 for the purposes of providing for an extension of a Service Charge in Lieu Of Taxes for Ninety-Eight (98) low income elderly dwelling units in a project known as the Porter, pursuant to the provisions of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, as amended.

Effective date: Upon publication

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MIPMC
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#21-219



Several people correctly identified the last Eye for Design. However, the first (and winner of the Eye for Design mug) was Molly Wingrove. That detail featured the brick wall, wrought iron arch and light fixture in the courtyard at Hillcrest Village Apartments in East Lansing (pictured below). According to its website, the historic section of the Georgian-style complex was built in 1936 and was the first apartment community in the city of East Lansing. The historic charm of the sprawling grounds — a visually similar addition was erected in 1986 — is eye-catching to commuters traveling along Grand River Avenue.

This month's Eye for Design (above) can be found by looking up in downtown Lansing. If you know where, email carriesampson@micourthistory.org and you could win a mug, too! — **CARRIE SAMPSON**



"Eye for Design" is our look at some of the nicer properties in Lansing. It rotates each with Eye candy of the Week and Eyesore of the Week.

REWIND

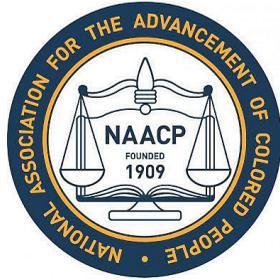
NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

NAACP offers expungement help

The Lansing NAACP donated \$50,000 to help people in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties who need help expunging criminal convictions through Legal Services of South Central Michigan, which provides free legal advice and representation to low-income people in Greater Lansing. The cash will be used, in part, to pay \$500 to nonprofit attorneys for each court-ordered expungement, as well as cover background checks for potential clients.



NAACP



Hulon

point to any clear misconduct by the officers that pinned Hulon to the concrete before he died last April. Medical examiners labeled Hulon's death a homicide, specifically from asphyxia alongside acute methamphetamine intoxication and cardiac disease as contributing factors. State Attorney General Dana Nessel's office also found that officers were not criminally liable for Hulon's death.

Waymire announces retirement

The public relations and digital marketing firm Martin Waymire will be under new ownership next year in the hands of PR veterans Josh Hovey, Angela Minicuci and Andie Poole. Roger Martin will retire at the end of this year and David Waymire a year later.



MSU investigates antisemitism

A string of antisemitic incidents earlier this month in East Lansing has triggered a universitywide probe, the Journal reports. Among the concerns: Someone spray-painted over the campus rock this month to make it read "Forget Israel." The other two incidents reportedly involved antisemitic texts in group chats used by students.

Man tries to 'arrest' health officer

A man who identified himself as Adam Heikkila tried to make a "citizen's arrest" on Barry-Eaton District Health Department Officer Colette Scrimger at a public health board meeting, citing concerns over the recent mask mandate in local schools, reports WWMT News Channel 3. Heikkila's handcrafted charges? Impersonating an officer, he said. There was no legitimate legal basis for the attempted arrest. Scrimger was able to leave the meeting without incident. Six of Eaton County's 15 commissioners have also demanded that Scrimger resign.

Lansing man charged in triple homicide

Daniel James Sougstad, 23, of Lansing, was charged with three counts of open murder (and also jailed without bond) after authorities said he shot and killed both of his parents and his brother on Friday at a home on the 10000-block of Bishop Highway in Windsor Township.

Winner sold at DeWitt Twp. gas station

A 67-year-old man who chose to remain anonymous hit a \$500,000 jackpot on a scratch-off ticket from a Sunoco on State Road in DeWitt Township. He plans to buy a new home and car, as well as give some cash to his church, according to reports in the Lansing State Journal.



Lansing man pleads insanity to murder

Damien Williamson, 26, pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity to a murder charge after he shot and killed 41-year-old Dontya Johnson last May at a Jolly Road apartment complex, according to the Journal. Williamson was sentenced to be held for at least 60 days — and perhaps indefinitely — for state-mandated psychiatric treatment.

School renamed in East Lansing

Martin Luther King III, the elder son of Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, attended a dedication ceremony for the newly renamed Robert L. Green Elementary School on Friday. GreenGreen is a nationally known educator and civil rights leader — he worked for King as education director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference — who was the first Black person to buy a home in the city following President John F. Kennedy's 1962 executive order that mandated a formal end to housing discrimination.



Green

Lansing man faces gun charges

Ja'Quan Montel Robinson, an 18-year-old student at Everett High School, was charged with illegally carrying a concealed weapon and carrying a weapon inside a gun-free school zone. Authorities mistakenly identified Robinson as a 17-year-old boy last week. They said he brought a handgun into the school last week, which triggered a police probe and a schoolwide lockdown. Robinson has since been released on house arrest and is due back in court Thursday.



Robinson

Second mayoral debate on Thursday

WLNS-TV Channel 6 announced plans to host a half-hour, commercial-free televised debate between Lansing Mayor Andy Schor and Kathie Dunbar at 7 p.m. Wednesday (Sept. 29).



Schor

Dunbar

Lansing finishes inmate death review

The results of an internal Police Department review found some room for improvement in the way officers handled the in-custody death of 47-year-old Anthony Hulon, but it didn't

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Students create and enforce the dress code, always

By **DEDRIA HUMPHRIES BARKER**

Thanks to the City Pulse recent report on school dress codes, I was reminded of one of my students. She was maybe 23 in a sea of the 18-and-19-year-olds who usually enrolled for the daytime classes I taught.



Barker

Early in the semester, she asked to speak with me. We stood in the hallway outside the door of our classroom. She said she didn't feel welcome in the class by the students. She wasn't being included in the informal parts of class — the what-did-you-do-on-the-weekend chit-chat. She was getting the cold shoulder, before it was a fashion style.

I had noticed that as well. After listening to her complaint, I explained that my job was to make sure the class work got done by my students.

"But," I said, "what do you think is going on?"

"I think they are jealous of the way I dress."

She was a Barbie doll-type, when Barbie aspired only to ride around with Ken. Her clothes were from the 1950s, without the vintage edge. Tight, a mini-skirt, and blouse with deep v-neck cleavage. She wore high heels. It all went with a heavily made-up face.

Students promenaded through the hall. I invited her to "check 'em out."

Most were wearing jeans and T-shirts, and white athletic shoes.

I didn't even need to look at her to make the point. It was a fashion show of student gear. Everything she wasn't wearing.

Over time, she switched to college student clothes, finished my class with a pass, and, if not with friends, then with people who at least spoke to her.



To mask how vulnerable they are, students create and enforce a dress code. It's not formal, or written down.

School dress code is paraded through the halls all day, every school day. Everyone

can see it. Clothes are the antidote to students' lack of power. Required by law to attend school, and dependent on parents for housing and transportation, students find control in what they eat and wear.

The Michigan Department of Education rationalizes a dress code to "prevent risks to health and safety." That means no stiletto heels, or bare midriffs in welding class, but otherwise ... ?? Students in today's athletic-centric world wear clothes that show off their bodies. For young women that might mean looking like what others call tramps, prostitutes, streetwalkers, whores/hoes, among other judgments.

My student's problem reminded me of an analysis lesson I taught. I'd ask everyone in my class who was wearing jeans to stand up. In a class of 22 students, 19 would stand.

It was obvious that these students had agreed by their action that the class dress code was jeans. It was their uniform. Students who want to be classified as students and accepted by their peers as such, dress alike as much

as possible.

Fights about proper dress remind me of when people — one after the other — would tell me my slip was hanging. Young adults get more help getting dressed than runway models.

And then there's religion. Remember the Catholic school girl uniform? The below-the-knee pleated plaid skirt and the long-sleeved white blouse gave way after school. Rolled-up waistbands shortened the skirt and sleeves folded to create a holder for a pack of cigarettes. Any girl who didn't want her skirt above her knee or her elbows showing did it anyway. To be in.

In-crowd status lays the foundation of all groups. It provides psychological and emotional security, and physical safety in the presence of force.

The burka, an all-body, including face, covering garment was mentioned in the City Pulse news report by Theresa Winge, a Michigan State University professor of apparel and textile design. It references some Islamic traditions that require believing women to wear the burka.

According to a documented Wikipedia entry on the burka, one antiquated idea of covering up a woman's body had to do about knowing a lady from a slave girl. The lady was protected from rape, but not the enslaved woman. Have we not come any further in history? Are we in the 21st century in digits only?

Why any board of education would install a restrictive dress code for students boggles my mind.

Sure, parents of K-12 students have a legal say in how institutions treat their children. Lawyers accessorize that. But as kids mature, too much parental interference over clothes increases problems. Students are reduced to sneaking a change of outfit to fit their tastes of rebellion, hiding clothes, borrowing from a friend with

more lenient forebears, or when they don't have money, stealing the clothes the 'rents won't buy.

Schools' best bet is to make the academics carry more of the workload.

My niece came up from Detroit to attend MSU. Crystal was the hair version of my bustier student: Her hair was dyed, fried and laid to the side. That's a Black phrase for carefully coiffed stylish hair. And her fingernails were filed to a point out to here with jewels stuck to them. These things were selected for their flash.

But four years later when Crystal graduated from MSU's prestigious College of Education, her hair was in corn rows; her nails trimmed short and buffed shiny. Her previous look did not work. As she matriculated through to graduation, that became more obvious. It was too time consuming to maintain, and succeed in school. Her class assignments needed her attention more.

Black women, like me, know that suppressing appearance does not lessen violence. Our features — skin, hair, high booties — provoke curiosity, objection and lust.

Young men display vulnerability in behavior that impresses their peer group. Like a politician unsuited for office, an insecure person's coveting may not stop at the boundary of another person's person. But when it's your neighbor's actual ass, the lesson needing to be taught is to hem in behavior. Dress codes tailored by boards of education to intentionally and unintentionally restrict young women's choice of clothing for their protection, fail to educate young men about respect and self-control.

(Dedria Humphries Barker, a Lansing resident, chairs of the Andrew and Mary Jane Humphries Foundation. She wrote "Mother of Orphans: The True and Curious Story of Irish Alice, A Colored Man's Widow." Her opinion column appears on the last Wednesday of each month.)

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Weeklong crosstown event boosts local businesses

By SKYLER ASHLEY

If you've ever caught yourself calling Lansing a boring town, a new weeklong celebration hopes to correct your cynicism and give you a new perspective on your community with a veritable gauntlet of fun stuff to do and great deals to check out.

Sarah Pierce has taken it upon herself to champion nearly all things native to Greater Lansing. The digital event compendium service she created, 517 Living, has been tracking down and promoting just about everything going down locally since 2014, and now one of the biggest happenings Pierce has ever helped organize, 517 Living Community Week, which runs from Friday (Oct. 1) to Oct. 7, is encouraging Greater Lansing businesses, organizations and individuals of all sorts — artists, galleries, churches, you name it — to join together in order to stuff an entire week full of special events and promotions in order to promote and celebrate the culture of the capital region.

“Any business can participate in any way that they would like. But I do encourage them to think outside of the box. I have people that tell me, ‘Hey, I don't know how to participate.’ I say,

‘Well, you're focused on wellness, so host a wellness class,’” Pierce said.

So far, 517 Living Community Week has compiled several dozen participating events. Highlights include Spell Con, a convention originally founded in New York that focuses on the occult and paranormal, at The Artitorium on Cedar Street, the Witches & Warlocks children's party in downtown Williamston, Design & Build Day at the Impression 5 Science Center and an exhibit by Lansing artist Adrienne Gelardi at the Cedar Street Art Collective.

Even if a location is unfit for a special event such as live music, a hands-on demonstration or an interactive class, it can still participate in 517 Living Community Week by simply offering a

special discount on its goods or services. “There's specials for people to save on dining at local restaurants and there's discounts from local businesses, like printing and massage — all kinds of stuff,” Pierce said.

517 Living Community Week originated as 517 Living Community Night, which was hosted at Henry's Place and eventually Woldumar Nature Center. 517 Community Night was a party that featured mini pop-up shops from local vendors and live entertainment from Lansing musicians and performers. When the coronavirus pandemic hit in 2020, Pierce rearranged 517 Living Community Night into an online series of events, such as special live streams or flash sales, with multiple



hosts that would go down at different times throughout the week. 517 Living Community Week takes that concept back to reality.

“This year, it's all spread out. There's no official in-person gathering hosted by 517 Living, but there's multiple events hosted by different local businesses and organizations,” Pierce said.

Pierce began 517 Living in order to learn more about local events herself. She scours social media, finding just about everything going down in Greater Lansing and sharing it with her thousands of followers on her own Facebook profile, website and email newsletter.

“I felt like I was always out of the loop. I wanted to create a project that would help myself get more connected with the community and get others more connected with the community. It's a group effort,” Pierce said.



Courtesy Photo

517 Living founder Sarah Pierce.

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Brian Whitfield begins Allen Neighborhood Center mural

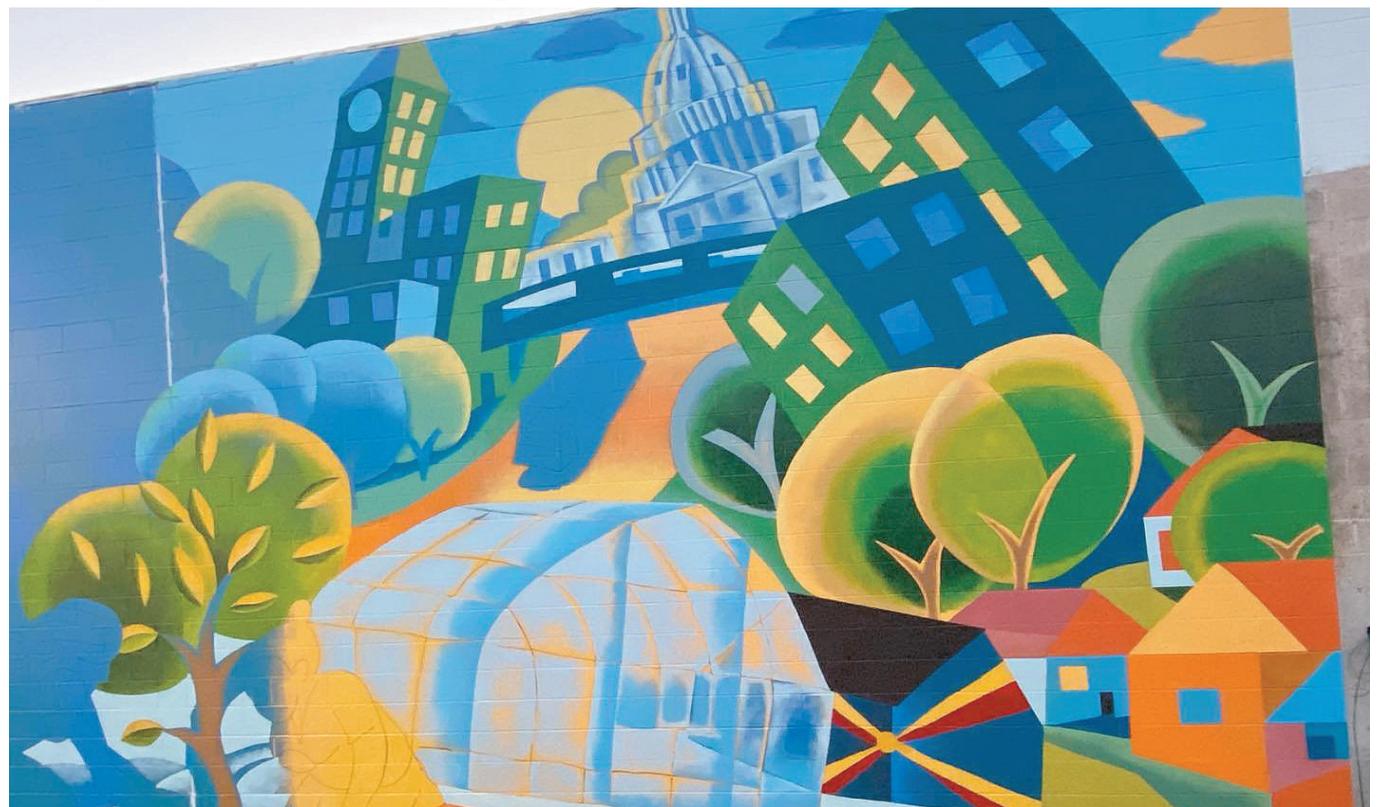
By SKYLER ASHLEY

Artist Brian Whitfield is keeping himself quite busy as summer transitions into autumn. Lately, he's spending his days at the Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., painting a mural as part of the community center's massive Allen Place renovation project.

Whitfield's mural will be a wondrous vision of the culture found within the Allen Neighborhood Center and Lansing's eastside neighborhood. Images that will be incorporated in the mural include girls planting trees, guys playing guitar and drums, stylized houses, greenhouses, fruits and vegetables, the Capitol and an urban farmers market. He expects that he will finish the mural by early October.

“It's all about the community in this area,” Whitfield said. “The inspiration is the Allen Farmers Market and all of the festivals that happen here. It will have bright colors and a cheerful feel.”

Whitfield also just finished a mural commissioned by the Monroe Community Church in Grand Rapids. He also entered the mural, which he named “Planted by the Sacred Streams of Grace,” in the city's 2021 ArtPrize contest. “Grace” depicts a vibrant abstract landscape of a tree



Brian Whitfield

The progress made so far on Brian Whitfield's latest mural, which is being painted at the Allen Neighborhood Center.

that is made of people and a flowing river and row of houses formed by the coalescence of several unique geomet-

ric shapes.

“They were going to open the church during ArtPrize, so I said, ‘Why don't we just include it in our ArtPrize dis-

plays?’ It's actually a finalist for one of the awards, the Contemporary African-American Award,” Whitfield said.

Four pot shops with the cheapest weed in Greater Lansing

Local prices decline while recreational cannabis industry blossoms

By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

All 28 of the licenses for adult-use or medical marijuana retailers in Lansing have been doled out. More than a dozen of those shops are open for business. Others are still under construction.

While the cannabis industry continues its expansion across Greater Lansing, a new wave of competitively priced weed also seems to have come along with it. The latest state sales reports cite a 46% decline in prices over the last year, bringing the average ounce of bud to about \$224.

And in Lansing, it seems the era of the \$200 ounce is finally over. So, as yet another valuable public service to our pot smoking readers, I've compiled a list of provisioning centers that were selling some of the cheapest recreational cannabis in Greater Lansing last week. Take a look:

First Class Cannabis Co. — \$120

The menu at First Class changes far too quickly for me to offer any relevant strain suggestions. That said, this is still the cheapest pot shop in Lansing with at least one or two strains that are always available for \$120 an ounce. These bottom-tier products might not always be the most potent on the market, but some of them — like the Critical Hog — can still knock me on my ass. And with prices cheaper than the black market, I've been coming back for more almost weekly.

Local Roots Cannabis — \$140

It's a bit of a drive from Lansing to Laingsburg, but the folks at Local Roots are making up for the extra gas money with some of the most affordable recreational weed anywhere in the region.



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Marijuana from Local Roots provisioning center.

At least three strains were available for \$140 an ounce last week — Wicked Sister, Strawnana, GG4. Take my word for it: Quality was not sacrificed in dropping these prices. My sample jar of Wicked Sister had some massive buds that were glistening with orange pistils and trichomes.



Lansterdam in Review

The oddly perfect bouquet of aged cheese, pinecones and lavender tested at 19% THC and gave way to a long-lasting, sedating and giggly high that would likely be perfect for pain relief.

My favorite bargain found at Local Roots, however, was a half-ounce pouch of pre-ground Orange Kush Cake from Old Pal that retails for \$75. I'm usually skeptical of pre-ground bud, but this strain had a strikingly complex flavor profile — mostly earthy and grassy with a touch of citrus and diesel. The energetic and slaphappy

boost from just one joint was out of this world.

Don't like the cheap stuff? Local Roots, like the other retailers included in this guide, also has plenty of higher-end boutique strains. The Spiked Punch, for example, is worth the splurge.

Pincanna — \$150

East Lansing's newest pot shop has been able to keep its prices relatively affordable for the college crowd by controlling nearly every aspect of the cannabis production process — even producing some of its own electricity for a massive cultivation operation based in Pinconning.

The folks at Pincanna also know

that every bud isn't created equal, so they've rolled out about a dozen in-house brands in order to reflect their wide diversity of different products with different potencies. Some of the top-shelf products are branded under the Radicle Genetics name. The Kush Mints, for example, tested in at a whopping 31% THC and also put me into a light coma.

Some of the more affordable, lower-tier buds are sold under brands like The Smallz and High 5, which regularly retails for as low as \$150 an ounce at its stores in East Lansing and Kalkaska.

I'll be candid: I'm a bit scared to take

See Lansterdam, Page 18



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Lansterdam

from page 18

on the higher end products at Pincanna after testing out a few samples that were supposedly from the bottom shelf. The Sundae Driver still tested at higher than 18% THC and provided a dreamy, relaxed and euphoric Sunday afternoon smoke.

The Odd Job and Banana Hammock from the High 5 brand were also stunningly smelly buds that were absolutely caked in crystalline trichome goodness. The fruity flavor profile of the Banana Hammock was stellar, and the overwhelming couchlock that followed was also fairly enjoyable.

Edgewood Wellness — \$160

This southside pot shop also tries to provide customers with a range of products with strains ranging from \$160 to \$480 an ounce. Owner Jeff Hank has been known to reject orders that don't live up to his quality standards, so even the cheap stuff promises to carry a potent high.

"It is not always available but when we can, we want to make sure our cus-

tomers can get their hands on it if that's what they prefer," he said. "They know we're more of a 'mom-and-pop' cannabis company and we're not just out to make a buck on them or rip them off with high prices."

Hank added: "They do sell really quickly though, so what you get one week may change."

Special Mention: Pure Options occasionally sells ounces of "small buds" for \$150. Skymint, Lume and Homegrown Cannabis also have several varieties of recreational ounces for \$200.

Kyle Kaminski is City Pulse's managing editor and a cannabis enthusiast who has been smoking marijuana just about every day for the last decade. Almost weekly, Kaminski samples some of the best cannabis products available in Greater Lansing, gets real high and writes about them.

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Date of birth: 06/16/1951.
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Earl LeRoy McFadden, died 8/28/2021. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Brenda Gallagher, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, MI 48933, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
9/29/21
Brenda Gallagher
4672 Mills Hwy.
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827
(517) 605-4109
CP#21-217

Favorite Things

Ashley Medina and her black hoodies

Ashley Medina is a hairstylist recognized for her creative cuts where she etches designs into her clients' hair. She's also known for obsession with mullets, which spurred her to create the Mid-Michigan Mullet Club.

I can't remember exactly when I started wearing a hoodie, but it's for sure been two-and-a-half years. I purchase more of them every chance I get. I've realized that this style fits me just right. It's just what I like; it's perfect. I have 13 of them now.

I didn't realize until very recently that my hoodies actually have sentimental value to me. Being a minimalist is kind of how I roll. I wear the same thing everyday — the same pants and the same shoes. I purchase more of them when they get worn out. The hoodies in particular, well I'm so used to wearing them that I forget how I feel when I'm not wearing them. Recently, I had a couple events where I was asked to wear something else.

One of them being a wedding, so obviously I wore something else, of course. The other was a photo shoot with a boho desert theme. Believe me, if I could have found a way to make a hoodie work, I would have worn one. But I couldn't, so I had to wear something else. On the way there, I was getting a lot of anxiety. I almost teared up. I didn't feel like myself. The pictures turned out great, and I look fine. But I don't think I look exactly like myself.

My hoodies give me confidence because I feel like they suit my personal style and I feel the most attractive when I'm wearing them. I have insecurities I don't realize I have until I'm not wearing a hoodie. I have insecurities because of my weight, or lack thereof. I've always been very thin. I think hoodies flatter my body the best, because they add a little weight.



On social media I come across as a very confident person, but I thought it was a valuable learning experience for me when I realized that I do have insecurities and I can be vulnerable, and that's OK.

As a hairstylist, I'm somebody people turn to for advice on style. There is always that whole first impression thing, I do like to look cool. If you're looking for somebody to give you advice on style, you want it to look like it's important to them. That's an important element to why I love my hoodies as well.

I also like my hoodies because they are functional. They provide warmth year round, whether it's the winter or summertime, when the AC is cranked up everywhere. They provide a safety net. It might just be mental, but when I'm in public and need to hide, or when I feel nervous or vulnerable, it's almost like a blanket or something comforting like that.

Interview edited and condensed by Skyler Ashley. If you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, please email Skyler@lansingcitypulse.com

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New book offers tips on fun stuff to do in Lansing

By **BILL CASTANIER**

“There’s nothing to do in Lansing” is a common refrain, but local author Amy Piper disagrees and has written a book to prove her point. “100 Things to Do in Lansing Before You Die” is a fun and bright compendium of diversions in Greater Lansing that you may have overlooked or not even known about.

The book is divided into five categories, enabling the reader — and ultimately the traveler — to quickly navigate the areas that interest them.

Amy Piper Author Appearance

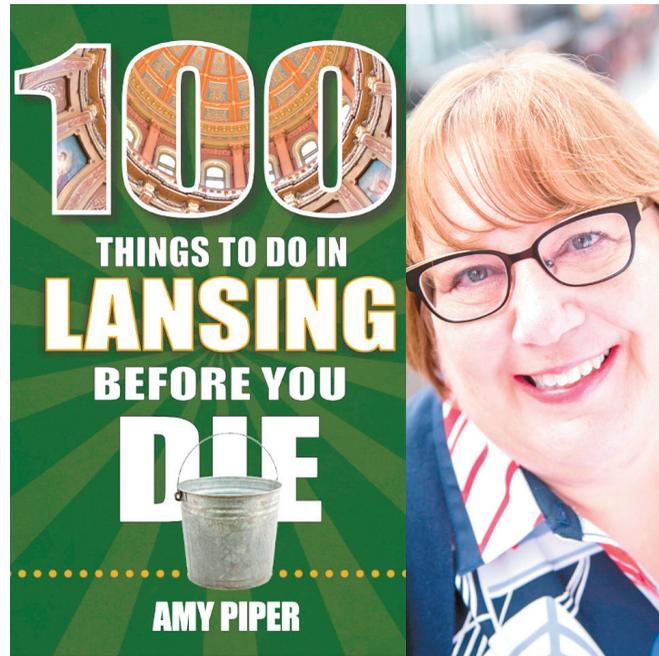
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Followthepiper.com

Categories found in “100 Things” include food and drink, music and entertainment, sports and recreation, history and culture and shopping and fashion.

A quick look at the history and culture section shows local attractions like the Broad Art Museum, REO Transportation Museum, the Michigan History Center, the Capitol Building, Turner-Dodge House and another 15 sites that will help visitors and residents alike raise their Lansing culture quotient.

Under sports and recreation, Piper lists nearly 20 locations to get moving — including the always popular Impression 5 Science Center, Potter Park Zoo, Sleepy Hollow State Park, MSU Children Garden, the Woldumar and Fenner nature reserves and Lake Lansing.

Clearly, the book leans toward family-centric activities and events — especially areas that will keep the kiddies engaged, like a trip to Uncle John’s Cider Mill, which I can tell you from personal experience has an amusement park atmosphere skewed toward fami-



lies with younger children.

Making recommendations of where to go for food and drink is always the most difficult thing to tell visitors because of the subjectivity of our individual palates, but Piper has put together an admirable list of choices. Piper’s list has recommendations ranging from a romantic night at the English Inn — the former Eaton Rapids estate of an automotive executive, to takeout from Eastside Fish Fry and Grill.

Of course, any guidebook to Lansing would come up short if it didn’t include a few mentions of the barbecue joints and brewpubs, which in the last few years have popped up like pot shops across the city. Pot shops, however, are not covered in the book.

Piper is a seasoned travel writer who has visited 41 countries and 45 states, but she said that writing the book during the pandemic pushed her

choices close to home.

“I chose more outdoor locations and places I was familiar with, coupled with recommendations from people in the community,” Piper said.

She said she is already collecting recommendation for a second edition, which will contain locations and events she may have missed or couldn’t include in the first edition.

As is any author, Piper is somewhat reticent to name her personal favorites, but I was able to squeeze out a few like the Broad Art Museum, Lugnuts games and the Lansing River Trail — along with the Peanut Shop, which seems to be on everyone’s list.

The author also said she wanted to make sure most choices were “relatively inexpensive.”

One choice that fits the bill is the Michigan State University 4-H Children’s Garden, where parents can take children for a few hours of fun and educational play. Another is the Lansing Community College Sculpture Walk, which takes you on a self-guided tour of the scores of sculptures across the downtown campus. You can punctuate that trip by visiting the nearby hidden Shigematsu Memorial Garden and Koi Pond.

Visits to cities almost always include side stops for shopping and Piper’s “bucket-kicking” book includes

some delights that out-of-towners or long-timers may overlook, like Fabiano’s Candies and the chocolate at Oh Mi Organics. Who knows, visitors might want to take a pet home from Preuss Pets in Old Town.

The new book will be especially helpful for those who have guests coming to visit for the first time in years, and it might take some stress out of the equation of “what should we do today?”

One thing that the seasoned travel writer said that Lansing still needs is a “food trail” to accompany Lansing’s art trail, which can be accessed on a smart phone at 517ArtSearch.com

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE 30TH CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE COUNTY OF INGHAM
File No. 2020-197-CH
Hon. Wanda M. Stokes (P44485)

In re
CHRISTOPHER PFEIFER,
Petitioner.
Gene F. Turnwald (P46466)
Attorney for Petitioner
2160 Hamilton Road, Suite 100
Okemos, MI 48864
/ Thomas E. Woods (P22543)
Attorney for Mark Grebner
421 W. Ionia Street
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 487-0800

“A motion seeking to reopen case to set aside the May 26, 2020 order and request to intervene in the matter of Christopher Pfeifer, Ingham County Circuit Court Case No. 2020-197-CH, has been filed by Mark Grebner through counsel Cummins Woods. A hearing on Mark Grebner’s motion is scheduled for October 5, 2021 at 4:00 P.M. before the Honorable Wanda Stokes. Notice is hereby given to Christopher Pfeifer of the pending motion. A copy of the motion is available for pickup by Christopher Pfeifer at the law firm of Cummins Woods, 421 W. Ionia Street, Lansing, MI 48933 during normal business hours, phone number (517) 487-0800.”
Honorable Wanda M. Stokes
P44485

CP#21-208

New photo studio invites you to indulge in ‘selfie-care’

By **COLE TUNNINGLEY**

Shanise Ollie first encountered selfie museums on a birthday trip to Detroit with her friend. A selfie museum is a photo studio that focuses on providing its customers with portraits that go way above and beyond the typical selfie tak-

en with a smartphone camera. She was inspired by the glamorous space and became intent on bringing the concept to Lansing. Not too much longer after that fateful day, Love Your Selfie was born.

“I started all the groundwork in the spring,” said Ollie. “Finding a building, securing permits and legally registering the business.”

Born at Sparrow Hospital and raised in Lansing, Ollie wanted to pay tribute to the city where she grew up. Ollie also desired to build a minority-owned business that could accurately represent Lansing’s diverse community. The vibe at Love Your Selfie is open-minded and joyous, with a little hint of nostalgia. Ollie mentioned that she receives compliments on the ‘90s-inspired playlist she puts on at the studio.

“One of our installations is centered around the Nickelodeon show ‘All That!’,” said Ollie. “We were definitely going for a throwback, ‘90s vibe.”

Love Your Selfie aims to provide the perfect selfie experience. Ollie worked hard creating backdrops designed to let you pull off an Instagram-ready pose.

“Often, selfies get a negative reputa-



Love Your Selfie

2910 Centre Blvd, Lansing
Open Tuesday through
Saturday
12 to 8 p.m.
theloveyourselfie
factory@gmail.com
theloveyourselfie
factory.com

tion. People think it’s just about over indulging yourself or being conceited,” explained Ollie. “On the flipside of that, there are a lot of people inspired to take selfies because — at one point in time — they did wrestle with their self-esteem or they did wrestle with loving who they were, with being authentic.”

Ollie promises that Love Your Selfie sets no prerequisites for beauty. You don’t have to be a famous influencer or a model in the making.

“You just have to be who you are, whatever you are,” said Ollie. “You can take a picture that lets you be yourself. This is a place that encourages you to love who you are. You don’t have to wear makeup or a fancy outfit. Just come in with your friends and take cool pictures.”

Love Your Selfie has seen parties of all



Courtesy photo

Founder Shanise Ollie posing in front of one the many selfie-ready backdrops available at Love Your Selfie Factory.

ages come in. She even has a workplace retreat coming up on her schedule. Even if it’s just you and a few friends, you’re welcome at Love Your Selfie.

“This business challenges groups to look for something interesting to do besides all the normal stuff like going to the movies or going bowling,” said Ollie. “It’s something new and fresh that I’m excited to bring to the area!”

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Make Light Work"—
—paying respects
with a notable joke.

by Matt Jones

Across

- 1 Printer cartridge color
- 5 Sports reporter Andrews
- 9 Bee-related
- 14 Emmett Kelly persona
- 15 Dynamic prefix
- 16 "Death Be Not Proud" poet John
- 17 "Jane ____"
- 18 Greek island and titular home of the Louvre's "Winged Victory" statue
- 20 Extinct beast with a trunk
- 22 Thurman of "The War with Grandpa"
- 23 Dubai's country, briefly
- 24 "Who is, um, ____ Doo?" (response from Burt Reynolds, er, Turd Ferguson)
- 27 Petco Park player
- 29 Field figure
- 32 Leaves in the cup
- 33 Fourth word in the "Star Wars" opening crawl
- 35 "Lord of the Rings" actress Tyler
- 37 Sunlight unit
- 38 Whence aliens originate, in some sci-fi works
- 43 Not just mine
- 44 Barge puller
- 45 Pronoun option
- 46 Place to play the ponies, briefly
- 47 Rockefeller Center setting, for short
- 49 Attorney-____
- 53 "Town Called Malice" band
- 57 Regatta requirement
- 59 "As Is" singer DiFranco

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- 60 "The Living Daylights" star
- 64 It's celebrated in May
- 66 4, on some old clock faces
- 67 Words often paired with "Come on!"
- 68 Pot throw-in
- 69 Saint ____ Bay, Jamaica
- 70 Braces (for)
- 71 Yearn for
- 72 Insect found in the theme entries (and the subject of a famous joke told by Norm Macdonald)
- Down**
- 1 Ruin, like a pet owner's favorite pillow
- 2 His cello is nicknamed "Petunia"
- 3 On a gap year, maybe
- 4 63-Down's brother and former bandmate
- 5 Class with little struggle
- 6 Tool for enlarging holes
- 7 "Garfield" waitress
- 8 Weight-loss app whose subscription fees got flak from the BBB in 2020
- 9 Committee type
- 10 ____-Novo (Benin's capital)
- 11 Where travelers can be put up
- 12 Anti-apartheid org.
- 13 "Born," in some notices
- 19 Many commercial logos (abbr.)
- 21 "Hasta ____" ("See you later")
- 25 Necklace unit
- 26 Orange side dish
- 28 Joe Namath's last pro team
- 30 Poetic lament
- 31 Cone producer
- 34 Baseball Hall-of-Famer Mel
- 36 Beetles, e.g.
- 37 Novelist ____ Easton Ellis
- 38 Pedal pusher
- 39 The "R" of "Notorious RBC"
- 40 Jacks ____ (video poker variety)
- 41 Attila, for one
- 42 Catherine of "Schitt's Creek"
- 48 Road Runner's foe
- 50 "Hispanic, ____ or Spanish origin" (U.S. census category)
- 51 Apply holy oil
- 52 Sorta alcoholic and aromatic, maybe
- 54 It means "struggle" in Arabic
- 55 Answers from a flock
- 56 Fez's country (abbr.)
- 58 Tossed in
- 61 More ____ enough
- 62 Sharpen, as skills
- 63 4-Down's brother and former bandmate
- 64 "Top Gun" aircraft
- 65 "Cheerleader" singer

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Answers on page 34

SUDOKU

Advanced

			2	6	8	7		
5					7		2	
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	3					1		
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TO PLAY

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

Answers on page 34

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

Sept. 29 - Oct. 5, 2021

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Blogger AnaSophia was asked, "What do you find attractive in a person?" I'll reproduce her reply because it's a good time to think about what your answer would be. I'm not implying you should be looking for a new lover. I'm interested in inspiring you to ruminate about what alliances you should cultivate during the coming months. Here's what AnaSophia finds attractive: "strong desire but not neediness, passionate sensitivity, effortlessness, authenticity, innocence of perception, sense of humor, vulnerability and honesty, embodying one's subtleties and embracing one's paradoxes, acting unconditionally and from the heart."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taurus author Roberto Bolaño confessed, "Sometimes I want greatness, sometimes just its shadow." I appreciate his honesty. I think what he says is true about most of us. Is there anyone who is always ready for the heavy responsibility of pursuing greatness? Doubtful. To be great, we must periodically go through phases when we recharge our energy and take a break from being nobly ambitious. What about you, dear Taurus? If I'm reading the omens correctly, you will benefit from a phase of reinvention and reinvigoration. During the next three weeks, you'll be wise to hang out in the shadows of greatness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "Have fun, even if it's not the same kind of fun everyone else is having," wrote religious writer C. S. Lewis. That advice is ten times more important right now than it usually is. For the sake of your body's and soul's health, you need to indulge in sprints of playful amusement and blithe delight and tension-relieving merriment. And all that good stuff will work its most potent magic if it stimulates pleasures that are unique to you—and not necessarily in line with others' tastes.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "It is one thing to learn about the past," wrote Cancerian journalist Kenneth Auchincloss. "It is another to wallow in it." That's stellar advice for you to incorporate in the coming weeks. After studying your astrological omens, I'm enthusiastic about you exploring the old days and old ways. I'm hoping that you will discover new clues you've overlooked before and that this further information will inspire you to re-envision your life story. But as you conduct your explorations, it's also crucial to avoid getting bogged down in sludgy emotions like regret or resentment. Be inspired by your history, not demoralized by it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Would you like to deepen and strengthen your capacity to concentrate? Cosmic rhythms will conspire in your favor if you work on this valuable skill in the coming weeks. You'll be able to make more progress than would normally be possible. Here's pertinent advice from author Harriet Griffey: "Whenever you feel like quitting, just do five more—five more minutes, five more exercises, five more pages—which will extend your focus." Here's another tip: Whenever you feel your concentration flagging, remember what it is you love about the task you're doing. Ruminating about its benefits for you and others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): What's your favorite feeling? Here's Virgo poet Mary Szybist's answer to that question: hunger. She's not speaking about the longing for food, but rather the longing for everything precious, interesting, and meaningful. She adores the mood of "not yet," the experience of moving toward the desired thing. What would be your response to the question, Virgo? I'm guessing you may at times share Szybist's perspective. But given the current astrological omens, your favorite feeling right now may be utter satisfaction—the gratifying sensation of getting what you've hungered for. I say, trust that intuition.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In the English language, the words "naked" and "nude" have different connotations. Art critic Kenneth Clark noted that "naked" people depicted in painting and sculpture are "deprived of clothes," and embarrassed as

a result. Being "nude," on the other hand, has "no uncomfortable overtone," but indicates "a balanced, prosperous, and confident body." I bring this to your attention because I believe you would benefit from experiencing extra nudity and no nakedness in the days ahead. If you choose to take on this assignment, please use it to upgrade your respect and reverence for your beauty. PS: Now is also a favorable time to express your core truths without inhibition or apology. I urge you to be your pure self in all of your glory.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Scorpio poet Anne Sexton wrote, "One has to get their own animal out of their own cage and not look for either an animal keeper or an unlocker." That's always expert advice, but it will be extra vital for you to heed in the coming weeks. The gorgeous semi-wild creature within you needs more room to run, more sights to see, more adventures to seek. For that to happen, it needs to spend more time outside of its cage. And you're the best person to make sure that happens.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Sagittarian composer Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) could be a marvelous friend. If someone he cared for was depressed or feeling lost, he would invite them to sit in his presence as he improvised music on the piano. There were no words, no advice—only emotionally stirring melodies. "He said everything to me," one friend said about his gift. "And finally gave me consolation." I invite you to draw inspiration from his example, Sagittarius. You're at the peak of your powers to provide solace, comfort, and healing to allies who need such nurturing. Do it in whatever way is also a blessing for you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): At age 23, Capricorn-born Jeanne Antoinette Poisson (1721-1764) became French King Louis XV's favorite mistress. She was not born into aristocracy, but she wielded her Capricornian flair with supreme effectiveness. Ultimately, she achieved a noble title as well as high prestige and status in the French court. As is true for evolved Capricorns, her elevated role was well-deserved, not the result of vulgar social-climbing. She was a patron of architecture, porcelain artwork, and France's top intellectuals. She ingratiated herself to the King's wife, the Queen, and served as an honored assistant. I propose we make her your role model for the next four weeks. May she inspire you to seek a boost in your importance and clout that's accomplished with full integrity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The bad news is that artist Debbie Wagner was diagnosed with two brain tumors in 2002. The good news is that surgery not only enabled her to survive, but enhanced her visual acuity. The great news is that on most days since 2005, she has painted a new image of the sunrise. I invite you to dream up a ritual to celebrate your own victory over adversity, Aquarius. Is there a generous gesture or creative act you could do on a semi-regular basis to thank life for providing you with the help and power you needed?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A self-described "anarchist witch" named Lars writes on his Tumblr blog, "I am a ghost from the 1750s, and my life is currently in the hands of a group of suburban 13-year-olds using a ouija board to ask me if Josh from homeroom has a crush on them." He's implying that a powerful supernatural character like himself is being summoned to do tasks that are not worthy of him. He wishes his divinatory talents were better used. Are there any resemblances between you and him, Pisces? Do you ever feel as if you're not living up to your promise? That your gifts are not being fully employed? If so, I'm pleased to predict that you could fix this problem in the coming weeks and months. You will have extra energy and savvy to activate your full potential.

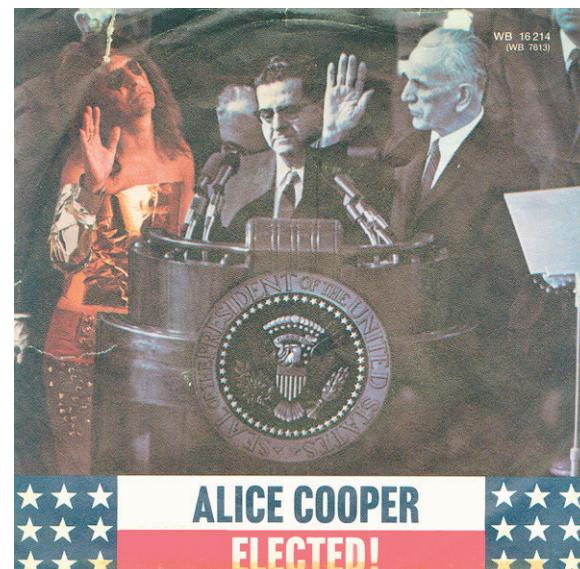
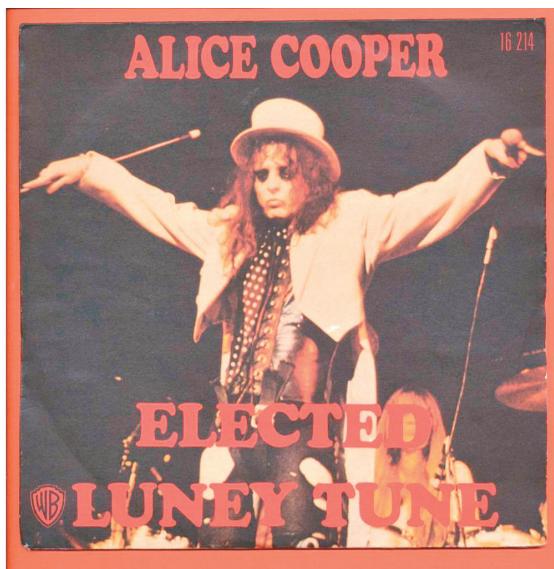
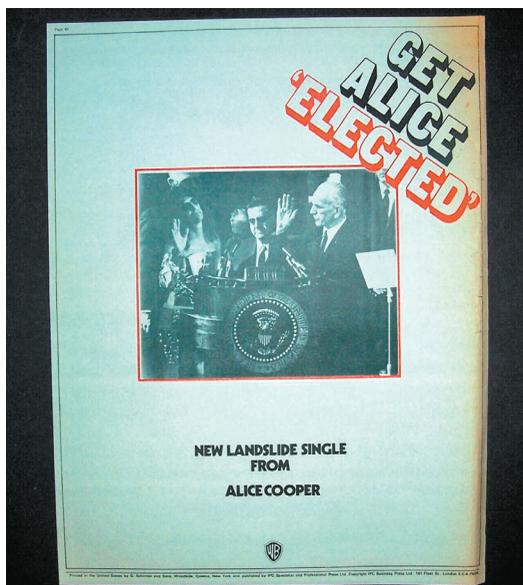
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TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

A LOOK BACK: WHEN ALICE COOPER WANTED TO BE 'ELECTED'



Alice Cooper's 1972 single "Elected" was released just prior to the Watergate scandal. It was also included on his now classic 1973 album, "Billion Dollar Babies." (courtesy images)

Back in '72, the shock rocker got political at just the right time

Back in August 1972, Alice Cooper was in the recording studio shouting, "I'm your top prime cut of meat, I'm your choice, I wanna be elected! / I'm your yankee doodle dandy in a gold Rolls Royce, I wanna be elected!"

His Detroit-rooted band was busy reworking their 1969 song "Reflected" into a revamped blast of political satire called "Elected."

The following month, the single was pressed up and it quickly moved up the Billboard charts, hitting No. 5 in the UK and the Top 30 in the United States. However, the album it was on, "Billion Dollar Babies," reached No. 1 in both countries thanks to the LP's other hits, "No More Mr. Nice Guy" and the title track.

While "Elected" didn't reach the level of some of Cooper's other signature hits, like "School's Out," it's often spun, and shared on social media, around election times. Beyond that, the late Joey Ramone once said it inspired his band's punk classic, "I Wanna Be Sedated." Not a bad contribution to the punk-rock universe.

Going back to the roots of "Elected," its prototype ("Reflected") never sat

well with Cooper. He himself dismissed the original take as a "fake, quasi-spiritual '60s thing" thanks to its "stupid" lyrics — adding, "we didn't know what we were talking about."

However, three years later, when the Alice Cooper Band re-cut the failed single with new lyrics, it took off. Even John Lennon was a fan. "Right after we cut 'Elected,' I was at our record company office in New York, and John Lennon walked past me," Cooper recalled in a Louder Sound interview. "He said, 'Great record, Alice.' I said, 'Thank you.' And then he took about three more steps and turned around and said, 'Paul would have done it better'. And I looked at him and went, 'Well of course he would — he's Paul McCartney!'. But I was so thrilled. I mean, come on — John Lennon loved my song. It doesn't get any better than that."

Of course, part of the song's charm was due to its perfect timing: the 1972 presidential election race between President Richard Nixon and U.S. Sen. George McGovern.

The secret hero behind making "Elected" happen was the band's pro-

ducer Bob Ezrin—whom Cooper saw as the group's "guru." Ezrin, who'd been working with the band for years at that point, always had a soft spot for "Reflected" and felt it could be redone and be "100 times bigger."

Under Ezrin's direction, the guys took the original Pete Townshend-inspired riff, and a snippet of the melody, and went to Morgan Studios in London to lay down an overhauled political version.

To further enhance the song's over-the-top sound, Ezrin called in some added session players, according to Cooper. "When he added on the orchestration at the end of Elected, it really did sound like a big brass band playing at somebody's election rally," Cooper later said. "The song became so theatrical, and that was what Alice Cooper was all about."

Adding to the rock 'n roll folklore, Keith Moon was in the studio watching the band record the track, as well as Marc Bolan, Ringo Starr and Harry Nilsson — a group of A-list rockers Cooper was known to get belligerent with. They all contributed musically to the album, but thanks to booze and

other party favors, Cooper admits to not remembering what songs they assisted on. A quick Google search shows plenty of bar shots of the boozy gang of stars at various parties and nightclubs.

However, the following year, it wasn't intoxicated Cooper who was shamed out of his career, it was Nixon who found himself in the center of the Watergate scandal — making "Election" even more relevant at the time. After all, Cooper does call it "a great satire of what it takes to become the President of the United States."

In 2016, Cooper reflected on the song in an interview with the Cleveland Scene. "We didn't realize it would become an anthem," he said. "I'm so not political so it's funny that I wrote the song that was one of the most political songs, and I was not trying to be political I was just having fun with it. The most absurd thing in the world in 1972 would be Alice Cooper being president. It would be like if you said that Mr. Rogers is now going to sing for the Rolling Stones. It was on that level of absurdity. But it works for every single election."

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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.



Capital Area Blues Brawl

Sunday, Oct. 3, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Green Door Bar & Grill
2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
[Facebook.com/CABSBlues](https://www.facebook.com/CABSBlues)

Capital Area Blues Society is hosting a high stakes showdown between local blues rock outfits at The Green Door. Ambitious Lansing blues maestros, including solo acts and full bands, will perform live sets in front of judges and the highest ranking acts will win a sizable bounty. The top blues guns receive a slot at the 2022 Michigan BluesFest in Old Town, and they will be selected to represent Lansing and the Capital Area Blues Society at the 2022 International Blues Challenge in Memphis.

While these guys have to perform their guts out and best their competitors, all you have to do is sit back, enjoy some great music and sip on some delicious beer. So no matter the outcome, the audience certainly wins.

Wednesday, September 29

Adrian+Meredith/The Wild Honey Collective at The Robin - 7:30 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S Washington, Lansing. therobintheatre.com

Allen Farmers Market - Allen Farmers Market from 2:30-7 p.m. at 2100 E Michigan Ave. 517-999-3911.

Focus Tour: Toxic Green - One artwork. One guest. One theme. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu

Music at the Market Concert Series - 6-8 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Dr., Okemos. meridian.mi.us

PeaceQuest Greater Lansing 2021 - a community-wide celebration through Sept. 29. For info: peacequestgreaterlansing.org.

Singer/Songwriter Night - We are looking for singers, songwriters, acoustic bands, instrumentalists and comics to play separately or jam with other artists. 6-8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St. Old Town, Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Threads of Wisdom: Polarity - Join us in-person or Zoom. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Weavers of the Web, ATC, 809 Center St. #7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

Wednesday Workdays at CCBS - 9 a.m.-12. Capital City Bird Sanctuary, 6001 Delta River Dr., Lansing. michiganadubon.org.

Thursday, September 30

Charlotte Community Band returns to the stage "A Pandemic

Journey" - 7-9 p.m. Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State St, Charlotte. charlottecommunityband.weebly.com

Cristo Rey Church - Food Booth Fundraiser - 3-7 p.m. South Lansing Farmers Market, 800 W. Barnes St., Lansing.

Dimondale Farmers' Market - 3-7 p.m. 136 N Bridge St, Dimondale. villageofdimondale.org.

Drawing Marathon - Annual drawing extravaganza with the MSU Broad. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr. broadmuseum.msu.edu

Farmers Market at the Capitol - Over 60 Michigan vendors and performances by the Lansing Symphony Orchestra. 9am-2pm. East lawn of the State Capitol Building. mifma.org for more information.

Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club - 9:30-11:30 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. Info: ladiessilverblades.org.

Reach Virtual Meet-up: Arts Incubator for Young People - via Zoom. 4-5 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington Ave, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

Sara/Eli @REACH - 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Reach Studio Art Center, 1804 S Washington, Lansing. 517-999-3643. reachstudioart.org.

South Lansing Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. SLCD, 800 W. Barnes Ave, Lansing. 517-374-5700.

Stitch 'N Bitch - Bring your yarn or thread for an evening of fiber arts and chit-chat. 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St. #7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

Friday, October 1

517 Living Community Week - 2021 - Join us in celebrating everything that is wonderful about living in the Greater Lansing Area! 10/1-10/7. For info, go to 517living.com.

Emma Willmann at The Robin (standup comedy) - 2 shows. 7-10:30 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S Washington Ave, Lansing. therobintheatre.com

Joshua Davis - :30-10 p.m. University United Methodist Church (UJMC), 1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

TGIF Weekly Friday Dance - All welcome! 7 p.m. Hawk Hollow Golf Banquet Center, 15101 Chandler Rd., Bath. 734-604-5095. tgifdance.com.

Witches & Warlocks In Williamston - Join us in Williamston October 1st from 4pm to 8pm! Williamston, 100 E. Grand River, Williamston. williamston.org

Saturday, October 2

Fiery Fall Art Festival - 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Silver Leaf Lodge, 5334 S Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Lansing. 517-703-7766.

Grand River Color Tour Triathlon - Register for our 1st annual Grand River Color Tour Triathlon. 8:30 a.m. 315 W Knight

St, Eaton Rapids. cityofeatonrapids.com

Mason Farmer's Market - 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Austin Park pavilion, 300 block W. Ash St., Mason. business.masonchamber.org.

Vendor Showcase - Come to Keys to Manifestation for a very special day to honor our vendors! 12-8 p.m. 809 Center St., #7, Lansing. 517-974-5540.

Sunday, October 3

Community Drum Circle at Lake Lansing North - 2-4 p.m. 6260 E Lake Dr, Haslett.

East Lansing Farmers Market - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. www.cityofeastlansing.com.

Monday, October 4

Comedy Night - 9-11:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.

Tuesday, September 21

Board Game Meet Up - Ages 18 & up. Everyone welcome! 6:30 - 10:30 p.m. Spare Time Bowling Alley, 3101 E Grand River, Lansing.

Toastmasters Meeting - Join us on zoom!. 7-8:15 p.m. capitalcitytoastmasters.toastmastersclubs.org

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. 2100 E Michigan Ave., Lansing.

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Tomato gravy train

By **ARI LeVAUX**

What better way to say goodbye to summer than with a tomato? They haven't disappeared yet where I live, and unless they get bonked by an early frost, the red orbs of August should persist into October. And I will be clinging to those sweet and savory fruits like summer itself.

A pile of ultra-ripe, super-juicy, very delicate and extra-perfect tomatoes — a category I call heavy tomatoes — is a more functional mark of leisure than a stash of cut stones from the Earth. The heaviest of tomatoes, in fact, can be too delicate to move. All of which points to the need to eat your tomatoes. After all, true wealth means the ability to consume freely, when appropriate. And now is a most proper time to consume tomatoes freely, with no guilt. Just don't get a mouth sore.

Everybody loves a fat, juicy tomato slice on their BLT, or on their caprese salads with leaves of basil and slices of mozzarella cheese. Diving into a raw, full-bodied tomato is like biting into the beating heart of the Earth. But let's not forget that the heavy tomatoes of summer can glorify your life in other ways too. When properly cooked, a heavy tomato is also superior to an off-season import, in terms of what it gives to a dish. A sharp, savory fullness that many



cultures have figured out ways of capturing in their cuisines. In a savory gravy, the heavy tomatoes of summer give up their form entirely and surrender to the saucepan, joining the garlic, oil and spices in a rich sauce.

Marinara is the most famous example of a pan-fried tomato sauce. Along similar Mediterranean lines, I really like adding chopped heavy tomatoes to garlic butter, and things that I like to cook in garlic butter. Tomatoes in the shrimp scampi. Tomatoes in the garlic bread sauce.

But if you change the seasonings a little bit, the sauce can change character. I like to slip crushed heavy tomatoes into my Asian stir-fry sauces. Their sweet umami augments the savory contributions of soy, oyster and fish sauces.

Butter chicken, consider the most popular Indian restaurant dish in America, is another example of a tomato gravy. Being composed mostly of tomato, butter, garlic and cream, the rich



Ari LeVaux

Indian butter chicken cooked with Makhani sauce.

sauce could belong to France, Spain or any number of Mediterranean cuisines — were it not for the ginger, fenugreek and garam masala spice powder.

From place to place, the spices may change, but if you have garlic, oil and some ripe tomatoes, you've got the makings of heavy, heavenly tomato gravy.

Butter Chicken

This recipe comes from my amazing Indian cookbook, "50 Great Curries of India," by Camellia Panjabi, the grand goddess of Indian cooking. Her recipe is written in grams, and I'm not going to mess with her recipe more than I must. So quit whining and go get a food scale. Seriously. You will love it. And you will feel like a grown up.

- Serves four
- 900g chicken, cut into your favorite pieces
- 5 tablespoons oil
- Marinade
- 2 cups whole milk yogurt
- 6 garlic cloves
- 1/2-inch square of ginger
- 1 teaspoon red chilli [sic] powder
- 1/4 teaspoon coriander powder
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin powder
- 1/2 teaspoon garam masala powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons lime juice

See Tomato, Page 26

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Tomato

from page 25

Puree the garlic and ginger in the blender. Combine the yogurt, ginger and garlic puree, marinade spices, salt and lime juice and mix well. Cut hash marks into the chicken pieces and add them to the marinade. Let sit for at least 2 hours, but preferably overnight.

Heat the oil in a thick-bottomed skillet on medium. Add the chicken piece by piece, pulling off as much of the marinade as possible with your hand so it falls back into the bowl, before placing the chicken carefully in the hot oil. Heat for 10 minutes on high, and then turn the chicken. Heat another 10 minutes

on high, and then add the marinade. Add four cups of water to the marinade bowl and slosh it around to get it all and add it to the pot. Cover and cook on low/medium heat until done, turning the chicken as necessary.

Makhani Sauce

- 1000g heavy tomatoes
- 1/2 teaspoon dried fenugreek leaves
- 1 stick cut butter, cut into roughly inch cubes
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon red chilli powder
- 1 teaspoon ginger garlic puree (from the marinade, above)
- 1/4 teaspoon garam masala powder
- 40g (1 1/2 ounce) cream

Boil a pot of water, salted with about a tablespoon of salt, and scald the tomatoes for four minutes. Remove and drain. When they are cool enough to work with, remove the skins. Place the tomatoes in a cold pan and crush them with the implement of your choice. Add the salt, turn the heat to medium, cook for about 10 minutes.

Add the chilled butter, chili powder and ginger and garlic puree. After the butter has melted, cook for another minute. Add the fenugreek and garam masala powder and salt to taste. After 30 seconds, add the cream and stir.

Add this delectable sauce to the pot with the chicken and juices. Cook together for five minutes on low and serve.

(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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